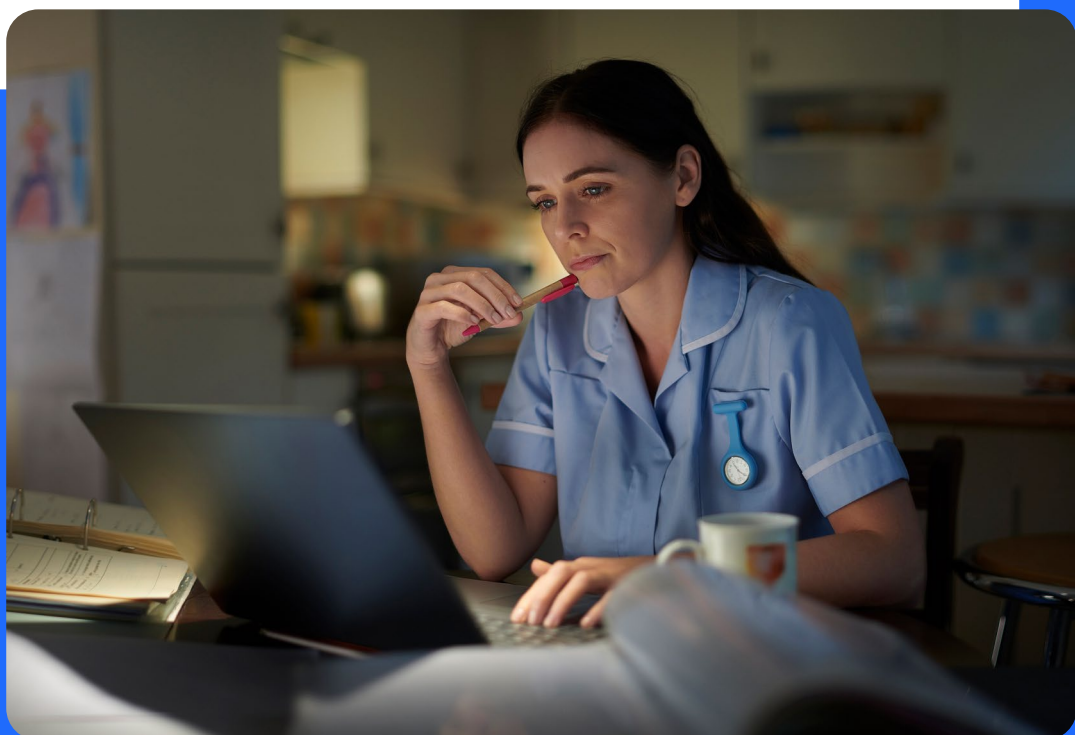




OET Test Handbook



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Introduction

This handbook is a guide for candidates taking the OET Test. It provides key information about the test, including its purpose, structure, preparation resources, booking, results and related policies, to help you understand each stage of the candidate journey.

What is the OET Test?

The OET Test is an English language test designed specifically for healthcare. It helps internationally trained healthcare professionals demonstrate the English communication skills needed to work and study in healthcare settings.

The OET Test assesses the four English communication skills: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Listening and Reading are the same for all candidates, regardless of profession. Writing and Speaking are tailored to the candidate's profession.

The OET Test is available for 12 healthcare professions: Dentistry, Dietetics, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Radiography, Speech Pathology and Veterinary Science.

About OET

OET is owned by Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment Unit Trust (CBLA), a venture between Cambridge English (Aus) and Box Hill Institute.

Cambridge English is a not-for-profit department of the University of Cambridge with over 100 years of experience in English language assessment.

Box Hill Institute is a leading Australian vocational and higher education provider with operations in Australia and overseas.

Backed by research

The OET Test is underpinned by ongoing academic research. This helps ensure the test reflects the communication skills needed by healthcare professionals in real clinical settings. We also work with leading institutions and subject matter experts to keep the assessment relevant, high quality and up to date.

Benefits of the OET Test

The OET Test is used around the world for registration, employment, and study purposes.

Regulatory authorities, registration boards and councils use OET to help ensure that internationally trained healthcare professionals meet the standards of English required for safe and effective communication in healthcare settings.

Employers use OET Test results to confirm that healthcare professionals have the communication skills needed to work effectively with patients, carers, and colleagues.

Education and training institutions may use OET Test results to support admission and readiness for registration or employment.

The OET Test also provides a fair and trusted way to assess profession relevant English communication skills in a healthcare context.

Who recognises the OET Test?

The OET Test is globally accepted as proof of English language skills of internationally trained healthcare professionals for the following purposes:

- Registration of internationally trained healthcare professionals by healthcare boards, councils, and regulators
- Admission to healthcare courses by education and training institutions
- Recruitment of healthcare professionals by healthcare recruiters and employers.

OET Test results may be accepted for visa and immigration purposes, depending on the requirements of the relevant authority or organisation.

A full list of organisations that accept OET Test results can be found here: [Who recognises the OET Test](#).

OET Test overview

The OET Test assesses four communication skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The sections below explain the format and structure of each sub-test.

Test structure

Sub-test	Timing	Number of parts	Questions / tasks
Listening	Approximately 40 minutes	3	42 questions
Reading	60 minutes	3	42 questions
Writing	45 minutes	N/A	1 task
Speaking	20 minutes	N/A	2 tasks

Listening

The Listening sub-test has three parts. In each part, you will listen to recordings made in healthcare setting and complete corresponding tasks. You will hear each recording once only. The Listening sub-test is the same for all candidates taking the OET Test, regardless of profession.



Part A

Task type	Note completion
Focus	Locating and recording specific information
Format	You will hear two audio recordings from different consultations between a healthcare professional and a patient. For each audio extract, you will have a set of incomplete medical notes. You complete the gaps in the notes using one word or a short phrase you hear in the recording.
Number of questions	24 (12 per extract)

Part B

Task type	3-option multiple choice
Focus	Understanding the detail, purpose, main idea, attitude, opinion, and course of action of everyday spoken interaction between colleagues in a healthcare setting, and also between health professionals and patients, carers and other stakeholders.
Format	You will hear six short recordings from a range of healthcare contexts. For each audio extract, you answer one 3-option multiple-choice question.
Number of questions	6 (1 per extract)

Part C

Task type	3-option multiple choice
Focus	Understanding the main idea, detailed argument, attitude and opinion in a workplace presentation or interview on a healthcare topic of general interest.
Format	You will hear two recordings which are either presentations or interviews. For each audio extract, you answer six 3-option multiple-choice questions.
Number of questions	12 (6 per extract)

Scoring

The OET Listening sub-test contains 42 questions. Each correct answer is awarded 1 mark. Scores out of 42 are converted to the 500 scale.

Reading

The Reading sub-test has three parts. In each part, you will read a number of texts related to healthcare and complete corresponding tasks. The Reading sub-test is the same for all candidates taking the OET Test, regardless of profession. Part A is completed separately from Parts B and C. Part A takes 15 minutes. Parts B and C take 45 minutes.



Part A

Task type	Matching, short-answer questions, sentence completion
Focus	Expeditious reading to locate and record specific information
Format	You will read four short extracts from informational texts consulted in healthcare settings. You will locate and record key pieces of information from the texts.
Number of questions	20

Part B

Task type	3-option multiple choice
Focus	Understanding the details, purpose, and main ideas of short workplace texts.
Format	You will read six short extracts from different types of workplace communication in a range of healthcare contexts. For each extract, you will answer one 3-option multiple-choice question.
Number of questions	6 (1 per extract)

Part C

Task type	4-option multiple choice
Focus	Understanding main points, detailed meaning, attitude and opinion and vocabulary in context in a long text on a topic of general interest to a broad range of healthcare professionals.
Format	You will read two extracts from longer articles on healthcare topics. For each extract, you will answer eight 4-option multiple-choice questions.
Number of questions	16 (8 per extract)

Scoring

The OET Reading sub-test contains 42 questions. Each correct answer is awarded 1 mark. Scores out of 42 are converted to the 500 scale.

Writing

The Writing sub-test has one task. You write a letter to another healthcare professional, or to a person related to the patient's care, in response to a set of case notes outlining the patient's condition and need for further care or treatment.



Timing	45 minutes in total (5 minutes reading time and 40 minutes writing time)
Stimulus material	→ Background information on context → Profession-specific case notes and/or relevant documents → Task instructions
Task type	Letter (for example, a referral letter)

Scoring:

The writing sub-test is assessed using six criteria. Scores for each criterion are combined and converted to the 500 scale.

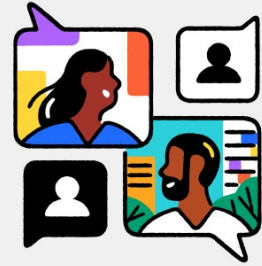
- Purpose
- Content
- Conciseness & Clarity
- Genre & Style
- Organisation & Layout
- Language

You can find the Writing assessment criteria in [Writing assessment criteria](#).

The Writing sub-test is profession-specific, with tasks tailored to the candidate's profession. For example, Nursing candidates complete Nursing Writing tasks, and Radiography candidates complete Radiography Writing tasks.

Speaking

The Speaking sub-test contains two tasks. You complete the Speaking sub-test with an interlocutor who plays the role of the patient or the patient's family member or carer. You complete two role plays based on common healthcare scenarios shown on role cards.



Timing	20 minutes in total → Warm-up: about 2–3 minutes → Preparation: 3 minutes per role play → Role plays: 5 minutes each
Stimulus material	Two profession-specific role cards. Each role card includes: → Setting information → Background information on context → Task prompts.
Task type	Role play

Scoring:

The Speaking sub-test is assessed using two sets of criteria. Scores for each criterion are combined and converted to the 500 scale.

Linguistic criteria: 4 criteria, each marked out of 6.

- Intelligibility
- Fluency
- Appropriateness of language
- Resources of grammar and expression

Clinical Communication criteria: 5 categories, each marked out of 3.

- Relationship Building
- Understanding and Incorporating the Patient's Perspective
- Providing Structure
- Information Gathering
- Information Giving

You can find the Speaking assessment criteria in [Speaking assessment criteria](#).

The Speaking sub-test is profession-specific, with role plays tailored to the candidate's profession. For example, Nursing candidates complete Nursing role plays, and Radiography candidates complete Radiography role plays.

Preparing for the OET Test

Before taking the OET Test, you should take time to understand the test format, practise each sub-test, and build the language skills needed for your healthcare role.

Preparation resources

OET provides a range of preparation resources to help you get ready for the OET Test. These include on-demand Masterclasses, courses, guides, sample tests, and study tips. You can access these resources [here](#).

For a comprehensive guide to all OET preparation resources, see the [OET Study Guide](#).

Sample tests

Official OET [sample tests](#) are available for all four sub-tests (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking), for every profession, in both paper and computer formats. They are a useful way to familiarise yourself with the test format, timing and question types, and to review transcripts and sample answers .



You can follow OET on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram for updates, study tips and news.

Booking the OET Test

Test delivery modes

You can take the OET Test in three ways:

- OET Test on Paper: A paper-based test you take at an approved test centre.
- OET Test on Computer: A computer-based test you take at an approved test venue.
- OET@Home®: A computer-based test you take on your own computer at home, with remote proctoring. You must meet the technical and environmental requirements. OET@Home® is available if there is no OET test venue in your country, or if you have other access needs.

All delivery modes use the same test format and specifications and are marked to the same standard.

Find out more: [OET Test](#)

Special testing arrangements

OET aims to be fair to all candidates. If you have a disability or health condition, you may be able to request special arrangements so that you have an equal opportunity to demonstrate your English skills. This includes permanent conditions—such as hearing or vision impairment, dyslexia or speech impairment—and temporary conditions, such as a broken arm.

Special arrangements are available for eligible candidates who apply in advance and receive confirmation from OET before their test. Options may include extra time, accessibility support, modified test materials, large-print or Braille papers, and lip-reading versions.

For more information about special arrangements, see [OET special testing arrangements](#).

How to book the OET Test

You can book the OET Test through the [online booking platform](#).

Follow the instructions to complete your OET booking.

You are required to upload your identification document as part of the booking process and pay the test fee online.

Test fees

You must pay the applicable test fee when you book your OET Test. Test fees may vary depending on the country where you book, the test delivery mode, and whether you book the full test or individual sub-tests where available.

Current test fees and any applicable booking charges are published on the [OET website](#). Candidates should always check the website for the most up-to-date information before booking.

Rescheduling your test

If you need to reschedule your OET Test, the options available and any applicable rescheduling fee depend on the test delivery mode, where you booked your test, and when you request the change.

Current rescheduling fees and deadlines are published on the [OET website](#).

All rescheduling requests are subject to availability. If your test has already started or the final rescheduling deadline has passed, you may not be able to make changes to your booking.

All rescheduling requests are subject to the applicable booking rules in force at the time of the request.

Cancelling your test

If you cancel your OET Test after booking, a cancellation fee applies.

Candidates should always check the [OET website](#), the [Terms and Conditions](#), and the [Test Regulations](#) for cancellation information before cancelling.

All cancellation requests are subject to the applicable booking rules in force at the time of cancellation.

Terms and Conditions and Test Regulations

When you book the OET Test, you confirm that you have read and agree to follow the [Terms and Conditions](#) and [Test Regulations](#). These documents set out the rules for all test formats (OET Test on Paper, OET Test on Computer, and OET@Home®).

The Test Regulations include important information about test booking and pre-test requirements, identification requirements, test day procedures, and what happens after your test. They also explain key policies that apply throughout your test experience including rescheduling and cancellation, results and post-test processes, remarking, complaints, appeals, malpractice and the OET Banning Policy.

You should read these documents carefully before booking your test. The rules may be updated from time to time, so make sure you check the latest version online.

Test results

Understanding OET scores

The four sub-tests that make up the OET Test are reported on a scale from 0 to 500 in ten-point increments (e.g., 350, 360, 370...). The numerical score is mapped to a separate letter grade for each sub-test ranging from E (lowest) to A (highest).

The table below shows how OET scores correspond to letter grades and what each grade means in practice.

OET grade	OET score	OET band descriptors
A	450-500	Can communicate very fluently and effectively with patients and health professionals using appropriate register, tone and lexis. Shows complete understanding of any kind of written or spoken language.
B	350-440	Can communicate effectively with patients and health professionals using appropriate register, tone and lexis, with only occasional inaccuracies and hesitations. Shows good understanding in a range of clinical contexts.
C+	300-340	Can maintain the interaction in a relevant healthcare environment despite occasional errors and lapses and follow standard spoken language normally encountered in their field of specialisation.
C	200-290	
D	100-190	Can maintain some interaction and understand straightforward factual information in their field of specialisation, but may ask for clarification. Frequent errors, inaccuracies and mis- or overuse of technical language can cause strain in communication.
E	0-90	Can manage simple interaction on familiar topics and understand the main point in short, simple messages, provided they can ask for clarification. High density of errors and mis- or overuse of technical language can cause significant strain and breakdowns in communication.

You can find more information about OET Test results and scoring on the [OET Results and Scoring](#) page.

You can also find information about how OET scores compare to other tests such as in the [OET-IELTS Concordance Study](#), which outlines the relationship between OET scores and IELTS band scores.

Statement of Results

When your OET Test results are released, you will be issued an OET Statement of Results through your OET Account.

The Statement of Results includes:

- Your test day photo
- Your full name as printed on your ID, OET Candidate Number, profession, date of birth, gender and nationality
- Testing location and test date
- Your results for each sub-test, reported as a numerical score from 0 to 500 in ten-point increments and a letter grade (e.g. A, B, C+).

When you receive your results

Your OET Test results are released within a few days of completing your test. The exact timing depends on the test format.

- OET Test on Computer and OET@Home®: Results are typically available in as little as 48 hours after all four sub-tests are completed, with most results released within 6 calendar days.
- OET Test on Paper: Results are typically available from as little as 5 days after the test date for candidates tested in India and the Philippines, and from 13 days after the test date for all other regions.

Please note:

- These timeframes are indicative and results may be released earlier or later.
- Release times may vary due to public holidays or regional factors.
- In some cases, results may take longer due to additional quality assurance or security checks.
- You will receive an email notification when your results are available.

How to access your results

You can view and download your OET Test results by following the instructions on [this page](#).

Sharing your results with organisations

You can easily share your OET Test results with organisations that recognise the OET Test by giving them access through your OET Account.

Your OET Account allows you to manage which organisations can view and verify your results, and you can remove access at any time.

For each recognising organisation's score requirements, please refer to their website for the most up to date information.

You can also refer to [this page](#) for more information.

Results validity period

There is no global standard for how long OET Test results are valid. Each organisation sets its own requirements for demonstrating English language proficiency, including the scores they accept and how long results are valid. The validity period of your OET Test results is therefore determined by the organisation you are applying to.

Whether you are applying for immigration, healthcare registration, education, or employment, you should check the English language proficiency requirements of the organisation you plan to apply to.

To find out which organisations accept OET Test results, visit [Who recognises the OET Test?](#)

You will find links to each organisation's website where you can check their requirements, including accepted scores, how long results are valid, and what OET test profession is required.

Remarking, complaints, and appeals policies

OET provides clear and transparent processes for remarking, complaints, and appeals.

If you believe your results do not reflect your performance, you can request a remark of one or more sub-tests. Requests must be submitted within 72 hours of your results being released, and fees will apply. If your grade changes, the fee will be refunded. For more information about these processes, you can refer to the [Remarking Policy](#).

If you have concerns about your test day experience or OET services, you can submit a complaint. Further details are available in the [Complaints Policy](#).

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of a re-marking request, complaint, or malpractice decision, you may submit an appeal. Appeals must be submitted within five calendar days of receiving the decision, and fees will apply. Fees will be refunded if the appeal is successful. You can find more information on the [Appeals Policy](#).



Contact us

Candidates should refer to the [Support Hub](#) on the OET website for answers to common questions and supporting information. If additional assistance is required, please [contact](#) the OET team.