

For 1st and 2nd Year Junior High School Students and Their Guardians (Osaka Prefectural Board of Education, March 2016)

This is to inform you of the changes in the Student Admission Examination (hereinafter “entrance examination”) of public and other high schools in Osaka Prefecture, starting from the Fiscal Year 2017 entrance examinations, which will be taken by the current 2nd year students.

High Schools

Problems in the English Academic Test will change.

- The English vocabulary which will be used in the English Academic Test will be taken from the English vocabulary list created by the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education.
- All “Advanced problems” in the Academic Test will be in English.

The Academic Test* **Academic Test Problems in “Japanese, Mathematics, and English” will be chosen by each high school from the following options:**

- Special screening: 2 kinds (basic questions, standard questions)
- General screening: 3 kinds (basic questions, standard questions, advanced questions)

The point guarantee system in accordance with the score of third party tests will be introduced for the English Academic Test.

-In the case of students who have taken third party English tests (TOEFL iBT, IELTS, Test in Practical English Proficiency (hereinafter “EIKEN”)) and their score is of a certain level or higher, they will be guaranteed the following scores for the English Academic Test if they report it when they apply.

(If the score of the Academic Test is higher than the guaranteed score, the score of the Academic Test will be adopted.)

| Third Party English Test Score | | | English Academic Test Score Conversion Rate | Guaranteed Score in the English Academic Test | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| TOEFL iBT | IELTS | EIKEN | | Special screening (Maximum score: 45) | General Screening (Maximum score: 90) |
| 60 - 120 | 6.0 - 9.0 | Grade Pre-1 | 100% | 45 | 90 |
| 50 - 59 | 5.5 | NA | 90% | 41 | 81 |
| 40 - 49 | 5.0 | Grade 2 | 80% | 36 | 72 |

There are prefectural unified rules for grading for the transcript of records of students for each year level.

The rule for 1st year students (This applies to students taking the entrance exam for the fiscal year 2018 or later)

The rule for 2nd year students (This applies to students taking the entrance exam for the fiscal year 2017 or later)

To ensure the fair grading of 1st and 2nd year students throughout the prefecture, each junior high school checks whether the result of the student’s Challenge Test in January is within the “Grade Range” made by the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education.

*Example: If a grade of “3” is given for Japanese in the transcript of a current 2nd year Student A based on the learning status until that time, the junior high school confirms that Student A’s Challenge Test results is within the score of “70 -22”, based on the “Grade Range” table below:

| Fiscal Year 2015 2 nd year, Japanese | Grade: 5 | Grade: 4 | Grade: 3 | Grade: 2 | Grade: 1 |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Grade Range | 100 - 46 (score) | 82 - 35 (score) | 70 - 22 (score) | 55-8 (score) | 45-0 (score) |

The rule for 3rd year students (This applies to students taking the entrance exam for the fiscal year 2017 or later)

The “grade point average range” for each junior high school etc. is decided according to the average Challenge Test score of all the 3rd year students.

The individual grade for each student is decided so that the average grade for all the subjects of all the 3rd year students in the junior high school may be within the “grade point average range”. (Grade point average: the average of all the 3rd year students’ grades for all 9 subjects)

High schools for special needs education

Students from all areas within the prefecture will be able to take the entrance exams for high schools for students with mental disabilities.

-Students from all areas within the prefecture will be able to take the entrance examination of any of the following schools: Tamagawa High School for Special Needs Education, Torikai High School for Special Needs Education, Sunagawa High School for Special Needs Education, Murano High School for Special Needs Education, and Naniwa High School for Special Needs Education.

<Entrance Exam Schedule of Public High Schools in Osaka Prefecture for the Fiscal Year 2017>

Special Screening (February)

- ◆ Application Period: Feb. 14 (Tue.) and Feb. 15, 2017 (Wed.), (Feb. 1 (Wed.) and Feb. 2 (Thu.) for Music Course)
- ◆ Examination Date: Feb. 20 (Mon.) and Feb. 21, 2017 (Tue.) ◆ Results Available: Feb. 28, 2017 (Tue.)

| Course | Academic Test | Other than Academic Test |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Full-time | Five subjects (Japanese, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, English*) *Listening test is included. | Practical Skill Test |
| Full-time | | Interview (*) |
| Multi-Class Credit System | | |
| Evening Credit System | General Course, Business Course | |

General Screening (March)

- ◆ Application period: Mar. 2 (Thu.) -Mar. 6, 2017 (Mon.) (*except for Sat., Mar. 4 (Sat.) and Mar. 5 (Sun.))
- ◆ Examination Date: Mar. 9, 2017 (Thu.) ◆ Results Available: Mar. 17, 2017 (Fri.)

| Course | Academic Test | Other than Academic Test |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Full-time | Five subjects (Japanese, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, English*) *Listening test is included. | — |
| Part-time | Three subjects (Japanese, Mathematics, English*) *Listening test is included. | — |
| Multi-Class Credit System | 3 rd Session (Creative School) General Course | Interview (*) |
| Correspondence | General Course | |

Other Screenings (February *some exception included)

◆ Administered in accordance with the schedule of special screening

| Screening Name | Test Type |
|--|--|
| Screening for returnee students from abroad | Academic Test (Mathematics, English), Interview (**) |
| Screening for returnee students from China and other nations and students of foreign nationalities | Academic Test (Mathematics, English), Essay (languages other than Japanese are acceptable) |
| Integrated junior & high school screening | Essay, Interview (*) |
| Screening for self-reliance support facility | Interview (***) (with guardians) |
| Screening for coexistence promotion classes | Interview (***) (with guardians) |
| Screening for vocational courses of high schools for students with mental disabilities | Interview (***) (with guardians), Aptitude Test |
| Autumn Screening (Administrated in the middle of September 2017) | Basic Achievement Test (three subjects), Interview (**) |

Supplementary Screening, etc. (Late March)

Conducted in case the number of successful applicants are fewer than the minimum number of acceptable

◆ Date of Application and Interview: Mar. 22, 2017 (Wed.)

◆ Results Available: Mar. 24, 2017 (Fri.)

| Screening Name | Test Type |
|--|---|
| Supplementary screening for high schools | Interview (*) |
| Supplementary screening for Self-reliance support facilities and coexistence promotion classes | Interview (***) (with guardians) |
| Supplementary screening for vocational courses of high schools for students with mental disabilities | Interview (***) (with guardians), Aptitude Test |

(Interview (*) : a self-assessment document and “activity and behavior record” section in the transcript of records will be used as reference data for judgment
Interview (***) : a self-assessment document will be used as reference data for judgment.)

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)



The English vocabulary list created by the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education will be necessary for which school's entrance exam?

A. Vocabulary from the English vocabulary list will be used in the basic, standard and advanced problems of the English Academic Test for public high schools in Osaka Prefecture. Students preparing for the exam should use this vocabulary list when studying for English. (This vocabulary list will be sent to each junior high school etc. through the municipal boards of education by the end of March 2016. It will also be published on the website of Osaka Prefectural Board of Education.)



When, where, and what has to be submitted for the "Third-party test score" of English?

A. The original official score certificate of the third-party exam has to be submitted to the junior high school when preparing for the application for admission. The school will make a copy of it and certify that it is a true copy. This copy has to be submitted together with the application form for admission to the high school that will be applied to.



When should the "Third-party test score" be acquired for the application?

A. There is no rule about the period of acquisition. In other words, the score is valid even if it was acquired several years ago or just before the application as long as it is the score of the applicant.



If an application is made for the "Third-party test score", is it all right to skip the English Academic Test?

A. Even if an application is made for the "Third-party test score", it is still necessary to take the English Academic Test. If it is not taken, it will mean not taking the Academic Test resulting in failure in the exam.
After taking the Academic Test, "the score of the Academic Test" will be compared with "the guaranteed score in accordance with the Third-party test score", and the higher one will be adopted as the score for the English Academic Test.

- Application documents, timetables of the Academic Test, and other information will be announced and published on the website in October.

咲くなび (Saku-navi)

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"Saku-navi" <http://www.schoolnavi.osaka-c.ed.jp/>



Does the score guarantee system in accordance with the "Third-party test score" vary according to the kinds of problems?

A. The guaranteed score is the same for all of the English exams of the Academic Test. For example, a student who acquired an EIKEN Grade 2 is guaranteed a score of 36 for special screening and a score of 72 for general screening regardless of the type of exam problems taken, be it "basic questions", "standard questions" or "advanced questions."



What is the purpose of the Challenge Test?

A. The Challenge Test is a unified test throughout Osaka Prefecture which targets junior high school students. This Test is administered for junior high school students to correctly know their own learning status and be able to study with a goal. In addition, the results of the Challenge Test is used to ensure the fairness when deciding the grades in the transcript of records.

*Implementation and Subjects of the Challenge Test

| Year Level | Implementation | Subjects |
|----------------------|----------------|---|
| 1 st year | January | 3 subjects: Japanese, Mathematics, English |
| 2 nd year | January | 5 subjects: Japanese, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, English |
| 3 rd year | June | 5 subjects: Japanese, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, English |



Are the grades in the transcript of records decided only by the scores of the Challenge Test?

A. The grades in the transcript of records for each student are decided by the junior high school based on the efforts of the students at the school including classwork, homework, exams and other things.
Scores of the Challenge Test are used within the prefectural unified rules (the "grade range" or the "grade point average range") in order that the grading for the entrance examination may be fairly given at all the junior high schools in the prefecture.

* Relations between the grades in the transcript of records and the Challenge Test that makes use of the prefectural unified rules

| Year Level | The Prefectural Unified Rules | How to apply the rule |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 st year, 2 nd year | Grade range | Confirms that the students' individual Challenge Test scores are within the "grade range" that correspond to the grades. |
| 3 rd year | Grade point average range | Confirms that the "grade point average" of each junior high school is within the "grade point average range" of each junior high school. |