



The New Oral Bagrut iTest: A summary with topics for discussion.

A full explanation is available on request from your Branch Coordinator.

- The format of the Oral Bagrut Exam as you may have known it will have a different format starting in 2108.
- All schools where ETP tutors are volunteering will be participating in this new format.
- The Computerized Oral Bagrut Exam (COBE) will replace the way in which this exam was previously taken.
- Previously the exam lasted for 10 minutes and pupils were tested by teachers from neighbouring schools. In that format, students presented a project, answered questions about their project and were interviewed for 5 minutes.
- In COBE, students will still need to talk about their project, but the BIG difference is that they will now be tested via the computer. There will be no physical examiner present to prompt the students by asking questions.
- The rationale behind the change is because "in its earlier format, the Oral Bagrut had become irrelevant and was not a true measure of students' abilities to speak" With this change, the ministry will "bring oral assessment' into the 21st century"

TIP: For tutors who would like to hear how the ministry 'explains' the new format to pupils, watch the YouTube clip prepared by the ministry: <https://sites.google.com/view/reeditestprepsite/home> and click on the YouTube: **Oral iTest for Students**

How ETP tutors can assist in preparing pupils for this new exam.

The exam is divided into 3 parts:

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| Part A | Interview question sets: Talking about Oneself. |
| Part B | 2 tasks: Project Presentation followed by questions about the project: |
| Part C | Questions about a video clip: Student Responses to Audio-visual Clip. |

Part A - Talking about oneself

In Part A, the students are presented with 2 question sets. Each set is comprised of 3 questions on the same topic.

The student has to choose to answer questions from **one set only**; either the questions in **Set 1** or **Set 2**

NOTE: If they answer both sets, only the first one will be graded.

NOTE: In order to help students talk fluently, with 'in-depth answers', tutors should ask **one question set** and allow pupils to respond without interruption. (This is a simulation of what they will need to do in the exam. There will be no examiner prompting them along the way!)

Example of a question set with a full answer"

Question Set: What do you like to do in your free time? When do you have free time? Who do you enjoy spending time with?

Answer: "I enjoy playing the guitar. I am in a band with three other friends. We practice twice a week. We are getting better. It is really fun.

Topics to practice Part A are listed below.

Part B - The project presentation

There are 2 tasks in Part B.

In the first task, pupils are asked to present their project in a 2-3-minute monologue. That is when they will record their presentation.

Note: They will not be allowed to bring copies of their project into the exam-room, so they will need to memorize what they want to say!

Clearly tutors will be able to help by listening to their monologue and perhaps suggest improvements.

However, it is ESSENTIAL that tutors allow pupils to talk WITHOUT INTERRUPTION for at least 2 minutes.

TIP: Once a pupil feels confident enough to talk without interruption for 2 – 3 minutes, s/he might want to record the presentation on What's App (a simulation of what will happen in the exam) and then listen to it and adjust if necessary.

In the second task, after they have recorded their monologue presentation of their project, students will be required to answer a question set of two questions about the presentation.

Topics to practice this second task are listed below.

Note: It could happen that either one or both of the questions asked in this second task will already have been referred to by the student in the prepared monologue.

Tutors need to explain that if this happens they must answer the question(s) in the second task in any event

Part C - The audio-visual clip

This part of the exam will be handled by teachers unless they give tutors specific instructions



Interview Question Sets for COBE

Note: There will not be family-related questions or questions related to the army on the exam.

1. Where do you live? Do you like your hometown? What would you like to change in your hometown?
2. Tell me something about the place where you live? Where would you like to live when you are older? Have you ever lived in a different community? If not, would you like to?
3. What do you like best about your school? What would you change about your school? In what way is your school different from other schools? Explain.
4. What are your major subjects in school? Why did you choose them? If you had the chance, would you change one or both of them? If so, which subject(s) would you have chosen, and why?
5. Describe your ideal school. What would it look like? Which subjects do you think should NOT be taught at school? Explain.
6. Do you have a job in your free time? If so, explain why and describe it. If not, why not?
7. Do you volunteer in your free time? If so, what do you do? If not, why not?
8. What do you usually do in your free time? Describe an activity which you enjoy. Do you have any hobbies? Tell me about them.
9. Tell me about a book you read this year. Would you recommend it to a friend? Why or why not?
10. Think about a movie you saw this year. What did you like and/or dislike about it? Explain.
11. Do you enjoy reading books? Why do you think you are required to read 4 books in English in High School? What can be learned from reading books that you can't learn in the classroom?
12. What do you consider to be your greatest strengths? What do you consider to be your greatest weakness? Explain.
13. You have just received a large sum of money to travel to any place of your choice. Where would you go and why?
14. Tell me about a school trip that you enjoyed. Where did you go? Who did you go with? What was so special about the trip?
15. What are your plans for this summer? Will you be working? Where are you planning to look for a job?
16. Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? Explain.
17. Describe a moment in your life when you were especially proud of something that you did. When was the moment? Where were you? Who else was involved in this moment?
18. Tell me about an event in your life which you could describe as a "turning point". When was it? Why do you consider this event as a turning point?
19. Describe a person whom you admire. What makes this person so special? What do you believe you have to do in life to be just like him/her?
20. You have just been given \$40,000 to change the community in which you live. What would you do with the money, and why?
21. What do you think needs to be done to make our country a better place in which to live? What do you need to do as an individual? What does our society need to do, to improve the way we live? Explain.
22. Describe a teacher who in your opinion, is one of the best teachers in your school. Why is this teacher so special/different from your other teachers? Explain



Question Sets About the Project

AKA Second Task in Part B of COBE

1. Explain what the topic of your project was and why you chose it
2. What is the most interesting thing you learned about your topic that you didn't know before you did the project?
3. What skills did you learn or improve? (In English, in researching, using the computer, working in a team, etc.)
4. Have you learned anything else about your topic since you researched it in the 10th grade?
5. In what way has the project influenced you, since you did it?
6. What was the most challenging part of doing the project? Explain how you overcame those challenges.
7. What are the pros and cons of doing the project individually and as a pair or team?
8. How did you find the information on the topic? What different resources did you use? What challenges did you face?
9. What was the most challenging part of writing the research paper?
10. How did it affect your typing in English? Is it important to be able to type in English? Why?
11. Is project work a good way to improve your English? Why, or why not?
12. If you had the option to do another project instead of other English studies, **would you choose that?** Explain.
13. What was the most challenging part of doing the paper?
If you were writing a research project now, what would you do differently? Explain
14. If you needed to do a project now, what topic would you choose and why?
15. Think of something else you would like to learn about the topic you researched. Explain.

NOTE: These are topics that are suggested in the Ministry website. Some students may need assistance in understanding some of the words in some of the sentences.

TIP: You might want to read through the question sets with them to check that they understand all the words.

They will not have access to any means of translation during the exam!