

Some Basic Information on the TOEFL

The TOEFL is designed to test your ability to understand standard North American English. It is written and administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), a private, not-for-profit company based in New Jersey. The TOEFL was developed to help American and Canadian colleges and universities evaluate the level of English language proficiency of the international students they want to admit. You may need a certain TOEFL score to get into a particular college or university. However, even a high TOEFL score does not guarantee that you will get into the college of your choice. Nor does a high TOEFL score guarantee academic success. To succeed in school, you also need to know how to communicate in English.

Standardized Tests

The TOEFL is one of several standardized tests that measure a student's proficiency level in English.

A standardized test:

- Consists of different types of multiple-choice questions
- Is given to a large number of people at the same time
- Is graded by computer
- Is timed

Because Kaplan has studied and analyzed many TOEFL exams, we can explain to you the form of the test and the kinds of questions that will appear on the test, and help you develop skills and strategies for taking the test. This will allow you to work more efficiently when it comes time to take the actual test.

Form and Content of the Paper-Based TOEFL

The paper-based TOEFL is approximately two hours long, excluding the thirty-minute essay, and consists of at least 140 multiple-choice questions. The number of questions and the duration of the test may vary. If you include the time it takes to fill in forms and listen to directions, you will spend about three hours at the test site.

TOEFL questions are divided into three sections: Section I, Listening Comprehension; Section II, Structure and Written Expression; and Section III, Reading Comprehension. Each section is timed separately. You have approximately 30–40 minutes to work on Section I, 25 minutes to work on Section II, 55 minutes to work on Section III, and 30 minutes for TWE (the essay). Once you are done with a section, you cannot return to it.

Listening Comprehension

In the Listening Comprehension section, which consists of 50 questions, you listen to spoken English and answer questions that test how well you understood what you heard. This section con-