

**Regulations for SoFL Integrative Exam with Asynchronous Proctoring for
Bachelor and Specialist Educational Programmes at HSE (Vnutrenniy ekzamen)
in the 2025/2026 academic year**

NB! If something goes wrong during the Exam, please do not hesitate to write an e-mail to helpexam@hse.ru.

NB! Please indicate any problems encountered with the help of screenshots/videos. The exam is conducted only on the platform <https://edu.hse.ru/>

1. General Regulations

- 1.1. These Regulations define the procedure for SoFL Integrative English Language Exam (the Exam) for Bachelor and Specialist students-participants of HSE in their Year 1 Module 4 2025/2026.
- 1.2. The students are obligated to familiarise themselves with these Regulations before the start of the Exam and to comply with them until the end of the Exam.
- 1.3. The Regulations for SoFL Integrative English Language Exam with Asynchronous Proctoring for Bachelor and Specialist Educational Programmes at HSE (Vnutrenniy ekzamen) in the 2025/2026 academic year (the Regulations) are designed in accordance with SoFL Integrative Exam Course Description Year 1 Module 4 2025/2026 and do not contradict it.
- 1.4. The Exam is conducted in the online format on the **HSE SmartLMS Platform** with asynchronous proctoring.
Asynchronous proctoring means that the identification of the student, as well as the entire exam procedure, are conducted by the programme, the system automatically monitors the student's actions.
During the Exam, a video is recorded from the student's webcam, mobile camera, and computer desktop, which is subsequently checked by an employee of the HSE School of Foreign Languages, who either confirms the violation of the Exam procedure or validates the Exam. Please pay attention and follow the Instructions carefully.
- 1.5. The date and the time of the Exam:
The Exam is conducted according to the Itinerary.
NB! Students of all educational programmes take the Exam strictly on the scheduled day and time of their group according to the Itinerary.
- 1.6. Exam format:
The Exam is conducted in written and oral formats, and it consists of four parts: *Listening*, *Speaking*, *Writing* and *Reading*. The time is divided between the sections of the Exam by the student-participants of the Exam themselves within the total time of the Exam. The recommended time intervals for each part of the Exam are: *Listening* – up to 20 minutes, *Speaking* – up to 10 minutes, *Writing* – up to 40 minutes, and *Reading* – up to 25 minutes. The students **cannot** choose the order in which they complete each part of the Exam. The order in which the tasks must be completed is **fixed** and cannot be altered. When a part of the Exam is completed, the student **cannot** return to it.
- 1.7. The language of the Exam is English.
- 1.8. The exam is conducted with the help of 2 cameras (the webcam of the main device and a mobile phone camera).
- 1.9. The total duration of the Exam is 95 minutes.
- 1.10. There is no break in the exam process.
- 1.11. The release of the examination papers is carried out remotely in an asynchronous format.
The results of the Exam (with comments) will be posted on the HSE SmartLMS platform.

2. Before the Exam

2.1. The student-participant is obligated to familiarise himself/herself with these Regulations for SoFL Integrative Exam with Asynchronous Proctoring and the fixed order to the Exam parts. The Exam parts are arranged in the following order:

1. Listening
2. Speaking
3. Writing
4. Reading

- Before the start of the Exam, the student-participant must take into account that when the order of the Exam parts is fixed, it is impossible to return to an already completed part.
 - Before the start of the Exam, the student-participant must take into account that the recorded monologue must be attached to the SmartLMS platform while the Exam is still in progress. The recordings that were not attached to the platform **cannot** be submitted for grading.
 - Before the start of the Exam, the student-participant must take into account that only the essays typed into the text box on the platform can be graded. Essays submitted as a separate file (Word, Pages, Text, etc.) **cannot** be graded.
- 2.2. The student is obligated to familiarise himself/herself with the User PC Requirements.

Parameter	Requirements
Web Browser	Chrome 72, Opera 59, Firefox 66, Edge 79, Yandex browser 19.3
Operating system	Windows 7+, MacOS 10.12, Sierra, Linux
Mobile version	Android 4.4+, Chrome 72+, iOS 13+
Web camera	640X480, 15 Frame/sec
Microphone	required
Speakers	Optional
Internet	256 Kbit/sec

The link to a video demonstrating how to properly prepare your workspace and pre-test your equipment. This link will not be needed for the exam itself.

The link to a video hosted in an alternative repository is also available if the previous link does not open.

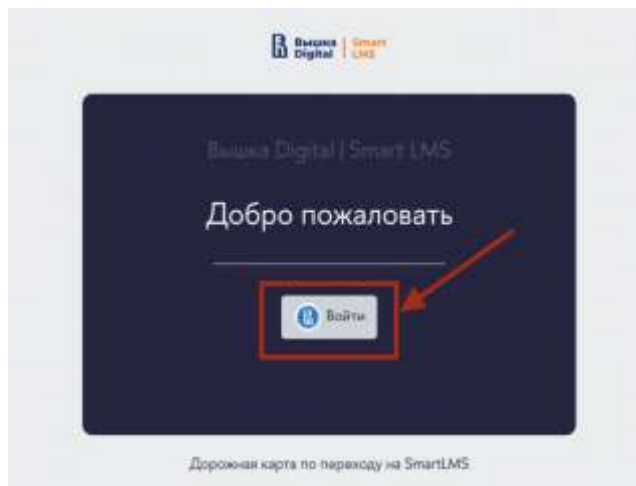
The link for instructions on how to solve common problems when connecting to a proctored exam.

Attention! The results of the preliminary equipment check may differ from the check conducted before the Exam, since 2 platforms are used to conduct the exam (edu.hse.ru and the Proctoredu proctoring system).

3. On the Day of the Exam

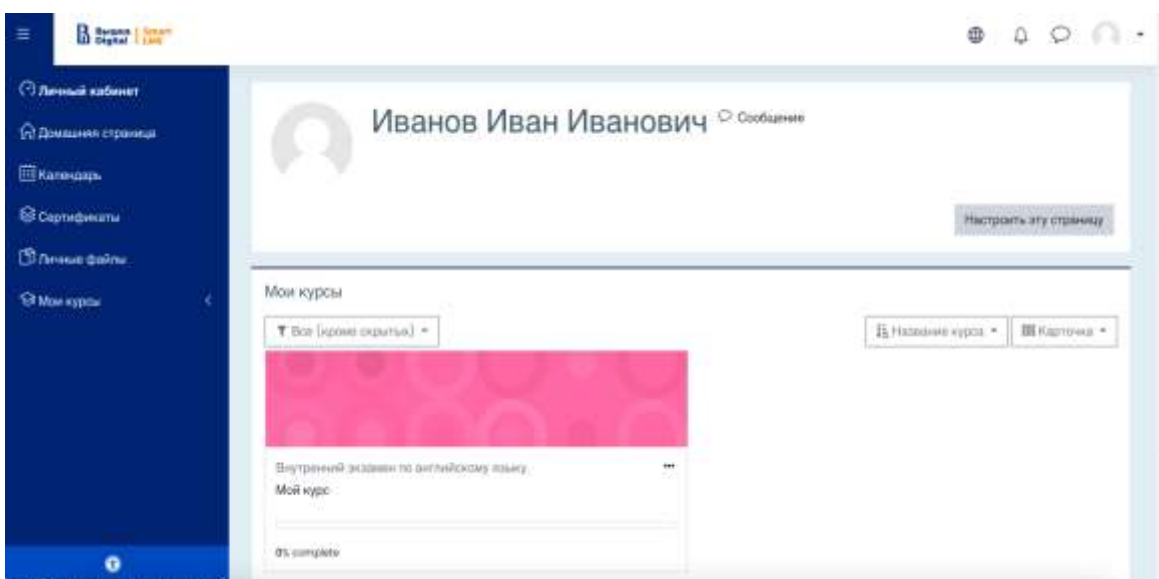
NB! The Exam can be taken only on a PC or laptop. It is not permitted to take the Exam on a smartphone or tablet. It is strongly advised to use Google Chrome or Yandex for the most optimal Exam experience. Note that you can use Incognito Mode. You are **not** advised to use Safari as this browser does not allow audio recording on the SmartLMS platform.

3.1. Go to <https://edu.hse.ru/>. Click the button «**Войти**» on the login page.

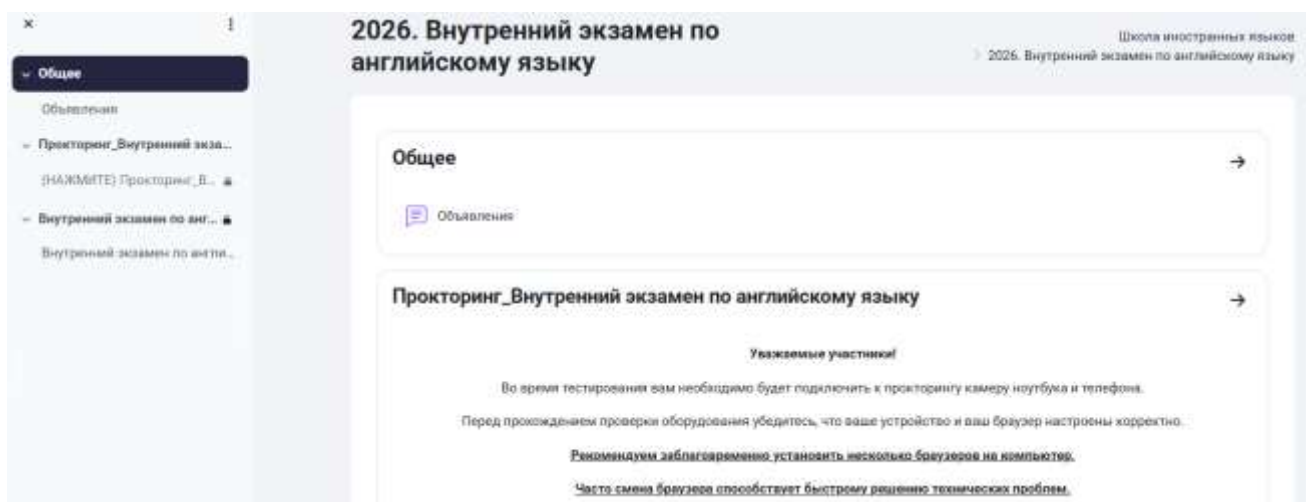


You will go to the HSE Digital authorisation page. Enter your corporate account information ***@edu.hse.ru.

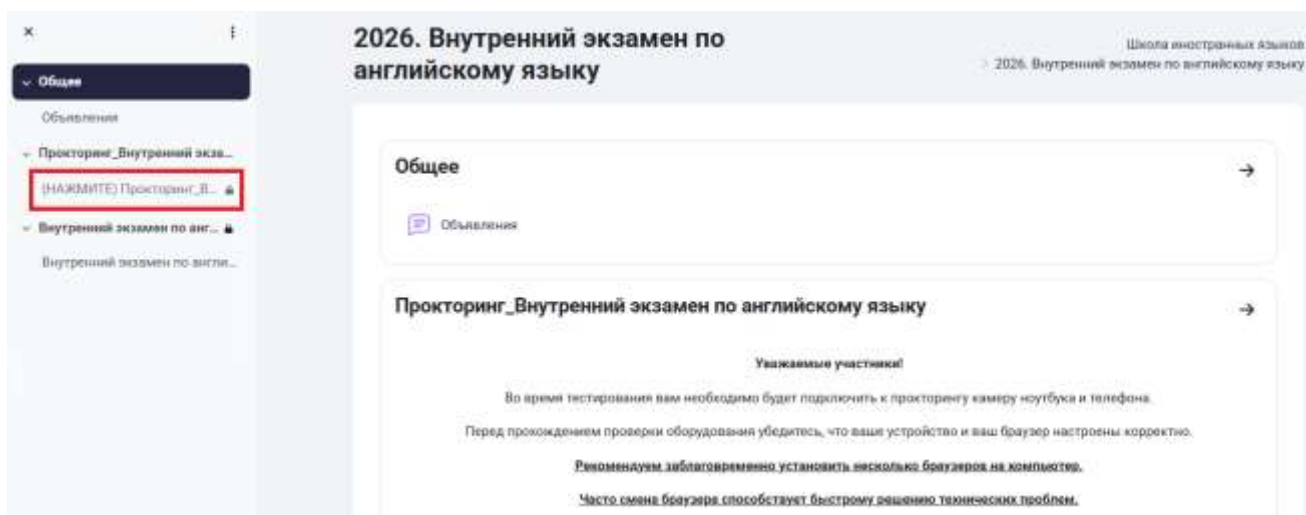
3.2. In the new window on My Courses page, select the Exam course. If you do not have this option on your page, please contact helpexam@hse.ru.



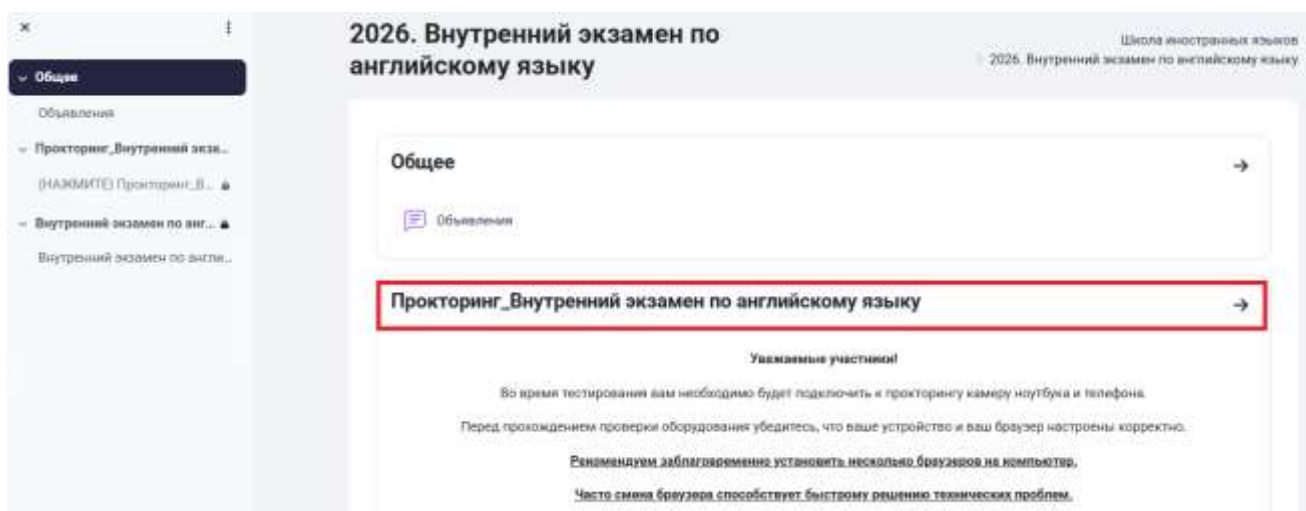
3.3. You will see course overview on the course page.




3.4. To log into the proctoring system, click the link in the menu on the left.



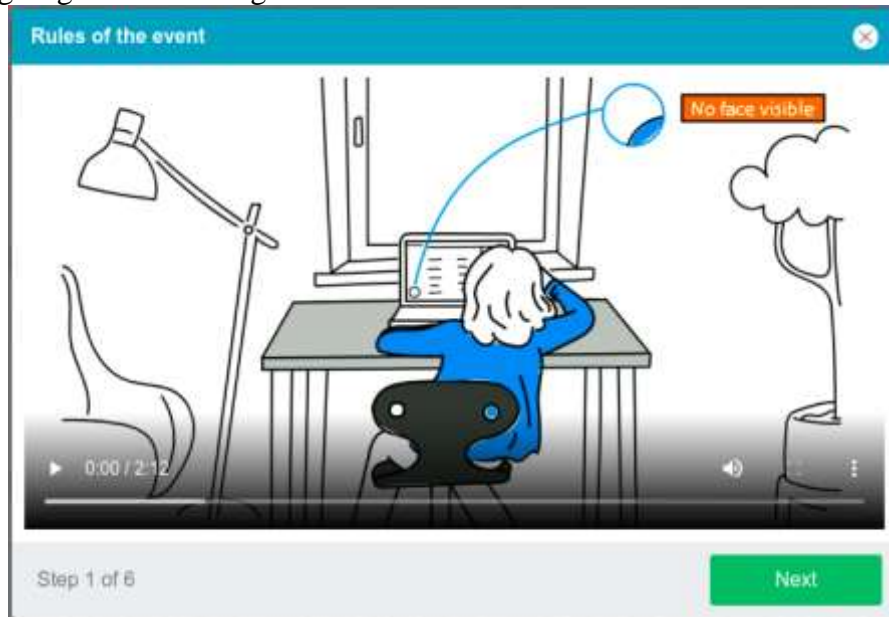
Or you can click on the heading “Прокторинг_Внутренний экзамен по английскому языку”.



Next, at the bottom of the page that opens, click on the following words:

 (НАЖМИТЕ) Прокторинг_Внутренний экзамен по английскому языку

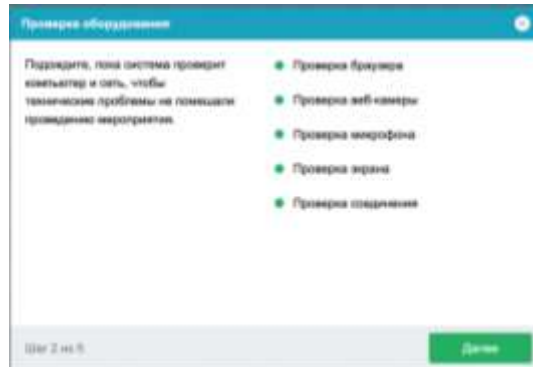
3.5. To start the Exam with proctoring the students must familiarise themselves with the Proctoring Regulations and agree to the terms of the Exam.



The Proctoring System automatically rates the level of Exam results' validity which is contingent on the following factors.

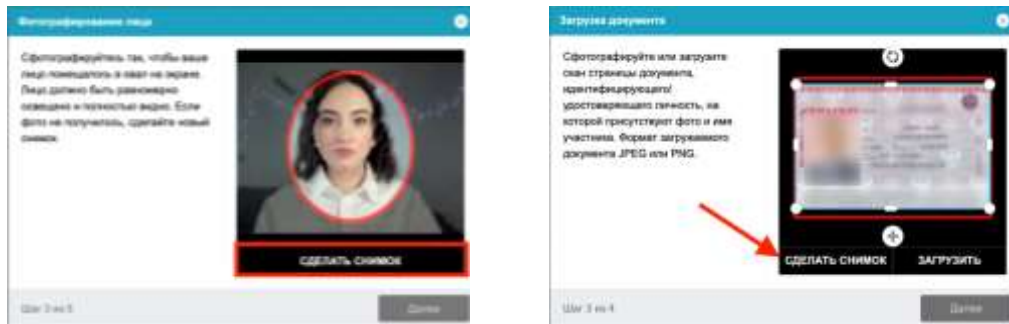
- The student agrees to have audio and video recordings of him/her made during the Exam, and for the recordings to be subsequently stored;
- The webcam on the PC or laptop must be front-facing; side-mounted cameras cannot be used to record the Exam;
- The student's face must be visible at all times, must be located in the centre of the screen, and must take up no less than 10% of the screen;
- The student's face must be lit up so as to provide a clear picture for the camera; the source of light cannot be placed directly in front of the camera;
- The student's face or a part of the student's face cannot be concealed by his/her hair, clothing or hands;
- The student is not allowed to wear sunglasses. Only clear-lens glasses could be used during the Exam;
- The student must be alone in the room while taking the Exam;
- No background noise or outside voices should be heard during the Exam;
- The browser window must be fully maximised at all times during the Exam; no other pages can be opened during the Exam; the browser cannot be closed during the Exam;
- All the applications, apart from the browser, must be shut down during the Exam;
- The student must make sure that the internet connection is stable and will last throughout the Exam;
- It is forbidden to record or make copies of any of the Exam materials and/or transfer them to a third party;
- It is forbidden to use audio-, visual- or any other type of prompts;
- The microphone on the PC or laptop must be switched on for the entire duration of the Exam and transmit all the sounds from the room where the student takes the Exam.
- If a proctor detects any violations of the Exam rules, the results of the Exam will be annulled.

Before the start of each session, a Preliminary System Check is conducted to identify potential technical issues before the beginning of the actual Exam. The Check is carried out automatically, user intervention is required only in case of issues.



Face Photo

3.5.1. Next step: a Person's Identification consists of two stages: photographing the face and the document (you can also upload a photo/scan of the document to the proctoring system by clicking on the "Upload" button). Make sure that the workplace is well lit, and the document is placed horizontally, so that the system can read it.



3.6. Setting up the web camera

Web camera placement during the exam

The student's face must remain at the centre of the screen, and the student's hands must be visible up to the elbow.

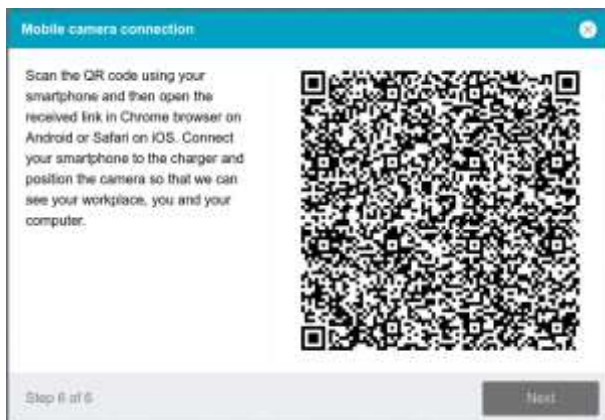


Mobile camera connection

It is necessary to connect the smartphone camera for a better view of the workplace and the room. To do this, the student needs to scan the QR code displayed on the computer screen with his/her smartphone and then open the link in the browser on his/her smartphone (*the recommended browsers for smartphones are Yandex and Google Chrome, NB! the use of Safari browser is prohibited*). If the camera has been successfully connected, the student will see "Camera successfully connected" on the screen of their phone.

A mobile camera must be placed within ~50 cm of the keyboard on the opposite side of the participant's dominant hand (on the left for a righty; on the right for a lefty) and should capture: the work place in front of the participant, part of the participant's profile, and the area behind the monitor.

The smartphone should be charged up to 100% or connected to a charger. The charger should be placed close to the smartphone. If the phone's charge drops below 60%, you should connect it to the charger.



*Do not open the link in built-in browsers – they do not work correctly most of the time.

Once the mobile camera has been connected, the student films an overview of the workplace and the room before the Exam starts. The student slowly rotates the camera as if he/she is taking a panoramic picture, so that the entire workspace and the room can be seen.

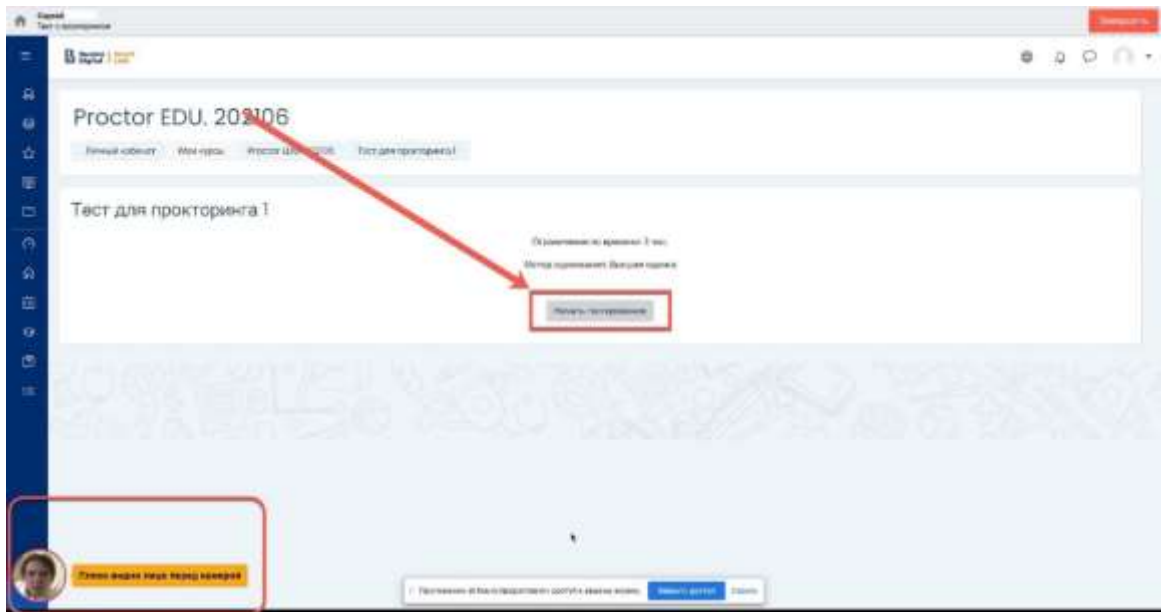
The verification stages described above take from 5 to 15 minutes to complete, therefore it's advised to commence the verification procedure 5 to 15 minutes prior to the official start of the Exam.

3.7. If all these steps have been completed successfully, the Exam page will open in the centre of the screen. A small circle will appear in the bottom left corner, where the image from the student's video camera will be displayed.

During the Exam, it is necessary to ensure that the face fits completely into the circle and is well lit.

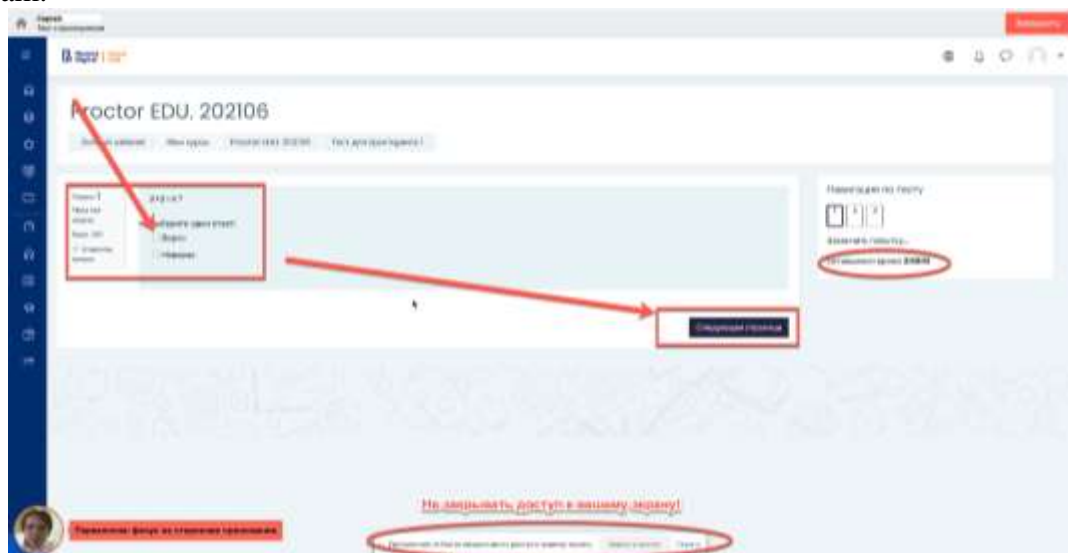
Automatic notifications may appear next to the circle if any rules of the Exam are not followed. As long as you do not violate the basic rules of the exam, these notifications will not be considered as violations.

3.8. To start the Exam, press "Начать тестирование" button.



4. Taking the Exam

4.1. As the Exam starts, the student must complete the given tasks. As soon as the Exam starts, the timer on the right-hand side of the screen will display the remaining time to complete the Exam.



4.2. During the exam, it is **prohibited** to:

- turn off the webcam or microphone;
- reduce the microphone sensitivity to sound;
- use autocorrection, notes, textbooks, or other educational materials;
- leave the site of the exam (leave the visibility zone of the webcam);
- use headphones, headsets, with the exception of the exam period, when taking the *Listening* or *Speaking* (unless your microphone does not work without a headset) sections of the Exam;
- look away from the screen;
- focus your eyes for a long time on objects outside of the webcam's visibility range;
- use "smart" gadgets (smartphone, tablet, etc.) for anything other than Proctoring;
- attract a third party to help with the Exam, talk with a third party during the Exam;
- read tasks out loud;
- use Chat GPT and other similar AI tools;

- stop, rewind, or listen to the audio file more than once, except for case of a short interruption in communication while listening to the audio file for the first time, change the playback speed of the audio file;
- use MS Word or other text editors to carry out the task in the *Writing* section.

4.3. During the Exam, the student is **allowed** to:

- use blank sheets of paper for drafts, a pen/pencil for taking notes
- contact tech support in case of technical difficulties (helpexam@hse.ru)

4.4. At the beginning of each part of the Exam, it is recommended that the students familiarise themselves with the full version of the assignments.

- The tasks in the *Listening* section are related to listening to an audio file, choosing the correct variant out of the ones given in Questions 1-5, filling in the gaps in Questions 6-10 in accordance with the information from the audio file. The audio recordings are divided into two parts. Part 1 corresponds to Tasks 1-5, Part 2 corresponds to Tasks 6-10. While listening to the audio file, the tasks are visible onscreen. The tasks are carried out sequentially.

The audio recording can be played **ONLY ONCE**. It is prohibited for students-participants **to stop, rewind or listen to the audio file more than once**. It is prohibited for students-participants to change the playback speed of the audio file.


After completing the assignments, click «Следующая страница» to continue the Exam. When you click «Следующая страница», you **will not** be able to return to this section.

- The task in the *Speaking* section is related to the presentation of a monologue on one of the three proposed topics. The student chooses the topic of the monologue himself/herself.

Before completing the assignment, the student-participant must choose a topic out of those available and start recording a monologue.

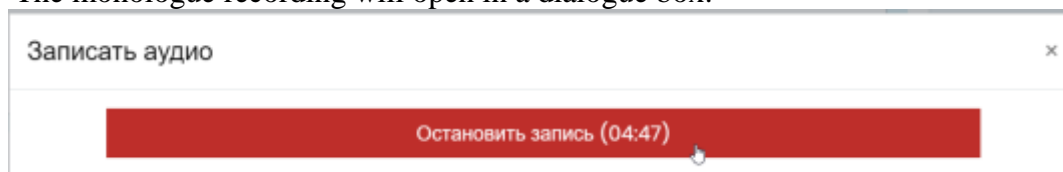
The chosen topic must match the topic of the recorded monologue.

It is impossible to change the topic of the monologue after this Part of the Exam has been completed.

To record the monologue, the student must click on the microphone icon in the answer field ().



The monologue recording will open in a dialog box.

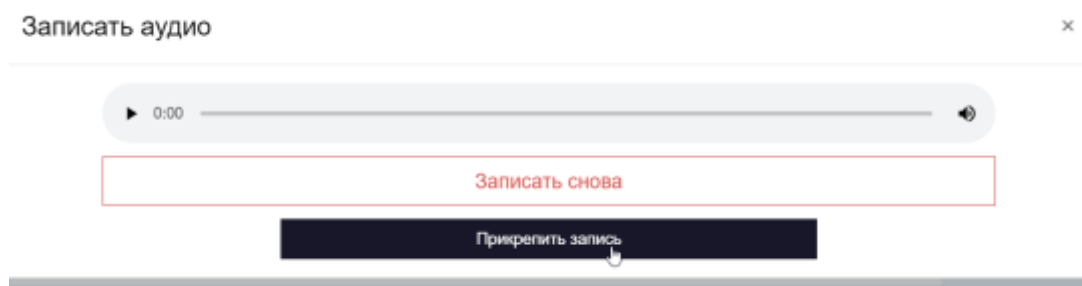


To finish recording, click the «**Остановить запись**» button.

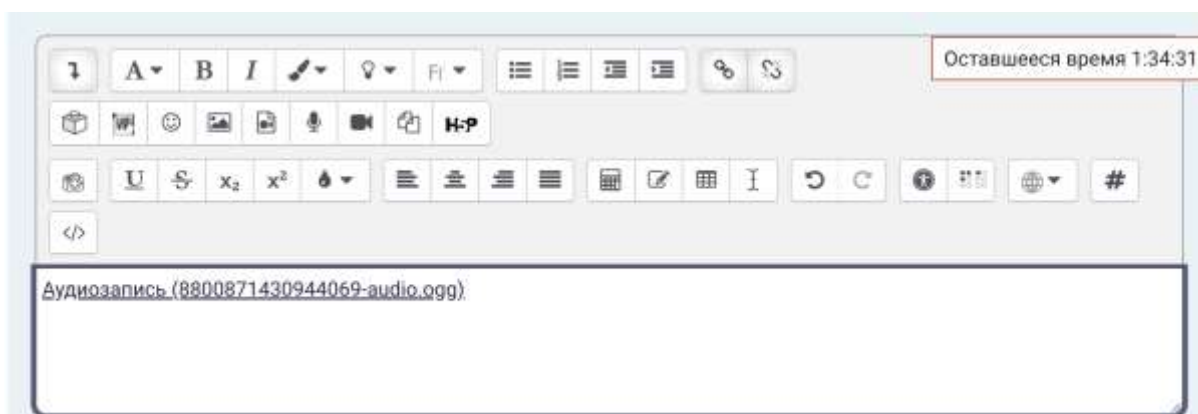
After that, the student-participant will have the opportunity to check the quality of the recorded monologue.

To submit your monologue, click on the «**Прикрепить запись**» button.

Remember that only in this case the recording will be saved and submitted for grading.



The attached recording of the monologue should look like the following:



After completing the assignment, click «Следующая страница» to continue the Exam. When you click «Следующая страница», you **will not** be able to return to this section.

- The task in the *Writing* section is related to writing an essay on one of the six proposed topics.

Before writing an essay, the student-participant should choose a topic, click on the chosen topic, and start writing an essay.

The chosen topic must match the topic of the written essay.



The essay is written on the platform in the field provided for the answer:



It is prohibited to carry out the task in MS Word and other text editors. There is no option to attach a file to the answer. It is allowed to draft the essay while writing. After the Exam is finished, essays will not be accepted.

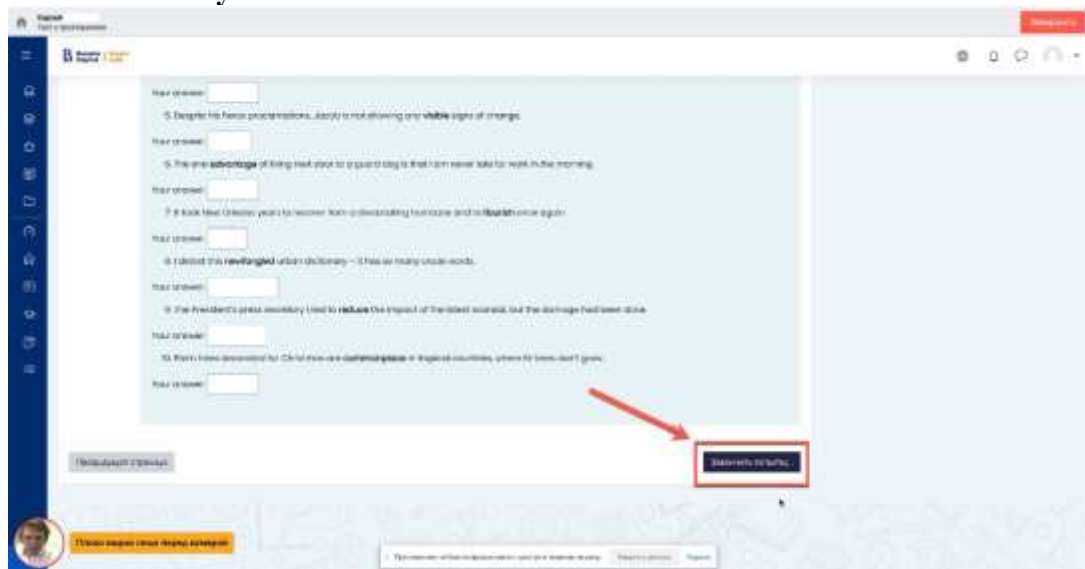
After completing the assignment, click «Следующая страница» to continue the Exam. When you click «Следующая страница», you **will not** be able to return to this section.

- The tasks in the *Reading* section are related to reading a text, choosing the correct variant out of the given ones in accordance with the information from a text. In Part 1 Questions 1-5 you must choose the correct option out of *True, False, Not Stated*. In Part 2 Questions 6-10 you must choose the correct option out of A, B, C.

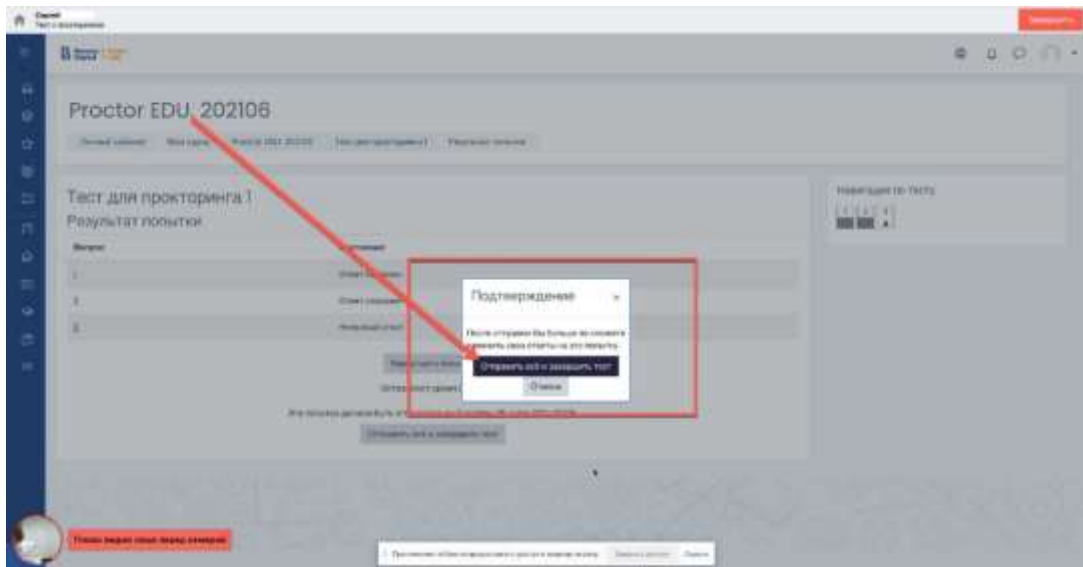
It is impossible to return to the completed Exam tasks after the Exam is finished.

5. The Procedure for Completing the Exam

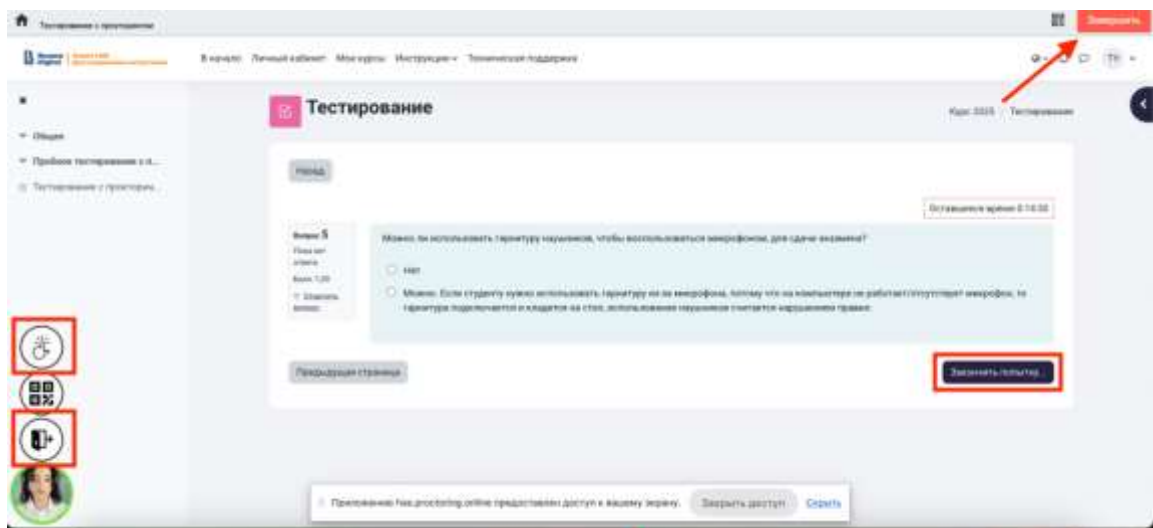
If you are confident in your answers and are ready to submit them for grading, click the «Закончить попытку»:



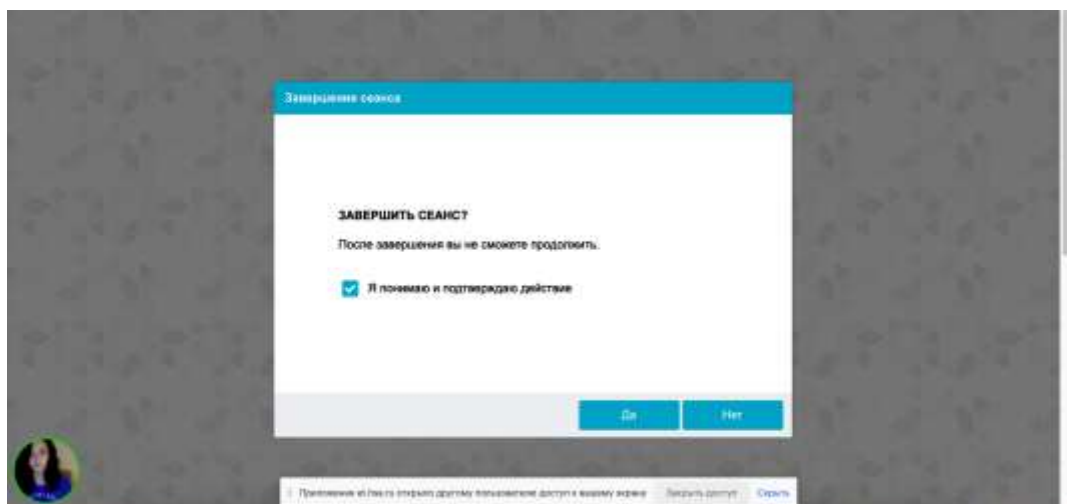
5.1. After that, you will be taken to the confirmation page, where you will need to click «Отправить все и завершить тест» button.



5.2. To end a proctoring session, you must click the thumbs-up icon in the lower left corner (above your preview), then click the door widget OR you can click the red «**Завершить**» button in the upper right corner.



5.3. To complete the process, tick the phrase «**Я понимаю и подтверждаю действие**», and then click «**Да**».



6. Network Connection Failure.

Short-term and long-term network connection issues during the Exam

6.1.A *short-term network connection failure* during the Exam is considered to be a loss of a student's network connection with the Exam platform for no more than 5 minutes.

In the event of a short-term issue (the page freezes, the Exam session is interrupted, the student does not see the «Начать Экзамен» button), it is recommended to refresh the page (Ctrl + F5), or switch to another browser approved for the Exam (**NB!** the use of Safari browser is prohibited).

6.2.A *long-term network connection failure* during the Exam is the loss of a student's network connection with the Exam platform for more than 5 minutes. It is not possible to continue taking the Exam in case of a long-term issue.

In the event of a long-term issue during the Exam, the student must immediately (on the day of the Exam but no later than **23:59 Moscow time**) record the fact of the loss of connection to the platform (take a screenshot or photograph of the entire screen so that the time and the application/website window are visible, get a response from the Internet provider) and report the problem to the Programme Office of his/her Educational Programme at the corresponding addresses.

The Programme Office studies the student's application. If the Programme Office confirms that a technical problem or a network issue occurred during the Exam, the student may take the Exam on a reserve day.

7. Contact Information

7.1. Questions on the *content* of the Exam can be directed to the Centre for Educational Approaches and Technologies of the School of Foreign Languages of the National Research University - Higher School of Economics: ceat_sofl@hse.ru

7.2. If something goes wrong during the Exam please do not hesitate to write an e-mail to helpexam@hse.ru. Please indicate any problems encountered with the help of screenshots or videos.

NB!

- There are the same rules for an online exam with proctoring as for a regular exam. Students **are not permitted to**: be late for the exam, walk around, get up from his/her desk, communicate with other people, cheat, use any additional materials, and look for answers on the Internet.
- You **must keep track of the timer** displayed on the right-hand side of the SmartLMS platform to be able to complete all the tasks in the allotted time.