

**APPROVED**

Head of the Admissions Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ A.A. Kuznetsov

«\_\_\_\_\_» \_\_\_\_\_ 2025

**PROGRAMME  
of the English language interview for foreign citizens**

The purpose of the interview is to determine the level of a foreign citizen's command of the English language, which is sufficient / not sufficient to complete successfully the program of study.

**Sample questions for an introductory interview**

1. Tell us about yourself. Where and when were you born? Where did you go to school? What are your hobbies and interests? Do you have a big family? How many people are in there? List the members of your family and tell us a little about each of them. What traditions do you have in your family?

2. Tell us about your chosen profession. Why did you choose this job? What do you like about it? What qualities do you need to be a good specialist in your chosen profession?

3. Tell us about the higher education system in your country. What is the structure of university education in your country? How many years do you usually study at university? Which subjects are more popular in your country? Do students enjoy studying? What are the traditions of higher education in your country?

4. What do you know about higher education in Belarus? What do you think are the similarities and differences between higher education in your country and in the Republic of Belarus? What do you know about the universities in Belarus? What do you know about Vitebsk State Technological University, its history and achievements?

5. Tell us about a friend or acquaintance of yours. How long have you known them? What does he or she look like? What is his/her character like? Where and when was he or she born? What is his/her family like? Where did he/she go to school? What does he/she do now? Why are you interested in this person? Why do you find him/her appealing? Do you often see each other? Do you write letters or messages to each other?

6. Why is it important to learn languages? Is it hard to learn foreign languages? What is the best way to learn languages? How do you learn languages in your country? What languages do you know? What other languages would you like to learn? What difficulties do you have in learning English?

7. Tell us how you spend your free time. What do you like to do in your free time? What are the traditions of spending free time in your home country? What do your friends from Belarus like to do in their free time? Do you like to read? What books do you read? Tell us about your favourite book. Do you like sports? What kind of sport do you like? Why? Do you like to travel? Tell us about one of your trips.

8. Tell us about your birthplace. Where is this place? Why do you like this place?

9. Tell us about the most important fact in the history of the Republic of Belarus.

10. Tell about a famous Belarusian writer (poet), artist or musician. What is this person known for? When did he/she live? What works did he/she write? How well known are his/her works in your country?

**SECTION 1 "Module of general knowledge of English as a foreign language".**

**List of issues for oral communication:**

- Biography (a story about yourself, friend, acquaintance, relative); interests and hobbies; description of appearance.

- Family (a story about the family; where the family lives; marital status, financial security, work, interests and hobbies of family members; description of their appearance).
- Study and work (place of study or work, choice of profession, specialisation, motivation for choice).
- Foreign languages in the modern world, their role and importance in human life; learning English.
- Educational system in the learner's country and in Belarus): school system, higher education system, learner's free time: leisure, interests and hobbies.
- Working day, free time, rest, holidays, interests, hobbies (sport, music, theatre, painting, excursions, travelling).
- Country, city, people: geographical location, climate, nature and natural resources, history and culture, state and political structure of the country; population of the country; main occupations of the population; the history of Belarus; cultural and historical monuments, places of interest; capital of the Republic of Belarus; general characteristics of the city; historical and cultural monuments.
- Living standards, people, society; traditions, customs, national holidays.
- Health system. Achievements of modern medicine.
- Seasons, weather, climate.
- Man and woman. Relationship, marriage and family issues.
- There are no uninteresting people in the world.
- The unique student life. Youth and its problems.
- Man and society.
- Man and politics. Portraits of state and political figures and evaluation of their activities.
- Man and the economy. The economy and its role in the life of society.
- Man and science. Scientists and society. Science and society. The world of science and technology.
- The major scientific discoveries of the twentieth century.
- Famous personalities of science and culture.
- Man and art. Art and society. Man's spiritual and aesthetic development.
- Man and nature. Global ecology: environmental problems, environmental protection, national and state conservation programmes.
- Global problems of modernity.
- Man and space exploration. Extraterrestrial civilisations: speculations, hypotheses and credibility.

## **SECTION 2 "Professional module regulating the professional sphere of language use".**

### **List of issues for discussion, according to the profile of the course:**

- Science and society. The role of different sciences in the development of society.
  - The conceptual apparatus of a given science.
  - The main branches of science and their aims and tasks.
  - Scientific theories, their aims, objectives, description and evaluation.
  - Theoretical and applied aspects of science.
  - Scientific facts, phenomena, events, processes, states, interactions, their nature and evaluation.
  - Description of phenomena, processes, conditions.
  - Outstanding scientists and their contribution to the development of science.
  - Scientific debate, its aims and objectives. Argumentation and counter-argumentation.
- Conclusions and evaluations.

## References

### Basic literature

1. English language : a manual for the implementation of the content of higher education programmes of the 1st level / Educational Institution "Belarusian Trade and Economic University of Consumer Cooperation", Department of Foreign Languages ; co-authors: E. V. Knyazkova, L. V. Kaznachevskaya, M. O. Bilizek. E. V. Knyazkova, L. V. Kaznachevskaya, M. O. Bilizek. - Gomel : Belarusian University of Trade and Economics, 2017. - 79 c. - 1 ex.
2. Zinkevich, I. N. English for Machinebuilding Engineers = English for Machinebuilding Engineering : textbook / I. N. Zinkevich, K. A. Zinkevichus. - Minsk : Vysheyskaya shkola, 2017. - 262 c. - 13 copies.
3. Kostyreva, S. S. University Studies. Foreign language (English) : manual for students of speciality 1-40 05 01 "Information systems and technologies" / S. S. Kostyreva ; EE "VGTU". - Vitebsk, 2022. - 69 c. - There is an electronic analogue. - 35 copies.
4. Kulik, L. V. English language = English : textbook / L. V. Kulik. - Minsk : Vysheyskaya shkola, 2019. - 270 c. - 1 ekz.
5. Puzenko, I. N. English language = English : textbook / I. N. Puzenko, E. V. Voytishenyuk. - Minsk : Vysheyskaya shkola, 2021. - 365 c. - 12 copies.

### Additional literature

6. English language. Oral speech training = The English language. Oral speech practice : manual / I. G. Malikova [et al.]. - Minsk : BSUIR, 2017. - 135 c. - 1 ex.
7. The English Language: Practical Hand-book for Teaching Students to Read and Understand Scientific and Technical Literature with the Use of Module Technology = The English Language: Practical Hand-book for Teaching Students to Read and Understand Scientific Literature with the Use of Module Technology : manual / E. I. Lozitskaya [and others]. - Minsk : BSUIR, 2016. - 136 c. - not in the library.
8. Kravchenko, M. V. Practical English language course on the basics of business communication: Business meetings, business conversations : manual / M. V. Kravchenko. - Minsk : BSUIR, 2017. - 72 c. - not available in the library.
9. Teaching Speech Communication in English = Topical Issues through Communication : manual / N. G. Kasperovich [et al.] ; ed. by O. P. Dmitrieva. - Minsk : BSUIR, 2022. - 234 c. - not in the library.
10. Practical English Grammar = Practical English Grammar : manual : in 2 parts. Ч. 1 / I. I. Ilyukovich [and others]. - Minsk : BSUIR, 2013. - 139 c. - not in the library.
11. Practical English Grammar = Practical English Grammar : manual : in 2 parts. Part 2 : Grammar for reading and speaking / I. I. Ilyukovich [and others]. - Minsk : BSUIR, 2014. - 144 c. - not available in the library.
12. English Practical Course on Information Technologies = English Practical Course on Information Technologies : manual / M. V. Ladyzhenko [et al. V. Ladyzhenko [and others]. - Minsk : BSUIR, 2018. - 110 c. - not in the b-book.
13. Practical English Course for Engineering Students = Practical English Course for Engineering Students : manual / I. G. Malikova [and others]. - Minsk : BSUIR, 2022. - 208 c. - not in the b-book.

### Scoring criteria for the interview

The interview is marked out of 100 points. The final mark is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the marks obtained for each activity. The final score is used to determine the level of English language proficiency:

Final score in points	Proficiency Level of English
0 – 59	insufficient
60 – 100	sufficient

### Criteria for Assessing Oral Communication

<b>№ п/п</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>FORMAL ACCURACY</b> (Morphology, Syntax)	<b>ORAL ACCURACY</b> (Pronunciation and Prosody, Fluency)	<b>VOCABULARY</b> (Range and Activation)	<b>STYLE</b> (Pragmatic / Sociolinguistic Aspects)	<b>COMMUNICATIVE EFFECTIVENESS</b> (Appropriate Task Completion)
1.	<b>20</b>	Varied use of grammatical structures required at this level. Good grammatical control with occasional minor errors.	Can be understood easily (hardly noticeable accent). Fluent, appropriate pace of speech, independent flow of utterance.	Wide range of vocabulary used, varied / accurate use of words. Some idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms.	Clear organization of content. Register / style appropriate for the topic. Adequate use of a wide range of cohesive devices. Formal and informal styles are applied with ease.	Fully adequate task completion. Ideas and content communicated effectively and with ease.
2.	<b>15</b>	If the quality of oral communication exceeds the performance described under point 3 but worse than what is described under point 5, a score of 4 should be given.				
3.	<b>10</b>	Adequate use of grammatical structures required at this level. Minor (mainly morphological) mistakes which do not lead to misunderstanding.	Can be understood well (slight accent), insufficiencies in co-articulation. Satisfactory pace of speech, some inadequate pauses.	Adequate use of vocabulary (required for the topics). Minor semantic mistakes and occasional paraphrases do not impair comprehension.	Adequate organization of content and appropriate style. Satisfactory use of register and a limited number of cohesive devices. Ideas are easy to follow but longer talks may miss some content.	Adequate task completion. Ideas and content communicated clearly and with details. Exchange of ideas fluent and natural with only some pauses.
4.	<b>5</b>	Very limited use of structures. Frequently occurring grammatical mistakes that impair comprehension.	Hardly intelligible (very strong accent), significant prosodic and co-articulation errors. Slow pace of speech with frequent pauses, lack of independent flow of utterance.	Limited range of vocabulary. Frequent paraphrases and confusing semantic errors. Lack of proper vocabulary hinders understanding.	Conversation relevant at the level is difficult to follow and/or maintain. No evidence of / or inadequate organization of content. Inadequate register.	Task not completed. Questions have to be provided and reformulated several times. Exchange of ideas is poor. Limited content.
5.	<b>0</b>	Refusal to answer.				

The programme was considered at the meeting of the Foreign Languages Department.  
Minutes No. 8 of 15 February 2025.

The programme was considered at the meeting of the Admissions Committee.  
Minutes № 41 of 25.03.2025.

Head of Department

S.S. Kotyreva