



Bridge[®]
Education Group



English Language Test Preparation

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An ELT Teacher's Guide to Testing
Companies and Preparation Resources

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English Language Test Preparation

Introduction

For students, taking a high-stakes English language test can be a stressful experience. Fortunately, there are myriad resources available for today's test takers and for teachers who are guiding the preparation journey. We spoke with test makers to dig into best practices and strategies for language test preparation, and we identified some of the best resources available to test takers and teachers of test takers. As an English language teacher, resources that are effective and accessible are invaluable. Because tests are now often delivered online, preparation strategies have changed in many ways. While language proficiency may be universal, test format and delivery may differ, making preparation strategies for individual tests differ, as well. In a series of interviews with testing company representatives, we found the most important test preparation strategies included familiarization with the practice test, harnessing the expertise of teachers, and immersing oneself in the English language through a variety of resources.

As many of today's tests are delivered remotely, knowing the details of the student's specific test is incredibly important, as content delivery may differ from test to test. Teachers who are well versed in the details of the specific test can guide preparation by identifying strengths and weaknesses, preparing students for specific content and response delivery methods, and more. Apps, videos, podcasts, and other resources are available for both test takers and the teachers who prepare them for exam day. Some resources are free to both students and teachers, while others require registration or purchase.





A Closer Look at Providers



Courseware Assessments Certification



Pearson PTE Academic

Pearson offers the **PTE Academic test** as well as a variety of free and paid test preparation resources on the pearsonpte.com website.



"PTE Academic was designed as a computer-based test and because of that, our prep resources have always been digital to ensure test takers can get the experience and be prepared for the test," Pearson President of English Language Learning **Gio Giovannelli** said.

Giovannelli stressed the importance of preparation that will mimic the environment of the actual test. Because the **PTE Academic test** is a high-stakes test, he said, the preparation environment is *"faithful to the high-stakes test. This way, we give our test takers the best chance to succeed, increasing their confidence and familiarity with the test format and experience."*



Download the Teacher Preparation Pathway

Our Teacher Preparation Pathway can help you to familiarize yourself with the PTE Academic, learn the fundamentals, and prepare to teach our test in the classroom.

DOWNLOAD NOW!





IELTS®

IELTS is the world's #1 English language test. For more than 30 years we've set the standard for testing, helping millions of test takers and thousands of organizations to get results they can trust. If you work in an English-speaking country, use English with international colleagues, or teach courses in English, IELTS sets you and your team up for success. IELTS has a well-earned reputation for fairness, reliability, and exacting standards and is subject to the highest quality controls, enhanced security procedures, and integrity management practices.

IELTS tests are based on decades of rigorous academic research, and more than 11,000 organizations worldwide trust IELTS, including 3,400 US institutions. IELTS offers multiple test types, in both computer-delivered and paper-based formats, assessing English language skills in listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Tests include the IELTS Academic, General Training, UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI), and UK Life Skills.



"Teachers have been vital partners to IELTS for more than 30 years. There is a substantial body of research evidence of IELTS and positive washback. IELTS tests are designed to align with the English language knowledge and skills required in academic settings--studying for the test in itself helps drive language-learning. Preparing for IELTS is in fact preparing for success in study and migration; teachers are a key element of this success. To help teachers to ensure instructional practices support strong learner outcomes, IELTS provides materials and opportunities, including free online webinars and free preparation materials."

– Ariel Foster, Executive Director/CEO at IELTS USA



Learn more about IELTS, access resources to help you with test preparation, and find out about professional development opportunities through examining and research.





Prepare efficiently for your exam

PrepMyFuture

PrepMyFuture offers preparation assistance for the following tests: TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, TEF, DELF, TCF, and more. There are also preparation resources available for admissions tests, such as TAGE MAGE, GMAT, Score IAE Message, TAGE 2, and TAGE POST BAC. **PrepMyFuture** offers a student guide, a teacher guide, and a variety of preparation courses for English, French, and Spanish exam preparation, as well as admission test preparation. Courses include Linguaskill, LanguageCert LTE, CELPIP, Road Trip US, Internship BBC, and more. The Student Guide has a study plan, lessons and activities, tests, and analytics that may be used to identify areas that need improvement. The Teacher's Guide offers resources such as homework management, simulated exam conditions, adaptive training, detailed answers, identification of weaknesses, and the ability to track student scores.



Achille Pinson, CEO of PrepMyFuture, highly encourages teachers to use PrepMyFuture with their students to enhance the attractiveness of their courses by adding online activities to complement face-to-face classes.

PrepMyFuture Main Benefits:

- ✓ Adaptive learning
- ✓ Exam conditions simulations
- ✓ Detailed explanations
- ✓ Performance analysis
- ✓ Teacher tools (set your own study plan; export grades in 2 clicks; strengths and weaknesses identification for each of your students)



Explore all of PrepMyFuture's courses!



A Closer Look at Other Test Providers

Avant Assessment offers a variety of English language tests, including STAMP, STAMP Pro, and Avant Placement.

- The STAMP test is for Grades 2–6, Grades 7–Higher Education, and Adults. The test assesses reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It's offered in English and 17 other languages.
- STAMP Pro assesses reading, writing, listening, and speaking, or it can be broken down into different combinations of skills for a shorter testing experience. This test is available in English and 16 other languages.
- Avant Place is a language placement test in reading, contextualized grammar, writing, and speaking. This is used to assess language course placement.

While there are a variety of new ways to prepare for language tests, the basic tenets remain the same: Familiarize yourself with the test and focus on language proficiency. There are no effective test hacks or shortcuts. While taking practice tests may be an old method, it's still important today. What's changed is the addition of ensuring familiarity with digital format additions.

"I think part of it is understanding how the testing system works," said Higher Education Specialist Nick Gossett. He added that reviewing a sample test is important. *"What does it look like? What should you expect?"*

Duolingo's English Test is accepted by 3,500 universities, can be completed online from anywhere, and provides results within 48 hours. The test is adaptive and assesses reading, writing, speaking, and listening. On the Duolingo website, test takers can access a free practice test, review question types, and download the official test guide. For students and teachers of English language students, Content Marketing Manager Caroline Fisher said the Test Readiness Guide is one of the best resources.

"In the guide, there's also a breakdown of each question type and tips," she added. Some are user based, so they'll ask things like 'Can I go back and submit my answer again?' and 'What happens when the time runs out?' I do think it's the best resource and the most comprehensive one we have.

All Duolingo test preparation materials are free. *"Another part of our philosophy is that we want it to be aligned to our mission, 'Accessible to all,'"* Fisher said. *"That's why all test readiness content is free, all available on our website. Go there or to our FAQs. You can also chat with our support team. You don't have to have taken the test."*



A Closer Look at Other Test Providers

English3 offers the English3 Interview for J-1 Exchange visitors and E3PT for university admissions. English3 is in the process of transitioning to the GATEWAY test and phasing out the E3PT. The English3 test assesses speaking, listening, reading, and writing. English3 offers the practice exam, tutoring services, and preparation courses that include tutor sessions, 10 practice interviews, and unlimited online practice. For students who take the exam and do not receive a passing score, there are options for one-on-one feedback and English Complete or English Plus courses.

"When you make the move from print to digital, your whole framework has to change," CEO Moroni Flake said. "For us, how we test is valid in as much as it assesses what it assesses, how well it aligns with the experience, with what students are expected to do. When you make the move to online, you now have a digital experience where you are trying to transfer to the space rather than the assessment."

"We put students in scenarios, then [they] respond," he said. "Like, they may see a teacher in a classroom and respond or respond in a classroom discussion. So, how does that flow into test prep? Prepare for the same experiences that you would need for an academic experience."

Password offers a variety of tests, which include Password Skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking), Password Skills Receptive (reading and listening), Password Knowledge (grammar and vocabulary), Password Knowledge and Writing (grammar, vocabulary, and writing), Password Pupil English (grammar, vocabulary, and writing), Password Pupil English Younger (grammar, vocabulary, and writing), Password Workforce (a choice of grammar, vocabulary, writing, and speaking), and Bespoke tests (Password test modules that may be used in combination with and/or in conjunction with in-house tests).

Depending on the test, these assessments are used for a variety of purposes, such as admission to undergraduate, postgraduate, and pre-university programs, admission to English language courses, assessment of new students, admission to independent and international schools, and for employment purposes.

"Mid- to high-stakes test preparation hasn't changed that much when it comes to the actual language skills that are being tested, but it has added certain components that would not be applicable to paper-based tests," Head of University Partnerships Shelley Vink said. "Students who are preparing for a test that is delivered online require a certain amount of digital literacy, and preparation for an at-home, online test requires a test taker to understand technical requirements, as well as the required English language skills."



A Closer Look at Other Test Providers

ETS offers the TOEFL tests and the TOEIC tests. TOEIC tests prove English communication skills for business English. TOEFL iBT and TOEFL Essentials tests measure the four core language skills for university admissions. TOEFL iBT can be taken online at home, online in a testing center, or in a paper-based format in a testing center. Preparation materials for all delivery formats are available, with some options free and some through a paid purchase.

Because there are so many options for test delivery these days and students have varying needs, Director of TOEFL Learning and Support Jazzme Blackwell said, *"We provide different test prep [resources] to meet the needs of the students."*

"For the paper-delivered test, we offer a practice test that is in the format of the paper delivered test as they would experience it on the day of the test," said Blackwell. *"Practice materials for the TOEFL iBT are also the same as they would experience. We offer TPO practice online that would simulate the experience the test taker would have."*

The TOEFL practice online test is also available in different variations, depending on what students would like to focus on – speaking only, reading and listening, or speaking and writing. The TPO practice online test must be purchased, and students receive scores.

Skills for English offers the SELT exam, which is the UK Home Office approved SELT for UK visa applications for work, study, and settlement, as well as the Skills for English Global exam for international student direct entry, career improvement, and school testing. The SELT exam is delivered in testing centers, whereas the Skills for English (Global) test has always been a computer-based test that may be taken from home, so preparation materials reflect the formats of the tests. There are practice tests available for both exams, located on the Skills for English website, with resources to help candidates identify their proficiency level, understand the test, improve their knowledge, and practice the test. Skills for English Recognitions Specialist, US and Canada, Tracy Springer points out that using the Skills for English digital preparation resources will mirror *"what will be presented to [test takers] on test day since the format will be familiar to them. It will help them be more comfortable when they take the test and, hopefully, [they will] have a better testing experience."*

Along with a variety of test preparation materials available on the Skills for English website, Springer also suggests students create an account with the SQA Academy, which is the organization that developed the Skills for English Test. Account access will provide opportunities to further develop and improve language skills, as the academy offers additional grammar and vocabulary practice for test takers.



A Closer Look at Other Test Providers

Michigan Language Assessment offers tests for young learners, teens, and adults at all levels of English proficiency. The MYLE test is a set of American English exams for beginning learners ages 6 to 10, the MET Go! is a multilevel exam for upper primary to lower secondary school students, the MET is a flexible, multilevel exam for learners ages 16 to adult for educational and professional purposes, the ECCE is a four-skill certificate exam for secondary students and adults at the high-intermediate level, the ECPE is a four-skill exam certifying secondary students and adults at the highest level of proficiency, and the Michigan English Placement test is a computer-based placement and progress test used by institutions and businesses for internal purposes.

The Michigan English Test (MET), the Examination for the Certificate of Competency in English (ECCE), and the Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE) are high-stakes tests that are accepted as proof of English proficiency for university admissions, employment, immigration, and professional licensure purposes. The ECCE and ECPE are paper-based tests administered at Authorized Test Centers. The MET is digitally delivered at test centers and remotely from home.

"Michigan Language Assessment is a not-for-profit collaboration between Cambridge University Press and Assessment and the University of Michigan," Director of Marketing, Communications, and Stakeholder Relations Fernando Fleurquin said. *"Our CEO, Sharon Harvey, reports to a Board of Directors with members from both organizations. Michigan Language Assessment's Assessment and Operations Department is responsible for the development, production, administration, and scoring of our tests. Considering the close relationships we have with our parent organizations, we collaborate with them in many areas."*

"The Michigan English Test was recently recognized by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration office and CGFNS International to apply for occupational visas in the healthcare sector to work in the U.S."



Testing Resources



TESTING COMPANIES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS

RESOURCE LINKS



- PTE Academic

Homepage: <https://www.pearsonpte.com>

Preparation Page: (some free; some purchase):
<https://www.pearsonpte.com/preparation>

Teacher Preparation: <https://www.pearsonpte.com/teachers>

Teacher Training: <https://pearsonadvance.com/pte-academic-for-teachers/>

Practice App: <https://www.pearsonpte.com/preparation/practice-app>



- IELTS

Homepage: <https://www.ielts.org/>

How to Prepare Page: <https://www.ielts.org/for-test-takers/how-to-prepare>

Review the Test Format: <https://www.ielts.org/for-test-takers/test-format>

Practice Test (purchase required): <https://www.ielts.org/for-test-takers/how-to-prepare/ielts-progress-check>

Purchase Practice Book and DVD: <https://www.cambridge.org/gb/cambridgeenglish/catalog>

IELTS for Teachers Resource Page: <https://www.ielts.org/for-teachers/ielts-for-teachers>



- STAMP
- STAMP WS (formerly WorldSpeak)
- STAMP Pro
- STAMP Monolingual
- Avant Place

Homepage: avantassessment.com/

Sample Tests: avantassessment.com/sample-tests

User Guides: avantassessment.com/guides

Writing Examples: avantassessment.com/writing-examples

Video Tutorials: avantassessment.com/video-tutorials

Extempore App: avantassessment.com/extempore

TESTING COMPANIES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS

RESOURCE LINKS



- Duolingo English Test (DTE)

Homepage: duolingo.com/

Test-Takers (*practice test requires registration*): englishtest.duolingo.com/applicants



- English3 Interview
- E3PT (soon to be GATEWAY)

Homepage: english3.com/

Prepare for the Interview (*Practice interview, tutoring, interview prep course require registration*):

english3.com/learn-about-the-interview/

Preparing for the E3PT (*Practice Test, Tutoring, Courses require registration*): english3.com/english3-proficiency-test-preparing/

English3 Courses: english3.com/english-courses/



- Password English Tests
- Password Workforce

Homepage: englishlanguagetesting.co.uk/

Test-Takers Homepage:

englishlanguagetesting.co.uk/test-takers/

University and College Students Preparation:

englishlanguagetesting.co.uk/test-takers/university-and-college-students/

School Pupils and Parents Preparation:

englishlanguagetesting.co.uk/test-takers/school-pupils-and-parents/

Language School Students Preparation:

englishlanguagetesting.co.uk/test-takers/language-school-students/

TESTING COMPANIES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS

RESOURCE LINKS



- TOEFL iBT
- TOEFL Essentials

ETS TOEFL Homepage: ets.org/toefl.html
Prepare for the iBT (*registration required*):
ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare.html
Prepare for TOEFL Essentials (*practice tests available, registration required for course*):
ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare.html



- MYYLE
- Met Go!
- MET
- ECCE
- ECPE

Homepage: michiganassessment.org/
Test Prep Page (*free resources*):
michiganassessment.org/resources/
Michigan Exam Prep Materials for Educators:
michiganassessment.org/resources/



- SELT

Homepage: skillsforenglish.com/
SELT Practice/Preparation: skillsforenglish.com/test/selt/selt-practice-tests/
Global Practice/Preparation: skillsforenglish.com/test/global/global-practice-tests/
SQA Academy: sqaacademy.org.uk/login/index.php
Teacher Resources: skillsforenglish.com/partners/teachers/



Teacher Test Prep Training Courses

Are you ready to grow your teaching repertoire? Bridge Education Group provides Micro-credential courses for teaching IELTS, TOEFL, and PTE. Courses prepare teachers to navigate the specific tests and guide student preparation.

TEST PREP PROVIDERS



COURSES

- Teaching TOEFL Test Prep
 - Teaching IELTS Exam Prep
- New Course!**
- Teaching PTE Test Prep

RESOURCE LINKS

Homepage: <https://bridge.edu/>
Teaching TOEFL Test Prep: <https://bridge.edu/tefl/courses/micro/teaching-toefl-test-prep>
Teaching IELTS Exam Prep: <https://bridge.edu/tefl/courses/micro/teaching-ielts-exam-prep>
Teaching PTE Test Prep: <https://bridge.edu/tefl/courses/micro/teaching-pte-test-prep>

PROMO CODE

TestPrepTeacher10

Use this promo code at checkout for **10% off** any Bridge test prep course!

Teaching IELTS Exam Prep

20-Hour Online TEFL / TESOL
Micro-credential Course



Expand your professional profile with specialized exam prep skills.

Get an overview of the IELTS Exam and learn how to plan lessons that will prepare your students for success.



Master the ins and outs of the IELTS to help students succeed on this high-stakes exam.

Teaching TOEFL Test Prep

20-Hour Online TEFL / TESOL
Micro-credential Course



Help your students prepare for success with specialized test prep skills.

Learn the ins and outs of the TOEFL test and discover effective strategies you can teach your students.



Familiarize yourself with the different versions of the TOEFL exam, and learn the strategies you need to help your students ace them.

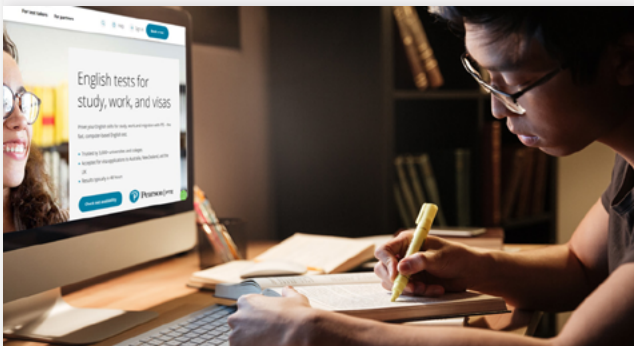
Teaching PTE Test Prep

20-Hour Teaching PTE Test Prep



Help your students achieve their goals with specialized test prep skills.

Delve deep into the format and content of the PTE Academic and explore classroom strategies to prepare learners for success on the test.



Master the components of the PTE Academic and explore tools and activities to support your learners as they prepare for testing day.

New Course!



In this course, you'll dive into Pearson's cutting-edge online PTE Academic test, which is accepted worldwide for academic study and immigration. You'll gain in-depth knowledge of its structure, content, and scoring to better support your learners as they prepare to take this high-stakes test. We'll also cover Pearson's Global Scale of English, an incredible tool that allows you to identify and measure your students' language skills and gaps. Finally, you'll get practical strategies and activities to implement in your classroom so you can deliver the best training and set your students up for success on the PTE.



Student Test Preparation Courses and Resources

While the links to resources below may typically be used by students, videos and podcasts may also be used in the classroom by teachers of English language students.

Charline Barthelemy, PrepMyFuture's Head of University Partnerships, suggests using LiveQuiz, an interactive tool similar to Kahoot! to assess for understanding, as well as the Teacher Guide, which includes lessons and tools to assess student progress.

TEST PREP PROVIDERS

COURSES

RESOURCE LINKS

PrepMyFuture

Online preparations for language proficiency tests: TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, Linguaskill, B2 First, TEF, DELF, TCF, and more.

Online general English courses:

- Anglo-Saxon civilization courses: Road Trip USA (Level B2), Internship at the BBC (Level C1)
- English for specific purposes: English for Engineering, English for Communication
- Online preparations for admission tests: GMAT, TAGE MAGE, TAGE 2, TAGE POST BAC, and Score IAE Message.

Homepage: <https://prepmyfuture.com/en>

Student Guide: https://prepmyfuture.com/en/student_guide

Teacher Guide: https://prepmyfuture.com/en/teacher_guide

List of Courses: <https://prepmyfuture.com/en/catalog>



For-Purchase and Free Test Prep Resources

The following table includes a breakdown of test makers and test preparation company resources available to students and teachers on the corresponding company websites. These resources were provided by test makers and testing preparation companies and include suggestions for free resources that can be found on the company websites, other locations online, or by interacting in real-time with English speakers. In addition to the core suggestions of taking practice tests and enlisting the help of a test preparation teacher, interview subjects had many suggestions that included out-of-the-box ideas. Immersing oneself in the language in the weeks and even months preceding the test is said to reduce stress on test day, as well as improve proficiency and fluency.

Companies



IELTS®

PrepMyFuture

For-Purchase Resources

Pearson website:

- PTE Academic Scored Practice Tests

IELTS website:

- Official IELTS Practice Test
- Official IELTS Practice Materials (book and DVD)

PrepMyFuture website:

- PrepMyFuture Preparation Courses (includes lesson sheets for each concept, thousands of exercises, complete mock exams, and detailed explanations)

Free Resources

Pearson website:

- Introduction to PTE Academic online course
- Teacher preparation materials
- PTE Academic Official Practice mobile app

IELTS website:

- Understand the test format
- IELTS sample questions
- IELTS Official Facebook
- IELTS Official Instagram
- Helpful Resources

PrepMyFuture website:

- Create a free teacher account to access pedagogical content (includes articles with test information, free mini-tests for IELTS, TOEFL, Linguaskill, etc., and Livequiz for teachers)
- Youtube Channel (TOEIC tips, TOEFL Speaking Task Simulation, platform demo, etc.)

Companies



For-Purchase Resources

● Avant website:

Extempore App

● Password website:

- Password Skills Practice Test
- Password Skills Receptive Practice Test
- Password Pupil English Practice Test
- Password Pupil English Younger Practice Test
- Password Knowledge and Writing Practice Test
- Password Knowledge Practice Test

● English3 website:

- Video English Lessons
- Online Tutors
- Prep Course
- English3 Interview

Free Resources

Avant website:

- PowerUp Guides
- Video Tutorials
- Writing Examples

YouTube and other websites:

- Free prompt/response practice for speaking and writing

Duolingo website:

- Practice Test
- Review Question Types
- Helpful Videos
- Test Readiness Guide

Other websites and offline:

- Practice with a friend
- Watch a show and write a recap
- Guided meditation in English

Other websites:

- TEDTalks
- Listen to English podcasts of an academic nature (e.g., BBC radio 4 podcast, History extra)

Watch news segments:

- Transcribe online lectures
- Practice with free online tools (e.g., www.keybr.com/ or www.speedtypingonline.com/typing-test)

English3 website:

- Practice Test
- Test Rubrics

Offline:

- Call a friend who speaks English
- Call a business that speaks in English

Companies



For-Purchase Resources

TOEFL website:

- Official TOEFL iBT Prep Course (Basic & Plus)
- TOEFL Practice Online
- The Official Guide to the TOEFL Test
- TOEFL iBT Free Practice Test
- TOEFL iBT Free Practice Tests
- TOEFL iBT Paper Edition Practice Test

Skills for English website:

- SQA Academy learning materials

Free Resources

TOEFL website:

- TOEFL Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide

Michigan Language Assessment website:

- Sample tests
- Webinars and presentations for teachers
- Videos with tips for test takers

Skills for English website:

- CEFR level practice tests for SELT and Skills for English Global
- SQA Academy Account
- Find your level
- Understanding the Test videos
- Test specification information
- Skills for English test information sheets
- Practice tests



About Bridge



Bridge empowers global English teachers by offering affordable, internationally recognized, and accredited teacher certification and professional development programs to educators worldwide. Our growing portfolio of specialized online TEFL/ TESOL courses and micro-credentials helps you learn new teaching skills and advance your career, whether in the classroom or online. Collect, stack, and showcase Bridge credentials to show your dedication to lifelong learning.

