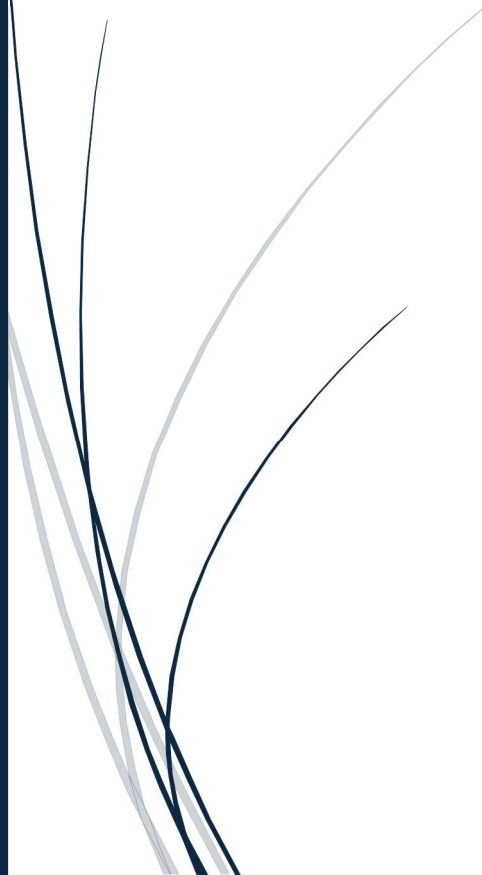




7/1/2026

SAMPLE PLACEMENT TEST



ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Placement test is designed to determine the English language proficiency of prospective ELS students. ELS announces one main date of the Placement test which is normally held in September for all interested students. The test may also be administered to individual candidates wishing to enrol at IUS for the Spring Semester or before the start of each new ELS session.

The Placement Test score is valid for six months.

It comprises three components whose sum amounts to 100 points. The distribution of points and levels is as follows:

A1: 0 – 25
A2: 26 – 45
B1: 46 – 65
B2: 66 – 100

Candidates who score 75 or above are eligible to take the Proficiency Exam.

2. TEST CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The ELS Placement test comprises three parts: reading comprehension, written production and the use of English section. The language of the instructions and test items ranges from A1 to B2. No specific or field-related knowledge is required. The test only focuses on English language competencies, and it does not involve any interaction with the invigilator or other test takers.

The Reading and Use of English questions are all closed-ended.

The Writing section requires the candidates to produce answers to questions in form of paragraphs.

The table below provides an overview of Placement test components and corresponding parameters:

	Reading	Use of English	Writing
Duration	100 minutes in total		
Type of tasks	Multiple choice, Multiple matching, T/F/NM, Gapped text	Multiple choice	Producing written answers in form of paragraphs
Text	General English texts ranging from A1 to B2	General English	N/A
Task focus	Ability to: Understand instructions, find specific information, understand gist and main ideas, find detail, follow text structure, make inference at a required level.	Ability to understand: sentence structure, grammar items and structures, word collocations and meaning at a required level.	Ability to produce a structured written response to questions as evidence of having sufficient language skills for a level.
Number of points	70		30
Number of questions	30	40	8 - 13

3. PLACEMENT TEST CANDIDATES

ELS Placement Test is compulsory for all students who intent to study at the International University of Sarajevo.

No student may begin studying at ELS or register for faculty courses at IUS without first taking the ELS Placement Test, unless they can provide evidence that they meet one of the conditions for exemption.

Furthermore, students who hold a valid FCE certificate with a minimum grade at B2 level are exempt from ELS Placement exam and may proceed directly to the ELS Proficiency Exam.
The candidates who miss the announced Placement test can apply to the ELS Administration with petition for rescheduling.

4. ANNOUNCING PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS

Placement Test results and levels for individual candidates are communicated via email within seven working days. Results are reported as a total score combining all test components. Placement Test results are also entered into the student information system for registered students.

5. SAMPLE PLACEMENT TEST

INSTRUCTIONS

- Print the test and complete it following the instructions for each section.
- The test duration is **one hour**. Do not exceed the time limit!
- Record the number of points earned for each of Sections 1–4. Each item is worth **1 point**.
- Upload the Writing Assessment Criteria and your written responses to an AI tool of your choice and ask it to evaluate your writing. While the assessment may provide a useful indication of your performance, it should be considered only an approximate evaluation.
- Add the points awarded for your writing to your score from the other sections and use the table provided below to determine your approximate level.

SAMPLE PLACEMENT TEST SCORE INTERPRETATION:

SUM OF SECTIONS 1 – 5	LEVEL
0 – 17	A1
18 – 31	A2
32 – 44	B1
45 – 53	B2
54+	ELIGIBLE FOR PROFICIENCY EXAM

SAMPLE PLACEMENT TEST

SECTION 1

For questions 1- 24, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. Look at the example 0. (1 point each)

0. 'What's name?' 'Jane Edwards.'
- A. you **B. your** C. yours D. you're
1. 'Where is Anna from?' '..... from Rome.'
- A. It is B. Is she C. She is D. Her is
2. two hundred students in my school.
- A. They are B. It is C. There are D. There is
3. We haven't got children.
- A. some B. any C. a D. a lot
4. He in an office every morning from eight to twelve.
- A. work B. works C. is working D. working
5. We have lunch one o'clock.
- A. at B. in C. on D. –

6. 'When you go to the USA?' "Last year.'
A. were B. had C. do D. did
7. 'I haven't got any money.' 'Never mind. some from the bank.'
A. I am going to get B. I'll get C. I'm getting D. I'd get
8. We lunch when the phone
A. had/rang B. were having/rang C. had/was ringing D. had had/rang
9. If I have enough money next year, I to Ireland.
A. will go B. go C. would go D. would have gone
10. Students normally pay tuition before buy books.
A. their/they/them B. their/they/theirs C. them/they/their D. their/they/their
11. It's the best film You should go and see it.
A. I ever saw B. I'd ever seen C. I've ever saw D. I've ever seen.
12. You come with us if you don't want to.
A. mustn't B. aren't supposed to C. you aren't allowed to D. don't have to
13. The boys all went in the Sierra Nevada Mountains last summer.
A. to hike B. hike C. hiking D. to hiking
14. 'Where do you think Anna was yesterday evening?' 'I'm not sure. Sheat home.'
A. must have been B. must be C. might be D. might have been
15. Pandas are animals only food is the bamboo plant.
A. that B. which is C. whose D. which
16. The Times in London since 1788.
A. was published B. has published C. published D. has been published
17. Andy and Lisa can't the piano.
A. sing B. do C. play D. speak
18. I can't find my and all my money is in it.
A. cash B. wallet C. pocket D. price
19. The photos we took when we went in Barcelona were fabulous.
A. travelling B. sightseeing C. visiting D. driving
20. My favourite is dinner.
A. lunch B. food C. time D. meal
21. The suspect being near the bank at the time.
A. claimed B. accused C. denied D. refused
22. The hotel was so awful that we wrote an email of to the agency when we got back home.
A. relief B. warning C. complaint D. complain
23. Jack is very He quitted his job without thinking if he will be able to find a new job.
A. impetuous B. resilient C. down-to-earth D. resourceful
24. A strong, unpredictable of wind blew our tents right up into the air.
A. gust B. hail C. flash D. storm

SECTION 2

For questions 25 – 30, choose the correct response A, B, C or D. (1 point each)

25. Thanks for the lovely present.
A. Oh, it's yours! B. If you're sure. C. You're welcome. D. I'm happy.
26. Have you ever been to the ballet?
A. Not until today! B. There aren't any tickets. C. It's a great idea! D. I liked it!

27. I've bought you a ticket for the concert on Saturday.
 A. Yes, please. That would be lovely. C. Thank you. That's very kind of you.
 B. But I don't have enough money. D. Great idea!
28. Would you mind opening the window?
 A. Of course, no problem. C. Yes, I'll close it.
 B. No, no problem. D. Sorry, it's too hot.
29. Could you help me with this box?
 A. No, I am too busy C. I don't like lifting things.
 B. Yes, I will carry it later. D. Sure, let me give you a hand.
30. Is it true that you don't get on with each other?
 A. Is that right? B. These rumours are false. C. I've heard of it. D. You're lying.

SECTION 3

Read the text about special jobs. Match the people A, B or C with questions 31- 36. (1 point each)

A Jo Kinsey

Jo has an interesting job. She's a hairdresser – but a very special hairdresser. Jo works at Madame Tussaud's – the wax model museum. She starts work at 7.30. In the morning she checks the models for dirty hair and in the afternoon she washes and dries their hair.

B Jeanette Ewart

Jeanette is a cleaner, but in a very dangerous place. She cleans the shark tank in the zoo in her city. She swims under the water every day to clean the tank, and she feeds the sharks three times a week. She's careful, but another diver waits by the tank and watches her. The visitors at the zoo watch her too.

C John Wardley

John is an inventor. He invents exciting rides for his theme park. He walks through the theme park and he listens to people when they talk about a ride. He invents new rides, and the engineers make the rides. John likes his work – his theme park is the best place to work.

This person ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 31. works under water. | A B C |
| 32. thinks a lot at work. | A B C |
| 33. starts work before eight. | A B C |
| 34. listens to other people. | A B C |
| 35. is very careful at work. | A B C |
| 36. is happy with his/her job. | A B C |

For questions 37- 41, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (1 point each)

37. Tom always studies before his exams. He listens carefully in class and writes good notes. Tom is ...
 A. a good writer B. hardworking C. shy D. honest
38. Sarah always helps her neighbours to carry heavy bags. Sarah is ...
 A. selfish B. kind C. rude D. outgoing
39. J.K. Rowling wrote the famous Harry Potter books. Millions of children and adults have read them, and they were made into blockbuster movies. J. K. Rowling is a famous ...
 A. author B. photographer C. actress D. journalist
40. The shop sells bread, milk and eggs. What kind of shop is it?
 A. a supermarket B. a grocery C. a bakery D. a butcher's

41. The weather forecast said it would be sunny all day, but suddenly huge black clouds covered the sky and it started raining. Alex didn't have an umbrella, so he ...

- A. got very wet B. went sunbathing C. didn't get wet D. bought an umbrella

Read the passage below and for question 42, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (1 point)

The island of Lewis in the northwest of Scotland has many beautiful beaches, with clear, light blue water and white sand. Most people say you can't swim in the sea there because it's too cold. However, a young woman called Kate Macleod disagrees.

42. What is special about the place where Kate Macleod lives?

- A. It's always cold. C. There are a lot of nice beaches.
B. Many people swim in the sea there. D. The island is big.

Read the passage below and for question 43, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (1 point)

The world has lost half of its wildlife in the last 40 years, and things will get worse unless we make big changes. Scientists predict that almost 90% of all animals will lose some of their habitat – for example, forests – by 2050.

43. How much of its wildlife has the world lost in the last 40 years?

- A. 25% B. 50% C. 90% D. 40%

Read the passage below and for question 44, choose the correct answer. (1 point)

Smart clothes are where fashion and technology meet. They are clothes that have technology installed, so they do things for you while you are wearing them. Some smart clothes can connect to programs on your laptop or apps on your smartphone using wi-fi, while others help the wearer in other ways.

44. What is the purpose of the first paragraph?

- A. to tell you about the different smart clothes apps C. to explain what smart clothes are
B. to encourage you to find out about smart clothes D. to persuade you to buy smart clothes

Read the passage below and for questions 45 - 48, choose the correct answer A, B or C. (1 point each)

Since 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope has been orbiting Earth and providing scientists with unique views of the universe. In that time, it sent hundreds of thousands of images back to Earth and has revolutionized astronomy by helping researchers to make important discoveries about deep space and the universe.

Thanks to Hubble, we now know that the universe is about 13 to 14 billion years old.

The idea of an orbiting telescope was first put forward by astronomer Lyman Spitzer in 1946. Spitzer pointed out that the Earth's atmosphere distorts light coming from stars, making it difficult for even the most precise telescopes on the ground to receive clear images. However, a telescope in orbit above the Earth's atmosphere would not be faced with the same problems. NASA agreed and, in the 1960s, with the help of rocket scientists, astrophysicists, and millions of dollars the project to build a space telescope began in earnest. Though the initial idea was Spitzer's, the telescope was actually named after Edwin P. Hubble, the astronomer who, in the 1920s, proved that our galaxy, the Milky Way, was not the only one in the universe.

45. What is a purpose of a space telescope?

- A. to show images in space B. to orbit the universe C. to take and send pictures back to Earth

46. What has Hubble helped scientists to discover?
 A. the age of the universe B. the size of deep space C. how old our planet is
47. What happens to light in space?
 A. It's clearer in Earth's atmosphere.
 B. It has trouble reaching the ground.
 C. Our atmosphere changes it.
48. According to the passage, is the following statement True, False or Not Mentioned?

The telescope was named after Hubble because he proved that our galaxy was not the only one in the universe.

- A. True B. False C. Not mentioned

Read the passage below and for questions 49 and 50, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (1 point each)

Apart from drones, robots are also being developed to help with disaster relief. Between 2012 and 2015, the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) held an annual competition aimed at creating humanoid robots capable of performing disaster relief and rescue tasks. The DARPA Robotics challenge featured robots created by teams from all over the world competing in a series of tasks such as avoiding obstacles, climbing stairs and even driving a vehicle. In Germany there is currently a Rescue Robot League where robots from international teams operate in a simulated disaster area. The robots have to find the simulated victims hidden there using different sensors like video-, infrared-, or 3D-cameras, laser scanners and ultrasound. The ultimate aim is to do so with a higher degree of autonomy and less remote-control than at present.

49. The writer suggests that rescue robots ...
 A. are already widely used to find victims in disaster areas.
 B. are more effective than humans.
 C. will need to be able to work more independently than they do at the moment.
 D. are already 100% prepared to use a wide variety of sensors in real disasters.
50. Why is the DARPA Robotics Challenge mentioned?
 A. to show how robots compete with humans
 B. to explain the cost of developing robots
 C. to explain progress in robotic abilities
 D. to show how robots can replace people completely

SECTION 4

For questions 51-55, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (1 point each)

51. Which sentence should start this paragraph?
 I take notes during class. Later, I review them at home. This helps me remember important information.
 A. I like going to school. C. I have an excellent teacher.
 B. When I am in school, I study hard. D. I have a lot of classes every day.
52. You are writing an email to your classmate about homework. How do you end?
 A. Your faithfully, B. Best regards, C. Love, D. Respectfully yours,

53. The weather was terrible., the football match continued as planned.
 A. Nevertheless B. For example, C. Therefore D. In addition
54. being illegal, lots of people copy software programmes.
 A. Although B. Despite C. Because D. Due to
55., but they were completely different colour.
 A. Not only they were the wrong size C. Not only were they the wrong size
 B. Not only they were the right size D. Not only were they the right size

SECTION 5

TASK 1: Answer the question. Write full sentences. (4 points)

1. What do you usually do at the weekend? Write 4 sentences.

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TASK 2: Answer the question. (5 points)

2. Write an article about learning languages. Answer the following questions: Is it important to learn a foreign language? Why / Why not? What do you think are good tips for learning a language? Is it better to learn a language in a group or on your own? Why?

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TASK 3 Answer the question. (6 points)

3. Imagine you experienced a long delay and poor communication from staff at the airport. Write an email of complaint to the transport company asking for an explanation and compensation. Include the following: reason for writing, introduce the problem, give more information about the problem and say what you want to be done.

Dear Sir / Madam,

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6. SAMPLE PLACEMENT TEST ANSWER KEY FOR SECTIONS 1 – 4

SECTION 1		SECTION 2		SECTION 3		SECTION 4	
1.	C	25.	C	31.	B	51.	B
2.	C	26.	A	32.	C	52.	C
3.	B	27.	C	33.	A	53.	A
4.	B	28.	A	34.	C	54.	B
5.	A	29.	D	35.	B	55.	C
6.	D	30.	B	36.	C		
7.	B			37.	B		
8.	B			38.	B		
9.	A			39.	A		
10.	D			40.	A		
11.	D			41.	A		
12.	D			42.	C		
13.	C			43.	B		
14.	D			44.	C		
15.	C			45.	C		
16.	D			46.	A		
17.	C			47.	C		
18.	B			48.	C		
19.	B			49.	C		
20.	D			50.	C		
21.	C						
22.	C						
23.	A						
24.	A						

7. SAMPLE PLACEMENT TEST MARKING SECTIONS 5 CRITERIA

Task	Description of Performance	Allocation of points
	(based on Gateway 2nd Edition Placement Test Guidelines, Teachers' Resources)	
Task 1:	a) The question is fully answered, all segments are correct; grammar and vocabulary used are accurate and appropriate; the answer is fully coherent with linking expressions and sequencers appropriate to the level and with no ambiguity	a) 4 points
	b) The question has been almost fully understood; appropriate grammar and vocabulary but with inaccuracies in verb tense and form / possessives / key vocabulary	b) deduct 0.25-0.5 point for each incorrect segment
	c) There is only a very basic understanding of the question and a very basic attempt at answering it; no answer is written; the question was not understood or misunderstood	c) 0 points
Task 2	a) The question is fully answered, all segments are correct; grammar and vocabulary used are accurate and appropriate with very few, if any, errors; the answer is fully coherent with linking expressions and sequencers appropriate to the level and no ambiguity	a) 5 points
	b) The question is fully or almost fully answered; relevant grammar and vocabulary are used accurately, although with occasional errors (that don't interfere with meaning); there are cohesive devices, such as linking expressions and sequencers appropriate to the level	b) 4 points
	c) The question has been almost fully understood; points are partially covered; appropriate tenses, grammar, and vocabulary are used, although with frequent errors; meaning is reasonably clear and the sentences follow a logical train of thought to some extent.	c) 3 points
	d) The question has been partially understood; the points are inadequately covered; there are some issues with sentence construction and inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the grammar and vocabulary that interfere with meaning; the response is not cohesive and seems awkward.	d) 1-2 point
	e) There is only a very basic understanding of the question and a very basic attempt at answering it; the question was not understood or misunderstood; there are serious inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the language; no answer is written	e) 0 points
Task 3	a) The question is fully answered, all content points are covered with fully relevant arguments; grammar and vocabulary used are accurate and appropriate with very few, if any, errors; the answer is fully coherent with logical progression and no ambiguity	a) 6 points
	b) The question is fully or almost fully answered; all points mostly covered, with good arguments; relevant grammar and vocabulary are used accurately, although with occasional errors (that don't interfere with meaning); there are cohesive devices, such as linking expressions and sequencers appropriate to the level	b) 5 points
	c) The question has been almost fully understood; points are partially covered with adequate, but insufficient arguments; appropriate tenses, grammar, and vocabulary are used, although with frequent errors; meaning is reasonably clear and the sentences follow a logical train of thought to some extent.	c) 3-4 points
	d) The question has been partially understood; the point is only partially covered, with inadequate arguments; there are some issues with sentence construction and inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the grammar and vocabulary that interfere with meaning; the response is not cohesive and seems awkward.	d) 1-2 points
	e) There is only a very basic understanding of the question and a very basic attempt at answering it; the question was not understood or misunderstood; there are serious inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the language; ideas are not linked together in a logical and clear manner; no answer is written	e) 0 points

SOURCES:

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 onestopenglish.com – Solutions for English Teaching