

Important Information about the UNlcert® III Oral Exam (*English for Academic Purposes*)



A. Text selection

The UNlcert® III EAP oral exam is based on two texts, chosen by the examinee, which serve as the basis for discussion between the examinee and two examiners. Choose topics of interest.

The two texts have to adhere to the requirements below:

- ☐ The text for topic 1 is linked to a topic dealt with in the **UNlcert® III EAP module courses** (see A.1 UNlcert® III EAP module topic list), and the text for topic 2 is a **current academic topic** that is in the news and readily understandable for non-specialists. The text for topic 2 can but does not have to be related to courses.
- ☐ The texts for topic 1 and for topic 2 **are not related**. I have chosen two completely different topics.
- ☐ The text has been taken from **one of the type of sources** listed by the English Department in section A.2 Text sources.
- ☐ The text is suitable for an **academic level discussion** with the examiners. It doesn't simply list facts and figures, contain only definitions, repeat the same ideas, or not say anything concrete.
- ☐ The text is **authentic**. It has been written and published for the public. Your UNlcert® III EAP module **course papers will not be accepted**.
- ☐ The text for **topic 1** is no **more than three years old** and for **topic 2** no more than **two**.
- ☐ The text is between **3 and 4 pages** (1500-2000 words).
 - ➡ You may hand in two shorter texts that are from two different sources, but only if:
 - one text presents the advantages and the other the disadvantages
 - one text explains the topic in general and the other provides examples or a case
 - one text complements the other with additional information
 - the two texts offer completely different viewpoints

In this case the two texts must total the required length stated above.

- ☐ The **font type and size** are standard.
 - Arial, font size 11
 - Times New Roman, font size 12
- ☐ The **line-spacing** is 1,5.
- ☐ The pages are **numbered**.

A.1 UNiCert® III English for Academic Purposes module topic list

Academic English: Academic environments, academic expectations, university structures

Scientific English: Commonly used theoretical foundations, e.g. evolution, natural selection.

Global Issues: Sustainable development goals (SDGs), cancel culture, transgender rights/ LGBTQ, global conflict, intersectionality, responsible production and consumption, AI, sustainable energy, EU migration

Ethics Today: Stem cell technology, genetic engineering, cryonics, killer robots, plastic, car industry, experiments with animals, clinical trials

Intercultural Communication: cultural intelligence, core values, Geert Hofstede, Erin Meyer, trust building, politeness, decision making, negative feedback, hierarchy, models of corporate culture, non-verbal communication, intercultural leadership, time perspectives

A.2 Text sources

The following sources are recommended by the English Department:

English-language journals from the university library: <http://rzblx1.uni-regensburg.de/ezeit/index.php?bibid=UBTUE&colors=7&lang=de>

The Economist: www.economist.com

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Nature: <https://www.nature.com/>

New Scientist: <https://www.newscientist.com/>

Harvard Business Review: <https://hbr.org/>

Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/uk/business>

Other sources of a similar nature will be accepted, but **not research papers** from academic journals

If necessary, you should shorten the text to meet the word-count requirement

Handing in your texts to the Language Learning Centre (FSZ)

- Submit your texts as attachments by email (fsz@uni-tuebingen.de) as a Word or PDF document.
Links to webpages will not be accepted.
- Remember to include the required oral exam registration form (you can find this on the homepage).
- You must hand your texts in by the official deadline (see homepage).

C. The oral exam procedure

- The oral exam lasts **30 minutes** (approximately 15 minutes per text), and is carried out **individually**.
- The exam is a **discussion with two examiners (members of the English Department)** on your two texts, not a presentation. You will be guided with questions by the examiners on and around the two topics to facilitate the discussion, foster interaction and to test your ability to communicate naturally and fluently.
- You are not allowed to use any **supplementary material** in the exam; no copies of the texts, no notes, no power point slides.

D. Evaluation criteria

- A. Content
- B. Grammar
- C. Vocabulary
- D. Interaction and fluency
- E. Pronunciation

E. Contact

For more information, you may contact one of the following members of the English Department:

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