

Standard Test of English Proficiency (STEP)

Introduction

STEP is ELS Online project in cooperation with G&D Global for students willing to go abroad to an English speaking environment. This test is designed to bring out and check the natural English ability of a second language speaker of English in all aspects of the language. Therefore, whether a student is willing to go to an English speaking country to apply for a job or to seek higher education, this test will give him/her a complete analysis of his/her English level.

General Overview

Parts

This is a quick 1:15 hour test divided into 7 parts to check all parts of English. Parts 1-6 could be taken on papers which take 1:00 hour. Part 7 is a 15 minute online English interview that checks the student's listening and speaking ability.


Parts 1, 2 and 3 are subdivided into 3 parts each: Easy, medium and difficult. The points respectively vary: 1 point for easy part, 2 points for medium and 3 points for difficult.

Part 1: 60 Points

Visual Component

This part is designed to check how the students natural ability of English. It is well understood now that efficiency of language does no depend only on vocabulary or grammar knowledge, but also how the students feel about English. The pictures carry a message. The idea is for the student to feel the whole idea of the picture instead of focusing on the objects seen in the picture.

Sample:

1.		<p>A. Hat B. Suit C. Handsome D. Stylish</p>
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*If you look at the picture, choices A, B, and C only express only a part or an object. Yes, the guy is wearing a hat, yes, he has a suit, and yes, the guy could be handsome, but the overall message of this picture is choice D. **Stylish**. Therefore, the correct choice is letter D.*

In this part the student needs to FEEL instead of what he/she can simply see in the picture. This brings out the natural ability of English.

Part 2: 60 points

Grammar Component

This part consists of grammar multiple choice questions in an old fashioned manner. This part is subdivided into easy, medium and difficult round.

Topic range:

- Verb and verbal
- Word formation
- Determiners, pronouns and like
- Prepositions, adverbs and sentence connections
- Subject-Verb agreement
- Basic sentence structures

Part 3: 60 points

Vocabulary Component

This multiple choice part tests the vocabulary and expression familiarity of the student. This part is subdivided into easy, medium and difficult round.

Topic Range:

- Everyday vocabulary
- Everyday expressions
- Business vocabulary
- Business expressions
- Phrasal verbs
- Word collocation

Part 4: 20 points

Reading Component

There are two topics to read from and 5 questions from each topic to answer. The reading topics are carefully chosen from business or education related articles. This part tests various reading skills.

Skill Range:

- Scanning
- Skimming
- Vocabulary/ expression in context
- Comprehension
- Logical organization

Part 5: 30 points

Creative Component

In this part, students show their ability to create a sentence quickly. There are 10 words to make sentences with. It is advisable that the students do not change the formation of the word. Students can get 1, 2 or 3 points depending of the sentence quality.

Example:

	Animals are distinctive.	1 point
Distinctive	All animals have distinctive features to protect themselves.	2 points
	It is the distinctive functions of our brain that has made humans the dominant specie on earth.	3 points

1 Point: Expresses a simple idea with a simple sentence.

2 Points: Expresses a complicated idea in a simple sentence or a complicated idea in a simple sentence.

3 Points: Expresses a complicated idea with a complex sentence.

Part 6: 30 points

Writing Component

In this part, students are asked to write a 100-150 word long paragraph.

Topic range:

- Description of a person/ place
- Personal experience/trip/ vacation/ event
- Comparative writing
- Cause or effect of a certain thing or action.

Point distribution:

5 points: Organization

10 points: Content/ support/ explanation.

10 points: Variation of usage of vocabulary/ expressions/ sentences.

5 Points: Coherence and precision.

Part 7: 40 points

Listening and Speaking Component

The student is scheduled an English interview on a Saturday and the student takes a 15-20 minute interview online. This part is subdivided into three parts:

Part 1	Short answers	Several quick questions are asked for 5 minutes, and the student is expected to give quick answers. Answers could also be 3-5 sentences long.
Part 2	Response	The interviewer says an expression and the student is expected to make a quick response appropriate for the expression. <i>Example:</i> Interviewer: Nice weather, isn't it? Interviewee: Yes, why don't we go for a walk? Or Right, let's go to the beach. Or Yes, perfect for picnic.
Part 3	Long answer	1 question is asked. The student is also given 1 minute to think and organize the answer. The student is then expected to answer the question with a speech for at least 2 minutes. The examiner may ask some follow up questions if time permits.

Topic Range:

- Personal information
- Education
- Work
- Friends
- Society
- World issues
- Sports
- Entertainment
- City/ home town

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