In 2009, the General English Proficiency Test (GEPT) Elementary Level recognized approximately 188,000 First Stage test takers and 118,000 Second Stage test takers. The First Stage average scores were 85.13 for the Listening Test, and 81.53 for the Reading Test, with a passing rate of $55 \%$. The average band score for Second Stage tests was 3.7, with a passing rate of $55 \%$ (Figure 1).

Analysis of test takers' background shows that $39 \%$ of the test takers were from northern Taiwan, $32 \%$ from the central region, $24 \%$ from the southern region, $4 \%$ from the eastern region, and $1 \%$ from the outlying islands (Figure 2). The ratio of males to females was approximately $2: 3$. The average age of examinees was 16.8 , while the oldest passing examinee was 64 years of age. Target test takers, that is, junior high school students and graduates made up roughly half of the population, while $37 \%$ were attending or had completed senior

Figure 1. Score distribution by test


Figure 2. Examinee distribution by region


Figure 3. Examinee distribution by education

high school (Figure 3).
In terms of First Stage test scores, examinees from the northern region scored slightly higher than those from other regions on the Listening Test, while regional difference on the Reading Test was minor (Figure 4). Female examinees outperformed males on both the Listening and Reading Tests. In general, test takers under the age of 24 scored higher on the Listening Test than on the Reading Test. In contrast, examinees over 25 years old performed better on the Reading Test (Figure 5). Target test takers, that is, junior high school students and graduates achieved higher scores 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 (Figure 6).

Figure 4. Scores by region


Figure 5 . Scores by age


Figure 6. Scores by education level


