

# NAVIGATING THE PROFICIENCY TEST LANDSCAPE

*Gary Gervais*

*Hanna Schutte Linngren*

*Heartland International English School*

# Outline



- The testing landscape
- Test comparisons
- IELTS & teacher tips
- Questions



Cambridge English  
**Advanced**

Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)



CELPIP<sup>®</sup>  
GENERAL • LS

Cambridge English  
**Proficiency**

Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)

ETS<sup>®</sup> **TOEIC**<sup>®</sup>

ETS<sup>®</sup> **TOEFL**<sup>®</sup>

**IELTS**<sup>™</sup>



**CANTEST**



 **MELAB**  
Michigan English Language Assessment Battery<sup>®</sup>



# The Tests

Test	Name
CAEL	Canadian Academic English Language Assessment
CanTest	CanTEST
Cambridge (CAE)	Cambridge English: Advanced
Cambridge (CPE)	Cambridge English: Proficiency
CELP	Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program General test
CELP-LS	CELP - Listening and Speaking
CLB	Canadian Language Benchmarks
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
MELAB	Michigan English Language Assessment Battery
Pearson (PTE Academic)	Pearson Test of English, Academic
TOEFL iBT	Test of English as a Foreign Language
TOEIC	Test of English for International Communication

# Skills Tested

Test	Reading	Listening	Writing	Speaking
CAEL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CanTest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cambridge (CAE)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cambridge (CPE)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CELPiP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CELPiP-LS	<b>X</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>	<input type="radio"/>
CLB	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
IELTS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MELAB	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pearson (PTE Academic)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TOEFLiBT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TOEIC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

# Format

Test	Format
CAEL	Paper + Computer for speaking
CanTest	Paper + Face-to-face for speaking
Cambridge (CAE)	Computer or paper-based
Cambridge (CPE)	Computer or paper-based
CELPiP	Computer based
CELPiP-LS	Computer based
CLB	Paper + On-line assessment
IELTS	Paper + Face-to-face for speaking
MELAB	Paper + Face-to-face for speaking
Pearson (PTE Academic)	Computer based
TOEFLiBT	Computer based
TOEIC	Paper – multiple choice

# Scoring

Test	Scoring
CAEL	10 to 90
CanTest	1.0 to 5.0
Cambridge (CAE)	180–210 (CEFR C1)
Cambridge (CPE)	200-230 (CEFR C2)
CELPiP	M, 3 to 12
CELPiP-LS	M, 3 to 12
CLB	0 to 12
IELTS	1 to 9 Band
MELAB	1 to 4
Pearson (PTE Academic)	10 to 90
TOEFLiBT	0 to 120
TOEIC	10 to 990

# Purpose

Test	Post Secondary	Professional Licensing	Immigration
CAEL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>
CanTest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>
Cambridge (CAE)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>
Cambridge (CPE)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>
CELPiP	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<input type="radio"/>
CELPiP-LS	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<input type="radio"/>
CLB	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>
IELTS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MELAB	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>
Pearson (PTE Academic)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>
TOEFLiBT	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
TOEIC	<b>X</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>X</b>



# Available in Winnipeg

Test	Test in Winnipeg	Cost
CAEL	Yes	\$225
CanTest	Yes	\$60 to \$200
Cambridge (CAE)	No	
Cambridge (CPE)	No	
CELPIP	Yes	\$265
CELPIP-LS	Yes	\$175
CLB	Yes	\$0
IELTS	Yes	\$309
MELAB	No	
Pearson (PTE Academic)	No	
TOEFLiBT	Yes	\$245
TOEIC	Yes	\$103.95

# IELTS & Teacher Tips

# How Teachers Can Help



- ❑ Students taking the test over and over, instead of studying
- ❑ Helping to eliminate misconceptions
- ❑ Encouraging preparation and skill building
- ❑ Avoiding unethical preparation/test taking
- ❑ Test centre vs. test venue

# Misconceptions



- ❑ IDP vs. British Council, Cambridge
- ❑ Time management
- ❑ Test moves fast, doesn't stop for candidates
- ❑ Test marked by at least 4 different people, possibly more
- ❑ There is no pass or fail in IELTS
- ❑ Remarking a test, candidates can request an EOR

# Common Test Day Mistakes



- ❑ Not reading the question fully, not following instructions
- ❑ Changing the subject in the writing test
- ❑ Not pronouncing words correctly (accent doesn't matter)
- ❑ Repeating the question that was asked in the speaking test
- ❑ Leaving blank answers

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/howtoprepare>

# Which test is easiest?

- Different formats, tests are used for different things
- Wider acceptance is usually more expensive
- Paper-based vs. online

# How to interpret IELTS test scores

- On 9 bands, can receive a half band
- Scores are rounded to the next half band
- Listening and reading questions band score boundaries set based on difficulty of each test date
- Writing scores based on: Task achievement/task response, coherence & cohesion, lexical resource, and grammatical range and accuracy
- Speaking scores based on: fluency and coherence, lexical resource, grammatical range and accuracy, and pronunciation
- Examiners undergo face to face standardisation, certification, and monitoring frequently

# Critical tips



- ❑ Candidates should come prepared and on time
- ❑ Don't forget ID!
- ❑ Plan ahead for parking, know where the test centre is
- ❑ Online resources are available, as well as library resources
- ❑ Encourage students to attend a preparation class or info session



# IELTS tips for candidates



- <https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/tips>  
IDP IELTS preparation
- <https://www.ielts.org/book-a-test/prepare-for-your-ielts-test>  
IELTS/Cambridge preparation
- <http://ieltscanadatest.com/prepare-for-ielts/>  
Canadian IDP preparation

# Tips from other teachers

- ❑ Make sure test takers are familiar with the test and know what to expect
- ❑ Candidates are aware of time requirements
- ❑ Read instructions carefully and follow them
- ❑ Listening: read questions carefully and prepare before hearing the recording
- ❑ Reading: scanning is important. Also transfer answers during time allotted.
- ❑ Writing: analyze questions carefully. Decide on a position and support it.
- ❑ Speaking: make sure candidates are confident and relaxed. Listen carefully to questions. It is language level that is being evaluated, not their opinions.

# Native Speaker Pitfalls



- proof that preparation is needed
- successful test is a combination of English skills & good test prep

# Why So INTENSE?



- Expensive test, high security

- Video about BBC documentary

30,000 invalid TOEIC scores uncovered

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-26024375>

- New IELTS test specifically for UK Immigration

- TOEIC no longer accepted for immigration, many schools

# The Path to Examining



- What it's like
- How to become an examiner
  - ▣ need to be native English speaker or receive an IELTS score of 9
  - ▣ hold TESL certification
  - ▣ have substantial teaching experience (minimum requirement of years and hours)
- Training and support received can be beneficial in classroom
- Supplemental income from examining
- Helping people achieve goals

QUESTIONS?

