iTEP Academic

College and University English Assessment

iTEP®

International
Test of English Proficiency

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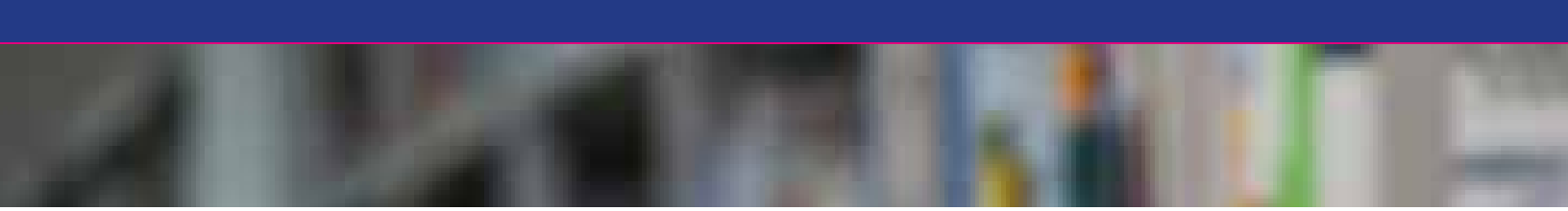


The Benefits of iTEP Academic

iTEP Academic is the most efficient, secure, accurate, and affordable way for colleges, universities, and intensive English programs (IEPs) to measure the English proficiency of applicants and students. In short, iTEP Academic is right for you because it is:

» **Online, At-home, On-Demand**
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 24 hours.

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

» **Comprehensive**
iTEP Academic 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 is recognized by the Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute (ACEI) and ACCET, as an approved internationally accepted English proficiency exam.

ABOUT iTEP INTERNATIONAL

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 world-wide.

iTEP Academic Overview

The primary function of iTEP is to assess the English language proficiency of students of English as a second language. The iTEP Academic exam is commonly used for:

- **Admissions decisions**
- **Placement** of students within language programs
- **Curriculum development** and guidance of course instruction
- **Progress monitoring** from program entry to exit
- **Assessing** the proficiency of English language teachers
- **Determining eligibility** for scholarships and academic grants

THERE ARE TWO VERSIONS OF iTEP ACADEMIC:

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

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

TEST FORMAT & DELIVERY

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 at the examinee's computer.

iTEP Academic 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 in which 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/ two parts

Part 1. One intermediate-level passage of about 250 words in length, followed by four multiple-choice questions.

Part 2. One upper-level paragraph of about 450 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 low-intermediate 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.

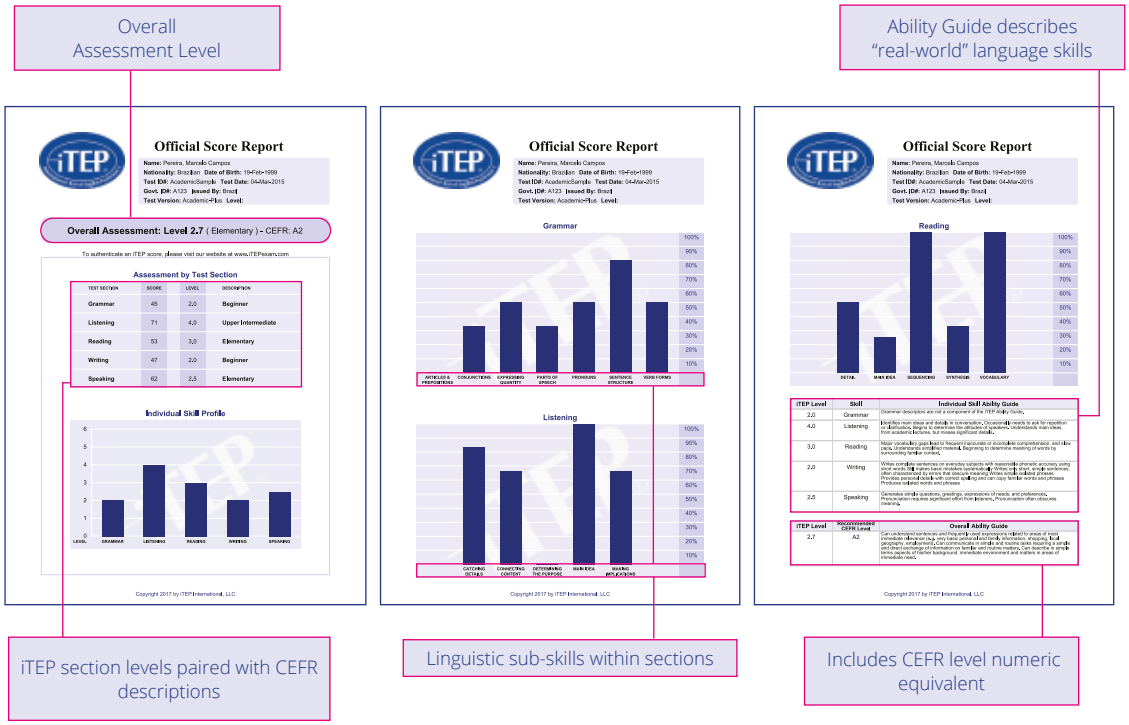
Scoring/Grading

The test will determine an overall proficiency level from 0 (Beginner) to 6 (Mastery), 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 tested.

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 testing levels.

iTEP	CEFR	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
6.0 ↑ 5.5	C2 Mastery	▪ Comprehends overall meaning and virtually all details of lectures on diverse topics ▪ Understands English spoken in a variety of non-native accents	▪ Comprehends virtually all aspects of a wide variety of academic material for nonspecialists ▪ Reads at near-native speed ▪ Rarely requires use of a dictionary, except with the most complex, specialized text.	▪ Writes complex documents such as research reports using appropriate style and vocabulary ▪ Grammar and orthography are accurate and precise	▪ Communicates accurately and effectively on practically all academic and social topics in culturally appropriate ways
5.4 ↑ 4.5	C1 Advanced	▪ Identifies attitude and purpose of speakers ▪ Grasps main ideas and the majority of supporting details from lectures ▪ Is challenged by complex social and cultural references	▪ Understands main ideas and most of the details of academic texts, journal articles, and abstracts ▪ Requires little extra reading time	▪ Satisfies demands of most general academic tasks with rare grammar and style mistakes ▪ Exhibits good organization and development	▪ Speaks fluently on a wide range of familar and complex topics with only occassional repetition or self correction
4.4 ↑ 3.5	B2 Upper Intermediate	▪ Identifies main ideas and details in conversation ▪ 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	▪ Utilizes contextual and syntactic clues to interpret meaning of complex sentences and new vocabulary ▪ Gathers most main ideas from textbooks, but has an uneven grasp of details ▪ Misinterprets some abstract content and cultural references	▪ Writes reasonably coherent essays on familiar topics, but with some grammatical weakness ▪ Does not have a complete grasp of stylistic features ▪ Vocabulary frequently lacks precision and sophistication	▪ Begins to express abstract concepts, especially on familiar topics ▪ Fluency is occasionally hampered by gaps in vocabulary and grammar ▪ Sometimes is asked to repeat words or phrases
3.4 ↑ 2.5	B1 Intermediate	▪ Grasps the general outline of topics discussed in an academic setting ▪ Unfamiliarity with complex structures and higher-level vocabulary leaves major gaps in understanding	▪ Limited vocabulary impedes speed ▪ Comprehends familiar subjects, and identifies some significant details ▪ Follows step-by-step instructions in exams, labs, and assignments	▪ Communicates basic ideas but with some weaknesses in organizational structure and grammar ▪ Expresses him/herself with some circumlocution on familiar topics	▪ Manages day-to-day communications with peers and instructors, marked by frequent grammar and vocabulary errors ▪ Requires some effort from listeners
2.4 ↑ 2.0	A2 Elementary	▪ Maintains comprehension during conversations on familiar topics ▪ Relies heavily on nonverbal cues and repetition ▪ Understands basic exchanges when spoken slowly using simple vocabulary	▪ Major vocabulary gaps lead to frequently inaccurate or incomplete comprehension, and slow pace ▪ Begins to determine the meaning of words by context	▪ Sustained effort required by reader; writing is sometimes unclear ▪ Uses only basic vocabulary and simple grammatical structures	▪ Generates simple questions, greetings, expressions of needs, and preferences ▪ Requires significant effort from listeners
1.9 ↑ 0	A1 Beginner	▪ Understands simple greetings, statements, and questions when spoken with extra clarity ▪ Follows simple familiar instructions ▪ Understands a few isolated words or phrases spoken slowly	▪ Comprehends only highly simplified phrases or sentences ▪ Recognizes the alphabet and simple, isolated words ▪ Demonstrates understanding of a few simple grammatical and lexical structures	▪ 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	▪ Speech is marked with non-native 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" ▪ Intense listener effort required ▪ Requires extreme, sustained effort from listeners

iTEP Academic 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 Academic	New TOEFL® Essentials	TOEFL® IBT	Duolingo	IELTS™	PTE Academic
5.5 - 6.0	12	115 - 120	141 - 160	9 - 8	81 - 90
5.0 - 5.4	10 - 11	110 - 114	126 - 140		76 - 80
4.5 - 4.9		99 - 109	116 - 125	7.5	68 - 75
4.0 - 4.4	8 - 9	87 - 98	106 - 115	7	59 - 67
3.5 - 3.9		57 - 86	86 - 105	5.5 - 6.5	43 - 58
3.0 - 3.4	5 - 7	44 - 56	71 - 85	5	36 - 42
2.5 - 2.9		32 - 43	61 - 70	4.5	30 - 35
2.0 - 2.4	3 - 4	26 - 31	56 - 60	4	26 - 29
1.5 - 1.9	2	21 - 25	51 - 55	3	22 - 25
1.0 - 1.4		14 - 20	46 - 50	2	18 - 21
0.5 - 0.9		7 - 13	36 - 45	1	14 - 17
0.0 - 0.4	1	0 - 6	10 - 35	0	10 - 13

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IELTS is a registered trademark of the International English Language Testing System, British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia, and Cambridge English Language Assessment.
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iTEP Academic-Plus—TOEFL® IBT Comparison Chart

	iTEP Academic-Plus	TOEFL® IBT
Total Exam Time	▪ 90 minutes (all five sections)	▪ 240 minutes (all four sections)
Skills Assessed	▪ Five sections/skills directly evaluated: grammar, listening, reading, writing, speaking	▪ Four sections/skills directly evaluated: listening, reading, writing, and speaking ▪ Grammar indirectly tested
Target Age Group	▪ Graduating high school to university level students	▪ University level students
Difficulty Level Tested	▪ Tests at different difficulty levels, from beginner to mastery	▪ Tests at one level of difficulty, from upper-intermediate to advanced
Purpose	▪ Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes ▪ Place students in English language programs ▪ Perform pre- and post-course assessment ▪ Qualify candidates for scholarships and exchange program acceptance ▪ Evaluate language proficiency for placement	▪ Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes ▪ Place students in English language programs ▪ Evaluate language proficiency for placement and hiring (business and organizations)
Test Delivery Format	▪ Internet	▪ Internet
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	▪ Overall score ranges from 0 to 120, as well as individual section scores, based on standardized rubric
Scheduling	▪ On-demand scheduling within three days of contacting a Certified iTEP Test Center	▪ Test dates are scheduled in advance by ETS
Results Delivery Time	▪ Results returned in 24 hours	▪ Results returned within eight days
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	

iTEP Academic-Plus — IELTS™ Comparison Chart

	iTEP Academic-Plus	IELTS™ (Academic)
Total Exam Time	▪ 90 minutes (all five sections)	▪ 174 minutes (all four sections)
Skills Assessed	▪ Five sections/skills directly evaluated: grammar, listening, reading, writing, speaking	▪ Four sections/skills directly evaluated: listening, reading, writing, speaking (face -to-face interview; conducted on different day)
Target Age Group	▪ University level students	▪ University level students
Difficulty Level Tested	▪ Tests at different difficulty levels, from beginner to mastery	▪ Tests at one level of difficulty, from upper-intermediate to advanced
Purpose	▪ Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes ▪ Place students in English language programs ▪ Perform pre- and post-course assessment ▪ Qualify candidates for scholarships and exchange program acceptance ▪ Evaluate language proficiency for placement	▪ Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes ▪ Place students in English language programs ▪ Perform pre- and post-course assessment ▪ Qualify candidates for scholarships and exchange program acceptance ▪ Evaluate language proficiency for placement
Test Delivery Format	▪ Internet	▪ Paper, plus face-to-face interview
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 IELTS 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 iTEP graders, native English speaking ESL-trained professionals	▪ Scored by IELTS. Test Centers provide scores to test-takers
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	▪ Overall score ranges from 1 to 9, as well as individual section scores, based on standardized rubric
Scheduling	▪ On-demand scheduling within three days of contacting a Certified iTEP Test Center	▪ Approximately 48 fixed test dates per year. Test must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance
Results Delivery Time	▪ Results returned in 24 hours	▪ Results usually returned 13 days after test
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	

Praise for iTEP Academic

iTEP VERSUS IN-HOUSE ENGLISH TESTING

American Language Academy President Yuni Nguyen found that developing an in-house test was ultimately more costly than using an external test like iTEP. Considerations included creating multiple forms of the test to avoid repetition, the costs of printing test materials, and the time it took to administer and grade the test. After analyzing the financial and temporal costs of their own test, the American Language Academy began using iTEP and found that it immediately saved them money.

PRAISE FOR iTEP ACADEMIC

"iTEP is quick and flexible to administer, which keeps costs low. iTEP also offers superior customer service."

–Yuni Nguyen, President,
American Language Academy,

"iTEP Academic is a wonderful alternative to other English language proficiency tests. iTEP makes an ideal assessment tool to measure ongoing progress, and a viable exit examination that measure the proficiency of students who have completed your program."

–Paul Hofmann, PhD,
California State University, Fresno, CA

"We administer ITEP on campus and have found it efficient and easy to use. I like that we receive quick scores and reports with useful feedback that we make available to students."

–Rebecca Lawrence,
Massachusetts International Academy, MA

Colombian Government Chooses iTEP Exam to Help Improve Nationwide English Proficiency

In 2009, the Colombian Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, and the Colombian Department of Education joined forces to devise an initiative aimed at attracting foreign investment into Colombia. By evaluating and improving the English proficiency levels of Colombian professionals, the government took one step closer to making Colombia a prime destination for foreign investment particularly in the customer service and call center industries. The name chosen for this English improvement initiative was "ISPEAK".

Colombian Minister of Commerce Luis Guillermo Plata was one of several high-ranking officials who took the iTEP exam to become more familiar with its many advantages as an English assessment tool.

iTEP Clients & Advisory Board

iTEP Academic has helped hundreds of colleges and universities 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 academic partners:

Advisory Board

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