Centre for Preparatory Studies (CPS)

<u>Placement Tests for New Students</u>

A placement test is administered at the Centre for Preparatory Studies (CPS) to assess new students and determine their appropriate level for enrollment in the Foundation Program (FP). Students are tested in three subjects: English, Mathematics, and Information Technology (IT).

English

1. The Cambridge English Placement Test (CEPT) is used in the CPS to assess and determine students' appropriate English levels. The CEPT is a 90-minute online test developed by Cambridge English Language Assessment. It is a comprehensive, internationally recognized test that evaluates core communication skills, including reading and listening, grammar, vocabulary, and effective language use.

2. For students with disabilities enrolled in the Computer Science program, a paper-based in-house English placement test is administered in place of the online CEPT.

Mathematics and Information Technology

1. The Math and IT placement tests are online, in-house Moodle-based assessments, each with a duration of one hour, and will be conducted on the same day as the English placement test. The tests will cover the following areas:
   - Basic Mathematics, Applied Mathematics & Pure Mathematics
   - Basic knowledge of Computers & basic Microsoft Windows Applications

2. For students with disabilities enrolled in the Computer Science program, a paper-based in-house Math and IT placement tests are administered in place of the online Moodle assessment.

Placement in and Exemption from the FP

Students are placed in the appropriate level or exempted from the FP based on their results in the placement tests for English, Mathematics, and IT.

1. Placement criteria for English

Regular Program		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-32	1	Students are exempted from the Foundation Program's English requirements if they meet **either of the following criteria**: A) Score 50 on the Cambridge University Online Placement Test (CEPT). B) Provide an IELTS certificate with an overall band score of 5 or higher.
33-42	2	
43-49	3	
50	Exempt	

Medicine Program		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-35	1	Students are exempted from the Foundation Program's English requirements if they meet **either of the following criteria:** A) Score 50 on the Cambridge University Online Placement Test (CEPT). B) Provide an IELTS certificate with an overall band score of 5 or higher.
36-49	2	
50	Exempt	

Law, Education and Social Work Program		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-32	1	Students are exempted from the Foundation Program's English requirements if they meet **either of the following criteria:** A) Score 33 and above on the Cambridge University Online Placement Test (CEPT). B) Provide an IELTS certificate with an overall band score of 5 or higher.
33 and above	Exempt	

Computer Science Program for Students with Disabilities		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-49	1	Students who score 50 and above on the paper-based in-house English placement test are exempted from Foundation Program English requirements.
50	Exempt	

2. Placement criteria for Mathematics

Regular Program		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-39	Pre- Math	Students who score 60 and above on the Moodle-Based Mathematics Placement Test are exempted from the FP's Mathematics program.
40-49	1	
50-59	2	
60 and above	Exempt	

Medicine Program		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-49	1	Students who score 60 and above on the Moodle-Based Mathematics Placement Test are exempted from the FP's Mathematics program.
50-59	2	
60 and above	Exempt	

Law, Education, Arabic and Social Work Program		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-49	1	Students who score 50 and above on the Moodle-Based Mathematics Placement Test are exempted from the FP's Mathematics program.
50 and above	Exempt	

Computer Science Program for Students with Disabilities		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-39	Level 1	Students who score 50 or above on the paper-based in-house Math placement test are exempt from the Foundation Program Mathematics requirement.
40-49	Level 2	
50 and above	Exempt	

3. Placement criteria for IT

Regular Program		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-49	Pre- IT	Students who score 70 and above on the Moodle- based IT Placement Test are exempted from the FP's IT program.
50-59	1	
60-69	2	
70 and above	Exempt	

Medicine Program		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-59	1	Students who score 70 and above on the Moodle-Based IT Placement Test are exempted from the FP's IT program.
60-69	2	
70 and above	Exempt	

Law, Education, Arabic and Social Work Program		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-59	1	Students who score 60 and above on the Moodle- based IT Placement Test are exempted from the FP's IT program.
60 and above	Exempt	

Computer Science Program for Students with Disabilities		
Criterion	**Level**	**Remarks about Exemption**
0-49	Level 1	Students who score 60 and above on the paper-based in-house IT placement test are exempted from FP's IT program.
50-59	Level 2	
60 and above	Exempt	

Important Notes for Students

1. **Validity of International Test Results**

   o International tests, such as IELTS, are only valid for two years from the test date.

   o Applicants must submit the original certificate of their test results. The University reserves the right to verify the authenticity of these certificates.

   o If the IELTS certificate is issued by an institution outside Oman, applicants may be required to take the **Cambridge English Placement Test (CEPT)** to determine their English proficiency.

2. **Progression to College Majors**

   o Students must successfully complete all Foundation Program (FP) requirements in **English**, **Mathematics**, and **Information Technology (IT)** before they are eligible to progress to their college majors.