Language Cert

Annual Test Report 2023

Contents

Introduction and Purpose of the Report

LanguageCert exams are used internationally to establish people's English language proficiency. For transparency, quality assurance, and fairness, LanguageCert regularly reports key test statistics, showcasing our dedication to valid, reliable testing practice and policy. We attempt to make our results as accessible as possible, explaining them in a way that can be readily understood by our stakeholders—from test takers to educational institutions and policymakers—along with other individuals who may have an interest in the performance of standardised, high stakes language exams. Within these reports, we include important, relevant information such as test taker demographics and test taker performance, and we present results overall as well as by group (i.e., gender and nationality).

Because our tests are used for important purposes, conducting regular reports ensures we hold ourselves to a high standard of testing, consistently evaluating the performance of different demographic groups and helping us detect and address any systemic issues that may affect test scores or create inequitable outcomes. Further, the data in these reports helps provide insights into language test performance and proficiency trends, which contributes to future test development and improvement.

By having access to information about LanguageCert's quality, fairness, and validity, you are able to make informed decisions about using test scores for various purposes, such as college admissions, job applications, or immigration processes, and we hope you find this report useful for your own purposes.

About LanguageCert

LanguageCert is a business name of PeopleCert Qualifications Ltd, UK company number 0962026, subsidiary of PeopleCert Group (PeopleCert).

LanguageCert is an awarding organisation regulated by Ofqual and offers language qualifications that are globally recognised and aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) at levels A1 to C2. LanguageCert delivers language qualifications through a network of approved test centres worldwide. LanguageCert combines language qualification heritage with unparalleled exam administration systems and processes, and excellent customer service. For the dissemination and delivery of high-quality language qualifications, LanguageCert relies on the capabilities and systems developed and deployed by its sister companies within PeopleCert.

In This Report

This report summarises performance on LanguageCert Academic and LanguageCert General for the trialling period of June 2022 until June 2023. It should be noted that the reliability figures reported here are based on a single form of each test, delivered to small numbers of candidates. As more data becomes available a fuller picture of the reliability of LanguageCert Academic and LanguageCert General will emerge.

Test Taker Stats & Performance

Total test taker performance

Academic *(n = 628)*

Section	Mean	Standard Deviation	Min	Max	Reliability[1]
Listening	64.75	15.67	18	100	.84
Reading	67.12	16.37	18	100	.87
Writing	58.75	14.35	0	93	
Speaking	65.59	14.49	4	96	
Total	64.18	13.45	17	96	

[1]Reliability indices were calculated using Cronbach's alpha (Listening and Reading), intra-class correlation coefficients (Writing and Speaking), and McDonald's omega (Overall).

General (*n* = 201)

Section	Mean	Standard Deviation	Min	Max	Reliability[1]
Listening	66.39	17.36	15	91	.86
Reading	71.49	15.72	26	93	.85
Writing	62.07	10.29	7	85	
Speaking	65.56	16.06	7	93	
Total	66.72	13.60	17	89	

[1]Reliability indices were calculated using Cronbach's alpha (Listening and Reading), intra-class correlation coefficients (Writing and Speaking), and McDonald's omega (Overall).

Statistics by Group

LanguageCert test takers are a richly diverse group. Their statistics and performance are summarised below.

Gender

LanguageCert Academic Gender

Gender	Percent of total
Female	59.6
Male	40.0
Undisclosed	0.5

LanguageCert General Gender

Gender	Percent of total
Female	55.2
Male	44.3
Undisclosed	0.5

LanguageCert Academic Mean Performance by Gender

LanguageCert Academic Performance by Gender (standard deviation in brackets)

Gender	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall
Female	66.20 (15.51)	68.75 (15.91)	61.55 (12.04)	66.80 (14.10)	65.96 (12.74)
Male	62.43 (15.61)	64.60 (16.71)	54.45 (16.33)	63.69 (14.89)	61.39 (13.99)
Undisclosed	79.33 (15.01)	75.00 (22.52)	68.33 (15.04)	73.67 (12.66)	74.33 (15.31)
Total	64.75 (15.67)	67.12 (16.37)	58.75 (14.35)	65.59 (14.49)	64.18 (13.45)

Female n = 374, male n = 251, undisclosed n = 3, total n = 628.

LanguageCert General Mean Performance by Gender

LanguageCert General Performance by Gender (standard deviation in brackets)

Gender	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall
Female	69.38 (14.91)	73.32 (14.51)	63.47 (7.68)	67.38 (14.25)	68.89 (11.75)
Male	62.61 (19.51)	69.12 (16.96)	60.22 (12.66)	62.51 (17.68)	63.90 (15.25)
Undisclosed	72.00	79.00	71.00	85.00	77.00
Total	66.39 (17.36)	71.49 (15.72)	62.07 (10.29)	65.56 (16.06)	66.72 (13.60)

Female n = 111, male n = 89, undisclosed n = 1, total n = 201.

LanguageCert Academic Mean Performance by Nationality

LanguageCert Academic Performance by Nationality (standard deviation in brackets)

Nationality	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall
Austria	67.00	71.00	61.00	71.00	68.00
Brazilian	82.00 (8.04)	85.75 (3.30)	77.75 (7.72)	76.75 (7.41)	80.75 (1.26)
Chinese	66.90 (15.40)	69.31 (17.22)	62.88 (13.41)	65.40 (16.36)	66.24 (13.96)
Colombian	77.00 (9.48)	80.85 (10.65)	71.31 (6.22)	76.54 (7.22)	76.54 (6.51)
Eritrean	62.00	67.00	48.00	79.00	64.00
Greek	84.53 (10.25)	85.33 (12.99)	68.53 (10.46)	80.07 (9.14)	79.80 (9.20)
Indian	57.91 (14.29)	60.66 (12.29)	49.88 (12.82)	62.1 (11.38)	57.76 (10.55)
Indonesia	62.00	65.00	66.00	74.00	67.00
Iranian	62.33 (4.04)	59.00 (7.55)	56.67 (4.16)	65.33 (3.21)	61.00 (2.65)
Italian	74.00	84.00	78.00	81.00	79.00
Japanese	55.00 (1.73)	47.33 (16.5)	50.00 (7.81)	50 (3.46)	50.67 (3.21)
Malian	72.00	84.00	54.00	77.00	72.00
Mexican	69.00	71.00	63.00	76.00	70.00
Mongolian	68.00 (11.31)	65.00 (2.83)	50.00 (1.41)	62.00 (11.31)	61.50 (6.36)
Nepalese	76.00	90.00	81.00	86.00	83.00
Pakistani	52.67 (8.96)	53.67 (10.56)	45.50 (7.42)	67.33 (6.19)	55.00 (5.18)
S Korean	72.00	69.00	53.00	62.00	64.00
Saudi Arabian	63.00 (12.73)	61.50 (4.95)	62.50 (9.19)	72.50 (23.33)	65.00 (12.73)
Spain	77.5 (4.95)	87.00 (1.41)	71.5 (4.95)	76.5 (4.95)	78 (4.24)
Syrian	69.00	73.00	68.00	75.00	71.00
Taiwanese	58.00 (16.57)	55.75 (15.78)	52.5 (17.52)	59.5 (18.59)	56.5 (17.02)
Thai	61.41 (12.33)	64.47 (15.03)	62.94 (8.86)	65.47 (11.04)	63.71 (10.38)
Turkish	69.00 (11.1)	69.20 (17.11)	60.07 (11.25)	72.4 (8.72)	67.8 (10.23)
Ukrainian	51.00	69.00	66.00	67.00	63.00
Undisclosed	62.00	49.00	51.00	64.00	57.00
Total	64.75 (15.67)	67.12 (16.37)	58.75 (14.35)	65.59 (14.48)	64.18 (13.45)

LanguageCert Academic Mean Performance by Nationality

LanguageCert Academic Performance by Nationality (standard deviation in brackets)

Nationality	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall
Australian	83.00	93.00	69.00	93.00	88.00
Brazilian	62.00	76.00	61.00	60.00	65.00
Chilean	44.50 (12.01)	56.50 (10.34)	59.00 (2.45)	50.75 (12.50)	52.75 (5.56)
Chinese	64.05 (19.51)	70.94 (16.64)	60.18 (12.71)	63.12 (19.94)	64.92 (16.00)
Colombian	59.25 (14.21)	61.13 (10.60)	59.50 (3.74)	60.25 (11.26)	60.13 (6.51)
Greek	77.33 (9.95)	81.04 (9.77)	67.69 (6.13)	73.96 (10.73)	75.55 (7.67)
Indian	66.74 (14.17)	68.47 (15.96)	63.58 (4.90)	68.79 (6.25)	67.16 (9.17)
Iraqi	56.00	56.00	55.00	61.00	67.00
Italian	42.00	53.00	40.00	42.00	44.00
Japanese	55.17 (3.97)	59.00 (11.17)	58.67 (5.01)	52.50 (10.80)	56.50 (6.80)
Libyan	25.00	32.00	49.00	45.00	38.00
Macedonian	39.00	70.00	52.00	47.00	52.00
Mauritius	42.00	56.00	47.00	62.00	52.00
Mexican	62.33 (6.51)	58.33 (13.20)	60.67 (0.58)	63 (1.73)	61.33 (4.62)
Peruvian	52.00	44.00	63.00	61.00	55.00
S Korean	79.00 (5.66)	73.00 (8.49)	62.50 (3.54)	63.00 (11.31)	69.50 (3.54)
Slovakian	45.50 (4.95)	54.00 (18.38)	51.00 (8.49)	54.00 (7.07)	51.00 (9.90)
Spanish	60.75 (21.11)	76.50 (14.64)	60.75 (14.59)	62.00 (6.16)	65.00 (12.46)
Thai	71.00 (8.54)	69.33 (10.02)	57.67 (16.26)	65.67 (11.02)	65.67 (9.50)
Turkish	58.00 (12.46)	57.75 (6.13)	56.25 (8.30)	56.00 (2.58)	57.00 (6.38)
Overall	66.39 (17.36)	71.49 (15.72)	62.07 (10.29)	65.56 (16.06)	66.72 (13.60)

Reliability and standard error of measurement can provide helpful insight into a test's performance. Reliability provides an estimate of the extent to which differences in language test scores are attributable to real differences in language proficiency rather than variations in performance that might have come about by chance. LanguageCert Academic and General tests are scored in different ways depending on the language skill being tested, and this requires different approaches to establish their reliability. These different ways are shown in the Test Reliability tables below.

Test reliability, LanguageCert Academic (N = 633)

Component	Index	Reliability coefficient	Mean (LanguageCert scale)	Standard deviation	SEM
Listening	Cronbach's α	.746	59.288	17.485	8.812
Reading	Cronbach's α	.716	61.771	18.487	9.852
Writing*	ICC	.898	58.662	14.422	4.606
Speaking*	ICC	.768	65.498	14.396	6.934
Composite	McDonald's ω	.907	59.288	14.307	4.363
Composite	Cronbach's α	.901	59.288	14.307	4.502

ICC = intra-class correlation coefficients.
* Note that these figures reflect scores awarded by two examiners. Where scores are discrepant, a senior examiner rescores the performance and it is this third score that is taken as final and that contributes to the overall result. For this test form, 5.2% of LanguageCert Academic Writing and 22.7% of LanguageCert Academic Speaking performances were rescored.

Test reliability, LanguageCert General (N = 202)

Component	Index	Reliability coefficient	Mean (LanguageCert scale)	Standard deviation	SEM
Listening	Cronbach's α	.758	61.480	17.485	8.601
Reading	Cronbach's α	.763	67.852	18.487	9.000
Writing*	ICC	.632	61.985	10.086	6.118
Speaking*	ICC	.854	64.025	13.985	5.344
Composite	McDonald's ω	.918	61.480	12.096	3.464
Composite	Cronbach's α	0.911	61.480	12.096	3.609

ICC = intra-class correlation coefficients.
* Note that these figures reflect scores awarded by two examiners. Where scores are discrepant, a senior examiner rescores the performance and it is this third score that is taken as final and that contributes to the overall result. For this test form, 13.9% of LanguageCert General Writing and 25.7% of LanguageCert General Speaking performances were rescored.

On the Listening and Reading test components, all test responses are simply scored as correct or incorrect by trained markers. In some test parts, a text or recording is accompanied by a single question.

For example, in Listening Part 1, there are seven recordings, each followed by a single question. In others, tasks are made up of sets of two or more questions associated with one text or recording. For this analysis, the individual items are treated as dichotomous (generating a score of 0 or 1); the grouped tasks are treated as polytomous (items are not regarded as independent of each other, which lead to an overestimate of reliability, but together generate a score of 0, 1, 2 or more for the task, depending on the number of questions).
For example, in Reading Part 4 a single text is accompanied by six questions. Reliability for these two components is estimated through Cronbach's coefficient alpha (α).

Test statistics

The Writing and Speaking tests are each scored as polytomous by human judges (on a scale ranging from 0 to 8 points) by two raters drawn from the LanguageCert team of trained examiners, working independently and each unaware of the scores awarded by the other. Reliabilities for these two components are estimated using one-way random intra-class correlation coefficients (ICC), taking the average measures. The reliability of the test as a whole is estimated from the scaled scores on the four test components using McDonald's coefficient omega (ω) as well as Cronbach's α as this has been widely recommended as the preferred option for composite scores (Hayes & Coutts 2020).

It should be noted that the reliability figures reported here are based on a single form of each test, delivered in paper-based mode and to small numbers of candidates. As more data becomes available a fuller picture of the reliability of LanguageCert Academic and LanguageCert General will emerge.

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