

Progress Language Test

Part 1 Reading (45 minutes)

You will read one text on an art and design topic and answer questions about it. The questions will test your understanding of areas such as specific points in the text, general ideas, the writer's opinions, synonyms and reference words. You can see an example reading test here: http://www.reading.ac.uk/islc/TEEP/ISLC-TEEP-Practice_test.aspx There are other skills papers on this webpage – just focus on the Reading task booklet (questions), source booklet (text) and key (answers).

Part 2 Writing (60 minutes)

When you finish the Reading, you will write one essay of about 300 words. The essay will be on a similar topic to the Reading. You should make sure you answer the question by including your own ideas and explaining them clearly with good grammar and vocabulary. You can also include ideas from the Reading text but you mustn't copy anything. You should practise the following skills: writing in paragraphs; writing introductions and conclusions; explaining your ideas clearly; using examples and supporting your ideas; checking that you answer the question; checking your writing for grammar and spelling mistakes; using linking words correctly and appropriately. The writing structure is similar to the essay (task 2) in IELTS. The word length of the Progress writing is greater but you have more time to write your answer. Also, the writing topic is connected to the Reading so you have chance to think about the topic before you write.

Parts 3 & 4 Speaking and Listening (30 minutes)

You will do this section with a partner and there will be two examiners, one asking the questions and one just listening. The test will be in four parts:

1. You answer some introductory questions about yourself on familiar topics.
2. The examiner then shows you 6 images, for example 6 photographs from a photography competition. You and your partner describe one of the photographs and say, for example, why you like it or why you chose it (this will depend on the examiner's question).
3. The examiner then plays a short recording of part of a lecture about two of the pictures. As you listen, you must make notes. Then with your partner you discuss and try to re-construct what you heard together in as much detail as possible. It needn't be exactly what was said in the recording – you can use your notes to help you paraphrase. Your notes and discussion in this section are important because they will help us decide your listening mark.
4. You discuss the topic from parts 2 and 3 in more detail with your partner and the examiner.

The speaking and listening test is an opportunity for you to show that you can communicate in English. If you don't understand all of the examiner's questions, you can ask him or her to repeat them. It is important to communicate with your partner and show that you can discuss a topic in English. Be confident, but try not to dominate the conversation; ask your partner for his or her opinion, and try to expand your answers as much as possible.