

## **Results of the 2000/2001 FEPT and 1999/2000 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 2000 and January 2001, and the results of the Institutional Test of English as a Foreign Language (I-TOEFL) administered during May 1999, December 1999, and July 2000.

### **2000/2001 FEPT**

The FEPT was administered to 1670 entering freshman students in April 2000 and to 1339 freshman students in January 2001. The April test was used to stream students into various levels of Freshman English. This is the third 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 second 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

Mean test scores were tabulated for the April 2000 FEPT (incoming freshmen) and January 2001 (after FE classes were completed) for each of the four AU faculties (Business, Economics, International Relations, and Law). 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 all four faculties, as seen by the mean scores of students who took the April 2000 and January 2001 tests (Appendix A). In the January test, Business Administration students showed a mean total score increase of 10 points, Law students 6 points, Economics students 5 points, and International Relations students 6 points.

The scores for International Relations students were significantly higher than students in the other three faculties, as was true in the two previous years. The mean listening scores of each of a teacher's four faculties were compared. 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 were higher than the scores in the other faculties. The mean listening score for students placed in Business level 4 was 29.4, which is comparable to the listening scores of students placed in IR level 9.

For each of the four faculties, the number of students who took the test in April was different than in 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 April and January sets of data is not an accurate comparison.

### **THE 1999 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 2000/2001 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, 1999). 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 2000, during their sophomore year, after returning from their AUAP semester. Business Administration and Law students retake the I-TOEFL in February 2001.

## Results

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 1999. Mean scores of the December 1999 test results for Law students show some improvement, but the improvement is too small to be significant (a mean score increase of 4 points from 379 to 383). The scores for Business Administration remained constant at 381, and decreased slightly for Economics (5 points lower) and International Relations (1 point lower). The TOEFL is designed primarily to assess the English proficiency of students who are planning to enter an English language academic environment in the United States or Canada (at relatively high levels of proficiency). Therefore, these scores may not accurately reflect the English proficiency of most Asia University students.

The results of the I-TOEFL given to students in July 2000 (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 29 points (from 412 before AUAP to 441 after AUAP). The Economics mean score rose 27 points (from 373 points before AUAP to 400 after AUAP). The results of the post-AUAP I-TOEFL were not

yet available for Business Administration and Law students at the time of publication.

Appendix A

FEPT Results – Listening/Total Scores (2000/2001)

	Business Administration		Law		Economics		International Relations	
	April 2000	Jan. 2001	April 2000	Jan. 2001	April 2000	Jan. 2001	April 2000	Jan. 2001
Number of Examinees	538	437	471	379	374	287	287	236
Mean Listening Score (change)	28	36 (+8)	31	36 (+5)	31	36 (+5)	37	42 (+5)
Mean Total Score (change)	37	47 (+10)	41	47 (+6)	40	45 (+5)	49	55 (+6)

Appendix B

I-TOEFL Results (1999/2000)

*May 1999 (at beginning of FE classes)*

	International Relations	Economics	Business Administration	Law
Number of Examinees	222	53	92	90
Mean Score	413	378	381	379
Scores over 500	4	0	0	0

*December 1999 (at completion of FE classes – prior to AUAP)*

	International Relations	Economics	Business Administration	Law
Number of Examinees	214	82	108	94
Mean Score	412	373	381	383
Scores over 500	4	2	0	1

*July 2000 (post-AUAP)*

	International Relations	Economics	Business Administration	Law
Number of Examinees	215	89	*	*
Mean Score (change)	441 (+29)	400 (+27)		
Scores over 500	13	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.