

Estimating Scores for Practice Tests

Score reports for the Internet-based TOEFL® (iBT) include a total score and four skill scores. Each skill section is worth a maximum of 30 points. The maximum total score is 120.

The formulas for calculating actual scores for any given form of the iBT are known only to the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the issuer of official TOEFL® scores .

Any “score” given for a practice iBT is only an estimate that shows the general level a student might approach if a real score were issued.

The following method can be used for calculating scores on the complete multi-skills practice tests in the *The Michigan Guide to Teaching EAP Skills*.

Complete Multi-Skills Practice Test 2 (pp. 176-208)

To calculate approximate reading and listening scores

- 1) Check answers in the practice test answer key (p. 222)
- 2) Compute a raw score.

Total possible raw score in the reading section: 49

- 1 point for each correct answer to a multiple-choice question. There are 12 multiple-choice questions for Passage 1, 11 for Passage 2, and 12 for Passage 3.
- For the schematic table on p. 181: 6 points if all 7 options are correctly placed, 5 points for 6 correct, 4 points for 5 correct, 3 points for 4 correct, 2 points for 3 correct, 1 point for 2 correct, or 0 points for fewer than 2 correct.
- For the prose summary on p. 186: 2 points for 3 options correct, 1 point for 2 options correct, or 0 points for fewer than 2 correct.
- For the schematic table on p. 192: 6 points if all 7 options are correctly placed, 5 points for 6 correct, 4 points for 5 correct, 3 points for 4 correct, 2 points for 3 correct, 1 point for 2 correct, or 0 points for fewer than 2 correct.

Total possible raw score in the listening section: 38

- 1 point for each multiple-choice item. Note that question 29 is NOT a multiple-choice item. Questions 6, 22, and 23 ask for 2 answers. To score 1 point in these items, both answers must be correctly chosen; there is no partial credit for only one correct answer.
- For question 29 (p.194): 5 points if all 6 options are correctly placed, 4 points for 5 correct, 3 points for 4 correct, 2 points for 3 correct, 1 point for 2 correct, 0 points for fewer than 2 correct.

3) Divide the raw score by the total possible (49 in reading, 38 in listening) to get a percentage.

4) Use the following table to estimate a score out of 30

Percentage	Approximate score out of 30
90 – 100	26 - 30
80 – 89	22 – 25
70 – 79	17 – 21

60 – 69	14 – 16
50 – 59	9 – 13
40 – 49	7 -8
30 - 39	4 - 6
20 - 29	2 - 4
approximately 15 - 20	1
below approximately 15	0

Remember that this table is meant only as a rough guide to score ranges. It does not give official scores.

Writing and Speaking Scores

Students can get an approximate score only if their writing and speaking answers are rated by proficient speakers of English who know how to use rating criteria. The criteria are summarized in *The Michigan Guide to English for Academic Success and Better TOEFL® Test Scores* as follows:

- Independent writing criteria, p. 140
- Integrated writing criteria, p. 160
- Independent speaking criteria, p. 192
- Integrated speaking criteria, p. 196

These criteria can be used to place each writing sample on a scale of 0 (little or no relevant response) to 5 (highly effective) and each spoken answer on a scale of 0 to 4.

To calculate a converted writing score:

- 1) If two raters have scored a piece of writing, average their scores (add and divide by 2). If only one rater has scored the paper, that rater's score stands.
- 2) Add the score for the independent writing task and the score for the integrated writing task to get a raw score out of 10.
- 3) Use the writing conversion table (below) to convert this raw score to a score on a 30-point scale. (Note: Do not just multiply the raw score by 3.)

To calculate a converted speaking score:

- 1) Add the score for each speaking task to get a raw score out of 24.
- 2) Use the speaking conversion table (below) to convert this raw score to a score on a 30-point scale.

Conversion Tables

The following tables show how raw scores in writing and speaking are converted to scores on a 30-point scale. In writing, half-point raw scores are possible because the scores of two raters may average out that way. Each question in the speaking test is normally evaluated by only one rater, and the scores are added up to get a number out of 24. This is always a whole number because there is no averaging of scores in the speaking section.

Conversion Scale: Writing	
Raw Score	Score out of 30
0	0
0.5	4
1.0	5
1.5	7
2.0	8
2.5	10
3.0	11
3.5	12
4.0	14
4.5	15
5.0	17
5.5	18
6.0	20
6.5	21
7.0	22
7.5	24
8.0	25
8.5	27
9.0	28
9.5	29
10.0	30

Conversion Scale: Speaking	
Raw Score	Score out of 30
0	0
1	1
2	3
3	4
4	5
5	6
6	8
7	9
8	10
9	11
10	13
11	14
12	15
13	17
14	18
15	19
16	20
17	22
18	23
19	24
20	26
21	27
22	28
23	29
24	30

Calculating an approximate score for the entire practice test:

Simply add the four approximate converted scores—reading, listening, writing, and speaking—together to get a score out of 120.

Complete Multi-Skills Practice Test 3 (pp. 224-256)

To calculate approximate reading and listening scores

- 1) Check answers in the practice test answer key (p. 274)
- 2) Compute a raw score.

Total possible raw score in the reading section: 51

- 1 point for each correct answer to a multiple-choice question. There are 13 multiple-choice questions for Passage 1, 12 for Passage 2, and 12 for Reading 3.
- For the schematic table on p. 229: 6 points if all 7 options are correctly placed, 5 points for 6 correct, 4 points for 5 correct, 3 points for 4 correct, 2 points for 3 correct, 1 point for 2 correct, or 0 points for fewer than 2 correct.
- For the prose summary on p. 234: 2 points for 3 options correct, 1 point for 2 options correct, or 0 points for fewer than 2 correct.
- For the schematic table on p. 239: 6 points if all 7 options are correctly placed, 5 points for 6 correct, 4 points for 5 correct, 3 points for 4 correct, 2 points for 3 correct, 1 point for 2 correct, or 0 points for fewer than 2 correct.

Total possible raw score in the listening section: 47

- 1 point for each multiple-choice item. Note that questions 17 and 27 are NOT multiple-choice items. Questions 16, 24, 25, and 37 ask for 2 answers. To score 1 point in any of these items, both answers must be correctly chosen; there is no partial credit for only one correct answer.
- For question 17 (p.245): 4 points if all 5 yes-no boxes are correctly chosen, 3 points for 4 correct, 2 points for 3 correct, 1 point for 2 correct, 0 points for fewer than 2 correct.
- For question 27 (p.247): 4 points if all 5 yes-no boxes are correctly chosen, 3 points for 4 correct, 2 points for 3 correct, 1 point for 2 correct, 0 points for fewer than 2 correct

3) Divide the raw score by the total possible (51 in reading, 47 in listening) to get a percentage.

4) Use the following table to estimate a score out of 30

Percentage	Approximate score out of 30
90 – 100	26 - 30
80 – 89	22 – 25
70 – 79	17 – 21
60 – 69	14 – 16
50 – 59	9 – 13
40 – 49	7 -8
30 - 39	4 - 6
20 - 29	2 - 4
approximately 15 - 20	1
below approximately 15	0

Remember that this table is meant only as a rough guide to score ranges. It does not give official scores.

Writing and Speaking Scores

Students can get an approximate score only if their writing and speaking answers are rated by proficient speakers of English who know how to use rating criteria.

The criteria are summarized in *The Michigan Guide to English for Academic Success and Better TOEFL® Test Scores* as follows:

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- Independent speaking criteria, p. 192
- Integrated speaking criteria, p. 196

These criteria can be used to place each writing sample on a scale of 0 (little or no relevant response) to 5 (highly effective) and each spoken answer on a scale of 0 to 4.

To calculate a converted writing score:

- 4) If two raters have scored a piece of writing, average their scores (add and divide by 2). If only one rater has scored the paper, that rater's score stands.
- 5) Add the score for the independent writing task and the score for the integrated writing task to get a raw score out of 10.
- 6) Use the writing conversion table (below) to convert this raw score to a score on a 30-point scale. (Note: Do not just multiply the raw score by 3.)

To calculate a converted speaking score:

- 3) Add the score for each speaking task to get a raw score out of 24.
- 4) Use the speaking conversion table (below) to convert this raw score to a score on a 30-point scale.

Conversion Tables

The following tables show how raw scores in writing and speaking are converted to scores on a 30-point scale. In writing, half-point raw scores are possible because the scores of two raters may average out that way. Each question in the speaking test is normally evaluated by only one rater, and the scores are added up to get a number out of 24. This is always a whole number because there is no averaging of scores in the speaking section.

Conversion Scale: Writing	
Raw Score	Score out of 30
0	0
0.5	4
1.0	5
1.5	7
2.0	8
2.5	10

Conversion Scale: Speaking	
Raw Score	Score out of 30
0	0
1	1
2	3
3	4
4	5
5	6

3.0	11
3.5	12
4.0	14
4.5	15
5.0	17
5.5	18
6.0	20
6.5	21
7.0	22
7.5	24
8.0	25
8.5	27
9.0	28
9.5	29
10.0	30

6	8
7	9
8	10
9	11
10	13
11	14
12	15
13	17
14	18
15	19
16	20
17	22
18	23
19	24
20	26
21	27
22	28
23	29
24	30

Calculating an approximate score for the entire practice test:

Simply add the four approximate converted scores—reading, listening, writing, and speaking—together to get a score out of 120.