

Common European Framework of Reference & Academic English Proficiency Tests <sup>1</sup>

IELTS Overall Band Score	Common European Framework	Level Descriptor © Council of Europe	TOEFL IBT
8.5 – 9.0	C2	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely.	Cannot measure at C2 level
8.0	C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects.	110 - 120
7.0 – 7.5			
6.5	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects.	87 - 109
5.5 – 6.0			
5.0	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics, which are familiar, or of personal interest.	57 - 86
4.0 – 4.5			
3.0	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.	40 - 56
2.0	A1	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help	No data available

<sup>1</sup> The tables summarise the results of two independent mapping exercises carried out by the IELTS partners, and ETS (TOEFL) which mapped each test against the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages [CEFR]. The tables should not be read as a concordance between IELTS and TOEFL nor used as a means of inter-test comparison for purposes such as establishing cut scores. The table should only be used for purposes of general understanding and interpretation of test scores in relation to CEFR. The CEFR was designed as a common framework of reference not as a tool for prescribing proficiency standards or equating levels of proficiency across different language tests.