

# ENGLISH TEST COMPARABILITY

The *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR) was first published in 2001 by the Council of Europe with the aim of describing what language learners have to do in order to communicate at different levels of proficiency. Its intention was to provide a common reference for educators of any language to use in order to develop curricula, course materials and assessments appropriate to their contexts. By 2020, it had become widely accepted as a language teaching and learning framework around the world and was available in over 40 European and non-European languages.

Most English language test developers now align the levels of their assessments to the CEFR, and the CEFR bands have become widely recognised around the world.

Many test providers have evolved their own scales to report results showing English language proficiency. The Pearson Test of English (PTE), for example, measures English language proficiency using a scale of 10-90, while the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR) organises proficiency into six levels.

Each provider may evolve its own unique scale and it is therefore important to remember that the purpose of this comparability matrix below is not to compare scales and results across providers, but to align them against the CEFR scale.

CEFR	Cambridge English: Key	Cambridge English: Preliminary	Cambridge English: First	Cambridge English: Advanced	Cambridge English: Proficiency	DUOLINGO	TOEFL IBT	TOEIC (Total Minimum Score)	IELTS	Language Cert Academic	Language Cert General	Cambridge English: Linguaskill	Michigan English Test	OET	Pearson PTE	Trinity GESE	British Council EnglishScore	Oxford Test of English (and for schools test)	Oxford Test of English Advanced	UK RQF				
C2				Proficiency (180 – 230)		160			9	90 – 100				450 – 500	85 – 90					Level 3				
						160	120		8.5															
						155	119																	
C1				Advanced (160 – 210)						150	117-118	945	8	75 – 89	75+	180+	64 & above	400 – 440	76 – 84	Grades 10-12	500 - 599		141 – 170	Level 2
										145	113-116		7.5											
										140	109-112													
			135							104-108	7													
			130							98-103														
B2						First (140 – 190)			125	93-97	785	6.5	60 – 74	60 – 74	160 – 179	53 – 63	300 – 340	59 – 75	Grades 7-9	400 – 499	111 – 140	111 – 140	Level 1	
									120	87-92														
									115	82-86														
	110	76-81			6																			
	105	70-75																						
	100	65-69																						
B1		Preliminary (120 – 170)				95	59-64	550	5.5	40 – 59	40 – 59	140 – 159	40 – 52	200 - 240	43 – 58	Grades 4-6	300 – 399	81 – 110	0 – 110	Entry 3				
						90	53-58																	
						85	47-52		5															
						80	41-46																	
						75	35-40																	
						70	30-34		4.5															
						65	24-29																	
						60	18-23		4															
A2	Key (100 – 150)					10-55	0-17	225	0-4			100 – 119	27 – 39		30 – 42		200 – 299	51 – 80	Entry 2					
A1							120				100 – 119	26 & below		10 – 29	Grades 1-3		100 – 199	0 – 50	Entry 1					
Pre-A1						N/A					82 – 99			N/A			0 – 99		N/A					