

**Appendix 1. Factor Loadings and Communalities of the Five Factors of the Questionnaire (using Principal Components Analysis)**

No.	Statement Text	Factor Loadings						Communality	Factor Label
		1	2	3	4	5	6		
27	My research skills became more sophisticated	.771						.734	General Perception After Completing the Preparatory Year
28	My scientific writing skills became more sophisticated	.762						.751	
25	My thinking skills (e.g., interpretation, analysis, inference, explanation ...) have improved	.695						.701	
30	My skills of applying knowledge have improved	.640						.648	
26	My computer skills became more sophisticated	.621						.558	
24	I have confidence in my ability to research information	.575						.624	
29	I can access and use learning resources (e.g., library and internet resources)	.565						.562	
								Eigenvalue = 4.383 Variance = 13.696%	
10	Interaction with my academic counsellor was adequate and fruitful		.799					.740	Perception of Teachers, Teaching, and Assessment
9	My academic counsellor was helpful		.798					.735	
7	Teachers motivated me to develop my creative and innovative abilities		.721					.663	
8	Teachers showed attributes of professionalism (e.g., honesty, integrity, altruism ...)		.647					.523	
11	Teaching was interactive rather than spoon-feeding		.577					.523	
5	The preparatory year provided activities which developed my various personal skills (e.g., social, physical, cultural, creative ...)		.487					.517	
14	Feedback on student assessment was helpful		.470					.567	
6	Communication with teachers was easy		.457					.567	
								Eigenvalue = 4.203 Variance = 13.133%	

## Appendix 1 (continued) ...

3	The preparatory year reinforced my sense of responsibility	.761		.727	<b>University Conduct</b>
2	The preparatory year reinforced my discipline	.751		.713	
1	The preparatory year made me self-confident	.704		.635	
4	The preparatory year helped me adapt to the university educational environment	.678		.623	
32	I feel that the preparatory year classes prepared me well for my major's classes	.558		.638	
31	Preparatory year classes helped me select my major	.479		.620	
16	Student's guidebook was informative and adequate	.770		.670	<b>Administrative and Regulatory Matters</b>
15	Introductory (awareness) sessions were planned with the newcomer students	.655		.542	
13	Assessment tasks (e.g., tests, projects, assignments ...) were appropriate	.537		.521	
12	Student support services (i.e., academic, social, psychological ...) were adequate	.525		.586	
17	Teaching timetables were set out appropriately	.449		.369	
18	Academic affairs services (e.g., withdrawal, course additions and deletions, postponing, excuses ...) were easily accessible	.445		.522	
21	Food purchasing areas were suitable for all students		.765	.633	<b>Facilities and Services</b>
20	Places designated for student rest and sitting were appropriate		.732	.676	
19	Facilities (e.g., library, computers, data-shows, smart boards ...) were appropriate		.593	.576	