



## Maaref English Placement Test - MEPT Brief Basic Info & Sample Questions for Students

### Basic Info

#### *Overview*

The MEPT is a timed, computerized multiple choice test given to all MU prospective students. There are two types of MEPTs available: standard MEPT (reading, listening, and writing) open to all majors; and customized MEPT (standard MEPT plus additional speaking test) open to Translation and Languages major only.

#### *Structure*

The standard MEPT is composed of three sections: reading, listening, and writing. The customized MEPT, however, has four: reading, listening, writing, and speaking.

#### a) **Reading**

This section tests the student's abilities in reading comprehension at the levels of the sentence and the text. Questions place emphasis on correct use of contextualized grammar (tenses, modals, conditionals, prepositions etc) and vocabulary (synonyms, antonyms, etc.)

- Length: 40 min
- Questions: 60 multiple choice questions
- Evaluation: 60 points for 60 questions

#### b) **Listening**

This section assesses the student's abilities to understand spoken English. Students should answer what is stated or implied in conversations (questions, statements, dialogues, etc...)

- Length: 40 min
- Questions: 60 multiple choice questions
- Evaluation: 60 points for 60 questions

#### c) **Writing**

This section consists of two writing samples. It measures composition skills according to writing standards. Students will be given two specific topics which require no specialized knowledge of specific subject matter. The score received will be the average of the scores allocated by a committee of scorers that will check the writings for: focus, organization, development and support, sentence structure, and mechanical convention.

- Length: 40 min
- Questions: 2 writing samples (a one-hundred-word passage and a two-hundred-word passage)

- Evaluation: 30 points (10 and 20 points for 100 and 200 words respectively)

#### **d) Speaking**

This section is mandatory only for Translation and Languages major. It consists of three parts. In the first part, the student answers general questions. In the second part, the student chooses a topic from a list and speaks about it. In the third part, the student discusses the topic with the examiner.

The speaking test measures students' abilities in oral expression, pronunciation, organization of ideas, and general culture. It is only required of students applying for Translation and Languages major.

- Length: 15 min
- Questions: 3 (Questions, improvised presentation and discussion)
- Evaluation: 30 points (5, 15,10 for Parts1, 2, 3 respectively)

#### ***Length***

The total time allocated for the standard MEPT (3 sections) is 2 hours. In the customized MEPT, an additional 15 minutes is given for the speaking test.

#### ***Scores***

The highest scores achievable for standard and customized MEPTs are 150 and 180 respectively. For information on the correlation between scores and ELP courses, please check below (4.2.2).

#### ***Testing Policies***

##### **a) Eligibility & Application**

Prior to enrolling in any academic semester at MU, any/all prospective students are required to complete the MEPT (standard for all majors; customized for Translation and Languages major).

- **New Students**  
Sitting for the MEPT is mandatory for all first-time MU students, regardless of the major they are applying for.
- **Transfer Students**  
Decision is made by the school council concerned on a case-by-case basis.

##### **b) Results**

###### **Publication of Results**

MEPT results are published within 4 working days from the date the test was administered. Working days do not include Sundays and official holidays.

###### **Interpretation of Results**

The interpretation of results highlights the correlation between the MEPT scores and the ELP courses. Based on their results, prospective students will be placed either into the IEP or the REP.

Applicants who score between 0 and 103 (out of 150) on the standard MEPT or between 0 and 124 (out of 180) on the customized MEPT will be placed into the Intensive English Program (IEP) which extends over a period of 36 weeks (One full academic year). For more details on MEPT scores and the English Language Program courses they qualify for, please check Appendix I.

Applicants who score 104 and above (out of 150) on the standard MEPT or 125 and above (out of 180) on the customized MEPT will be exempted from remedial courses and will be placed into the Regular English Program which extends over a period of 30 weeks (two semesters). For more details on MEPT scores and the English Language Program courses they qualify for, please check Appendix I.

- Expiration of Results

All assessment results are valid for a period of *one calendar year* (starting September 1 and ending September 30). Students must make sure to enroll in the courses their assessment results qualified them for before their assessment results expire. Once the results have expired, students will be blocked from enrolling in those courses and will need to retest.

c) Exemption

Students may be waived from assessment in case they meet any of the exemptions listed below.

- New Students

To obtain an assessment waiver, new students must provide official proof that they meet the exemption criteria. MU recognizes the results of two tests: TOEFL and IELTS. However, in case of lack of assessment of any particular skill (e.g. writing or speaking), MU reserves its right to have the exempted student complete a test in the skill in question.

1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): Exemption from MEPT applies to applicants with a minimum score of 550 on paper-based TOEFL; a minimum score of 213 on computer-based TOEFL; or a minimum score of 72 on Internet-based TOEFL. Applicant's should enter the MU's code and ask the Educational Testing Services (E.T.S) to send their scores directly to the Office of the Registrar at MU.
2. International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Exemption from MEPT applies to applicants with a minimum overall band of 5.5.

- Transfer Students

Decision on the issuance of placement waivers is made by the school council concerned on a case-by-case basis.

d) Re-testing Policies

- Eligibility & Application

MU allows re-testing for a number of cases. However, once students officially enroll in the English Language Program at MU (whether through IEP or REP courses), they are not permitted to undergo assessment again as a means for advancing to higher-level courses.

While re-testing is permitted in English, re-testing results automatically override the results of any previous test(s). Students should be warned against the possibility of achieving lower

scores when re-testing, since MU will only consider the latest results and will place the students accordingly.

1. New Students

New students who are placed into the Intensive English Program can challenge their MEPT results. They can retake the test after a waiting period of at least two working days from the date the test was first taken. After that, they can retake the MEPT once per academic year, provided they have not registered for any of the English Program Courses at MU.

2. Transfer Students

Decision on the issuance of a re-testing permission is made by the school council concerned on a case-by-case basis.

### Writing Sample Questions

*Prepare a short writing sample of about 100 words on the topic below.*

Write one to two paragraphs on the role of the youth in intellectual/military revolutions. You should take a position on whether participation in such activities should be required of the youth. Be sure to defend your position with logical arguments and appropriate examples. Your essay must be 200 words in length.

### Listening Sample Questions

*Prepare a short **presentation** of 2-3 minutes on one of the following topic: (1) garbage crisis in Lebanon, (2).....*

*Topics vary and improvisation is required.*

### Reading Sample Questions

Correct answers are highlighted.

Directions for questions 1-10.

*The sentence below has a blank space. Choose the word or phrase that makes the sentence meaningful and correct.*

1) The job \_\_\_\_\_ finished by 5 o'clock.

- a. **will have been**
- b. will have being
- c. was been
- d. were been

2) His grades are \_\_\_\_\_ average.

- a. **above**

- b. over
- c. on top of
- d. atop

3) Our house \_\_\_\_\_ on a large plot of land

- a. lies
- b. sits
- c. rests
- d. **stands**

4) We were not \_\_\_\_\_ lift those boxes.

- a. could
- b. possible
- c. **able to**
- d. able

5) Put your money in a bank \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. check
- b. balanced
- c. **account**
- d. ache

6) Last night, my brother popped the question. He says he'll tie the knot in June. But I don't think he'll really get hitched. What I'm saying is that I don't think my brother will \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. join the military
- b. **get married**
- c. attend college
- d. change jobs

7) Joe has been here \_\_\_\_\_ last Tuesday

- a. **since**
- b. for
- c. to
- d. until

8) \_\_\_\_\_ students must attend classes

- a. every
- b. **all**
- c. each
- d. everyone

9) While formerly a member of the sports club, Mr. Teeters \_\_\_\_\_ tennis there regularly.

- a. is used to playing
- b. was used to play
- c. **used to play**
- d. used to playing

10) Some scientists say it is essential that mankind \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of air pollution in big cities

- a. **reduce**
- b. reduced
- c. be reduced
- d. will reduce

### **Listening Sample Questions**

Directions for questions 1-10

*You will hear questions/statements on the test tape. Select the best answer.*

1) The men are going to construct a house. What would they need?

- a- **tools**
- b- fuel
- c- powder
- d- chalk

2) Which of these is a meal?

- a- an animal
- b- **breakfast**
- c- a jeep
- d- 6,080

3) The driver is starting to work. What does he operate?

- a- **a car**
- b- a stone
- c- a restaurant
- d- a barber shop

4) Bob tried to avoid the accident. What did he try to do?

- a- see the accident
- b- **keep away from the accident**
- c- get near the accident
- d- record the accident

5) The teacher gave the student some homework. What did the teacher do?

- a- **He assigned some homework to the student.**
- b- He made markings on the student's homework.
- c- He returned the student's homework.
- d- He told the student there wasn't any homework.

- 6) Linda is the author of these books.  
a- She didn't write these books.  
b- These books are not hers.  
c- She wrote these books.  
d- She sold these books.
- 7) All in all, this project seems to have succeeded.  
a- It wasn't successful, considering everything.  
b- We are certain the project was successful.  
c- The project was badly presented.  
d- It was apparently successful, in general.
- 8) Ryan failed his class examination.  
a- He missed some questions.  
b- He received help on the examination.  
c- His score was unsatisfactory.  
d- He made a high score.
- 9) The waiter forgot to bring Mr. Brown some vegetables.  
a- He didn't get a drink.  
b- He didn't get macaroni.  
c- He didn't get any peas.  
d- He didn't get any dessert.
- 10) They came to see us at the hospital  
a- They paid us at the hospital.  
b- They wrote to us there.  
c- They gave us treatment there.  
d- They visited us there.