



The Oral Standardized English Proficiency Test (Oral SEPT)

What is the Oral SEPT?

The Oral SEPT is designed to measure the speaking proficiency of individuals for whom English is a second or foreign language. The scores obtained from the Oral SEPT are used for placing learners into the different levels of the Common European Framework for Reference (SCE CEFR)-aligned English language conversation program or other oral communication programs. The scores can also be used for additional purposes such as occupational appointments, promotion, travel abroad and scholarships.

What is the format of the Oral SEPT?

The Oral SEPT adopts a direct format where two candidates are assessed by two trained speaking examiners. One of the examiners is an interviewer and the other is an assessor. The interviewer is mainly responsible for interacting with candidates and administrating the tasks, while the assessor is mainly in charge of scoring candidates' performances using an analytic rubric aligned with the CEFR.

The Oral SEPT includes five tasks and requires approximately 15 -20 minutes to complete. The tasks are organized from easy to challenging. The following table shows the test components, with the corresponding CEFR levels, and time required in some detail.

Tasks	Time (minutes)	CEFR Levels	Brief Description
Task 1	2 - 3	A1 - A2	Factual and personal-based questions
Task 2	2 - 3	A1 - A2	Experience-based questions
Task 3	2 - 3	A2 - B1	Pictures-based descriptions
Task 4	3 - 4	B1 - B2	Prompt-based presentation
Task 5	5 - 6	B2- C1	Prompt-based debate

What is a passing score?

There is no passing score on the Oral SEPT. The Oral SEPT score is a measure of test takers' language performance on the CEFR scale. The Oral SEPT score reflects the extent to which the test taker can orally use English in real life situations. Within SCE, there are various cut-off scores for applicants to earn a certificate.

What are the actions that cancel an Oral SEPT score?

The Oral SEPT has strict policies to warrant equal opportunities for each test taker, whereby they can show their best performance on the test. If any of the following cases occur during the testing session, this may seriously affect test fairness. Consequently, the test taker may not be permitted to attend/continue his/her test and his/her scores may be cancelled. These cases include:

- Impersonalizing a test-taker
- Giving or receiving help of any kind
- Using or sharing any testing aids, including mobile phones, watch alarms, iPads, tablets or any similar electronic device that may cause disturbance
- Using crib notes during the testing session



- Communicating with or signaling other test-takers or any outside parties by any way including, but not limited to, mobile phones, personal computers, the Internet or any similar electronic means
- Taking notes during the testing session
- Copying any test material
- Attempting to remove any test material outside the testing room
- Eating, drinking or smoking in the testing room
- Causing any disturbance for test takers whether before, during or after the testing session
- Leaving the testing room without official permission

Where is the Oral SEPT offered?

The Oral SEPT can be offered inside the AUC School of Continuing Education in AUC Tahrir and New Cairo campuses. Also, the test can be offered to organizations such as universities, schools, companies, institutions, banks, etc. at their premises.

What documents must a test taker bring on the test day?

To sit for an Oral SEPT testing session, the test taker must bring any valid official ID that includes a recent photo such as national IDs, passports and driving licenses. Test takers will not be admitted to take the test without an official ID. In this case, the test is cancelled and a new registration fee is required to sit for another testing session.

When are the Oral SEPT results obtained?

Test takers may officially get the score in two working days if they register for a regular testing session or within 24 hours if they register for a “one-day” testing session.

How are the Oral SEPT results received?

Test takers can pick up their scores in person at the Strategic Enrollment Management Office, in AUC Tahrir Square or AUC New Cairo. Additionally, they can get them by dialing the SCE Hotline number 16723 or by sending an email to sce@aucegypt.edu provided that they provide some information such as names, IDs and date(s) of tests to validate their identity. They can also ask for a letter to be written with a description of their language ability, according to CEFR.

How many times are test takers allowed to re-take the Oral SEPT?

Test takers who wish to retake an Oral SEPT may retake the test after a minimum period of one month, starting from the date of the last Oral SEPT session.

For more information:

<http://schools.aucegypt.edu/sce/EvaluationTestingAssessment/Pages/default.aspx>

