



İZMİR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF BASIC ENGLISH
2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR
JANUARY 28 2025 PROFICIENCY EXAM
TEST SPECIFICATIONS (STUDENT'S COPY)



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXAM

- January 28 Proficiency Exam sessions will take place on the day and at the time determined by the School of Foreign Languages. Therefore, no change in date or time can be requested due to any excuse.
- All the exam sessions will be administered face-to-face on campus in the SFL buildings.

EXAM DESIGN

<i>Test Type</i>	Proficiency Test
<i>Language Level</i>	B2 of The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)
<i>Number of Test Components</i>	5
<i>Number of items</i>	70 + 1 Writing task
<i>Time Allocated</i>	205 minutes
<i>Weighting of Items</i>	All items in the Vocabulary, Use of English and Reading tasks are equally weighted (1 point each) while Listening task items are 1.5 points.
<i>Reporting Type</i>	Single test score out of 100.

- The exam will be conducted in **three sessions**. Please see the details below:

Date / Session	Component	Response Format	Skills Assessed	Number of Tasks / Questions	Total Mark	Weighting	Allocated Time
28 January 2025 SESSION I	Writing	* Open-ended	Writing skills	1 task – Writing an opinion essay	25	25%	10.00-11.10 (70 min.)
BREAK (11.05-11.25)							
28 January 2025 SESSION II	Listening	* Multiple Choice (4-option)	Listening Comprehension	2 tasks 10 questions	15	15%	11.25-12.30 (65 min.)
	Use of English	* Multiple Choice (4-option)	Language Use	4 tasks 30 questions	30	30%	
LUNCH BREAK (12.30-13.30)							
28 January 2025 SESSION III	Vocabulary	* Multiple Choice (4-option)	Vocabulary Knowledge	1 task 10 questions	10	10%	13.30-14.40 (70 min.)
	Reading	* Multiple Choice (4-option)	Reading Comprehension	4 tasks 20 questions	20	20%	

SCORING

General Statement

- Automatically marked sheets for Listening/Reading/Use of English/Vocabulary tasks
- Writing tasks to be marked by two instructors using an analytic scale of 20 points (which will be converted to 25 points). (See Appendix 1)

SAMPLE TEST TASKS / ITEMS

SESSION I: WRITING

TASK - Writing an Opinion Essay (25 points)

Sample Item:

Task: Write a well-developed **opinion essay** of **minimum 300 words** in **four or five paragraphs**. (25 points)

Topic: "Do you think it is a good idea for students to get a job?"

Support your opinion with specific reasons/points and details.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The cases of cheating will be marked '0' points.
- 'Off-topic' (completely irrelevant)/No task achievement responses will be marked '0' points.
- 1 point will be deducted from the total mark in cases below:
 - Responses below 300 words
 - Responses with no paragraphs (response written as a connected text)
- In relation to the 'Essay Writing Analytic Rating Scale', check content, organisation, vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and capitalisation in your response before you submit it.

SESSION II

PART A: LISTENING (15 points)

TASK I-Listening to a Talk / a Conversation / an Interview (7,5 points)

Sample Item:

Listen to a conversation about science and women. Choose the correct option for questions 1-5. You will hear the recording twice. (5x1,5=7,5 points)

1. In the past, women didn't study science because _____.

- ☒ a) there were few science schools for women
- b) people thought women were not ready
- c) women were busy with housework and children
- d) women were not sent to school

TASK II-Matching (7,5 points)

Sample Task

Listen to five people talking about music. Match the speakers (1-5) with the statements (A-E). Use the letters only once. You will hear the recording twice. (5x1,5=7,5 points)

6.	Speaker 1	B	A. The speaker has always been interested in music from a very young age.
7.	Speaker 2	C	B. The speaker loves listening to, but not playing music.
8.	Speaker 3	A	C. The speaker has a family member who is a professional in music.
9.	Speaker 4	E	D. The speaker loves all types of music without any exceptions.
10.	Speaker 5	D	E. The speaker's love of music started at a later stage in his/her life.

PART B: USE OF ENGLISH (30 points)

TASK I - Gap Fill (15 points)

Sample Item:

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences in questions 11-25. (15x1=15 points)

11. This is the _____ pizza I _____.

a) worst/have ever had

b) worse/am having

c) bad/had

d) badly/will have

TASK II - Error Identification (7 points)

Sample Item:

In questions 26-32, there are four CAPITALISED words/phrases. One of them contains a grammatical mistake. Choose the correct option that shows the mistake. (7x1=7 points)

26. In this framework, it explores the interconnection and bidirectional relationship **a) BETWEEN** human and nature, and at the same time deals **b) OF** various problems **c) SUCH** as the climate crisis as a problem **d) THROUGH** the concept of ecosophia.

TASK III - Dialogue Completion (3 points)

Sample Item:

Choose the correct option to complete the dialogues in questions 33-35. (3x1=3 points)

33. **Jenny:** Can you give me some advice on choosing a program for my master's degree?

Sylvia: _____

Jenny: What do you mean by that? Money?

Sylvia: Well, that too. But more important will be time, energy, and effort.

a) Would you like some other things?

b) Yes, but I need to know how much you are ready to give.

☒ c) Well, it depends on whether you can afford it or not.

d) Forget it! You're sufficiently well qualified as you are.

TASK IV - Sentence Completion (5 points)

Sample Item:

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences in questions 36-40. (3x1=3 points)

36. Above all his many talents, Ray Charles, had the ability to interpret and sing songs in such a way _____.

a) of being the person most responsible for developing soul music

☒ b) that he became one of the most successful African-American artists of the 20th century

c) to be compared to his contemporaries

d) when he was carrying the feelings in his words to listeners

SESSION III

PART A: VOCABULARY (10 points)

TASK I - Gap Fill (10 points)

Sample Item:

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences in questions 1-10. (10x1=10 points)

1. Don't worry about the homework. I can _____ you my notes.

a) borrow

☒ b) lend

c) take

d) help

PART B: READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS (20 points)

TASK I - Multiple Matching (5 points)

Sample Task:

Read the text and choose the correct option for questions 11-15. (5x1=5 points)

Your Beautiful Caribbean Holiday

It is said that for every individual dream of faraway sands there is a perfectly matching Caribbean Island. For centuries the Caribbean has enchanted and captivated the traveller with the combination of perfect beaches of dazzling white sands, palm trees shaking in the soft winds and a pace of life that is decidedly relaxed. We have selected four of the most popular islands: St. Lucia, Antigua, Jamaica and Barbados.

I. St. Lucia

A mystical island of volcanic mountains, St. Lucia is a charmed and charming place. Its scenic grandeur is second to none: secret bays of deep sand, sky-high mountain sides covered in dense forestry and whole valleys of banana groves make for dramatic scenery and yet they are upstaged for sheer rarity by its most famous landmark- the twin volcanic cones, called the Pitons. With a history as complex as its tropical greenery and perhaps the friendliest people in the Caribbean, it's difficult to know if they are a product of the island or the vital ingredient that makes it what it is. Either way, they welcome the visitor with a refreshing enthusiasm- and a spicy traditional cuisine. St. Lucia is undeveloped (as are its roads and services!) and while it remains unspoilt, it may spoil you for anywhere else.

II. Antigua

It's said that Antigua has a beach for every day of the year and its rocky coastline of deep inlets, long peninsulas and natural harbours certainly supports the theory. However, it's a legend that is difficult to prove, for visitors to the island are so quickly intoxicated with the gentle pace, infectious calm and general contentment, that no-one is inclined to do a count. One thing is certain, the coral island of Antigua has the finest shores of pink-white sand in all the Caribbean. Apart from the beach, there is plenty of sightseeing as Antigua's unsophisticated charm is spellbinding. In the capital, St. Johns, wooden balconies a century old overhang the street and the market is a battlefield where gossip is exchanged with goods.

III. Jamaica

As colourful as its history, as lively as its local reggae rhythm, and as scenic as any island you will find, Jamaica's magical magnet draws eager visitors to its shores in ever-increasing numbers. Woodland and waterfalls, history and tradition, sun and sports, modern Jamaica has it all. The sugar-white sands of the north coast resorts are legendary and bordered with offshore coral reefs, providing a wide choice of water-based activity, from snorkelling to jet skiing, scuba diving to parasailing. The landscape too, more than simply beautiful, lends itself to recreation. You can climb the water-smoothed steps of Dunn's River Falls, play golf on a number of world class courses, go rafting on the Rio Grande. So much more than sun and sand, Jamaica is the Caribbean encapsulated, a rich reserve of holiday resorts.

IV. Barbados

As British as cricket and afternoon tea, as historic as piracy on the high seas, as exotic as calypso and coral reefs, as Caribbean as you could wish, Barbados is a matchless mix of sunshine, sport and sophistication. The sunniest in a sea of tropical treasures, Barbados is blessed with beautiful beaches, where, centuries ago, smugglers and pirates used to land. The fashionable west coast is caressed by the cool Caribbean, while the eastern shoreline is battered by the crashing Atlantic surf. Those who enjoy land sports are well looked after, with championship golf and foodlit tennis courts and on warm Barbados evenings the 'millionaires' playground' of the West Indies comes alive with the characteristic music of steel bands, the cool sound of jazz and the more relaxed Latin American rhythms. Yet the island preserves a certain charm, gentility and sophistication, in classical colonial plantation mansions, in old-world values of courtesy and dress code and the time-honoured tradition of taking life slowly, so it lasts longer... Decide that 'rushing' is just something they make baskets from and you're well on the way to discovering the Barbados spirit.

Which island would you recommend for a holiday maker who...

11) enjoys different kinds of music?

- a) I b) II c) III **d) IV**

12) enjoys eating peppery food?

- a) I b) II c) III d) IV

13) wants to meet the local population?

- a) I b) II c) III d) IV

14) wants to do a lot of water sports?

- a) I b) II c) III d) IV

15) wants to see the best pink-white sand?

- a) I b) II c) III d) IV

TASK II - Heading Match (5 points)

Sample Task:

Read the text and match each paragraph (A-E) with the correct heading (I-VIII) in the table by choosing the correct option for questions 16-20. There are three extra headings. (5x1=5 points)

A _____

Although intelligence and the brain have been studied for a long time, there is little understanding of how the brain works to produce intelligence. This has something to do with the fact that the brain contains around 100 billion cells (about the number of stars in the Milky Way).

B _____

One of the continuing myths about the relationship between intelligence and the brain is that the brains of very clever people are somehow physically different from those of ordinary people. At the beginning of the century, an American scientist called E.A. Spitzka produced a list of the weights of the brains of important, well-known men. The heaviest brain on the list was that of Turgenev, the Russian novelist, at 2000 gr. However, the brain of another great genius, Walt Whitman, weighed only 1282 gr.

C _____

There are no significant differences between the intelligence levels of males and females. However, girls under seven score a little higher than boys in IQ tests and Marilyn vos Savant has the highest IQ recorded. Yet, men and women differ in the way they think. Generally, women are more skilled orally and men do tasks better after they see them.

D _____

Also, there are similarities between the brains of all people and computers. Computers can do complicated calculations at unbelievable speeds. But they work in a fixed way because they can't make memory connections. In fact, it is claimed that when it comes to seeing, moving and reacting, no computer can even compete with the brain power of a fly.

E _____

Most of our mental acts are deeply formed habits. Challenging your brain to do things differently helps it develop. Try changing routines as often as you can: take a bus instead of going by car, sit in a different chair. Exercise more. Good health and fitness levels gives you improved energy. Cooking is also good for mental exercise. It challenges memory and gives creative ability. Finally, don't forget to do puzzles and play games.

HEADINGS			
I.	A Shocking History	V.	The Super Machine
II.	The Battle of the Sexes	VI.	Is Bigger Better?
III.	Which Is More Important: IQ or EQ?	VII.	Make Your Brain Work
IV.	How Much Do We Know?	VIII.	Technology and Health

16. The correct heading for paragraph A is _____.

- a) I b) II c) III **d) IV**

TASK III - Text Completion (5 points)

Sample Task:

Five sentences have been removed from the text below. For questions 21-25, choose the correct option to complete the text (I-VIII). There are three extra options. (5x1=5 points)

When a film is successful, it's usually the actors who get all the attention in the media, but at the Oscars this is different. The actors are just one part of what makes a film successful. Behind the scenes, there is a hard-working team that makes it all happen. One thing shouldn't be forgotten. **21)** _____.

One of the most important people behind the scenes is the director. The director's job is to give directions to the actors and the film crew. **22)** _____.

All films need good photography to help develop the story. 23) _____. He or she makes sure that the photography supports the story. He or she has a lot of responsibility and leads the teams in charge of lighting and cameras.

24) _____. He or she is the person who needs to understand exactly what the director wants and design the most suitable costumes. The costumes have to be comfortable so the actors can move easily, but at the same time they need to match the characters the actors are playing. It's a job that requires imagination, research and you have to know how to make things!

It could be said that the most important person in the creation of a film is the producer. Without a producer there would be no film at all! The producer steers the film through all its stages and is the person who finds the money to finance the whole film. 25) _____. During the whole filming process, it is the producer's job to make sure that everything goes well.

SENTENCES	
I. As the person who finds the money to finance the whole film, he or she also works closely with many other people behind the scenes.	V. Another essential person that we often forget about is the costume designer – the person who designs what the actors wear.
II. They are just as important as the big stars, and the Oscars recognise many of these people who we never usually consider.	VI. Film making is not a job, profession, field or career.
III. Directing a film is very stressful work.	VII. However, he or she doesn't work alone.
IV. The cinematographer is the person who is in charge of shooting the film.	VIII. Designing film costumes is very different from the work of fashion designers.

21. The sentence that best fits gap 16 is ____.

- a) III b) I c) VI **d) II**

TASKS IV-V - Reading Comprehension (10 points)

Sample Task:

Read the text and choose the correct option for questions 26-30. (5x1=5 points)

200,000 miles from the earth, the crew of the third manned mission to the Moon faced an astronaut's worst nightmare: an explosion on the spacecraft. It is the plot of the Oscar-winning film Apollo 13, but it is also a true story of survival against the odds.

A Was it doomed from the beginning? The scientists at Houston were in charge of getting the spacecraft to the Moon and back. They had scheduled for the April 1970 lift-off for 13 minutes after the 13th hour. They had also planned the moon landing itself for the 13th day of the month. For those who believe in bad luck, perhaps the only thing missing was a Friday. Scientists aren't supposed to be superstitious, though, and despite minor problems on lift-off, Apollo 13 started its journey.

B Two days into the mission, the three-man crew faced catastrophe. They had been carrying out routine checks when there was a loud bang. Warning lights were starting to flash furiously. Looking out into space, they could see a trail of gas - the spacecraft was leaking oxygen. They sent out a short message to the scientists back on Earth: "Houston we've had a problem here!" At first, they thought that a meteor had hit them, but they later found out that a short-circuit had caused an oxygen tank to explode. Whatever the cause, they knew there was no time to lose. Their electricity supply in the command module depended on that oxygen and pretty soon they will run out of both.

C The only solution was to *conserve* oxygen by moving from the command module into the lunar module - the section of the spacecraft that would have landed on the Moon. Now though, they were using it as a kind of lifeboat. With its own power supply, oxygen and water, the three men could survive in the lunar module and return to Earth. There was another problem though. In an enclosed space like a lunar module, the carbon dioxide the crew was breathing out was dangerous. The equipment to clear the air of carbon dioxide was only built for two people. Now *it* had to cope with three. Amazingly, crew managed to put together an adapter that reduced the carbon dioxide to a safe level.

D There was one final *obstacle*. The lunar module wasn't strong enough to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere, so the crew had to transfer back into the damaged command module. To everyone's relief, the crew of Apollo 13 splashed down safely in the South Pacific Ocean on April 17th. It was a space flight that would go down in history. Although the crew didn't land on the Moon, NASA still considers the mission a success. The Apollo 13 disaster was proof that their highly-trained astronauts could deal with anything that could go wrong.

26. The text is mainly about _____.

- a) the bad effect of the number 13
- b) an explosion on a spaceship
- c) the Oscar-winning film Apollo 13
- d) a journey to the Moon

27. The word '*conserve*' in paragraph C is closest in meaning to _____.

- a) store
- b) preserve
- c) produce
- d) separate

28. The astronauts survived by _____.

- a) using the lunar module as a lifeboat
- b) adapting to less oxygen
- c) repairing the command module
- d) creating a new oxygen supply

29. The word '*it*' in paragraph C refers to _____.

- a) another problem
- b) carbon dioxide level
- c) the equipment
- d) the crew with a lifeboat

30. The word '*obstacle*' in paragraph D is closest in meaning to _____.

- a) responsibility
- b) similarity
- c) safety
- d) difficulty

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

GENERAL REMINDERS

- Students are required to check their classes on **YDYO website** before the exam, and they must be ready in their classes **10 minutes before** the start of the exam.
- Students are required to have **ID cards with photographs** (ID card, driving licence, passport, etc.) to be able to take the exam. Students who do not have an ID card with a photograph will not be able to take the exam.
- Students are responsible for following the announcements about the exam entirely for the exam venue, time, and rules.
- **Students are required to leave their muted mobile devices (smart phones and watches) on their proctor's desk before the start of each session** in the exam and get them back after submitting their exam papers. For convenience purposes, tablets can be kept in bags.
- It is the responsibility of students to bring stationery items such as pencils, erasers, and sharpeners required for the exam. **No sharing** of these items will be allowed.
- Students who leave the exam venue **cannot be readmitted** to continue their exam. Therefore, they must go to the exam venues by making the necessary preparations in advance.
- Latecomers will be admitted to their classrooms in **the first 10 minutes of the exam sessions except for the Listening Part**, but **no additional time** will be provided. (Please see the detailed notes below) Accordingly, students **cannot leave** the classrooms **in the first 10 minutes** of the exam sessions.
- Students can only leave the exam venues **after handing in their exam documents**.
- It is the responsibility of students to **follow the announcements about the exam** entirely and **comply with the warnings of the proctors** during the exam. Therefore, students who do not comply with the specified rules forfeit the right to take the exam.
- Students **are not allowed to use extra resources** (dictionaries, printed materials, etc.) during the exam.
- When students start the exam, it means they agree that their health condition is suitable for taking the exam.
- Students will be **responsible for providing their name, surname, school number, and class** correctly.
- The students themselves will be **responsible for any errors** in the answers (wrong marking of the answer, missing marking, not finishing, or not being able finish the exam within the specified time, etc.) Thus, they must check the accuracy of the marking before handing in their exam documents. It must be noted that it will not be possible to get back the exam documents after handing them in.

- Students **cannot keep papers, notebooks, etc., on their desks** for note-taking purposes.
- If it is detected that **a student has attempted to cheat** in any way, a report will be filled out and his/her exam score will be cancelled. Additionally, **disciplinary and legal actions** will be taken for those students.
- Proctors have the right to cancel the exam of the student(s) on the condition that they notice that they are engaged in a suspicious action during the exam.
- Students have the right to **object to their exam results** only in suspicious cases of miscalculation. Then the student must submit a petition of objection to the SFL Student Affairs Office or send it as an email attachment to ydyo@iyte.edu.tr **within 7 work days** following the announcement of exam results.
- There is no make-up exam for the proficiency exam.
- The exam results of the students will be announced on <https://ydyo.iyte.edu.tr/> on **03.02.2025**.

SESSION I - Writing

- Latecomers will be admitted to the exam venues **in the first 10 minutes**.
- Students cannot leave their classroom **in the first 10 minutes**.

SESSION II-Listening & Use of English

- Latecomers will not be admitted to the exam venues in as the exam starts with the listening part. They will be admitted to their classrooms in **the first 10 minutes after the listening part is over**, but **no additional time** will be provided.
- Students **cannot leave** their classrooms **while listening is in progress and in the first 10 minutes of Part B (Language Use)**.

SESSION III-Vocabulary & Reading

- Latecomers will be admitted to the exam venues **in the first 10 minutes**.
- Students cannot leave their classroom **in the first 10 minutes**.

APPENDIX 1

Students' responses will be marked out of **20** points using an analytic scale and then will be converted to **25** points in Microsoft Excel. The scale includes the following components:

İZMİR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

ESSAY WRITING ANALYTIC RATING SCALE (*Designed for Proficiency Tests*) / STUDENT'S COPY (20 pts.)

CONTENT & ORGANISATION (10 pts.)	INTRODUCTION (2 pts.)		2	the topic is introduced with general information which is properly narrowed down to focused information including a direct statement of personal opinion
			1	the topic is introduced with some general information but there may not be a smooth transition to focused information OR the introduction may be too specific and/or short OR there is not a direct statement of personal opinion
			0	no introduction / does not communicate OR not enough to evaluate
	BODY (6 pts.)	CONTENT	3	the opinion is supported with relevant ideas including well-focused details/examples
			2	most ideas support the stated opinion but there are several undeveloped and/or irrelevant and/or missing ones
			1	the opinion is supported inadequately with frequently repeated/irrelevant/undeveloped ideas
			0	ideas considered partly relevant OR not enough to evaluate
		ORG	3	fluent expression of well-organised ideas / an adequate range of cohesive devices with one or two errors
			2	some ideas may be disconnected or loosely-organised / a limited range of cohesive devices with several errors
			1	ideas disconnected or poorly organised / non-fluent / a very limited range of cohesive devices with frequent errors
			0	no organisation OR not enough to evaluate
	CONCLUSION (2 pts.)		2	the ideas stated in the body are effectively summarised including a restatement of the opinion and/or a final comment
			1	the conclusion may be too short or repetitive/ the summary may not be well-organised/ there may be new ideas
			0	no conclusion / does not communicate OR not enough to evaluate
LANGUAGE USE (8 pts.)	VOCABULARY (4 pts.)		4	a wide range of appropriate vocabulary with one or two errors
			3	an adequate range of appropriate vocabulary with several errors
			2	a limited use of vocabulary with repetitions and/or frequent errors that may impair communication at times
			1	very poor and repetitive vocabulary and major errors that seriously hinder communication
	SENTENCE STRUCTURE (4 pts.)		4	effective use of simple grammatical structures but there may be one or two errors in complex constructions
			3	effective use of simple grammatical structures with one or two errors but several errors in complex constructions
			2	good use of simple grammatical structures with one or two errors but major or frequent errors in complex constructions
			1	major or frequent errors in simple and/or complex grammatical structures
			0	dominated by errors and thus does not communicate OR not enough to evaluate
			MECHANICS (2 pts.)	
1	several errors in spelling, punctuation and capitalisation			
0	frequent errors in spelling, punctuation and capitalisation, making the text illegible			

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Please check the table below for notes on marking:

PROBLEM	MARKING
Cheating See example cases of cheating below: a) Copying parts or sentences from internet sources or any printed sources b) Copying parts or sentences from another student	The response will be marked <u>'0' points</u> out of 20.
'Off-topic' response / No task achievement	The response will be marked <u>'0' points</u> out of 20.
A response below <u>300 words</u>	1 point will be deducted from the total mark. • Please note that additional points may be deducted if other task requirements are not fully met (e.g. well-developed ideas) due to fewer words.
No paragraphs (response written as a connected text)	1 point will be deducted from the total mark.