"UTS": DISTANCE TURKISH TEST

• What is UTS?

The Distance Turkish Test (UTS) is a level assessment and certification test prepared by Ankara University Turkish and Foreign Languages Research and Application Center (TÖMER) in collaboration with software-development service of BİLEMEK Co. Ltd., for the purposes of evaluating language skills of adults who learn Turkish as a foreign language in or outside Turkey via the internet.

• Test Types

➠ UTS Certificate Test

The UTS Certificate Test is given to candidates who, upon their application to test centers in or outside Turkey through the Internet or in person, have received information about the time and location of the test; applied online in test centers in and outside Turkey. The test has been designed to provide documentation for candidates' test results and certification upon success. Upon completion of the test, candidates' language performance in listening, reading and grammar questions (81 questions in total) is assessed by the software and candidates are instantly informed of the result. Test results concerning spoken interaction, spoken production and writing skills (19 questions in total) are assessed and sent to candidates through e-mail, together with final results, within maximum 10 days after the test date; certificates to be awarded are sent through the post within maximum 2 months after the test date.

➠ UTS Partice Test

The UTS Practice Test models actual UTS tests; candidates can apply for and attend the Practice Test through the Internet. The Practice Test is free for candidates who complete their registration for the Certificate Test. The UTS Practice Test consists of questions which were previously used in UTS Tests. The UTS Practice Test results are sent in a skill-based report format within maximum 10 days after the test date.

• **Language Skills Assessed**

Language skills assessed through the UTS appear in the test in the order presented below:

➡ **Listening**

In the listening section, candidates listen to texts or dialogues and their listening ability is assessed through multiple choice questions about the content of the listening piece.

➡ **Grammar**

In the grammar section, language awareness of the candidates is assessed through multiple choice questions.

➡ **Reading**

In the reading section, candidates read texts or dialogues and reply 3 multiple choice questions for each passage; here, the aim is to assess such sub-skills as the main idea, filtering irrelevant information, realizing cross-linguistic links within the passage, and interpreting the message of the passage.

➡ **Spoken Interaction**

In the spoken interaction section, candidates are expected to understand and reply questions about personal information, family relations, and living environment.

➡ **Spoken Production**

In the spoken production section, candidates are expected to express in speaking, within the limits of a given situation, a demand, apology, suggestion, refusal, as well as what they have experienced or witnessed.

➡ **Writing**

In the writing section, candidates are expected to express in writing their opinion on one of several topics they are presented.

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• Question Types

The UTS consists of 100 questions. Distribution of these 100 questions according to skills is as follows.

	Basic Level	Intermadiate Level	Advenced Level	Total
Listening	9	9	9	27
Reading	9	9	9	27
Grammar	9	9	9	27
Spoken Interaction	5	5	5	15
Spoken Production		3		3
Writing		1		1
				100

➡ Listening Section

Language level and allocated time for the listening section questions are as follows:

Question Number	Level	Content	Time for Reply
1 - 9	Basic	➢ Question and dialogues of one or more sentences; ➢ Texts of 20 – 60 words.	30 - 70 sec.
10 - 18	Intermediate	➢ Bir ya da bir kaç tümcelik soru ve diyaloglar: ➢ 30 - 80 sözcük arası metin kayıtları.	30 - 70 sec.
19 - 27	Advanced	➢ Bir ya da bir kaç tümcelik soru ve diyaloglar: ➢ 40 - 100 sözcük arası metin kayıtları.	30 - 70 sec.

Although each question in the listening section is replied in varying lengths of time, the total period is 30 minutes. This section consists of voice records and questions related to these records. Candidates are asked to listen to the record and mark the correct choice related with the record. In questions 5, 14 and 23, choices consist of visuals (photograph or drawing) and the candidate is asked to select the item described in the listening passage. In the actual test, candidates can listen to the passage twice only. All the questions in the listening section are multiple choice type questions.

⇻ Grammar Section

Language level and allocated time for the grammar section questions are as follows:

Question Number	Level	Content	Time for Reply
1 - 9	Basic	➢ 1 or 2 sentences of 3 - 12 words	
10 - 18	Intermediate	➢ 1 or 2 sentences of 5 - 15 words	20 mins.
19 - 27	Advanced	➢ 1 or 2 sentences of 5 - 20 words	

Candidates have 20 minutes to complete the grammar section. Grammar questions consist of sentences or short paragraphs. There are three different types of questions in this section. One question type is the "fill in the blanks" type. In these questions, candidates are asked to fill in a blank in a sentence with a suitable affix or a word. In another question type, candidates are presented a sentence with four underlined sections, one of which features a grammatical mistake; candidates are expected to spot the mistake. In the third question type, the sentence in the question root is restated in the choices and the candidate is asked to find the sentence that best reflects the meaning of the original sentence.

⇻ Reading Section

Language level and allocated time for the reading section questions are as follows:

Question Number	Level	Content	Time for Reply
1 - 9	Basic	➢ 3 passages of 30 – 50 words and 3 questions for each passage	
10 - 18	Intermediate	➢ 3 passages of 40 – 60 words and 3 questions for each passag	40 mins.
19 - 27	Advanced	➢ 3 passages of 50 – 100 words and 3 questions for each passage	

Candidates have 40 minutes to complete the reading section. The reading section consists of a total of 9 passages, with 3 passages used for each language level. There are 3 questions for each passage.

➠ Spoken Interaction Section

Language level and allocated time for the spoken interaction section questions are as follows:

Question Number	Level	Content	Time for Reply
1 - 9	Basic	➢ A dialogue of 3 – 6 sentences	10 sec. for each reply
10 - 18	Intermediate	➢ A dialogue of 3 – 4 sentences	15 sec. for each reply
19 - 27	Advanced	➢ A dialogue of 3 – 5 sentences	20 sec. for each reply

Questions in the spoken interaction section consist of sound records and time allocated for each questions varies. This section lasts a total of 20 minutes. Each question is presented in a dialogue form and within a context. Candidates are asked to listen to the question and provide a reply through the microphone. Candidates are not expected to provide real information about themselves. The aim is to assess candidates' listening comprehension and ability to provide relevant replies.

➠ Spoken Production Section

Language level and allocated time for the spoken production section questions are as follows:

Question Number	Level	Content	Time for Reply
1 - 9	Basic	➢ A topic for speaking, presented as a sentence of a passage	➢ Preparation time for each question: 1 minute
10 - 18	Intermediate	➢ A photograph, picture, drawing, table, etc. to speak about	➢ Reply time for each question: 1 minute. *(6 minutes in total)*
19 - 27	Advanced	➢ A series of photographs, pictures, drawings, tables, etc., through the interrelation of which a story can be created	

Candidates have 6 minutes to complete the spoken production section. In this section, candidates are asked to speak about a situation or an incident presented through visuals or a text. Responses are recorded through the computer. The main aim of this section is that candidates should form a relatively long speech about the situation, incident or the visual itself.

⟾**Writing Section**

Language level and allocated time for the writing section question are as follows:

Question Number	Level	Content	Time for Reply
1 question	Common for all levels	➢ A writing topic that does not require a special field of interest	30 mins.

Candidates are asked to write a passage in 30 minutes. In this section, candidates are presented three different topics for all levels and they are asked to choose one the topics and write a composition about it; whatever the topic is, candidates are expected to display their language level through their choice and use of vocabulary and grammar structures. Candidates can write their composition on the computer or, alternatively, use pen and paper. In the   latter case, the composition is scanned and all compositions are transferred onto a database.

• **Application and Registration**

⟾ **UTS Applications**

Candidates can apply for the UTS through the internet. To apply for the test, a candidate goes either to www.bilemek.com/uts or www.tomer.ankara.edu.tr/uts, selects "UTS Application" section, clicks "UTS Certificate Application" button and determines the type of certificate aimed, and fills in the "Application Form". After this stage, candidates are guided to a UTS center in the country they wish to take the test and they complete all essentials formalities through the center.

⟾ **Test Centers**

For the list of UTS Certificate test centers,
visit www.bilemek.com/uts.

➠ Payment

• Test Fee

Test fee is paid in the country where the test will be taken; candidates need to make the payment to the bank account of the local test center either through money order or through credit card payment.

• Fee for Express Evaluation

Candidates who would like their tests to be evaluated within three days after the test have to state this demand during application. Candidates who demand express evaluation are asked to pay an extra fee in addition to the test fee.

• Fee for Re-Assessment

Candidates who receive test results can raise an objection against the results within a month. Those candidates who would like their test to be reassessed have to send their demand to the main center through e-mail and pay an extra fee for the reassessment demand to be processed.

• Fee for Detailed Report

Candidates are presented a test result documentation. However, those candidates who would like to receive a detailed report on language particular skills they face problems with need to express this demand during application and have to pay an extra fee in addition to the test fee.

• Fee for Test Center Changes

Candidates who have applied to take the test in any center and whose application has been approved, have to pay an extra fee, should they demand later on that their test center be changed.

➠ Registration and Confirmation

Candidates who apply to the UTS center for the test and whose application has been approved, need to make payments to and be in contact with local centers for the procedure. Upon completion of registration, the local center sends information and documents about the candidate to the main center, so that the main center can confirm registration and send the candidate a "Test Entrance Card", CDs for practice and an introductory booklet through the post and any other information through e-mail.

• Text Execution

➠ General Rules

Candidates are asked to (1) be at the test center at least thirty minutes before the start of the test, (2) provide all essential document to take the test and be ready to display them when requested, (3) be dressed appropriately to meet physical conditions of the test center and testing place and (4) leave all personal belongings (including mobile phone, laptop computer, pager, any kind of food or drink, dictionaries, book, notebook, pen or pencil, any kind of bag, and the like) at the entrance to the person in charge.

➠ Essential Documents

Test Entrance Card

Identification Card

➠ Documents Not Considered Valid

Any document that is past the date of expiry

Driver's license

Membership cards

Student identity cards

Credit cards

Social security cards

Identity cards from official or private institutions

Photocopy of any identity card

➠ Entrance to the Test Room and Procedures Before the Test

Nobody other than candidates whose registration has been approved and who have been provided with a valid test entrance card, and testing officials can enter the test room. Candidates will be asked to display their test entrance card and a valid identification card before they are allowed into the test room. Before the test starts, candidates will sign the privacy policy agreement provided by test officials. Before candidates are allowed into the test room, their photos are taken for use in post-test processes and on result reports.

➠ Starting the Test

Each candidate will be guided according to a pre-arranged seating plan. The test will have been loaded on the computer allocated for each candidate. Candidates need to enter their username and password so that they can start the test. Once the test has started, candidates will have to follow online instructions.

➠ Test Length and Break

The test, together with the break, lasts a total of 165 minutes. Duration of each section is as follows.

Listening	30 minutes
Grammar	20 minutes
Reading	40 minutes
Break	15 minutes
Spoken Interaction	20 minutes
Spoken Production	10 minutes
Writing	30 minutes
Totel	**165 minutes**

Once the reading section has been completed, there is a 15 minute break. The start of the break is announced by the software. Candidates may choose to start the remaining part of the test before the 15-minute break ends. If candidates fail to return the test room on time after the 15-minute break is over, test officials are authorized to refuse to accept the candidates into the test room, or, even if they are allowed in, the candidates' tests may be marked invalid. Should candidates wish to report a problem (related with the computer, software, or the internet connection, or any extraordinary health issue), they need to raise their hand and demand help from the test officials.

➠ Ending the Test

Candidates can end the current section or the whole test by clicking the exit button. Candidates who complete the test or who would like to leave the test uncompleted, should remain seated when they see the warning that reads "Your test is over. Please wait for the test official to guide you." and do as instructed. Only when they obtain permission from test officials can candidates leave the test room.

⇒ **Special Cases**

• *Being Late*

Under no circumstances will those candidates who fail to be present at the test center at the specified time and those who cannot complete pre-test documentation on time, will be allowed into the test room.

• *Dismissal*

Any candidate who fails to meet "general rules" stated above, enters the test room with any of the items listed above, attempts to view other candidates' computer screen or to show his or her computer screen to other candidates, disturbs other candidates in the test room, argues with other candidates or test officials, attempts to copy test content by any means, damages test material (computer screen, keyboard, mouse, earphones, microphone and all software related to the test), leaves his or her seat without getting prior permission from test officials, will be dismissed from the test room and their tests will be considered invalid.

• *Failing to Complete the Test*

If, in any stage of the test, a candidate decides to leave the test uncompleted, this candidate cannot receive a certificate or a diploma. Still, results concerning any completed section are posted to the candidate. If a candidate leaves the test uncompleted due to a health problem, explicitly stated in test official reports, the candidate can be allowed to take the test again or complete the remaining sections at a later date. If the test can not be completed due to any technical reason related to the main center or the test center, the candidate either takes the test at a later date or can demand refunding.

• *Postponing the Test*

Candidates can make changes in test dates and/or test centers provided that they demand to do so 3 work days before the test. Candidates who wish to change the test date only can take the test on a later date set by the test center. If candidates would like to change the test date and the test center, they need to report this demand to the main center and, once their demand has been approved, contact with the new local center. Candidates who demand to change the test center need to pay an extra fee so that they can take the test at a center they choose for themselves.

• *Refunding*

Candidates who have applied for the UTS, made all essential payments and whose registration has been confirmed, cannot demand refunding under any cir-

cumstances, except for when the test cannot be executed due to any technical problem related to the main center or the local center.

• Evaluation

➠ Grading

The first 81 questions of the UTS are graded by the software, in accordance with pre-determined evaluation criteria. For other questions, graders need to examine responses and grade them accordingly. For this purpose, responses to spoken interaction, spoken production and writing sections are preserved in the database, so that graders can access test responses they are responsible for by using their username and password. Graders complete the grading process by listening to recorded responses and/or reading responses to the writing section. In the evaluation process, there are two graders for each question, and one arbitrator for the overall test. The arbitrator is responsible for controlling grades given by the graders and determining the final point.

On the other hand; when a candidate displays negative performance in only one language skill plane, in order that any positive performance that this candidate displays in all other language skill planes can be transferred onto the overall evaluation process, various correlations have been formed between language skill planes that call for similar linguistic abilities. Within this framework, language skill planes defined include listening and reading, grammar and writing, spoken interaction and spoken production.

Transfer of correlation relations to the evaluation process rests basically on considering any candidate who gets the required point in any given language skill plane to be successful; yet, according to the same principle, if a candidates fails to get the required point in a language skill plane but, at the same time, gets the required point in another language skill plane that is correlated with the former, the candidate is considered successful in the language skill plane where he or she has performed badly as well. In order that this correlation can operate, the point that the candidate has received cannot be lower than the required correlation level for a given language skill plane.

If a candidate fails to get the required point in a language skill plane but, still, gets the required point set for the same language skill plane in an upper level, the candidate is considered successful in the former language skill plane as well. In order that this correlation can operate, the point that the candidate has received cannot be lower than the required correlation level for a given language skill plane.

Any candidate that is successful in all language skill planes of a language level deserves to be granted the certificate of this particular language level.

⇒ Evaluation Period and Result Reports

Once the test has been completed and its validity has been approved of by the local center, candidates can use their username and password to learn online their test results concerning listening, grammar and reading language skill planes. Voice records from spoken interaction and spoken production sections, as well as the response to the writing section, are evaluated by graders in the main center within 10 work days following the test.

Once the test has been evaluated, candidates are informed of test results through the post. Candidates can view their test results through the internet as well.

Candidates who demand to be presented detailed reports of test results will also receive their test results through the post. Yet, they can view their test results through the internet as well.

• *Express Evaluation*

Test results of those candidates who demand express evaluation during the UTS application and make the required payment will be posted through e-mail to these candidates within 3 work days following the test date.

• *Re-Assessment*

Candidates who have taken the UTS and received their test results can express their objection against these test results within a period of one month following the receipt of the results. It is essential that the candidate should make this demand for reassessment to the main center through e-mail and make all essential payments within the week following the application for reassessment. If the reassessment process reveals that any mistake against the benefit of the candidate has been made, the fee for reassessment is refunded.

• *Validity of Test Reports*

Test result reports for the UTS are valid for 2 (two) years.

• *Confidentiality of Test Reports*

Test result reports of candidates will not be shared with any third party without prior consent and/or demand of the candidate. In cases when the UTS test has been demanded by an institution, individuals to be informed of test results will be determined in accordance with the demand of the institution itself.