



*The English language proficiency test
that opens the doors of opportunity
across the world*

Test Information
GETS Higher

Preface

This *Test Information* is designed for students, teachers and test administrators who need to familiarise themselves with the design and content of the GETS Higher. The document provides general information about GETS Higher: the test format and parts, test contents, marking, results, the grading system and other related information. The PDF file of this handbook can be downloaded from www.getsworld.com for distribution to the test takers. The *Test Information* has been created using information available in the public domain and is meant for free distribution, not for sale or resale.

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About QAI



GETS (Global English Testing Services) is a trade name owned by Qualifications and Assessments International (QAI), the UK's leading private international awarding body. GETS Higher is a test designed to be used by educational institutions and corporations to assess the English language proficiency level of students, prospective students and the general workforce.

QAI develops, validates, assesses and provides quality assurance on professional programmes and courses for international purposes.

QAI works with schools, colleges, universities, industry and governments to provide high quality, relevant and flexible programmes, qualifications, and assessment services that are fit-for-purpose and current in order to meet well-defined values and global standards.

QAI qualifications and assessments are developed in consultation with specialists in various sectors, employers and other user groups. They are reviewed from time to time to reflect changing needs, which keep the qualifications and assessments up-to-date, with the objective of creating professionals for the 21st century.

QAI programmes, courses, qualifications and assessments are available worldwide through a network of 'QAI Approved Centers'.

QAI has invested in technology based learning solutions, such as its Learning Management System (LMS), ePortfolio system, Center Management System, On-line Marking System, Secure Examination Management System (including biometric, bar code enabled features and exam day photography) etc. and continues to invest in upgrading the platform, with customisation for use on post-laptop, mobile and handheld devices.

QAI is one of the first certifying bodies to certificate learning through MOOCs.

A range of QAI Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas in the areas of Business and Management, Hospitality and Tourism are externally moderated by Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK, with credit transfer on to their Undergraduate and MBA courses.

The GETS Higher test is endorsed by Cardiff Metropolitan University as an English language proficiency test used to assess the language proficiency levels of their students.

Contact



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GETS is a trade name of Qualifications and Assessments International, UK (www.theqai.org)

Preamble

Good English language skills are essential in order to succeed in the 21st Century, whether as a student, an employee, an employer or as an entrepreneur. One's ability to demonstrate relevant language skills for effective communication helps secure an advantageous position in higher education and in the world of work.

About CEFR

The Common European Framework of Reference for languages, abbreviated as CEFR, is a guideline used to describe achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe and, increasingly, in other countries.

It was developed by the Council of Europe as an outcome of the project "Language Learning for European Citizenship" between 1989 and 1996. Its main aim is to provide a method of learning, teaching and assessing which applies to all languages in Europe. Today CEFR is used as a global standard for benchmarking language proficiency, including English language, and has great relevance for language assessment bodies, awarding bodies and exam boards.

The CEFR provides a common standard for understanding and the teaching of language skills, testing and defining activities, assignments and resources. CEFR is particularly useful to educators and assessment boards as it outlines the expectations from a learner of language in a systematic way.

CEFR divides learners into three broad divisions that are further divided into six levels:

A Basic User

- **A1** Breakthrough or beginner
- **A2** Waystage or elementary

B Independent User

- **B1** Threshold or intermediate
- **B2** Vantage or upper intermediate

C Proficient User

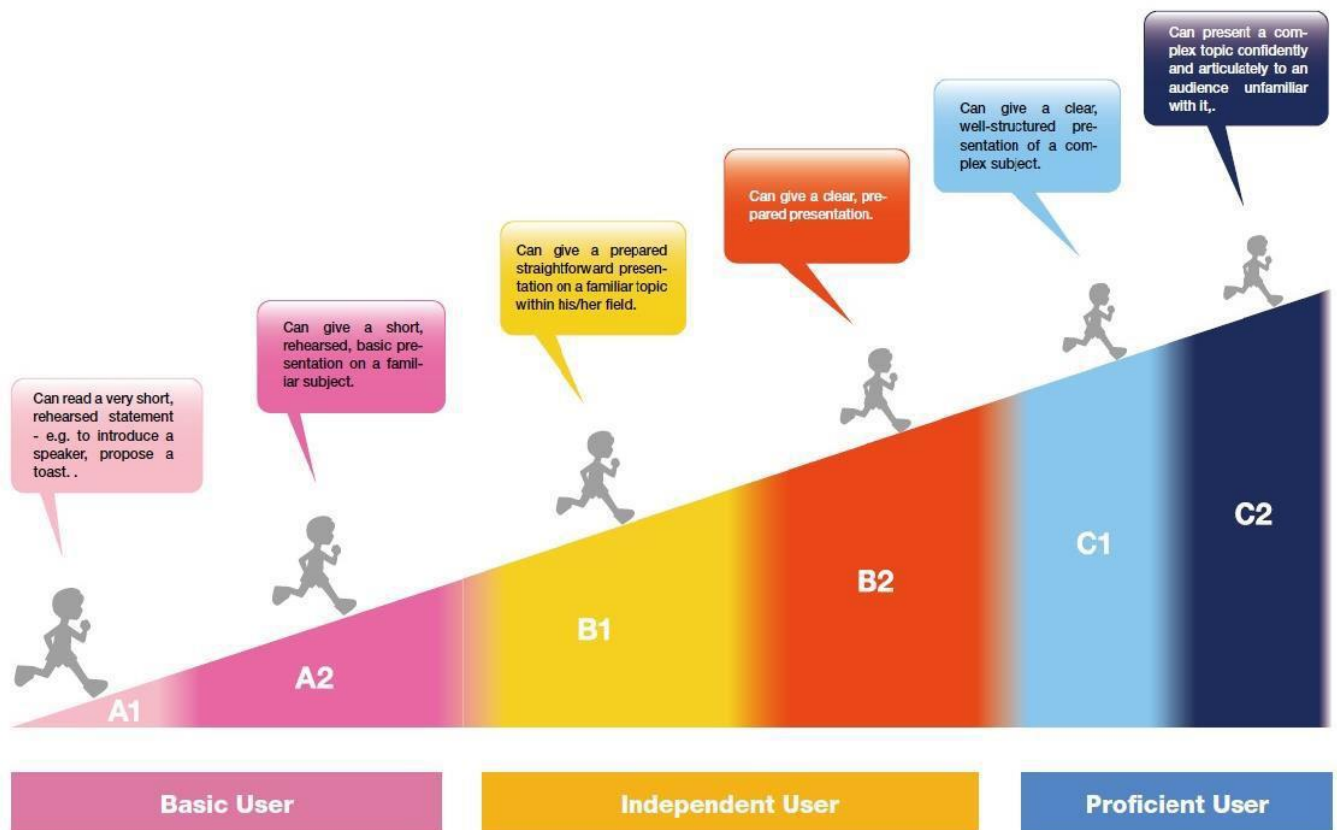
- **C1** Effective Operational Proficiency or advanced
- **C2** Mastery or proficiency

An overview of the 'Can-do' statements at each CEFR level is given on the next page.

You can find more information about the CEFR at:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1_en.asp

CEFR Can-do overview



About the Test

GETS (Global English Testing Services) Higher is a 21st century English language proficiency test designed to assess the communicative abilities of a test-taker in all four key language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. The test can be taken for all four component modules together or as separate tests for any of the four language skills.

GETS Higher scores help schools, colleges and universities to ascertain the English proficiency levels of their students and prospective students, enabling thorough planning of suitable language development programmes to support their students. The test is equally useful to higher education institutions as part of their student enrolment procedures.

GETS Higher is valuable to corporate organisations in their recruitment process too. It supports the screening of job applicants on the basis of essential English proficiency levels required for specific roles in an organisation.

The test is developed using everyday social, educational and workplace contexts. GETS Higher is developed by highly experienced teams of English language practitioners and experts who have been associated with international English language proficiency tests and diagnostic tools. The scores are mapped to international standards in language using the Common European Framework of Reference of languages (CEFR). The exercises in the test reflect current trends in language learning and teaching.

GETS Higher is available as a paper based test and also delivered online at Authorised Test Centers.

Test Highlights:

- Designed to suit individuals in higher education and the work place.
- Emphasises communicative competence and use of English language in social, educational and workplace settings.
- Covers Reading, Writing, Listening & Speaking skills.
- Choose the full test (R / W / L / S) **or** use the option to take any one module at a time.
- Paper based **or** Internet based test delivery.
- On-demand test dates (*conditions apply*).
- Quick result release (*immediate to 7 business days*).
- Writing & Speaking modules marked by certified examiners.
- Test questions aligned to the **GETS Scale of English**.
- Results aligned to CEFR, the international standard.
- Developed by a highly experienced team of English language experts.
- Secure test administration.
- Customisation for corporate organisations.

Test Format and Description

OVERVIEW	DESCRIPTION
<p>Listening</p> <p>4 Parts / 30 questions</p> <p>Approximately 40 min:</p> <p>Part 1: 1.5 to 2 min</p> <p>Part 2: 03 to 3.5 min</p> <p>Part 3: 3.5 to 04 min</p> <p>Part 4: 3.5 to 04 min</p> <p>Each track is played twice.</p>	<p>Task types: Gap-fill; sentence completion; table completion; three option multiple-choice; True/ False and similar objective-type questions based on listening to dialogues, monologues or narratives in a standard variety of accents.</p> <p>Skills tested: Following dictation; listening for specific information and for details; listening for detailed meaning; listening to identify attitudes and opinions of speakers; listening for gist and main ideas. Listening texts are set in both familiar contexts and those outside the everyday experience.</p> <p>Text source: Designed using authentic and/or adapted real-world listening tracks such as announcements, dialogues, discussions, interviews, lectures, monologues, narratives, presentations, radio programmes, talks and telephone conversations.</p> <p>No. of questions: A total of 30 questions.</p> <p>Marking: One mark for each correct answer. No negative marking for incorrect answers.</p>
<p>Reading</p> <p>60 min</p> <p>5 Parts / 40 questions</p> <p>Approximate text length:</p> <p>Part 1: 250-300 words</p> <p>Part 2: 200-250 words</p> <p>Part 3: 400-450 words</p> <p>Part 4: 500-550 words</p> <p>Part 5: 400-450 words</p>	<p>Test takers are required to respond to questions based on reading approximately 1800 to 2000 words.</p> <p>Task types: Gapped text; multiple matching; multiple-choice; True/False/Not Given.</p> <p>Skills tested: Reading for specific information and for details; reading to understand main ideas; reading for detailed comprehension; reading to understand the attitude, opinions and purpose of the writer; reading for gist and global meaning; reading to interpret information (inference); reading to understand meaning from context; following text organisation features; reading to understand text structure, cohesion and coherence.</p> <p>Text source: The test is designed using authentic or adapted real-world materials such as advertisements, articles from newspapers, brochures, data information sheets, encyclopedia entries, fiction, magazines, manuals, messages, notices, personal correspondence, reports and websites.</p> <p>No. of questions: A total of 40 questions.</p> <p>Marking: One mark for each correct answer. No negative marking for incorrect answers.</p>
<p>Writing</p> <p>60 min / 3 Tasks</p> <p>Task 1: 35-40 words</p> <p>Task 2: 90-120 words</p> <p>Task 3: 180-200 words</p>	<p>Task 1: Write an e-mail, message, note or a short personal letter.</p> <p>Task 2: Compare, contrast and summarise the key points of input data or graphical information.</p> <p>Task 3: Present a piece of discursive writing as a summary of the arguments for and against a particular viewpoint, and one's opinion about a topic or subject of general interest. Test takers maybe required to outline a problem, present a solution or their opinion and justify it.</p>

Speaking 12-14 min 5 Parts	<p>Part 1: (2-3 min) Answer questions on family, home, interests, study, work and other familiar topics.</p> <p>Part 2: (1 min) Read aloud four sentences.</p> <p>Part 3: (1-2 min) Talk on a given topic for 1 minute. Candidates are provided with verbal prompts and have 30 seconds to prepare their talk.</p> <p>Part 4: (2-3 min) Make comparisons between two pictures on a related theme. Candidates need to talk for 1-2 minutes.</p> <p>Part 5: (2-3 min) Answer general questions on topical subjects related to the theme of the pictures in Part 4. Candidates are required to express their views and feelings, expand and support their ideas and provide extended responses.</p>
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Marking and Grades

All modules: listening, reading, writing, and speaking are equally weighted. Each module carries 25% weightage.

The listening paper carries 30 marks and the reading paper carries 40 marks. These papers go through a key based marking process. There is no negative marking for inaccurate responses.

The division of marks in the writing paper is as follows: Part 1= 20% | Part 2= 40% | Part 3=40%.

The speaking component is marked based on average performance across all parts of the test.

The writing and speaking modules are marked by 'Certified Examiners' using GETS Higher assessment scales. These assessment scales are mapped to the CEFR can-do statements.

Scores are awarded out of 100.

Raw scores are converted to GETS Levels 1 to 7 and awarded for each skill / module, in addition to an overall average Level.

GETS Levels	GETS Scores	CEFR*
7	90 – 100	B2
6	75 – 89	
5	65 – 74	B1
4	50 – 64	
3	40 – 49	A2
2	25 – 39	
1	15 – 24	<A2
Unclassified	1-14	Unclassified

A reference to CEFR level against the GETS level achieved is recorded, based on the research carried out by the GETS test development team.

Test Report



Test Information

TEST REPORT HIGHER

Candidate Number	XXXXXXXX	Test Date	XX XX XXXX
Participating Institution	XXXXXXXX		

First Name	XXXXXXXX				
Family Name	XXXXXXXX				
ID Type & Number	XXXXXXXX	Date of Birth	XX XX XXXX	Gender	XXXX

Candidate Profile

Results

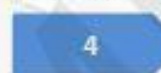
Module Test Scores



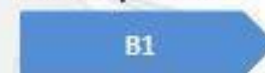
Overall Score



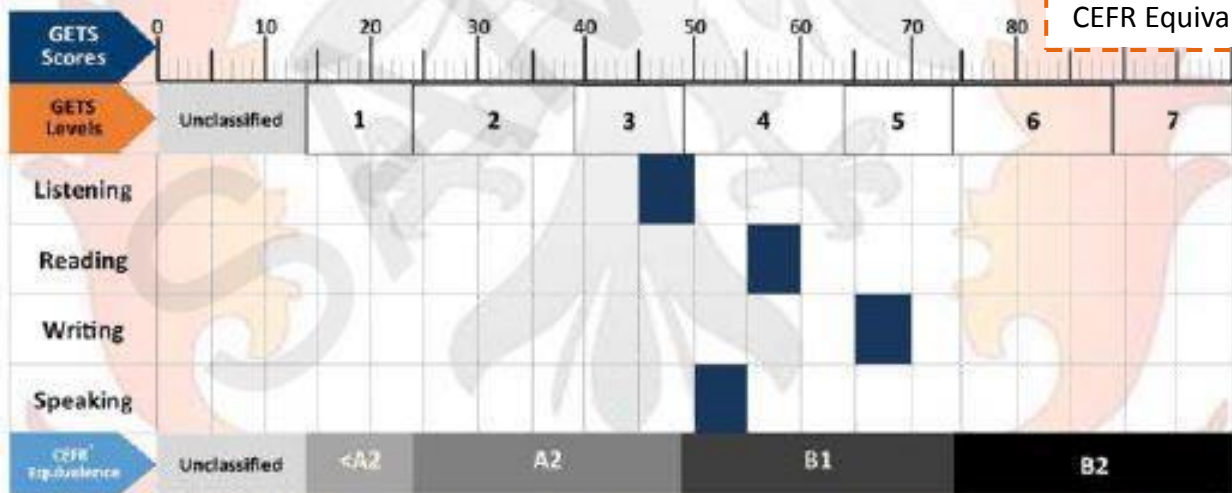
GETS Level



CEFR Equivalence



Overall Score, GETS Level and CEFR Equivalence



*CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference)

Unique Test Report Number. Used for Secure Verification

TR No.: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Test Centre: XXXXX,XXXXX

This is a computer generated report and requires no signature.

Receiving institutions can verify the scores from the GETS secure verification services by registering at www.getsworld.com.



GETS (Global English Testing Services) is a trade name of Qualifications and Assessments International Limited, UK with registration number 7866740.

Test Security

The GETS Higher Test places a high degree of importance on test security and on all aspects of test management. This includes:

- Development and production of the test items and test paper construction
- Printing and packaging (*for paper based test*)
- Storage and dispatch (*for paper based test*)
- Online delivery through the internet
- Test Center approval and management
- Test-day administration, including test-day photography and test-taker's identity check
- Application of advance fraud detection mechanisms
- Malpractice prevention and follow-up (*cheating, collusion, swapping, impersonation etc.*)
- Test paper marking, including conversion of raw scores to GETS Levels
- Response analytics
- Test results processing
- Results verification (*online*)
- Post-test services, including re-checking and re-marking
- Complaints management and investigation

Test Selection and Delivery

The GETS Higher Test is available as a complete test covering all four modules: listening, reading, speaking and writing. However, a candidate can also opt to take any one or a combination of more than one module.

The test is administered by Authorised Test Centers, which are appointed subsequent to a rigorous process of approval and quality assurance.

The test can be taken in any one of the two formats: 'paper-based' or 'internet-based'.