

# TOEFL<sup>®</sup> iBT

## Internet-Based Test

## Preparation Course

Class time: **M W F 9:00-10:20**

Instructor: Sofya Avakimyan

Classroom: C112 (M W) & Pacific Lab (F)

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The 10-week TOEFL iBT Preparation Course is designed to help ESL learners develop skills and strategies necessary for successful performance on the Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT). This course provides training of all four language skills: reading, listening, speaking, and writing in integration as it is required for the TOEFL iBT.

### COURSE GOALS

As a result of taking this course, you will be able to:

- Become familiar with the format of the Internet-based TOEFL
- Improve test-taking strategies
- Improve reading and listening comprehension skills
- Improve writing and speaking skills
- Increase knowledge of the grammatical and lexical structures commonly used on the TOEFL iBT

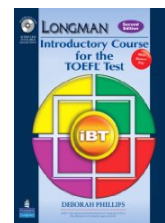
### MATERIALS

You are required to purchase the following book for the course. You can order this book from the publisher or from a commercial book distributor, such as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Please purchase your textbook as soon as possible!:

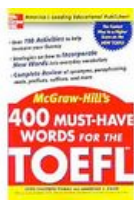


1. **Required:** Longman Preparation Course for the TOEFL iBT with **CD-ROM**, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Paperback), by Deborah Phillips. ISBN 0-13-205690-9 (Make sure it includes a CD and answer key)

**OR** Longman Introductory Course for the TOEFL iBT (Student Book with **CD-ROM** and **Answer Key**, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Paperback), by Deborah Phillips. ISBN-10: 0137135785 (Make sure it includes a CD and answer



key)



2. Recommended: 400 Must-have words for the TOEFL 2005. (Paperback) by Lynn Stafford-Yilmaz and Lawrence Zwier. ISBN 0-07-144328-2

3. Recommended: TOEFL iBT Online Practice is the official practice test that gives you the experience of taking the real TOEFL iBT. You will be able to review and answer authentic test questions and get instant scores and feedback on all 4 skills measured on the test — Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing

(<http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnnextoid=f28af5e44df4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=70a7197a484f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>).

## POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

### Attendance and Promptness

Please arrive to class **on time** and **be ready to work**. Remember that you are required to attend at least 80% of our class in order to receive a passing grade. If you have to miss a class, please let me know in advance by sending me an email with a brief explanation. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain relevant materials from your classmates and catch up.

### Participation

You will be held responsible for your level of participation in this class. This class is your chance to practice your English skills in a fun, relaxed atmosphere, so take advantage of it. The preparation you do for class not only affects you, but also your classmates. Please remember coming to class unprepared is disrespectful and distrustful to your fellow classmates and to your instructor.

**Word processing** is required for all assignments. Please upload all assignments to Moodle (elearning.miis.edu; IEP 100 TOEFL iBT SPB10; enrolment key - **TOEFLiBTSP10**). I will upload my feedback to your work to Moodle as well. Please do not submit handwritten work and do not submit your assignments by email.

### Housekeeping

Please deactivate mobile phones before class and keep them off. Laptop use during class is fine, as long as it is reserved exclusively for class activities.

## ASSESSMENT

This course as Pass/Fail; in order to receive a passing grade you must:

- **Attend at least 80% of classes**
- **Actively participate in class activities**
- **Submit all homework and assignments on time**

Assignments	Value
Attendance and participation in class	30 %
Writing Tasks	25%
Speaking Tasks	25 %
Homework	20 %
Total	100 %

Your grade will be assessed according to the following scale:

A+ = 98% - 100%	B+ = 88% - 89%	C+ = 78% - 79%	D+ = 68% - 69%	F = 59% - 0%
A = 93% - 97%	B = 83% - 87%	C = 73% - 77%	D = 63% - 67%	
A- = 90% - 92%	B- = 80% - 82%	C- = 70%- 72%	D- = 60% - 62%	

**PASS – 100-70%**

## COURSE FORMAT & ASSIGNMENT

Class sessions will include individual and collaborative exercises, test simulations, and discussions of homework. As **homework** you will be required to complete TOEFL iBT practice questions, reading passages, speaking, listening, and writing exercises. You are strongly encouraged to complete *all* exercises and assignments. The more practice you have before the test, the higher your TOEFL iBT score will be!

### Written Essays

Every week you will have to write an essay for an independent or integrated section of the test. You will revise your essays based on the detailed feedback received from me and sometimes your classmates. I strongly encourage you to seek tutors' help when working on the revising of your essays.

### Speaking Section Practice

You will practice for the speaking section of the exam by audio recording your responses to test prompts using **Audacity**. You will be receiving a detailed feedback for your speaking assignments from me and your peers.

## STRUCTURE OF THE TOEFL iBT

Section	Description	Testing Time	Questions	Score Scale
<b>Reading</b>	3-5 passages from academic texts; approximately 700 words long; 12-14 questions per passage.	60-100 minutes	36-70 questions	0-30
<b>Listening</b>	4-6 lectures, some with classroom discussion; each 3-5 minutes long; 6 questions each. 2-3 conversations; each 3 minutes long; 5 questions each.	60-90 minutes	34-51 questions	0-30
<b>Break</b>		10 minutes		
<b>Speaking</b>	2 tasks to express an opinion on a familiar topic (independent); 4 tasks to speak based on what is read and listened to (integrated).	20 minutes	6 tasks	0-4 points converted to 0-30 score scale
<b>Writing</b>	1 task to write based on what is read and listened to (integrated); 1 task to support an opinion on a topic (independent).	50 minutes	2 tasks	0-5 points converted to 0-30 score scale
<b>Total score</b>				0-120

## Useful Links

**ETS Official Website for the TOEFL** - <http://www.ets.org/>

TOEFL iBT Course - <http://www.toeflibtcourse.com/>

TOEFL iBT at a Glance - An overview of TOEFL iBT –  
[http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/TOEFL\\_at\\_a\\_Glance.pdf](http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/TOEFL_at_a_Glance.pdf)

TOEFL iBT Tips – Created to help English-language learners understand TOEFL iBT and prepare for it. – [http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/TOEFL\\_Tips.pdf](http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/TOEFL_Tips.pdf)

Also available at [http://upload.mcgill.ca/applying/TOEFL\\_Tips.pdf](http://upload.mcgill.ca/applying/TOEFL_Tips.pdf) and  
<ftp://ftp.ets.org/pub/toefl/989563wt.pdf>

Scoring Guides (Rubrics) for the Speaking Responses –  
[http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/Speaking\\_Rubrics.pdf](http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/Speaking_Rubrics.pdf)

Scoring Guides (Rubrics) for the Writing Responses –  
[http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/Writing\\_Rubrics.pdf](http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/Writing_Rubrics.pdf)

Sample TOEFL iBT writing responses, with benchmarks, ratings, and annotations –  
[http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/ibt\\_writing\\_sample\\_responses.pdf](http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/ibt_writing_sample_responses.pdf)

The BBC's website for Learning English through international news, activities, etc. –  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/>

A very good website on the basics of writing essays and the tricks to writing various essay types, some of which appear on the TOEFL— <http://essayinfo.com/>

TOEFL iBT Speaking Conqueror – <http://www.coredownload.com/download-TOEFL-iBT-Speaking-Conqueror-65344.html>

### Online dictionaries

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English - <http://www.ldoceonline.com/>

Oxford English Dictionary (OED) - online access: Log on to the MIIS library through the MIIS website ([www.miis.edu](http://www.miis.edu)), click Online Databases button, then select OED Online.

Encarta Dictionary - <http://dictionary.msn.com>

Merriam Webster - [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)

Dictionary.com - <http://dictionary.reference.com/>

The Free Dictionary by Farlex - <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/>

The Corpus of Contemporary American English (for collocations) -  
<http://www.americancorpus.org/>

Oxford Collocations Dictionary Online- <http://lohe-ocd.appspot.com/>

Thesaurus.com (for synonyms and antonyms) - <http://thesaurus.reference.com/>

Urban Dictionary (slang) - <http://www.urbandictionary.com/add.php>

Idioms Guide - <http://www.edict.com.hk/vlc/idioms/directory/>

Harper's Online Etymology Dictionary (for origins of words): [www.etymonline.com](http://www.etymonline.com)

## COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK/DATES	TOPIC/CLASS ACTIVITIES	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
Monday 04/05	Needs Assessment & Goal Setting	
Wednesday 04/06	Syllabus Introduction	
Friday 04/07	TOEFL iBT Tour Introduction to the Reading Section	
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>WRITING</b>	
Monday 04/12	Introduction to the Writing Section Independent Writing Task –Planning & Writing	<u>Longman CD-Reading</u> (Skills: Vocab & References) <b>OR</b> Photocopy (QT 1-2)
Wednesday 04/14	TIMED WRITING 1	
Friday 04/16		⌘ Diagnostic Essay Revision (before midnight); <u>Longman CD-Reading</u> (Skills: Sentences)
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>LISTENING</b>	
Monday 04/19	Introduction to the Listening Section (QT 1-6)	<u>Longman CD-Listening</u> (Skills: Basic Comprehension)
Wednesday 04/21	Listening Practice	
Friday 04/23	TIMED WRITING 2	<u>Longman CD-Listening</u> (Skills: Pragmatic Understanding); <u>Longman CD-Reading</u> (Skills: Details)
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>SPEAKING</b>	
Monday 04/26	Introduction to the Speaking Section	
Wednesday 04/28	Independent Speaking Task – Planning & Making the Response	Speaking response (Audacity) - Independent Speaking Task; TBD
Friday 04/30	TIMED WRITING 3	⌘ Independent Essay2; Speaking response (Audacity) - Independent Speaking Task; TBD <u>Longman CD-Reading</u> (Skills: Inferences) <u>Longman CD-Listening</u> (Skills: Connecting Information)
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<b>READING</b>	
Monday 05/03	Review of selected QT Vocabulary Learning Strategies	Read the Handout about Reading Question Types ( <b>NB:</b> 17 pages, plan to read in advance)
Wednesday 05/05	TIMED WRITING 4	
Friday 05/07		<u>Longman CD-Reading</u> (Skills: Reading to Learn) <u>Longman CD- Mini-test 1 &amp;2 – Listening</u>

<b>WEEK 6</b>	<b>WRITING</b>	
Monday 05/10	Writing Section: Integrated Essay	<u>Longman CD</u> - Mini Test 1 & 2 - Reading
Wednesday 05/12	Integrated Task – Planning & making the response	
Friday 05/14	TIMED WRITING 5 Integrated Writing workshop	⌘ Integrated Essay TBD <u>Longman CD</u> - Mini-test 3 &4 – Listening
<b>WEEK 7</b>	<b>LISTENING</b>	
Monday 05/17	Listening Practice	<u>Longman CD</u> - Mini Test 3 & 4- Reading
Wednesday 05/19	QT Review Vocabulary Strategies	
Friday 05/21	TIMED WRITING 6	<u>Longman CD</u> - Mini-test 5 & 6 – Listening
<b>WEEK 8</b>	<b>SPEAKING</b>	
Monday 05/24	Integrated Speaking (Academic and Campus)	<u>Longman CD</u> - Mini Test 5 & 6 - Reading
Wednesday 05/26	Planning and Delivering	Speaking response (Audacity) - Integrated Speaking Task; TBD
Friday 05/28	TIMED WRITING 7	Speaking response (Audacity) – Integrated Speaking Task; TBD <u>Longman CD</u> - Mini-test 7 & 8 – Listening
<b>WEEK 9</b>	<b>WRITING</b>	
Monday 05/31	Independent and Integrated Essays	<u>Longman CD</u> - Mini Test 7 & 8 - Reading
Wednesday 06/02		
Friday 06/04	TIMED WRITING 8	⌘ Integrated Essay TBD <u>Longman CD</u> - Complete test 1 & 2 - Listening
<b>WEEK 10</b>	<b>WRITING/SPEAKING</b>	
Monday 06/07	TBD	<u>Longman CD</u> – Complete test 1 & 2 - Reading
Wednesday 06/09	Wrap-up; Course Evaluations	
Friday 06/11	 <b>NO Class – ESL Graduation Friday</b>	