

Test Introduction

The Ministry of Education (MOE) launched the Program on Bilingual Education for Students in College, referred to as the BEST program, with the goals of building a bilingual teaching and learning environment in colleges and universities, strengthening the English proficiency of college- and university-level students, and promoting EMI courses to enhance the overall international competitiveness of higher education in Taiwan. The MOE also seeks to foster positive interactions between English teaching, learning, and assessment programs at colleges and universities. This entails aligning these programs with specific language standards, tracking students' learning progress, and providing an understanding of how a learning institution's courses affect performance on assessments. To address these needs, the MOE has provided funding for the Language Training & Testing Center (LTTTC) to develop and administer the BEST Test of English Proficiency, known by the acronym BESTEP.

Test Purposes

- To cultivate good English communication skills among college and university students for English-speaking academic or workplace environments.
- To understand students' English proficiency before they enter English-medium instruction (EMI) courses so that teachers and educational institutions can adjust their teaching contents and methods accordingly, and to assist students in adapting to the challenges of attending academic courses in English.
- To serve as an important indicator of applicants' English ability to communicate effectively in an international workplace for corporations recruiting and selecting employees.

Test Features

- The BESTEP is an academic-oriented English proficiency test developed specifically for domestic college students, so it is a completely new and more suitable assessment tool.
- The BESTEP focuses on assessing general academic English and English communication skills in international academic and workplace situations. It tests all four skills—speaking, writing, listening and reading—in modules.
- The BESTEP can be linked to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- The BESTEP covers CEFR levels A to C, thereby effectively measuring a wide range of English proficiency levels.

Test Fee

The BESTEP is officially recognized by the Ministry of Education under the Program on Bilingual Education for Students in College. The test fee is fully subsidized by the Ministry of Education.

Test Format

	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
No. of Questions	35	35	8	5
Time	About 35 minutes	50 minutes	About 15 minutes	50 minutes
Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Answering Questions ▪ Short Conversations ▪ Long Conversations and Talks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vocabulary ▪ Short Reading Passages ▪ Long Reading Passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Answering Questions ▪ Expressing Opinions ▪ Giving a Short Presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Answering Questions ▪ Expressing Opinions ▪ Writing an Integrated Essay
Score	140	140	360	360



Test Results and Feedback

In addition to the scores for each section and the CEFR levels they are aligned with, the score report also provides the scores on the individual parts of the test and the achievement rates to assist the test takers in further understanding their performance. Test takers can scan the QR code on the score report of the listening and reading test to access the 'Learning Portfolio' on the official website to view more individualized feedback, including the achievement levels for individual can-do descriptors (analysis of strengths and weaknesses), examples and explanations, guidance for learning, vocabulary (including sample sentences and pronunciation), and sentence patterns.

Score Reports and Certificates

Score reports will be provided to all test takers having no record of violations. For certificates, an additional application fee is required. Test takers may apply for certificates within 2 years of the test date, and scores from different test dates within a two-year period can be combined.

Comparison between BESTEP and other commonly used English language proficiency tests

Tests	BESTEP	CSEPT	GEPT	IELTS	TOEIC
Developed by	The Language Training & Testing Center			British Council	Educational Testing Service
Test Purpose	Assessment of university students' English proficiency, international exchange/degree programs, and job applications	University campus examination	Further study, job applications, international exchange/degree programs	Overseas study and immigration to English-speaking countries	Further study, domestic and international job applications
Targeted Test Takers	College/university students	College/university students	Students/professionals	Students/immigrants in English-speaking countries	Students/professionals
Test Focus	Local and international academic and workplace communication	Campus life	Local and general international communication	Academic communication in English-speaking countries	International business communication
Test Skills	Listening, reading, speaking, writing	Listening, reading	Listening, reading, speaking, writing	Listening, reading, speaking, writing	Listening, reading, speaking, writing
Score Report	Overall score, subscores, achievement rate, strength and weakness analysis, CEFR Level	Overall score, subscores, CEFR level	Overall score, subscores, strength and weakness analysis, CEFR level	Overall score, subscores, CEFR level	Overall score, subscores, CEFR level
Certificate Expiry Period	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Two years	Two years

For more information about the test, learning resources, and samples of the score report and certificate, please refer to the official website.



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