

Results of the 2001/2002 FEPT and 2000/2001 I-TOEFL 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 2001 and January 2002, and of the Institutional Test of English as a Foreign Language (I-TOEFL) administered during May 2000, December 2000, and July 2001.

2001/2002 FEPT

The FEPT was administered to 1573 entering freshman students in April 2000 and to 1307 freshman students in January 2002. 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. This was the first year that OPIs were officially used for placement of students, although interviews were unofficially used in previous years to check for obvious anomalies in the placements made by FEPT scores alone.

This is the fourth academic year at Asia University that freshman students were given the FEPT on two separate occasions. Although not an achievement test, it was thought that a retaking of the FEPT at the end of the freshman year might give some indication as to whether or not students had made progress in their English proficiency skills.

This was the third year students took the revised FEPT. It differs from the original FEPT in length (45 minutes as opposed to 60 minutes) and in the number of test items (75 as opposed to 100, each test item having a mark value of 1). The format of the FEPT remained the same (listening, grammar, and reading).

Results of FEPT

Mean test scores were tabulated for the April 2001 FEPT (incoming freshmen) and January 2002 (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 2001 and January 2002 tests (Appendix A). In the January test, Business Administration students show a mean total score increase of 6 points, Law students 6 points, and Economics students 5 points.

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.

International Relations FEPT Scores – Compared With Other Faculties' Scores

The scores for incoming International Relations (IR) students were significantly higher (5-7 points) than students in the other three faculties, as was true in the three previous years. Also, a comparison was made between the listening scores of various

faculties and levels that are taught together, by one teacher. For example, Business level 4 is taught with IR level 5, Law 6, and Economics 5, so the mean scores for these classes were compared. Again, the IR mean scores (36.9 for Listening) were higher than the scores in the other faculties taught by the same teacher. The mean listening score for students placed in Business level 4 was 31.3, which is comparable to the listening scores (32.0) of students placed in IR level 10.

The 2000 I-TOEFL Administration/Methodology

The I-TOEFL was given to all freshman students who planned to participate in the Asia University America Program (AUAP) in the 2001/2002 academic year. International Relations and Economics students who participate in AUAP go to the United States in the first semester of their sophomore year (Cycle 1) while Business Administration and Law students go abroad in the second semester (Cycle 2). The I-TOEFL was administered twice during students' freshman year (May and December, 2000). Results of these two tests were used primarily for placement purposes in AUAP. For International Relations and Economics students the examination was given again for evaluation purposes in July 2001, during their sophomore year, after returning from their AUAP semester. Business Administration and Law students will retake the I-TOEFL in February 2002.

Results of I-TOEFL

Appendix B illustrates the mean scores of all International Relations, Economics, Business Administration and Law students who took the I-TOEFL examinations in May

and December 2000. Mean scores of the December 2000 test results for Business students show considerable improvement (a mean score increase of 13), while those for IR and Law students show some improvement, but the improvement is too small to be significant (a mean score increase of 3 for IR and 2 for Law). The scores for Economics students decreased 17 points. However, since the TOEFL is designed primarily to assess the English proficiency of students who are planning to enter an English academic environment in the United States or Canada (at relatively high levels of proficiency), the scores may not be as valid as desired for measuring the English proficiency of most Asia University students.

The results of the I-TOEFL given to students in July 2001 (Post-AUAP) were also tabulated in Appendix B. This included the International Relations students and Economics students who attended AUAP during Cycle 1 of their sophomore year. The mean scores show a marked improvement from the scores received prior to AUAP. The International Relations mean score rose 30 points (from 411 before AUAP to 441 after AUAP). The Economics mean score rose 33 points (from 373 points before AUAP to 406 after AUAP). Also, the number of IR students who scored over 500 increased from 4 before AUAP to 8 students after AUAP. The results of the post-AUAP I-TOEFL are not available for Business Administration and Law students as of publication.

Appendix A

FEPT Results – Listening/Total Scores 2001/2002

	Business Administration		Law		Economics		International Relations	
	April 2001	Jan. 2002	April 2001	Jan. 2002	April 2001	Jan. 2002	April 2001	Jan. 2002
Number of Examinees (change)	480	390 (-90)	517	419 (-98)	334	284 (-50)	242	214 (-28)
Mean Listening Score (change)	30	36 (+6)	31	36 (+5)	32	35 (+3)	37	37 (0)
Mean Total Score (change)	40	46 (+6)	40	46 (+6)	41	46 (+5)	50	48 (-2)

Appendix B

I-TOEFL Results 2000/2001

May 2000 (at beginning of FE classes)

	International Relations	Economics	Business Administration	Law
Number of Examinees	272	57	100	52
Mean Score	408	390	384	382
Scores over 500	4	0	0	0

December 2000 (at completion of FE classes – prior to AUAP)

	International Relations	Economics	Business Administration	Law
Number of Examinees	264	70	95	48
Mean Score	411	373	397	384
Scores over 500	4	0	0	0

July 2001 (post-AUAP)

	International Relations	Economics	Business Administration	Law
Number of Examinees	273	72	*	*
Mean Score (change)	441 (+30)	406 (+33)		
Scores over 500	8	0		

* Because of the AUAP schedule, Business and Law students have not taken the post-AUAP I-TOEFL as of the date of this article.