

OET SUBTEST MARKING

Subtest	OET Marking Criteria	Definition of criterion	Marks
Listening	Correct answer	-	/ 42
Reading	Correct answer	-	/ 42
Writing	Purpose	Is the purpose of your letter immediately clear to your reader in the first paragraph?	/ 3
	Content	Is all the important information included? Is the information you included accurate?	/ 7
	Conciseness & Clarity	Did you leave out all irrelevant information? (Yes!) Is the relevant information you did include concisely stated?	/ 7
	Genre & Style	Is the letter formatted as a professional letter? Do you use polite/professional tone? Do you use the correct level of technical language for your intended reader? Does your letter remain non-judgmental and factual /clinical? Are any abbreviations you use only those your reader would be expected to know?	/ 7
	Organisation & layout	Is information in your letter prioritised? Did you group related information together logically? Do you use paragraphs adequately? Does information/topics flow logically and smoothly from one paragraph to the next? Can your reader get a quick and relevant picture of the patient? Can your reader quickly find specific information (thanks to your layout)?	/ 7
	Language	Is your writing and language easy to understand –do your sentences promote readability? Does your language cause strain, confusion or misunderstanding? (No!) Are your vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and spelling appropriate?	/ 7
Speaking	Intelligibility	How easy is it to understand you? Do you speak naturally with the correct stress to syllables so you are easily understood?	/ 6
	Fluency	Do your words flow smoothly, in complete sentences, without much hesitation or non-verbal sounds (e.g. err, um, ah)?	/ 6
	Appropriateness of language	Do you use language appropriate to your patient and the role play situation, with variations for good news, bad news, instructions, reassurance, and so on?	/ 6
	Resources of grammar and expression	Do you pose questions and statements with correct structure? Do you use a range of vocabulary and expressions? Can you use common healthcare idioms e.g. “feeling under the weather”	/ 6
	Relationship building	Do you greet the patient and establish a professional but friendly or approachable rapport? Do you avoid being judgmental?	/ 3
	Understanding and incorporating the patient’s perspective	Do you show that you have understood the patient’s problems and ideas, not just their diagnosis, but summarizing them quickly? Can you deal with conflict in interviews e.g. complaints, reluctance, contradictions, incorrect information?	/ 3
	Providing structure	Do you guide the conversation smoothly from one task topic to the next? Can you guide an interview even with a difficult patient?	/ 3
	Information gathering	Are you good at asking open and closed questions to get information?	/ 3
	Information giving	Are you good at giving the patient as much relevant information as possible, in a form they can understand? Can you restate and rephrase information, if needed?	/ 3

UNDERSTAND YOUR TEST RESULTS

OET grade ¹	OET score ¹	OET descriptor ¹	IELTS equivalent (approximate)	CEFR equivalent & descriptor ²	Cambridge English Scale (CES)	Global Scale of English (GSE) (approximate)
A	500-450	Can communicate very fluently and effectively with patients and health professionals using appropriate register, tone and lexis. Shows complete understanding of any kind of written or spoken language.	8.0 – 9.0	C2 PROFICIENT USER - Mastery or proficiency	200-230	86 - 90
B	440-350	Can communicate effectively with patients and health professionals using appropriate register, tone and lexis, with only occasional inaccuracies and hesitations. Shows good understanding in a range of clinical contexts.	7.0 – 7.5	C1 to C1+ PROFICIENT USER - Effective operational proficiency or advanced	185 - 199	80 - 85
C+	340-300	Can maintain the interaction in a relevant healthcare environment despite occasional errors and lapses, and follow standard spoken language normally encountered in his/her field of specialisation.	6.5	B2+ to C1- PROFICIENT USER - Vantage or upper intermediate Effective operational proficiency or advanced	176 - 184	76 - 79
C	290-200		5.5 – 6.0	B2- to B2+ INDEPENDENT USER - Vantage or upper intermediate	163 - 175	60 - 75
D	190-100	Can maintain some interaction and understand straightforward factual interaction in his/her field of specialisation, but may ask for clarification. Frequent errors, inaccuracies and mis- or overuse of technical language can cause strain in communication.	less than 5.5	B1- to B2- INDEPENDENT USER - Threshold or intermediate	142 - 162	44-59
E	90-0	Can manage simple interaction on familiar topics and understand the main point in short, simple messages, provided he/she can ask for clarification. High density of errors and mis- or overuse of technical language can cause significant strain and breakdowns in communication.	-	A1 to B1- BASIC USER - Beginner or breakthrough - Waystage or elementary Early threshold or very low intermediate	80 - 141	10 - 43

References

1. <https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/test-information/results-assessment/>
2. <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bb52>