**Comparing University Admission English Language Proficiency Tests**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **TOEFL PBT (ITP)** | **TOEFL iBT** | **IELTS** |
| **Cost** | $40 (offered every term on Friday of Week 8; students must register in 207 Week 4) | $180 (students sign up on their own at www.ets.org) | $205 (students sign up on their own at www.ielts.org) |
| **Nearest test center** | EPI | Columbia, SC | Greenville, SC (Clemson) |
| **Things to know** | * Entirely paper-based
* Students cannot take notes
* Not accepted outside USC
* Only test that contains grammar questions
 | * Entirely computer-based
* Students must type their essays
* Students can take notes
* Entirely academic
 | * Paper-based, plus face to face interview
* Feels easier than TOEFL (but is just as difficult to get a high score)
* Spelling counts
 |
| **Format** | **Listening*** 30 short “conversations”
* 2 longer conversations (2-3 minutes each)
* 3 lectures (2-3 minutes each)
* 35 minutes total

**Grammar** * 15 Structure questions (multiple choice)
* 25 Written expression questions (sentence error identification)
* 25 minutes total

**Reading*** 50 questions
* 55 minutes
 | **Reading*** 3-4 passages, 12-14 questions each
* 60-80 minutes

**Listening*** 4-6 lectures, 6 questions each (6-7 minutes each)
* 2-3 conversations, 5 questions each (4-6 minutes each)
* 60-90 minutes total

<break>**Speaking*** 6 tasks; 2 independent and 4 integrated
* 20 minutes total

**Writing*** 1 independent, 30 minutes
* 1 integrated, 20 minutes
 | **Listening*** 30 minutes (plus 10 minutes transfer time)

**Reading*** 60 minutes (no extra transfer time)

**Writing*** Graph/chart description (150 word minimum)
* Argument/point of view (250 word minimum)

<break>**Speaking*** Part 1: basic personal questions
* Part 2: prepared response
* Part 3: further abstract questions on the same topic
 |

\*Independent means that the prompt is the only input for the response; integrated means that the students read and/or listen and are scored on their response to the content.