



Illinois Certification Testing System

SCORE REPORT EXPLANATION

Foreign Language Content-Area Tests (Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean)

Overview

Your score report provides information regarding the foreign language content-area test you took at the recent administration of the Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS). The report includes information regarding your Pass/Did Not Pass status for that test, your performance for the test as a whole, and your performance on the major subareas of the test. Your scores are reported to you, to the Illinois State Board of Education, and to the institution(s) you indicated during the registration process.

The Foreign Language: Arabic, Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, and Korean tests each consist of seven constructed-response assignments and no multiple-choice test questions. The scores you receive on each response are weighted equally.

Total Test Scores

Scores for the foreign language content-area tests are reported on a scale from 100 to 300. A total scaled test score of 240 or above is required to pass these tests. Candidates with a total test score below 240 do not pass the test. Your scaled total test score is based on your **total** performance on all sections of the test.

Subarea Scores

The scores listed in the "Subarea" section are also reported on a scale from 100 to 300. Each of the constructed-response assignments assesses one of the seven subareas of the test. Each subarea score indicates your performance on the constructed-response assignment for that subarea. Generally, a score at or above 240 on a given subarea indicates satisfactory performance within that subarea. This information is descriptive only and will help you assess your areas of strength and weakness.

You do not have to "pass" each subarea—there is no "passing" score associated with individual subareas. Because the raw scores have been converted to scaled scores, it is not possible to average your performance across subareas to arrive at the total test score. Your total test score is **not** the average of your subarea scores.

Constructed-Response Scores

Each response for the seven constructed-response assignments for the foreign language content-area tests is scored by multiple qualified educators. Scorers are unaware of the identity of the individuals whose responses they score. Scorers receive extensive orientation in standardized scoring procedures and take a qualifying assessment to ensure that they are ready to score.

Scorers judge the overall effectiveness of each response while focusing on a set of performance characteristics that have been defined by Illinois educators as important for the test. There is a separate set of performance characteristics for each of the seven constructed-response assignments. Multiple scorers are given a copy of each examinee's response. The score for each assignment is reached through group discussion in reference to the performance characteristics and scoring scale. The group arrives at a consensus decision on the examinee's score for each response. An examinee's response should demonstrate adequacy across all of the performance characteristics. A high level of performance in only one or two of the performance characteristics will likely not result in a high score.

Each response is scored on a scale from 1 to 4, with 1 representing a lack of command and little or no application of the performance characteristics and 4 representing a strong command and thorough application of the performance characteristics. The group-assigned scores are then converted to scaled scores, on a scale from 100 to 300. The total test score is derived from the scores on all seven of the constructed-response assignments. The designation of "U" (unscorable) is assigned to responses that are off topic, illegible/inaudible/incomprehensible, not written or spoken in the required language, of insufficient length to score, or merely a repetition of the assignment. A designation of "B" is assigned if the written response booklet or tape is blank.

See the Illinois Certification Testing System foreign language content-area test study guides for an explanation of the performance characteristics and for more information on how the responses are scored. Study guides are available on the ICTS Web site at www.icts.nesinc.com.

Passing Scores

The passing scores for the ICTS were established by the Illinois State Board of Education based on recommendations from panels of Illinois educators.

Rescore of Your Test

All constructed-response assignments are scored according to standardized procedures. As part of the scoring process, each examinee's responses are scored by multiple scorers who are oriented to standardized scoring procedures and are continuously monitored by experienced scoring facilitators. Scorer consensus is attained for the scores assigned to all examinee responses, with the guidance and focus on the scoring procedures and scoring scale. All written and oral responses to the constructed-response assignments are automatically rescored; therefore, no additional rescore service is available.

If you have questions regarding **PROGRAM POLICIES** or **WHICH TEST(S)** you must take, contact your college advisor, certification officer, or a regional office of education or visit the Illinois State Board of Education Web site at www.isbe.net/teachers.htm.