



Forum: Educational Consulting

Topic: General Test Content on the TOEFL

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What Is on the Internet-Based Test?

What Is on the Paper Based Test?

Internet-based Test

The TOEFL® Internet-based test emphasizes integrated skills and measures all four language skills, including speaking. The content on the test is authentic, and the language is consistent with that used in everyday, real academic settings.

The test has four sections

Reading measures the ability to understand academic reading matter.

Listening measures the ability to understand English as it is used in colleges and universities.

Speaking measures the ability to speak English.

Writing measures the ability to write in a way that is appropriate for college and university course work.

Section	Time Limit	No. of Questions
Reading	60-100 minutes	36-70
Listening	60-90 minutes	34-51
Break	10 minutes	
Speaking	20 minutes	6 tasks
Writing	50 minutes	2 tasks

Test content is based on a corpus, or database, of spoken and written language that currently contains more than 2.7 million words, collected from educational institutions throughout the United States.

The spoken language in the database was collected from

- lectures and interactive classes
- labs
- office hours
- study groups

everyday service interactions (for example, at the bookstore or registrar's office)

The written language was collected from sources, such as textbooks and course materials. Listening and reading texts in the test conform to the characteristics of the language in the database.

Computer-based Test

The computer-based TOEFL test has four sections:

Listening measures the ability to understand English as it is spoken in North America.

Structure measures the ability to recognize language that is appropriate for standard written English.

Reading measures the ability to understand short passages similar in topic and style to academic texts used in North American colleges and universities.

Writing measures the ability to write in English on an assigned topic.

Section	Time Limit	No. of Questions
Tutorials	30 minutes	--
Listening	40-60 minutes	30-50
Structure	15-20 minutes	20-25
Break	5 minutes	--
Reading	70-90 minutes	44-55
Writing	30 minutes	1 topic

Paper-based Test

The paper-based TOEFL test has three sections plus a 30-minute writing test (the Test of Written English) that is required of everyone who takes the paper-based test.

Listening Comprehension measures the ability to understand English as it is spoken in North America.

Structure and Language measures the ability to recognize language that is appropriate for standard written English.

Reading Comprehension measures the ability to understand non-technical reading matter.

Section	Time Limit	Questions
Listening Comprehension	30-40 minutes	45-75
Structure and Written Expression	25 minutes	40
Reading Comprehension	55 minutes	50
Writing (Test of Written English)	30 minutes	1 topic

There is no scheduled break during the paper-based test so be prepared.

I will be listing places you can take the test and cost in the near future and where you can get the proper study materials

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Dave B