

The Computer-Based TOEFL Test



In July 1998, Educational Testing Service introduced the computer-based TOEFL test in many areas of the world. This move was the first critical step toward a long-term goal of enhancing

assessments by using electronic technology to test more complex skills.

This new testing platform provides improved services to examinees in many ways:

- Tests are given by appointment, when examinees are ready.
- Testing is available year-round in many locations.
- Tests are given in comfortable, private, computer-equipped cubicles.
- Fewer examinees test at one time.
- Unofficial scores appear on screen immediately following the test.
- Examinees can retest by appointment every calendar month.
- Test security is enhanced.
- Official score reports are mailed faster — within two weeks after testing. (Note: Score reports are mailed approximately five weeks after the test date to those who handwrite their essays.)

The computer-based TOEFL test is offered at Sylvan Technology Centers®, at computer test centers at specified colleges and universities, at selected USIS posts and advising centers overseas, and at ETS offices in the United States.

Added Value of the Test — The TOEFL program's main goal is to provide more extensive information than it has in the past about candidates' English proficiency. In response to institutions' requests to include a productive measure of writing, the program has added a **Writing** section (essay) as part of each test administration. This addition is one step toward a more communicative test. Essay ratings are integrated into section and total scores, but are also reported separately on official score reports for informational purposes. New types of questions have been added to the **Listening** and **Reading** sections; these new question types move beyond single-section multiple-choice questions. Visuals have also

been added to the Listening section, providing a significant enhancement to that portion of the test.

Two sections of the test — **Listening** and **Structure** — are computer-adaptive, meaning the test is tailored to each examinee's performance level. The test starts with questions of moderate difficulty. As examinees answer each question, the computer scores the question and uses that information, as well as the responses to previous questions, to determine which question is presented next. As long as examinees respond correctly, the computer typically selects next questions of greater or equal difficulty. In contrast, if they answer questions incorrectly, the computer typically selects questions of lesser or equal difficulty. The computer is programmed to fulfill the test design as it continuously adjusts to find questions of appropriate difficulty for test takers of all performance levels.

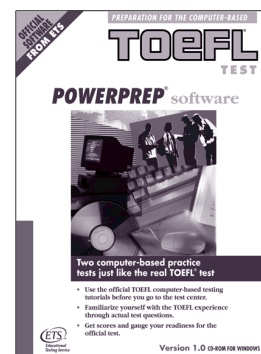
Test Preparation — The TOEFL program has taken steps to assure that an individual's test performance is not influenced by a lack of computer experience. A set of tutorials, designed especially for nonnative speakers of English, has been developed to teach the skills needed to take the test on computer. The interactive tutorials are presented at the beginning of each test session. They provide instruction and practice in using a mouse, scrolling text, answering the various types of questions in the four test sections, and typing the essay using a standard word processing system.

The tutorials are also available on the program's Web site (www.toefl.org) free in a for-view-only format or in a downloadable file for US\$8, as well as in these priced products:

TOEFL Sampler: a CD-ROM containing seven interactive and animated tutorials, 67 practice questions, and review material for the Listening section.

POWERPREP® Software: provides two computerized tests from a pool of more than 1,200 questions. (Available March 1, 2000.)

For details, see the *Information Bulletin* or TOEFL Web site.



Tables 9 and 10 may be useful in comparing the performance on the TOEFL test of a particular student with that of other students from the same country and with that of students who speak the same language. It is important to point out that the data do not permit the generalization that there are fundamental differences in the ability of the various national and language groups to learn English or in the level of English proficiency they can attain. The tables are based simply on the performance of those examinees native to particular countries and languages who happened to take the computer-based TOEFL test.

Table 9. TOEFL CBT Total and Section Score Means⁽¹⁾ — All Examinees Classified by Native Language⁽²⁾

(Based on 276,410 students who took TOEFL CBT between July 1998 and June 1999)⁽³⁾

<i>Native Language</i>	<i>Number of Examinees</i>	<i>Listening</i>	<i>Structure and Written Expression</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Total Score Mean</i>	<i>Native Language</i>	<i>Number of Examinees</i>	<i>Listening</i>	<i>Structure and Written Expression</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Total Score Mean</i>
Afrikaans	365	21	24	22	224	Macedonian	236	23	21	21	215
Albanian	591	21	22	21	210	Madurese	128	17	17	16	170
Amharic	582	21	21	21	207	Malagasy	59	17	22	21	200
Arabic	22,794	20	19	19	192	Malay	1,132	22	23	22	224
Armenian	456	22	22	22	218	Malayalam	689	24	25	24	244
Assamese	44	19	21	21	199	Malinke-Bambara-Dyula	33	17	21	20	191
Azeri	169	20	20	20	198	Maltese	5	*	*	*	*
Bashkir	1	*	*	*	*	Marathi	281	25	26	25	256
Basque (Euskara)	38	22	23	24	230	Marshallese	281	20	18	17	182
Belarussian	89	22	22	23	222	Mende	29	*	*	*	*
Bemba	45	22	25	22	229	Minankabau	6	*	*	*	*
Bengali	940	22	23	22	224	Mongolian	261	19	19	20	190
Berber	37	21	21	21	213	More	19	*	*	*	*
Bhili	2	*	*	*	*	Nepali	1,304	19	22	20	205
Bikol	62	23	23	23	231	Norwegian	1,815	25	23	24	242
Bulgarian	1,913	23	24	24	238	Nyanja	8	*	*	*	*
Burmese	185	21	21	21	210	Oriya	45	24	25	25	247
Catalan (Provençal)	324	22	23	24	229	Oromo	26	*	*	*	*
Cebuano (Visayan)	737	24	24	23	236	Palauan	90	20	19	17	189
Chichewa	64	21	24	22	225	Panay-Hiligaynon	359	24	23	23	233
Chinese	28,379	20	21	21	205	Pashto	62	23	22	21	219
Chuvash	5	*	*	*	*	Pidgin	10	*	*	*	*
Czech	690	23	23	23	230	Polish	1,793	23	23	23	229
Danish	866	26	25	25	255	Ponapean	12	*	*	*	*
Dutch	1,671	26	25	26	258	Portuguese	9,706	22	22	23	224
Efik - Ibibio	26	*	*	*	*	Punjabi	548	23	24	23	233
English	4,108	24	25	24	241	Romanian	2,203	24	24	25	242
Estonian	175	25	24	24	241	Ruanda	31	18	21	20	197
Ewe	138	21	24	22	224	Russian	7,551	23	23	23	228
Farsi (Persian)	2,221	22	21	21	215	Samar-Leyte	34	22	22	21	219
Fijian	15	*	*	*	*	Samoan	56	23	23	20	224
Finnish	746	25	24	25	248	Santali	0	*	*	*	*
French	13,241	21	23	24	227	Serbo-Croatian	1,239	24	23	23	234
Fula (Peulh)	46	19	22	20	204	Sesotho	13	*	*	*	*
Galician	8	*	*	*	*	Setswana	226	20	24	21	218
Ganda (Luganda)	28	*	*	*	*	Shona	185	24	26	23	245
Georgian	157	23	22	23	226	Sindhi	101	24	24	23	237
German	12,778	25	25	25	249	Sinhalese	764	22	23	22	224
Greek	5,787	22	23	22	221	Siwati	8	*	*	*	*
Guarani	7	*	*	*	*	Slovak	368	24	24	24	237
Gujarati	1,142	22	22	21	218	Slovene	148	24	23	24	238
Hausa	44	20	23	22	215	Somali	92	21	19	20	202
Hebrew	2,010	25	23	24	240	Spanish	29,934	22	22	23	226
Hindi	2,327	24	25	24	246	Sundanese	24	*	*	*	*
Hungarian (Magyar)	1,086	23	23	23	232	Swahili	636	21	24	24	224
Ibo (Igbo)	323	22	25	23	236	Swedish	3,074	26	23	24	243
Icelandic	420	25	23	23	238	Tagalog	5,486	24	24	23	234
Ilocano	278	22	23	22	223	Tamil	1,182	24	24	24	241
Indonesian	7,792	21	20	21	203	Tatar	16	*	*	*	*
Italian	6,174	20	22	24	220	Telugu	967	24	24	24	242
Japanese	20,495	19	19	19	188	Thai	2,972	20	19	19	193
Javanese	108	19	19	19	189	Tibetan	32	24	24	23	238
Kannada (Kanarese)	264	25	26	25	256	Tigrinya	105	21	22	21	211
Kanuri	2	*	*	*	*	Tongan	10	*	*	*	*
Kashmiri	37	25	26	25	255	Trukese	12	*	*	*	*
Kazakh	176	21	22	22	218	Tulu	15	*	*	*	*
Khmer (Kampuchean)	119	22	20	20	207	Turkish	8,885	21	22	22	214
Kikuyu	1,112	22	25	23	233	Turkmen	26	*	*	*	*
Kirundi	21	*	*	*	*	Twi-Fante	305	23	26	23	236
Konkani	113	26	27	26	280	Ukrainian	814	22	22	23	224
Korean	15,606	20	19	20	197	Urdu	2,156	23	24	22	230
Kurdish	57	22	21	22	216	Uzbek	289	20	21	21	206
Kurukh (Oraon)	0	*	*	*	*	Vietnamese	1,178	19	20	20	195
Kusaiean	2	*	*	*	*	Wolof	180	16	20	19	182
Lao	41	19	17	17	178	Xhosa	19	*	*	*	*
Latvian	174	22	22	22	219	Yiddish	1	*	*	*	*
Lingala	37	16	19	19	182	Yoruba	447	23	25	23	240
Lithuanian	266	23	22	23	226	Zulu	21	*	*	*	*
Luba-Lulua	7	*	*	*	*						
Luo	303	22	26	23	237						

(1) Because of the unreliability of statistics based on small samples, means are not reported for subgroups of less than 30 for a total of 404 examinees.

(2) Because of changes in region and/or country boundaries, certain languages may have been added or deleted since the previous table was published.

(3) Includes 21,566 students who did not report their native languages.

**Table 10. TOEFL CBT Total and Section Score Means⁽¹⁾ —
Nonnative English-Speaking Examinees Classified by Geographic Region and Native Country⁽²⁾**

(Based on 276,410 students who took TOEFL CBT between July 1998 and June 1999)⁽³⁾

<i>Geographic Region and Native Country</i>	<i>Number of Examinees</i>	<i>Listening</i>	<i>Structure and Written Expression</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Total Score Mean</i>	<i>Geographic Region and Native Country</i>	<i>Number of Examinees</i>	<i>Listening</i>	<i>Structure and Written Expression</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Total Score Mean</i>
AFRICA						Nicaragua	194	23	22	22	223
Angola	174	18	19	18	184	Panama	568	23	21	22	220
Benin	92	16	21	20	190	Paraguay	159	22	22	22	220
Botswana	213	21	24	22	222	Peru	1,862	22	22	23	223
Burkina Faso	40	16	21	20	187	Puerto Rico	1,225	24	22	23	229
Burundi	33	20	23	21	212	St. Kitts and Nevis	1	*	*	*	*
Cameroon	294	19	22	22	211	St. Lucia	0	*	*	*	*
Cape Verde	37	20	18	18	186	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0	*	*	*	*
Central African Republic	10	*	*	*	*	Suriname	39	24	24	23	236
Chad	31	17	20	20	188	Trinidad and Tobago	0	*	*	*	*
Comoros	4	*	*	*	*	United States of America	797	23	22	22	224
Congo Republic	38	18	20	19	189	Uruguay	177	23	23	25	238
Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	223	18	20	20	194	US Virgin Islands	1	*	*	*	*
Djibouti	4	*	*	*	*	Venezuela	2,567	22	21	22	215
Equatorial Guinea	10	*	*	*	*	ASIA					
Eritrea	99	20	21	21	208	Afghanistan	147	20	20	19	197
Ethiopia	618	21	21	21	210	Bangladesh	725	21	22	21	214
Gabon	36	20	21	21	204	Bhutan	8	*	*	*	*
Gambia, The	30	*	*	*	*	Brunei Darussalam	18	*	*	*	*
Ghana	631	22	26	23	235	Cambodia	135	21	20	20	203
Guinea	102	17	19	18	179	China, People's Republic of	10,961	20	22	22	211
Guinea – Bissau	10	*	*	*	*	Hong Kong	5,552	21	20	20	205
Kenya	2,462	22	25	23	232	India	7,480	24	25	24	243
Lesotho	5	*	*	*	*	Indonesia	7,956	21	20	21	203
Liberia	11	*	*	*	*	Japan	20,554	19	19	19	188
Madagascar	82	18	22	22	209	Korea (DPR)	1,043	18	18	18	178
Malawi	51	22	26	23	234	Korea (ROK)	14,862	20	20	20	198
Mali	70	18	20	19	190	Laos	48	20	18	18	187
Mauritania	20	*	*	*	*	Macau	141	20	20	20	201
Mauritius	118	24	26	25	252	Malaysia	2,058	22	22	22	218
Mozambique	87	18	20	21	198	Maldives	2	*	*	*	*
Namibia	24	*	*	*	*	Mongolia	259	19	19	20	191
Niger	26	*	*	*	*	Myanmar (Burma)	199	20	21	21	207
Nigeria	987	23	25	23	238	Nepal	1,327	20	22	20	205
Reunion	24	*	*	*	*	Pakistan	1,986	23	23	22	228
Rwanda	49	17	22	21	200	Philippines	7,461	24	24	23	234
Sao Tome and Principe	2	*	*	*	*	Singapore	810	25	26	26	255
Senegal	364	16	19	19	180	Sri Lanka	1,152	22	22	22	218
Seychelles	4	*	*	*	*	Taiwan	10,071	20	20	19	194
Sierra Leone	35	21	23	21	215	Thailand	3,038	20	19	19	193
Somalia	87	21	19	19	197	Vietnam	1,232	19	20	20	196
South Africa	282	26	26	25	257	EUROPE					
Swaziland	8	*	*	*	*	Albania	554	21	22	20	210
Tanzania	345	20	23	21	212	Andorra	23	*	*	*	*
Togo	115	17	20	20	188	Armenia	310	22	22	22	220
Tunisia	241	20	21	22	211	Austria	1,005	25	25	25	250
Uganda	148	22	26	23	237	Azerbaijan	222	21	21	21	211
Congolese (Formerly Zaire)	143	19	21	20	200	Azores	3	*	*	*	*
Zambia	118	23	25	23	238	Belarus	355	23	23	23	231
Zimbabwe	215	23	26	23	242	Belgium	786	25	25	26	252
AMERICAS						Bosnia and Herzegovina	464	23	22	22	227
Antigua and Barbuda	3	*	*	*	*	Bulgaria	1,952	23	24	24	238
Argentina	2,804	23	23	24	233	Croatia	370	24	23	24	237
Aruba	92	20	18	18	187	Cyprus	1,597	21	22	20	210
Bahamas	3	*	*	*	*	Czech Republic	653	23	23	23	232
Barbados	2	*	*	*	*	Denmark	887	26	25	25	255
Belize	20	*	*	*	*	England	44	24	23	22	230
Bermuda	0	*	*	*	*	Estonia	234	24	24	24	238
Bolivia	459	22	21	22	219	Faeroe Island	1	*	*	*	*
Brazil	8,880	22	22	23	223	Finland	809	26	24	25	249
British West Indies	1	*	*	*	*	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	229	23	22	21	219
Canada	1,453	23	22	22	221	France	9,823	21	23	24	228
Chile	1,327	22	21	24	223	Georgia	182	23	22	23	226
Colombia	5,184	22	22	23	223	Germany	10,659	25	25	25	249
Costa Rica	419	24	23	24	237	Greece	4,560	22	23	22	223
Cuba	316	20	19	22	203	Greenland	0	*	*	*	*
Dominica, Commonwealth of	8	*	*	*	*	Hungary	965	23	23	23	231
Dominican Republic	571	22	21	22	216	Iceland	423	25	23	23	238
Ecuador	989	22	22	22	222	Ireland	6	*	*	*	*
El Salvador	283	23	22	22	222	Isle of Man	1	*	*	*	*
French Guiana	6	*	*	*	*	Italy	6,085	20	22	24	220
Grenada	1	*	*	*	*	Kazakhstan	460	22	22	22	220
Guadaloupe	21	*	*	*	*	Kyrgyzstan	102	22	22	22	218
Guatemala	558	23	22	22	222	Latvia	316	22	22	22	220
Guyana	0	*	*	*	*	Liechtenstein	11	*	*	*	*
Haiti	435	20	20	19	197	Lithuania	301	23	22	23	226
Honduras	342	24	23	23	231	Luxembourg	48	25	25	25	251
Jamaica	8	*	*	*	*	Madeira Islands	2	*	*	*	*
Martinique	29	*	*	*	*						
Mexico	6,495	23	22	23	228						
Netherlands Antilles	67	24	23	23	232						

(continued)

Table 10 (continued)

Geographic Region and Native Country	Number of Examinees	Listening	Structure and Written Expression	Reading	Total Score Mean	Geographic Region and Native Country	Number of Examinees	Listening	Structure and Written Expression	Reading	Total Score Mean
EUROPE (cont'd.)						Jordan	2,180	21	20	20	202
Malta	8	*	*	*	*	Kuwait	2,358	18	15	15	159
Moldova	208	23	23	24	233	Lebanon	3,823	22	22	21	216
Monaco	12	*	*	*	*	Libya	71	21	18	19	192
Netherlands	1,272	26	25	26	256	Morocco	1,123	19	21	20	200
Northern Ireland	1	*	*	*	*	Oman	414	20	18	17	183
Norway	1,833	25	23	24	241	Qatar	294	19	16	15	168
Poland	1,789	23	23	23	229	Saudi Arabia	3,773	19	16	16	172
Portugal	604	25	24	25	248	Sudan	396	21	21	20	205
Romania	2,196	24	24	25	243	Syria	952	21	20	20	202
Russia	5,115	23	23	23	229	United Arab Emirates	1,649	18	17	15	168
San Marino	1	*	*	*	*	West Bank	0	*	*	*	*
Scotland	4	*	*	*	*	Yemen	306	18	18	17	176
Slovakia	366	24	24	24	237	PACIFIC REGION					
Slovenia	147	24	23	24	238	American Samoa	80	21	22	20	210
Spain	3,850	22	23	24	230	Australia	47	21	21	21	210
Sweden	3,058	25	23	24	242	Cook Islands	0	*	*	*	*
Switzerland	1,831	24	24	25	243	Federated States of Micronesia	25	*	*	*	*
Tajikistan	43	21	20	21	208	Fiji	36	21	22	20	209
Turkey	8,781	21	22	22	213	French Polynesia	24	*	*	*	*
Turkmenistan	60	20	21	21	206	Guam	3	*	*	*	*
Ukraine	1,847	23	23	23	227	Kiribati	0	*	*	*	*
United Kingdom	50	23	22	23	226	Marshall Islands	38	20	18	18	188
Uzbekistan	524	21	21	21	210	Nauru	2	*	*	*	*
Vatican City	0	*	*	*	*	New Caledonia	12	*	*	*	*
Wales	3	*	*	*	*	New Zealand	29	*	*	*	*
Yugoslavia	839	24	23	23	235	Niue Island	0	*	*	*	*
MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA						Northern Mariana Islands	2	*	*	*	*
Algeria	245	20	20	21	203	Papua New Guinea	4	*	*	*	*
Bahrain	505	20	19	17	188	Palau	94	20	19	17	188
Egypt	4,259	20	21	21	209	Solomon Islands	2	*	*	*	*
Gaza Strip	0	*	*	*	*	Tahiti	18	*	*	*	*
Iran	2,360	22	21	21	214	Tonga	11	*	*	*	*
Iraq	440	22	21	21	212	Tuvalu	0	*	*	*	*
Israel	2,328	25	23	23	236	Vanuatu	0	*	*	*	*
						Western Samoa	4	*	*	*	*

(1) Because of the unreliability of statistics based on small samples, means are not reported for subgroups of less than 30 for a total of 536 examinees.
(2) Because of changes in region and/or country boundaries, certain countries may have been added or deleted since the previous table was published.
(3) Includes 23,176 students who did not report country of birth or who reported English as their native language.

Table 11 presents the overall frequency distribution of CBT essay scores based on examinees who took the CBT test between July 1998 and June 1999. Writing is a mandatory section of the CBT test. The essay in the Writing section is

holistically scored using a criterion-referenced 6-point score scale. This score is incorporated into the Structure/Writing scaled score. Further information can be found in the *Computer-Based TOEFL Score User Guide*.

Table 11. Frequency Distribution of CBT Essay Scores for All Examinees
(Based on 276,410 examinees who took the CBT test between July 1998 and June 1999)

CBT Essay Score	N	Percent	Percentile Rank
6.0	12,550	4.54	98
5.5	21,124	7.64	92
5.0	28,247	10.22	83
4.5	47,124	17.05	69
4.0	61,815	22.36	49
3.5	45,871	16.60	30
3.0	34,526	12.49	15
2.5	13,494	4.88	7
2.0	7,134	2.58	3
1.5	1,969	0.71	1
1.0	1,569	0.57	1
0.0	987	0.36	



The Paper-Based TOEFL Test



In 1998-99, the paper-based (or paper-and-pencil) format of the test continued to be administered on specified dates in some countries, as well as in areas where accessibility to CBT testing centers was a concern.

Each form of the current (1999) paper-based TOEFL test consists of three separately timed sections;

the questions in each section are multiple-choice, with four possible answers or options per question. All responses are gridded on answer sheets that are computer scored.

• Section 1 of the test, **Listening Comprehension**, measures the ability to understand English as it is spoken in North America. The oral features of the language are stressed, and the problems tested include vocabulary and idiomatic expression as well as special grammatical constructions that are frequently used in spoken English. The stimulus material and oral questions are recorded in standard North American English; the response options are printed in the test books.

• Section 2, **Structure and Written Expression**, measures recognition of selected structural and grammatical points in standard written English. The language tested is formal, rather than conversational. The topics of the sentences are of a general academic nature so that individuals in specific fields of study or from specific national or linguistic groups have no particular advantage.

• Section 3, **Reading Comprehension**, measures the ability to read and understand short passages that are similar in topic and style to those that students are likely to encounter in North American colleges and universities. Examinees read a variety of short passages on academic subjects and answer several questions about each passage. The questions test information that is stated in or implied by the passage, as well as knowledge of some of the specific words as they are used in the passage.

The total test time is approximately two and one-half hours; however, approximately three and one-half hours

are needed for a test administration to admit examinees to the testing room, to allow them to enter identifying information on their answer sheets, and to distribute and collect the test materials.

Material for the TOEFL test is prepared by language specialists. The TOEFL Committee of Examiners establishes overall guidelines for the test content and specifications. All item specifications, questions, and final test forms are reviewed for cultural and racial bias and content appropriateness, according to established ETS procedures.

All questions are pretested on representative groups of international students who are not native speakers of English. Only after the results of the pretest questions have been analyzed for statistical and content appropriateness are questions selected for the final test forms.

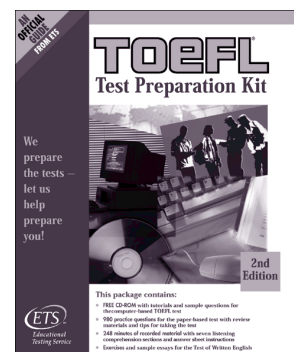
Test Preparation — To provide candidates with a simulation of the testing experience before the actual administration, previously administered test forms are packaged and made available world wide.

Currently there are four test preparation packages:

- Sample Test (140 questions)
- Practice Tests, Volume 1 (280 questions)
- Practice Tests, Volume 2 (560 questions)
- Test Preparation Kit (980 questions)

Each package contains unique questions; no test forms are repeated.

For more information about test preparation products, see the *Information Bulletin* or www.toefl.org.



In 2000-01, the paper-based TOEFL test will be administered on these dates. Check the *Information Bulletin* for your area. Not all centers are open on all dates.

- July 15, 2000
- August 26, 2000
- September 16, 2000
- October 21, 2000
- January 20, 2001
- March 16, 2001
- May 12, 2001

The Test of Written English (TWE), a 30-minute writing test, will be administered with the TOEFL test on the above dates.



Paper-Based Test Data for 1998-99

In 1998-99 the paper-based TOEFL test was administered twelve times at preestablished testing centers throughout the world. The data presented below are based on 340,223 candidates who took the TOEFL test between July 1998 and June 1999.

Table 12 gives actual ranges of observed scores for the period from July 1998 through June 1999. The percentile ranks for section and total scaled scores are

shown in **Table 13** for the total group. In **Tables 14-17**, examinees have been classified by their reason for taking the test (information supplied by them at the test center). These tables summarize the performance of self-selected groups of examinees who are not necessarily representative of the general TOEFL population.

Table 12. Minimum and Maximum Observed Paper-Based TOEFL Section and Total Scores

Section	Min.	Max.
1. Listening Comprehension	31	68
2. Structure and Written Expression	31	68
3. Reading Comprehension	31	67
Total	310	677

Table 13. Percentile Ranks for Paper-Based TOEFL Scores — Total Group*

Scaled Score	Section 1 Listening Comprehension	Section 2 Structure and Written Expression	Section 3 Reading Comprehension	Total Scaled Score	Percentile Rank
68		98			
66	99	96	99	660	99
64	97	91	94	640	97
62	95	87	88	620	92
60	90	80	80	600	86
58	84	70	70	580	77
56	75	60	58	560	66
54	65	49	47	540	54
52	54	39	36	520	42
50	41	30	26	500	30
48	30	21	19	480	21
46	20	15	13	460	14
44	12	10	9	440	9
42	6	6	6	420	5
40	4	4	4	400	3
38	2	2	3	380	1
36	1	1	2	360	1
34			1	340	
31				310	
Mean	51.5	53.8	53.9	Mean	531
S.D.	6.5	7.4	7.0	S.D.	63

*Based on the total group of 340,223 examinees tested between July 1998 and June 1999 in paper-based test centers. (Total group includes 37,843 examinees not included in Tables 14-17 who did not indicate a "reason for taking TOEFL" or who indicated reasons other than those given in Tables 14-17.)

Table 14. Percentile Ranks for Paper-Based TOEFL Scores — Graduate-Level Students*

Scaled Score	Section 1 Listening Comprehension	Section 2 Structure and Written Expression	Section 3 Reading Comprehension	Total Scaled Score	Percentile Rank
68	99	98			
66	99	94	99	660	99
64	97	88	92	640	96
62	94	82	84	620	90
60	87	74	73	600	81
58	81	61	60	580	70
56	71	49	47	560	57
54	59	38	34	540	43
52	46	28	23	520	30
50	34	19	16	500	20
48	22	13	10	480	12
46	14	8	6	460	7
44	8	5	4	440	4
42	4	3	3	420	2
40	2	2	2	400	1
38	1	1	1	380	
36	1	1	1	360	
34				340	
31				310	
Mean	52.6	55.7	55.9	Mean	548
S.D.	6.1	6.7	6.2	S.D.	57

*Based on 206,934 examinees who, on their TOEFL answer sheets, indicated that they were applying for admission to colleges or universities as graduate students.

Table 15. Percentile Ranks for Paper-Based TOEFL Scores — Undergraduate-Level Students*

Scaled Score	Section 1 Listening Comprehension	Section 2 Structure and Written Expression	Section 3 Reading Comprehension	Total Scaled Score	Percentile Rank
68	99	99			
66	99	97		660	99
64	97	95	98	640	98
62	95	93	95	620	95
60	91	89	91	600	92
58	86	83	86	580	87
56	80	76	78	560	80
54	72	67	68	540	71
52	62	57	56	520	60
50	51	46	44	500	47
48	39	34	33	480	34
46	27	24	23	460	23
44	16	16	16	440	14
42	9	10	11	420	8
40	5	6	7	400	4
38	3	3	5	380	2
36	2	2	3	360	1
34	1	1	2	340	
31		1	1	310	
Mean S.D.	50.3 6.8	51.0 7.3	50.7 6.9	Mean S.D.	506 63

*Based on 82,819 examinees who, on their TOEFL answer sheets, indicated that they were applying for admission to colleges or universities as undergraduate students.

Table 16. Percentile Ranks for Paper-Based TOEFL Scores — Other Students*

Scaled Score	Section 1 Listening Comprehension	Section 2 Structure and Written Expression	Section 3 Reading Comprehension	Total Scaled Score	Percentile Rank
68					
66	99	99	99	660	
64	99	98	99	640	99
62	98	98	98	620	99
60	97	96	96	600	97
58	95	93	93	580	95
56	91	89	88	560	91
54	86	82	81	540	85
52	79	74	72	520	77
50	69	65	61	500	67
48	57	54	51	480	55
46	44	43	41	460	42
44	31	32	31	440	31
42	19	22	22	420	21
40	11	15	16	400	13
38	6	9	11	380	7
36	4	6	7	360	3
34	3	4	5	340	1
31		1	2	310	
Mean S.D.	47.2 6.4	47.3 7.2	47.5 7.4	Mean S.D.	473 63

*Based on 8,159 examinees who, on their TOEFL answer sheets, indicated that they were applying for admission to schools other than colleges or universities, e.g., secondary schools.

Table 17. Percentile Ranks for Paper-Based TOEFL Scores — Applicants for Professional License*

Scaled Score	Section 1 Listening Comprehension	Section 2 Structure and Written Expression	Section 3 Reading Comprehension	Total Scaled Score	Percentile Rank
68		99		660	
66		98	98	640	98
64	99	96	97	620	97
62	97	94	94	600	93
60	95	90	88		
				580	88
58	92	83	79	560	79
56	86	74	69	540	68
54	78	64	58	520	57
52	68	54	48	500	46
50	56	44	39		
				480	35
48	44	35	31	460	25
46	32	26	23	440	17
44	21	18	17	420	11
42	12	12	12	400	6
40	7	8	8		
				380	3
38	4	5	6	360	2
36	3	3	4	340	1
34	2	2	3	310	
31		1	2		
Mean S.D.	49.1 6.5	50.9 7.5	51.5 7.7	Mean S.D.	505 66

*Based on 4,468 examinees who, on their TOEFL answer sheets, indicated that they were taking TOEFL to become licensed to practice their professions in the United States or Canada.

Tables 20 and 21 may be useful in comparing the performance on the TOEFL test of a particular student with that of other students from the same country and with that of students who speak the same language. It is important to point out that the data do not permit the generalization that there are fundamental differences in the ability of the various national and language groups to learn English or in the level of English proficiency they can attain. The tables are based simply on the performance of those examinees native to particular countries and languages who happened to take the paper-based TOEFL test.

Table 20. Paper-Based TOEFL Total and Section Score Means⁽¹⁾ — All Examinees Classified by Native Language⁽²⁾
(Based on 340,223 students who took the test between July 1998 and June 1999)⁽³⁾

<i>Native Language</i>	<i>Number of Examinees</i>	<i>Listening Comprehension</i>	<i>Structure and Written Expression</i>	<i>Reading Comprehension</i>	<i>Total Score Mean</i>	<i>Native Language</i>	<i>Number of Examinees</i>	<i>Listening Comprehension</i>	<i>Structure and Written Expression</i>	<i>Reading Comprehension</i>	<i>Total Score Mean</i>
Afrikaans	322	48	50	50	491	Macedonian	3	*	*	*	*
Albanian	7	*	*	*	*	Madurese	15	*	*	*	*
Amharic	7	*	*	*	*	Malagasy	5	*	*	*	*
Arabic	142	52	53	52	525	Malay	73	53	54	54	536
Armenian	2	*	*	*	*	Malayalam	1,052	58	62	61	603
Assamese	99	53	55	55	541	Malinke-Bambara-Dyula	11	*	*	*	*
Azeri	0	*	*	*	*	Maltese	1	*	*	*	*
Bashkir	1	*	*	*	*	Marathi	1,971	58	62	60	599
Basque (Euskara)	0	*	*	*	*	Marshallese	0	*	*	*	*
Belarussian	1	*	*	*	*	Mende	2	*	*	*	*
Bemba	2	*	*	*	*	Minangkabau	0	*	*	*	*
Bengali	5,017	52	54	54	536	Mongolian	31	52	53	54	531
Berber	2	*	*	*	*	More	0	*	*	*	*
Bhili	0	*	*	*	*	Nepali	84	56	55	55	556
Bikol	2	*	*	*	*	Norwegian	31	62	62	59	612
Bulgarian	25	*	*	*	*	Nyanja	0	*	*	*	*
Burmese	856	50	52	52	514	Oriya	148	57	61	60	594
Catalan (Provencal)	1	*	*	*	*	Oromo	1	*	*	*	*
Cebuano (Visayan)	9	*	*	*	*	Palauan	4	*	*	*	*
Chichewa	2	*	*	*	*	Panay-Hiligaynon	4	*	*	*	*
Chinese	113,749	52	55	55	543	Pashto	215	52	53	52	520
Chuvash	0	*	*	*	*	Pidgin	0	*	*	*	*
Czech	5	*	*	*	*	Polish	7	*	*	*	*
Danish	6	*	*	*	*	Ponapean	0	*	*	*	*
Dutch	12	*	*	*	*	Portuguese	107	55	55	56	554
Efik - Ibibio	8	*	*	*	*	Punjabi	1,050	55	57	56	562
English	1,046	59	61	59	595	Romanian	12	*	*	*	*
Estonian	2	*	*	*	*	Ruanda	0	*	*	*	*
Ewe	22	*	*	*	*	Russian	104	57	54	52	541
Farsi (Persian)	63	53	53	51	523	Samar-Leyte	1	*	*	*	*
Fijian	2	*	*	*	*	Samoa	0	*	*	*	*
Finnish	11	*	*	*	*	Santali	3	*	*	*	*
French	125	57	58	57	573	Serbo-Croatian	76	57	54	54	548
Fula (Peulh)	7	*	*	*	*	Sesotho	1	*	*	*	*
Galician	0	*	*	*	*	Setswana	3	*	*	*	*
Ganda (Luganda)	1	*	*	*	*	Shona	2	*	*	*	*
Georgian	1	*	*	*	*	Sindhi	346	56	58	56	567
German	68	61	61	60	609	Sinhalese	29	*	*	*	*
Greek	14	*	*	*	*	Siswati	1	*	*	*	*
Guarani	14	*	*	*	*	Slovak	6	*	*	*	*
Gujarati	4,085	53	55	55	542	Slovene	13	*	*	*	*
Hausa	7	*	*	*	*	Somali	4	*	*	*	*
Hebrew	10	*	*	*	*	Spanish	121	57	57	57	569
Hindi	7,510	58	61	60	598	Sundanese	2	*	*	*	*
Hungarian (Magyar)	14	*	*	*	*	Swahili	21	*	*	*	*
Ibo (Igbo)	81	55	58	55	561	Swedish	21	*	*	*	*
Icelandic	3	*	*	*	*	Tagalog	96	57	58	57	572
Ilocano	3	*	*	*	*	Tamil	3,884	58	62	60	599
Indonesian	78	56	52	55	546	Tatar	2	*	*	*	*
Italian	27	*	*	*	*	Telugu	7,647	55	58	57	568
Japanese	99,314	49	51	50	501	Thai	14,989	50	51	53	512
Javanese	215	50	49	50	494	Tibetan	94	53	55	55	543
Kannada (Kanarese)	1,169	57	61	60	595	Tigrinya	3	*	*	*	*
Kanuri	0	*	*	*	*	Tongan	0	*	*	*	*
Kashmiri	63	58	63	60	603	Trukese	1	*	*	*	*
Kazakh	28	*	*	*	*	Tulu	66	60	63	62	618
Khmer (Kampuchean)	104	47	50	49	488	Turkish	29	*	*	*	*
Kikuyu	3	*	*	*	*	Turkmen	0	*	*	*	*
Kirundi	0	*	*	*	*	Twi-Fante	6	*	*	*	*
Konkani	314	61	64	62	622	Ukrainian	7	*	*	*	*
Korean	61,842	51	54	55	535	Urdu	6,061	54	55	54	545
Kurdish	4	*	*	*	*	Uzbek	4	*	*	*	*
Kurukh (Oraon)	0	*	*	*	*	Vietnamese	535	50	55	54	529
Kusaiean	31	51	50	48	497	Wolof	2	*	*	*	*
Lao	48	47	46	47	464	Xhosa	1	*	*	*	*
Latvian	5	*	*	*	*	Yiddish	1	*	*	*	*
Lingala	1	*	*	*	*	Yoruba	84	55	60	56	569
Lithuanian	3	*	*	*	*	Zulu	0	*	*	*	*
Luba-Lulua	1	*	*	*	*						
Luo	4	*	*	*	*						

(1) Because of the unreliability of statistics based on small samples, means are not reported for subgroups of less than 30 for a total of 495 examinees.
(2) Because of changes in region and/or country boundaries, certain languages may have been added or deleted since the previous table was published.
(3) Includes 2,870 students who did not report their native languages.

**Table 21. Paper-Based TOEFL Total and Section Score Means⁽¹⁾ —
Nonnative English-Speaking Examinees Classified by Geographic Region and Native Country⁽²⁾**

(Based on 340,223 students who took the test between July 1998 and June 1999)⁽³⁾

<i>Geographic Region and Native Country</i>	<i>Number of Examinees</i>	<i>Listening Comprehension</i>	<i>Structure and Written Expression</i>	<i>Reading Comprehension</i>	<i>Total Score Mean</i>	<i>Geographic Region and Native Country</i>	<i>Number of Examinees</i>	<i>Listening Comprehension</i>	<i>Structure and Written Expression</i>	<i>Reading Comprehension</i>	<i>Total Score Mean</i>
AFRICA						Nicaragua	0	*	*	*	*
Angola	17	*	*	*	*	Panama	5	*	*	*	*
Benin	5	*	*	*	*	Paraguay	33	51	53	53	525
Botswana	3	*	*	*	*	Peru	25	*	*	*	*
Burkina Faso	1	*	*	*	*	Puerto Rico	0	*	*	*	*
Burundi	3	*	*	*	*	St. Kitts and Nevis	0	*	*	*	*
Cameroon	1	*	*	*	*	St. Lucia	0	*	*	*	*
Cape Verde	0	*	*	*	*	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0	*	*	*	*
Central African Republic	0	*	*	*	*	Suriname	0	*	*	*	*
Chad	0	*	*	*	*	Trinidad and Tobago	1	*	*	*	*
Comoros	0	*	*	*	*	United States of America	320	58	57	56	570
Congo Republic	0	*	*	*	*	Uruguay	1	*	*	*	*
Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	2	*	*	*	*	US Virgin Islands	0	*	*	*	*
Djibouti	0	*	*	*	*	Venezuela	11	*	*	*	*
Equatorial Guinea	0	*	*	*	*	ASIA					
Eritrea	0	*	*	*	*	Afghanistan	153	49	50	49	493
Ethiopia	12	*	*	*	*	Bangladesh	3,885	50	52	52	515
Gabon	3	*	*	*	*	Bhutan	28	*	*	*	*
Gambia, The	5	*	*	*	*	Brunei Darussalam	2	*	*	*	*
Ghana	37	53	54	54	535	Cambodia	102	47	50	49	488
Guinea	11	*	*	*	*	China, People's Republic of	70,760	54	58	57	562
Guinea – Bissau	0	*	*	*	*	Hong Kong	9,427	53	51	53	524
Kenya	25	*	*	*	*	India	30,658	56	60	59	583
Lesotho	2	*	*	*	*	Indonesia	87	56	52	55	545
Liberia	1	*	*	*	*	Japan	100,453	49	51	50	501
Madagascar	5	*	*	*	*	Korea (DPR)	336	49	51	52	510
Malawi	2	*	*	*	*	Korea (ROK)	61,667	51	54	55	535
Mali	7	*	*	*	*	Laos	49	47	46	47	466
Mauritania	2	*	*	*	*	Macau	556	50	51	51	506
Mauritius	2	*	*	*	*	Malaysia	218	54	53	55	536
Mozambique	5	*	*	*	*	Maldives	1	*	*	*	*
Namibia	1	*	*	*	*	Mongolia	17	*	*	*	*
Niger	0	*	*	*	*	Myanmar (Burma)	867	50	52	52	515
Nigeria	209	55	59	56	566	Nepal	71	57	56	56	560
Reunion	0	*	*	*	*	Pakistan	6,274	54	55	54	542
Rwanda	0	*	*	*	*	Philippines	92	58	59	58	584
Sao Tome and Principe	0	*	*	*	*	Singapore	23	*	*	*	*
Senegal	1	*	*	*	*	Sri Lanka	57	57	57	57	571
Seychelles	0	*	*	*	*	Taiwan	32,967	50	51	52	510
Sierra Leone	3	*	*	*	*	Thailand	15,054	50	51	53	512
Somalia	3	*	*	*	*	Vietnam	531	50	55	54	530
South Africa	6	*	*	*	*	EUROPE					
Swaziland	1	*	*	*	*	Albania	7	*	*	*	*
Tanzania	13	*	*	*	*	Andorra	0	*	*	*	*
Togo	30	*	*	*	*	Armenia	2	*	*	*	*
Tunisia	1	*	*	*	*	Austria	9	*	*	*	*
Uganda	4	*	*	*	*	Azerbaijan	0	*	*	*	*
Congolese - DRC (Formerly Zaire)	22	*	*	*	*	Azores	0	*	*	*	*
Zambia	3	*	*	*	*	Belarus	2	*	*	*	*
Zimbabwe	2	*	*	*	*	Belgium	9	*	*	*	*
AMERICAS						Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	*	*	*	*
Antigua and Barbuda	0	*	*	*	*	Bulgaria	25	*	*	*	*
Argentina	14	*	*	*	*	Croatia	4	*	*	*	*
Aruba	0	*	*	*	*	Cyprus	0	*	*	*	*
Bahamas	0	*	*	*	*	Czech Republic	5	*	*	*	*
Barbados	0	*	*	*	*	Denmark	5	*	*	*	*
Belize	0	*	*	*	*	England	17	*	*	*	*
Bermuda	0	*	*	*	*	Estonia	2	*	*	*	*
Bolivia	2	*	*	*	*	Faeroe Island	0	*	*	*	*
Brazil	69	57	55	56	561	Finland	11	*	*	*	*
British West Indies	1	*	*	*	*	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3	*	*	*	*
Canada	66	58	56	55	564	France	142	54	55	55	549
Chile	5	*	*	*	*	Georgia	1	*	*	*	*
Colombia	16	*	*	*	*	Germany	44	62	62	61	617
Costa Rica	4	*	*	*	*	Greece	2	*	*	*	*
Cuba	6	*	*	*	*	Greenland	0	*	*	*	*
Dominica, Commonwealth of	2	*	*	*	*	Hungary	14	*	*	*	*
Dominican Republic	5	*	*	*	*	Iceland	1	*	*	*	*
Ecuador	3	*	*	*	*	Ireland	0	*	*	*	*
El Salvador	1	*	*	*	*	Isle of Man	0	*	*	*	*
French Guiana	0	*	*	*	*	Italy	27	*	*	*	*
Grenada	0	*	*	*	*	Kazakhstan	29	*	*	*	*
Guadaloupe	0	*	*	*	*	Kyrgyzstan	2	*	*	*	*
Guatemala	1	*	*	*	*	Latvia	6	*	*	*	*
Guyana	0	*	*	*	*	Liechtenstein	0	*	*	*	*
Haiti	0	*	*	*	*	Lithuania	2	*	*	*	*
Honduras	0	*	*	*	*	Luxembourg	1	*	*	*	*
Jamaica	0	*	*	*	*	Madeira Islands	0	*	*	*	*
Martinique	6	*	*	*	*						
Mexico	22	*	*	*	*						
Netherlands Antilles	2	*	*	*	*						

(continued)

Table 21 (continued)

Geographic Region and Native Country	Number of Examinees	Listening Comprehension	Structure and Written Expression	Reading Comprehension	Total Score Mean	Geographic Region and Native Country	Number of Examinees	Listening Comprehension	Structure and Written Expression	Reading Comprehension	Total Score Mean
EUROPE (cont'd.)						Jordan	161	50	53	54	527
Malta	2	*	*	*	*	Kuwait	3	*	*	*	*
Moldova	1	*	*	*	*	Lebanon	146	49	50	50	498
Monaco	0	*	*	*	*	Libya	13	*	*	*	*
Netherlands	8	*	*	*	*	Morocco	3	*	*	*	*
Northern Ireland	3	*	*	*	*	Oman	3	*	*	*	*
Norway	62	62	62	59	607	Qatar	4	*	*	*	*
Poland	8	*	*	*	*	Saudi Arabia	18	*	*	*	*
Portugal	144	53	56	56	550	Sudan	13	*	*	*	*
Romania	12	*	*	*	*	Syria	2	*	*	*	*
Russia	88	57	54	52	541	United Arab Emirates	2	*	*	*	*
San Marino	0	*	*	*	*	West Bank	0	*	*	*	*
Scotland	0	*	*	*	*	Yemen	1	*	*	*	*
Slovakia	3	*	*	*	*	PACIFIC REGION					
Slovenia	13	*	*	*	*	American Samoa	1	*	*	*	*
Spain	14	*	*	*	*	Australia	11	*	*	*	*
Sweden	18	*	*	*	*	Cook Islands	0	*	*	*	*
Switzerland	36	58	59	57	581	Federated States of Micronesia	39	51	49	48	493
Tajikistan	4	*	*	*	*	Fiji	1	*	*	*	*
Turkey	29	*	*	*	*	French Polynesia	1	*	*	*	*
Turkmenistan	0	*	*	*	*	Guam	0	*	*	*	*
Ukraine	9	*	*	*	*	Kiribati	2	*	*	*	*
United Kingdom	9	*	*	*	*	Marshall Islands	3	*	*	*	*
Uzbekistan	6	*	*	*	*	Nauru	0	*	*	*	*
Vatican City	0	*	*	*	*	New Caledonia	1	*	*	*	*
Wales	2	*	*	*	*	New Zealand	1	*	*	*	*
Yugoslavia	74	57	54	54	548	Niue Island	0	*	*	*	*
MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA						Northern Mariana Islands	0	*	*	*	*
Algeria	75	49	51	51	501	Papua New Guinea	2	*	*	*	*
Bahrain	0	*	*	*	*	Palau	4	*	*	*	*
Egypt	13	*	*	*	*	Solomon Islands	0	*	*	*	*
Gaza Strip	1	*	*	*	*	Tahiti	2	*	*	*	*
Iran	40	54	53	52	531	Tonga	0	*	*	*	*
Iraq	0	*	*	*	*	Tuvalu	0	*	*	*	*
Israel	11	*	*	*	*	Vanuatu	0	*	*	*	*
						Western Samoa	0	*	*	*	*

(1) Because of the unreliability of statistics based on small samples, means are not reported for subgroups of less than 30 for a total of 852 examinees.
(2) Because of changes in region and/or country boundaries, certain countries may have been added or deleted since the previous table was published.
(3) Includes 3,322 students who did not report country of birth or who reported English as their native language.

Table 22 presents the overall frequency distribution of Test of Written English (TWE®) scores. In 1998-99, the TWE test was administered with the paper-based TOEFL test five times on specified dates. The test is holistically

scored using a criterion-referenced 6-point score scale. Further information can be found in the *Test of Written English Guide*.

Table 22. Frequency Distribution of TWE Scores for All Examinees
(Based on 168,440 examinees who took the TWE test between July 1998 and June 1999)

TWE Score	N	Percent	Percentile Rank
6.0	2,484	1.47	99
5.5	3,632	2.16	97
5.0	15,224	9.04	92
4.5	12,967	7.70	83
4.0	55,980	33.23	63
3.5	15,630	9.28	42
3.0	39,574	23.49	25
2.5	7,957	4.72	11
2.0	11,067	6.57	6
1.5	1,765	1.05	2
1.0	2,160	1.28	1

