

Curtin University Test of English (CUTE)



Department of Languages and
Intercultural Education

What is CUTE?

CUTE is a test of English designed to measure whether candidates have a sufficient level of English language proficiency to undertake a course of tertiary study presented in the medium of English. It has been approved by Curtin University of Technology as a means by which applicants can meet the University's English language entry requirement. In addition, the results may be used to indicate whether candidates require English language study prior to enrolment in a University course, and whether communication and tertiary study skills support programs might be beneficial once the candidate has commenced studying. CUTE does not indicate whether candidates meet academic entry requirements to a course of study; for this separate evidence is required.

When was CUTE developed?

Staff from the Department of Languages and Intercultural Education first started working on a trial version of CUTE in 1998. Since those early trials, more than 7000 candidates have taken the test in a range of countries including Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Taiwan and Thailand.

What is the test format?

CUTE is an integrative test that measures a range of aspects of the language. However, for ease of delivery, it has been divided into 3 sections: listening, reading and writing. Each version of the test has the same theme. The test has been designed to mirror as closely as possible the kind of language situations and the types of task that are likely to occur in a

university setting. A specific description of the tasks for each section is provided below:

Listening

Candidates listen to a 5-6 minute extract from a university lecture on a broadly academic topic, and complete notes from prompts provided. The time allocated for this task is approximately 10 minutes.

Reading

In this section there are two tasks. For the first, candidates read a text with a broadly academic subject matter and take notes under headings provided. For the second task, a summary of the main points of the text is provided, with gaps that candidates have to fill with a suitable word or phrase. The time allocated for the two tasks is 20 minutes.

Writing

Candidates select one of two titles and write an essay. The time allocated for this task is 30 minutes.

How is CUTE marked?

In the listening and reading sections, one mark is allocated to each appropriate response. The tasks have been formulated to measure the ability to locate and understand specific information presented in an aural or written form, understand gist, recognise relevance, and extract and transfer information. In the writing section, marks are allocated for content, compositional organisation, cohesion, vocabulary, grammar and mechanical accuracy. All sections carry equal

marks. The total mark translates into one of five bands, which are described below. Candidates must obtain a certain minimum score in each section for each band except the lowest.

- **Band A:** Candidates in this band indicate that they have the language proficiency to cope with the demands of university study at either undergraduate or postgraduate level.
- **Band B:** Candidates in this band indicate that they have the general language proficiency to cope with the demands of university study at undergraduate level. Candidates in this band have not indicated that they are sufficiently proficient to comprehend or produce discourse of the complexity that is required in postgraduate programs, but may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- **Band C:** Candidates in this band indicate that they have the language proficiency to cope with the demands of university study at an undergraduate level provided that the program has not been deemed linguistically demanding. However, it is very likely that candidates in this band will require ongoing English language support during the first year of study.
- **Band D:** Candidates in this band indicate that they do not have the language proficiency to cope with the demands of university study without first undertaking a period of further training in English.
- **Band E:** It is recommended that candidates in this band undertake an extensive period of English language training before progressing to tertiary study.

What aspects of English are tested?

CUTE tests the academic English skills of active reading and listening, note taking, writing a structured essay, and reading and writing under pressure of time. It tests the ability to skim and scan, the ability to listen for specific information, the ability to determine the gist of oral and written texts, and the ability to produce coherent and cohesive written discourse. It also measures levels of syntax and vocabulary.

When are the results issued?

Result sheets are issued from the Department of Languages and Intercultural Education within five working days of receiving the test papers. Results are sent to the appropriate local centres overseas, or sent directly to candidates in Western Australia.

Where can the test be taken?

The Curtin University Test of English can be conducted at Curtin University of Technology or overseas at any one of Curtin's designated local centres. The test booklets are returned to Perth for marking by a specially trained team of assessors in order to ensure standardisation.

How much does it cost?

In Australia, CUTE costs AU\$110 per applicant. In other countries, rates are charged by the local centre, and may vary. Fees may be amended without notice.

Can candidates prepare for the test?

A sample kit and a practice kit are available for purchase. In addition, CUTE preparation courses are run at some centres at certain times of the year. For more information, contact the CUTE Academic Coordinator at the address given on the third page of this leaflet.

How long are the results valid?

The results are valid for a period of two years from the date of the test.

TEST DAY REGULATIONS (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

- Candidates should bring to the test venue their passport, identity card or some other means of identification acceptable to the testing institution.
- Candidates should arrive at the test venue at least 15 minutes before the commencement of the test. Any candidate who arrives late (after the test has commenced) will not be permitted to take the test.
- Candidates may only place pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners and bottled water on the table/desk in the examination room. No dictionaries or other aid may be used. All bags, coats and any other bulky items must be placed out of reach at the front or back of the room, as directed by the invigilator.
- Candidates must not eat, smoke or use mobile phones in the examination room.
- Candidates must not open their test booklets until instructed to do so.
- All answers must be written on the test booklet. Space in the booklet is provided for rough notes, which will not be marked.
- Candidates must not leave the room after the commencement of the test. As the test lasts approximately one hour there will be no breaks between sections. The timing of the test is such that candidates should not finish more than a few minutes before the allotted time.
- Candidates must not speak aloud or to any other candidate during the test. In an emergency, candidates should raise their hand to attract the attention of the invigilator.
- At the end of the test, candidates should put down their pen/pencil and hand the test booklet to the invigilator.

Test results will not be issued in the following circumstances:

- If a candidate has been found cheating or engaging in any form of malpractice or misconduct during the test
- If payment for the test has not been received
- If a candidate has left the examination room after the commencement of the test
- If a candidate has talked aloud or caused any kind of disturbance in the examination room

GENERAL TEST REGULATIONS (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

- Curtin University Test of English (CUTE) is intended for potential applicants to an undergraduate or postgraduate program authorised by Curtin University of Technology. It is not currently accepted by any other university in Australia or overseas.
- CUTE is open to candidates from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB). NESB applicants are defined as those (a) who do not speak English as the main language of communication at home; (b) whose parents do not speak English as a first language; and (c) whose first language is not English. As from 01/01/07, candidates from English speaking background (ESB) will also be eligible to take the CUTE on a trial basis.
- The content of CUTE is aimed at young adults and mature students. It is therefore unlikely to be suitable for applicants under fifteen years of age. However, there is no formal age restriction.
- All administrative arrangements are conducted with the local institution in the country in which the test is to be taken. This includes the payment of the test fee. The test is marked at Curtin, and the results sent to the local institution for distribution to the applicants.
- There are no fixed dates for CUTE, as it can be taken on demand at local institutions. Some centres may request a minimum number of candidates, in which case a specific date and time will be provided to potential candidates.
- All test fees must be paid in advance of the test being taken. The fees may vary slightly from one country to another because of differences in exchange rates and other costs. The cost in Australia is AU\$110 as at 1 January 2007. Fees may change without notice.
- Information on the appeals procedure is available from the CUTE Academic Coordinator at the address provided below.
- All candidates will be required to provide photographic evidence of identification (such as an identity card or driving licence) when they sit the test. Any applicant who does not have appropriate identification will not be permitted to take the test.
- All personal information provided by candidates to Curtin will be treated as confidential, and will only appear in published reports in aggregate form.
- Candidates may repeat the test after an interval of 10 weeks, but must inform the local centre that they have taken the test on a previous occasion so that a different version of the test can be administered. All names of applicants will be checked on the central database at Curtin at the marking stage, and applicants who are found to have taken the same version of the test on a previous occasion will be disqualified. In this case no fees will be refunded.
- Curtin University of Technology policies and procedures apply in respect to all aspects of the test, including but not limited to supervision, results and all relevant academic standards.

REFUND POLICY

Any applicant who pays for a test, but withdraws from the test before its commencement will be entitled to a refund, less 20% to cover the cost of administration. No refunds will be given to any candidate who commences a test but is unable to complete it, except in the case of an emergency, verified as such by the local institution. No refunds will be given to any candidate who fails to give notice of withdrawal before the date and time set for the test, or who does not arrive at the test centre in time for the beginning of the test. This agreement does not remove the right to take further action under Australia's consumer protection laws.

To request a refund, please bring the details of your bank account (bank statement) to the Reception, Building 208.

Further details about the CUTE are available from:

CUTE Academic Coordinator
Building 208, Room 130C
Department of Languages and Intercultural Education
Faculty of Education, Language Studies and Social Work
Curtin University of Technology
GPO Box U1987, Western Australia 6845
Tel: (61 8) 9266 2176
Fax: (61 8) 9266 3186
Email: dolie.cute@curtin.edu.au

Curtin University of Technology Cashier	
Date Paid	_____
Receipt No:	_____
CUTE Application Fee	<input type="checkbox"/>
CUTE Sample Kit	<input type="checkbox"/>
CUTE Practice Kit	<input type="checkbox"/>

Family name: _____

Given name(s): _____ Curtin student no.: _____

Nationality: _____ Date of birth: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email contact: _____

If you are currently studying English, please provide the name of the institution: _____

Date of test: _____ Time of test: _____ Location of test: _____

I wish to apply for the Curtin University Test of English (CUTE). I confirm that I have read and understood the Test Day Regulations and the General Regulations, and that I understand the refund policy. I also understand that a copy of my CUTE result may be sent to any Curtin University of Technology department and my agent.

*I have not taken CUTE on any previous occasion
OR
 *I previously took CUTE on _____ (date)

Signature _____ date _____.

*Please tick appropriate box.

TEST FEE	AU\$110.00	\$110.00
SAMPLE KIT	AU\$30.00	
PRACTICE KIT	AU\$30.00	
SAMPLE KIT AND PRACTICE KIT	AU\$50.00	
	TOTAL PAYABLE	

Cost centre: U104572 0020 43115

Cost centre: U104572 0020 46301

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Within the metropolitan area, fees (cash, cheque or credit card) must be paid in person to the Cashier, Curtin University of Technology Administration Building 101, Kent Street, Bentley.

Outside the metropolitan area within Western Australia, this application may be sent together with a cheque payable to Curtin University of Technology or credit card details to the CUTE Academic Coordinator at the address given on the third page of this leaflet.

Outside Western Australia, fees (if applicable) must be paid to the administrator of the local CUTE centre where the test will take place. The local centre will issue a receipt.

Credit card details if applicable: Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Credit card number _____ Amount _____

Cardholder's name _____

Expiry date _____ Signature _____

Please send my original TEST RESULT SHEET to: Curtin University of Technology - Bridging My Agent
 Curtin University of Technology - ELICOS Other _____
 Curtin University of Technology - International Office

CRICOS Provider Code 00301J Name of Admissions Officer _____