

The General English Proficiency Test (GEPT), which assesses listening, reading, speaking, and writing abilities, is a level-based criterion-referenced EFL testing system tailored to learners of English in Taiwan. First administered in 2000, the GEPT was developed by the Language Training and Testing Center (LTTC). Each GEPT level corresponds to the English learning stages described in the curriculum guidelines for compulsory education in Taiwan.

Since its launch, the GEPT has received extensive recognition for its quality both domestically and internationally, and it is now the most widely taken English proficiency examination in Taiwan. GEPT test results are used for various purposes by hundreds of government agencies, private enterprises, and over 400 schools.

This report is based on data analysis of GEPT examinees' backgrounds and their performances in 2017.

I. Description of GEPT Examinees

❖ Test level

Among those taking the GEPT in 2017, 57% took the Elementary Level; 35% took the Intermediate Level; and 8% took the High-Intermediate or Advanced Level (see Figure 1).

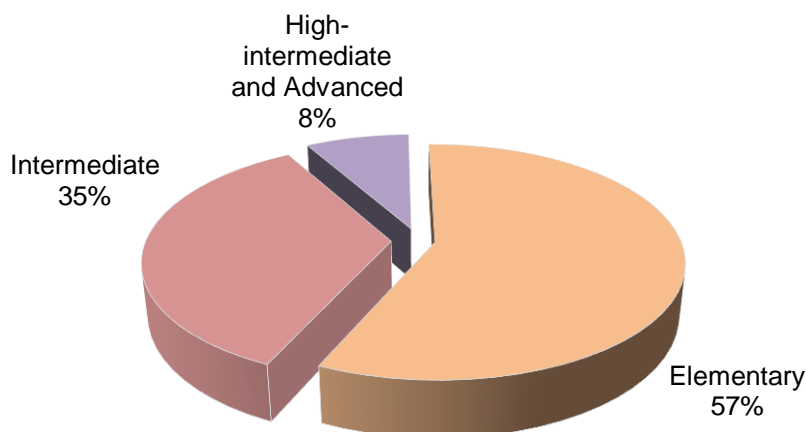


Figure 1. Distribution of examinees by level

❖ **Gender**

The ratio of males to females was approximately 2:3. There were more female examinees than male examinees across the four levels (see Figure 2).

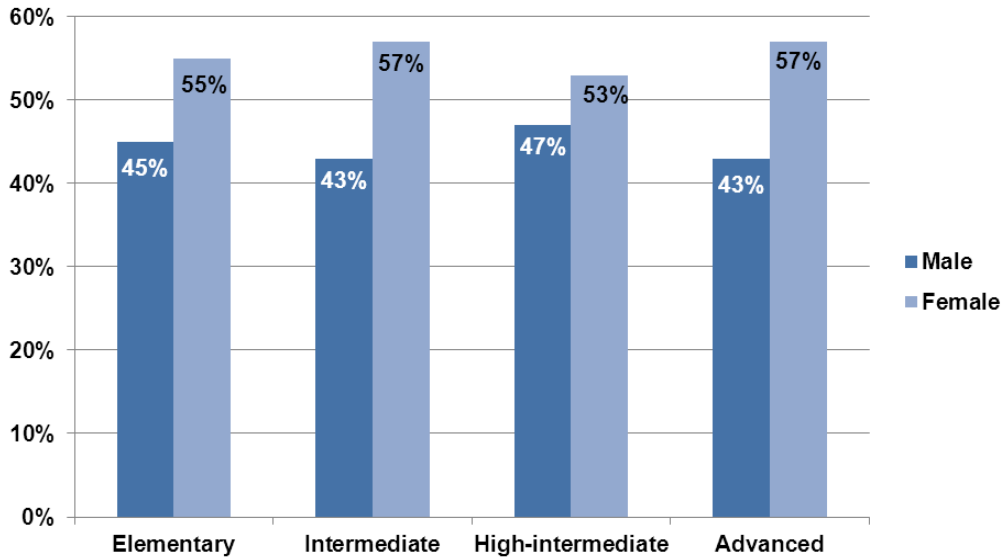


Figure 2. Examinee distribution by gender

❖ **Region**

The majority of examinees came from the northern region of Taiwan. This was especially the case among those taking the High-intermediate and Advanced levels (see Figure 3).

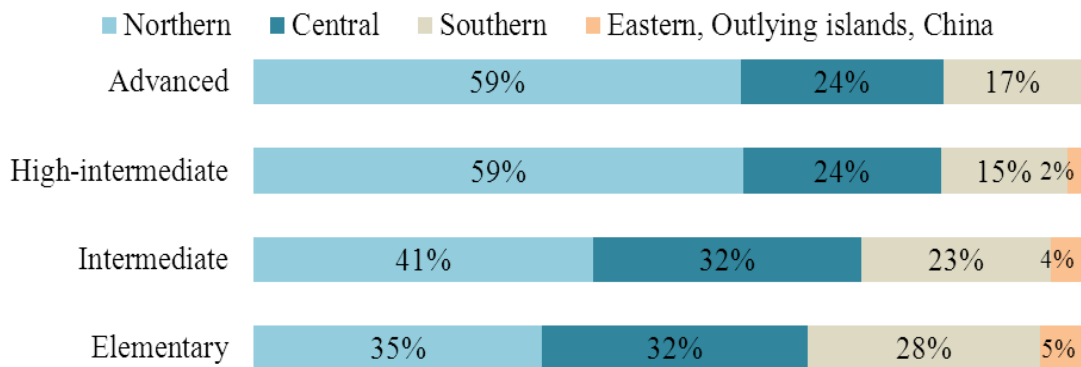


Figure 3. Examinee distribution by region

❖ **Age**

At the Elementary Level, the average age of the examinees was 14.86, with the oldest being 76 years of age. More than 95% of these examinees were under 19 years of age. At the Intermediate Level, the average age of the examinees was 17.73, with the oldest being 73 years of age. Around 80% of these examinees were between 15 and 19 years old. At the High-intermediate Level, the average age of the examinees was 20.90, with the oldest being 71 years of age. Nearly 90% of these examinees were between 15 and 29 years old. At the Advanced Level, the average age of the examinees was 26.68, with the oldest being 62 years of age. Approximately 85% of these examinees were between 15 and 39 years old. See Table 1 and Figure 4.

Table 1. Examinee average age & the oldest examinee

	Elementary	Intermediate	High-intermediate	Advanced
Average age	14.86	17.43	20.9	26.68
The oldest	76	73	71	62

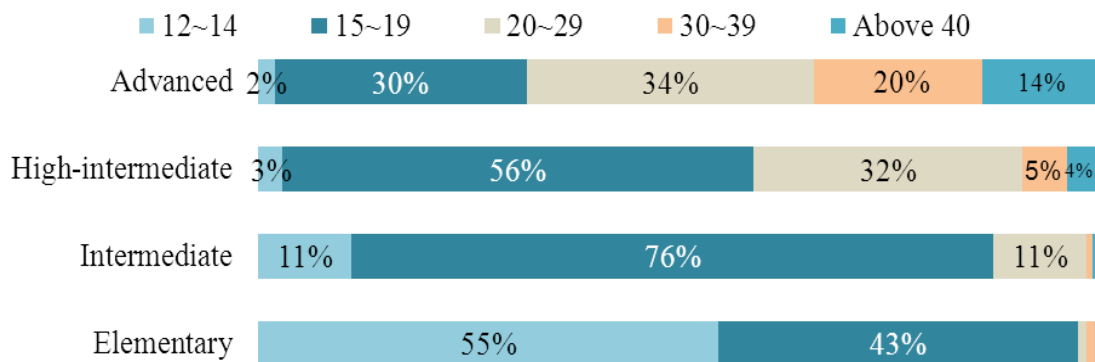


Figure 4. Examinee distribution by age

❖ **Education level**

At the Elementary Level, junior high school students and graduates made up the largest group of examinees (79%), and senior high and vocational high school students and graduates were the second largest group (18%). At the Intermediate Level, senior high school students and graduates made up the largest group of examinees (45%), and junior high school students and graduates were the second largest group (26%). At the High-intermediate Level, university students and graduates made up the majority of examinees (46%), and senior high school students and graduates were the second largest group (42%). At the Advanced Level, the largest group of examinees was made up of university students and graduates (64%). See Figure 5.

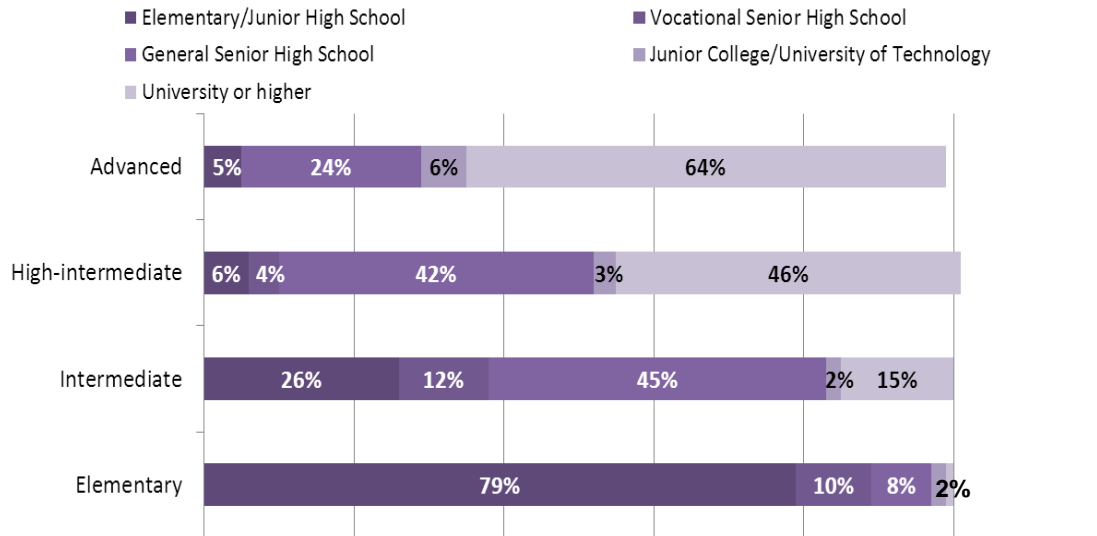


Figure 5. Examinee distribution by education level

II. Score summary by level

❖ Elementary Level

At the Elementary Level, the average scores for the Listening and Reading tests were 84.15 for the Listening Test and 78.50 for the Reading Test, with a passing rate of 53%. The average band scores for both the Writing and Speaking tests were equal at 3.7, with a passing rate of 53%.

❖ Intermediate Level

At the Intermediate Level, the average scores for the Listening and Reading tests were 83.65 for the Listening Test and 76.16 for the Reading Test, with a passing rate of 48%. 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 32%.

❖ High-intermediate Level

At the High-Intermediate Level, the average scores for the Listening and Reading tests were 81.00 for the Listening Test and 81.65 for the Reading Test, with a passing rate of 53%. 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 29%.

❖ **Advanced Level**

At the Advanced Level, the average scores for the Listening and Reading tests were 76.42 for the Listening Test and 66.54 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 25%. See Figures 6 & 7.

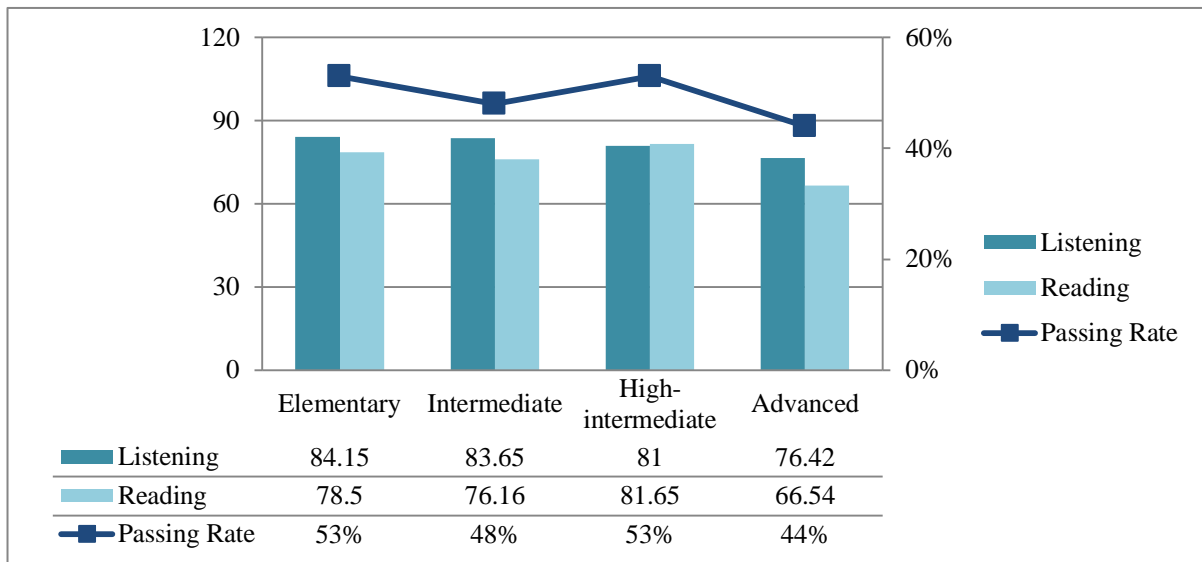


Figure 6. Examinee performance by test level, Listening and Reading tests

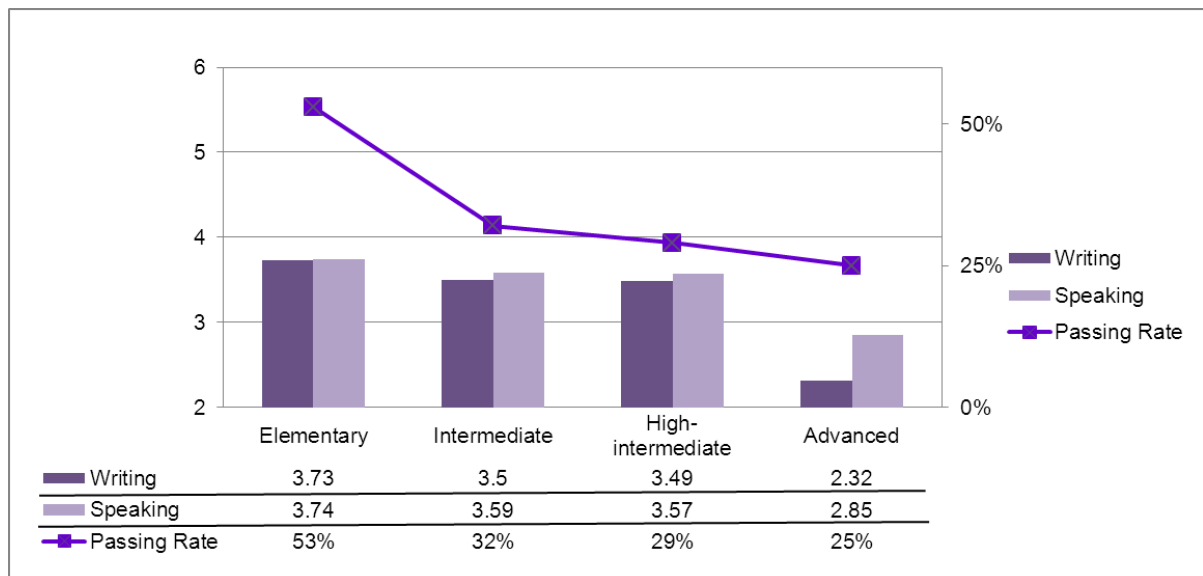


Figure 7. Examinee performance by test level, Writing and Speaking tests