

Georgia State Test of English Proficiency
GSTEP
Georgia State University

Please be in the testing room 15 minutes before the test starts. No one will be admitted after the test begins.

Important information about the test:

1. The test has three parts: integrated reading and writing, listening comprehension, and reading comprehension.
2. Total testing time is approximately two hours and thirty minutes.
3. Students must have signed up for the test in advance. No walk-in candidates will be admitted to the test.
4. Current, valid, picture identification must be presented at the time of the test.
5. A non-refundable fee of \$75.00 must be paid in advance. Rescheduling is not permitted. If you miss your test date, you must reapply in person and pay the fee of \$75.00 again!
6. The test can only be taken one time per semester.
7. An official score report will be sent within two weeks to the school(s) you have applied to. Your scores will be kept on file for two years (six semesters). You may request that your score be sent to other institutions during this two year period. A charge of \$5.00 is required for each report.
8. A student's score report will be sent to the address you gave us during the test. The student report does not tell your actual numerical scores, but shows the English proficiency level you demonstrated on each section of the test.
9. The scores on the three sections are not combined, but are considered separately by the admissions office at the school you have applied to. The GSU Admissions Office will not discuss scores with students, but will notify students whether they have been accepted or denied admission.

Updated July 2016

Admissions GSTEP INFORMATION BOOK

The GSTEP (Georgia State Test of English Proficiency) is given four to six times per academic semester by the Department of Applied Linguistics and English as a Second Language (AL/ESL) at Georgia State University. The purpose of the GSTEP is to evaluate the English language proficiency of people whose native language is not English and who are applying to universities and colleges in the Atlanta metropolitan area. (Students applying to schools elsewhere should inquire with that school's admissions office to find out if it accepts GSTEP scores.)

GSTEP RESULTS

Scores are mailed to the applicants and to the admissions office(s) of the school(s) that were applied to within 7-10 days from the test date. Applicants receive a score sheet with a holistic scoring of their English proficiency scored over a seven-level scale from lower elementary to proficient. Each college or university receives an official report and ESL recommendation related to its program. Since universities and colleges have varying language requirements for admission, applicants must discuss their admission status with the school(s) to which they applied. Registration for the test should be done online at gsu.edu/gstep, from examinees' own computer or in person at the Department of Applied Linguistics/ESL. The test fee is \$75 payable by credit or debit card only. This fee covers the cost of sending score reports to up to three schools. Additional score reports can be requested online or in person from the Department of AL/ESL and cost \$5 each. Applicants can take the GSTEP once per academic semester. Scores are kept on file for two years. If you miss your test date, you must reapply in person and pay an additional \$75. Rescheduling test dates is not permitted.

The GSTEP has three sections:

- * **Integrated Reading and Writing** - measures reading and writing ability in academic English.
- * **Multiple-Choice Listening** - measures ability to understand spoken English.
- * **Multiple-Choice Reading** - measures ability to read and understand academic reading material.

GSTEP SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Note: The GSTEP is updated regularly to maintain it as an accurate and valid test. The format of the test is therefore subject to change without notice.

I. Integrated Reading and Writing Section (70 minutes)

This section measures your ability to write academic English. You will have 30 minutes to read two passages and answer 8 short-answer questions. You will then have 40 minutes to write an essay on a topic relating to the two readings. If you finish reading the passages and answering the short-answer questions before 30 minutes have passed, you can move on to the essay.

Reading passage instructions:

You will read two passages that are arguing for two different sides of the same issue. After you finish reading, you will write the answers to 8 questions based on the reading passages. In this section you will be graded on content and language: what you say and how you say it.

Short answer instructions:

You will answer questions based on the readings. There are several possible ways to answer each question. You should use your own words as much as possible; you will not find the answers written word for word in the readings. Your answers will be graded on content and accurate use of English. Be sure to write complete sentences. **NOTE:** Your answer may be marked down if it contains fewer than 10 words or if your answer consists mainly of words taken directly from the readings.

Essay instructions:

You will write a well-organized academic essay on a topic related to the reading passages. Your essay will be graded on content, organization, and appropriate use of English. You may refer to the reading passages while you are writing.

You may not use dictionaries.

II. Listening Comprehension Section (30 minutes)

This section tests your ability to understand standard American spoken English as it is used in university settings. There are 2 parts in this section.

Part 1

In this part, you will hear a statement or a question. It will be spoken only once. The sentences or questions will not be written out for you. In your test book, you will read three choices. You should choose the answer that means the same as what you heard or answers the question that was spoken.

Example:

You will hear:

What are you doing Saturday after football practice?

In your test book, you will read:

(A) I'm going to a movie.

(B) I went to see my cousin.

(C) I got ready to play in the game.

The best answer to the question is A, "I'm going to a movie." Therefore, the correct choice is A. You should mark A on your answer sheet.

Listening (continued)

Part 2

In this part you will hear longer listening texts, such as academic lectures and conversations. You will be allowed to take notes, and use your notes to answer multiple-choice questions about the main ideas and specific information from the listening text.

Example:

You will hear a 4-minute lecture about earthquakes from a geology class.

In your test book, you will read:

What is the main topic of this lecture?

- (A) the causes of earthquakes
- (B) the consequences of earthquakes
- (C) how to predict when earthquakes happen
- (D) the location and frequency of earthquakes

III. Multiple-Choice Reading Section (45 minutes)

This section tests your ability to understand academic written English. In this section, you will read passages and then answer questions about the vocabulary and meaning of the passage. There are three reading passages, with 30 questions in all. You should choose the best answer to each question based on the information presented in the readings.

Important policies to remember:

For the Admissions GSTEP (for non-native speakers who wish to apply to colleges or universities in the Atlanta area)

1. You may only take the GSTEP one time per semester.
2. You may send test results to three schools at the time of the test. Each additional score report costs \$5.
3. Test fees are not refundable, and rescheduling is not permitted.
4. You must bring photo identification to the test.
5. You should plan to arrive at the testing site 15 minutes before the test begins. Latecomers will not be allowed to make up any time they miss.
6. The Department of Applied Linguistics and ESL reserves the right to invalidate the scores of students involved in any irregularities.

Note:

Current GSU students who wish to waive an ESL recommendation may only take the admissions GSTEP with the permission of the testing director. They must get the testing director's signature and only take the test on a date designated by the testing director, normally the last regularly scheduled GSTEP date of the semester.

Contact:

Department of Applied Linguistics and English as a Second Language
Georgia State University
25 Park Place, Suite 1500
P.O. Box 4099
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 413-5200
Our Website: <http://gsu.edu/gstep>

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