

FAQs for HEIs

General *Skills for English* Questions

Who are *Skills for English* tests for?

A *Skills for English: SELT* test is for anyone wishing to gain a visa to come to the United Kingdom. It can also be taken to gain a study visa to come to Ireland. The test content is designed to test your English proficiency at a given level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) across all four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) in contexts most relevant for visa applicants. These contexts include study in an English-speaking university, living in an English-speaking community, and handling administrative tasks in an English-speaking society.

What results are available for *Skills for English* tests?

Test takers receive results both overall and per skill. Results at A1, A2, C1, and C2 for each level (and overall) are only pass or fail for the test taker, with a 'Pass with Merit' also available at B1 and B2 to map to the B1+ and B2+ bands of the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR). To get a Pass with Merit overall, a test taker has to get a Pass with Merit in every skill; to fail, a test taker need only fail in a single skill.

How are *Skills for English* tests mapped to the CEFR?

Skills for English: SELT is directly mapped to the CEFR in terms of content, test levels, and score reporting. This means that a test taker takes a *Skills for English* test with all questions aimed only at the specific level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) they're taking the test at, and that their score is reported in terms of a pass/fail (or 'Pass with Merit' if at B1 or B2 levels) at that CEFR level. The overarching test design was approved by UK ENIC, and specifically the Pass with Merit results were independently reviewed and approved by Ecctis as accurately mapping to B1+ and B2+ CEFR descriptors.

How do you map results in *Skills for English* to other English language tests?

Skills for English results are mapped to and communicated in the language of the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR), which goes from A1 to C2 level (and includes B1+ and B2+). Please see our result comparisons with other English language qualifications [here](#).

How much do *Skills for English* tests cost?

Prices for *Skills for English: SELT* vary on a geographical basis and a test level basis. Our tests are priced affordably for test takers and competitively compared with other English language test providers.

Where can *Skills for English* tests be taken?

As part of our agreement with the UK Home Office, all *Skills for English: SELT* tests must be taken in a UK Home Office-approved test centre. We have over 300 test centres in over 120 countries, with a particular focus in China and India. This number of test centres is continually growing, and can be tracked by visiting the [UK Government's secure English language testing website](#).

Are practice materials available for *Skills for English* test takers?

Materials for *Skills for English: SELT* are available through our website. Please [see materials for *Skills for English: SELT* here](#).

How are *Skills for English* tests marked?

Answers to speaking and writing questions on *Skills for English* tests are marked by our team of expert human markers, who have no visibility of a test taker's identity, location, or nationality, which assures an absence of bias. Listening and reading questions are automatically computer marked to ensure even more objectivity.

Skills for English: SELT Questions

What does 'SELT' mean?

The acronym 'SELT' stands for 'secure English language test' and refers to a unique set of specially selected English tests approved by the UK Government for visa applications because of their test content and secure delivery. There are two kinds of SELT: ones that can only be taken in the UK and ones that can only be taken outside the UK. *Skills for English: SELT* is one of the SELTs that can only be taken outside the UK.

How has *Skills for English: SELT* been validated?

Skills for English: SELT was formed out of a collaboration between PSI, a global, high-stakes psychometrics and assessment delivery company, and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), a world leader in certification and assessment. All *Skills for English: SELT* test content was designed in collaboration with and assured by the SQA. Our tests have been approved by UK NARIC, and Ecctis conducted an independent report validating the mapping of our B1 and B2 Pass with Merit results to the Common European Framework of Reference for Language descriptors for B1+ and B2+ respectively.

What other institutions accept *Skills for English: SELT*?

Skills for English: SELT is accepted by a wealth of higher education institutions across the UK. A [full list of these institutions can be found here](#).

How is *Skills for English: SELT* secure?

The SELT status of *Skills for English*, which was awarded by the UK Visas and Immigration department of the Home Office, binds it to a number of governmentally overseen contractual agreements assuring the security of our tests. All SELTs, as a rule, must be taken in a test centre approved by the Home Office, and any employees delivering SELTs must also have received security clearance.

Test security is assured throughout the test-taking experience. All test takers on arrival have their governmental ID and signature cross-checked, are patted down to ensure no extraneous material used for cheating enters the test room, and must remove all jewellery. Security cameras inside the test centres, wired up with audio recording capabilities, monitor the entire test-taking period; footage of which PSI securely holds for a minimum of 30 days to facilitate reviewing of potential malpractice. Vetted invigilators oversee the test taking in person, and their efforts are fortified by online, virtual proctoring via the webcams attached to the computers with which test takers take the tests. These computers use PSI's own secure web browsers that lock down other desktop and internet browsing functions whilst the exam is in progress.

How easy is it to book a *Skills for English: SELT* test centre session?

Booking a *Skills for English: SELT* session at a test centre is simple. Test takers need simply visit the *Skills for English: SELT* booking website: <https://www.bookmyskillsforenglish.com/>,

select their nearest test centre, find the most suitable date and time for their single-session exam, and book.

Where can *Skills for English: SELT* tests be taken?

Skills for English: SELT can be taken in any of our 300+ secure test centres in over 120 countries. The number of *Skills for English: SELT* test centres in operation, powered by PSI, increases week on week in line with our global growth strategy. Consequently, for an up-to-date list of all the test centres at which *Skills for English: SELT* can be taken, please see the [UK Government's secure English language testing website](#).

How do test takers of *Skills for English: SELT* receive their results?

Once results for *Skills for English: SELT* have been released, test takers will receive an email with a link to see them. Test takers can then see their results, both by skill and overall, on the *Skills for English: SELT* booking site; the same site on which they originally booked the test. These can be sent to institutions as a part of applications in a number of ways.

How do you verify the results of *Skills for English: SELT*?

The secure, online verification system for test takers' results in *Skills for English: SELT* can be reached via the following URL: <https://results.bookmyskillsforengish.com/>. All you need to do is type in the test taker's unique reference number (URN) and their date of birth to access their results.

The following information about the test taker and their test is available from the online verification system: full name, date the test was taken, name of the test centre, name of the test (i.e., which level they took), their overall result, date the result was issued, and a table giving a result breakdown (by skill, with a percentage score and an overall result).

Can *Skills for English: SELT* be retaken?

Yes, but we recommend test takers wait at least 28 days before booking again.