

# Cutting Edge Placement Test - Notes & Answer Key

## About the Placement Test

The purpose of a placement test is to identify the most suitable starting point for a learner's study. A placement test is not a diagnostic test, nor an achievement test and should not be used for these purposes.

The test is divided into five tests A-E. Each test covers the language taught in one level of the *Cutting Edge* series.

- Test A covers material from *Cutting Edge Starter*
- Test B covers material from *Cutting Edge Elementary*
- Test C covers material from *Cutting Edge Pre-intermediate*
- Test D covers material from *Cutting Edge Intermediate*
- Test E covers material from *Cutting Edge Upper Intermediate*.

This placement test is intended to produce a profile of the learner's knowledge in English in order to identify the learner's 'cut-off point'. This cut-off point would be the point in the *Cutting Edge* series, where learning should begin.

Each test (A-E) contains 24 questions. The balance of questions is as follows:

### Listening Test (4 marks)

- Listening comprehension (4 questions)

### Reading Test (20 marks)

- Reading comprehension (question numbers 1-4)
- Vocabulary (question numbers 5-8)
- Communication (question numbers 9-12)
- Grammar (question numbers 13-20)

Note: The audio material for the listening tests is taken from the Cutting Edge Class CD/ Cassettes

- Recording A – uses Consolidation Modules 9-12, recording 1 from *Cutting Edge Starter* Class CD (0 582 501830) or Cassette (0 582 501822).
- Recording B – uses Module 4, recording 3 from *Cutting Edge Elementary* Class CD (0 582 438438) or Cassette (0 582 438462)
- Recording C – uses Module 12, recording 5 from *Cutting Edge Pre-intermediate* Class CD (0 582 40021X) or Cassette (0 582 400236)
- Recording D – uses Module 8, recording 3 from *Cutting Edge Intermediate* Class CD (0 582 488850) or Cassette (0 582 325625)
- Recording E – uses Consolidation Modules 9-12, recording 2 (conversation 1) from *Cutting Edge Upper Intermediate* Class CD (0 582 488869) Cassette (0 582 325617)

## Using the test and placing students

Each test should be graded separately so that a learners would gain a separate score out of 24 on each test. **The PASS GRADE for each test is 19/24.** The resulting score card might look as follows:

Test A	22/24	✓
Test B	20/24	✓
Test C	19/24	✓
Test D	10/24	X
Test E	6/24	X

From the example above, this learner has a good knowledge of English at Starter and Elementary levels, and a reasonable knowledge at Pre-intermediate level. The learner's cut-off point is clearly at intermediate level, so this learner would be placed in the class studying *Cutting Edge Intermediate*.

In any test based on multiple choice items, learners will have a statistical chance of guessing the correct response. In order to reduce this influence we should ignore any correct responses in tests above the cut-off point (so in the example above, the 6/24 on Test E would be ignored). For the same reason, we do not TOTAL the scores from the tests. The total score would have little meaning.

### Administration

For purposes of logistics, the Placement Test begins with the listening sections of each test. After the listening has been completed students would need 50 minutes for the remaining sections of the tests.

## **Answer Key**

### **Listening Test [1 mark per correct answer]**

**Recording A:** A, C, E, G

**Recording B:** 1 A; 2 D; 3 B; 4 B

**Recording C:** B, D, G, J

**Recording D:** A, C, D, G

**Recording E:** A, C, G, H

### **Test A**

#### **Reading Section**

Part One: 1 B; 2 C; 3 A; 4 B

Part Two: 5 A; 6 A; C; 8 A

Part Three: 9 B; 10 A; 11 B; 12 C

Part Four: 13 B; 14 A; 15 A; 16 C; 17 B; 18 C; 19 A; 20 C

### **Test B**

#### **Reading Section**

Part One: 1 D; 2 D; 3 D; 4 C

Part Two: 5 D; 6 B; 7 C; 8 C

Part Three: 9 A; 10 C; 11 C; 12 A

Part Four: 13 B; 14 D; 15 A; 16 C; 17 D; 18 B; 19 A; 20 C

### **Test C**

#### **Reading Section**

Part One: 1 D; 2 C; 3 B; 4 D

Part Two: 5 A; 6 C; 7 A; 8 C

Part Three: 9 A; 10 D; 11 B; 12 C

Part Four: 13 A; 14 D; 15 B; 16 C; 17 A; 18 A; 19 A; 20 A

### **Test D**

#### **Reading Section**

Part One: 1 A; 2 B; 3 C; 4 B

Part Two: 5 C; 6 B; 7 A; 8 B

Part Three: 9 C; 10 C; 11 B; 12 A

Part Four: 13 A; 14 B; 15 B; 16 B; 17 B; 18 B; 19 A; 20 A

### **Test E**

#### **Reading Section**

Part One: A, C, E, F

Part Two: 5 A; 6 B; 7 C; 8 A

Part Three: 9 B; 10 A; 11 A; 12 A

Part Four: 13 A; 14 A; 15 B; 16 A; 17 A; 18 A; 19 B; 20 A