

# Occupational English Test (OET) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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### ***What is the OET?***

The OET is the Occupational English Test. The OET is broken down into four areas: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. It is designed specifically to assess the English Language skills of international healthcare professionals wanting to work in an English-speaking environment.

### ***Which level do I need to achieve in the OET?***

The NMC require you to gain a minimum of Level B in speaking, listening, and reading and Level C+ in writing of the test. Please see the score scale below:

The OET Grade Scale	
A	Very high level of performance
<b>B</b>	<b>High level of performance</b>
C+	Very Good Level
C	Good Level
D	Moderate Level
E	Low Level

### ***How do I book my OET?***

OET is available monthly in over 40 countries. You can book your test online at:

<https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/book-oet/>

### ***What do I need to do to achieve a Level B?***

You can visit the OET website where you will find lots of preparation materials and sample tests that you can use to help you study. Please see links below:

- Preparation Portal: <https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/preparation-portal/>
- Study Guide: <https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org//oet-study-guide/>

You can also like the Facebook page @OfficalOET for regular preparation tips and advice. Your recruitment/agency contact will also be able to advise you on review centres.

## What do the OET tests involve?

Test	Content	Time
Speaking	Specific to your profession, based on typical workplace situations. You will take part in <b>two role-plays</b> , where you'll take your professional role while the other person plays a patient or client, or sometimes a relative or carer.	Approx. 20 minutes
Writing	Specific to your profession, based on typical workplace situations.  The task is to write a letter, usually a referral letter. Sometimes, especially for some professions, a different type of letter is required, i.e. a letter of transfer or discharge, or a letter to advise or inform a patient, carer, or group.	45 minutes
Listening	<b>3 parts</b> , where you will follow and understand a range of health-related spoken materials such as patient consultations and lectures.	Approx. 45 minutes
Reading	<b>3 parts and a total of 42 question items.</b> The topics are of generic healthcare interest and are therefore accessible to candidates across all professions.  The 3 parts are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Part A – Quick reading task</b> This assesses your ability to locate specific information from four short texts in a quick and efficient manner.</li> <li>• <b>Part B – Careful reading task</b> This assesses your ability to identify the detail, gist or main point of six short texts sourced from the healthcare workplace (100-150 words each).</li> <li>• <b>Part C – Careful reading task</b> This assesses your ability to identify detailed meaning and opinion in two texts on topics of interest to healthcare professionals (800 words each).</li> </ul>	60 minutes

For more information on the OET tests, visit: <https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/test-information/>

## When will I receive my OET results?

Results are issued online approximately 16 business days after the test. Your certificate will be posted to you directly from OET approximately 7 days after the results are published online.

### **How long are my OET results valid for?**

Your OET results are valid for 2 years.

### **Can I request a re-mark?**

You may request a re-mark of your test results. Requests for re-marking must be made within 5 days of results being published.

### **Can I combine my test certificates?**

You can achieve the required mark across two test sittings if:

- You sit the tests within six months of each other, and
- You are tested in all four skills at the same time, and
- All grades in both sittings are above Grade C+ and you achieve Grade B or higher in all four fields when the results of both sittings are viewed together.

An acceptable example of this would be:

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
Test 1	B	C+	B	C+
Test 2	C+	B	C+	B