



YLTE 2015

Report

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1. DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST

1.1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Young Learners Tests of English (YLTE) are a fun and motivating set of exams that assess the English of young learners in the primary and middle grades. The tests are developed by CaMLA in association with Cambridge English, and cover all four language skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

The YLTE is a set of three exams that provide a clear and transparent assessment of a young learner’s English across three levels: bronze, silver, and gold. The tests are international, focusing on American English. Of primary importance is that the testing experience has a positive impact on children and on their subsequent language learning.

CaMLA is committed to the excellence of its tests, which are developed in accordance with the highest standards in educational measurement. All parts of the examination are written following specified guidelines, and items are pretested to ensure that they function properly. CaMLA works closely with test centers to ensure that its tests are administered in a way that is fair and accessible to test takers and that the YLTE is open to all people who wish to take the exam, regardless of the school they attend.

1.2 TEST FORMAT

The YLTE measures listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Tables 1, 2, and 3 describe the format and content of the Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels of the YLTE, respectively. Test preparation resources are available on the CaMLA website.

2. SCORING AND REPORTING OF RESULTS

2.1 EXPLANATION OF SCORING

The center where the child takes the test sends the completed test booklets to a team of highly trained raters, who score the responses carefully. To make sure that each child gets the fairest possible result, all tests are checked twice. For most parts of the test, spelling is required to be correct. Both British and American English spellings are accepted. The speaking examiner scores the speaking portion of the exam. Then, the speaking scores, along with the completed listening and reading and writing booklets, are returned to CaMLA.

2.2 PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SCORES

Each test taker will receive a certificate that shows which level of the YLTE was taken, and how many medals he or she earned. The maximum total score is fifteen medals, five for each of the three test sections.

Table 1: Format and Content of the YLTE (Bronze Level)

Section	Time	Description	Number of Items
Listening	20 minutes	Part 1: Indicate location of objects in a picture based on a dialogue. Part 2: Write one-word responses to short listening comprehension questions. Part 3: Select the picture that depicts what was heard in the dialogue. Part 4: Color a picture based on what is heard in a dialogue.	20 items
Reading & Writing	20 minutes	Part 1: Indicate whether a statement is true or false based on a picture. Part 2: Indicate “yes” or “no” based on a picture. Part 3: Unscramble letters to spell the word that is represented by a picture. Part 4: Fill in the blank with a word from a word bank in a short cloze passage. Part 5: Write one-word response to short question based on the picture.	25 items
Speaking	3-5 minutes	Part 1: Point out certain items in a scene based on examiner’s prompts. Part 2: Put object cards in locations on the scene based on examiner’s prompts. Part 3: Respond to questions about the scene. Part 4: Respond to questions about the object cards. Part 5: Respond to personal questions.	5 parts

Table 2: Format and Content of the YLTE (Silver Level)

Section	Time	Description	Number of Items
Listening	25 minutes	Part 1: Indicate location of objects in a picture based on a dialogue. Part 2: Write one-word responses to short listening comprehension questions. Part 3: Match a picture with the correct word based on what is heard in a dialogue. Part 4: Select the picture that depicts what was heard in the dialogue. Part 5: Color a picture based on what is heard in a dialogue.	25 items
Reading & Writing	30 minutes	Part 1: Select the correct response to a statement from a word bank. Part 2: Indicate “yes” or “no” based on a picture. Part 3: Read a short question and select the best response. Part 4: Fill in the blank with a word from a word bank in a short cloze passage. Part 5: Fill in the blank for questions based on a short reading passage. Part 6: Fill in the blank in a short cloze passage.	40 items
Speaking	5-7 minutes	Part 1: Describe differences between two Find-the-Difference pictures. Part 2: Tell a story based on pictures. Part 3: Choose a picture in a set of three and explain why it is different. Part 4: Respond to personal questions.	4 parts

Table 3: Format and Content of the YLTE (Gold Level)

Section	Time	Description	Number of Items
Listening	25 minutes	Part 1: Indicate location of people in a picture based on a dialogue. Part 2: Fill in the blank with a word based on information from a dialogue. Part 3: Match a word with a picture based on a dialogue. Part 4: Select the picture that depicts what was heard. Part 5: Color a picture based on what is heard in a dialogue.	25 items
Reading & Writing	40 minutes	Part 1: Select the correct response to a statement from a word bank. Part 2: Indicate “yes” or “no” based on a picture. Part 3: Select the best response to a question. Part 4: Fill in the blank with a word from a word bank in a short cloze passage. Part 5: Read a longer passage and then answer fill in the blank questions. Part 6: Complete a longer cloze passage by selecting words from a word bank. Part 7: Fill in the blank in a longer cloze passage.	50 items
Speaking	7-9 minutes	Part 1: Describe differences between two Find-the-Difference pictures. Part 2: Ask and respond to questions based on an Information Exchange activity. Part 3: Tell a story based on pictures. Part 4: Respond to personal questions.	4 parts

3. INTERPRETING YLTE RESULTS

The YLTE is a set of three exams that provides an assessment of a young learners’ English at the early beginner (Bronze) through early intermediate (Gold) levels. Each level is administered and scored separately. Test takers can earn a maximum of five medals for each test section. A result of only one medal for a section means the child can improve significantly in that skill, while a result of five medals means that the child did very

well in that skill and answered most questions correctly. With a total score of 10 medals or more across all three sections, a test taker should be ready to start preparing for the next level of the YLTE.

When interpreting YLTE results, it is important to remember that YLTE estimates a test taker’s true proficiency by approximating the kinds of tasks that may be encountered in real life. Also, temporary factors unrelated to a test taker’s proficiency, such as fatigue,

Table 4: YLTE Levels and Language Accomplishment

Test Level	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Bronze	CAN understand simple sentences about things around them	CAN respond to personal questions on topics such as age, family, and their home	CAN recognize the letters of the alphabet	CAN write the letters of the alphabet and spell their name and simple words
Silver	CAN understand when somebody talks about their family or friends in simple sentences	CAN ask somebody about how they are and what they like doing and answer similar questions	CAN understand simple stories and shorter texts with the help of pictures and drawings	CAN continue a story or text that has been started in English or add words that are missing
Gold	CAN understand audio and video clips used in the English lesson	CAN talk about a problem in simple terms	CAN understand longer texts about everyday topics, even if they do not know all the words	CAN write a short message on a postcard or in an email

anxiety, or illness, may affect the exam results. Table 4 provides a summary of the type of language activity that young learners at each of the levels are likely to be able to accomplish.

4. TEST-TAKING POPULATION

This section presents an overview of the test takers who took the YLTE in 2015, providing demographic information for the test population. Every test taker completed a registration form, which asked for their gender and date of birth. Cases where information was not given or was not correctly given were treated as missing data.

Table 5: Distribution (in %) of YLTE Test Takers by Age

Age	% of Test Population
5–6	0.77
7–8	11.48
9–10	44.22
11–12	38.22
13–15	5.23
Missing Data	0.09

Tables 5 and 6 present the distribution of test takers by age and gender, respectively. Table 5 shows that the majority of YLTE test takers were between the ages of 9 and 12 years old (82.44%). Table 6 shows that there are more female test takers than male test takers. However, it

should be noted that 25.54% of the population did not provide their gender, and information about those test takers could change the proportion of male to female test takers.

Table 6: Distribution (in %) of YLTE Test Takers by Gender

Gender	% of Test Population
Male	33.33
Female	41.13
Missing Data	25.54

Table 7 shows the percentage of test takers who took each level of the YLTE. Of the three different levels of the YLTE, the majority of the test takers took the silver level, followed by bronze, and then gold.

Table 7: Distribution (in %) of YLTE Test Takers by Test Level

Test Level	% of Test Population
Bronze	30.51
Silver	40.70
Gold	28.79

5. TEST STATISTICS

5.1 DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS FOR THE EXAM AS A WHOLE

This section presents an overview of the test taker exam results for the 2015 YLTE. Table 8 shows the percentage of test takers who received a final score of 10 or more medals. Since a total score of 10 medals or more means that a test taker should be ready to prepare for the next level of the YLTE, Table 8 shows that the vast majority of the test takers proved ready to prepare for the next level of the exam

Table 8: Percentage of Test Takers Scoring \geq 10 Medals

% Bronze	% Silver	% Gold
86.80	77.89	89.58

5.2 DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS BY SECTION

Table 9 presents the distribution of the test takers by number of medals for each section of the exam. The data suggests that test takers generally perform best on the speaking section, regardless of the YLTE level they have taken. The listening and reading and writing sections appear to be much more challenging for the test takers.

5.3 SPEAKING RATER PERFORMANCE

The examiners for the speaking test are native or highly proficient nonnative speakers of English who are trained and certified according to standards set by CaMLA.

Table 9: Distribution (in %) of Test Taker Scores for Each Section

Test Level	Section	1	2	3	4	5
Bronze	Listening	1.12	10.39	16.01	34.83	37.64
	Reading & Writing	0.00	11.52	21.91	32.02	34.55
	Speaking	0.56	3.93	8.43	21.63	65.45
Silver	Listening	2.95	9.68	23.79	31.16	32.42
	Reading & Writing	4.00	16.63	26.32	28.84	24.21
	Speaking	0.21	3.16	18.95	18.53	59.16
Gold	Listening	0.30	3.57	17.26	37.20	41.67
	Reading & Writing	1.19	9.52	24.70	36.31	28.27
	Speaking	0.00	1.49	4.46	35.12	58.93