

In 1999, the General English Proficiency Test (GEPT) was launched by the LTTC, with support from the Ministry of Education, which has a goal to promote lifelong learning and encourage the study of English. The GEPT consists of five proficiency levels, Elementary, Intermediate, High-Intermediate, Advanced, and Superior, each of which has specific level descriptors. Test format and content of all levels, including Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing tests, were tailored to the needs of English learners at different stages in Taiwan. The GEPT not only is used for self-assessment but also provides schools and other institutions with a reference for evaluating the English proficiency levels of their students, job applicants, or employees.

I. Overview

Among the total GEPT test-taking population of 2016, 57% took the Listening and Reading Tests of the Elementary Level; 36% took the Intermediate Level; and 7% took the High-Intermediate or Advanced Level (see Figure 1). As for the Speaking and Writing Tests, 60% took the Elementary Level; 33% took the Intermediate Level; and 7% took the High-Intermediate or Advanced Level (see Figure 2).

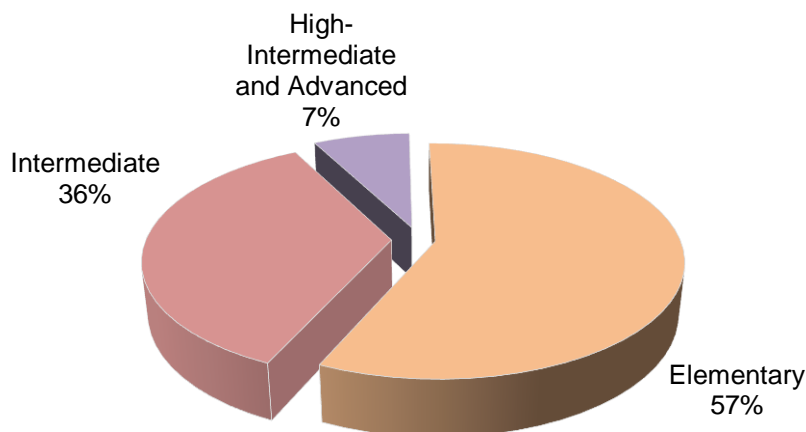


Figure 1 Distribution of examinees in Listening and Reading Tests by level

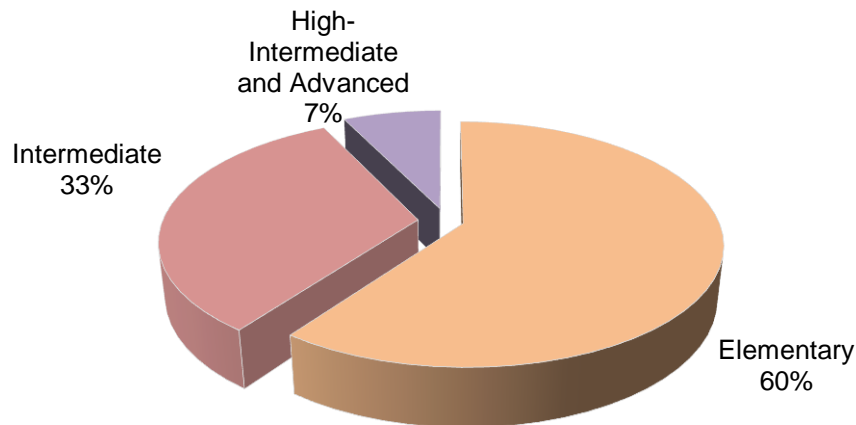


Figure 2 Distribution of examinees in Writing and Speaking Tests by level

An analysis of examinee background shows that the average age of the examinees was 16.3, with the oldest being 74 years of age. Of these, 44% of all examinees were male, and 56% were female. Furthermore, 39% came from the northern region; 31% from the central region; 26% from the southern region; and 4% came from the eastern region, outlying islands, or China.

II. Summary by level

At the Elementary Level, the average age of examinees was 15.1, with the oldest being 74 years of age. Junior high school students and graduates made up the largest group of examinees (79%), and high school students and graduates were the second largest group (17%). The average scores for the Listening and Reading tests were 84.55 for the Listening Test and 77.20 for the Reading Test, with a passing rate of 50%. The average band scores for the Writing and Speaking tests were 3.7 for the Writing Test and 3.7 for the Speaking Test, with a passing rate of 52%. The oldest passing examinee was 63 years of age.

At the Intermediate Level, the average age of examinees was 17.3, with the oldest being 72 years of age. Senior high school students and graduates made up the largest group of examinees (50%), and junior high school students and graduates were the second largest group (27%). The average scores for the Listening and Reading tests were 82.53 for the Listening Test and 75.72 for the Reading Test, with a passing rate of 46%. The average band scores for the Writing and Speaking tests were 3.5 for the Writing Test and 3.6 for the Speaking Test, with a passing rate of 31%. The oldest passing examinee was 62 years of age.

At the High-Intermediate Level, the average age of examinees was 20.5, with the oldest being 72 years of age. Senior high school students and graduates made up the majority of examinees (near 90%). The average scores for the Listening and Reading tests were 81.25 for the Listening Test and 80.96 for the Reading Test, with a passing rate of 51%. The average band scores for the Writing and Speaking tests were 3.5 for the Writing Test and 3.6 for the Speaking Test, with a passing rate of 30%. The oldest passing examinee was 57 years of age.

At the Advanced Level, the average age of examinees was 25.1, while the oldest examinee was 69 years of age. The largest group of examinees was made up of university students and graduates (near 60%). The average scores for the Listening and Reading tests were 72.29 for the Listening Test and 68.37 for the Reading Test, with a passing rate of 44%. The average band scores for the Writing and Speaking tests were 2.3 for the Writing Test and 2.9 for the Speaking Test, with a passing rate of 20%. The oldest passing examinee was 45 years of age.

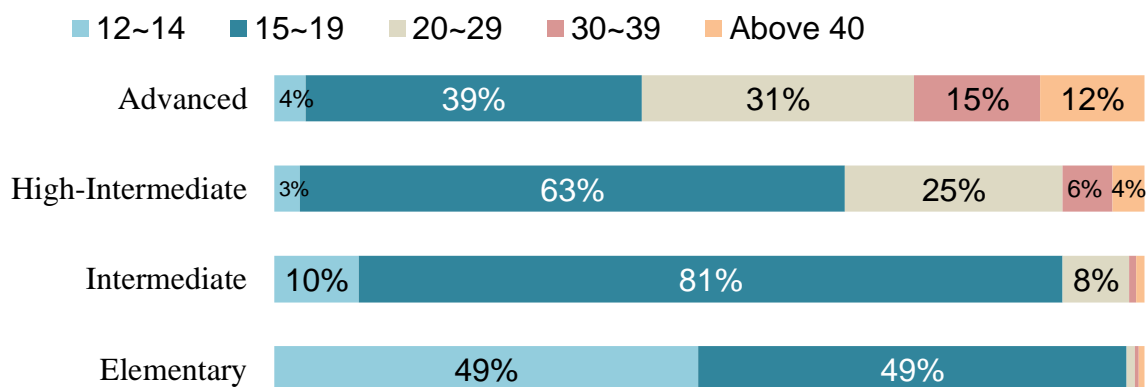


Figure 3 Examinee Distribution by Age

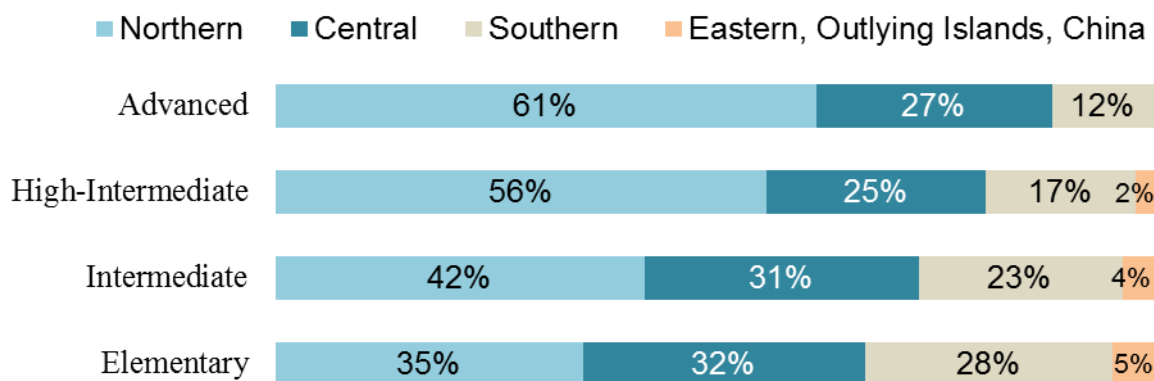


Figure 4 Examinee Distribution by Region

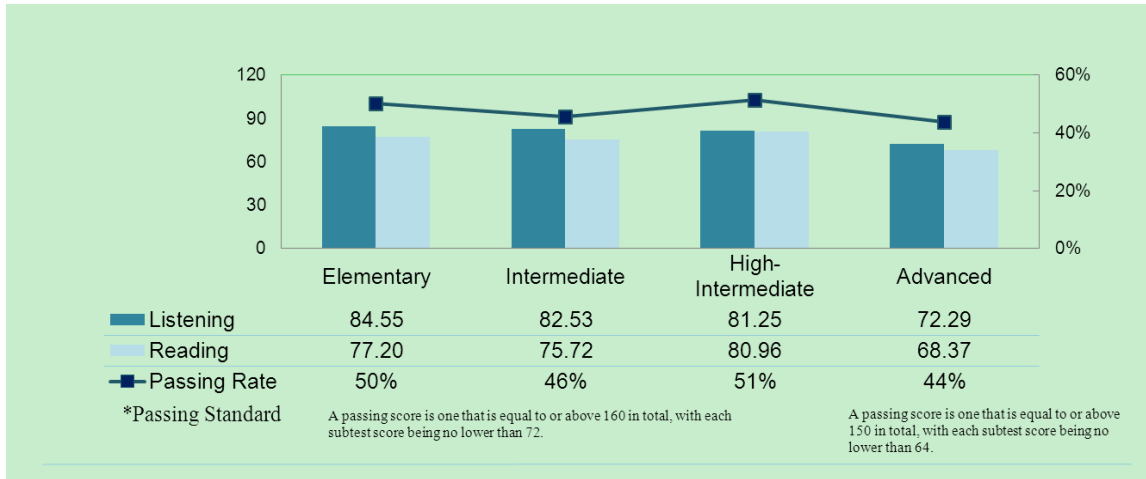


Figure 5 Examinee Performance by test level, Listening and Reading Tests

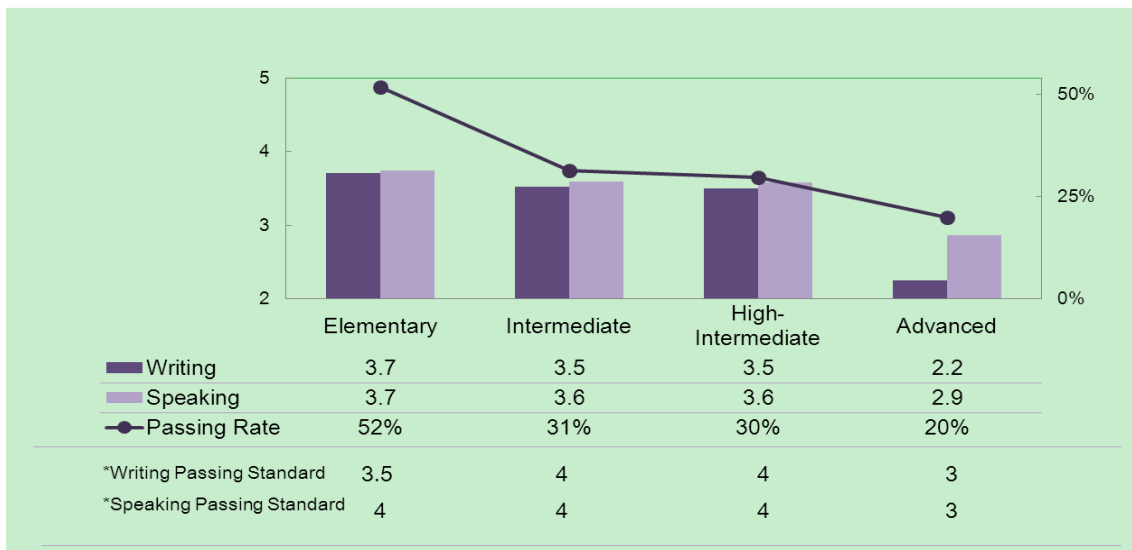


Figure 6 Examinee Performance by test level, Writing and Speaking Tests