Dear Colleagues and Students,

I hope you are all doing well. I am writing with information regarding further changes to the online EPE. The Administrative Bodies at the Ankara Campus Department of Basic English have been finalizing their talks with the METU Computer Center and other related bodies meaning that now we have a clearer understanding of the upcoming EPE. However, I urge that you read till the end of this document very carefully as you will not only find further details regarding the online EPE but also information contradicting those that I’ve shared previously. Such changes are being implemented as it has become increasingly clear that further adjustments need to be made to minimize the pitfalls of online testing as much as possible.

1. **The dates of the online EPE:**
The finalized dates of the upcoming online EPE’s are below:

   - **July 14, 2020**
   - **September 2, 2020**
   - **September 16, 2020**

Please refer to the link below for further details:

[https://ncc.metu.edu.tr/sites/default/files/epp_june_september_2020_academic_calendar.pdf](https://ncc.metu.edu.tr/sites/default/files/epp_june_september_2020_academic_calendar.pdf)

2. **Exam Contents:**

   - As stated previously (please refer to my email dated June, 6, 2020) The **Performance Task** and **Search Reading Sections** have been omitted due to the possible technical issues they might present.
   - Due to similar concerns, the **Listening Section has also been omitted**!

You may find the finalized contents of the exam in the table below. However, for the time being, the duration of each section is still subject to change. The current duration allocated for each section in the table below is based on preliminary studies and will be finalized in due course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question Type</th>
<th>Total # of questions for each section</th>
<th>Total Grade for each section</th>
<th>Estimated Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading (3 texts + 1-2 graphs)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20 x 2.5 pts. = 50 pts.</td>
<td>~50 mins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20 x 1 pts. = 20 pts.</td>
<td>~10 mins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>1 task</td>
<td>30 pts.</td>
<td>~25-30 mins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Task</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search reading</td>
<td>----</td>
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<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>41</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>~85-90 mins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading (Estimated time: 50 mins.):

a. The reading section will make up 50% of the exam. (i.e. 50pts) This section includes 20 multiple choice questions. Each question is (2.5 pts). This section is made up of 4-5 texts in total:
   - **three** long texts (approximately 1000 words each)
   - **one or two** short texts (graph reading)

b. Vocabulary (Estimated Time: 10 mins.) The vocabulary section will make up 20% of the exam. (i.e. 20pts). This section is made up of 20 multiple choice questions in total. Each question is (1 pt). Questions types will be the same as the offline EPE.

c. Writing (Estimated Time: 25 - 30 mins.) The writing section will make up 30% of the exam. (i.e. 30pts). The section includes **one** question. You will be asked to write a paragraph upto 150 words.
   - **Form of delivery:** *Typed responses using a keyboard!* (i.e. You will not use pen and paper).
     The decision to switch from pen-paper to typing using a keyboard is based upon the recommendation of the technical experts.

3. Technical Requirements:

Please bear in mind that the administration of the Department of Basic English English has sought the recommendation of technical experts in determining the following equipment required for test takers.

- **a computer with Windows-7 (or higher) OS or a MAC computer with internet connection** (You may not take the test on a mobile phone or a tablet.),
- **Safe Exam Browser** (please use the link for download. No payment is required [https://safeexambrowser.org/download_en.html#Windows]),
- **a mobile phone with a working camera, microphone and internet-connection suitable for setting up video conferencing programs (such as Cisco Webex or Zoom)**. This is necessary for test security and supervision during the exam. The program to be chosen (i.e. Cisco Webex or Zoom) for online proctoring will be announced later as tests regarding the video conference program to be used are still in progress,
- **Internet connection.**

**Test takers will not be allowed to use earphones/headphones during the exam.**

For students who do not have some or any of the technical equipment listed above and who cannot obtain the necessary equipment from their relatives their friends or close circles, in accordance with YÖK’s announcement dated May 27, 2020, we recommend that they contact institutions (i.e. nearby
universities, offices and institutions of Ministry of Education and other public service institutions) and request access to Internet and computer facilities within their units.

As I mentioned earlier, it is important that you solely rely on official statements posted by the English Preparatory Program and School of Foreign Languages regarding the online EPE and do not give credit to information posted by other sources.

As a final point I'd like to add that we are aware of your concerns regarding the online EPE and hope that you understand the need for the changes highlighted above. Both the Department of Basic English, Ankara Campus and us the School of Foreign Languages, Northern Cyprus Campus have always strived to shape our policies primarily in the interests of our students and decisions regarding the online EPE have not been an exception. We have taken our students and teachers' feedback into account and paid attention to the information we have received from the Computer Center, ODTUclass and the Rectorate. Refining the EPE is recognition of concerns brought up by each of these bodies.

Best Wishes,
Dr. Leyla Silman Karanfil