

## International English Language Tests In Latvia

### TOEIC tests

The Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) is an English language test designed specifically to measure the everyday English skills of people working in an international environment. This is the most popular test, used by companies of different profiles such as «Bosch», «Siemens», «Coca Cola», «Nike», to assess the command of the English language of the potential employees.

IITC- the USA education information and testing centre in Riga is the only place in the Baltics where TOEIC can be taken, it costs 35 lats. The test is checked in Latvia. The test is used both by international companies and small enterprises, as well as different government institutions, universities and language centres, and recruitment agencies. People tend to pass the test and add it to their CV to raise their competitiveness in the labour market.

#### Test samples and more information:

<http://www.examenglish.com/TOEIC/>

<http://www.englishclub.com/esl-exams/ets-toEIC-practice.htm>

### TOEFL tests

TOEFEL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) has become an admission requirement for non-native English speakers at many English-speaking colleges and universities. Additionally, institutions such as government agencies, licensing bodies, businesses, or scholarship programs may require this test. A TOEFL score is valid for two years and then will no longer be officially reported.

The system of testing in the world is changing, so IITC will offer the new «internet based test» TOEFL IBT which will consist of reading, listening, speaking and writing tests.

It is possible to apply for the test by mail (at least one month before the day of the test), or by e-mail (at least 7 days before the test -[www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)), as well as on the telephone. The price of the test is \$140.

#### Test samples and more information:

<http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about/content/>

[http://www.ets.org/toefl/pbt/prepare/sample\\_questions](http://www.ets.org/toefl/pbt/prepare/sample_questions)

### IELTS tests

IELTS is the International English Language Testing System. It is an internationally accredited English language proficiency test. If you intend to take up a job or a course of study, in Latvia or abroad – wherever English language skills are required, IELTS is the test of your choice.

Three highly reputable education institutions are working together to administer the test: the British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations.

More than 6000 educational institutions, government agencies and professional organisations in 120 countries recognize IELTS results as a valid language proficiency test – more than 3500 just in the US. This makes IELTS one of the most universally recognized English language tests in the world. IELTS tests English as it is used in work, study and everyday life. This is done by assessing all four areas of language proficiency: listening, reading, writing and speaking.

The test can be regularly taken in Riga – twice a month, and once a year in Daugavpils and Ventspils.

**Test samples and more information:**

[http://www.ielts.org/test\\_takers\\_information/test\\_takers\\_faqs/about\\_the\\_ielts\\_test.aspx](http://www.ielts.org/test_takers_information/test_takers_faqs/about_the_ielts_test.aspx)

[http://www.ielts.org/test\\_takers\\_information/test\\_sample.aspx](http://www.ielts.org/test_takers_information/test_sample.aspx)

### **ACT tests**

The ACT (American College Testing) is a standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States produced by ACT, Inc. The ACT consists of four tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. In February 2005, an optional Writing test was added to the ACT, mirroring changes to the SAT .

In Latvia the test can be taken just on special occasions. ACT and SAT tests are nearly the same.

**Test samples and more information:**

<http://www.4tests.com/exams/examdetail.asp?eid=13>

### **SAT I tests**

SAT I (Standardized Admission Test) is a standardized entrance exam to the Universities of the USA, it is necessary to apply for bachelors' programmes. SAT I test includes three parts: the English language, mathematics and an essay, and it costs \$62,50. It is possible to take SAT I six times a year in Riga.

**Test samples and more information:**

<http://press.collegeboard.org/sat/faq>

### **SAT II tests**

SAT II or SAT Subject tests, which is seldom required, checks the students' knowledge in particular subjects, such as essay writing, literature, mathematics, biology, physics, world

history, etc. SAT II price depends on which tests the student selects to take. To be admitted to the test, a person must register a month and a half before the test.

**Test samples and more information:**

<http://nrispeaks.wordpress.com/2010/03/15/sat-ii-subject-tests-everything-about-it/>

### **GRE tests**

GRE (Graduate Record Examination) tests are achievement tests that measure students' knowledge of a particular field of study before applying for MBA or Doctor's studies in the USA. The tests include mathematics, analytical essays and the English language, the price is \$140. To take this test it is necessary to apply at least two months beforehand. It is possible to take GRE tests also in Lithuania every week.

**Test samples and more information:**

[http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/about/content/](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about/content/)

<http://www.grequestionaday.com/viewquestion.php?arg1=768>

### **GMAT tests**

GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) is a computer adaptive test (CAT) which assesses a person's analytical, writing, quantitative, verbal and reading skills in standard written English in preparation for being admitted into a graduate management program, such as an MBA. More than 5,400 programs offered by more than 1,500 universities and institutions in 83 countries use the GMAT exam as part of the selection criteria for their programs site. Business schools use the test as a criterion for admission into a wide range of graduate management programs, including MBA, Master of Accountancy, and Master of Finance programs.

To take GMAT which costs \$250, the applicant must go to Lithuania (Vilnius). GRE and GMAT tests are sometimes required in European universities too. The tests are marked in the USA, finally the student gets a certificate.

**Test samples and more information:**

<http://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools/gmat-test-content-overview.aspx>

<http://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools/sample-gmat-test-questions.aspx>

### **CAMBRIDGE CERTIFICATE tests**

Cambridge ESOL (English For Speakers of Other Languages) offers five tests to assess the students' level of the English language command (KET, PET, FCE, CAE, CPE) as well as three tests to assess the command of business English (BEC Preliminary (1), BEC Vantage (2), BEC Higher (3)). Each exam has been suggested to applicants with a particular level of their knowledge. One of the most popular Cambridge exams is aimed at Pre- Advanced and Advanced 1 levels. After receiving FCE certificate the applicants are able to use the English

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language fluently in communication and business correspondence, read original texts as well as watch films without translation. It is enough to have such knowledge in order to apply for some Universities in Britain. FCE exam has five parts: Reading, Writing, Listening, Use of English and Speaking.

**Test samples and more information:**

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-qualifications/advanced/>

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-qualifications/first/>

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<http://www.rbs.lv/other-programs/testing-center>

<http://web1.ihriga.lv/?menu=250>

[http://www.mirte.lv/public/international\\_english\\_language\\_testing\\_system.html](http://www.mirte.lv/public/international_english_language_testing_system.html)

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