Comparison of English Proficiency Exams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Scheduling</th>
<th>Turnaround Time for Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eiken</td>
<td>$75 USD Level 1</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
<td>Taken in two stages</td>
<td>6 days 1st stage 14 days 2nd stage</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$60 USD Pre-1</td>
<td>Applicants may test for two grades in one day (am &amp; pm)</td>
<td>Offered Su, F, W Must pass 1st stage to take 2nd (speaking)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$30 USD per report</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOEFL</td>
<td>$140-$185 USD</td>
<td>3 ½ hours for PBT</td>
<td>iBT 30-40 per yr</td>
<td>Available online within 2 weeks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Includes 4 reports</td>
<td>4 ½ hours for iBT</td>
<td>PBT 6 per yr Must register 1-2 months in advance</td>
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<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>$170 USD</td>
<td>2 hours 45 minutes</td>
<td>Offered up to 4 times per month</td>
<td>13 days after exam</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Includes 5 reports</td>
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<td>Must register 1-2 months in advance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$15 USD per extra rpt</td>
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Eiken

- Japan's most widely administered English proficiency test program: 80 million examinees since 1963.
  - In an independent study of English proficiency levels, Japan rated 14th out of 44 nations with a rating of "moderate proficiency." Most of the countries ranking above Japan were European (exceptions were Malaysia, Hong Kong, and South Korea).
- Two million people take the test each year.
- 18,000 locations in Japan and 46 other countries.
- Cost is $75 USD for level 1, $60 USD for pre-1. On the website, it also mentions that there is a 2,100 JPY (~ $27.29 USD) handling charge per report. If a student is applying to more than one university, this would quickly add up to make the Eiken equivalent in cost to the TOEFL and IELTS.
- In the comparison table, Eiken grade 1 is generally equivalent to a paper-based TOEFL (PBT) score of 600 or an Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) score of 100. Eiken Pre-1 is equivalent to a 550 on the PBT or an 80 on the iBT. Eiken 2A is equivalent to a 500 on the PBT or a 61 on the iBT. Level 2 is the Japanese benchmark for high school graduates. Level 2A, Pre-1 and 1 are the levels generally used for international admission to graduate and undergraduate programs.
- There is a two-week turnaround for the second stage (verbal).
- The Eiken website and literature is flawlessly written, well-organized, and complete.
From promotional literature: Why recognize Eiken?

1. How is EIKEN similar to the English tests you already recognize?
   - Rigorous assessment of the four skills
   - Face-to-face speaking test
   - Widely administered for more than 40 years
   - Secure administration and score reporting

2. How is EIKEN different?
   - Available at hundreds more locations in Japan than other tests
   - Offered at less than half the cost of other tests
   - More familiar to Japanese students (80 million have taken EIKEN since 1963)
   - Provides international institutions with valuable, cost-free marketing access to Japanese schools, students, parents, study-abroad agents, and the Japanese public.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

- 6,000 institutions in the US and 109 other countries accept TOEFL scores.
- 4,000 test centers in 180 countries.
- Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) given 30-40 times per year in dozens of countries. PBT (paper-based) offered 6 times per year. Computer-based is no longer offered.
- iBT takes 4.5 hours and includes 36-70 reading questions, 34-51 listening questions, six speaking tasks, and two writing tasks.
- Score for iBT is between 0 and 120.
- Registration fee for iBT varies by country, but is generally btw $140 and $185.
- Price includes distribution to four institutions. Additional at extra cost.
- Score is valid for two years.
- Given on QWERTY keyboard.
- PBT is only 3.5 hours and includes 50 questions on listening comprehension, 40 questions on structure and written expression, 50 questions on reading comprehension, and a Test of Written English. No speaking section.
- Score for PBT is between 310 and 677 points plus a separate Test of Written English score.
- Registration fee is US $140.
- Includes distribution to four schools, or more for an additional fee.
**IELTS (International English Language Testing System)**

- Formerly in use by universities in the UK, NZ, and Australia. Now widely accepted by universities throughout the US, including all Ivy League schools.
  - Includes listening and reading passages in British, Australian, and North American English, so students should be familiar with major variations.
- Popularity growing: In 2007, more than 1 million took the IELTS test in 12 months, making it the most popular ELT among immigrants and higher ed institutions.
- Two versions: General and Academic.
- Academic: Contains more challenging reading and writing sections than general test.
- Scores are made on a band scale from 1 to 9.
- Separate score for each section of the test: reading, writing, speaking, listening. Average is calculated and rounded to create an overall score with a confidential band score conversion table.
- Results available 13 days after test is taken.
- Valid for two years.
- Cost is $170 USD or the equivalent in the currency of the country where administered.
- Distributed to 5 institutions for that price, or more for an additional fee of $15 USD for each.