

The General English Proficiency Test: 2020 and Onward

Anita Lin & Jessica Wu

The Language Training and Testing Center

The GEPT (General English Proficiency Test), a criterion-referenced testing system widely used in Taiwan, reaches its 20-year milestone in 2020. Having the aim of promoting life-long learning and encouraging the study of English in general, the test will have served over 8 million English language learners at all levels in Taiwan by 2020.

As the first standardized test aligned with both Taiwan's English education framework as well as the CEFR, the GEPT has already undergone changes in task design and services to meet the evolving needs of stakeholders. In line with the global trend of assessment for learning, it also endeavors to provide the public with the most up-to-date resources in learning, teaching, and research. The evolution of the GEPT from its inception to its current form reflects what we believe - tests do not exist in a social and policy vacuum but always serve social goals and values (McNamara et al, 2019).

Looking ahead to the next 20 years, the GEPT is now anticipating the implementation of a series of initiatives driven by the latest educational developments at home and abroad. Such trends include the launch of the Framework for the Twelve-Year Basic Education Curriculum in Taiwan, a call worldwide for teaching and assessing for higher-level competencies, and further emphasis from both testing organizations and researchers on the importance of effective feedback.

In the presentation, we will firstly provide a retrospective of the major developments the GEPT has undergone during the past two decades. Secondly, we will report on our recent efforts in updating GEPT's constructs, resources, and services. Thirdly, we will discuss how these new measures support Taiwan's pedagogical reform, enhance English learning, and help promote language assessment literacy among teachers.