

CEFR B1 – Threshold level: Equivalencies in Language Test Assessment

The list is intended to serve as a helpful guide for English UK members to determine which English language testing qualifications are able to identify B1 level students for the purposes of Tier 4 of the UKBA's points-based system. This document is not exhaustive and inclusion on the list does not indicate any form of endorsement by English UK or the UKBA. Only tests where sufficient publicly available information is available and those that are calibrated with the CEFR have been included.

Test Owner	Test	Skills Tested ¹	Delivery Mode	Notes	Range	Minimum Score
Ascentis (formerly OCNW)	Ascentis Anglia English Language Examinations	Reading, writing, listening (speaking is optional)	Paper		Entry 3 ²	Entry 3
Cambridge ESOL/British Council/IDP	IELTS Test	All four skills	Paper and Computer		3.5 – 4.5 ³	3.5
Cambridge ESOL	PET and PET for Schools (Preliminary English Test)	All four skills	Paper	Part of the Cambridge Main Suite of Examinations	Pass – Pass (with merit)	Pass
Cambridge ESOL	BEC Preliminary	All four skills	Computer or Paper	Test of business English	Pass – Pass (with merit)	Pass
Cambridge ESOL	BULATS	Reading and listening (optional speaking and writing tests)	Online, computer and paper-based versions	Test of business English	40-59	40
City & Guilds	International ESOL	Listening, reading and writing	Paper		B1 Achiever ⁴	B1

¹ Definition restricted to the four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

² <http://www.ascentis-anglia.org/pages/arrangements.php#>

³ http://www.ielts.org/researchers/common_european_framework.aspx

⁴ <http://www.cityandguilds.com/4692.html>

City & Guilds	Spoken English Tests for Business	Speaking	Interview		B1 ⁵ - B1+	B1
Educational Testing Service (ETS)	TOEFL iBT	All four skills	Online		57-86 ⁶	57
Educational Testing Service (ETS)	TOEFL PBT	All four skills	Paper	Some difference of opinion although the second set of data seems to be most used	487-567 ⁷ or 457 ⁸	487 or 457
Educational Testing Service (ETS)	TOEFL CBT	All four skills	Computer		163 – 227 ⁹ or 137 ¹⁰	163 or 137
Educational Testing Service (ETS)	TOEIC	All four skills	Paper and Internet		550 (listening and reading) and 240 (writing and speaking) ¹¹	550 (listening and reading) and 240 (writing and speaking)
English Language Testing Ltd <i>(a subsidiary company of university of the Arts)</i>	Password	Test of English Language Knowledge	Online	Placement test	4.0 – 4.5	4.0
English Language Testing Ltd <i>(a subsidiary company of</i>	Password Intro	Test of English Language Knowledge	Online	Placement test	Intro Plus	Intro plus

⁵ http://www.cityandguilds.com/documents/ind_general_learning_business_english/SETB_Handbook_v1.5.pdf

⁶ http://www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/CEF_Mapping_Study_Interim_Report.pdf

⁷ This total is estimated through alignment with the TOEFL iBT test score range (see footnote 6) which has been aligned with the CEFR in research conducted by Tannenbaum et al (2004). http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/TOEFL_iBT_Score_Comparison_Tables.pdf

⁸ This is the figure that is found in other published sources and seems to be the more commonly accepted figure:

<http://www.ordinate.com/technology/featured/Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Versant%20English%20comparison%20to%20other%20English%20tests.pdf>

<http://www.besig.org/events/iateflpce2005/ets/CEFsummaryMarch04.pdf>

⁹ This total is estimated through alignment with the TOEFL iBT test score range (see footnote 6) which has been aligned with the CEFR in research conducted by Tannenbaum et al (2004). http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/TOEFL_iBT_Score_Comparison_Tables.pdf

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<http://www.besig.org/events/iateflpce2005/ets/CEFsummaryMarch04.pdf>

¹¹ http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEIC/pdf/toEIC_cef_mapping_flyer.pdf

<i>university of the Arts)</i>						
English Language Testing Ltd (a subsidiary company of <i>university of the Arts)</i>	Password Pupil	Test of English Language Knowledge	Online	Placement test	Pupil Plus	Pupil Plus
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Qualifications (from EDI)	English for Business ¹²	Reading and Writing (Listening and Speaking are optional)	Paper		Level 1 at credit or distinction or Level 2 ¹³ at pass	Level 1 at credit or distinction or Level 2 at pass
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Qualifications (from EDI)	Spoken English for Industry and Commerce	Speaking	Interview	A 30 minute one-to-one interview	Level 2	Level 2
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Qualifications (from EDI)	English Language Skills Assessment (ELSA)	All four skills	Paper		Writing I – 60 Writing II – grade 3 Speaking – grade Intermediate Mid Listening – 156 Reading –142	Writing I – 60 Writing II – grade 3 Speaking – grade Intermediate Mid Listening – 156 Reading –142
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Qualifications (from EDI)	JETSET ESOL International Qualifications ¹⁴	All four skills	Paper		Level 4 Pass	Level 4 Pass
Oxford University Press (OUP)	The Oxford Online Placement Test	Listening (and grammar)	Online	Placement test	40-60	40
Pearson	Pearson Test of English (General)	All four skills	Paper	Also known as the London Tests of English	Level 2	Level 2
Pearson	Pearson Test of English	All four skills	Computer	From 2009 report:	43-58 ¹⁵	43

¹² There is also an English Language Skills Assessment (ELSA) diagnostic test but only minimal information is publicly available.

¹³ http://www.lccieb.com/documents/EnglishLanguageQualifications_000.pdf

¹⁴ [http://www.lccibalkans.net/nastavni_materijal/New_JETSET_Specification_\(JET_version\).pdf](http://www.lccibalkans.net/nastavni_materijal/New_JETSET_Specification_(JET_version).pdf)

¹⁵ There is a significant discordance in data between IELTS and PTE Academic. According to the PTE website the PTE Academic band score range of 43-58 for B1 is defined as equivalent to an IELTS 5.5-6.0, however the IELTS website states that IELTS begins at 3.5. The PTE Academic score has been aligned to the TOEFL iBT within the range of 57-

	(Academic)			'Interpreting the PTE Academic Score Report' by Pearson		
Pearson	Versant English Test	Speaking	Computer or Phone	Test of spoken English.	47-57 ¹⁶	47
The University of Michigan	Michigan English Test (MET)	Listening and reading	Paper	Test of general English proficiency	40-52 ¹⁷	40
The University of Michigan	Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) ¹⁸	Listening, reading and writing. An optional speaking test is available	Paper	A higher level test for academic, professional and general English usage. The University also offers a placement test (EPT).	66-67 ¹⁹	66
Trinity College London	Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE)	Speaking and listening	Paper		Grade 5 – Grade 6	Grade 5
Trinity College London	Integrated Skills in English examinations (ISE)	All four skills	Paper		ISE 1 ²⁰	ISE 1
Levels Systems						
British Publishing Community	Intermediate				Intermediate	Intermediate

81 which is broadly consistent with the findings reported by ETS. Cambridge ESOL states that an IELTS score of 5.5-6.0 is B2-C1 on the CEFR and not B1.

<http://pearsonpte.com/Testme/Pages/Scores.aspx> and http://www.pearsonpte.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/6813_UK_interpreting_PTEASRlr_131009_V4.pdf

¹⁶ <http://www.versanttest.co.uk/pdf/ValidationReport.pdf>

¹⁷ http://www.lsa.umich.edu/UMICH/eli/Home/Test%20Programs/MET/MET%20General%20Information/MET_CEFR.pdf and <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/UMICH/eli/Home/Test%20Programs/MET/Researchers/METStandardSetting.pdf>

¹⁸ Previously known as Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency (MTELP).

¹⁹ The score is an estimated total only based on published concordance studies with the TOEFL exam. The test was designed for advanced level students.

http://www.lsa.umich.edu/UMICH/eli/Home/Test%20Programs/MELAB/General%20Information/concordance_table_05.pdf

²⁰ <http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/site/?id=1245>

The Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE)	ALTE Level system				Level 2	Level 2
Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA)	National Qualifications Framework (NQF)				Entry Level 3	Entry Level 3

Further Resources:

1. A list of exams accepted by UCAS for entry into UK universities: <http://www.ucas.com/students/wheretostart/nonukstudents/englangprof>
2. CEFR and TOEFL/TOEIC alignment from 2005: <http://www.besig.org/events/iateflpce2005/ets/CEFsummaryMarch04.pdf>

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