

## The English Entrance Proficiency Test (EPT)

### *What is it?*

The Entrance Proficiency Test is one of the entry requirements for admission to the National Institute of Education (NIE). The English EPT is applicable for candidates applying to teach English medium subjects. Under the BA / BSc (Edun) course, candidates specialising in Mother Tongue Language (MTL), must also clear their English EPT if they do not meet the English exemption criteria.

More information on the EPT and its rationale can be found at:

<http://www.moe.gov.sg/careers/teach/applying/entrance-proficiency-test/english/>

### *Who will be exempted?*

An applicant will be granted exemption from taking the English EPT if he/she meets one of the following criteria:

- 1 Has scored at least a Grade B3 in General Paper (English) / Grade B in H1 General Paper / Grade B in H2 Knowledge and Inquiry in the GCE 'A' Level Examination or
- 2 Has scored at least a Grade B3 in English Language (EL1) in the GCE 'O' Level Examination or
- 3 Has scored at least a Grade B3 in English Paper 121, 1120 or 1119 at SPM or
- 4 Has scored at least a Grade 5 in English in the International Baccalaureate Examination.

### *What are the test components?*

The English EPT consists of two papers, Oral and Written. The components of each of these papers are:

#### 1 Oral Paper

##### Part 1

**Reading Aloud.** Candidates read aloud, at an audio-recording station, a given passage of about 200 words. They are assessed on spoken accuracy, fluency and intelligibility.

##### Part 2

**Talk.** At the audio-recording station, candidates talk for two minutes on a given topic. They are assessed on spoken accuracy, fluency and intelligibility, as well as relevance and organisation of content.

## 2 Written Paper

### Part 1:

**Listening Comprehension.** This is a test of candidates' ability to listen for gist and details, and draw inferences from listening to each of the following. They will respond to a total of 20 multiple-choice questions on them:

- a. *Listening to a Short Conversation*
- b. *Listening to an Extended Conversation*
- c. *Listening to a Short Lecture*

### Part 2:

**Grammar, Vocabulary & Language in Context.** This is a test of candidates' knowledge and ability to use formal, written English. Candidates have 90 minutes to complete the following:

- a. Grammar & Vocabulary: a total of 30 multiple-choice questions
- b. Two Cloze Passages: a total of 50 blanks, with multiple-choice items

### ***How long does the EPT last?***

1. The total time for the test excluding breaks and waiting time is 15 minutes for the oral part and two hours for the written part.

### ***What happens if a candidate fails?***

1. Candidates must obtain a pass in each of the two papers to qualify for admission to NIE.
2. Candidates are allowed to re-sit the EPT paper(s) they have failed any number of times.

### ***How often is the EPT held?***

1. The RELC Examinations Bureau administers the English EPT on NIE's behalf.
2. The EPT is held 10 times per year.
3. It is advisable to register early for the test. The registration exercise will open 2 to 3 weeks before the closing date and priority is given on a first-come-first-served basis.
4. Candidates need to bring their original IC/passport and notification letter to register their attendance before the test.