

**Faculty of Humanities
Language Assessment Centre**

**Regulations for the Independent English Exam for
Bachelor and Specialist Educational Programmes
at HSE**

2026-2027

1. General Regulations

1.1 *The Regulations for Independent English Exam for Bachelor and Specialist Educational Programmes at HSE* (the Regulations) define the procedure for Independent English Exam (the Exam) for Bachelor and Specialist students of HSE. The Regulations are designed in accordance with *the Regulations for Interim and Ongoing Assessments of Students at National Research University Higher School of Economics* and *Regulations for Conducting Independent English Language Tests Patterned on International Exams*.

1.2 The students are obligated to familiarize themselves with these Regulations before the start of the Exam and to comply with them until the end of the Exam.

1.3 The Exam is conducted in both offline and online formats. The online format is applicable only to the students who study under a distance learning individual curriculum.

1.4 The Exam consists of four parts: *Reading*, *Writing*, *Listening* and *Speaking*. The time intervals for each Exam section are the following: *Reading* – 60 minutes, *Writing* – 60 minutes, *Listening* – approximately 25 minutes, *Speaking* – approximately 20 minutes.

1.5 The language of the Exam is English.

1.6 The total time of the Exam is approximately 180 minutes, including a 15-minute break between sections 2 and 3 of the Exam.

1.7 The Exam held online does not have any breaks between the sections, so the total time of the Exam is around 165 minutes.

1.8 After finishing the Exam, the students will not have access to the Exam tasks and their Exam answers on the platform.

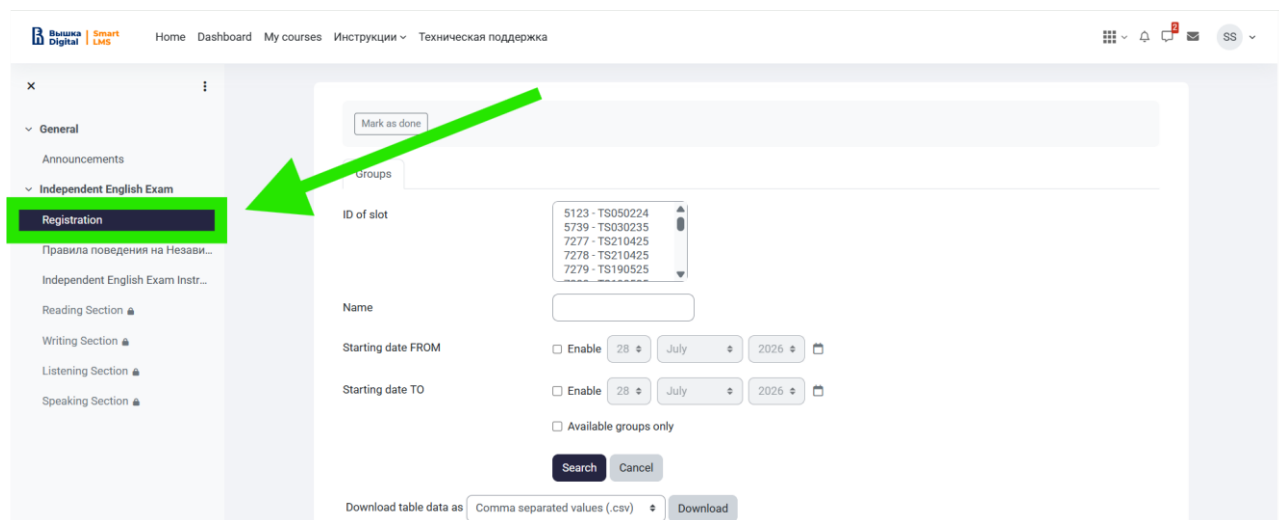
1.9 The Exam mark the students see on the platform after the grading period is final and cannot be appealed.

2. Registering for the Exam

2.1 The students are obligated to sign up for the Exam by choosing a suitable time slot on the SmartLMS platform.

2.2 The link for the Exam registration is located in the SmartLMS course.

2.3 The student will get access to the list of time slots by clicking the Registration button.



- leave their belongings (overcoat, hats / caps, etc.) outside the test room and electronic devices (including wrist watches, smart watches, tracking bracelets, etc.) and bags/backpacks in a designated area in the Exam room until the end of the Exam.

NB: It is strictly prohibited to use any electronic devices (mobile phones, watches, smartwatches, headphones, earphones, cameras, etc.) during the Exam or the break. All electronic devices must be switched off and placed in a designated area in the Exam room until the end of the Exam. If a student is found with any electronic device during the Exam, their exam results will be cancelled.

3.2 The students are allowed to take the following items to their Exam station:

- a pen or pencil without a pencil case;
- a clear plastic water bottle without a label;
- a paper slip with an email and SmartLMS password;
- medications in a clear plastic bag if necessary.

NB: Students must complete the Exam tasks at the computers in the Exam room in the Language Assessment Centre. Attempts to access the Exam tasks from other locations are strictly prohibited and will be terminated immediately. If the student fails to follow this rule, their exam results will be cancelled.

3.3 To participate in the **online** Exam, the student must:

- prepare a valid identification document (Student ID) to be verified before the start of the Exam;
- join the meeting by registering on the MTS Link platform by following the link sent to the student's SmartLMS inbox and/or corporate email by the Language Assessment Centre the day before the exam;

Регистрация на мероприятие

Через социальные сети

Электронная почта
iivanov@edu.hse.ru

Фамилия
Иванов

Имя
Иван

Условия использования платформы Webinar.ru

Нажимая на кнопку «зарегистрироваться», я акцептую условия лицензионного договора, подтверждаю факт ознакомления с «Политикой обработки персональных данных», соглашаюсь на обработку персональных данных и связь со мною способами, указанными в договоре, в целях исполнения условий договора.

ЗАРЕГИСТРИРОВАТЬСЯ

- share the screen for the entire duration of the exam by clicking on the Share screen button, located at the bottom of the page on the MTS Link platform;
- follow the technical requirements below:
 - use a PC or a laptop;
 - operating system: Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Windows 11;

- RAM: 3 GB or more;
- HDD / SSD space: 500 MB;
- the latest version of one of the following browsers is needed: Yandex Browser, Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge. To check the latest update, go to: browser.yandex.ru or www.google.com/chrome/;
- a fully-functioning webcam: the minimum recommended resolution is 640x480 px.;
- a fully-functioning microphone;
- switched off VPN or VPN apps;
- a reliable and stable internet connection with a speed of 5 Mbps for upload and download is required. You should use a wired (LAN) connection rather than a WiFi network. To check the internet connection speed, go to: <https://yandex.ru/internet/>;
- make sure cookies are enabled.

To enable cookies in Chrome, go to

<https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/61416?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop>;

To enable cookies in Yandex Browser, go to

<https://browser.yandex.com/help/personal-data-protection/cookies.html>

NB: Students who skip or fail the verification process and/or do not join the MTS Link video conference are not allowed to complete the Exam tasks on the SmartLMS platform. If the student fails to follow this rule, their exam results will be cancelled.

4. During the Exam

4.1 During the **offline** Exam, it is prohibited to:

- provide fake ID documents for the verification procedure;
- impersonate another student or be impersonated;
- have with you or use any electronic devices (mobile phones, smartwatches, headphones, earphones, cameras, etc.). All electronic devices must be switched off and placed in a designated area in the Exam room;
- cheat by using any type of electronic devices and/or handwritten notes;
- wear a mechanical watch;
- communicate with other students and discuss the Exam tasks;
- copy the work of another student;
- open additional applications, programmes and browser tabs other than the Exam page;
- use any artificial intelligence tools;
- leave the Exam room without the permission of the invigilator;
- leave the Exam room once the students have been through the verification procedure;
- leave the Exam room during the Listening and Speaking sections;
- use any sheets of paper that were not handed out by the invigilator;
- reproduce, save, distribute, or take any Exam materials out of the examination room, including scratch paper;
- use text correction programmes, reference books, dictionaries (including electronic ones), notes, textbooks, or other study materials;
- exhibit aggressive behaviour towards other students and invigilators;
- make noise, talk loudly, turn around and disturb other students;
- shut down / restart the computer;
- use keyboard shortcuts.

NB: If any artificial intelligence elements and/or text-generation techniques are detected in a student's work during or after the Exam, their exam results will be cancelled.

4.2 During the **offline** Exam, the student is allowed to:

- use blank sheets of paper and a pen/pencil for taking notes. Paper will be provided in the test room. Pens or pencils should be brought by the student;
- call on the invigilators to answer questions by raising a hand;
- leave the Exam room during the Reading and Writing sections of the Exam. It is not recommended to spend more than five minutes outside the Exam room. The students may leave the Exam room once during the Reading and Writing sections of the Exam.

NB: Only scratch paper distributed by the invigilators in the Exam room is permitted for use. It is strictly prohibited to use any other sheets of paper for making notes. If the student fails to follow this rule, their exam results will be cancelled.

4.3 During the **online** Exam, it is prohibited to:

- provide fake ID documents for the verification procedure;
- impersonate another student or be impersonated;
- have with you or use any electronic devices (mobile phones, smartwatches, headphones, earphones, cameras, etc.). All electronic devices must be switched off and put away before the start of the Exam;
- use headphones / headsets / earbuds;
- wear a mechanical watch;
- copy the work of another student;
- open additional applications, programmes and browser tabs other than the Exam page;
- use any artificial intelligence tools;
- turn off the webcam or the microphone;
- reduce the level of microphone sensitivity;
- use text correction programmes, reference books, dictionaries (including electronic ones), notes, textbooks, or other study materials;
- leave the exam site or leave the webcam view;
- look away or focus your eyes on objects outside the webcam view for a long time;
- remove your hands from the webcam view;
- smoke;
- read the Exam tasks out loud and/or communicate with other people;
- stop, rewind and listen to the audio file more than once, except for the case of a short interruption in communication when listening to the audio file for the first time;
- use MS Word or other text editors to complete the Exam tasks;
- use keyboard shortcuts;
- take notes using scratch paper.

4.4 During the **online** Exam, the student is allowed to:

- call on the invigilators to answer questions by raising a virtual hand;
- take notes using a whiteboard, or a piece of paper inside a transparent sheet protector with an erasable marker. At the end of each section, the student must erase the notes.

4.5 During the Exam, the timer on the SmartLMS displays the time until the end of each Exam section. When time runs out the system saves the student's answers and closes the section automatically. **No extra time or attempt is given if the student does not submit their answers within the allotted time.**

4.6 To proceed to the next section of the Exam, the candidate must submit their current attempt by pressing the **Finish attempt** button and go back to the main Exam page on the SmartLMS. It is required to carry out this procedure after completing each section of the Exam.

NB: If the student violates the Exam rules, their exam results will be cancelled.

5. Exam Sections

5.1 The student must complete the Exam sections **in the following order**:

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

5.2 The **Reading** section consists of 3 parts. Each part of the *Reading* section contains a text on an academic or professional non field-specific topic and a set of various tasks to complete.

The student has 60 minutes to work on the *Reading* section. No extra time is allocated to transfer answers to the online answer form.

The student must enter the requested information in the gaps or choose the correct variant out of the ones given in questions.

The parts of the *Reading* section can be completed in any order. To proceed to the next part, the student must press the **Next page** button.

Smart LMS

Questions 7-10
Decide whether the statements below agree with the information in the text.
In boxes, choose

TRUE if the statement is true.
FALSE if the statement contradicts the information in the text.
NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this.

7. The effects of both indoor and outdoor activities on the air quality have been researched for a long time.
Your answer:

8. The scientists chose to conduct their experiment at a place allowing for the required calculations.
Your answer:

9. On average, more children than adults get affected by the furnishing chemicals.
Your answer:

10. Washing hands is one of the common things to do to stay away from the vast majority of chemicals.
Your answer:

Time left 0:58:44 Hide

Next page

It is not recommended to click between pages in the test tab and use the browser's **Back** button to avoid possible failures. The student can use the navigation panel to navigate within the test.

Smart LMS

Mock Independent English Exam

Back

Time left 0:59:28 Hide

Question 1
Not yet answered
Marked out of 10.00
Flag question

Passage 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-10, which are based on the reading passage below.

Questions 1-6

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph (A-F) from the list of headings. There are 2 extra headings.

1 Paragraph A

Americans spend roughly 90 percent of their time indoors, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes. During that time, people cook. They clean. They chat, read, play, watch TV and do other things. People also bathe and sleep. And throughout it all, they breathe. New studies find that our activities can pollute the air we breathe indoors. And some of those compounds may harm our health. Both indoors and out, "activities can be a main driver of air quality," observes Marina Vance, the researcher. Scientists have studied outdoor air pollution for decades. Many countries have created laws to limit pollution in outdoor air. But researchers know much less about the pollutants that can be created in reactions between chemicals floating around indoors.

2 Paragraph B

To learn more, Marina Vance and her team measured how some everyday activities can affect what chemicals end up in indoor air. To do that, they went to a test house at the University of Texas at Austin. This model home is equipped to measure energy use,

Quiz navigation

1 2 3

Finish attempt ...

Having completed all the tasks of the *Reading* section, the student must click the **Finish attempt** button.

Smart LMS

24. Insightful contemplations are still beyond our understanding of how to guide them.

Your answer:

25. Being under pressure may cause people to shut down their creative thinking mechanisms.

Your answer:

26. People used to focus primarily on the cases of immediate solutions that had favourable results.

Your answer:

Questions 27-30

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

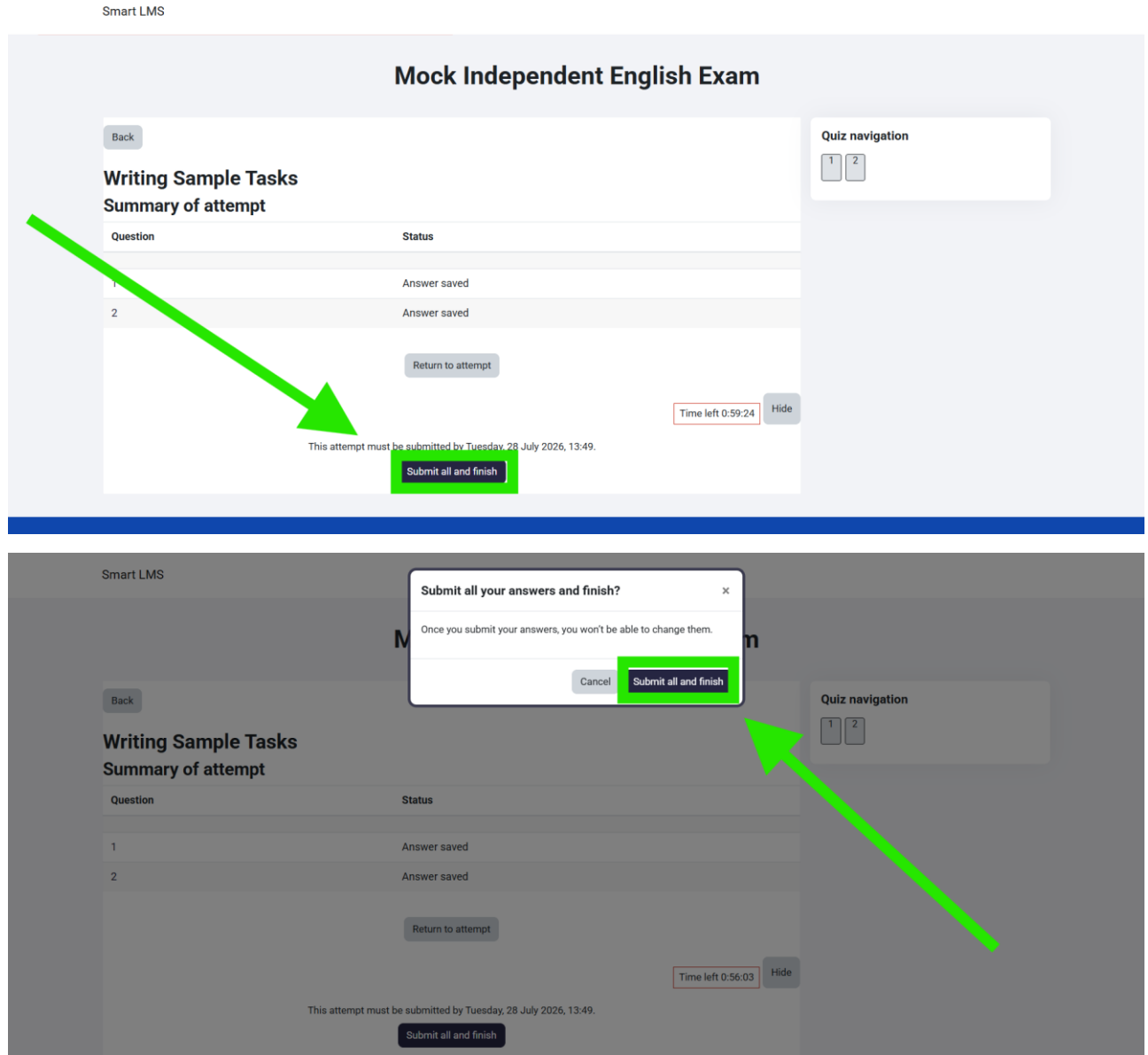
Write your answers in boxes 27-30.

The team of scientists held several research observations which were called to study the hypotheses about different types of thinking. The study conducted by Kounios and Salvi involved experiments, in which they used language prompts, 27 _____, or both. Interestingly, nearly one hundred percent of error-free replies for the task originated from 28 _____, whereas a greater 29 _____ of making a mistake came from conscious reasoning. Those who tended to ponder on the answers turned out to be 30 _____.

Previous page

Finish attempt ...

After that, the student will be redirected to the confirmation page, where they will need to click the **Submit all and finish** button.

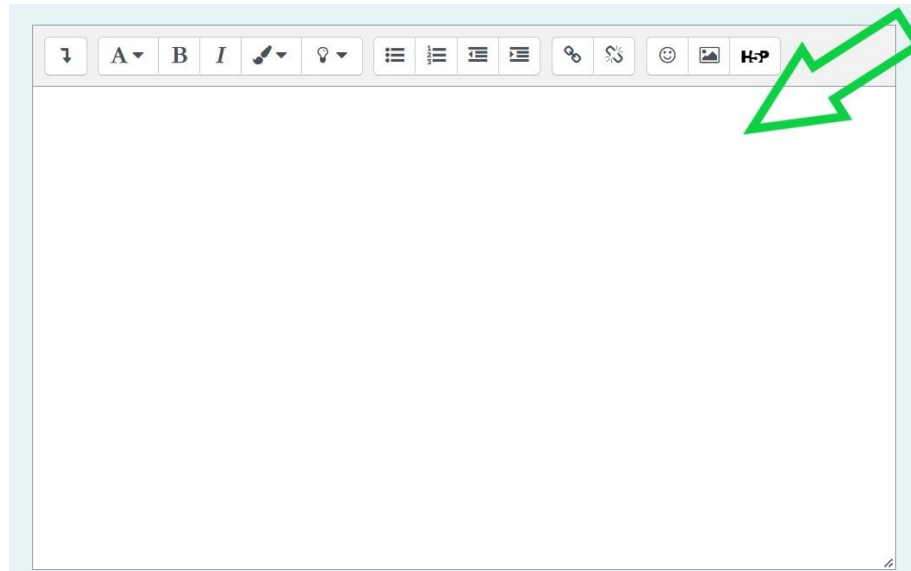


It will be impossible to return to the completed Exam tasks after clicking the **Submit all and finish** button.

Please note that the section shuts down automatically after the allocated time is up.

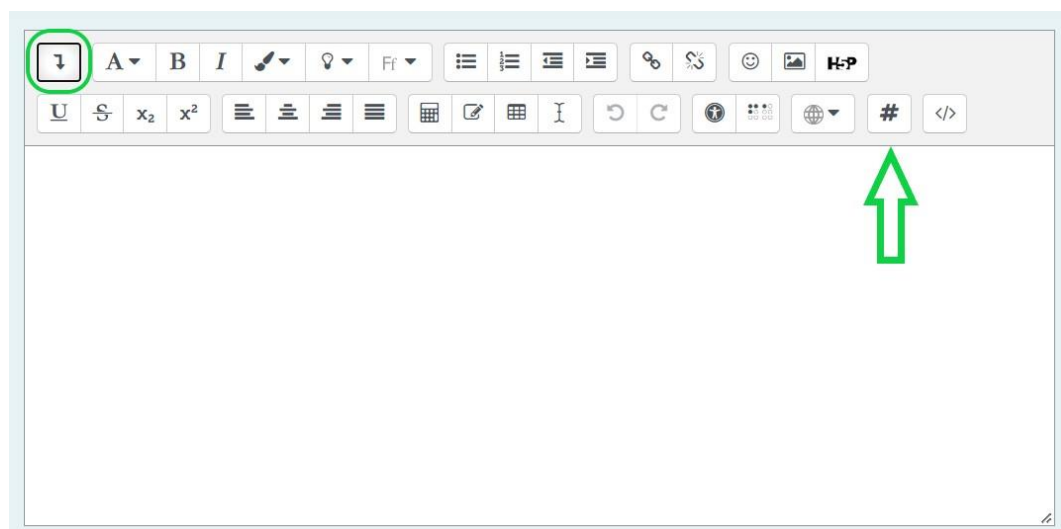
To proceed to the *Writing* section, go back to the main Exam page on the SmartLMS. The *Writing* section of the Exam will be available automatically on the main Exam page.

5.3 The **Writing** section consists of two tasks. In total, the student has 60 minutes to complete the **Writing** exam section. The recommended time is up to 20 minutes for Task 1 and up to 40 minutes for Task 2. The students can work on the tasks in either order. The answers must be typed in the corresponding fields on the platform.



It is prohibited to carry out the task in other text editors. It is allowed to draft the essay on a piece of paper provided by the invigilator. No extra time is allocated to transfer answers to the online answer form.

To count words, the student should expand the SmartLMS panel by clicking on the arrow in the left corner of the panel and press # on the panel, **not on the keyboard**.



To move to the next task of the *Writing* section, the student must press the **Next page** button.

It is not recommended to click between pages in the test tab and use the browser's **Back** button to avoid possible failures. The student can use the navigation panel to navigate within the test.

Having completed all the tasks of the *Writing* section, the student must click the **Finish attempt** button. After that, the student will be redirected to the confirmation page, where they will need to click the **Submit all and finish** button.

It will be impossible to return to the completed Exam tasks after clicking the **Submit all and finish** button.

Please note that the section shuts down automatically after the allocated time is up.

There is a 15-minute break between the *Writing* and *Listening* sections. The *Listening* section of the Exam will be available on the main Exam page after the break.

5.4 The **Listening** section consists of 3 parts. The student has approximately 25 minutes to complete the *Listening* section.

NB: The time spent on each part is determined by the students themselves within the time frame allocated for the section.

While listening to an audio file, the students can see the tasks on the screen.

The audio recording can be played only once. It is prohibited to stop, rewind, or listen to the audio file more than once.

The tasks are carried out sequentially. The students must answer the questions as they listen to the audio recording.

The audio recording will start playing automatically as soon as the student presses the **Start attempt** button. Time to read the questions is included in all audio files.

NB: In the *Listening* section, it is impossible to return to the previous task after clicking the Next Page button.

Having completed all tasks of the *Listening* section, the student must click the **Finish attempt** button. After that, the student will be redirected to the confirmation page, where they will need to click the **Submit all and finish** button.

It will be impossible to return to the completed Exam tasks after clicking the **Submit all and finish** button.

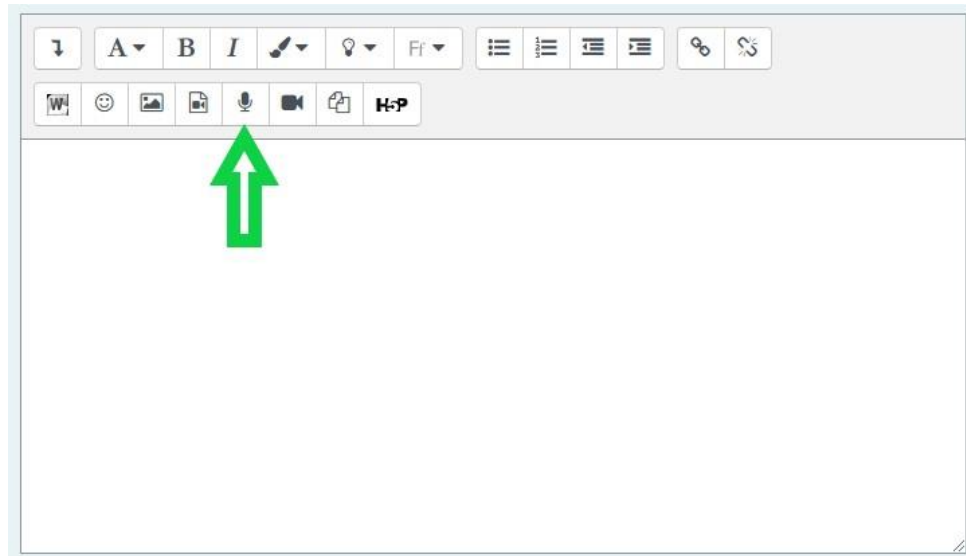
Please note that the section shuts down automatically after the allocated time is up.

To proceed to the *Speaking* section, go back to the main Exam page on the SmartLMS. The *Speaking* section of the Exam will be available automatically on the main Exam page.

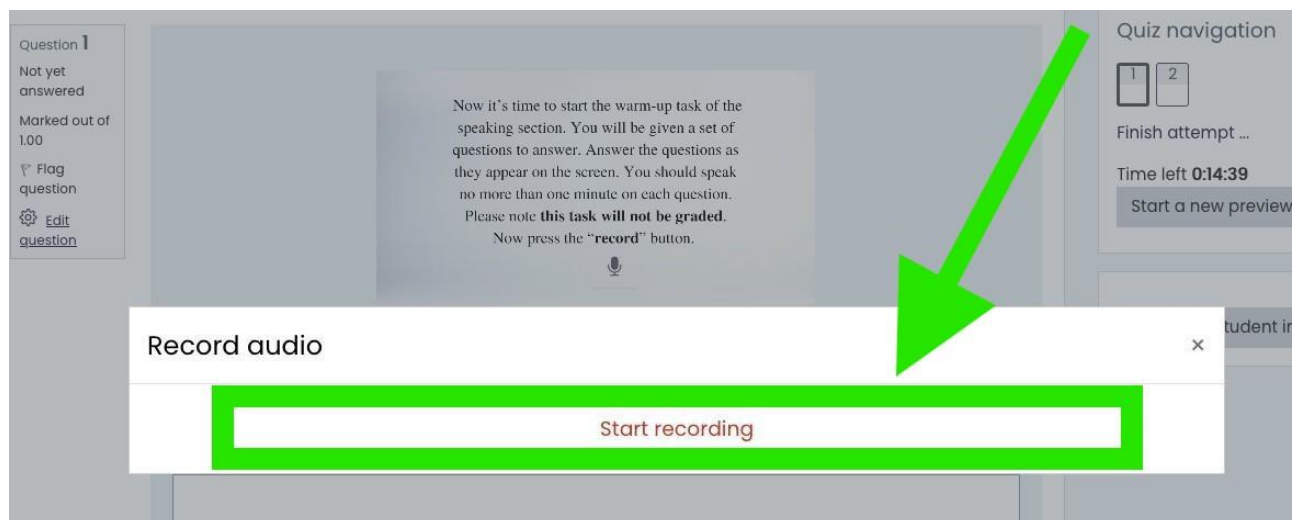
5.5 The **Speaking** section consists of 2 parts and a series of warm-up questions. Each part includes video instructions and questions. The video will start playing automatically as soon as the student presses the **Start attempt** button. During the video, the student is instructed to press the **Record** button. **The student must not pause or stop recording until they have answered all the questions in a part.**

All the parts of the *Speaking* section must be completed sequentially.

To make a recording, the student should first press the **Record** button on the SmartLMS panel and then press **Start recording**. It is strictly prohibited to press the **Microphone** button on the headsets.

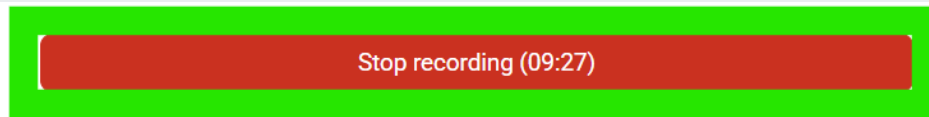


The student can move around the panel with the **Start recording** button to better see the questions.

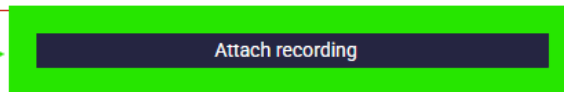
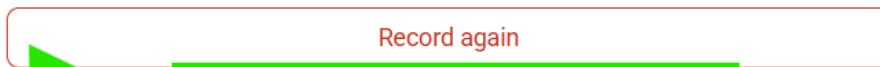
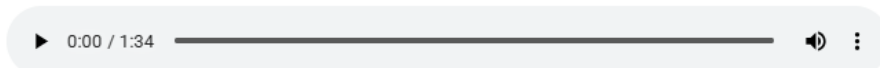


The student must press the **Stop recording** button when finishing each part of the section, then press the **Attach file** button, and the **OK** button at the top of the page to attach the recording.

Record audio

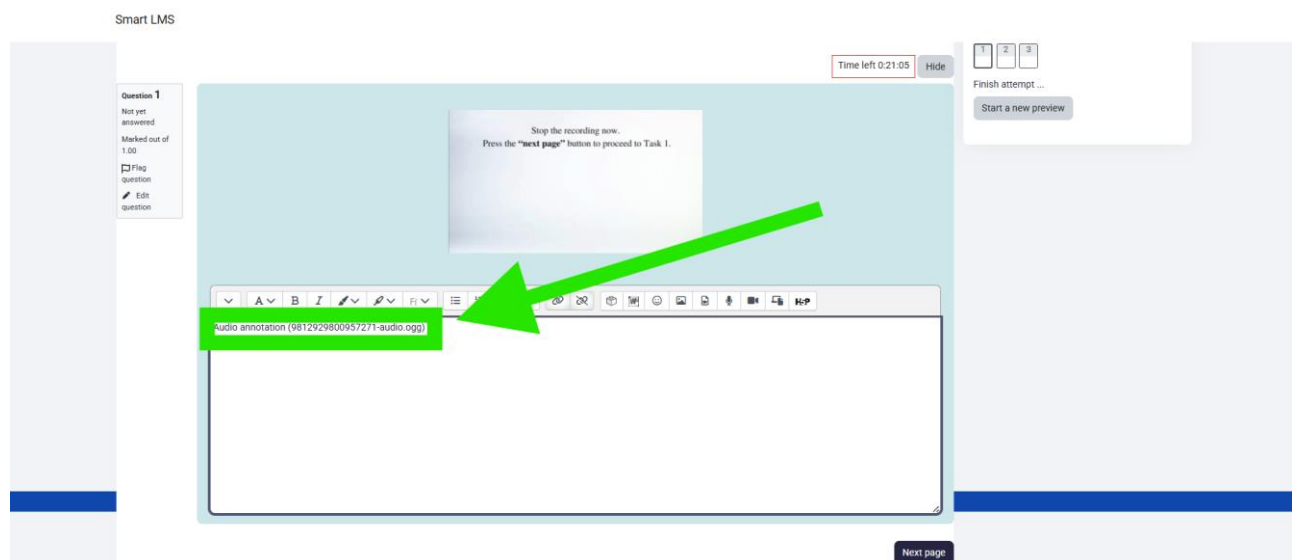
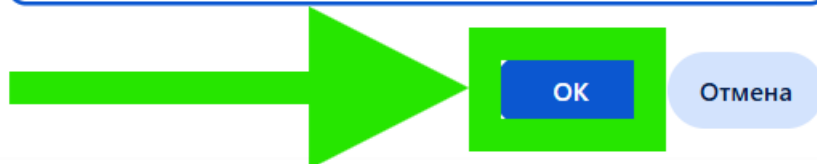


Record audio



Подтвердите действие на edu.hse.ru

What should the annotation appear as?



Is it forbidden to:

- change the name of the audio file.
- re-record the answers.
- read the questions out loud before answering the questions.

Independent English Exam, 2026-2027

- listen back to the recording since the system may erase the recorded answer.

After completing all the tasks of the *Speaking* section click the **Finish attempt** button. After that, the student will be taken to the confirmation page, where they will need to click the **Submit all and finish** button. It will be impossible to return to the completed Exam tasks after clicking the **Submit all and finish** button.

The exam is over.

6. Communication failure

6.1 A short-term communication 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 communication failure (the page freezes, the Exam session is interrupted, the student does not see the **Start attempt** button), it is recommended to refresh the page (Ctrl + F5).

6.2 A long-term communication failure during the Exam is the loss of a student's network connection with the Exam platform for more than 5 minutes. In the event of a long-term communication failure with the platform during the Exam, the student must immediately report the problem to the invigilator. The invigilator makes a decision whether a student can continue with the Exam or, if not, is allowed to take the Exam on another day.