

ENGLISH TEST – SCORE EQUIVALENCY

You can consider English Test from one of these:

- TOEFL iBT visit [ETS TOEFL](#)
- PTE Academic visit [Pearson](#)
- Cambridge CAE visit [Cambridge English: Advanced \(CAE\)](#)
- International English Language Testing System [IELTS](#)

English Language Requirement for Skilled Migration

If you are applying for Skilled Migration, you will need to prove your English language ability. The required level of English depends on the visa subclass you are applying for and there are 4 different levels of English which may be relevant:

- **Superior English:** 20 points in GSM points test
- **Proficient English:** 10 points in GSM points test
- **Competent English:** threshold requirement for General Skilled Migration and ENS/RSMS Direct Entry
- **Vocational English:** threshold requirement for ENS/RSMS Temporary Residence Transition Stream or TRS Visa
- **Functional English:** for secondary applicants seeking to avoid paying the English Language Charge

Validity of English Tests

Tests conducted up to **3 years prior to lodgement** of an application will be accepted by the Department of Immigration.

The only exception to this is for functional English - this requires testing to have been done at most 12 months before lodgement.

Acceptable English Tests

The **IELTS test** is the most common way of evidencing English language ability. Either the Academic or General Training versions of the test are acceptable to the Department of Immigration, but some skills assessing authorities require applicants to sit the Academic version. You will need to obtain a minimum score in each band of the IELTS (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking) in a single sitting.

The **Occupational English Test (OET)** is also accepted as evidence of proficient and superior levels of English. The OET is only appropriate for medical and allied health professionals.

The **Pearson Academic Test of English (Pearson PTE)** and **TOEFL Internet Based Test (TOEFL iBT)** are now accepted for all skilled subclasses. Most state and territory governments also recognise these tests, as do some skills assessment authorities.

The **Cambridge Test of English** is also accepted from January 2015.

You can read more about the **pros and cons of each English test in our article here.**

Vocational English

Vocational English is the required level to obtain ENS and RSMS visa through the Temporary Residence Transitional stream for people who have held a 457 visa for 2 years with the employer.

Required scores to establish Vocational English are as follows:

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
IELTS	5	5	5	5
TOEFL iBT	4	4	14	14
PTE Academic	36	36	36	36
Cambridge (CAE)	154	154	154	154

Competent English

For most skilled visas, you will need to show at least **Competent English** to meet the threshold criteria. If you hold a passport from one of the following 5 countries, you can establish competent English without completing an English test:

1. **Canada**
2. **New Zealand**
3. **United Kingdom**
4. **United States**
5. **Ireland**

Otherwise, you would need to complete a recognised English language test and obtain the following score:

	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
IELTS	6	6	6	6
TOEFL iBT	13	12	18	21
PTE Academic	50	50	50	50
Cambridge (CAE)	169	169	169	169

Competent English gives you 0 points in the **Skilled Migration Points Test**, but is an essential requirement to be able to lodge a skilled visa.

Proficient English

If you demonstrate proficient English, this will give you 10 points for English language ability.

Even native English speakers must undertake English language testing to obtain points for proficient English or higher.

Scores required for Proficient English are:

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
IELTS	7	7	7	7
TOEFL iBT	24	24	27	23
PTE Academic	65	65	65	65
Cambridge (CAE)	185	185	185	185

Superior English

If you demonstrate superior English, this will give the maximum of 20 points for English language ability. Minimum scores for Superior English are:

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
IELTS	8	8	8	8
TOEFL iBT	28	29	30	26
PTE Academic	79	79	79	79
Cambridge (CAE)	200	200	200	200

Functional English

If your spouse or partner has less than functional English, then you would need to pay the "English Education Charge" to cover English language tuition in applying for skilled migration.

You can show you have functional English ability by providing evidence of one of the following:

1. Completion of a degree, higher degree, diploma or trade certificate that required at least 2 years of study in English medium
2. Completion of all years of primary education and at least 3 years of secondary education in English medium; or
3. Completion of at least 5 years of secondary education in English medium; or
4. Scoring at least 4.5 averaged over the four components of the IELTS test within the 12 months before application, or during processing; or
5. Completion in Australia of at least 1 year of full-time study or equivalent part-time study towards a degree, higher degree, diploma, or associate diploma in English medium.

6. In some circumstances, functional English can be established via interview

You can also demonstrate functional English by completing an English test and scoring as follows:

Test component	Average across test components only
IELTS	4.5
TOEFL iBT	32
PTE Academic	30
Cambridge (CAE)	147