

English Proficiency Evaluation Scoring

PASSING SCORES for each portion of the English Proficiency Evaluation:

- Reading: 32
- Listening: 16
- Oral Interview: 4 (see description below)
- Writing: Pass (see description below)
- Grammar: Writing Pass + Oral Interview grammar sub-score of 4 (see descriptions)

Students will be HELD FOR IIEP with the scores of:

- Reading: 19
- Listening: 10
- Oral Interview: 2 (see description below)
- Writing/Grammar: No Pass IIEP (see description below)

A score of 1 on the oral interview means that the speaker:

- did not actually answer the questions that the raters asked, even after several repetitions or attempts to rephrase, showing lack of listening comprehension
- had pronunciation that was extremely difficult to understand
- did not have enough vocabulary to talk about more than common, daily topics, and had extreme difficulty speaking in smooth, connected sentences
- showed very little control of grammar, using mostly 1—3 word responses or memorized sentences

A score of 2 on the oral interview means that the speaker:

- could understand some of the questions the raters asked, but often required repetition or long pauses before answering
- had pronunciation that required constant effort to understand
- hesitated and repeated frequently, rarely speaking an entire sentence smoothly
- made many mistakes in grammar that confused the answer's meaning

A score of 3 on the oral interview means that the speaker:

- could understand many of the questions that the raters asked, but mostly those related to familiar topics
- had pronunciation that was generally—but not always—understandable
- spoke smoothly some of the time, but still had false starts and repetitions that were confusing
- used some variety of grammatical structures, sometimes successfully, but still made many confusing errors

A score of 4 on the oral interview means that the speaker:

- was mostly able to understand any question that the raters asked
- had a “strong accent”, but was mostly easy to understand
- made a few false starts or repetitions, but had mostly smooth speech
- used a variety of grammatical structures and made some errors, but nothing that made the speaker’s ideas unclear

A score of 5 on the oral interview means that the speaker:

- understood all questions quickly
- possibly slightly accented, but had pronunciation that was never difficult to understand
- had consistently smooth, connected speech
- showed clear control of a wide variety of grammatical structures

A score of ‘pass’ in writing means that the composition:

- directly answered one of the two writing questions and stayed on topic
- gave a clear thesis statement
- developed the thesis with well-expressed details and examples
- ordered the ideas logically and effectively
- connected the ideas logically and clearly
- showed a good range of appropriately-used vocabulary
- showed the correct use of a variety of sentence structures
- had some grammar errors, but none that made the ideas unclear
- had few spelling errors and adequate punctuation/formatting

A score of ‘no pass with writing’ on the writing test means that the essay had mostly acceptable grammar, but showed one or more of the following weaknesses:

- including information that did not answer either of the questions in the writing prompt
- not developing the main idea with good details, examples and explanations—often saying the same thing over and over again in different words
- not stating the main idea in a thesis statement
- not dividing ideas logically into paragraphs
- not dividing thoughts logically into separate sentences
- generally showing poor range and choice of vocabulary, spelling and punctuation
- containing persistent, surface-level grammatical errors (such as articles, prepositions, subject-verb agreement, etc.)

A score of 'no pass with grammar' on the writing test means that the essay had acceptable content and organization, but contained many grammar errors that interfered with the meaning of the essay, including one or more of the following:

- many errors in verb tense and verb form
- some incorrect word order
- missing the verb "to be" as the main verb in the sentence
- many errors in word form

A score of 'no pass with grammar and writing' on the writing test means that the essay showed a combination of the above writing and grammar weaknesses.