



## *2018 Test Report*

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The Foreign Language Proficiency Test (FLPT) has been administered since 1965 and is available in English, Japanese, French, German, and Spanish. The FLPT is a norm-referenced test which is used to accurately and consistently measure test takers' general language proficiency. The test contains three sections, a multiple-choice section, a "simulated oral proficiency interview" speaking section, and a performance-based writing section. The first section, consisting of the Listening Test, Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension Test, and Usage Test, is machine-scored, while the Oral Test and Writing Test are scored by trained raters. The Oral Test, consists of five subsections: Reading, Translation, Answering Questions, Discussion, and Picture Description. The third section, the Writing Test, consists of two subsections, Writing a Letter and Guided Writing, each of which includes one question. Table 1 gives a concise overview of the FLPT, introducing the test components and timing of each section.

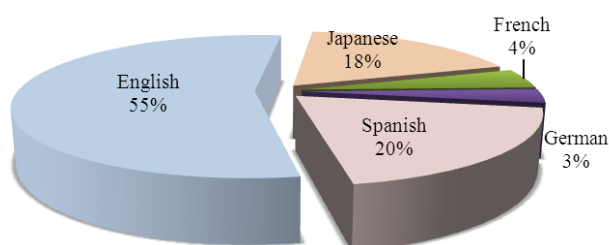
The FLPT is currently used by more than 400 public and private institutions such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Taiwan Power Company, Chunghwa Telecom, and the Chinese Petroleum Corporation, to select candidates for promotion or overseas training or study. A number of universities such as National Taiwan University, National Tsing Hua University, National Taipei University, National Taiwan Ocean University, National Chung Cheng University, Chang Guan University, and Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages also use the FLPT as a tool for assessing students' learning progress, for selecting students for international exchange programs, or as a graduation requirement. The test results have been aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), and the test is suitable for learners from CEFR A2 level to C1 level.

**Table 1. FLPT Test Overview**

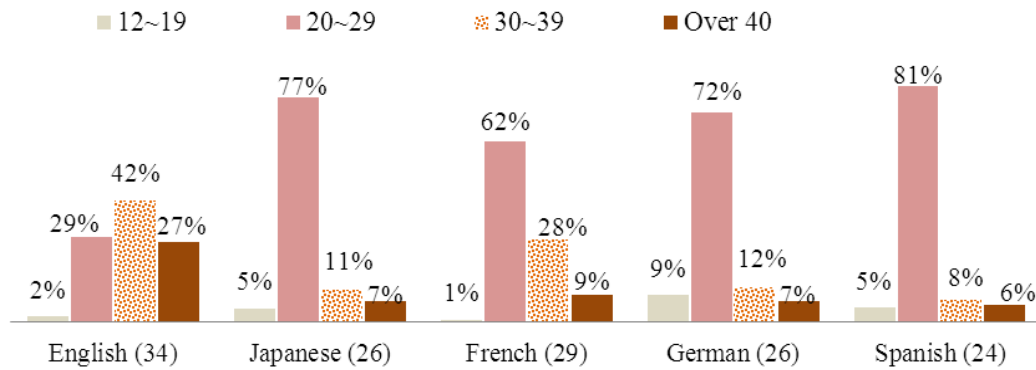
Sections	Task Type	No. of Items	Time
Listening	A. Answering Questions	45	Approx. 35 mins.
	B. Conversations & Short Talks		
	C. Conversations & Short Talks (Question Set)		
Usage	A. Sentence Completion	40	25 mins.
	B. Cloze		
Vocabulary & Reading	A. Vocabulary	40	50 mins.
	B. Reading Comprehension		
	C. Choosing Correct Statements		
Oral	A. Reading	5	Approx. 15 mins.
	B. Translation	5	
	C. Answering Questions	10	
	D. Discussion	1	
	E. Picture Description	1	
Writing	A. Writing a Letter	1	60 mins.
	B. Guided Writing	1	

### ***Examinees' Background***

Of the 2018 FLPT examinees, 55% took the English test, 18% Japanese, 4% French, 3% German, and 20% Spanish (see Figure 1). The average age of the examinees was 30, with the oldest being 65 and the youngest 12 years of age. 80% of the examinees were between 20 and 39 years of age (see Figure 2). Across the five languages, the average age of the examinees in Spanish was the youngest, while that in English was oldest.

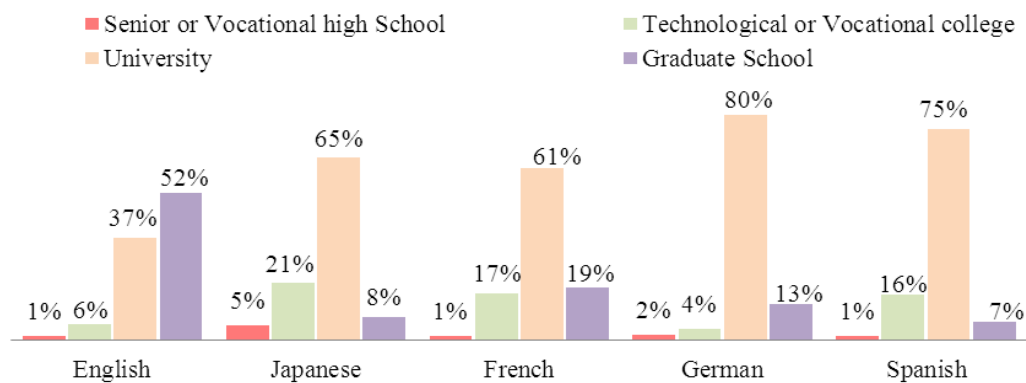


**Figure 1 Examinee distribution by language**



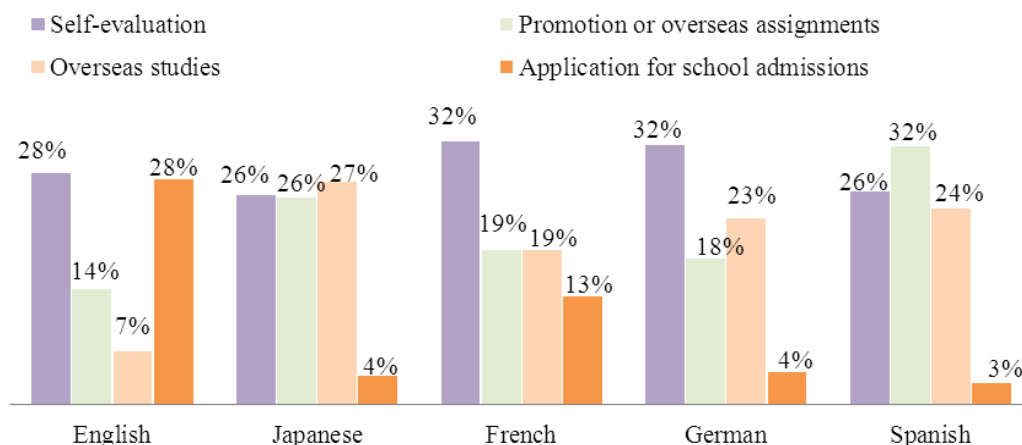
**Figure 2. Examinee distribution by age and language**

In terms of educational background, the English test had the most examinees (52%) that were graduate school students or held a master's or higher degree. Japanese, French, German, and Spanish, on the other hand, had more examinees (61~80%) that were university students or held a bachelor's degree (see figure 3).



**Figure 3. Examinee distribution by education and language**

As for reasons for taking the test, in the English test, self-evaluation and application for school admission combined in equal proportions to constitute the primary motivations. Among the other four languages, while self-evaluation remained a strong factor, promotion or overseas assignments and overseas studies were also significant motivations; application for school admission tended to be a less significant factor (see figure 4).



**Figure 4. Examinee distribution by purpose and language**

## *Scores*

- English Test

The mean section scores on the English test were as follows: Listening 70, Usage 64, and Vocabulary & Reading 66. The mean overall score was 200. The mean band score achieved by examinees in the Oral Test was S-2+, while the Writing Test had an average band score of C (see Table 2). Of the examinees who took the multiple-choice section, approximately 80% of the examinees achieved CEFR B1 or above, while of those who took both the Writing and Oral tests, 92% reached CEFR B1 level or above (see figure 5 & 6). Overall, examinees tended to perform best in Listening but poorest in Usage.

- Japanese Test

The mean section scores on the Japanese test were Listening 62, Usage 60, and Vocabulary & Reading 60. The mean overall score was 182. The mean band score achieved by examinees in the Oral test was S-2. Of the examinees who took the multiple-choice section, 70% achieved CEFR B1 or above, while of those who took the Oral Test, 51% achieved CEFR B1 level or above. In general, examinees tended to perform better in Listening than the other two sections, where scores showed little variation.

- French Test

The mean section scores on the French test were Listening 49, Usage 45, and Vocabulary & Reading 43. The mean overall score was 138. The mean band score achieved by examinees in the Oral test was S-1+. Of the examinees who took the multiple-choice section, 33% achieved CEFR B1 or above, while of those who took the Oral Test, 44% achieved CEFR B1 level or above. By and large, examinees tended to perform best in Listening but poorest in Vocabulary & Reading.

- German Test

The mean section scores on the German test were Listening 48, Usage 48, and Vocabulary & Reading 48. The mean overall score was 144. The mean band score achieved by examinees in the Oral test was S-1+. Of the examinees who took the multiple-choice section, 48% achieved CEFR B1 or above, while of those who took the Oral Test, 23% achieved CEFR B1 level or above. In general, the examinees performed equally across all sections.

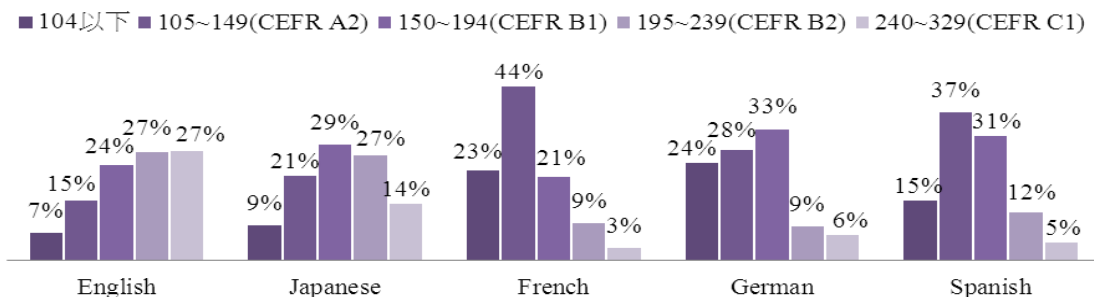
- Spanish Test

The mean section scores on the Spanish test were Listening 53, Usage 49, and Vocabulary & Reading 49. The mean overall score was 152. The mean band score achieved by examinees in the Oral test was S-1+. Of the examinees who took the multiple-choice section, 48% achieved CEFR B1 or above, while of those who took the Oral Test, 29% achieved CEFR B1 level or above. On average, the examinees tended to perform better in Listening than the other two sections, where scores showed little variation.

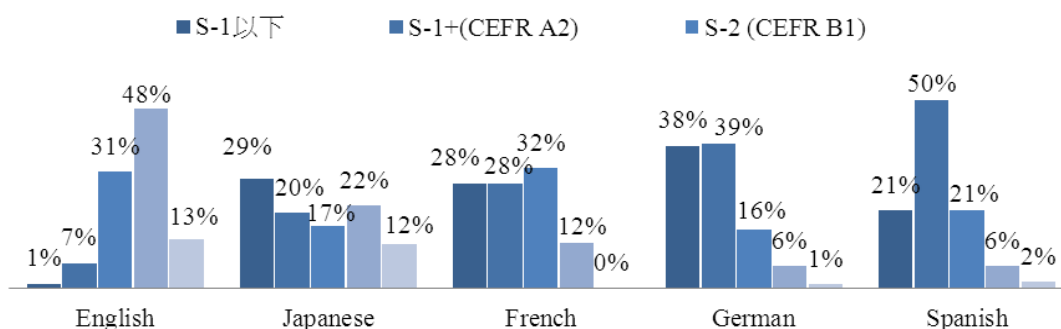
**Table 2. Examinee Distribution by Mean Score**

	English	Japanese	French	German	Spanish
Listening	70	62	49	48	53
Usage	64	60	45	48	49
Vocabulary & Reading	66	60	43	48	49
Overall Score of Paper-based Tests	200	182	138	144	152
Oral Test	S-2+	S-2	S-1+	S-1+	S-1+
Writing Test	C	---	---	---	---

*Note: The score range for the Listening, Usage, Vocabulary & Reading Test is 0 to 120; for the Oral Test, S-0 to S-5; and for the Writing Test, A to F, with A being the highest score band.*



**Figure 5. Distribution of total scores by language**



**Figure 6. Distribution of Oral test score by language**

### ***Percentile Rank***

Percentile Rank aims to explain all examinees' scores according to a scale from 1 to 100. This allows examinees to understand their own performance in the context of the other examinees. Table 3 below is the percentile rank based on the overall results from the FLPT examinees over the last three years. As an example, a test score between 195 and 209 would be in the 63<sup>rd</sup> percentile. This would mean that the examinee had scored higher than 63% of all other examinees who took the FLPT over the last three years.

**Table 3. PR to CEFR List**

Total Score	PR %	CEFR	Oral Test Band	Oral Test PR %
300 or above	98	CEFR C1	S-3	96
285~299	96			
270~284	93			
255~269	89			
240~254	84			
225~239	78	CEFR B2	S-2+	76
210~224	71			
195~209	63			
180~194	54	CEFR B1	S-2	44
165~179	45			
150~164	36			
135~149	27			
120~134	19	CEFR A2	S-1+	18
105~119	12			
90~104	8			
75~89	4	CEFR A1	S-1	5
60~74	2			