

Statements of Results

Information to help answer candidates' questions

The Graphical profile

Cambridge ESOL has a responsibility to give candidates helpful and meaningful information about their exam performance. Some time ago, Cambridge ESOL introduced the **graphical profile** on the statement of results. This was developed after extensive trialling around the world and in response to requests from centres and schools for more information on exam performance. Feedback on the graphical profile has been very positive, but we are aware that, like any additional information that Cambridge ESOL supplies to candidates and teachers, the graphical profiles also provoke questions and challenges.

The profile shows how a candidate performed on each of the papers in the exam. The shaded bands on the graphical profiles do not correspond to the grades awarded for that skill because no grades are awarded for individual components; the overall result is based on an addition of the scores for all the components, and candidates cannot pass or fail individual papers (hence the use of the word 'Borderline' on the profile rather than Pass/Fail). This approach means that a candidate can be relatively weak in one or more components but still achieve a pass grade because they are correspondingly strong in other skills.

It is not possible to calculate the precise score in each component from the profile. Each of the shaded bands is divided into three or four sub-bands (these are the lines where the component names are printed). Each sub-band represents a range of marks – not a single mark - for that component: there are 15 sub-bands on the profile while each component is out of 40 marks.

The number of marks represented by each sub-band is greater at the top ('Exceptional') and bottom ('Weak') of the profile. This is because the exams are designed at a targeted level, and measure more precisely in the mid range – typically around the borderline and just above this. Also, the profile is likely to be most helpful to candidates who are just below/above the borderline so as to indicate where their strengths and weaknesses lie and which areas they might focus their studies on in future.

The Standardised Score

More recently, in response to centres' and candidates' requests for further information, Cambridge ESOL introduced the **standardised score**. This is the score for the whole exam. The candidate can see whether his or her score is near the top of the grade, in the middle or near the bottom. The score is shown as a mark out of 100, which is converted from the total number of marks available in the exam. The score for each grade is the same every time the exam is taken. This is called a *standardised score*. The score is not shown on the certificate.

The graphical profile and the standardised score are useful as they indicate to candidates, teachers and receiving organisations how well a candidate has done in a particular skill and within a particular grade.

More information on interpreting the Statement of Results can be found on the Cambridge ESOL website at:

www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/exams-info/results-information/index.html