

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST FOR APPLICANTS TO ENGLISH-SPEAKING PROGRAMS AT THE SAINT JOSEPH UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

I. ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST (TALA): MANDATORY REQUIREMENT

Prior to registering in the Bachelor in an English-speaking program, applicants must have been placed at least in level “B” on the English Placement Test (TALA).

Applicants who have obtained a TOEFL score equivalent to 80 or above (internet-based) or 548 or above (paper-based) or an IELTS score of 6.5 or more are exempt from taking the test.

Number of Allowed Attempts

Applicants may take the TALA multiple times, but a minimum interval of 28 days is required between attempts. In such cases, the highest score is retained.

II. TAKING THE TALA

Test Format

The TALA, which takes 1 hour and 30 minutes, consists of three sections:

- Part 1: Listening Comprehension – 25 minutes
- Part 2: Essay Writing – 45 minutes
- Part 3: Reading Comprehension – 15 minutes

The first part consists of 4 sections; applicants listen to instructions and respond to multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank questions. The second part involves writing an essay based on a prompt, and in the third part, they read a passage and answer 10 comprehension questions (multiple-choice and open-ended). A description and a sample test can be found at: <http://www.usj.edu.lb/testdaptitude/modele.html>.

Where to Take the Test?

Tests are scheduled throughout the year in Beirut and at regional campuses in North Lebanon, South Lebanon, and the Beqaa.

When to Take the Test?

It is highly recommended that applicants take this test in Grade 11. This gives them time, should they fail, to improve their language skills (throughout the school year or over the summer) and to retake the test before University enrollment deadlines.

How to Register for the Test?

Applicants can collectively register for the test through their high school administration or individually.

For collective registrations, the school coordinates with the Director of the Language Placement Test Office at the Faculty of Languages and Translation (FdLT) or the regional campus secretariat to set a test date. The school fills out registration forms, pays the fees, and assigns a staff member to accompany students and verify their identities. The school receives the results.

For individual registrations, applicants must contact the University’s Language Placement Test Office or the regional campus secretariat. Registration is valid for a single test session on the specified date.

Important Note!

Because the test includes listening to recorded texts, it is essential that candidates arrive on time. Latecomers will not be admitted to the testing room. Any attempt at cheating or impersonating before, during, or after the test will result in a permanent ban from the Saint Joseph University of Beirut. Anyone assisting in cheating will also be banned from enrolling at the University.

III. TALA RESULTS

Based on their results, candidates are placed into five levels: A, B, C, D, and E.

Passing requires being placed in either level A or B.

Individual results are available on the Saint Joseph University of Beirut website: <http://www.usj.edu.lb/testdaptitude>.

N.B.:

The TALA is not a requirement for admission to programs taught in French at USJ. However, students who have already taken the test may enroll in programs taught in French without needing to retake it. Depending on their ranking, students enrolled at USJ may take remedial courses at FdLT to reach and pass level A, a *sine qua non* condition to graduate from Bachelor programs.