



OET Overview

Week 1: Day 2

Tuesday 22nd September 2026



Objective

- What is the OET and who needs to take it?
- What does each sub-test look like?
- What do I need to do to get the grades I need?
- How can I take the test?
- OET Overview Quiz
- Questions?



What is the OET?

The OET is a global English language test for healthcare workers, to assess the proficiency of people wishing to work in an English-speaking setting.

It focuses on healthcare setting communication and assesses the four language skills: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking.

Candidates will receive a separate grade for each skill. There is no overall grade for the OET.

The test is recognised by healthcare boards and councils around the world and is required in order to work in the NHS.

The OET Test is available across the following 12 professions:



Dentistry



Dietetics



Medicine



Occupational
therapy



Optometry



Pharmacy



Podiatry



Radiography



Speech
Pathology



Nursing

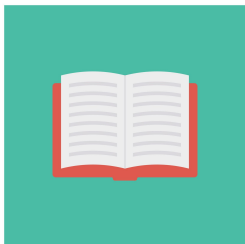


Physiotherapy



Veterinary
science

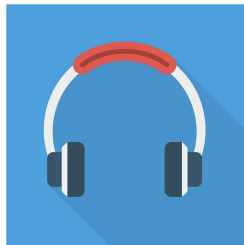
Sub-Test Trivia



Reading

1 hour

- Part A: 15 mins
- Part B & C: 45 mins
- Total questions: 42



Listening

Approx. 40 minutes

- Part A: 2 x Extracts, 12 Qs per extract
- Part B: 6 x Extracts, 1 Multiple choice question per extract
- Part C: 2 x Extracts, 6 multiple choice questions per extract



Writing

45 minutes

1x Profession Specific Brief

- 5 mins reading time
- 40 mins writing time

Note: No specific time for proofreading!



Speaking

20 minutes

2x Profession Specific Roleplays

- 4 minutes warm up
- 3 mins preparation time
- 5 mins role play

What do I need to get the grades?



Listening typical abilities:

- ✓ Can mostly understand and follow extended speech on abstract and complex topics within the healthcare field.
- ✓ Can follow patient consultations, workplace discussions, professional talks and presentations in a wide range of medical contexts with relative ease.
- ✓ Can understand complex healthcare and technical information, such as operating instructions, details of treatments and best practice procedures within a healthcare setting.
- ✓ Can mostly record detailed content of a general medical nature accurately.



Reading typical abilities:

- ✓ Can understand texts of varying lengths on a range of healthcare topics, identifying points of detail, attitudes and stated opinions.
- ✓ Can understand general workplace documentation in a variety of healthcare contexts, including instructions, medical and procedural information.
- ✓ Can use locating and retrieving skills to find specific healthcare information and record that information with a degree of accuracy.
- ✓ Can draw information from more than one workplace related documentation.

What do I need to get the grades?



Speaking typical abilities:

- ✓ Can competently use elements of clinical communication including relationship building, understanding the patient's perspective, providing structure and information gathering and giving techniques.
- ✓ Can engage with patients in a clear and accessible way.
- ✓ Can be easily understood making use of features of spoken English to get message across.
- ✓ Can use mostly appropriate register for the healthcare context.



Writing typical abilities:

- ✓ Can communicate the purpose of a specific healthcare document with some degree of expansion.
- ✓ Can select and accurately represent vital medical information that is generally targeted to a particular healthcare professional.
- ✓ Can write concisely and clearly, summarising key medical details most of the time.
- ✓ Can logically structure and format a healthcare document for efficient retrieval of information with occasional lapses.

Possible Speaking Contexts

Possible Writing Contexts

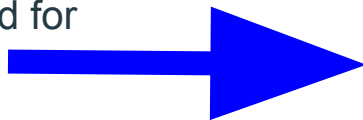
Nursing	Community clinic Hospital ward Home visit/Aged care	Discharge/transferral of patient to another care provider Referral for new treatment pathway
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- Testing for both the Speaking and Writing sub-tests are profession specific.
- The scores are calculated based on raw scores produced by specially trained OET assessors.
- You are required to write between 180-200 words for the writing sub-test. Candidates will write in a separate, lined, paper, answer booklet.
- For listening and reading, candidates write directly onto the question booklet. Each questions is worth 1 mark.

Grade B or above required for
Reading, Listening and Speaking



Grade C+ or above required for
Writing



OET grade:	Description of ability:
A	Very high level of performance
B	High level of performance, i.e. able to use English with fluency and accuracy adequate for professional needs
C+	Good level of performance; however, not acceptable to a range of health and medical councils
C	
D	Moderate level of performance: requires improvement
E	Low level of performance: requires considerable improvement

How can I take the test?



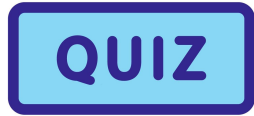
Paper-based at a venue



Computer-based at a venue



Computer-based via remote proctor (OET@Home)



OET Overview Quiz

<https://www.wordwall.net/resource/119637864/oet-overview>

Any Questions?



Information taken from OET Teachers Handbook