

TELT SYLLABUS[©]

A syllabus, sample questions & answers

June 2024



MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The Test for English Language Teachers (TELT) is a national, publicly-offered examination which can be sat for in part fulfilment of the qualifications required to receive an EFL Teaching Permit. The examination has been designed to assess candidates in three main areas:

- 1) Language description, sensitivity and awareness
- 2) Language proficiency

Following from this, there are three parts to the examination divided into several sections each. Parts 1 and 2, which have equal weighting, are written. Candidates must obtain at least 65% of the marks possible on each of the two parts in order to proceed to Part 3, Speaking. Candidates who pass Part 3 will have passed the examination. The examination consists of:

PART 1 LANGUAGE DESCRIPTION, SENSITIVITY AND AWARENESS

This part assesses candidates' ability to analyse and use appropriate terminology to describe language. In particular, candidates are tested on their knowledge of terminology required to describe linguistic structures and processes covering sound patterns (phonology), word formation (morphology), phrase/sentence structure (syntax), meaning (semantics), and language use/function (pragmatics). This section also assesses candidates' awareness of and sensitivity to language patterns and relationships.

SECTION A –LANGUAGE TERMINOLOGY

Aim: The focus is on the ability to analyse and use appropriate terminology to describe language. In particular, candidates are tested on their knowledge of terminology required to describe linguistic structures and processes, meaning (semantics), lexis and language use/function (pragmatics).

Description: This task consists of an authentic text from which candidates are asked to identify terms of selected language items. There are 20 multiple choice questions worth two marks each for a total of 40 marks. There is one correct answer for each question and three distractors. The terms are chosen from the list below:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Nouns: | proper; abstract; common; concrete; collective; compound; countable; uncountable; noun phrase; regular; irregular |
| Verbs: | lexical (main); auxiliary; modal auxiliary; transitive; intransitive; multi-word (separable and inseparable); phrasal; gerund; infinitive; bare infinitive; full infinitive; split infinitive; base form; finite; non-finite; present participle; past participle; -ing verb; verb phrase; copula; interrogative; negative; affirmative; imperative; indicative; subjunctive; regular; irregular; reporting; question tag; stative meaning; dynamic meaning; tense; contraction; particle; participles |
| Adjectives: | gradable; extreme; comparative; superlative; compound |
| Adverbs: | time; manner; place; degree; frequency; quantity; attitude; focus |

Prepositions:	place; movement; time; direction; dependent
Pronouns:	subject; object; possessive; reflexive; relative; interrogative; demonstrative; indefinite; reciprocal
Determiners:	articles: definite; indefinite; zero; possessive; demonstrative; quantifier; cardinal number; ordinal number
Conjunctions (linkers):	co-ordinating; correlative; subordinating
Possessive Reported Speech:	direct speech; indirect speech; indirect question; reporting verb
Clauses:	main; dependent; independent; subordinate; relative; defining (identifying) relative; non-defining (non-identifying) relative; reported; conditional
Subject, object and complement; direct and indirect object; predicate	
Phrases:	noun; verb; adjective; adverbial; prepositional
Relative Clauses:	identifying; non-Identifying

VERB PHRASE

Tenses:	present; past; future; present simple; past simple; future simple; present perfect simple; past perfect simple; future perfect simple; present continuous /progressive; past continuous/ progressive; future continuous/ progressive; present perfect continuous/ progressive; past perfect continuous/ progressive; future perfect continuous/ progressive
Aspect:	continuous/progressive; simple; perfect
Mood:	indicative; imperative; subjunctive
Voice:	active; passive
Conditional sentences:	zero; first; second; third; mixed
Modality:	hypothetical meaning; possibility, deduction/assumption/ speculation; prediction, permission, prohibition; ability, obligation; necessity; volition
LEXIS:	synonym; antonym; hyponym; superordinate; homophone; homonym; polyseme; lexeme; lexical set; lexical verb; affix; prefix; suffix; collocation; connotation; colloquial; fixed expressions; compound; cognate; lexical chunk; morpheme; abbreviation; acronym; word family
-Ing Words:	present participle; gerund; adjective

TASK SAMPLE:

Read the following text carefully and choose the correct answer for each of the multiple choice questions below in its regard.

1. At 31, Vatankehah was born a year before Iran's Islamic revolution. In February
2. 1978, Tehran had **nightclubs** and dancing and girls-about-town **who** dressed
3. as fashionably as their counterparts in Europe. **A** year later, the Shah **had fled**
4. from his Peacock Throne; Iran was reborn as an Islamic Republic and women,
5. **many** of whom supported the overthrow, were waking up to find their lives
6. drastically changed.

1. **nightclubs** in line 2 is an example of:

- a. a proper noun
- b. a compound noun
- c. an abstract noun
- d. a gerund

Correct answer: b

2. **who** in line 2 is an example of:

- a. a relative pronoun
- b. a preposition
- c. an adjective
- d. a synonym

Correct answer: a

3. **A** in line 3 is an example of:

- a. a determiner
- b. a preposition
- c. a relative pronoun
- d. a demonstrative pronoun

Correct answer: a

4. **had fled** in line 3 is an example of:

- a. the present perfect passive
- b. the present perfect active
- c. the past simple active
- d. the past perfect active

Correct answer: d

5. **many** in line 5 in relationship to few (not in text) is an example of:

- a. a homophone
- b. a synonym
- c. an affix
- d. an antonym

Correct answer: d

SECTION B

PRIMARY STRESS IDENTIFICATION

Aim: The focus is on the identification of stress in individual words.

Description: This task consists of isolated words and candidates are asked to identify the primary stress in each word. There are 15 words worth one mark each for a total of 15 marks. Words in this section have the same primary stress in different varieties of English but some words may be frequently mispronounced.

TASK SAMPLE:

Underline the main stress syllable in each of the following words:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Arabic (n) | Correct answer: <u>A</u> rabic |
| 2. Secretarial (adj) | Correct answer: Secret <u>a</u> rial |
| 3. Photographer (n) | Correct answer: Photo <u>g</u> rapher |
| 4. Record (n) | Correct answer: <u>R</u> ecord |
| 5. Survey (v) | Correct answer: <u>S</u> urvey |

SECTION C

TRANSCRIPTION OF PHONEMIC SCRIPT INTO NORMAL SPELLING

Aim: The focus is on recognition of International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) phonemes

Description: This task consists of words related to a particular topic written out in phonemic script (IPA) and candidates are asked to transcribe them. There are five words worth one mark each for a total of five marks. Mis-spelt words are awarded no points. Received Pronunciation (RP) is used as the pronunciation model for these words.

Task Sample:

These words, all related to weather and the environment, are in phonemic script. Please transcribe them into normal English spelling.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. / t e m p r ɪ tʃ ə / | Correct answer: temperature |
| 2. / g r iː n h aʊ s / | Correct answer: greenhouse |
| 3. / t ɔː n eɪ d əʊ / | Correct answer: tornado |
| 4. / ʃ ɔː t ɪ dʒ / | Correct answer: shortage |
| 5. / k l aɪ m ə t / | Correct answer: climate |

SECTION D

TRANSCRIPTION OF NORMALLY SPELT WORDS INTO PHONEMIC SCRIPT

Aim: The focus is on the phonemic transcription, using International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols, of individual words.

Description: This task consists of words in normal spelling and candidates are asked to phonemically transcribe them using IPA symbols. The symbols are provided for the candidates on the examination paper. There are five words worth two marks each for a total of 10 marks. Varieties spoken by educated speakers of the language are taken into consideration.

TASK SAMPLE

Transcribe the following words into phonemic script. Symbols have been included to help you:

i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ		
e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ	
æ	ʌ	aɪ	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	
p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j

1. goodness
2. throws
3. watch
4. taking
5. practice

Correct answer: /gʊdnəs/

Correct answer: /θrəʊz/

Correct answer: /wɒtʃ/, /wɔ:tʃ/ or /wɑ:tʃ/

Correct answer: /teɪkɪŋ/

Correct answer: /præktɪs/ or /præktəs/

SECTION E ODD ONE OUT

Aim: The focus is on awareness of and sensitivity towards language patterns and relationships.

Description: This task consists of four utterances and candidates are asked to describe what the utterances have in common and how one item differs from the others. The language item focused on is identified in bold for the candidates. Areas assessed are related to grammatical, lexical or functional meaning or form. There are ten sets of four utterances. Each answer is worth 3 marks for a total of 30 marks. One mark is awarded for stating what the utterances have in common, one mark for identifying the odd one out and one mark for briefly explaining why it is different from the other three utterances.

TASK SAMPLE

One utterance in each set is different from the other utterances. The difference may have to do with grammatical, lexical or functional meaning or form. Indicate which sentence is the odd one out, briefly explain why it is different and what the other three have in common.

1. a) He's lying in the sun.
b) We're enjoying our holiday.
c) She's leaving at 3.00.
d) I'm reading a very good book at the moment.

Correct answer: Sentence (c) is the odd one out because:

All four utterances contain the present continuous. However, in 'c' the present continuous is used to refer to future time whereas in all the others it refers to an event in progress at the present time.

2. a) You have grown since the last time I saw you.
b) The government has become more interested in arts education.
c) Japanese people have wonderful food.
d) My English has really improved since I moved to Australia.

Correct answer: Sentence (c) is the odd one out because

All four utterances contain the verb 'have'. However, in 'c' 'have' is a main/lexical verb whereas in the others 'have' is an auxiliary verb.

3. a) A father talking to his 18-year-old son who has just bought a new car: 'You should check your brakes regularly.'
b) A car hire employee in a foreign country talking to tourists who have just hired a car: 'It's not required by law, but you really should wear a seatbelt.'
c) Two friends talking about another friend who has been having car problems: 'She should buy a new car.'
d) Two parents are talking about their child who has just gone abroad for the first time. They are discussing where she may be: 'She should be in Rome by now.'

Correct answer: Sentence (d) is different because

In all four utterances the modal verb 'should' is used. In all the other sentences it is used to give advice while in sentence 'd' it is used to show deduction.

4. a) Don't be afraid. It's just a mouse!
b) I've just done it.
c) They had just arrived when he phoned.
d) What did you just say?

*Correct answer: Sentence __ (a) ____ is different because
In all four utterances the adverb 'just' is used. In 'a' it is used with the meaning
'only' whereas in all the other utterances it implies 'very recently' or 'a moment
or moments ago'.*

PART 2 LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

This part assesses candidates' ability to manipulate a range of grammatical and lexical forms. The writing section assesses candidates' ability to express themselves fluently and accurately.

SECTION A IDENTIFYING AND CORRECTING ERRORS

Aim: The focus is on the identification and correction of grammatical, lexical, spelling and punctuation errors.

Description: This task is made up of 20 utterances, sentences or parts of sentences, some of which include a mistake while others do not. Candidates are required to identify correct sentences with a tick (✓). In the incorrect utterances, the mistake should be identified and corrected. Each answer is worth 1 mark for a total of 20 marks. No marks are awarded for wrongly identifying and/or wrongly correcting a mistake. There is only one mistake in any incorrect utterance.

TASK SAMPLE

Read the utterances below carefully checking for mistakes. If an utterance contains no mistakes, put a tick (✓) on the line under the utterance. If an utterance contains a mistake, underline the mistake and write the correction on the line below the utterance. Each correct answer carries 1 mark.

Here is an example of each type of error and one correct utterance.

1. I'm looking forward to see you.

Candidate version: I'm looking forward to see you.

seeing

2. He was under deep pressure to finish the work by the end of the day..

Candidate version: He was under deep pressure to finish the work by the end of the day.

heavy / a great deal of / intense / a lot of _(only one answer is necessary)

3. I try to keep meat sepearate from other foods in the fridge.

Candidate version: I try to keep meat sepearate from other foods in the fridge.

separate

4 Peru which is a very poor country is known as the homeland of the Incas.

Candidate version: Peru which is a very poor country is known as the homeland of the Incas.

Peru, which is a very poor country,

5. The picnic was cancelled due to rain.

Candidate version: ✓

SECTION B LEXIS - WORD FORMATION

Aim: The focus is on vocabulary, specifically on word formation.

Description: This task consists of ten separate utterances. Each sentence contains a gap. At the end of each sentence there is a stem word in capital letters. Candidates are required to form a word from the given stem word to fill the gap. Each correct answer carries 1 mark for a total of 10 marks. No marks are given for incorrectly-spelt words.

TASK SAMPLE:

Use the word in capitals after each line to form a word that fits in the gap.

1. Careful! If you eat too fast you might get _____ DIGEST

Correct answer: indigestion

2. She gave us enormous portions at dinner—that's typical of her _____ GENEROUS

Correct answer: generosity

3. The day she got married was a ...occasion. _____ MEMORY

Correct answer: memorable

4. This painting is absolutely...! _____ PRICE

Correct answer: priceless

5. This rocket has sufficient... power to blow a battleship to pieces. _____ DESTROY

Correct answer: destructive

SECTION C CLOZE TEST: SELECTIVE DELETION

Aim: The focus is on grammatical and lexical resources and the ability to follow the cohesive and coherent features of a text.

Description: This task consists of a text from which words have been selectively deleted. In each case, the deleted word is indicated by a gap. Candidates are required to supply a single appropriate word for each gap. Candidates are not provided with a set of choices from which to make a selection. Candidates do not lose marks for punctuation (e.g. use or misuse of capital letters, apostrophes). However, spelling must be correct. Each word is worth 1 mark for a total of 10 marks.

TASK SAMPLE:

Read the sentences below and think of a word which would fit each gap. Use only one word in each gap. Each correct answer carries 1 mark.

It's much too scary out there - I'd much rather stay at home than go anywhere

Michele Hanson

Tuesday January 30, 2007

The Guardian

This may sound like raving rubbish to you but I have proof that a simple cross-town drive can wreck (0) your life

The older I am, the less I want to go anywhere. It's not the event itself but the _____ (1) there, especially if I don't know the _____ (2). Worse still, it means leaving my home unprotected: against robbers, fires, tornados, flood, gas explosion - you _____ (3) it, I've already factored it in. So first I must _____ (4) myself away from home, then travel. More danger. I blame my parents. Whenever I drove off in the car in my youth, they would be standing at the gate, pale green with fear, _____ (5) that I would crash and come back either in a box or in pieces. I now feel the same.

Possible answer (1): getting

Possible answer (2): way

Possible answer (3): name

Possible answer (4): tear

Possible answer (5): sure / convinced / certain / terrified

Aim: The focus is lexical and grammatical and a range of structures is tested. Candidates are required to demonstrate an ability to express a message in different ways and show flexibility and resource in the use of language.

Description: This section consists of ten questions, each containing three parts: a lead-in sentence, a key word and a second sentence of which only the beginning and/or the end are given. Candidates are required to fill the gap in the second sentence so that the completed sentence is similar in meaning to the lead-in sentence. The gap must be filled with between three and six words, one of which must be the key word. The key word must not be changed in any way. Each answer in this section receives 0, 1 or 2 marks for a total of 20 marks.

TASK SAMPLE:

Please complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

1. I can't finish this crossword. Can I ask you as your vocabulary is really good?

BRAIN

I can't finish this crossword. Can I as your vocabulary is really good?

Correct answer: I can't finish this crossword. Can I pick (1 point) your brain (1 point) as your vocabulary is really good?

2. They'll certainly invent a thinking robot one of these days.

BOUND

A thinking robot one of these days.

Correct answer: A thinking robot is bound (1 point) to be invented (1 point) one of these days.

3. He said that I was a liar.

ACCUSED

He a liar.

Correct answer: He accused me (1 point) of being (1 point) a liar.

4. I've been very busy at work all day.

EYES

I've been in work all day.

Correct answer: I've been up to (1 point) my eyes (1 point) in work all day.

5. I regret not going to the party last weekend.

WISH

..... to the party last weekend.

Correct answer: I wish (1 point) I had gone (1 point) to the party last weekend.

SECTION E WRITING

Aim: This task assesses candidates' ability to write in English. It focuses on their range of lexical and grammatical resources, their ability to write cohesively and coherently, spelling and their use of appropriate register and style.

Description: This section consists of a set of 5 titles from which candidates are required to choose 2 titles and write between 180 and 220 words on each title. Each title represents a different genre which includes a selection from the following: an article for a newspaper or magazine; a discursive essay (e.g. a 'for and against' essay); a competition entry (e.g. the writer nominates themselves or somebody else for a prize, a grant, an award, etc); an information sheet; a letter (e.g. a reference letter, an application letter, a letter to the editor of a newspaper or magazine, a letter of complaint to a company or authority, a letter to a friend); a proposal (to a superior, or a peer group); a report (to a superior or a peer group); a review (e.g. of a book, a film, a holiday, for a magazine, newspaper or website); a fictional or true narrative (e.g. for a magazine or competition).

Each task has a given purpose (e.g. to persuade, express an opinion, suggest, recommend, describe, compare, evaluate, hypothesise, advise, apologise, complain), and a target reader.

GENERAL IMPRESSION MARK SCHEME

DISTINCTION 95-100	The full range of language resources is used effectively and creatively to cope with the task, using the appropriate register. The candidate has demonstrated full command of complex grammatical structures, a wide range of vocabulary and idiomatic language usage, as well as effective cohesive devices.
PASS WITH MERIT 80-94	Practically error-free: resourceful, controlled and natural use of language showing a good range of vocabulary and structure. Task fully completed with good use of cohesive devices and consistently appropriate register. Not necessarily a flawless performance but one which leaves a very positive effect on the target reader.
PASS 65-79	Sufficiently natural with minimal errors. Some evidence of range of vocabulary and structure. Good realization of task. Attention paid to organization and cohesion with appropriate register. Positive effect on target reader achieved.
NARROW FAIL 55-64	Task reasonably achieved, but accuracy of language not satisfactory with limited range of vocabulary and structures. Content adequately organised. Would have a rather negative effect on the reader.
FAIL 30-54	Some attempt at task made but with lack of expansion and/or several irrelevancies. Errors sometimes obscure communication and/or language is too elementary for this level (e.g. frequent basic errors and/or narrow range of language and/or inadequate attempt at task).
UNCLASSIFIED 0-29	In both writing tasks: Either (a) fewer than 50 words and/or (b) totally illegible and/or (c) totally irrelevant (such as a previously prepared answer to a different question)

TASK SAMPLE:

Write your answer to two of the titles 1-5 below. Write each answer in 180-220 words in the appropriate style on the following lined pages. Marks are awarded for range of structure, vocabulary and expression, ability to organise content; ability to write effectively and accurately, addressing all aspects of the task and use of format and register appropriate to the purpose and audience.

1. You have been asked to write a **reference letter** for a friend who has applied for a job as a receptionist in an English language school. The person appointed will be good at dealing with a range of different people, will be able to communicate adequately in several languages and will have very good administration skills.

You should include information about your friend's character and personal qualities, their skills, their previous relevant experience and why they should be considered for the job.

Write your reference.

2. Your Local Council is exploring the possibility of introducing parking for residents only on the streets in your town centre. **Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, agreeing or disagreeing** with this proposal.

3. You see the following announcement in a local English Language magazine:

Our Readers' Films of the Year

We are inviting our readers to write an article with the title "My Film Of The Year." The ten best entries will be published. The film may have been viewed at the cinema, on television, as a DVD or through any other medium. It may have been released this year, or fifty years ago – it doesn't matter when! Please tell us something about the plot and the reasons why the film is 'The Film Of The Year' for you

Write the article.

4. An important international travel company which caters for tourists over the age of 65 is exploring the idea of marketing Malta as a possible destination for their clients. They have commissioned you to write a report on issues which would be of relevance to this particular kind of tourist. Include information on facilities and services, accommodation, places of interest, activities, recommended seasons for visiting and any other information which you think is relevant. Finally, make a recommendation as to whether the company should choose Malta as a destination for its clients.

Write the report.

5. Your local school is running a series in the school magazine offering career guidance to the school's students. Each article is written by an ex-student or parent who writes about the advantages and disadvantages of a chosen profession that they have first-hand experience of. The article ends with a recommendation.

Write your article.

RESULTS PARTS 1 & 2

Candidates' marks will be tabulated and a result issued based on the combined marks of the Written parts (Parts 1 & 2). The percentage of correct answers qualifying candidates for each result along with descriptors are in the following table:

DISTINCTION 95-100	The candidate has shown excellent language skills in all areas and has demonstrated an exceptional command of the language itself, as well as in-depth metalanguage awareness.
PASS WITH MERIT 80-94	The candidate has shown excellent language description skills, language sensitivity and language awareness. Strong language proficiency. A superior performance.
PASS 65-79	The candidate has shown competent language description skills, language sensitivity and language awareness. Good language proficiency. A competent performance.
NARROW FAIL 55-64	The candidate has shown incomplete language description skills, language sensitivity and language awareness and/or language proficiency. A fair performance but one which does not yet demonstrate a level of language description ability, sensitivity and awareness and/or language proficiency appropriate to a teacher of EFL.
FAIL 30-54	The candidate has shown inadequate language description skills, language sensitivity and language awareness and/or language proficiency. An unsatisfactory performance.
UNCLASSIFIED 0-29	The candidate has shown poor language description skills, language sensitivity and language awareness and/or language proficiency and/or did not complete some or all of the tasks. A very weak performance.

CERTIFICATES

The EFL Monitoring Board as the awarding body will issue certificates to the successful candidates. The certificate will include the following statement:
“This certificate is valid for two years from the date of issue. An EFL teaching permit will only be issued if the certificate is valid.”