



ABTS English Exam Information

English is the language used for all Asia Biblical Theological Seminary courses. As such, applicants are required to take an English proficiency exam during the admissions process. This exam is a test of your ability to use the English language. It contains three sections. This document provides an overview of the exam's three sections. Applicants are encouraged to review this document in preparation for taking the exam.

Overview

- The exam consists of three sections: listening comprehension, written expression, and reading comprehension.
- All questions are multiple choice.
- The exam is free and will be administered online by an ABTS representative.

SECTION 1 - LISTENING COMPREHENSION

In this section of the test, you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to understand conversations and talks in English. Answer all the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied by the speakers you hear.

Part A

You will hear short conversations between two people. After each conversation, you will hear a question about the conversation. The conversations and questions will not be repeated. After you hear a question, read the four possible answers and choose the best answer.

Part B

In this part of the test, you will hear longer conversations. After each conversation, you will hear several questions. The conversations and questions will not be repeated. After you hear a question, read the four possible answers in your exam and choose the best answer.

Part C

In this part of the test, you will hear several talks. After each talk, you will hear some questions. The talks and questions will not be repeated. After you hear a question, read the four possible answers and choose the best answer.

SECTION 2 - STRUCTURE AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

This section is designed to measure your ability to recognize language that is appropriate for standard written English. There are two types of questions in this section, with special directions for each type.

Part A - Structure

Questions 1-15 are incomplete sentences. Beneath each sentence, you will see four words or phrases, marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). Choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Example 1:

Geysers have often been compared to volcanoes _____ they both emit hot liquids from below the Earth's surface.

- (A) due to
- (B) because
- (C) in spite of
- (D) regardless of

The sentence should read, "Geysers have often been compared to volcanoes because they both emit hot liquids from below the Earth's surface." Therefore, you should choose (B).

Example 2:

During the early period of ocean navigation, _____ any need for sophisticated instruments and techniques.

- (A) so that hardly
- (B) when there hardly was
- (C) hardly was
- (D) there was hardly

The sentence should read, "During the early period of ocean navigation, there was hardly any need for sophisticated instruments and techniques." Therefore, you should choose (D).

Part B - Written Expression

Each sentence has four underlined words or phrases. The four underlined parts of the sentence are marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). Identify the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct. See the example below.

Example:

Guppies are sometimes call rainbow fish because of the males' bright colors
A B C D

The sentence should read, "Guppies are sometimes called rainbow fish because of the males' bright colors." Therefore, you should choose (A).

SECTION 3 - Reading Comprehension

In this section, you will read several passages. Each one is followed by several questions about it. Answer all questions about the information in a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

Read the passage:

Line (1) The railroad was not the first institution to impose regularity on society,
or to draw attention to the importance of precise timekeeping. For as long as
merchants have set out their wares at daybreak and communal festivities
have been celebrated, people have been in rough agreement with their
Line (5) neighbors as to the time of day. The value of this tradition is today more
apparent than ever. Were it not for public acceptance of a single yardstick of
time, social life would be unbearably chaotic; the massive daily transfers of
goods, services, and information would proceed in fits and starts; the very
fabric of modern society would begin to unravel.

Example 1:

What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) In modern society we must make more time for our neighbors.
- (B) The traditions of society are timeless.
- (C) An accepted way of measuring time is essential for the smooth functioning of society.
- (D) Society judges people by the times at which they conduct certain activities.

The main idea of the passage is that societies need to agree about how time is to be measured in order to function smoothly. Therefore, you should choose (C).

Example 2:

In line 5, the phrase “this tradition” refers to

- (A) the practice of starting the business day at dawn
- (B) friendly relations between neighbors
- (C) the railroad’s reliance on time schedules
- (D) people’s agreement on the measurement of time

The phrase “this tradition” refers to the preceding clause, “people have been in rough agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day.” Therefore, you should choose (D).