In 2009, the General English Proficiency Test (GEPT) High-Intermediate Level recognized approximately 31,000 First Stage test takers and 14,000 Second Stage test takers. The First Stage average scores were 75.78 for the Listening Test, and 79.79 for the Reading Test, with a passing rate of $45 \%$. The Second Stage average band scores were 3.5 for the Writing Test and 3.6 for the Speaking Test, with a passing rate of $26 \%$ (Figure 1).

Analysis of test takers' background shows that $57 \%$ of the test takers were from northern Taiwan, $25 \%$ from the central region, $17 \%$ from the southern region, and $1 \%$ from the eastern region (Figure 2). The ratio of males to females was approximately $2: 3$. The average age of examinees was 21.7, while the oldest passing examinee was 56 years of age. Target test takers, that is, university students and graduates made up roughly $60 \%$ of the population, while $30 \%$ were attending or had


Figure 2. Examinee distribution by region


completed senior high school (Figure 3).
In terms of First Stage test scores, test takers from the northern region scored slightly higher than those from other regions on the Listening and Reading Tests (Figure 4). Female examinees outperformed males on the Listening Test, but no gender difference in the Reading Test was found. In general, test takers under age 14 performed better on the Listening Test. Examinees over 15 years old performed better on the Reading Test (Figure 5). Target test takers, that is, university students and graduates achieved higher scores on the Reading Test than on the Listening Test.

As Second Stage test takers had been screened in the First Stage Tests, few score differences were found across regions, ages and education levels. On the whole, examinees performed better on the Speaking Test than on the Writing Test, the difference being the most marked among junior high school students and graduates (Figure 6).

Figure 4. Scores by region


Figure 5 . Scores by age


Figure 3. Examinee distribution by education



