



澳門大學
UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU
UNIVERSITY OF MACAU



澳門理工大學
Universidade Politécnica de Macau
Macao Polytechnic University



澳門旅遊學院
INSTITUTO DE FORMAÇÃO TURÍSTICA DE MACAU
Macao Institute for Tourism Studies



澳門科技大學
UNIVERSIDADE DE CIÊNCIA E TECNOLOGIA DE MACAU
MACAU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

2023 年澳門四高校聯合入學考試（語言科及數學科）

**2023 Joint Admission Examination for Macao Four Higher
Education Institutions (Languages and Mathematics)**

考試大綱 Syllabus

英文 English

1.0 Introduction

The Joint Admission Examination for Four Higher Education Institutions in Macao (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Joint Admission Exam’) provides a single test for secondary school leavers applying to any of the four major tertiary institutions in Macao – University of Macau (UM), Macao Polytechnic University (MPU), Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) and Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST).

The English Joint Admission Exam follows the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)¹, and the exam questions are set at a range of levels, including Elementary (CEFR A2), Pre-Intermediate (CEFR B1), Intermediate (CEFR B2), and Upper-Intermediate/Advanced (CEFR C1). The English examination consists of three major sections: Language Use, Reading Comprehension and Writing.

Following is the detailed explanation of each section.

2.0 Language Use (40 marks)

This section of the Joint Admission Exam tests the students’ knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary at levels of Elementary to Intermediate. The possible types of questions include multiple choice, cloze passage, spotting errors and joining sentences.

2.1 – Vocabulary and Grammar in Context

For the Vocabulary and Grammar in Context, the students will read 4 to 7 short passages. In each passage, two or three words have been left out. The students need to choose the answer, from the four given choices, that best fits each blank. The types of short passages will be in the form of common written communication, such as letters, advertisements, notices, instruction manuals, everyday conversations, etc. The passages will each be 40 to 100 words long. The level of difficulty is mostly Elementary to Pre-Intermediate, with two or three Intermediate questions.

2.2 – Cloze Passage

The Cloze passage is a text of around 150 to 250 words. In this passage, ten words or expressions have been left out. The students need to choose the answer, from the four given choices, that best fits each blank to complete the meaning of the passage. The language points tested here will be spread evenly among Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, and Intermediate levels.

¹ The Common European Framework of language proficiency levels is developed by the Council of Europe (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages>) and also used by Cambridge Assessment English examinations (<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/>). The framework allows for equivalences between international standardized exams (<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/cefr/>).

2.3 – Spotting Errors in Context

The purpose of this part is to test the students' ability to recognize language errors that may cause problems for the communication of meaning in various fields, including public, occupational, and educational areas. The students should be able to identify the errors and choose the best replacement.

Items will be tested in a contextualized passage. The students will read a passage that contains 10 underlined fragments. For each underlined fragment, the students are to choose the best to replace it from 4 choices provided.

This part requires the students to analyze the correctness or incorrectness of each underlined part in terms of grammar and word choice, and choose an alternative that best replaces it. The language points tested here will be spread evenly among Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, and Intermediate levels.

In detail, the Vocabulary and Grammar in Context, the Cloze Passage and the Spotting Errors in Context test the students' ability to

- Know and use Elementary, Pre-Intermediate and Intermediate vocabulary;
- Know and understand different parts of speech and their roles in sentences;
- Recognize the number, case, and gender of nouns and pronouns;
- Apply agreement rules such as subject-verb agreement, number agreement, and case agreement;
- Use different verb tenses;
- Understand the passive voice and use the passive voice in different tenses;
- Understand the rules for the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and use them correctly;
- Be able to use different conjunctions;
- Understand the use of different prepositions;
- Understand and use non-predicate verbs, i.e., infinitives, gerunds, and participles;
- Understand different types of clauses (attributive clauses, object clauses, subject clauses, adverbial clauses, etc.) and the coordinators or subordinators used to indicate the different types;
- Infer the left-out words or expressions based on the context;
- Keep the unity of a passage in terms of meaning, tense, style, and coherence.

2.4 – Joining Sentences

The purpose of this part is to test the students' ability to identify properly joined sentences.

In this part, a short paragraph is provided. This paragraph is divided into 5 pairs of sentences. The students are to read each pair of sentences carefully, study the four options of joined sentences presented, and choose the best one. Students need to show

their ability to recognise coordination and subordination of ideas within sentences, and the use of cohesive devices / connecting words. The students are to identify the grammatically correct and logically structured alternative from the four options.

In general, Joining Sentences questions will test the students' ability to:

- Recognize verb tense consistency within organized idea units;
- Know the different purposes of active vs. passive voice constructions;
- Recognize the coordination and subordination of ideas within sentences;
- Identify referents within and across sentences;
- Identify correct usage of coherence devices;
- Identify correct usage of punctuation marks.

3.0 Reading Comprehension (30 marks)

The Joint Admission Exam contains several reading passages of different text types and levels of difficulty.

First, there are several short texts of public notices and announcements, and also one passage of 300-400 words, with multiple-choice questions. The questions test the students' ability to understand factual information, everyday language, instructions, explanations, descriptions of persons, places, events, feelings and wishes, and to extract the main points of an argumentative text. The level of difficulty of the notices and announcements is Elementary to Pre-Intermediate. The level of difficulty of the short reading passage is Pre-Intermediate to Intermediate.

In addition, there is also one more difficult and longer passage at the level of Intermediate to Upper Intermediate/Advanced (CEFR B2 to C1). Questions include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and open-ended questions. These are designed to test the students' ability to understand a writer's particular viewpoint or position, as well as more complex or specialized information, such as materials found in academic textbooks, literary works, and magazines.

The fill-in-the-blank questions require students to demonstrate their understanding of the reading passage by identifying and filling in words or short phrases from the passage that logically and accurately complete given statements. The open-ended questions require the students to demonstrate their ability to use their own words to express their understanding and apply their understanding of the passage to real-world experience.

A detailed summary of guidelines for preparing for the reading comprehension is given below:

Elementary (CEFR A2)

By the end of the **Elementary** stage, a student:

- Can understand texts on familiar, concrete matters: short, simple texts, e.g., routine personal and business letters and faxes, most everyday signs and public notices, directions, listings, advertisements, simple textbooks or reports on familiar matters;

- Can understand short, simple texts written in everyday language, including some shared international words;
- Can understand short simple texts related to job or field of study;
- Can find specific information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, brochures, menus, letters, timetables, and short newspaper articles describing events;
- Can understand simple instructions on equipment encountered in everyday life – such as a public telephone, mobile phone, computer, etc.;
- Can understand everyday signs and notices in public places, such as streets, buses, restaurants, hospitals, hotels, railway stations and in workplaces.

Pre-Intermediate (CEFR B1)

By the end of the **Pre-Intermediate** stage, a student:

- Can understand routine information and articles, and the general meaning of non-routine information within familiar areas;
- Can understand straightforward factual texts on subjects related to their field of interest;
- Can read everyday material, e.g., letters, brochures and short official documents;
- Can comprehend clearly written argumentative texts and identify the main conclusions;
- Can read personal letters expressing feelings and wishes;
- Can understand clearly written, straightforward instructions for a piece of equipment;
- Can search one long or several short texts to locate specific information needed to help complete a task;
- Can recognize significant points in straightforward newspaper articles on familiar subjects and descriptions of events;
- Can recognize the general line of argument in a text but not necessarily in detail.

Intermediate (CEFR B2)

By the end of the **Intermediate** stage, a student:

- Can scan texts for relevant information, and understand detailed instructions or advice;
- Can understand correspondence relating to field of interest. Comprehends longer texts, including specialized articles outside field and highly specialized sources within a field (but needs a dictionary to confirm terminology);
- Can understand articles and reports on contemporary problems with particular viewpoints;
- Can read many kinds of texts quite easily in different ways according to the purpose in reading;
- Has a broad reading vocabulary, but sometimes experiences difficulty with less common words and phrases;

- Can quickly identify the content, relevance and viewpoints of news items, articles and reports on a wide range of topics.

Upper Intermediate/Advanced (CEFR C1)

By the end of the **Upper Intermediate** stage, a student:

- Can comprehend most of the message in a text, although may still need to refer to a dictionary;
- Can read quickly enough to cope with an academic course, or to read the media for information;
- Can read a wide range of long, complex texts from social, professional or academic life;
- Can understand complex instructions on a new unfamiliar machine or procedure;
- Can appreciate literary texts and differences in style.

By the end of the **Advanced** stage, a student:

- Can read a wide range of reading texts with good confidence and competence;
- Can understand the majority of the message with only minor loss of detail or subtlety;
- Has little need to refer to a dictionary;
- Has a reading speed and strategies that are fully effective but somewhat less flexible than those in his/her L1 (mother tongue);
- Can understand reports and articles likely to be encountered during his/her work, including complex ideas expressed in complex language;
- Can understand documents, correspondence and reports;
- Can understand and interpret practically all forms of written language including abstract, structurally complex, or highly colloquial literary and non-literary writings.

4.0 Essay Writing (B2, C1) (30 marks)

This part of the Joint Admission Exam corresponds to the Intermediate (B2) to Upper Intermediate/Advanced (C1) level of the CEFR. The students are expected to show their ability to write a clear, detailed and well organized text on a variety of subjects, synthesizing and evaluating information and arguments from a number of sources. Marks will be given based on ideas, organization, clarity, vocabulary, sentence structure and grammar.

Specifically, the students will need to show their ability to:

- Write an essay which develops an argument, giving reasons in support for or against a particular point of view and explaining the advantages and disadvantages of various options;
- Write an essay which describes a particular process, event, etc., providing sufficient details;

- Write an essay which compares or contrasts two entities, or two views, etc.;
- Write an essay which provides suggestions to improve an existing phenomenon.

5.0 English Examination – Framework of Structure

| Section | Part | Question type(s) | Level |
|---|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Section 1 – Language Use (40 marks) | ● Vocabulary and grammar in context | MCQ | A2, B1 |
| | ● Cloze passage | MCQ | A2, B1/B2 |
| | ● Spotting errors in context | MCQ | A2, B1/B2 |
| | ● Joining sentences | MCQ | B1/B2 |
| Section 2 – Reading Comprehension (30 marks) | ● Everyday English | MCQ | A2, B1 |
| | ● Short passage | MCQ | B1/B2 |
| | ● Longer passage | MCQ | B2/C1 |
| | | Open-ended questions | |
| Section 3 – Writing (30 marks) | 3 general topics – choose 1 topic – (Minimum 200 words) | Essay Writing | B2, C1 |

NOTE:

A2 means Elementary.

B1 means Pre-Intermediate.

B2 means Intermediate.

C1 means Upper Intermediate / Advanced.

A2, B1 means some questions are A2 and some are B1 (approximately equally).

B1/B2 means the questions are set at the easier level of the Intermediate range.

B2/C1 means the questions are set in the Upper Intermediate range.

B2, C1 means both B2 and C1 are of required standard.