English Language Testing

password

University Guide

Accurate, reliable, secure online testing under your control and brand

Password Tests

Password online tests have occupied a unique position in the world of English language testing since launching in 2008. Our tests provide universities, colleges and schools with high-quality, affordable and easily accessible English language and Maths assessments which are used to replace or complement in-house testing. Password tests are used primarily for high stakes admissions testing, assessment on arrival, progress testing, benchmarking and to prove English language levels for graduation.

Run on Password's powerful software, and designed and developed by world-leading assessment experts, Password tests are delivered by institutions themselves or outsourced to the Password team to deliver. Either way, institutions retain control over where and when tests are run and how and when test results are delivered to students.

With consultation and collaboration at the heart of everything we do, Password tests are shaped by the requirements of our partner institutions.

Get in touch today to benefit from accurate, reliable and secure online testing: contact@englishlanguagetesting.co.uk.

Outstanding assessments, service and support developed especially for universities

Since
2008

Run in
130
countries

Over
1,000
partners

Priced from
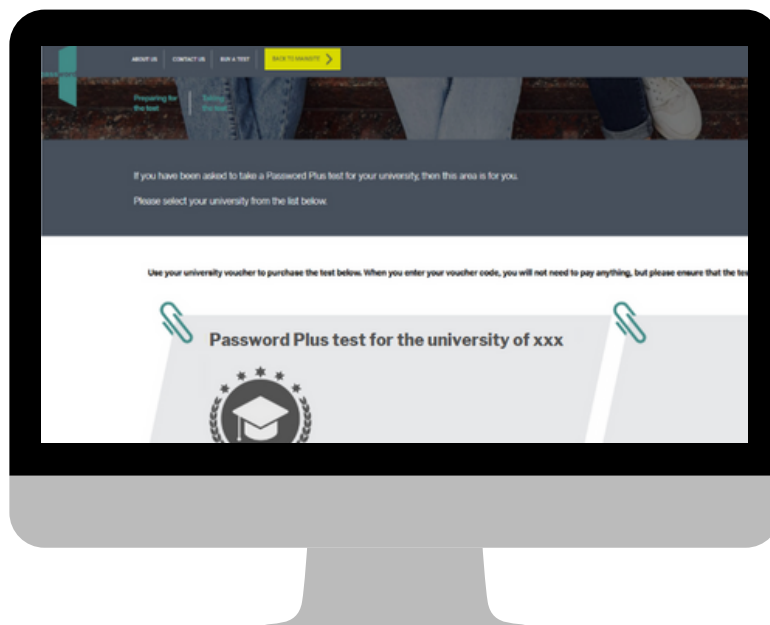## £10.50
per test

Flexible test delivery options

Password Tests
Your staff administer and invigilate university branded tests in person or remotely. You receive results exclusively.

Password Plus Tests
Our staff administer university branded tests with secure at-home invigilation undertaken by our partners, Meazure Learning. The tests are sold directly to your applicants from the Password website and you receive results exclusively.

Our flagship Plus test, **Password Skills Plus**, is also sold directly to students. The test is accepted for admission to university programmes all over the world.

What our partners say

'During the pandemic, at Northumbria University we couldn't send our English staff out to test in our key markets, and needed a replacement solution. Password's ability to white-label a test allowed the University to balance a high-quality secure test along with the need to retain institutional branding with our key overseas partners.

As we realised the effectiveness of this model, the University has continued to adopt it as a solution for in-country testing to this day. Working with Password is helpfully straightforward, with a great team supporting the University and the learners in country."

Northumbria University NEWCASTLE

Rob Carthy, Director of International Development at Northumbria University

Password test delivery and security

Password Tests

Your staff administer and invigilate university branded tests in person or remotely. Tests are checked and marked by our academics.

We provide full training on the test format, how to prepare your students and delivery, as well as recommended procedures for invigilating the tests where required.

Password Plus Tests

Working in partnership with world-leading proctors, Meazure Learning, Password Plus tests are securely administered, invigilated and video recorded in their entirety.

Tests and video recordings are then systematically reviewed by our own expert academic and compliance teams.

Password test security

For test integrity and security reasons most Password tests are delivered on a "locked down" PC under invigilation using a secure web browser in person by university staff or their trusted representatives.

Each test is unique as questions are randomly selected from a large question bank, resulting in countless variations.

Password Plus test security

Innovative test design, delivery, and review procedures ensure academic misconduct is systematically identified and reported by our academic and compliance teams for Password Plus tests.

Whilst automation has its place, our experience shows us that humans are still much better at holistically interpreting and evaluating test taker output and behaviour, which means you will find human elements throughout all of our test security measures.

Invigilation is undertaken by our specialist online proctoring partner, Meazure Learning, with a combination of humans and AI. Meazure Learning is the market leader for scalable online invigilation with exams accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to test takers anywhere in the world.

Our mission as a test provider is to ensure that each test result is a true reflection of the test taker's ability on the day they were assessed so that our test results always meet the stringent requirements of high-stakes university admissions whilst being fair to test takers.

A multitude of security features are embedded in the test itself, the invigilation process before and during the test, and the review procedure after the test:

Security and compliance measures before and during test

Proctoring	Live human onboarding, backed by AI monitoring throughout the test (for example, for eye-tracking and keystroke analysis)
ID checks	Proctors conduct passport checks to check identity documentation is valid and matches the test taker
Environment checks	Proctors conduct thorough room scans, software and hardware checks to secure the at-home test environment
Video recording	Video recording of complete test session including pre-test checks

Security and compliance measures after test session

First audit	Full academic and compliance review of results and video recording
Second audit	In-depth review of identity, test profile and individual test modules
Marking	Marking of speaking and writing modules, including plagiarism checks and assistive software detection
Final review	Compliance team conduct final review prior to releasing results

Post-test academic review

- Conducted by experts in English for Academic Purposes (EAP)
- Look for inconsistent and spiky test profiles
- Identify academic misconduct including use of assistive software and plagiarism

Post-test compliance review

- Conducted by experts in online test security and test taker behaviour
- Analyse test taker interactions with proctor
- Analyse test taker conduct and cognitive engagement with the test itself

About Password Skills

Use

Password Skills is an accurate, reliable, and secure online test of English language proficiency used for university admission. It is widely used by universities in the UK where it fulfils all UK Home Office requirements for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It is also used for admissions purposes by hundreds of higher education institutions around the world.

Administration

Our partner institutions choose to deliver the **Password Skills** test themselves, or the delivery of the **Password Skills Plus** test can be outsourced to the Password team. Tests can be taken wherever and whenever required.

Results

Our partner institutions access test results and certificates from our online platform where they can be searched, sorted, downloaded and distributed to students. Results are available in three to five working days and show Password scores and CEFR levels.

Test Format

Reading

75 minutes
Consists of five tasks which increase in difficulty as the module progresses. Whilst the tasks are designed to assess academic English, they require no prior knowledge of specific subject matter.

Writing

30 minutes
Offers test takers a choice of two "open ended" questions, one of which they choose as the subject of an essay. Test takers are instructed to write at least 200 words.

Listening

60 minutes
Consists of five sections with one or more tasks per section which increase in difficulty as the test module progresses. Most of the recordings are short lectures or snippets of lectures.

Speaking

20 minutes
Consists of five tasks which are displayed on screen. The responses expected increase in length and complexity as the test module progresses. Responses are captured by a microphone.
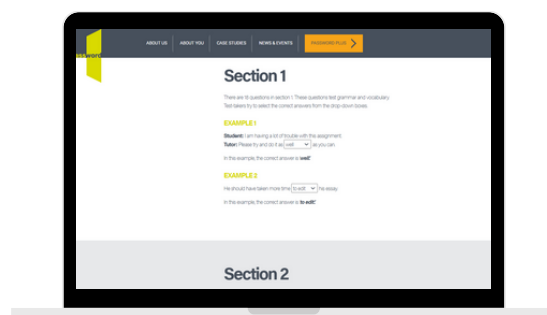
About Password Knowledge

Use

Password Knowledge is a sophisticated test of grammar, vocabulary and reading, used to assess new students to ensure they have the English language skills necessary to successfully undertake their programmes of study. Students needing in-sessional support are identified quickly and cost-effectively. The test delivers extremely accurate and reliable results. The test is also used for admission to pre-university programmes and is then often combined with the Password Writing test.

- **Arrivals testing**

- **Admission to pre-university programmes**

- **Placement into English language classes**

Administration

Our partner institutions choose to deliver the **Password Knowledge** test themselves, or the delivery of the **Password Knowledge Plus** test can be outsourced to the Password team. Tests can be taken wherever and whenever required.

Results

Our partner institutions access test results and certificates from our online platform where they can be searched, sorted, downloaded and distributed to students. Results are available in three to five working days and show Password scores and CEFR levels.

Test format

Knowledge	60 minutes
	The test is divided into five sections of different question types.
	It is often combined with the Password Writing test.

About Password Maths

Password Maths tests were originally developed in conjunction with Professor Harriet Jones (University of East Anglia) in 2010 to identify undergraduate students joining courses in biological sciences whose mathematical knowledge might hinder them from successfully undertaking their studies.

The tests provide a fair and accurate assessment of a student's mathematical knowledge and understanding and have been further developed with input from senior mathematicians from across the education sector. Password Maths is used for both admission and arrivals testing,

Highlights of Password Maths

- Large database of questions

- Randomised tests to be different and unique

- Secure browser with user-friendly visual navigation menu

- Instant results and university branded certificates

Institutions choose from eight test modules which increase in difficulty. The test modules cover a range of topics, including numeracy, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, indices, surds, series, graphs and functions.

Password Maths tests ordinarily consist of four modules, which take up to 60 minutes to complete. However, universities are able to request versions, which may be shorter or longer in duration.

Administration
Our partner institutions choose to deliver the **Password Maths** test themselves, or the delivery of the **Password Maths Plus** test can be outsourced to the Password team.

Results
Maths results are reported as an overall percentage score, with each test taker's raw score per section visible in their individual detailed results view. Our partner institutions access test results and certificates from our database where they can be searched, sorted, downloaded and distributed to students.

About Password Bespoke

Password tests can be customised according to an institution's specific requirements. There are six test modules, which can be combined in various ways to create your bespoke test:

- Password Reading
- Password Writing
- Password Listening
- Password Speaking
- Password Knowledge
- Password Maths

Administration

Our partner institutions choose to deliver the **Password Bespoke** test themselves, or the delivery of the **Password Bespoke Plus** test can be outsourced to the Password team.

Using our technology and the expertise of our academic management team, we also create bespoke Password tests in consultation with our institutional partners. These tests ensure that our partners' entrance tests for specific programmes are delivered online with integrity, security, and full academic validity.

UE University of Europe for Applied Sciences
Knowledge | Writing | Maths
Delivered by University of Europe

ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
Reading | Writing | Listening | Maths
Delivered by Asian University for Women

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
Password Maths
Delivered by University of London

University of Bedfordshire
Reading | Writing | Listening
Delivered by University of Bedfordshire

Ulster University
Reading | Writing | Listening | Speaking
Delivered by Password

1495 UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
Reading | Listening
Delivered by Password

Durham University
Reading | Writing | Listening | Speaking
Delivered by Password

UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER
Reading | Writing
Delivered by Password

Gisma University of Applied Sciences
Password Knowledge | Writing | Maths

Gisma University of Applied Sciences

'Gisma University of Applied Sciences utilises a bespoke entrance test, developed in collaboration with Password, to meet German higher education standards for undergraduate admissions.

We selected Password based on professional recommendations and its proven ability to deliver a high-quality, reliable testing solution. Its seamless design and implementation allowed us to create an assessment that fully meets our requirements while aligning with German regulatory compliance.

Password's customer service and relationship management have been outstanding, with a dedicated team always available to assist us."

Hugh Gordon-Brown, Head of Admissions at Gisma University of Applied Sciences

Design, development and scoring

Academic overview

All Password English tests have been designed and developed by CRELLA, a research group of world leading experts in English language testing and assessment. Founded by Professor Cyril Weir OBE, CRELLA are responsible for the design and validation of many globally renowned English language exams. In the most recent 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), 72% of the research CRELLA submitted was assessed as 4* (the highest category), placing CRELLA above Cambridge, Oxford and UCL for research conducted in their field.

Password English tests are based on Weir's highly influential socio-cognitive framework, which is now widely used to inform language test development, research and validation. The tests are formally aligned to the CEFR and designed to match closely the descriptors for language competence between levels A2 to C1.

Members of the research team at CRELLA developed each of the available Password test modules, combining their expert knowledge of the CEFR with their understanding of the latest research into the areas of reading, listening, writing and speaking assessment.

Alignment to the CEFR

The CEFR levels and descriptors were at the forefront of the design, development and production of all Password English tests which have been formally aligned to the CEFR following the procedures laid out in "*Relating Language Examinations to the 'Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment' (CEFR). A Manual.*" The CEFR was designed to bring together the best of a wide range of schemes for describing language learning, is internationally recognised as an important framework of reference for language proficiency, and has been translated into 40 languages.

The procedures were undertaken in the following ways:

Test specification:
Relating Password English tests to the CEFR required identification of areas of overlap between the two. This included a 'horizontal' comparison between the test content and the CEFR descriptive scheme (coverage), and a 'vertical' comparison to evaluate which score level on Password might correspond to which level on the CEFR. The aim of this was to establish a clear overview of the relationship between Password English test content and the CEFR.

Alignment Panels:

The tests then underwent a process of linking to the CEFR managed by panels of experts. Panellists were all well-qualified English language educators within the higher education sector with more than 10 years of experience in English language teaching. The process involved familiarisation (or re-familiarisation) training, followed by training in assessing performance in relation to the CEFR levels, followed by rating Password performance or items in relation to CEFR levels.

Statistical Analysis:

Password English tests questions have all been through thorough statistical analysis. Initial questions, which themselves underwent both statistical analysis and alignment, are used as anchors. These questions and their alignment to the CEFR, plus their correlation to existing test-takers' levels, mean that it is possible to have a very high confidence in their difficulty level, and can thus be used to compare with and link to further items.

Password scoring

The broad CEFR bands are broken down into more precise Password English test scores as shown in the table below.
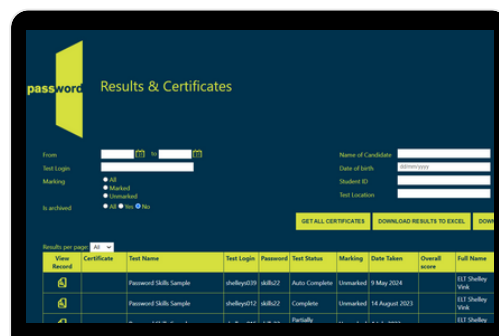
Password scores	CEFR levels
Password 7.0 or above	CEFR C1 or above
Password 6.5	CEFR B2
Password 6.0	
Password 5.5	
Password 5.0	CEFR B1
Password 4.5	
Password 4.0	
Password 3.5	CEFR A2
Password 3.0	
Pre-Password	CEFR A1 or below

Password test results

Both Password and Password Plus test results are delivered exclusively to institutions through our online results platform where they can be searched, sorted, downloaded and distributed to students.

Uniquely, we also grant partner institutions direct access to audio files from the speaking test and essays submitted by test takers. This affords admissions teams more detailed information than they would traditionally have access to.

Results are available in three to five working days and show Password scores and CEFR levels.

Join a global community of universities, colleges and schools benefitting from accurate, reliable and secure online testing.

Contact us for a demonstration:
contact@englishlanguagetesting.co.uk

ALTE Associate Member · ENGLISH UK · MEAZURE LEARNING · NEAS ENDORSED PRODUCT/SERVICE · BALEAP · Universities of Sanctuary

+44 (0) 20 8326 5608

contact@englishlanguagetesting.co.uk

www.englishlanguagetesting.co.uk