MU GRAD TEST (Computer-based) Guidelines

MU GRAD TEST (Computer-based) is a standardized English language test to evaluate the language proficiency of non-native candidates wishing to enroll in graduate programs at Mahidol University. Recognising that English is the primary medium of instruction, the programmes must be convinced that candidates have adequate fluency in written and spoken English to cope with the challenge of their chosen course from the start. Since its inception, the examination has been continually developed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mahidol

Modules	Scores
Listening	20
Structure	20
Reading	40
Writing	20
Total	100

University.

Format and Content

Listening

This module comprises four sections, covering a full range of situation from situational dialogues, news reports, to academic lectures and discussions. However, the module does not assume candidates'specialised background knowledge. Each record will be played twice, and candidates can take notes while they listen before transferring their answers to the answer sheet. These questions are meant to measure the ability to understand main ideas, important details, implications, and speakers' purpose, opinion and attitude.

Structure

This module is aimed at measuring candidates' knowledge of important grammatical structure of standard written English. These questions include a variety of grammatical topics such as subject-verb agreement, tenses, adjectival and adverbial clauses, preposition, article, conjunction, etc. The module is of no particular advantage to candidates in any specific field of study. This module is composed of two subsections: **Sentence Completion** and **Error Identification**.

Sentence Completion: each question contains one blank, and candidates have to find the best answer choice to make the sentence both grammatically correct and meaningful.

Error Identification: each sentence contains four underlined parts, and candidates must decide which one is grammatically erroneous.

Reading

This module contains 5 passages, each approximately 500 words in length. The passages come from various sources ranging from academic textbooks to journals, magazines, and newspapers written for non-specialised audiences. Students answer questions about main ideas, important details, inferences, essential information, vocabulary, identifying writers' views and rhetorical purposes. Prior knowledge of the subjects under discussion is not necessary to answer the questions correctly.

Writing

This module comprises one task which aims to assess candidates' ability to write, present arguments and substantiate opinionsin an academic fashion. Candidates choose to write ONE of the four topics of general interests, with approximately 350 words in length in one hour. They will be penalised if their answer is too short or is not relevant to the topic. Candidates are expected to discuss a point of view, present and justify opinions, compare and contrast evidence, evaluate and challenge ideas or arguments.

Essential Guidance for Preparation

The exam covers four main areas of English application: **Listening**, **Structure**, **Reading**, and **Writing**. Proficiency in these four areas will ensure that candidates are prepared for all aspects of college communication.

Listening: Candidate should concentrate on active listening by listening closely to the language of native speakers and paying particular attention to their use of idioms, grammatical structures and unfamiliar words. They can practice listening from a variety of sources available on the Internet. Following are suggested useful online sources http://www.voanews.com http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish http://www.esl-lab.com

Structure: Candidates can use grammar books that are available in the market and on the Internet to read about English grammar and to test their grammar. It is advised that they practise it repeatedly, and in a more realistic situation than on a blank sheet of paper. Following are suggested online sources:
http://www.ef.com/english-resources/english-grammar/
http://www.englishgrammarsecrets.com/
http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar

Reading: The profound knowledge of vocabulary and grammar is especially important in scoring well in **MU GRAD TEST (Computer-based)**. All four modules of the examination involve reading and understanding the meaning of English words and phrases. To prepare for the **MU GRAD TEST (Computerbased)**, candidates may focus on learning academic vocabulary, which can be achieved in various ways. Candidates must be enthusiastic readers of all sorts of materials — fiction, non-fiction,

magazines, and newspapers. Following are suggested useful online sources:
https://www.goodreads.com https://www.theguardian.com/international
http://www.economist.com

Writing: It is strongly advisable that candidates write as often as they can, and ask their friends who are competent users of English to help edit and recommend improvements on content, coherence and cohesion, lexical resources and grammatical range and accuracy. Following are suggested online sources:
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/writinglab https://owl.english.purdue.edu