

Standardized Tests

What is TOEFL?

The Test of English as a Foreign Language, or **TOEFL**, evaluates the potential success of international students to use and understand English in academic settings. It is an admission requirement for non-native English speakers at many colleges and universities in more than 130 countries worldwide.

How do I apply for TOEFL?

For the iBT test, online registration is the easiest method. Go to www.toefl.org, create a profile, register and pay for the TOEFL iBT test, and designate who should receive your score reports. It is important that you remember your username and password, so that you can return after you test and view your scores online.

Remember: registration closes 7 days before your test date! Late registration closes 3 days before your test date (not including the day of the test) and has a late fee.

The PBT test is offered 6 times a year and you can register online or by mail. Visit www.toefl.org

How much does TOEFL cost?

The PBT fee is US\$160. The iBT fee varies per country. Visit www.ets.org/bin/getprogram.cgi?test=toefl to see the fee applicable to your country.

How do I get my scores?

The iBT TOEFL scores are posted online usually within 15 days after the test date, then mailed to you and the institutions you selected. Included with your registration fees are (a) 1 score report for you; and (b) up to 4 official score reports that ETS will send directly to the institutions selected as score recipients.

The PBT TOEFL, scores will be mailed to you and the institutions you selected about 5 weeks after the test date.

You may receive your scores by phone before receiving your copy by mail. Visit: www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnextoid=f118af5e44df4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=10c4197a484f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD

How long are scores valid?

They are valid for 2 years.

What should I bring on test day?

You must bring valid identification and your registration number on test day.

How do I order additional score reports?

The easiest way is to order online. The fee is US\$17 per report. Log in to your TOEFL iBT account and click "Register for a Test/Order Score Reports" on your home page. Pay by credit or debit card. The scores will be mailed within 4 to 7 business days after the request is received.

What is IELTS?

The [International English Language Testing System](#) tests the four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. You can choose from two types of IELTS test: Academic or General Training, depending on whether you want to study, work or migrate.

IELTS is jointly managed by British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL) and delivered through more than 500 locations in 120 countries.

Who accepts IELTS?

IELTS is accepted by more than 6000 organizations worldwide. These include universities, immigration departments, government agencies, professional bodies and multinational companies. To search for a recognizing institution, please visit: <http://bandscore.ielts.org/> and select your country and institution.

Where and when can I take IELTS?

Search for your nearest test center on the [IELTS Worldwide Search](#) at www.ielts.org/test_centre_search/search_results.aspx.

IELTS is available on 48 fixed dates a year. To check all dates available, go to www.ielts.org/test_takers_information/how_do_i_register.aspx.

How do I apply for IELTS?

To apply for IELTS, please follow these instructions (source: http://www.ielts.org/test_takers_information/how_do_i_register.aspx)

1. Find your nearest IELTS centre at www.ielts.org/test_centre_search/search_results.aspx and check the test dates to find two options that suit you. Note the deadline for registering for each test date.
2. Check with your organization or on the [Global Recognition System](#) at <http://bandscore.ielts.org/> whether you need to sit an Academic or General Training test.
3. Print out the [IELTS Application Form](#) available at http://www.ielts.org/PDF/IELTS_Application_Form.pdf, or ask your test center for a copy. Read the information for candidates terms and conditions, complete the form and sign it. Please make sure you have a valid postal address and use the same name as on your passport.
4. Organize two passport-sized photographs, less than six months old, and sign the back of each. Take a photocopy of your current passport - this must be valid and not expired. (Some centers will accept a national identity card.)
5. If you want your results to be sent automatically to a university or educational institution, include the correct details in the section on the IELTS Application Form.
6. Take your application into your IELTS test centre with your money. If you send it by mail, please talk to your centre about the method of payment.

What documents do I need on the day of the test?

On the test day, you must bring the same passport or national identity card that you entered on the Application Form.

How are scores reported?

Students are graded on the range of 1 to 9 bands. Band 1 denotes that the student is a non-user of English language; band 2 states that the student is an intermittent user of the English language. Band 3 denotes that the student is an extremely limited user of the language. If the student secures 4 bands in his IELTS test then it tells that he is a limited user of the English language. Securing 5 bands denotes that the student is a modest user and band 6 tells that he is a competent user. If the student gets band 7 in the IELTS test it means that he is a good user of the English language. Band 9, that is the highest band in the IELTS test depicts that the student is an expert user of the English language. You can also receive half scores such as 6.5. Universities often demand an IELTS score of 6 or 7. They may also demand a minimum score in each of the 4 sections.

How much does IELTS cost?

To find out the test fee in your local currency, visit www.ielts.org/test_centre_search/search_results.aspx.

When will I receive my test results?

You will receive your Test Report Form in the mail 13 days after your test date. Some test centers also provide SMS alerts and an Online Results Service. You can have copies of your Test Report Form automatically sent to five institutions free of charge.

How long is IELTS score valid?

Test Report Forms are valid for two years.

Where can I find additional information on IELTS?

a) IELTS Homepage: www.ielts.org

b) Information for IELTS candidates:

www.ielts.org/pdf/Information_for_Candidates_2007.pdf

c) Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.ielts.org/faqs.aspx>

What is SAT?

The SAT Reasoning Test is a standardized test required for college admission by many colleges and universities in the United States. It tests students' knowledge on subjects that are necessary for college success: critical reading, writing, mathematics and other specific subjects.

Which SAT Subject Tests should I take?

Some colleges specify the SAT Subject Tests that they require for admission; others allow applicants to choose which tests to take. These tests are important because they are used in combination with your

high school record, SAT Reasoning score, teacher recommendations, etc. and serve as good predictors of your future college performance.

When and where can I take the SAT?

To check all the test dates and the registration deadlines, please visit:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenfees.html>

How do I apply for SAT?

The easiest way of applying for SAT is by registering online. Go to <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/reg.html>, click on Register now, and follow the instructions. Standby registration is available. An additional fee is applied, and admission to a test center cannot be guaranteed. For further information, please visit:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/testday/standby.html>

How is SAT scored?

SAT Reasoning Test

SAT scores range from 200-800, with additional sub scores reported for the essay (ranging from 2-12) and for multiple-choice writing questions (on a 20-80 scale).

SAT Subject Tests

All SAT Subject Test scores are reported on a scale from 200-800, with SAT Subject Test sub scores being reported on a scale from 20 to 80. Reading and listening sub scores are reported for all Language Tests with Listening, and a usage sub score is also reported for the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean tests.

For further information on how the SAT is scored, please visit:

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/scores/understanding.html

How and when will I receive my SAT scores?

My SAT Online Score Report is usually available within 20 days after the test date and is free to all students who take the SAT, whether you registered online or by mail; all you need is an online College Board account.

Can I cancel my SAT scores?

Yes, you can. Ask the test supervisor for a Request to Cancel Test Scores

Form. Complete and return it to the test supervisor before leaving the room. The scores cannot be reinstated and are not reported to you or your designated institutions.

For further information on SAT, please visit:

a) College Board Homepage: www.collegeboard.com/testing/;

b) SAT Homepage: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html;

c) SAT Subject Tests Homepage:

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATII.html

What is GMAT?

The **Graduate Management Admission Test** is a standardized assessment designed to predict how applicants for MBA programs and other business-related graduate degrees will perform academically. The scores are used by schools to make admission decisions.

What does GMAT measure?

The **GMAT** exam measures basic verbal, mathematical and analytical writing skills. It does NOT measure your knowledge of business or your job skills.

What is the content of the GMAT?

The **GMAT** exam consists of three main parts: the Analytical Writing Assessment, the Quantitative Section, and the Verbal Section. You have three and a half hours in which to take the GMAT exam, but plan for a total time of approximately four hours.

Analytical Writing Assessment - AWA

It consists of two separate writing tasks: Analysis of an Issue and Analysis of an Argument. You are allowed 30 minutes to complete each one.

Quantitative Section

This section contains 37 multiple-choice questions of two question types: Data Sufficiency and Problem Solving. You are allowed a maximum of 75 minutes to complete the entire section. Data Sufficiency and Problem Solving questions are intermingled throughout the section. Both types of question require knowledge of arithmetic, elementary algebra and commonly known concepts of geometry.

Verbal Section

This section contains 41 multiple choice questions of three question types: Reading Comprehension, Critical Reasoning and Sentence Correction. You are allowed a maximum of 75 minutes to complete the entire section. This section measures your ability to read and comprehend written material, reason and evaluate arguments, and correct written material to conform to standard written English.

For further information on the GMAT's structure and overview, go to:

<http://www.mba.com/mba/thegmat/teststructureandoverview>

How important are GMAT scores in the admissions process?

Each graduate business school develops and implements its own policy concerning the use of GMAT scores in making admissions decisions. Many schools select students by combining GMAT scores and undergraduate GPA. Moreover, admissions officials consider subjective factors such as work and other relevant experience, recommendation letters, application essays (personal statements), and reports of personal interviewers.

How is the GMAT score determined?

The score is determined by: (a) the number of questions answered; (b) whether the questions are answered correctly or incorrectly, and (c) the level of difficulty and other statistical characteristics of each question.

Total GMAT scores range from 200 to 800. The Verbal and Quantitative scores range from 0 to 60. Both scores are on a fixed scale and can be compared across all GMAT test administrations. The Verbal and Quantitative scores measure different constructs and cannot be compared to each other.

For further information on how each part of the GMAT exam is scored, please go to:

<http://www.mba.com/mba/thegmat/gmatcoresandscorereports>

How much does it cost to take the GMAT exam?

The fee to take the GMAT exam is US\$250.00 worldwide.

Where can I take the GMAT exam?

To find a test center in your location, please go to:

https://www.mba.com/mba/Service/Testing/Testing?WT.mc_id=hubcontent&Action=APPOINTMENTSEARCH

How can I prepare to take the GMAT exam?

The Graduate Management Admission Council provides free test preparation software and preparation materials to purchase.

- Free Test Preparation Software:

<http://www.mba.com/mba/thegmat/downloadfreetestpreparationsoftware>

- Preparation Materials can be purchased at:

<http://www.mba.com/mba/Store/Default.htm>

- How to prepare for the exam:

<http://www.mba.com/mba/TheGMAT/PrepareForTheGMAT/Default.htm>

When are the GMAT scores available?

When you register for the [GMAT](#), you choose if you want to receive the Official Score Report online or by mail. Scores (unofficial) from the Verbal and Quantitative sections, along with the Total score, are available immediately after you complete the test. This Score Report (to be sent within 20 calendar days after testing) will contain an authorization number to be used to view the Official Score Report that you selected to receive online. If you choose to receive the Official Score Report by mail, it will be sent approximately 20 calendar days after testing.

How long are GMAT scores valid?

The [GMAT](#) score is valid for five years.

How do I register for GMAT?

The easiest ways to register for the test are online or by phone.

Online

You must sign up as a registered user of the [mba.com](#) website and pay the fee by credit card or debit card. For further information on how to register online for GMAT, visit:

<http://www.mba.com/mba/thegmat/scheduleagmatappointment>

Phone

To schedule your test appointment by phone, visit

<http://www.mba.com/mba/thegmat/scheduleagmatappointment> and use the telephone numbers based on your location.

Note: To schedule a GMAT appointment, you first need to create an account at

<https://www.mba.com/MBA/Service/RegProfile?Action=1&SSLSwitch=1>, and follow the instructions.

Where can I find additional information on GMAT?

Visit:

a) The Official GMAT Website: <http://www.mba.com/mba>

b) GMAT Homepage: <http://www.mba.com/mba/thegmat?SSLSwitch=1>

What is GRE?

[GRE](#) stands for the Graduate Record Examinations. It is a standardized test used as an admission requirement for many graduate schools not only in the United States, but also in other English speaking countries.

There are two different types of GRE: the General Test and the Subject Test (offered in 17 specific areas) and, depending on your university requirements, you take the General or both of them. The test scores are used by admissions officials to predict your academic performance in a graduate program.

What is the difference between GRE General Test and the GRE Subject Tests?

The [GRE General Test](#) measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills. On the other hand, the [GRE Subject Tests](#) are meant to assess your qualification in a specific field of study.

Many Admission panels use the subject test scores to supplement the undergraduate records and to evaluate the grades and recommendations. Each Subject Test is intended for students who have majored in or have extensive background in one of the following specific areas:

- a) Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology;
- b) Biology;
- c) Chemistry;
- d) Computer Science;
- e) Literature in English;
- f) Mathematics;
- g) Physics;
- h) Psychology.

What is the content of GRE?

The [GRE General Test](#) measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills that are not related to any specific field of study.

Verbal Reasoning - This section measures the applicant's ability to (a) Analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it; (b) Analyze relationships among component parts of sentences; and (c) Recognize relationships between words and concepts.

Quantitative Reasoning - This section measures the applicant's ability to (a) Understand basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data analysis; (b) Reason quantitatively; and (c) Solve problems in a quantitative setting.

Analytical Writing - This section measures the applicant's ability to (a) Articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively; (b) Examine claims and accompanying evidence; (c) Support ideas with relevant reasons and examples; (d) Sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion; and (e) Control the elements of standard written English.

The [GRE Subject Tests](#) assess the qualifications of applicants in specific fields of study. They test their knowledge on a specific subject area, which also assesses their comprehension and familiarity of that subject. In order to attain a good score on the GRE Subject Test, applicants should have a considerable amount of knowledge and an extensive background in that subject. Usually, students become familiar with a subject during their undergraduate years by either majoring in or taking a number of classes in that field. Therefore, students typically take the GRE Subject Test in their field of study.

What is the format of the GRE General Test?

The Quantitative Section of the [GRE](#) contains 28 questions on Mathematics that are to be completed in 45 minutes. The Verbal Section contains 30 questions to be completed in 30 minutes. The verbal

section requires a good vocabulary level, and basic skills of grammatically correct English coupled with reasoning and analysis. The questions consist of four types: Antonyms, Analogies, Sentence Completion, and Reading Comprehension. The four types are intermingled, with no fixed number for each type. The Analytical Writing Assessment requires you to write two short essays. The first is the Issue task, in which you need to analyze the issue presented and explain your views on it. For the Issue task, you will be able to choose 1 of 2 essay topics selected by the computer from the pool of topics. The time allotted is 45 minutes. The second essay is Analysis of an Argument, in which a given argument has to be critically analyzed and evaluated. The Argument task does not offer a choice of topics; the computer will present you with a single topic selected from the topic pool. The time allotted is 30 minutes.

What is the format of the GRE Subject tests?

The test is in a multiple-choice format with five-option choices. Questions test you on core areas of your subject and you receive 1 point for each question answered correctly. However, you lose 1/4 of a point for each wrong answer. GRE Subject Exams are paper-pencil based and you have the option to skip questions and return to unanswered questions. Additionally, you are allowed to leave questions unanswered. There is no penalty for unanswered questions. It is recommended that you leave questions unanswered if you do not know the answer. Guessing is not encouraged on the subject tests because you lose a 1/4 point for each wrong answer. Wrong answers will hurt your score, whereas unanswered questions will improve your score. Your raw score is based on the total number of correct answers minus 1/4 for each wrong answer. The raw score is then converted into a scaled score ranging from 200 to 900.

Do I really need the GRE General scores if I have the GRE Subject Test score?

Yes, you really need the general GRE scores.

Is the GRE subject test score required or simply strongly recommended?

Candidates should contact graduate schools of choice to determine which, if any, of the GRE subject tests should be taken and how recommended they are.

What are the minimum and the average GRE scores?

Most graduate schools state that they do not require minimum score for the test. The average score for GRE varies from school to school. In general, schools with higher ranks require higher average GRE score.

What is an acceptable GRE score?

Generally, a score of 550 or higher in Verbal section and 600 or higher in Quantitative section of the GRE is considered acceptable. For specific requirement, you will have to consult your school.

How long is a GRE score valid?

A GRE score is valid for five years. After five years, you will need to re-take the test.

How many times can I take GRE?

You can take GRE as many times as you want. However, in a consecutive twelve months, the maximum time is five.

How to prepare for the GRE test?

The best way is to get familiar with the test format and question type. Practice as much as you can.

Where and when can I take GRE?

It can be taken any time in a year. However, it is better to take it before the application season. That is, from September to January, the next year. It is offered at computer-based test centers in most countries and at paper-based test centers in areas of the world where computer-based testing is not available. Visit the ETS/GRE website to check which format is available in your area. To check the test centers where the Subject Tests are offered, visit

http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/GRE/pdf/gre_0910_tclist.pdf

How do I apply for GRE?

Contact ETS to register a test by calling 1-443-751-4820 (from outside the US) or 1-800-GRE-CALL (1-800-473-2255 within the US) or visiting the website <http://www.ets.org/gre>

How much does GRE cost?

The [GRE General Test](#) fee varies by country. In China (including Hong Kong), Korea and Taiwan, the fee is US\$205.00. For all other locations, the fee is US\$180.00.

For further information on additional fees, payment policies and forms of payment, please visit the ETS/GRE website. The GRE Subject Test fee is US\$150.00 worldwide.

Where can I find additional information about GRE?

For further information on GRE, please visit www.gre.org

What is USMLE?

[USMLE](#) stands for United States Medical Licensing Examination, and it is a licensing examination, offered on computer at testing centers, required in order to receive a license to practice medicine within the United States. The USMLE is comprised of three different steps, which examine the individual's knowledge of specific topics related to the field of medicine and the application of all of these skills and areas of knowledge in the medical field.

Note: Because individual medical licensing authorities (state medical boards) have their own rules and regulations, and make decisions regarding the use of USMLE results, you should contact the jurisdiction where you intend to apply for licensure to obtain complete information.

What is the content of the test?

Step 1 assesses whether medical school students can apply important concepts of the sciences fundamental to the practice of medicine. It consists of 350 multiple-choice questions divided into seven sections. The exam takes approximately eight hours to complete (one hour for each section plus an hour break). Each section contains 50 randomly distributed questions about Anatomy, Biochemistry, Biology, Behavioral Science, Micro-Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology, and Physiology.

Step 2 is divided into two distinct sections. The first section, known as Step II Clinical Knowledge Exam,

or Step II CK, is designed to test your knowledge of the clinical fundamentals needed for the practice of medicine. It consists of 368 multiple-choice questions, split into 8 sections which contain 46 randomly distributed questions related to disease mechanisms, differential diagnosis, emergency medicine, neurology, patient care management principles, preventative medicine, radiology, and surgical subspecialties.

The second section, Step II CS or "Clinical Skills", is a "live" exam in which you have 15 minutes to examine "Standardized Patients." The goal of this part of the exam is to determine if you have the basic skills, knowledge, and general ability necessary to examine patients with common diseases, disorders, and/or other problems. The applicant spends the entire period of the exam (about 8 hours) examining patients, diagnosing each patient's condition, communicating with patients, and writing outpatient notes. In some situations, the applicant is placed in a room with a phone and receives calls from patients. The individual must then gather all of the necessary information from the patient in order to make a diagnosis. When there is a patient physically present, the applicant is required to conduct a physical examination of the patient in order to make a diagnosis.

The USMLE Step 3 is the final step in the medical licensing sequence of examinations. It tests a candidate's ability to properly apply medical knowledge in an unsupervised medical setting. As this examination measures residents' clinical knowledge necessary for independent practice of medicine, it focuses on clinical, patient-based assessments. The test focuses on the candidate's understanding of biomedical and clinical science. The test requires the candidate to evaluate the severity of a patient's condition, properly diagnose the patient and effectively treat the condition. The test will be composed of a combination of multiple-choice question and computer-based case studies. Candidates must demonstrate an ability to provide patient-centered care for inpatients as well as ambulatory patients. The test is divided into two areas: clinical encounters and physician tasks.

When can I apply for USMLE?

According to the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), to be eligible for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS, you must be officially enrolled in a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is listed in [IMED](http://www.faimer.org/resources/imed.html) (International Medical Education Directory - www.faimer.org/resources/imed.html) both at the time that you apply and at the time you take the exam. In addition, the Graduation Years in IMED for your medical school must be listed as Current at the time you apply and at the time you take the exam.

In addition to that, you must have completed at least two years of medical school, that is, you must have completed the basic medical science component of the medical school curriculum by the beginning of your eligibility period.

To be eligible for Step 3, prior to submitting your application, you must:

- obtain the MD (Doctor of Medicine) degree (or its equivalent) or the DO (Doctor of Osteopathic) degree,
- pass Step 1, Step 2 CK, and, if required, Step 2 CS,
- obtain certification by the ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates) or successfully complete a "Fifth Pathway" program if you are a graduate of a medical school outside the United States and Canada (information on Fifth Pathway programs is available in [ECFMG's Information Booklet](http://www.ecfmg.org/2009ib/2009ib.pdf) at www.ecfmg.org/2009ib/2009ib.pdf), and
- meet the Step 3 requirements set by the medical licensing authority to which you are applying.

How do I apply for USMLE?

Applying for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS

Students and graduates of medical schools outside the United States and Canada should apply for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS by following the instructions at the ECFMG - Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates website: www.ecfmg.org/usmle/index.html and www.ecfmg.org/usmle/step2cs/index.html. Review and follow the application instructions, complete your application, and submit it to the ECFMG.

Applying for Step 3

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) serves as the registration entity for all Step 3 applicants. To be eligible for Step 3, international medical graduates must have passed Step 1 and Step 2 and must be certified by ECFMG, among other requirements.

To request information on Step 3 eligibility requirements and application procedures, follow the instructions at the [FSMB website](#) or the medical licensing authority to which you wish to apply. After you obtain application materials, review and follow the application instructions to complete your application and submit it to the medical licensing authority or the FSMB as directed in the instructions.

How much does USMLE cost?

For each step of USMLE, there is an examination fee. You must pay all applicable fees at the time of application:

Step 1: US\$ 710.00;

Step 2 CK: US\$ 710.00;

Step 2 CS: US\$ 1,200.00;

Step 3: The fee for the 2009 Step 3 is \$690 for all state medical boards with the exception of Iowa (\$740), South Dakota (\$840) and Vermont (\$725)

Note: Fees are usually raised annually, and they are all subject to change without notice.

Where can I have further information on USMLE?

a) USMLE website: <http://www.usmle.org/>;

b) ECFMG website: <http://www.ecfmg.org/index.html>;

c) FSMB - USMLE Step 3 Home Page: http://www.fsmb.org/m_usmlestep3.html;

d) IMED website: <https://imed.faimer.org/> .

What is the difference between the internet-based and the paper-based TOEFL?

The TOEFL iBT is a four-hour test which consists of four sections, each measuring one of the basic language skills (while some tasks require integrating multiple skills) and all tasks focus on language used in an academic, higher-education environment. Note-taking is allowed during the iBT. It has the following structure:

Reading:

- Description: 3-5 passages from academic texts; approximately 700 words long; 12-14 questions per passage.
- Testing Time: 60-100 minutes
- Questions: 36-70 questions
- Score Scale: 0-30

Listening:

- Description: 4-6 lectures, some with classroom discussion; each 3-5 minutes long; 6 questions each. 2-3 conversations; each 3 minutes long; 5 questions each.
- Testing Time: 60-90 minutes
- Questions: 34-51 questions
- Score Scale: 0-30

Break:

- Time: 10 minutes

Speaking:

- Description: 2 tasks to express an opinion on a familiar topic; 4 tasks to speak based on what is read and listened to.
- Testing Time: 20 minutes
- Questions: 6 tasks
- Score Scale: 0-4 points converted to 0-30 score scale

Writing:

- Description: 1 task to write based on what is read and listened to; 1 task to support an opinion on a topic.
- Testing Time: 50 minutes
- Questions: 2 tasks
- Score Scale: 0-5 points converted to 0-30 score scale

Total score:: 0-120

The TOEFL Paper Based Test (PBT) is a 3-hour test and has 3 sections plus a 30-minute writing test, the TWE (Test of Written English), which is required of everyone who takes the paper-based test. It is given in areas where the iBT is not available.

Its structure is:

Listening Comprehension:

- Time Limit: 30-40 minutes
- No. of Questions: 50

Structure and Written Expression:

- Time Limit: 25 minutes
- No. of Questions: 40

Reading Comprehension:

- Time Limit: 55 minutes
- No. of Questions: 50

Writing (Test of Written English):

- Time Limit: 30 minutes
- No. of Questions: 1 topic

Note: Most countries now offer the internet-based test (iBT). Go to <http://www.ets.org/bin/getprogram.cgi?test=toefl&redirect=format> and select your location to see which format is offered there.

How much does SAT cost?

SAT Reasoning Test: \$41.50

SAT Subject Tests

Basic registration fee: \$18.00

Language Tests with Listening: add \$19.00

All other Subject Tests: add \$8.00

To check all the fees applicable to SAT and SAT Subject Tests, please go to:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenfees/fees.html>

Note: Pay attention to the International processing fee, applicable to students testing in countries other than the United States, U.S. territories and U.S. Commonwealth.

What is the difference between the SAT and the SAT Subject Tests?

The College Board's SAT Program consists of the [SAT Reasoning Test](#), or just [SAT](#), and the [SAT Subject Tests](#). The SAT is three hours and 45 minutes long and measures skills in three areas: critical reading, writing and mathematics.

The SAT Subject Tests are one-hour long, mostly multiple choice tests in specific subjects. These tests measure knowledge of particular subjects and the ability to apply that knowledge. They fall into five general subject areas:

1. English: Literature;
2. History: U.S. History, and World History;
3. Mathematics: Mathematics Level 1, and Mathematics Level 2;
4. Science: Biology E/M, Chemistry, and Physics;
5. Languages: Chinese with Listening, French, French with Listening, German, German with Listening, Spanish, Spanish with Listening, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Japanese with Listening, and Korean with Listening.

Which is better to take: TOEFL or IELTS?

According to Inside Higher Ed "The most significant difference between the two tests is how they test for speaking ability. With the [IELTS](#), the test taker actually speaks with a human being who is trained to evaluate fluency and conversational ability. With [TOEFL](#) the test-taker essentially speaks to a computer, the conversation is taped, and then six reviewers grade the session. IELTS maintains that its test is more realistic, and TOEFL claims that because it has only one tester/grader during this section of the exam, the IELTS is more prone to manipulation and has inadequate quality control."

In fact, the answer depends on what kinds of tests you are good at and where you plan to apply. We suggest that you read all the information posted about the two tests, take the sample tests available and make your own choice. Below, there are some key differences compiled from the essay by Walton Burns (See http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Walton_Burns).

a) British versus American English

[IELTS](#) tends to use British English and the [TOEFL](#) uses mostly American English.

b) Multiple choice versus Copying Down

For the reading and listening sections, [TOEFL](#) gives you multiple-choice questions, whereas [IELTS](#) generally expects applicants to copy down words from the text or the conversation word-for-word. Multiple-choice questions tend to require slightly better abstract thinking, but the IELTS favors people who have good memories and think more concretely. In multiple-choice questions it is easy to spot wrong answers, whereas in copying down activities the applicant just has to find the answers and repeat them. So, concrete thinkers tend to do better on the IELTS and abstract thinkers tend to excel on the TOEFL.

c) Predictable or Different Every Time

[TOEFL](#) is also more predictable than the [IELTS](#). The IELTS uses many different question types and the

instructions are often slightly different every time. That makes it harder to prepare for.

d) Speaking to a Person or a Computer?

The **IELTS** test is done separately as a live interview, so applicants may get nervous. On the other hand, you might feel more relaxed in a conversation, with a person there to explain instead of a computer screen. So it depends on what you are more comfortable with. If you like talking to people, the IELTS is a better bet. If you just want to be alone and not feel judged, the **TOEFL** should be your choice.

e) Holistic versus Criteria

The speaking and writing sections of the **TOEFL** are graded holistically. The score is based on the overall quality of the essay, including vocabulary, logic, style, and grammar. The **IELTS** by contrast is marked by individual criteria and you are scored individually for grammar, word choice, fluency, logic, cohesion, and a dozen other criteria. In other words, if you write well but have a lot of small grammar mistakes, your TOEFL score might be quite good because graders will ignore small mistakes if the overall essay is logical and detailed. The IELTS will not overlook bad grammar. On the other hand, if your grammar and vocabulary are strong but you have trouble expressing your opinion or organizing an essay, you could end up with a low TOEFL score but the IELTS will give you good marks for language use.

f) Test format

One more significant difference between the **IELTS** and **TOEFL** tests is that, in some countries, TOEFL is delivered in both paper-based and computer-based formats, which makes it easier for students to choose the kind of test and the time and the place of its completion which suits them the most.

What is the content of IELTS?

IELTS has four parts - Listening (30 minutes), Reading (60 minutes), Writing (60 minutes) and Speaking (11-14 minutes). The total test time is 2 hours and 45 minutes. The Listening, Reading and Writing tests are done in one sitting. The Speaking test may be on the same day or up to seven days before or after the other tests. To [find out more and see a test sample](http://www.ielts.org/test_takers_information/test_sample.aspx), go to http://www.ielts.org/test_takers_information/test_sample.aspx.

What is the difference between the Academic and the General Training IELTS?

a. Academic - Institutions of Higher and Further Education

The Academic format is for those who want to study or train in an English-speaking university or Institutions of Higher Education.

b. General training - for school, work or migration

The General Training format focuses on basic survival skills in a broad social and educational context. It is for those who are going to English-speaking countries to do secondary education, work experience or training programs.

All candidates take the same Listening and Speaking tests but different Reading and Writing tests.