



Information for OET candidates in the UK

OET is a healthcare-specific English language test. It assesses the language proficiency of healthcare professionals seeking to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency in Ireland, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Namibia, Singapore and Ukraine for registration in 12 healthcare professions.

In the UK, OET is accepted by the General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Is OET the right test for me?

OET tests international health practitioners from the following 12 professions:



Dentistry	Occupational Therapy	Podiatry	Medicine	Pharmacy	Speech Pathology
Dietetics	Optometry	Radiography	Nursing	Physiotherapy	Veterinary Science

Why should I take OET?

- ✓ OET is the English language test designed specifically for healthcare professionals.
- ✓ OET is recognised as proof of English proficiency by governments, healthcare regulators, employers, and educators.
- ✓ OET helps develop language skills for success in healthcare courses, clinical placement, healthcare registration and the workplace.
- ✓ It's easy to prepare for the test using OET's preparation resources, many of which are online and included in the cost of the test.
- ✓ Past test takers recommend OET because preparation and test materials reflect real healthcare scenarios, so you'll know what to expect and feel more confident on test day.
- ✓ OET assesses the ability to communicate effectively in an English-speaking healthcare workplace.

How is OET different to general or academic English tests?

OET tests real communication scenarios you will experience in the healthcare workplace, whereas other tests assess English language skills using everyday scenarios.

 <p>Example 1: Writing</p>	<p>General or academic English Test Write an essay on a general topic</p>	<p>OET Write a healthcare letter, usually a referral letter based on case notes</p>
 <p>Example 2: Speaking</p>	<p>General or academic English Test Structured interview on a general topic</p>	<p>OET Health professional to patient role-plays</p>

Where and when can I take OET?

OET is available every month in 40 countries. For OET test dates and a list of countries where the test is available, visit www.occupationalenglishtest.org/test-dates

What's in the test?

OET covers all four language skills with an emphasis on communication in a healthcare environment. The Listening and Reading sub-tests are designed to assess your ability to understand spoken and written English, based on health-related topics and tasks common to all professions. The Writing and Speaking sub-tests are specific to the 12 individual healthcare professions – designed to reflect common tasks performed in the workplace.



Writing (45 minutes)

Writing a profession-specific letter of referral or discharge; or a letter to inform or advise a patient/carer/group.



Speaking (20 minutes)

Profession-specific scenario role-plays with an interlocutor who plays the part of a patient/relative/carer.



Reading (60 minutes)

Completion of a health-related summary paragraph and multiple choice questions on a health-related text.



Listening (approx. 40 minutes)

Note-taking on a recorded professional consultation and multiple choice questions on a health-related audio.

How can I prepare for the test?

You will find many hours worth of test preparation material in the OET preparation portal: www.occupationalenglishtest.org/preparation

How is OET scored?

You will receive a numerical score for each sub-test, ranging from 0 to 500 in ten-point increments (e.g. 350, 360, 370...). These scores will be mapped to a separate letter grade, ranging from A (highest) to E (lowest). There is no overall grade.

Here are the descriptions for each grade that appears on the Statement of Results:

OET Results table - effective from 9 September 2018 test date

OET results to August 2018	OET score from September 2018	OET band descriptors	IELTS equivalent band score
A	450 – 500	Can communicate very fluently and effectively with patients and health professionals using appropriate register, tone and lexis. Shows complete understanding of any kind of written or spoken language.	8.0 - 9.0
B	350 – 440	Can communicate effectively with patients and health professionals using appropriate register, tone and lexis, with only occasional inaccuracies and hesitations. Shows good understanding in a range of clinical contexts.	7.0 – 7.5
C+	300 – 340	Can maintain the interaction in a relevant healthcare environment despite occasional errors and lapses, and follow standard spoken language normally encountered in his/her field of specialisation.	6.5
C	200 – 290	Can maintain some interaction and understand straightforward factual information in his/her field of specialisation, but may ask for clarification. Frequent errors, inaccuracies and mis- or overuse of technical language can cause strain in communication.	5.5 – 6.0
D	100 – 190	Can manage simple interaction on familiar topics and understand the main point in short, simple messages, provided he/she can ask for clarification. High density of errors and mis- or overuse of technical language can cause significant strain and breakdowns in communication.	Less than 5.5
E	0 – 90	Can manage simple interaction on familiar topics and understand the main point in short, simple messages, provided he/she can ask for clarification. High density of errors and mis- or overuse of technical language can cause significant strain and breakdowns in communication.	



Download the ultimate guide to working and living in the UK:

<https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/destination/>

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www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply

Have a question? Contact us

Tel: +61 3 8656 4000

www.occupationalenglishtest.org/helpdesk

About OET

OET is owned by Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment Trust (CBLA), a venture between Cambridge Assessment English and Box Hill Institute. Cambridge Assessment English, part of the University of Cambridge, helps millions of people learn English and prove their skills to the world. Box Hill Institute is a leading Australian vocational and higher education provider.

