

Spoken English Assessment

Prompt Attributes

Part A: Reading Words

The words used in Part A of SEAT “C” challenge the test taker to make correct short and long vowel sounds in word groups with both voiced and unvoiced endings. A native speaker’s voice directs the student to read all word groups from number 1 through 10.

Part B: Reading Sentences

The test taker hears the native speaker request that he/she read aloud six randomly selected sentence numbers from among the 13 in Part B. The readings will allow evaluation of the test taker’s ability to produce correct articulations of the sounds, linking, assimilation, deletion, and epenthesis in sentences.

Part C: Describing Pictures

Part C challenges the test taker to describe the action depicted in a picture. Vocabularies contained in this part are necessary words for basic conversation consistent with “C” level (have been studying English for 2 or more years) students.

Part D: Short Answers

Part D challenges the test taker with questions requiring a short answer to a specific “Wh” question regarding a designated photo as asked by a native speaker.

Part E: Open-ended Questions

Part E requires the test taker to understand the spoken question and then respond for 20 seconds. The three open-ended questions challenge the test taker's knowledge of and ability to describe his/her home, schoolteacher, and future activities.

Scoring Criteria

SEAT allows test takers to demonstrate verbal English skills. The score will be reported to students from 0 to 150. The report will have the total score containing subscores for the test's 5 Parts—Part A, B for pronunciation, Part C, D for vocabulary, and Part E for Fluency.

Part A responses are evaluated on a scale from “0” to “3” with “3” being given for correct beginning consonant sounds, correct vowel sounds, and ending consonant sounds. Frequent correct initial consonant sounds and correct vowel sounds with occasional errors in ending consonants will receive a “2” and frequent errors in initial consonants, vowels, and ending consonants will receive a “1.” No response will be given a “0.”

In Part B, each sentence will be rated from “0” to “5” with “5” being a complete sentence with correct pronunciation, rhythm, intonation, and adjustments in connected speech to native speaker quality. Points will be deducted for errors in these criteria down to a “0” for a no response.

Each picture in Part C will be graded from “0” to “3” with “3” given for a complete sentence with correct pronunciation that correctly describes the picture. Pronoun errors, failure to make a complete sentence, or slightly garbled response will receive scores of “2” or “1” with a no response, incorrect response, or completely unintelligible response receiving a “0.”

Part D answers are graded from “0” to “5” with “5” being awarded for the correct answer with native speaker quality vocabulary and pronunciation. A score of “3” will be give for examinees demonstrating average vocabulary and pronunciation. A “0” will be given for students failing to answer the question correctly, not answering the question in the allotted time, or speaking in a garbled, unintelligible response.

Part E questions are rated from “0” to “10.” A score of “10” will be given for correct, intelligible answers that fill the allotted time and are spoken with native speaker quality. Points will be deducted for failures to speak during the entire allotted time, articulate clearly, and make logical sentences. There will also be deductions for hesitations and false starts, long pauses, and/or omissions. A score of “0” will be given for failing to make an intelligible answer or failing to respond to the question.

Sample Item

Before the test, the test taker will receive the test booklet.

Part A: Reading Words

Test taker reads aloud number one—pat, cat, fat after listening to a native speaker saying “Please read the following words, number one”. This continues until the test taker finishes answering through number 10.

Part B: Reading Sentences

The test taker hears the native speaker request a randomly selected sentence number from among the 13 in Part B be read aloud—“Please read number 12”, then the test taker reads the designated sentence aloud—The giraffe in the coat rides a bike with a goat. This process is repeated for 6 sentences.

Part C: Describing Pictures

The test taker hears the native speaker ask, “What’s happening in the example picture?” and then hears the answer, “He is running.” Then the native speaker says, “What’s happening in picture number one?” After the test taker’s response, the native speaker continues to ask the question for all 10 pictures, giving the student 8 seconds to respond to each question.

Part D: Short Answers

The test taker will hear the native speaker ask the question regarding the example picture saying, “What is the boy eating?” and the short answer—“(He is eating some) cake.” He/she will have 8 seconds to answer each of the 6 questions asked by the native speaker.

Part E: Open-ended Questions

The test taker will hear the native speaker ask the question saying, “Tell me about your house.” Then he/she needs to respond to the question for 20 seconds. Two more questions will be asked in the same way.

Test item

Part A: Reading Words

Please read the following words.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. pat cat fat | 2. Ben ten pen |
| 3. jig pig wig | 4. boy soy toy |
| 5. dib lib rib | 6. late rate |
| 7. feed seed | 8. bite kite |
| 9. lope rope | 10. cube tube |

Part B: Reading Sentences

Please read the following sentences as you are instructed.

1. In the hay by the lake, we will eat a lot of cake.
2. Don't put your feet on that pretty green seat.
3. See the kite and the fly in the bright blue sky.
4. Wear a robe or a coat when you row your boat.
5. Sue plays the flute in her new blue suit.
6. The cook with the saw has a boot on his paw.
7. The ant can wink and its hat is pink.
8. The skunk on the swing has a small pink ring.
9. The clam on the block has a flag and a clock.
10. Grandma's dress is black. Her glasses have a crack.
11. The whale and the sheep have a phone in their jeep.
12. The giraffe in the coat rides a bike with a goat.
13. The boy found the mouse and a coin in the house.

Part C: Describing Pictures

What's happening in the picture? 8 seconds will be allowed to answer each question.

Example)



He is running

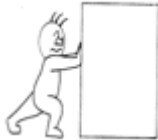
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



Part D: Short Answers

8 seconds will be allowed to answer each question.



Example)

Question: What is the boy eating?
Answer: (He is eating some) cake.

1. (What time is it?)



2. (How's the weather?)



3. (How many people are riding bikes?)



4. (Where is the little girl?)



5. (How much does the bike cost?)

6. (Where are they?)



Part E: Open-ended Questions

20 seconds will be allowed for each question. Please talk for the entire 20 seconds.

1. (Tell me about your house.)
2. (Tell me about your schoolteacher.)
3. (What do you want to do this weekend?)

SEAT Evaluation Sheet

Student ID _____ Evaluator _____

Part A

1. 3 2 1 0 2. 3 2 1 0 3. 3 2 1 0 4. 3 2 1 0 5. 3 2 1 0
6. 3 2 1 0 7. 3 2 1 0 8. 3 2 1 0 9. 3 2 1 0 10. 3 2 1 0

Part B

1. 5 4 3 2 1 0 2. 5 4 3 2 1 0 3. 5 4 3 2 1 0 4. 5 4 3 2 1 0 5. 5 4 3 2 1 0 6. 5 4
3 2 1 0

Part C

1. 3 2 1 0 2. 3 2 1 0 3. 3 2 1 0 4. 3 2 1 0 5. 3 2 1 0
6. 3 2 1 0 7. 3 2 1 0 8. 3 2 1 0 9. 3 2 1 0 10. 3 2 1 0

Part D

1. 5 4 3 2 1 0 2. 5 4 3 2 1 0 3. 5 4 3 2 1 0 4. 5 4 3 2 1 0 5. 5 4 3 2 1 0 6. 5 4
3 2 1 0

Part E

1. 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 2. 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 3. 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

Total Scores: A. _____ B. _____ C. _____ D. _____ E. _____

Grand Total _____

Assigned Group _____