

Results of the 2005-6 FEPT and 2003-4 TOEIC Tests

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This article reviews and explains the results of the Freshman English Placement Test (FEPT), administered at Asia University in April 2005 and January 2006, and of the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) administered to students participating in AUAP in 2004 (Cycle 2) and 2005 (Cycle 1).

2005/2006 FEPT

The FEPT was administered to 1216 entering freshman students in April 2005 and to 819 freshman students in January 2006. Junior College students are not given the January 2006 FEPT. The April test was used to stream students into oral placement interviews (OPIs) conducted by teachers at various levels of Freshman English (FE). Interviewing teachers assessed the oral proficiency of each student, which (combined with the FEPT score) was used for final placement of students into various levels of FE classes.

RESULTS OF FEPT

Mean test scores were tabulated for the April 2005 FEPT (incoming freshmen) and January 2006 (after FE classes were completed) for each of the four AU faculties. Listening scores were included because of the emphasis on oral communication in the level placement of incoming freshmen.

There were improvements in test scores for three of the four faculties, as seen by the mean scores of students who took the April 2005 and January 2006 tests (Appendix A). In the mean total scores of the January test, Business Administration showed an increase of 5 points, Business Hospitality an increase of 7 points, and Law and Economics an increase of 3 points. Although the IR scores increased by 11 points, it is important to note that most (205) IR students did not take the January FEPT.

For all four faculties a different number of students took the test in April and January (Appendix A) but no adjustment was made to account for students who did not participate in both test sessions. Therefore an analysis of the two sets of data does not reflect an accurate comparison. Additionally, technical problems with the listening section of the April 2006 FEPT made it difficult for some students to hear the tape clearly. This factor may have some effect on the scores.

THE 2004-5 TOEIC ADMINISTRATION/METHODOLOGY

The TOEIC was given to all freshman students who planned to participate in the Asia University America Program (AUAP) in 2004 and 2005 and was used as a way to place them within the program according to their English ability. International Relations students participated in AUAP in the second half of their freshman year (Cycle 2, 2004) while Law, Economics, and Business students participated in AUAP in the first half of their sophomore year. The June 2004 TOEIC took place at Asia University, while the January and July 2005 tests took place in the U.S.A. For IR students, the June 2004 TOEIC took place 3 months before they left Japan in September. For Law, Economics and Business, the June 2004 TOEIC took place 9 months before they left Japan in April 2005.

RESULTS OF THE TOEIC

Appendix B illustrates the mean scores of all International Relations, Economics, and Business Administration students who took the TOEIC examinations during the 2004 Cycle 2 and 2005 Cycle 1 period. When we compare June 2004 and January 2005 scores, we see an improvement of 95 points for IR students and 125 points for Law students. When we compare June 2004 and July 2005 scores, we see an improvement of 120 points for Business students and 57 points for Economics students.

Appendix A

FEPT Results – Listening/Total Scores 2004/2005

	Business Administration		Business Hospitality		Law		Economics		International Relations	
	April	Jan	April	Jan	April	Jan	April	Jan	April	Jan
Number of Examinees (change)	318	261 (-57)	44	35 (-9)	385	276 (-109)	291	227 (-64)	224	20 (-204)
Mean Listening Score (change)	32	36 (+4)	31	37 (+6)	34	36 (+2)	32	35 (-3)	34	42 (+8)
Mean Total Score (change)	41	46 (+5)	39	47 (+8)	42	45 (+3)	41	44 (+3)	43	54 (+11)

Appendix B

TOEIC Results – Cycle 2 AUAP 2004-2005

	International Relations		Business		Law		Economics	
	June 2004	Jan 2005	June 2004	July 2005	June 2004	Jan 2005	June 2004	July 2005
Number of Examinees (change)	243	238 (-5)	36	40	25	28	24	22
Mean Total Score (change)	384	479 (+95)	298	418 (+120)	321	446 (+57)	338	395 (+57)