

High School and Middle School English Assessment



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The Benefits of iTEP SLATE

iTEP SLATE (Secondary Level Assessment Test of English) is the most comprehensive tool for high schools, middle schools, and academies to measure the English proficiency of incoming ESL students and monitor the language development of students in existing English programs. iTEP SLATE is efficient, secure, accurate, affordable, and designed to meet the needs of young learners. In short, the iTEP SLATE is right for you because it is:

iTEP is recognized by the Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute (ACEI) and The Accrediting Council for Continuing Education (ACCET), as an approved internationally accepted English proficiency exam.

ABOUT ITEP INTERNATIONAL

» Convenient

On-demand scheduling available at test centers all over the world or on your premises.

» Fast

The test lasts no more than 90 minutes, and results are available within one business day.

» Practical

Test-taker data, photos, test scores, plus speaking and writing samples are available to partner institutions online anytime.

» Comprehensive

iTEP SLATE assesses five core skills plus a variety of linguistic sub-skills, giving you a detailed and useful score report.

» Secure

iTEP's FotoSure® software photographs the test-taker throughout the exam, and our Item Bank feature live-streams content to ensure that no two tests are alike.

You are in good company!

iTEP is used by the national governments of various countries, including Colombia, Egypt, India, and Saudi Arabia, as well as numerous professional and academic organizations. iTEP International was founded in 2002 by career international educators. Our decades of experience have prepared us for the unique challenges of the industry today.

We use the best technology available, and our staff is always there to meet the needs of our clients. A test this user-friendly is perfect for admissions, placement, progress checks, and exit testing.

Accepting iTEP results for admissions purposes gives your institution a no-cost marketing boost. You will reach a wider pool of qualified applicants through exposure in iTEP's online promotional materials and at hundreds of test center locations worldwide.





iTEP SLATE Overview

The primary function of iTEP SLATE is to assess the English language proficiency level of middle and high school students of English as a second language.

- Admissions decisions
- Placement of students within language programs
- Curriculum development and guiding course instruction
- **Progress monitoring** from entry to exit
- English-language teacher evaluations
- **Determining eligibility** for exchange programs

TEST FORMAT & DELIVERY

Online iTEP exams are delivered via the internet and must be administered at a secure location or a certified iTEP test center. The examinee completes the test in the following manner:

- During the grammar, listening, and reading sections, the examinee clicks on one of four answer choices for each question.
- Writing samples are typed directly into a text-entry field.
- Speaking samples are recorded with a headset and microphone at the examinee's computer.

iTEP SLATE is **available in its Core and Plus forms** which differ in the number of sections required and the delivery format. SLATE-Core is available in paper-based format.

iTEP SLATE-Core

assesses grammar, listening and reading, and is 50 minutes in length, with an additional 10 minutes for pre-test preparation.

iTEP SLATE-Plus

assesses all three SLATE-Core skills plus writing and speaking, and is 80 minutes in length, with an additional 10 minutes for pre-test preparation.

iTEP SLATE Structure

In each section, examinees will encounter content and questions targeted to varying levels of proficiency.

A Grammar (Structure) — 10 minutes/ two parts

- Part 1. Thirteen fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice questions testing the examinee's familiarity with key features of English structure; questions range from beginner to advanced.
- Part 2. Twelve multiple-choice questions where the examinee selects the part of speech with incorrect English structure; questions range from elementary to advanced.

B Listening — 20 minutes/ three parts

- Part 1. Four high-beginning to low-intermediate level short conversations of two to three sentences, each followed by one multiple-choice question.
- Part 2. One two- to three-minute intermediate-level conversation, followed by four multiple-choice questions.
- Part 3. One four-minute upper-level lecture, followed by six multiple-choice questions.

C Reading — 20 minutes/ three parts

- Part 1. Two low-intermediate level passages of approximately 50 words in length, followed by two multiplechoice questions.
- Part 2. One intermediate-level passage of approximately 200 words in length, followed by four multiple-choice questions.
- Part 3. One low-advanced passage of approximately 500 words in length, followed by six multiple-choice questions.

D Writing — 25 minutes/ two parts

- Part 1. The examinee is given five minutes to write a 50-75 word note on a supplied topic, geared to the lowintermediate level.
- Part 2. The examinee is given 20 minutes to write a 175-225 word piece expressing and supporting his or her opinion on an upper-level written topic.

E Speaking — 5 minutes/ two parts (plus one minute warm-up section)

- Part 1. The examinee hears and reads a short question geared to low-intermediate level, then has 30 seconds to prepare a spoken response and 45 seconds to speak.
- Part 2. The examinee hears a brief upper-level statement presenting two sides of an issue, then is asked to express his or her thoughts on the topic, with 45 seconds to prepare and 60 seconds to speak.



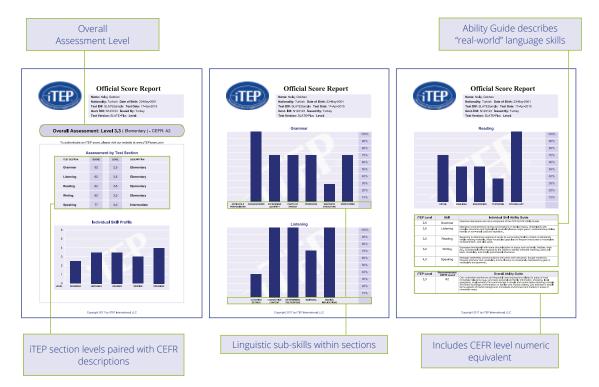
Scoring/Grading

The test will determine an overall proficiency level from 0 (Beginner) to 6 (Advanced), as well as individual proficiency levels from 0 to 6 for each of the skills and sub-skills tested. The overall scores combine the results of the skill sections, and for greater accuracy, they are expressed to one decimal point (from 0.0 to 6.0). The test is graded as follows:

- The grammar, listening, and reading sections are scored automatically by iTEP software.
- Each test section is weighed equally, and there is no penalty in the multiple-choice sections for guessing or incorrect answers.
- The writing and speaking sections are evaluated by native English-speaking, ESL-trained professionals, according to a standardized scoring rubric.
- The official score report presents an individual's scoring information, displaying an examinee's strengths and weaknesses in each of the skills and sub-skills evaluated by the test.

SCORE REPORT

The iTEP Score Reports are designed to easily compare students and track improvements. Scores are aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) and evaluate expected "real world" language skills, based on the examinee's level.





iTEP Ability Guide

Use this table to see at a glance how well an individual can use English to communicate "in the real world" at each of iTEP's levels.

itep	CEFR	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
6.0	C1 Advanced	©C50mprehends overall meaning and virtually all details of lectures on diverse topics	 Requires little extra reading time and rarely uses the dictionary 	 Satisfies demands of most general academic tasks with occasional grammar and style mistakes 	Pronunciation demands only slight extra effort from listeners
5.9 1 5.0	B2 Upper-Intermediate	D Grasps main ideas and the majority of supporting details from upper-level lectures	Utilizes contextual and syntactic clues to interpret meaning of complex sen- tences and new vocabulary	 Writes reasonably coherent essays on familiar topics, but with some grammatical weakness Exhibits fairly good organization and devel- opment 	 Expresses viewpoints in fairly long stretches of discourse Begins to express abstract concepts, especially on familiar topics Some errors in word choice and cultural appropriateness Pronunciation requires effort from listeners
4.9 ▲ 4.0	B1 Intermediate	 Occasionally needs to ask for repetition or clarification Begins to determine the attitudes of speakers Understands main ideas from academic lectures, but misses significant details 	 Gathers most main ideas from textbooks and articles, but has an uneven grasp of details Limited vocabulary im- pedes speed 	 Communicates basic ideas, but with weak orga- nizational structure and grammatical mistakes Does not have a complete grasp of stylistic features Vocabulary frequently lacks precision and sophistication 	 Expresses viewpoints in short sentences Generates questions, greetings, expressions of needs, and preferences Pronunciation requires significant effort from listeners
3.9 ▲ 2.5	A2 Elementary	 Maintains comprehension during conversations on familiar topics Relies heavily on nonverbal cues and repetition Unfamiliarity with complex structures and higher-level vocabulary leaves major gaps in understanding 	 Begins to determine meaning of words by surrounding context Understands simple reading materials Major vocabulary gaps lead to frequently inaccurate or incomplete comprehension and slow pace 	 Expresses him/herself with some circumlocu- tion on familiar topics Considerable effort required by the reader to identify intended meaning Uses only basic vocab- ulary and simple gram- matical structures 	 Generates simple questions, greetings, expressions of needs, and preferences Pronunciation requires intense effort from listeners Capable of short, simple presentations on familiar topics
2.4	A1 Beginner	 Understands very basic exchanges when spoken slowly using simple vocabulary Understands simple greetings, statements, and questions when spo- ken with extra clarity Follows simple familiar instructions Frequently requires repe- tition for comprehension Understands a few isolated words or phrases spoken slowly 	 Comprehends only highly simplified phrases or sentences Identifies the main idea of short passages Recognizes familiar cohesive devices and basic pronouns Demonstrates under- standing of a few simple grammatical and lexical structures Recognizes the alphabet and isolated words 	 Makes basic mistakes systematically Writes only short, simple sentences, often characterized by errors that obscure meaning Provides personal details with correct spelling and can copy familiar words and phrases Produces isolated words and phrases 	 Responds to simple questions Speech is marked with stress and intonation patterns Communication is understood for short utterances Pauses, false starts, and reformulation are common Communicates with single words and short phrases at "survival level" Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible





iTEP SLATE Score Equivalencies

If you are familiar with other language assessment tools on the market, you can see how iTEP's scores translate, based on each test's CEFR alignment. Our scores reflect a wide range of levels and make it easy to categorize and group candidates.

iTEP SLATE	KET	SLEP [®]	PET	TOEFL Jr. [®]
6				
5.5 - 5.9		64	97 - 100	884 - 900
5.0 - 5.4		58 - 63	94 - 96	867 - 883
4.5 - 4.9	96 - 100	55 - 57	90 - 93	850 - 866
4.0 - 4.4	90 - 95	53 - 54	80 - 89	791 - 835
3.5 - 3.9	82 - 89	50 - 52	70 - 79	745 - 790
3.0 - 3.4	76 - 81	00 02	62 - 69	703 - 744
2.5 - 2.9	70 - 75	45 - 46	53 - 61	675 - 702
2.0 - 2.4	65 - 69	42 - 44	45 - 52	646 - 674
		40 - 41	36 - 44	637 - 645
1.5 - 1.9	60 - 64	40 - 41	27 - 35	628 - 636
1.0 - 1.4	55 - 59	37 - 39	18 - 26	619 - 627
0.5 - 0.9	50 - 54	34 - 36	9 - 17	609 - 618
0.0 - 0.4	45 - 49	31 - 33	0 - 8	600 - 608

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ETS was not involved in the production of iTEP, nor has ETS endorsed the iTEP or this score equivalencies chart in any way. Cambridge was not involved in the production of iTEP, nor has Cambridge endorsed the iTEP or this score equivalencies chart in any way.

iTEP SLATE-Plus – TOEFL® Jr. Comparison Chart

	iTEP SLATE-Plus	TOEFL [®] Jr.	
Total Exam Time	• 90 minutes (all five sections)	 115 minutes for TOEFL Jr. Standard 134 minutes for TOEFL Jr. Comprehensive 	
Skills Assessed	Five sections/skills directly evaluated: grammar, listening, reading, writing, speaking	 TOEFL Jr. Standard: reading, listening, language form and meaning TOEFL Jr. Comprehensive: reading, listening, speaking 	
Target Age Group	High school age students (and younger)	Students ages 11 to 15	
Difficulty Level Tested	 Tests at different difficulty levels, from beginner to advanced 	Tests at three difficulty levels, from beginner to upper- intermediate	
Purpose	 Evaluate students' English ability for high school, academy, and boarding school admission purposes Place students in English-language programs Perform pre- and post-course assessment Guide course instruction and curriculum development Qualify candidates for exchange program acceptance 	 Placement and progress monitoring for English-language programs International schools where the language of instruction is English Schools in non-English-speaking countries that focus on teaching content through English 	
Test Delivery Format	• Internet	Paper form for Standard TOEFL Jr.Internet for Comprehensive TOEFL Jr.	
Security	 Tests can only be administered at secured Certified iTEP Test Centers Certified proctors on-site ensure that photo IDs match each test-taker Item Bank feature ensures that no test is replicated and that test items are secure by streaming the content live during the exam FotoSure® software photographs the test-taker throughout the exam 	 Tests can only be administered at secured ETS Certified Test Centers Certified administrators on-site ensure that photo IDs match each test-taker 	
Grading	 Multiple-choice sections (grammar, listening, and reading) evaluated by iTEP software Writing and speaking sections evaluated by native English speaking ESL-trained professionals 	 ETS graders evaluate the tests. Scores normally come from ETS, but some employers and schools provide the results 	
Scoring	 Overall score ranges from 0 to 6, with .1 level increments, as well as individual section scores, based on standardized rubric Scored linguistic sub-skill sections give a more detailed picture of skill level 	 TOEFL Jr. Standard graded by ETS preferred network offices Computerized grading for Reading and Listening for TOEFL Jr. Comprehensive Raters score the speaking section for TOEFL Jr. Comprehensive 	
Scheduling	 On-demand scheduling within three days of contacting a Certified iTEP Test Center 	Test dates are scheduled in advance by ETSOnly available on fixed dates and times	
Results Delivery Time	Results returned in one business day	Results returned within two to three weeks	
Additional iTEP Benefits	 iTEP partners can get immediate online access to all test results, as well as access to the submitted writing and speaking portions iTEP is available in customized and modularized versions iTEP partners can utilize their premises to become iTEP test centers and administer the exam on-site 		



iTEP SLATE-Plus – SLEP® Comparison Chart

	iTEP SLATE-Plus	SLEP ® (Retired)	
Total Exam Time	• 90 minutes (all five sections)	• 90 minutes (two sections)	
Skills Assessed	 Five sections/skills directly evaluated: grammar, listening, reading, writing, speaking 	Listening and reading (grammar indirectly tested)	
Target Age Group	High school students (and younger)	High school students (and younger)	
Difficulty Level Tested	Tests at different difficulty levels, from beginner to ad- vanced	Tests at one level of difficulty (lower than university-level proficiency)	
Purpose	 Evaluate students' English ability for high school, academy, and boarding school admission purposes Place students in English-language programs Perform pre- and post-course assessment Guide course instruction and curriculum development Qualify candidates for exchange program acceptance 	 Assign students to ESL classes Place students in regular English-medium programs Assess students status for exiting an ESL program Qualify students for exemption from a bilingual program 	
Test Delivery Format	Internet	Paper form only (Materials ordered in advance)	
Security	 Tests can only be administered at secured Certified iTEP Test Centers Certified proctors on-site ensure that photo IDs match each test-taker Item Bank feature ensures that no test is replicated and that test items are secure by streaming the content live during the exam FotoSure™ software photographs the test-taker throughout the exam 	 Tests are given and graded at school sites Individuals have access to test content and grading sheets ETS is not involved with the implementation or scoring of the test in any way 	
Grading	 Multiple-choice sections (grammar, listening, and reading) evaluated by iTEP software Writing and speaking sections evaluated by iTEP graders, na- tive English speaking ESL-trained professionals 	 Administering institution scores the tests and retains materials ETS does not provide scoring services for this exam 	
Scoring	 Overall score ranges from 0 to 6, with .1 level increments, as well as individual section scores, based on standardized rubric Scored linguistic sub-skill sections give a more detailed picture of skill level 	 For listening, scores range from 10-32 For reading, scores range from 10-35 Total scores range from 20-67 	
Scheduling	 On-demand scheduling within three days of contacting a Certified iTEP Test Center 	This test is currently retired	
Results Delivery Time	Results returned in one business day	 Administering institution can deliver results immediately after scoring paper test ETS does not provide scoring service for this exam 	
Additional iTEP Benefits	 iTEP partners can get immediate online access to all test results, as well as access to the submitted writing and speaking portions iTEP available in customized and modularized versions iTEP partners can utilize their premises to become iTEP test centers and administer the exam on-site 		

Case Study & Praise for iTEP SLATE



SUCCESS IN SAUDI LIQAAT INITIATIVE

In 2011, the Saudi Ministry of Labor launched an employment initiative called "Liqaat," in conjunction with the Human Resources & Development Fund and thinkers from the private sector. The goal was to gather information about the cognitive abilities, aptitude, occupational interest, and English language proficiency of young job seekers by using the iTEP SLATE and other tools.

In Saudi Arabia, a major area of interest for employers is the English level of their prospective employees. iTEP SLATE was chosen over several competitors in part because its scoring system not only represents an overall English level, but also identifies strengths and weaknesses within an individual's language skill, better enabling employers to match candidates with specific positions.

With the help of SOUKS HR Solutions, iTEP's partner in Saudi Arabia, the collaboration with iTEP and Liqaat has seen over 10,000 Saudis registered in the first month, and each has now sat for the iTEP SLATE.

This volume of test results was processed smoothly thanks in large part to the convenience of scheduling and the timeliness in receiving results that iTEP offers.



Praise for iTEP SLATE

"iTEP SLATE is far superior to other tests of which I am aware that specifically target middle and high school students. iTEP SLATE is currently being utilized for formal English proficiency certification in a number of countries, most notably China, where proper certification is a key component in preparing children for the future."

> – Fadi Germanos, Xavier College Preparatory High School,

"During my more than 30 years of experience working in the secondary school environment, I have not seen an exam as reliable and appropriate for the high school age group as iTEP SLATE."

> – Roger Riske, Educational Resource Development Trust,

"iTEP SLATE is remarkably accessible. Waiting for test dates used to be a problem for some of our applicants, but iTEP SLATE's on-demand scheduling keeps our admissions process moving along."

> – Alex Salvo Saint Joseph Catholic School, Ogden, UT

iTEP Clients & Advisory Board

The iTEP SLATE tests have helped hundreds of high schools, boarding schools, and middle schools assess the English language proficiency of their incoming students, as well as monitor existing students for continued improvements while enrolled in language programs. Here are some of iTEP's SLATE partners:



Advisory Board

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Hui Wu, PhD Department Chair The university of texas at Tyler

On-Demand, Internet-Based English Language Assessment in 90 minutes or less

iTEP—The Ideal Internet-Based English Evaluation Tool For:

- High Schools and Middle Schools
- Boarding Schools
- Intensive English Programs
- Colleges and Universities
- Business and Industry
- Government and Agencies
- Professional Licensing Organizations



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