

TESTS OFFERED BY THE EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE

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The Educational Testing Service (ETS) is committed to producing and administering a whole range of tests, which are widely recognised and required by a large number of universities in North America and around the world. Three of these tests are presented below.

I. TEST OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (TOEFL)

TOEFL: what is it designed for?

The TOEFL is a must for admission to any undergraduate and graduate programs in the US for applicants whose mother tongue is other than English. Currently more than 2400 universities in North America, but not only, require the test score for admission purposes. The test is perceived as a reliable assessment instrument of American English proficiency.

In the academic year 2000-2001 more than 348,000 people registered to take the computer-based test.

The computer-based TOEFL test was introduced in July 1998 in many parts of the world, Romania included. The computer-based test combines many of the same question types as the traditional paper-based test with new question types that can be offered only on the computer.

What is the TOEFL like?

Four areas of language proficiency are assessed through the test. That is why the computer-based

TOEFL has four sections: Listening, Structure, Reading, and Writing. The first two sections are computer adaptive, which means that the test questions incorporate (and consequently adjust to) the test-taker's performance on previous questions. The scores of the computer-adaptive sections are based on the difficulty level of the questions answered correctly as well as on the number of questions answered.

- Listening: this section assesses ability to understand American English. The section includes 30-49 multiple choice questions based on dialogues and short conversations. The section takes between 40 and 60 minutes to complete, including the listening time.

The fact that the listening material and the questions about it are presented only once adds to the overall challenge of the test. After confirming the answer, access to the respective question and answer is denied.

- Structure: this section is meant to measure the test-taker's ability to recognise language that is appropriate for standard written English. The section includes two types of questions:

- incomplete sentences, with four words or phrases offered as options for completing the sentence;
- underlined words or phrases, out of which one needs to be changed for the sentence to be correct.

With the computer-based version of the TOEFL the two types of questions are mixed randomly. There are 20-25 questions in this section which takes 15-20 minutes.

- Reading: this section - which evaluates the test-taker's ability to read and understand texts similar in topic and style to the reading requirements in US universities - is linear, unlike the first two sections. As a result, one can return to the previous questions in the

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section. The questions assess the comprehension of the main ideas, inferences, factual information stated in the passage, vocabulary (such as antonyms, synonyms), pronoun referents. The questions in this section are of the following types:

- traditional multiple choice questions;
- questions that require the test-taker to click on a certain part of the text in order to answer;
- questions that ask the test-taker to insert a sentence where it fits best.

There are 44-60 questions in this section which is 70-90 minutes long. The questions are based on four or five reading passages of 250-300 words, with 10-14 questions for each passage.

- **Writing:** measures ability to write in English on an assigned topic. This section highlights the test-taker's ability to generate and organise ideas and to support them with evidence. The essay can be hand-written or typed on the computer. In either case scrap paper is provided for drafting the essay. The length of the essay is irrelevant as the essay readers are solely interested in the test-taker's ability to express ideas and elaborate on them. The time limit is 30 minutes.

The essay question should be answered carefully. Essays are scored on the organisation of the ideas conveyed, the development of the respective ideas, the relevance of the examples and details provided in support of the ideas presented, as well as on the use of language (variety, effectiveness, appropriateness, etc.)

How is the test administered in Romania?

The TOEFL test is administered on computer in Bucharest and Iași round the year. In Cluj the test is administered in a paper and pencil format.

According to the information released by the Prometric representatives who administer the computer-based TOEFL test, in Bucharest the test can be taken each week Monday through Thursday and on the second Saturday of the month.

On the day of the test candidates are invited to go through seven tutorials. The first three will teach them basic computer skills (how to use a mouse, how to scroll, etc.) and how to answer the test questions. If they are computer literate they may skip the first two

tutorials. The third tutorial teaches them how to use the testing tools and the remaining ones deal each with one of the four sections of the test. They demonstrate how to answer the test questions and provide further practice.

Test results and validity

At the end of the test, the unofficial score will appear on the monitor screen, minus the score of the essay which will be assessed by two human evaluators. The official score reports will be mailed to the candidate almost 3 weeks after taking the test, provided he/she has typed the essay on the computer.

The test is valid for 2 years.

The TOEFL is currently administered in computer-based and paper-based format world-wide. The maximum score is 677 in the paper version, and 300 on computer. Between November 1997 and March 1998, TOEFL collected data from more than 9,000 examinees to determine the comparability of scores on the computer-based TOEFL test with those earned on the paper-based test. As a result of this study, the concordance tables that follow were developed.

Range Comparison

Paper-Based Total	Computer-Based Total
660-677	287-300
640-657	273-283
620-637	260-270
600-617	250-260
580-597	237-247
560-577	220-233
540-557	207-220

In Bucharest and Iași, where the test is administered on computer, you will be able to view your scores right after the test. You will see your complete score for Listening and Reading; however, your Structure/Writing and total scores will be shown as score ranges because your essay has not been read and

rated. You might see the following:

Listening	22
Structure/Writing	3-23
Reading	22
TOTAL	157-223

In this example, your final total score will be somewhere between 157 and 223. Statistics indicate that Romanian examinees tend to score high on the computer-based test and total scores above 280 are quite frequent in Romania.

The TOEFL registration fee entitles you to one printed examinee's score record and up to four official score reports sent by the test-administrators in the US to designated institutions, provided you supply their code number when taking the TOEFL test.

You can resit the test once every calendar month.

For more information on the computer-based TOEFL test please visit www.toefl.org

How to prepare for the test?

In order to prepare for the TOEFL test you can visit the extensive section "Helping Students Prepare for the Computer-Based TOEFL Test" at www.toefl.org/helpstud.html

You can also study for the test at the Educational Advising Center of the Fulbright Commission in Bucharest, tel. 231-9015; 230-7719. In order to help you prepare for the computer-based TOEFL the Fulbright Commission offers a wide selection of paper-based materials and software, including the ETS-produced "TOEFL sampler" and TOEFL Powerprep, as well as preparation programs produced by market-leading companies: Kaplan, Princeton Review, Longman, Heinemann, Cambridge.

Test takers with disabilities

Educational Testing Service (ETS) is committed to serving the needs of test takers with disabilities. All requests for testing accommodations are subject to approval by ETS, and must submit ETS's documentation criteria.

For more detailed information on the ETS policy on test-takers with learning and psychiatric disabilities, please see <http://www.ets.org/disability.html>

Educational and employment uses of the test

The primary purpose of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is to measure the general English proficiency of people who are non-native speakers and want to study at colleges and universities where English is the language of instruction.

A growing number of exchange programs, scholarship agencies, medical certification and licensing agencies, and government agencies around the world are using TOEFL test scores.

In addition, Romanian employers and multinational businesses operating in Romania have adopted the test as one of their employment requirements.

The TOEFL is

- taken by more than half a million examinees each year;
- offered at locations around the world;
- administered under strict security by highly trained staff in accordance with Educational Testing Service procedures;
- guided by policies established by a council of 15 members affiliated with US undergraduate and graduate institutions and public and private agencies with an interest in international education.

II. GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS (GRE)

GRE - What is it for?

The GRE test, together with its components GRE-General, GRE-Writing Assessment and GRE-Subject, is one of the admission requirements to a graduate program in the US. It is currently offered as a computer-adaptive test (for further information on computer-adaptive tests please refer to the section "Frequently asked questions" available at www.gre.org/faq.html).

Structure of the GRE

According to the GRE information bulletin and the data offered by the Educational Testing Service at

www.gre.org, the GRE-General includes: a verbal 30-minute section consisting of 30 questions, a quantitative 45-minute section of 28 questions and an analytical 60-minute question of 35 questions.

The GRE-Writing Assessment is a separate test which has been administered since October 1999.

The GRE Subject, is described in more detail further down.

How is the test administered in Romania?

The GRE-General takes 135 minutes but you can spend as much as 270 minutes at the computer centre doing the tutorial, identifying score recipients, doing an extra verbal/quantitative/analytical section that does not count towards your score, etc.

In Bucharest the test is currently offered Monday through Thursday and on the second Saturday in the month.

How to prepare for the test?

The Educational Advising Center of the Fulbright Commission offers extensive paper-based as well as computer-based preparation.

Test results and validity

At the end of the test, the unofficial score will appear on the monitor screen. However, the official score report will be mailed to the candidate approx. 2 weeks after taking the test.

You can resit the test once every month.

The test is valid for 5 years.

Latest news

The Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) Program has announced the first major change in the structure of the General Test since the introduction of the analytical measure twenty years ago.

As of October 1, 2002, the General Test will be composed of verbal, quantitative and analytical writing sections.

The verbal and quantitative sections will be similar to the current ones.

The analytical writing section will be identical to the

stand-alone test that has been administered under the name of Writing Assessment since October 1999.

GRE-Subject : What is it good for?

Some US universities require the GRE-Subject for admission to graduate programs, especially for Ph.D.

What is the GRE-Subject like?

The GRE-Subject maintains its traditional paper and pencil format. The test is administered only several times a year, at the same date throughout the world.

The test is offered in: • biochemistry, cell and molecular biology • biology • chemistry • computer science • economics • engineering • geology • history • English literature • mathematics • music • physics • psychology • sociology.

Administration in Romania

In Romania, the test is administered in Bucharest and Iași.

Preparation for GRE-Subject?

You can prepare for the GRE-Subject by using the printed materials available at the Fulbright Educational Advising Center, tel: 321-9015, 230-7719.

GRE-Subject results

The score reports of the paper-based GRE are mailed to the test-takers and the designated institutions 6 weeks after taking the test.

The GRE-Subject can be re-taken whenever offered.

For more information please visit www.gre.org

III. GRADUATE MANAGEMENT ADMISSION TEST (GMAT)

GMAT—What is its purpose?

The GMAT is required for admission to more than 1,500 graduate management programs around the world. It helps graduate business schools assess the qualifications of applicants to an MBA program or any another advanced business program. The GMAT

scores are considered a reliable predictor of the applicants' academic performance in the first year of graduate management program. The GMAT does not presuppose any specific knowledge of business or other specific content areas, nor does it measure achievement in any particular subject areas. The test does not measure subjective factors important to academic and career success, such as motivation, creativity, interpersonal skills, study skills, or overall success on the job. Test takers should note that the GMAT is entirely in English and that all instructions are provided in English.

What is the test like?

According to the information bulletin and the data made available by the Educational Testing Service on the Internet at

www.gmac.com

the computer-adaptive GMAT includes verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing questions.

75 minutes are available for the 37 quantitative questions,

75 minutes for the 41 verbal questions

and

30 minutes for each of the two analytical writing topics.

The quantitative section relies on data sufficiency and problem solving questions while the verbal section includes questions testing reading comprehension, sentence correction, and critical reasoning. In the essays candidates will need to analyse an argument (their views on the topic are irrelevant!) and an issue, respectively. In the latter essay they are invited to present and explain their personal views on the issue, and consider various perspectives as they develop their own approach to it.

It is worth bearing in mind that essays are scored on the organisation of the ideas conveyed, the development of the respective ideas, the relevance of the examples and details provided in support of the ideas presented, as well as on the use of language (variety, effectiveness, appropriateness, etc.).

On the day of the test, candidates are invited to go through a quick tutorial before the test proper. The tutorial is meant to make sure that they have the minimal computer skills necessary for taking the GMAT.

As with all computer-based tests, time management is essential. Test-takers should avoid spending too much time on a single question and pay attention to the number of questions and the amount of time remaining during the testing session. They can take as long as four hours for the test. Two 5-minute breaks are scheduled in the testing session, one after completing the essays and the other between the quantitative and the verbal sections.

How is the test administered in Romania?

The test is administered only on computer. The GMAT is computer adaptive, which means that the test questions are geared at the test-taker's performance level, by incorporating the test-taker's answers to previous questions. The scores of the computer-adaptive sections are based on the difficulty level of the questions answered correctly as well as on the number of questions answered.

The GMAT is administered in Bucharest and Iași round the year. According to the information released by Prometric - the Europe-based company that administers all computer-based standardized tests - in Bucharest the GMAT can be taken each week, from Monday to Thursday and on the second Saturday of the month.

How to prepare for the GMAT?

Starting with September the 1st, 2000, the new POWERPREP SOFTWARE can be downloaded free of charge at the address: www.gmac.com

Every person that is registered for the GMAT will receive a POWERPREP CD-ROM free of charge. The CD-ROMs are to be mailed from the US at about one week after the registration for the test is confirmed.

In order to prepare for the GMAT test candidates can visit

www.gmat.org/gmat_prepare.html

You can do paper-based and computer-based preparation for the test at the Fulbright Commission, in the study-room and the computer center respectively.

Test results

At the end of the test, the unofficial score (including only the multiple-choice sections of the test) will appear on the monitor screen. However, the official

score reports will be mailed to the candidate and the 5 institutions of his/her choice not later than 15 days after the test date.

The score report will include four scores: verbal, quantitative, cumulative, and analytical writing. Verbal and quantitative scores are reported on scales ranging from 0 to 60, while the scale of the total score ranges from 200 to 800. However, extreme scores are

infrequent (below 10 or above 46 and below 250 and above 700, respectively). The score of the analytical writing is reported on a scale between 0 and 6.

The score is accompanied by a percentile rank indicating the percentage of the test takers who scored below the respective candidate.

You can resit the test once every calendar month.