

Explanation of the Test of English Language Proficiency (TELP) – Fall 2009

At Oklahoma State University, we want to ensure that all students succeed in their studies and perform at the highest academic level. The OSU faculty is concerned about the writing abilities of all graduate students, and in particular students whose first language may not have been English. To make certain that graduate students are sufficiently skilled at written English the Test of English Language Proficiency (TELP) is required for all graduate students before their first semester enrollment. However, a waiver of the TELP requirement can be granted to a student who:

1. has achieved on the TOEFL a score of 250 CBT/600 PBT or higher and a score of 5.0 or higher on the Test of Written English (TWE) or Essay. Alternatively, a waiver can be granted to a student who achieved an IELTS, academic stream, overall band score of 6.5 or higher and 6.5 or higher on each of the band scores for Listening, Reading, and Writing, or
2. has completed two full-time semesters of study in an accredited college or university at which English is the primary language of instruction, or
3. has graduated with a degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, at which English is the primary language of instruction.

You are receiving this information because, according to our information, the waiver requirements are not applicable to you and you are required to take this test.

About the TELP Examination: The Test of English Language Proficiency (TELP) is a test of written English and assesses the academic English skills necessary for students to function well in graduate-level university classes. The test has two sections: Listening/Dictation and Reading/Writing. Each section is discussed below. A score of 70 on both portions of the TELP is considered passing. Students who score less than 70 on the Listening/Dictation portion of the TELP (irrespective of the score on the writing portion) are required to enroll in ENGL 0003 during their first semester. ENGL 0003 carries a grade of satisfactory/unsatisfactory and may not be used toward minimum degree requirements. Students must enroll in ENGL 0003 each semester until a grade of satisfactory is earned.

Students who score at least 70 on the Listening/Dictation portion of the TELP, but less than 70 on the Writing portion are required to enroll in ENGL 4893* at some point in their studies. ENGL 4893* carries graduate credit and may be used toward minimum degree requirements; a grade of C or better in this course is required. Both ENGL 0003 and ENGL 4893*, as applicable, must be listed on the student's Plan of Study.

Registering for the TELP

When you arrive on at OSU, you will need to register to take the TELP. The cost of the test is \$40, payable at the time of registration. You may pay by charging to your OSU student account, with a check, or cash. The TELP is available on both the Stillwater and Tulsa campuses.

Registration and Administration on the Stillwater Campus:

You must register for the TELP exam by **Friday, August 7, 2009 at 5:00 pm** at 107 University Assessment and Testing on the OSU-Stillwater campus.

The TELP exam will be given on **Saturday, August 8 at 101 Agricultural Hall at 9:00 am**. The test results should be known on **Wednesday, August 12**, and will be available at the Graduate College in 202 Whitehurst starting at 1:30 pm. Bring a photo ID (such as your passport or student ID card) to pick-up your results.

Registration and Administration on the Tulsa Campus:

You must register for the TELP exam by **Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 5:00 pm** at the Learning Services Center in 103 North Hall.

The TELP exam will be given on **Friday, August 7 at 9:00 am**. Go to the Learning Services Center in 103 North Hall to check in, and you will be directed to the testing room at that time. The test results should be known on **Wednesday, August 12** and will be handed out in the afternoon in 103 North Hall at the Learning Services Center.

Make-up Examinations on the Stillwater Campus:

For students not on the Stillwater campus for the Saturday, August 8 test, a makeup test will be given on **Thursday, August 13 at 9:00 am** and again on **Wednesday, August 19 at 9:00 am**. The make-up test will be given at given at 107 University Assessment and Testing. Students may register up 20 minutes prior to the beginning of the test. Students taking the make-up exam will be required to register for and attend English 0003 until the results are available. The test results should be known by **Monday, August 17** and **Friday, August 21 at 1:30 pm** respectively. Results can be picked up at the Graduate College 202 Whitehurst.

Make-up Examinations on the Tulsa Campus:

For students not on the Tulsa campus for the Friday August 7 test, a makeup test will be given on **Thursday, August 13 at 9:00 am** and again on **Tuesday, August 18 at 9:00 am**. Registration and the make-up test will be given at 103 North Hall. Students may register up 20 minutes prior to the beginning of the test. Students taking the make-up exam will be required to register for and attend English 0003 until the test results are available. The test results should be known by **Monday, August 17** and **Friday, August 21 at 1:30 pm** respectively. Results can be picked up at the Learning Services Center, 103 North Hall.

The TELP has two test sections: a listening subtest and a reading-writing subtest.

Part 1: Listening/Dictation Subtest

The Listening/Dictation Subtest requires students to listen to a tape-recorded passage on an academic topic and to write word-for-word what the speaker says. The student will have 20 minutes to complete this section.

Responses will be graded on the ability to write down correctly the content of the passage. Students need to listen carefully and write the exact words in the specific grammatical forms in which they are spoken.

Part 2: Reading/Writing Subtest

The Reading/Writing Subtest requires the student to read two passages and write a brief summary of specific parts of each passage. Students will have 50 minutes to complete this task.

The passages discuss different academic topics and are written in the style of an academic publication. Each passage is approximately 600 to 650 words in length and may include a related table or figure. The task is to read each passage and then write a summary of the **specific parts** of the passage relevant to the question that follows it. In order to complete the task efficiently, students will need to follow these steps:

1. Read the passage once through quickly for general understanding

2. Read the question following the passage.
3. Read the passage again, focusing on the parts that are relevant to the question
4. Write the summary, focusing on the most important information.

The summary should address the question specifically and not include information from the passage that is not related to the question.

The summary should:

- be between 50 and 100 words
- show a general understanding of the passage
- include only the most important ideas from the parts of the passage needed to answer the question
- omit unnecessary detail
- omit general information from the passage that is not related to the question

It is very important that the summary be written in the student's OWN WORDS. The student should NOT copy phrases or sentences directly from the passage.

TELP SCORING

The maximum score on each subtest is 100 points.

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