

# Livense



## GUIDEBOOK

A practical handbook for adult deaf students that want to understand how the english certification system in SPAIN/ITALY works and what accessibility they offer

# From the Consortium

Choosing an English language certification can be a significant step in your personal and professional development. For deaf and hard-of-hearing people, demonstrating English proficiency through a recognized certificate can support applications for jobs, university programs, scholarships, and visas. However, not all English certification systems are equally accessible, and choosing the right one requires careful consideration. Selecting the right certification is crucial, as specific accommodations and testing procedures can significantly impact your performance and comfort during the exam.

This guide aims to provide you with clear and concise information about various recognized English certification systems. The purpose of this guide is to help you navigate the options available and make an informed decision that best suits your individual needs and circumstances.

This guide is structured to provide you with a comprehensive overview: first, a detailed description of each certification system; then, a look at the general characteristics of the exams and their enrolment procedures; a comparative overview for quick reference; and finally, some recommendations to help you choose the best certification for you.

We hope this guide is helpful in clarifying your options and empowering you to make an informed decision on your journey to English language proficiency.

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# Chapter 1

**Around the  
certification systems**

What is a certification?

to admit  
international  
students.

Work: Companies  
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can work in Eng  
in professional  
situations

Migration  
Government  
sometimes ask  
certificate when  
apply for a vi  
residency.

Personal grow  
Even outside  
formal needs  
certificate c

# WELCOME TO OUR ENGLISH CERTIFICATION GUIDE

If you want to study abroad, apply for a job, or take part in international projects, you often need an English certification. It's your passport to education and work opportunities all over the world. But here's the problem: many certification systems are not fully accessible, and this makes it harder for deaf people to show their real skills.

The LICENCED project was created to change this. We know that you should have the same chances as hearing candidates when it comes to proving your English level. That's why we are looking closely at how accessible the main exams are, and how they can be improved. This isn't just about exams—it's about equality. European laws, like the Accessibility Act, clearly say that accessibility is a right for everyone. LICENCED takes this seriously: our goal is to level the playing field and make sure that your talent, not the barriers, decides your future.

*"Education is to deaf people what the Golden Fleece was to Jason in mythology. He was willing to go through many trials and tribulations because if he could get the Golden Fleece, the throne in the kingdom of Greece would be his. If deaf people could get an education, their minds would be set free and the kingdom of the world would be theirs."*

**Dr. Lawrence R. Newman**

Deaf activist and educator

Martina Worldwide  
Congratulations on behalf of  
Buckley Branch  
for  
OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

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more details



# WHAT IS A CERTIFICATION?

A language certification is an official document that proves your ability to use a language. It is usually obtained after passing a test designed by an international organisation or university. The test measures your skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, and the result is recognised as an official confirmation of your level.

Unlike a school grade or a private course, a certification is internationally recognised, which means people in different countries understand what your level is. This makes it easier to move, study, or work abroad with clear proof of your language ability.

Why is it useful?

Because it gives you a way to show your skills to others—not just to yourself. For example:

- **Study:** Universities often require a certificate (like IELTS or TOEFL) to admit international students.
- **Work:** Companies use certifications to check if employees can work in English in professional situations.
- **Migration:** Governments sometimes ask for a certificate when you apply for a visa or residency.
- **Personal growth:** Even outside of formal needs, a certificate can motivate you and mark your progress.



## What is **Cefr**

**The CEFR is an international standard developed by the Council of Europe to describe and compare language ability.**

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*A brand new way to see language*

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Most English language certifications align with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It provides a common scale that makes it easier for schools, universities, and employers to understand what a language level actually means—whether you studied in Spain, Italy, Japan, or anywhere else.

The CEFR divides language learners into six main levels, from beginner to near-native proficiency:

- **A1 – Beginner:** You can use simple phrases and introduce yourself.
- **A2 – Elementary:** You can talk about everyday needs, like shopping or directions.
- **B1 – Intermediate:** You can handle common situations when travelling or working abroad.
- **B2 – Upper Intermediate:** You can participate in discussions and understand more complex texts.
- **C1 – Advanced:** You can express yourself fluently in academic or professional contexts.
- **C2 – Proficiency:** You can understand almost everything and use the language with ease and precision.

Think of the CEFR like a roadmap: it helps you see where you are now and where you want to go next. For example, if your goal is to study at a university in the UK, you might need at least a B2 or C1 certificate. If you are applying for an international job, the requirement might be B2 for general work or C1 for specialised roles.

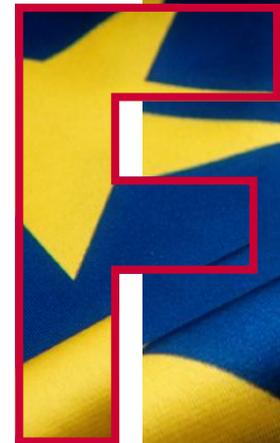
Finally, the CEFR is not just about exams. It also describes what you can do with a language—what topics you can handle, what kinds of texts you can read or write, and what kind of conversations you can manage. This makes it a useful tool not only for testing but also for planning your learning journey.



C



E



F



R



# EU POLICIES

You have the right to learn—just like anyone else. And the European Union knows that. Through a series of laws and strategies, the EU and its member countries work to ensure inclusive education for people with disabilities, including those who are deaf.

## **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)**

This powerful international agreement states clearly in Article 24 that you're entitled to education without barriers. That means educational systems must adapt to your needs—providing accommodations, support, and a truly inclusive setting.

[To the article](#)



## **EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021–2030)**

Launched in 2021, this ten-year EU roadmap aims to break down obstacles and promote equal access to education, employment, justice, and more. Concrete actions include creating accessible practices, even exploring tools like a European Disability Card to help with support across borders.

[To the article](#)

## **European Accessibility Act (EAA) and Web Accessibility Directive**

This directive aims to make everyday products and services—like digital tools, websites, and public spaces—accessible across Europe. That helps ensure that online educational platforms, registration forms, and learning tools are usable for everyone.

[To the article](#)



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# Chapter 2

**English Certification**

What to choose?



# Exploring English Certification Options



## ONE CERTIFICATE, MANY WAYS TO TAKE IT: CHOOSING YOUR TEST CENTRE

When you are thinking about certifying your English level, it's important to remember that not all certificates are the same. They differ in format, purpose, recognition, and especially in how they handle accessibility. This is particularly true for deaf and hard-of-hearing candidates, since the way accommodations are applied often depends not only on the exam provider (for example, Cambridge, IELTS, TOEFL, or LanguageCert) but also on the individual test centre where you register.

While many institutions publish accessibility policies, in practice the level of support can vary widely. Some centres are experienced and proactive in offering options like lip-reading versions of listening tasks, transcripts, or separate rooms, while others may have little knowledge of how to organise these accommodations. This means that two candidates taking the same exam in different cities may have very different experiences.

So, what are the main organisations that provide English certifications, and how do their exams differ in practice? Let's explore them one by one and discover which options might best fit your goals and accessibility needs.

Go to our  
Website for sign  
language videos





# Cambridge English Qualifications

These certificates, developed by Cambridge University Press & Assessment, are among the most established and respected worldwide. They offer exams from beginner (A2 Key) to advanced (C2 Proficiency). Unlike other tests, Cambridge exams are not based on a single score scale; instead, each exam certifies a specific CEFR level.

Cambridge exams are well-organized and rigorous. One advantage is that the certificate you obtain does not expire, though some institutions might prefer recent results. While this can reduce pressure to retake exams regularly, it also means you must choose carefully which level best represents your skills.

Cambridge University has made efforts in accessibility. For deaf or hard-of-hearing candidates, accommodations such as a lip-reading version of Listening skill exam, extended time, separate rooms, or alternative materials may be available, though this depends on the local exam centre. You should always contact the centre well in advance to request any adaptation.

## Fact sheet

- Since: 1913
- Country of origin: United Kingdom
- Institution: Cambridge University Press & Assessment
- Institution website: <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org>
- Certification website: <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/qualifications/>
- Purposes: General, Working, and Study admissions
- Validity period of certification: Lifetime



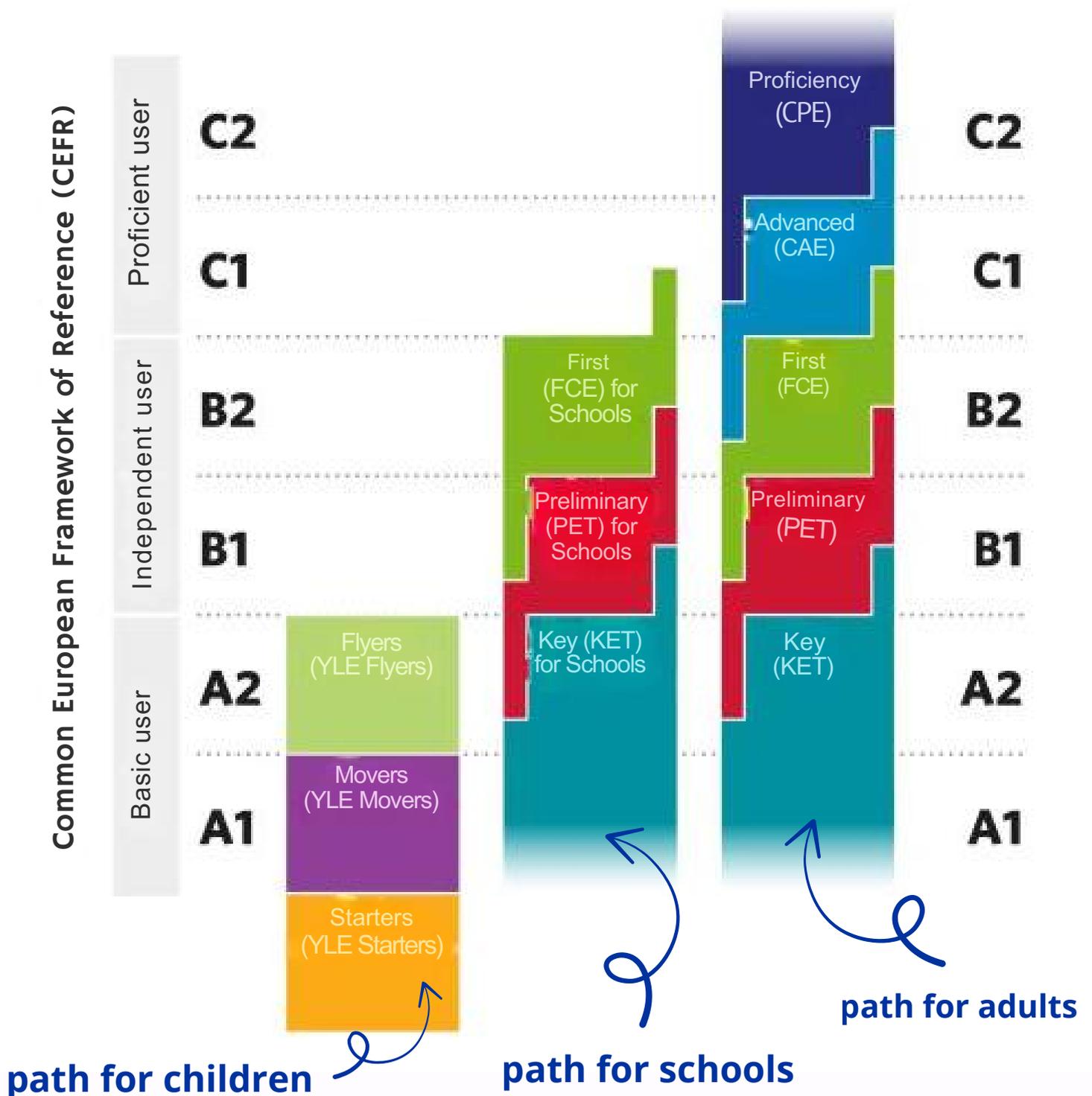
**CAMBRIDGE**  
English

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**Platinum**  
Authorised Exam Centre

# Cambridge English

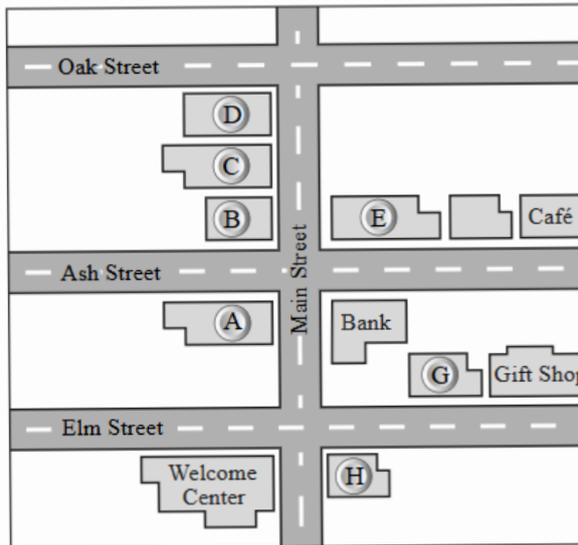
A range of exams to meet different needs



**IELTS™**

Test taker ID

Label the map. Choose the correct letter,



## IELTS Background

Jointly managed by Cambridge, the British Council, and IDP Education, IELTS is one of the most recognized exams globally, especially for migration and university admission purposes. It comes in two versions: Academic (for study) and General Training (for work or migration). It provides a band score from 1 to 9, and this score is valid for two years.

Although IELTS includes a listening component based on audio recordings, there are specific accommodations for deaf candidates. These may include transcripts and lip-reading versions of recordings. However, these are not available in all centres, and the request process can be slow or inconsistent. If you're considering IELTS, make sure to contact a test centre early to ensure your needs will be met.

### Fact sheet

- Since: 1989
- Country of origin: United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada
- Institution: British Council, IDP IELTS, and Cambridge University Press & Assessment
- Institution website: <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/>
- <https://ielts.idp.com/>
- <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/ielts/>
- Certification website: <https://ielts.org/>
- Purposes: Working, Study, and UK Visas
- Validity period of certification: 2 years



Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)

Proficient User	C2	9
	C1	8
Independent User	B2	7.5
	B1	7
	B1	6.5
Basic User	A2	6
	A2	5.5
	A1	5
	A1	4.5
		4

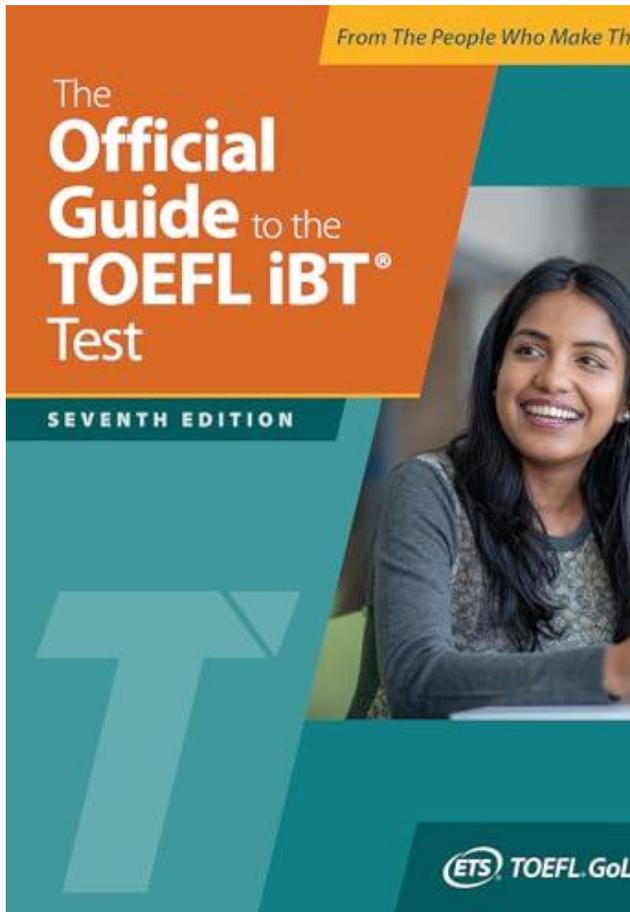
Get ready for IELTS



CEFR grading system

IELTS score band system

Four skills trained



## TOEFL

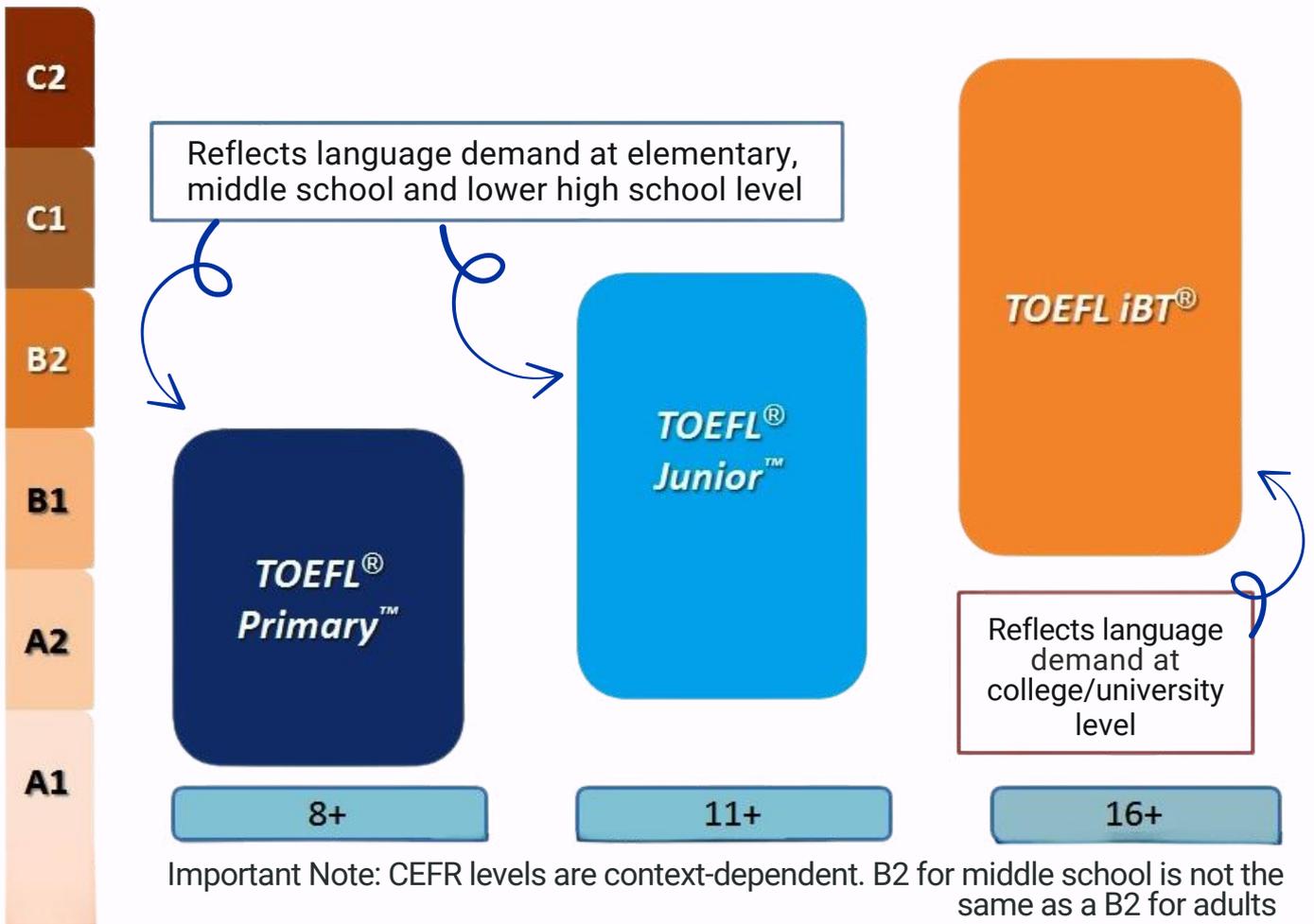
The TOEFL, developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS, one of the world's largest private educational testing and assessment organization), is widely used for academic admissions, especially in the United States and Canada. It's a fully computer-based exam and assesses reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills. Scores range from 0 to 120, and certificates are valid for two years.

From an accessibility perspective, TOEFL states a good commitment to accessibility and offers tailored adjustments. However, the listening section is integral to the exam and uses academic audio recordings. Although some centres may offer extended time or a separate room, full access accommodations for deaf people are more limited. It's important to consult ETS or a local test centre about what adjustments are truly available.

### Fact sheet

- Since: 1964
- Country of origin: United States
- Institution: Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- Institution website: <https://www.ets.org/>
- Certification website: <https://www.ets.org/toefl.html>
- Purposes: Study Admissions
- Validity period of certification: 2 years

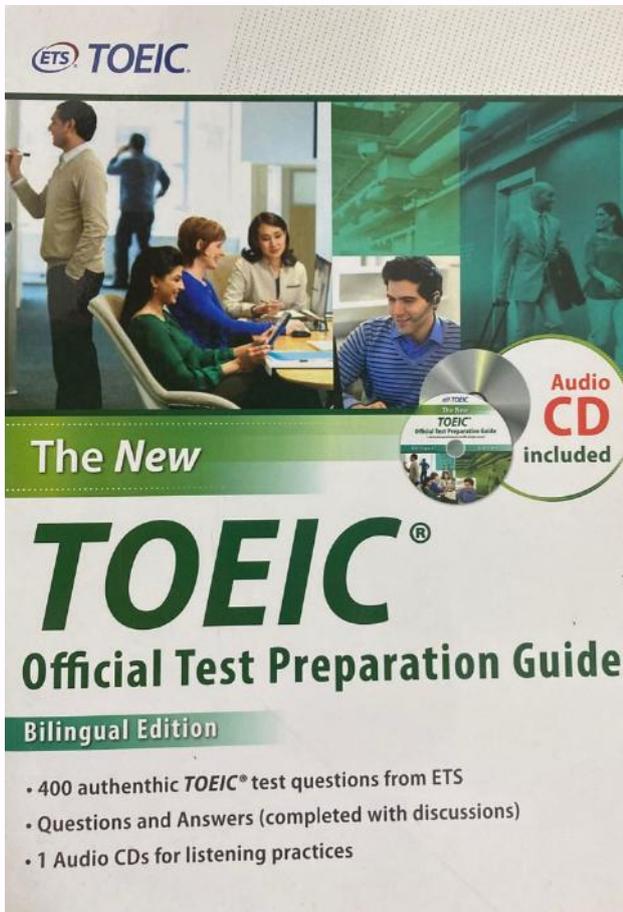




Example of scoring

CEFR Level	TOEFL iBT Score
C2	114-120
C1	95-113
B2	72-94
B1	42-71

Conversion into CEFR



## TOEIC

Also developed by ETS, the TOEIC exam focuses on everyday professional English. It's commonly used by companies and institutions, particularly in Asia. The exam has two separate modules: Listening and Reading, and Speaking and Writing. You can take them independently depending on what you need.

TOEIC scores are scaled and can be matched to CEFR levels, though it doesn't certify a fixed level like Cambridge does. It's a practical choice for employment contexts, but be aware that its listening components may present challenges.

Accessibility accommodations depend on the test provider, and unlike IELTS, TOEIC does not offer adapted content like lip-reading videos.

### Fact sheet

- Since: 1979
- Country of origin: United States
- Institution: Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- Institution website: <https://www.ets.org/>
- Certification website: <https://www.ets.org/toEIC.html>
- Purposes: Working
- Validity period of certification: No expiry date but most institutions usually consider TOEIC scores to be valid for 2 years



## LEVEL CHART

LEVEL KEY	CEFR	IELTS	TOEIC	TOEFL
Advanced	Proficient user	8.5 – 9.0		
		7.0 – 8.0	945 – 990	110 – 120
Upper-Intermediate	Independent user	5.5 – 6.5	785 – 944	87 - 109
		4.0 – 5.0	550 – 784	57 – 86
Pre-Intermediate	Basic user	Below 4.0	225 – 549	Below 57
			120 - 224	
Elementary				
Starter				



TOEIC does not offer C2 level certification



CEFR divides into 3 major levels, grouping level A, B and C.



You can define your language knowledge also with the key level system



# LANGUAGECERT International ESOL



Single level tests  
CEFR A1 to C2



Written & Spoken tests can be  
**taken together or independently**



Delivered via  
**Approved Test Centre or Online**



Take2  
**Re-sit option**

## LanguageCert

LanguageCert is a newer but increasingly popular option, known for its flexibility and remote options. It offers International ESOL exams (English as a second or foreign language) at all CEFR levels, and the exams are modular, meaning you can take the spoken and written parts separately.

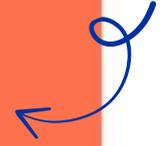
One of its greatest advantages is the online proctored format, which allows you to take the exam from home. This can be a huge plus if you live far from a test centre or need a quieter environment. LanguageCert has some accessibility limitations but offers some tailored adjustments. It is essential, though, to explain your needs clearly during the registration process.

### Fact sheet

- Since: 2015
- Country of origin: United Kingdom
- Institution: PeopleCert Qualifications Ltd
- Institution website: <https://www.languagecert.org>
- Certification website: <https://www.languagecert.org>
- Purposes: General, Study admissions, and UK Visas
- Validity period of certification: Lifetime



LanguageCert Global Scale	CEFR	LanguageCert General	LanguageCert Academic
90 - 100	C2		90+
75 - 89	C1	75+	75 - 89
60 - 74	B2	60 - 74	60 - 74
40 - 59	B1	40 - 59	40 - 59
20 - 39	A2	20 - 39	
10 - 19	A1		
0 - 9	Below A1		



Some LanguageCert tests do not offer some levels of certification



## Oxford Test of English (OTE)

The Oxford Test of English is a computer-based, modular exam developed by Oxford University Press and recognized by institutions in various countries. It assesses levels from A2 to C2 and allows you to take each skill (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking) separately. This flexibility is useful if your abilities vary across skills or if you prefer not to sit for the entire exam at once.

For deaf and hard-of-hearing candidates, some accommodations like extra time or exemption from Listening may be possible if requested in advance with proper documentation. However, visual support or transcripts are not yet standard features. It's important to confirm available adjustments with the exam centre before enrolling.

### Fact sheet

- Since: 2019
- Country of origin: United Kingdom
- Institution: Oxford University Press
- Institution website: <https://www.oup.es/>
- Certification website: <https://elt.oup.com/feature/global/oxford-test-of-english>
- Purposes: University admissions, Working, and Travels
- Validity period of certification: Lifetime



# OXFORD PLACEMENT TEST

C2	CEFR	Score
C1	C2	101-120
B2	C1	81-100
B1	B2	61-80
A2	B1	41-60
A1	A2	21-40
Pre-A1	A1	1-20
	Pre-A1 High	0.7-0.9
	Pre-A1 Mid	0.4-0.6
	Pre-A1 Low	0.1-0.3



CEFR <sup>1</sup>	OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH	CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH QUALIFICATIONS <sup>3</sup>	IELTS <sup>4</sup>	PTE ACADEMIC <sup>5</sup>	TOEFL iBT <sup>6</sup>	APTIS <sup>7,8</sup>
Level	Score Range <sup>2</sup>	Score Range <sup>2</sup>	Band	Score Range	Score Range	CEFR Level
C2		C2 Proficiency 200-230	8-9	85+		
C1	141-170	C1 Advanced 180-200	6.5-8	66-84	95+	C
B2	111-140	B2 First for Schools 180-200	5.5-6.5	36-65	72-94	B2
B1	81-110	B2 Preliminary for Schools 180-200	4-5.5	23-35	42-71	B1
A2	51-80	A2 Key for Schools /A2 Flyers 120-140		10-22		A2
Below A2	0-50	A1 Movers 100-120 Pre-A1 Starters 80-100				A1

# National certification

## Escuela Oficial de Idiomas (EOI)

La Escuela Oficial de Idiomas (EOI) es una red pública de más de 470 escuelas de idiomas en toda España. Ofrecen certificación oficial en inglés y muchos otros idiomas, cubriendo niveles desde A1 hasta C1 según el MCER. A diferencia de muchos exámenes internacionales, el certificado de la EOI no caduca, lo que lo hace particularmente valioso para un uso profesional o académico a largo plazo.

La accesibilidad en la EOI está regulada por la legislación española. Mientras que las personas candidatas con discapacidad (igual o superior al 33%) están exentas de las tasas de examen, no existe una lista predefinida de adaptaciones. En su lugar, cada escuela evalúa las solicitudes de manera individual, basándose en la documentación oficial y en el principio de igualdad de oportunidades. Sin embargo, es importante tener en cuenta que ninguna persona candidata puede ser eximida de ninguna de las partes del examen, incluyendo comprensión auditiva y expresión oral. Las solicitudes de adaptaciones deben presentarse en el momento de la inscripción.



[go to the website](#)

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## Test de Competencia Lingüística 360° (360° LPT)

El 360° LPT es una certificación más reciente, desarrollada por Capman Testing Solutions en colaboración con la Conferencia de Rectores y Rectoras de las Universidades Españolas (CRUE) y la Asociación de Centros de Lenguas en la Enseñanza Superior (ACLES). Es ampliamente aceptada en España para la admisión universitaria, empleo y oposiciones. El examen evalúa las cuatro principales competencias (comprensión auditiva, lectura, expresión oral y escrita) en aproximadamente 90 minutos. Puede realizarse semanalmente tanto en línea ("desde casa") como en centros de examen presenciales, lo que ofrece gran flexibilidad de horarios.

La información está menos desarrollada en comparación con instituciones más antiguas. Aunque el proveedor del examen reconoce la necesidad de equidad y validez, no existen adaptaciones detalladas públicamente para personas candidatas. Esto significa que las personas examinadas deben contactar directamente con Capman para consultar posibles adaptaciones, como tiempo adicional o salas separadas. Dado el fuerte enfoque en comprensión auditiva y expresión oral, las personas candidatas necesitan confirmar con antelación si hay ajustes significativos disponibles.



[go to the website](#)

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# Chapter 3

## What to Expect from the Exams

An overview of the exams and the adaptations



# INTRODUCTION

Taking an English certification exam is a big step, and knowing what to expect can help you prepare, especially if you're deaf or hard of hearing. So understanding the format and structure of each exam is key to deciding which one suits you best. The main aspects to consider are the skills tested, how long the exam takes, and the kind of accessibility options you might need.

Below is a detailed list of the adaptations that are officially listed for each certification. However, remember that it is very important that **you contact your examination centre or certifying institution to confirm** the availability of these adaptations or if you require other types of adaptations not listed in their official documentation.

Furthermore, not all accommodations are automatically available after proving that you are deaf or hard-of-hearing. For example, the possibility of taking the test in a separate room. For some accommodations, you may need to provide additional documentation or a reasoned justification.



**Go to our Website for sign language videos and direct links**



## Skills Tested

Most certificates assess the four basic skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. TOEIC divides them into two exams, while LanguageCert lets you take speaking and writing modules separately. This flexibility can be very helpful, especially if your strengths are not evenly distributed across all skills.

## Length

Exams vary in duration. IELTS takes around 2 hours and 45 minutes, while TOEFL lasts around 3 hours. Cambridge exams can range from 2 to 4 hours depending on the level. LanguageCert's modular structure allows you to split the experience into shorter sessions, which may be less tiring or stressful.

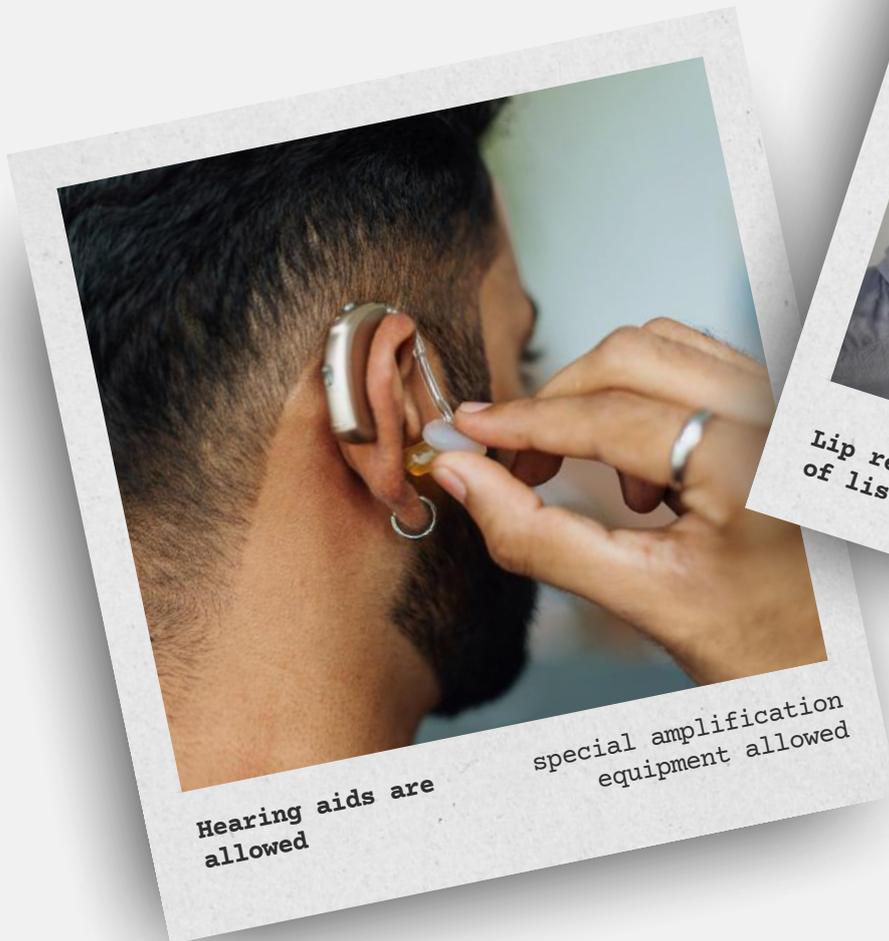
## Validity

Cambridge and LanguageCert certificates are valid for life, meaning you won't need to retake the exam once passed. In contrast, IELTS, TOEFL, and TOEIC are valid for only two years. If you're preparing for a job application or a university program with long timelines, this may affect your decision.

## Accessibility

Not all tests are equally accessible. For example, Cambridge and IELTS are currently the only major tests that offer lip-reading versions of the listening section. Others, like Cambridge and LanguageCert, may allow transcripts or text-based alternatives upon request. However, you must request accommodations with documentation and often weeks in advance. Always ask the testing provider what adaptations are available in your case.

# Accessibility adaptations



## Cambridge English Qualifications

1. Use of hearing aids allowed.
2. Wireless systems or personal FM systems allowed (under permission).
3. Headphones or special amplification equipment allowed (under permission).
4. Exam in a separate room.
5. Lip-reading version of a Listening test available (under request).
6. Extra time.
7. Sign language is not allowed in a Speaking test.
8. Exemption from taking the Listening test or the Speaking test (under request).

Full information  
[cambridgeenglish.org/help/special-requirements](https://cambridgeenglish.org/help/special-requirements)

# Accessibility adaptations



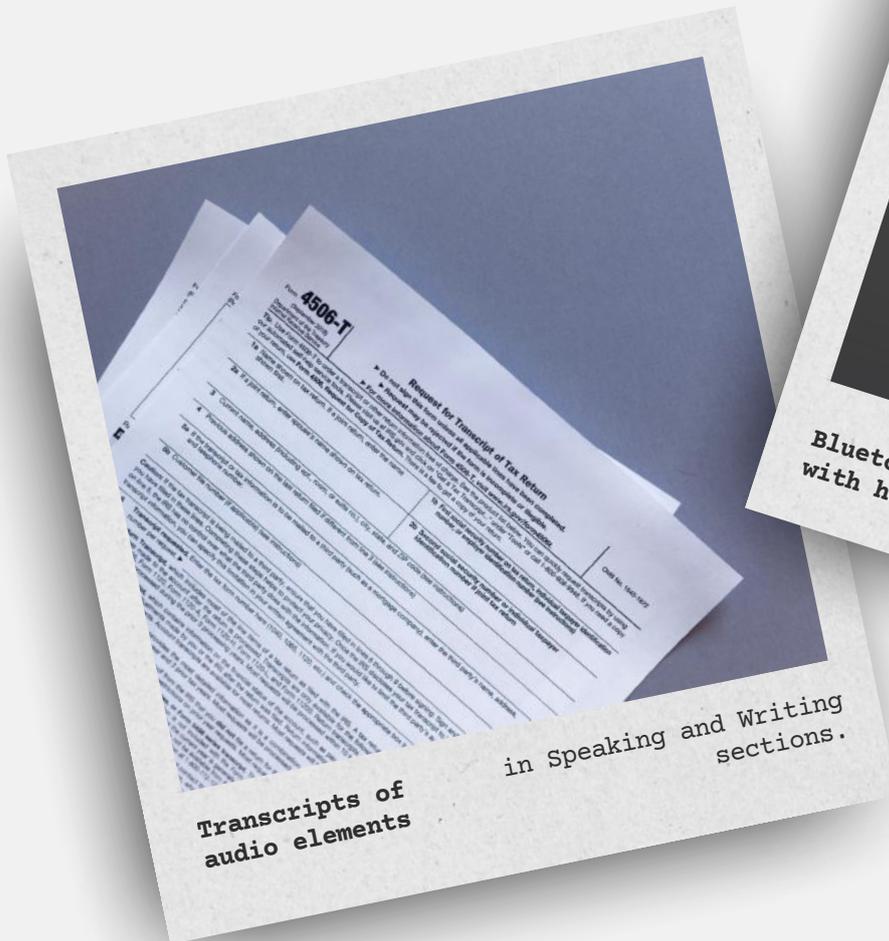
## IELTS

1. Use of hearing aids allowed.
2. Wireless systems or personal FM systems allowed (under permission).
3. Headphones or special amplification equipment allowed (under permission).
4. Exam in a separate room.
5. Lip-reading version of a Listening test available (under request).
6. Extra time.
7. Sign language is not allowed in a Speaking test.
8. Exemption from taking the Listening test or the Speaking test (under request).

### Full information

- <https://ielts.org/take-a-test/booking-your-test/access-arrangements>

# Accessibility adaptations



## TOEFL

1. Sign language interpreter for spoken directions only.
2. Oral interpreter for spoken directions only.
3. Listening section omitted.
4. Speaking section omitted.
5. Extended testing time (25% to 50% extra time).
6. Extra breaks (does not affect your testing time).
7. Transcripts of audio elements in Speaking and Writing sections.
8. Bluetooth capabilities with hearing aids or cochlear implant (under request).

Full information:

- [ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/register/disability-accommodations.html](https://ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/register/disability-accommodations.html)
- [ets.org/toefl/test-takers/essentials/register/disability-accommodations.html](https://ets.org/toefl/test-takers/essentials/register/disability-accommodations.html)
- [ets.org/disabilities/test-takers.html](https://ets.org/disabilities/test-takers.html)

# Accessibility adaptations



## TOEIC

1. Extended testing time (50% to 100% extra time).
2. Additional rest break(s).
3. Sign language interpreter (for directions).
4. Assistive technologies may be allowed (under request).
5. Other accommodations not reported.

Full information

- [ets.org/toEIC/resources/register/disability-accommodations.html](https://ets.org/toEIC/resources/register/disability-accommodations.html)

# Accessibility adaptations



## LanguageCert

1. Extra time.
2. Supervised rest breaks.
3. Change in the organisation of the assessment room (sitting near the front of the room and in good light).
4. Separate accommodation within the centre (BSL/English interpreters which may disturb other candidates).
5. Transcript in listening tests enabling the candidate to lip-read the text.
6. Sign language interpreters for instructions.

### Full information

- [languagecert.org/-/media/feature/documents/legal-documents/policies-and-procedures/general-policies-and-procedures/reasonable-adjustments-and-special-considerations-policy.ashx](https://www.languagecert.org/-/media/feature/documents/legal-documents/policies-and-procedures/general-policies-and-procedures/reasonable-adjustments-and-special-considerations-policy.ashx)

# Accessibility adaptations



## OTE

1. Modules can be taken individually or in any combination (Speaking, Listening, etc.).
2. 25% extra time every module.
3. Individual test room.
4. Rest breaks between the test modules (supported by medical evidence).
5. Individual headsets and adjust the volume on the computer in the Speaking and Listening test modules.
6. Other not specified.

Full information

- [elt.oup.com/feature/global/oxford-test-of-english/test-takers](http://elt.oup.com/feature/global/oxford-test-of-english/test-takers)

## Escuela Oficial de Idiomas (EOI)



Exención de tasas para personas con certificado de discapacidad del 33% o superior.



Las adaptaciones deben solicitarse en el momento de la inscripción con documentación médica oficial.



Cada centro EOI evalúa las solicitudes de manera individual, basándose en los principios de igualdad de oportunidades.



No se permite la exención de las partes de comprensión auditiva o expresión oral del examen.



Posibilidad de sala separada o tiempo adicional (según decisión del centro).

[Full information](#)

## Test de Competencia Lingüística 360° (360° LPT)



Actualmente, el 360° LPT no proporciona documentación oficial sobre accesibilidad o adaptaciones para personas sordas o con discapacidad auditiva.



Las personas sordas que requieran adaptaciones deben **contactar directamente con Capman Testing Solutions** para consultar las adaptaciones.



Dado que la información es limitada, las personas candidatas deben solicitar confirmación por escrito de cualquier adaptación concedida antes de inscribirse.

[Full information](#)

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# Chapter 4

## **Enrolment Procedures**

Where do I sign in? What to consider?



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# Enrolment procedures

## WHERE DO I SIGN IN? WHAT TO CONSIDER?

While each certification body has its own processes, most of them follow a similar pattern: you register online or through an authorized center, choose your preferred date and location, and submit identification.

However, if you need accommodations, there are some important steps you shouldn't overlook. Signing up for an English exam with accommodations requires some planning, as the process isn't always straightforward.

It is always preferable to contact your local certification center for enrolment and accommodations.

**Quick Tip**  
Once your accommodations are approved, you can schedule your exam. Keep in mind that popular dates fill up fast, so don't wait too long after getting the green light.

**Quick tip**  
While you can request exemptions (like skipping the Speaking or Listening sections), this will be noted on your certificate. For instance, Cambridge and IELTS will print "EXEMPT" next to the waived section, and your score will be adjusted based on the other parts of the test. TOEFL won't specify your disability but may mention that the test was taken under "non-standard conditions."

**Quick tip**  
While all these organizations offer accommodations, none currently provide registration support in sign language or fully accessible webpages.

**Quick Tip**  
Even if a certificate says it doesn't expire (like Cambridge, OTE, or LanguageCert), universities and employers often prefer results from the last 2–5 years. So if you were certified a while ago, you might need to retake the test.

**Go to our Website for sign language videos and direct links**





# Enrolment procedures

## Cambridge

Cambridge exams are booked through official centers in your country. You can find these on their website. Registration usually closes 6 to 8 weeks before the test date. If you need adjustments (like extra time or transcript versions), it's essential to contact the center directly and provide medical documentation well in advance.

**General Enrolment website** <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/ways-to-take-your-cambridge-english-qualification/>

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## ielts

IELTS allows booking either online or at exam centers. You'll need to upload a valid ID, usually a passport. Some centers require booking 2-3 weeks ahead, but if you need special arrangements, do it at least 6 weeks in advance. IELTS has published accessibility policies, but not all test centers apply them the same way.

**General Enrolment website**

<https://ielts.org/test-centres>

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## Toefl

TOEFL registration is fully online through the ETS website. You'll create an account, choose your location or remote option, and pay online. Adaptations for deaf users are limited and usually need special approval. It's strongly recommended to email ETS before registering if you require transcript materials or significant adjustments. You need to apply in advance: it takes about six weeks to get approval before you can set the exam date.

**General Enrolment website** <https://www.ets.org/contact/testing-programs/toefl.html>  
**Email to contact for adaptation request** [tassd@ets.org](mailto:tassd@ets.org) [disability.reg@ets.org](mailto:disability.reg@ets.org)

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# Enrolment procedures

## Toeic

TOEIC is less centralized. In many countries, you register through a local institution or language academy. Adaptations vary a lot by provider, so if you need support, make sure to ask early and confirm that they understand your specific requirements.

**General Enrolment website** <https://www.ets.org/toEIC/resources/register.html?>  
**EPN to contact for enrolment and adaptation, otherwise via email** [https://www.ets.org/epn\\_directory.html](https://www.ets.org/epn_directory.html)

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## LanguageCert

LanguageCert has the simplest and most flexible enrolment system. You register online, choose whether to take the exam at a center or from home, and schedule it almost anytime. If you need adaptations, they will guide you through the process of providing documentation. Their support team is often more responsive than other organizations.

**General Enrolment website** <https://www.languagecert.org/en/exam-types/online-exams/examinations-registration-centres-and-partners>

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## Ote

For the OTE, you need to contact an authorised test centre, either directly or through a partner academy. Registration is usually done online, and test dates are available throughout the year. If you require adjustments, you must inform the centre well in advance and provide medical documentation. Some centres may allow exemption from the Listening module, but this could affect the certificate's validity depending on its intended use.

**General Enrolment website** <https://elt.oup.com/feature/global/oxford-test-of-english/test-takers?cc=it&sellLanguage=it>

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# Enrolment procedures

## Escuela Oficial de Idiomas (EOI)

Los exámenes de la EOI se gestionan localmente en cada una de las más de 470 escuelas de idiomas de toda España. Para inscribirse, debes visitar la web de tu EOI y seguir sus instrucciones de matrícula. La inscripción suele realizarse en primavera, y los exámenes se celebran en junio. Si necesitas adaptaciones de accesibilidad, deben solicitarse en el momento de la inscripción y estar justificadas por documentación médica oficial. Cada centro evalúa las solicitudes de manera individual, basándose en el principio de igualdad de oportunidades. Sin embargo, ninguna persona puede ser eximida de ninguna parte del examen, incluyendo comprensión auditiva y expresión oral.

General Enrolment website

<https://educagob.educacionfpydeportes.gob.es/dam/jcr:dd4e035c-fa2b-4aa4-9dc5-59d218c609e9/relacion-eoi-por-comunidades-2022-2023.pdf>

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## Test de Competencia Lingüística 360° (360° LPT)

La inscripción para el 360° LPT se realiza en línea a través de la plataforma de Capman. Puedes elegir entre un examen presencial o la versión desde casa, y los exámenes están disponibles semanalmente según la disponibilidad. El pago se realiza online en el momento de la reserva. Por el momento, no existe información oficial pública sobre accesibilidad o adaptaciones para personas sordas o con discapacidad auditiva. Si necesitas ajustes como tiempo adicional o sala separada, debes contactar directamente con Capman Testing Solutions antes de inscribirte. Se recomienda solicitar confirmación por escrito de cualquier adaptación concedida.

General Enrolment website

<https://capman.es/360lpt>

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# Chapter 5

## Materials and Resources

How to choose the best certification for you



# CAMBRIDGE Resources

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## Training material

Under this link, you can find all levels of Cambridge test system. Chose your appropriate level and navigate to the section "Official Cambridge English preparation materials"

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/exam-preparation/>



## Online tests

Under this link, you can find all levels of Cambridge test system. Chose your appropriate level and navigate to the section "Sample tests (digital and paper-based)"

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/exam-preparation/>



## Books

Navigate to resources to download the free preparation books

<https://www.cambridge.org/us/cambridgeenglish/catalog/cambridge-english-exams-ielts/prepare-2nd-edition?>



# IELTS Resources

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## Training material

Here are several resources that you can use, from a preparation course to reading exercises

[https://ielts.idp.com/lp/prepare-your-way-with-idp?utm\\_source=referral&utm\\_medium=ielts.org&utm\\_campaign=idp\\_prep\\_landing\\_page](https://ielts.idp.com/lp/prepare-your-way-with-idp?utm_source=referral&utm_medium=ielts.org&utm_campaign=idp_prep_landing_page)



## Online tests

This page provides you with various IELTS practice tests and materials for both Academic and General Training tests

<https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-english-practice-tests?>



## Books

Under this link, you can find various preparation books to buy

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/ielts/preparation/?>



# TOEFL Resources

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## Training material

Here you can find official training materials with the activity of the day and a free account

<https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare/toefl-testready.html>



## Online tests

Here you can find several simulation tests

<https://www.bestmytest.com/toefl/practice-test>



## Books

A review of many different books helpful not only for the TOEFL certification

<https://www.toeflresources.com/review>



# TOEIC Resources

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## Training material

Purchase for 62€ a digital platform with a lot of exercises, grammar and lessons.

<https://www.bestmytest.com/toEIC/upgrade>



## Online tests

This link brings you to a quizlet with a lot of information regarding the test and some test samples.

<https://quizlet.com/en-us/content/toEIC-resource-sheet?>



## Books

A sample of tests in book format

[https://www.ets.org/toEIC/resources/prepare.html?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com#accordion-7d33f64ffe-item-2909c7683d](https://www.ets.org/toEIC/resources/prepare.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com#accordion-7d33f64ffe-item-2909c7683d)



# LanguageCert Resources

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## Training material

At the end of the page, you can find various training materials

<https://www.languagecert.gr/en/Qualifications/Preparation-Material/Pages/Download-Preparation-Material.aspx>



## Online tests

For any level, divided into writing and speaking exam

<https://www.languagecert.gr/en/Qualifications/Preparation-Material/Pages/Download-Preparation-Material.aspx>



## Books

Scroll down to find the section of books recommended by the institution

<https://www.languagecert.gr/en/Qualifications/Preparation-Material/Pages/Download-Preparation-Material.aspx>



# OTE Resources

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## Training material

Free training program for students

<https://oupeltemail.com/p/1MVU-1K5Y/ote-preparation-material>



## Online tests

For any level,

[https://elt.oup.com/feature/global/oxford-test-of-english/get-ready-for-the-test?](https://elt.oup.com/feature/global/oxford-test-of-english/get-ready-for-the-test?cc=gb&selLanguage=en&srsltid=AfmBOooveXxhbkje3iampMRV0hdUdzyGQyCrvow3hcCcJfPxcPVHDi0W)

[cc=gb&selLanguage=en&srsltid=AfmBOooveXxhbkje3iampMRV0hdUdzyGQyCrvow3hcCcJfPxcPVHDi0W](https://elt.oup.com/feature/global/oxford-test-of-english/get-ready-for-the-test?cc=gb&selLanguage=en&srsltid=AfmBOooveXxhbkje3iampMRV0hdUdzyGQyCrvow3hcCcJfPxcPVHDi0W)



## Grammar and Vocabulary

for specific training on grammar and vocabulary

[https://elt.oup.com/learning\\_resources/subjects/grammar/?cc=it&selLanguage=it](https://elt.oup.com/learning_resources/subjects/grammar/?cc=it&selLanguage=it)

# TEST





# For further materials and suggestions



## Materials and Resources

How to choose the best certification for you

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# Chapter 6

## Comparative Overview

Need to see all information in one?



# Comparative Overview - Certification systems

Certification	CEFR Levels	Skills Tested	Certificate Validity	Exam Duration	Certificate Type
<b>Cambridge</b>	A2 - C2	All 4 skills	Unlimited	Between 2.5 and 3.5 hours depending on the level	Fixed level**
<b>IELTS</b>	A1 - C2	All 4 skills	2 years	About 2h 45min	Score total*
<b>TOEFL</b>	B1 - C2	All 4 skills	2 years	About 2 hours	Score total*
<b>TOEIC</b>	A1 - C1	Learning and Reading Speaking and Writing	2 years	Listening and Reading test is 2 hours long, Speaking and Writing tests combined take 1 hour and 30 minutes	Score total*
<b>LanguageCert</b>	A1 - C2	All 4 skills (modular)	Unlimited	Between 1 hour 50 minutes and 3 hours 30 minutes depending on the level	Fixed level**
<b>OTE</b>	A1 - C2	All 4 skills (modular)	Unlimited	About 2 hours	Fixed level**

\*fixed level: you apply for a fixed level of knowledge and the test is designed for that level of English

\*\* score band: the test is designed to give you a score that can range from A1 to a certain level

# Comparative Overview - Accommodations in exams

Certification	Additional rest breaks	Exemption of skills	Extended time	Hearing aids allowed	Lip-reading version of Listening	Separate Room	SL interpreter for directions	Transcript of audio	Others
Cambridge	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓
IELTS	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓
TOEFL	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	?
TOEIC	✓	?	✓	✓	?	?	✓	?	✓
Language Cert	✓	?	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
OTE	✓	?	✓	?	?	✓	?	?	✓

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# Chapter 7

**How to choose the best certification for you**

Our suggestions to choose wisely.



## How to choose the best certification for you



### Some advice from our experts

Choosing the right certification depends on your personal goals, current level, and accessibility needs. For example, if you need a certificate for university admissions, TOEFL or IELTS might be more suitable. For professional purposes, especially in international companies, TOEIC or LanguageCert may be better options. If you prefer a modular and progressive system, Cambridge English Qualifications offer a wide range of levels.

If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, it's also essential to review the accessibility policies of each certification body. Some exams offer extended time, sign language interpreters for instructions, and technical adaptations, while others are more limited in their accommodations. You should always contact the institution in advance to ensure they can meet your specific needs.

Finally, don't forget to consider preparation resources, cost, validity period, and recognition in the countries or institutions you are interested in. Taking time to make an informed choice will increase your chances of success and help you plan your learning path more confidently.



Go to our  
Website for sign  
language videos

## How to choose the best certification for you



### Final considerations

Here are some brief recommendations to guide you:

A pink circle containing the number 1 in a white font.

**Define Your Purpose:** First, consider why you need the certification. Is it for academic admission, employment, immigration, or simply to assess your general proficiency? Some certifications are better suited for specific purposes (e.g., TOEFL for university admissions in the US, IELTS for UK visas and study).

A purple circle containing the number 2 in a white font.

**Check Requirements:** If you have a specific institution or employer in mind, always check their exact English language requirements. They might only accept certain certifications or require a specific score.

A pink circle containing the number 3 in a white font.

**Understand Validity:** Do you need a certificate with a permanent validity (like Cambridge, OTE, or LanguageCert) or is a 2-year validity sufficient (like IELTS or TOEFL)? This can influence your long-term plans.

## How to choose the best certification for you



### Final considerations



4

**Review Accommodations:** This is particularly important for you. Carefully examine the specific exam adaptations offered by each system. Which one provides the most suitable and comfortable testing environment for your needs? Consider not just what is listed, but also the clarity of the request procedure and the timeframes involved. If a particular accommodation is crucial for you, confirm its availability and the process for securing it with the test provider.



5

**Assess Your Strengths:** Think about your strengths and weaknesses in the four language skills. Some exams might emphasize certain skills more than others, or have a specific format that plays to your strengths. For instance, if you prefer the option of taking individual modules, OTE might be a good fit.



6

**Consider Preparation Resources:** Look into the availability of preparation materials and practice tests for each certification. Choosing a system with ample resources can make your preparation smoother and more effective.



7

**Logistics and Deadlines:** Pay attention to the enrollment deadlines and the time it takes to arrange special accommodations. Plan well in advance to avoid any last-minute stress.

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