



مؤسسة عبدالله الغرير للتعليم  
Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education



برنامج الغرير لطلبة العلوم والتكنولوجيا  
Al Ghurair STEM Scholars Program

*An important admission criterion for many universities, is your standardized test scores. Since the process of registering and preparing for standardized tests can be confusing, we have compiled relevant information for you to keep in mind if you are considering taking one or more of these tests.*



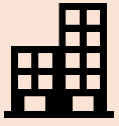
## SAT

Many universities require applicants to undergraduate programs to submit their SAT scores. There are two kinds of SAT tests that you can take: The General SAT has sections on reading, writing and mathematics, while the Subject SATs test your knowledge in specific areas like history, chemistry, Spanish etc.

Generally, universities ask that you submit your General SAT scores and not your Subject SAT results. However, it is important for you to check with the admissions team of the university you are interested in applying to, and confirm which SAT you need to take.



Before registering for a particular SAT test, you need to make a [College Board account](#). Registration closes approximately a month before each exam, so make sure you don't miss the deadlines! The SATs are usually offered 4 times a year, but availability is likely to change by region. Check [this](#) page regularly to keep yourself updated about the new test dates and registration deadlines.



Keep in mind that the same test centers might not be active throughout the year. The available test centers change depending on the test date. To find out where the SAT test centers in your country are located, check out this [link](#).



The test can take up to 4 hours to complete.



SAT scores are valid for 5 years.



On average, international students pay approximately \$100 for the SAT. However, the cost fluctuates by region. This [link](#) will give you precise information about SAT fees.



Books like Barron's New SAT, and The Official SAT Study Guide by the College Board detail the specific concepts tested in the SAT, and allow you to study them. [Khan Academy](#) also offers useful virtual resources to aid your SAT preparation. You can also free practice tests [here](#)!

# ACT

The ACT tests proficiency in English, reading, mathematics, science and writing (optional). It is typically taken in Year 11 or 12 of high school, and is an accepted standardized test for most North American universities.



The ACT is offered 5 times a year. The following link will redirect you to the registration portal. If you scroll down further, you will also find the ACT international test dates and deadlines for registration. Registration closes approximately a month before each test. Click this [link](#) to register.



Use the [ACT Test Center Locator](#) to find the nearest centers.



The test lasts for about 3h 30m.



ACT scores are valid for 5 years.



International test takers pay \$47.5 for the ACT. More information about the fees can be found [here](#).



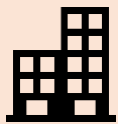
The Official ACT Prep Guide, and Barron's and Kaplan's practice books are useful resources for preparation. Online study modules, and practice tests are also helpful, and can be found [here](#), and [here](#).

# TOEFL

The TOEFL is a standardized English proficiency test that assesses your strength in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Universities that seek proof of English proficiency usually ask for your TOEFL or IELTS score.



The TOEFL is offered around 30-50 times a year, and is administered online. In countries where internet access is a problem, the paper-delivered TOEFL is available as an alternative. Test dates vary by region, and format (i.e., internet based, or paper-delivered). To find out the upcoming test dates in your region, use [this](#) link. It is also recommended that you register for your test 3-4 months in advance. There are multiple ways of registering for the TOEFL, all of which can be found [here](#).



The official [TOEFL website](#) contains information about open test centers in each region.



The test lasts for approximately 4.5 hours.



TOEFL scores are valid for 2 years.



Fees vary by region. For information on the costs associated with taking the test, click [here](#).

*Note: - The Test Center Locator also displays the fee.*



For online practice resources, click [here](#), and [here](#). For a free TOEFL e-guide, visit this [link](#)! You might also find TOEFL guides by ETS, Cambridge and Oxford to be useful.

# IELTS

Like the TOEFL, the IELTS is an English proficiency test that assesses your reading, writing, listening and speaking abilities. There are two types of IELTS tests that you can take: IELTS Academic, and IELTS General Training. Universities typically ask for your IELTS Academic scores, but it is best to check with an admissions officer, and confirm which test you should take.



The IELTS test is offered about 2-3 times a month. However, actual test dates are likely to vary by country and city. This [link](#) will redirect you to the British Council website where you can create an account to register for the IELTS.

Once you create an account, you can choose your country, and see the available test dates. Alternatively, you could Google “IELTS registration (name of your country)” and go directly to the British Council webpage for your country.

*Note: - The Speaking test might not be on the same day as your written one.*



The IELTS is offered in multiple test centers across different regions. This [link](#) will enable you to find test centers in your city.



The IELTS test lasts for 2 h 45 m.



IELTS scores are valid for 2 years.



The IELTS fee varies by country. For instance, it costs about AED 1000 to take the IELTS in the UAE, and AED 600 if you're taking it in Egypt. The fee for each country is displayed on the British council website specific to that country.



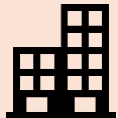
Prep books by Barron's, and the Official Cambridge Guide are useful resources to study the material tested on the IELTS. Free practice tests are also available online [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

# PTE

The PTE is a relatively newer test that examines reading, writing, listening, and speaking proficiency in English. There are five different levels of PTE tests that you can attempt. University applicants must generally take Level 5 of the PTE. The PTE is accepted in fewer institutions than the IELTS and TOEFL, so be sure to check the list of accepted English standardized tests with your preferred university before registering for any test. You should also confirm which level of the PTE you are required to take. More details about the PTE levels can be found [here](#).



Registration closes about a month before the test, and dates are subject to change depending on the test centers open in your country. The oral and written components of the test are completed on different days. It is best to contact the nearest open test center directly as soon as possible and find out when all the available test dates are. The following link will give you an idea of when tests are usually conducted. Check [this page](#) regularly to find updated information on test dates.



Use this [link](#) to find the available test centers in your country.



The PTE test lasts for approximately 3 hours.



PTE scores are valid for 2 years.



Information about the fees to be paid is available on the same [page](#) as the Test Center locator. As with the IELTS and TOEFL, the PTE fees vary by country.



Pearson's official PTE test prep book can be found in bookstores or purchased online. There are also some online resources [here](#) and [here](#) that you can check out as you prepare for the test.

# GRE

GRE test scores are required for admission into graduate programs for several universities. The GRE tests your aptitude in Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. Like the SAT, the GRE is of two types. There are subject-specific GRE tests, and the GRE General. For admission into most graduate programs, your GRE General scores are sufficient. However, depending on the program you are applying to, you might be required to take a GRE subject test instead. The GRE requirements are quite strict, so check with the university you are applying to first, and confirm which GRE test you have to take.



GRE tests are either computerized or paper-delivered. Computerized GRE tests are offered every 21 days, while the paper-delivered GRE is usually available about 3 times a year. The computerized GRE is not available in all countries, so if you need to take a paper-delivered test, you'll have to plan ahead to make sure you can take one of the three available tests. To register for the GRE, you'll first need to create an [ETS account](#). To view test dates and centers for the computerized and paper-delivered GRE, click [here](#).

*Note: If no results show up when you type in your country, try changing the dates to find other available tests.*



The GRE test takes about 3h 45m to complete.



GRE scores are valid for 5 years.



The [General GRE](#) costs \$205, while the [Subject GREs](#) cost \$150.



Kaplan, Barron's and ETS have study books to prepare you for different sections of the GRE. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for additional practice material. following links will also guide you during your GRE preparation:

## Final suggestions to see you through your test prep journey!

- Plan ahead! Remember that these tests are expensive, so the more you prepare, the more likely you are to be successful.
- Some tests have multiple levels or types. Check with your school counselor or the admissions officer (of the university you are applying to) to see which one you need to take.
- You might be exempted from submitting your IELTS, TOEFL, or PTE score if you went to a high school where English was the medium of instruction. **BUT**, you might still need to submit these scores to the embassy for your visa application even if the university does not require it, so make sure you do your research before making a final decision.
- Test prep books are expensive. Try to borrow them from friends, or see if they are available for check-out from your local library. You might also find used books for a cheaper price. There are also online discussion threads and forums where other students like yourself recommend budget-friendly study sources you can use.
- Go over the test-day checklist for the test you plan to take. These checklists are usually available on the official websites for each test, so go over them thoroughly. The FAQ section is also useful, as it might answer other general queries you have about the test.

*Good luck with your test preparation!*