

Comparison of English Proficiency Exams

	Cost	Duration	Scheduling	Turnaround Time for Results
Eiken	\$75 USD Level 1 \$60 USD Pre-1 \$30 USD per report	3-4 hours Applicants may test for two grades in one day (am & pm)	Taken in two stages Offered Su, F, W Must pass 1 st stage to take 2 nd (speaking)	6 days 1 st stage 14 days 2 nd stage
TOEFL	\$140-\$185 USD Includes 4 reports	3 ½ hours for PBT 4 ½ hours for iBT	iBT 30-40 per yr PBT 6 per yr Must register 1-2 months in advance	Available online within 2 weeks
IELTS	\$170 USD Includes 5 reports \$15 USD per extra rpt	2 hours 45 minutes	Offered up to 4 times per month Must register 1-2 months in advance	13 days after exam

Eiken

- Japan's most widely administered English proficiency test program: 80 million examinees since 1963.
 - In an independent study of English proficiency levels, Japan rated 14th out of 44 nations with a rating of "moderate proficiency." Most of the countries ranking above Japan were European (exceptions were Malaysia, Hong Kong, and South Korea).
- Two million people take the test each year.
- 18,000 locations in Japan and 46 other countries.
- Cost is \$75 USD for level 1, \$60 USD for pre-1. On the website, it also mentions that there is a 2,100 JPY (~ \$27.29 USD) handling charge per report. If a student is applying to more than one university, this would quickly add up to make the Eiken equivalent in cost to the TOEFL and IELTS.
- In the comparison table, Eiken grade 1 is generally equivalent to a paper-based TOEFL (PBT) score of 600 or an Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) score of 100. Eiken Pre-1 is equivalent to a 550 on the PBT or an 80 on the iBT. Eiken 2A is equivalent to a 500 on the PBT or a 61 on the iBT. Level 2 is the Japanese benchmark for high school graduates. Level 2A, Pre-1 and 1 are the levels generally used for international admission to graduate and undergraduate programs.
- There is a two-week turnaround for the second stage (verbal).
- The Eiken website and literature is flawlessly written, well-organized, and complete.

From promotional literature: Why recognize Eiken?

1. How is EIKEN similar to the English tests you already recognize?

- Rigorous assessment of the four skills
- Face-to-face speaking test
- Widely administered for more than 40 years
- Secure administration and score reporting

2. How is EIKEN different?

- Available at hundreds more locations in Japan than other tests
- Offered at less than half the cost of other tests
- More familiar to Japanese students (80 million have taken EIKEN since 1963)
- Provides international institutions with valuable, **cost-free** marketing access to Japanese schools, students, parents, study-abroad agents, and the Japanese public.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

- 6,000 institutions in the US and 109 other countries accept TOEFL scores.
- 4,000 test centers in 180 countries.
- Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) given 30-40 times per year in dozens of countries. PBT (paper-based) offered 6 times per year. Computer-based is no longer offered.
- iBT takes 4.5 hours and includes 36-70 reading questions, 34-51 listening questions, six speaking tasks, and two writing tasks.
- Score for iBT is between 0 and 120.
- Registration fee for iBT varies by country, but is generally btw \$140 and \$185.
- Price includes distribution to four institutions. Additional at extra cost.
- Score is valid for two years.
- Given on QWERTY keyboard.
- PBT is only 3.5 hours and includes 50 questions on listening comprehension, 40 questions on structure and written expression, 50 questions on reading comprehension, and a Test of Written English. No speaking section.
- Score for PBT is between 310 and 677 points plus a separate Test of Written English score.
- Registration fee is US \$140.
- Includes distribution to four schools, or more for an additional fee.

IELTS (International English Language Testing System)

- Formerly in use by universities in the UK, NZ, and Australia. Now widely accepted by universities throughout the US, including all Ivy League schools.
 - Includes listening and reading passages in British, Australian, and North American English, so students should be familiar with major variations.
- Popularity growing: In 2007, more than 1 million took the IELTS test in 12 months, making it the most popular ELT among immigrants and higher ed institutions.
- Two versions: General and Academic.
- Academic: Contains more challenging reading and writing sections than general test.
- Scores are made on a band scale from 1 to 9.
- Separate score for each section of the test: reading, writing, speaking, listening. Average is calculated and rounded to create an overall score with a confidential band score conversion table.
- Results available 13 days after test is taken.
- Valid for two years.
- Cost is \$170 USD or the equivalent in the currency of the country where administered.
- Distributed to 5 institutions for that price, or more for an additional fee of \$15 USD for each.