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New GRE[®] General Test and TOEFL[®] iBT

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Goals for the Revision of the GRE General Test

- Increase the validity of the test
 - Clearly define all constructs
 - Evidence Centered Design Framework
 - Decrease effects of memorization
 - Eliminate single-word verbal questions
 - Identify non-original essay materials
 - Introduce new question types and tasks
- Address security issues
 - Reduce question exposure
 - Memorization



Goals for the Revision of the GRE General Test (continued)

- Provide faculty with better information on applicants' performance
 - Essay distribution
 - Standard Error of Measurement provided on Score Reports
- Maximize technology
 - Make better use of computer-enabled questions
 - Allow calculator use
 - Create greater access for examinees worldwide



Changes Planned: Verbal

- Emphasis on skills related to graduate work such as complex reasoning
 - Greater emphasis on higher cognitive skills; less dependence on vocabulary
 - No Antonyms or Analogies
 - More text-based materials such as reading passages
 - A broader selection of reading passages
- Expansion of computer-enabled tasks (e.g., highlighting a sentence in a passage that serves the function described in the question)



Changes Planned: Quantitative

- Quantitative reasoning skills that are similar to skills typically used in graduate school
 - Proportion of Geometry questions decreased
 - Proportion of items involving “real-life” scenarios and data interpretation increased
 - Better use of technology (e.g., on-screen 4-function calculator with square root)
- Develop explicit claims about the kinds of reasoning required in the new measure, drawing on frameworks from MAA and NCTM publications



Changes Planned: Analytical Writing

- New, more focused prompts to help insure original analytical writing
 - Prompts will reduce possibility of reliance on memorized materials
 - Limited or no reuse of prompts
- Both Argument and Issue tasks will be 30 minutes
- Essays will be available to Designated Institutions
 - Critical that Faculty understand the AW Task (e.g., timing, word processing system)



New GRE Verbal & Quantitative Scales will be Established!

- GRE Board Approved a Proposal for New scales. Parameters of the likely scale include:
 - 3-digits
 - 40 to 50 scale points
 - Numeric range outside of existing 200 - 800 scales.
- More detailed plans to be finalized based on the Fall 2005 field test.



Timeline for Major Events

- Fall 2005
 - Field Trials Completed
 - Sample test will be available on GRE Website at www.gre.org
 - *Regional Meetings*
- Spring/Summer 2006
 - Test preparation materials available
 - *Regional Meetings* continue
- October 2006
 - New GRE General Test Launched
 - Internet-Based testing (iBT)



Summary

- All 3 Sections revised (V, Q, AW)
- Linear Test
 - 29 Administrations per year
 - Staggered starting times to minimize time zone cheating
 - No item repetition
 - Test delivered via the Internet
- New Score Scale for Verbal and Quantitative
 - 3 digit, 40 - 50 scale points
- Standard Error of Measurement provided
- Essay Distribution



GRE Program Initiatives

- Validity Studies
 - Validity Study using Fall Field Test
 - Ongoing Validity Initiative
 - Work with States and Systems
- GRE for the Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics
 - Quantitative and possibly other skill areas



TOEFL iBT

Listening. Learning. Leading.



Why Change the TOEFL Test?

3 Important Reasons:

- Includes Speaking
- Focuses on the ability to communicate
 - Measures not only how much the student knows *about* English, but how well he or she can *use it*
- Uses integrated tasks that reflect how language is actually used



TOEFL iBT: Overview

- Tests all four skills: **Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking**
- Note taking allowed in all sections of the test
- Linear, not computer-adaptive
- Fixed test dates, not continuous testing
- Test time: 4 hours
- Internet-based delivery for greatly expanded access



Reading & Listening Sections

Reading

- Longer reading passages
- New question types that indicate the learner's ability to comprehend, process, and analyze the meaning of academic passages.

Listening

- Longer, more authentic conversations and lectures
- Conversations with 2 speakers
- 4-6 lectures; some lectures include student and professor discussion



Speaking Section

- 2 independent tasks about familiar topics
 - Responses based on personal experience
- 4 integrated tasks
 - 2 Reading/Listening/Speaking tasks
 - 2 Listening/Speaking tasks
 - Responses based on what was read and heard
 - Academic and university-based material
 - Short listening and reading material



Writing Section

- 1 Reading/Listening/Writing task
 - Short academic listening and reading material
 - Response based on what was read and heard
- 1 independent task
 - Response based on personal experience
 - Similar to current essay for TOEFL computer-based test



Beginning in September 2005

Introduced in phases

- September 24 - United States
- October 22 - Canada, Italy, France, Germany
- All other countries in 2006
- Schedule to be announced October 1st
- Until TOEFL iBT is introduced in a country, the current TOEFL paper-based and computer-based tests and TSE will continue.



TOEFL iBT Scores

The score report universities receive will contain:

- Four skill scores
 - Reading 0 - 30
 - Listening 0 - 30
 - Speaking 0 - 30
 - Writing 0 - 30
- A total score: 0 - 120

Scores sent to universities 15 business days after the test.

Scores available to students online free of charge 15 business days after the test



Establishing TOEFL iBT Score Requirements

Score comparison charts

- Total score (all four skills)
- Reading
- Listening
- Writing
- Reading, Listening and Writing only total

Standard setting process

- Designed by ETS
- Panel of university faculty and staff review items and student performance and set scores for each section
- Materials available on free CD Rom



Setting Speaking Scores

Standard setting panel of International Teaching Assistant (ITA) experts

- Minimally acceptable level of speaking for lowest level of contact with undergraduates: **23**
- TSE 50 score equivalent: **26**



We're Here to Answer Your Questions

Help Line for TOEFL Score Users:
1-609-683-2008

toeflnews@ets.org

www.ets.org/toefl

To become a test center:

Visit www.ets.org/ecep for specific information

Write ecep@ets.org with questions



Questions?
Comments?