Pearson
Global Scale of English

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What is the Global Scale of English (GSE)?

- The Global Scale of English (GSE) is a standardised, granular English proficiency scale from 10–90, and is psychometrically aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR, Council of Europe, 2001).

- Unlike the CEFR which describes proficiency in six wide levels (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2), the GSE identifies what a learner can do at each point on the scale across speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, to provide a more granular description of language proficiency.
## CEFR: 6 Common Reference Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEFR</th>
<th>CEFR LABEL</th>
<th>CEFR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>Mastery</td>
<td>Proficient User</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Operational efficiency</td>
<td>Independent User</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>Vantage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Threshold</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Waystage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Breakthrough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GSE 開発経緯（1990年台の Swiss project）

• When the CEFR was being developed in the mid-nineties, around 2,000 teachers were involved in selecting, sorting and rating speaking-related can-do statements using sources from around the world.

• Each one of these original can-do statements was given a numeric difficulty value and ranked accordingly. After examining the list, researchers led by Brian North noticed that the statements fell into clusters of approximately nine groups. Cut-off points were added and nine levels were created.
The original scales

- While there were originally nine CEFR levels (ten if you include ‘Tourist’ level), if you compare the tables you will see that A2+, B1+ and B2+ are not included in the more familiar table in the CEFR. This is because various stakeholders, including exam bodies and publishers, thought that a six-level model would better reflect their course book catalogs at the time.
GSE: Rationale

• We developed the Global Scale of English (GSE) to help teachers measure learner progress more accurately than is possible with the current six-level CEFR model.

• Professor John de Jong, who was originally opposed to removing the three levels from the CEFR, converted Brian North’s original data to a positive scale from 10 to 90. This turned the complex difficulty ratings (which had decimal places and negative values) into something more accessible and motivating for students and teachers.

• The GSE not only brings back the three ‘missing levels’ which were removed, but the newly-developed GSE Learning Objectives extend the current CEFR can-do statements to provide more information for each of the four skills; reading, writing, listening and speaking.

• By aligning our courses with the GSE, we are giving learners more hours of exposure to the target language. This allows them to move through the levels in a realistic amount of time with fresh can-do statements that have been rated by over 6,000 teachers worldwide.
The relation between GSE and CEFR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEFR</th>
<th>Global Scale of English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below A1</td>
<td>10–21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Tourist</td>
<td>10–12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist</td>
<td>13–21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>22–29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>30–35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2+</td>
<td>36–42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>43–50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1+</td>
<td>51–58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>59–66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2+</td>
<td>67–75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>76–84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>85–90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GSEでは A2, B1, B2 の幅がA1, C1 よりもかなり広い
GSE point

- If proficiency is defined as a point on a scale, e.g. 61 on the GSE, then a learner is expected to be able to perform 50% of all tasks which are at 61 on the GSE or to have a 50% chance of being able to perform any task at 61 on the GSE.
The development workflow

Gaps identified: New Learning Objectives (LOs) are written

Internal workshops: New LOs are reviewed & refined

Teacher Rating: Thousands of teachers worldwide rate the new LOs on the GSE & CEFR

1st Analysis: Problematic LOs are removed, revised and re-rated

2nd Analysis: Psychometricians calibrate the new LOs to the GSE

Final qualitative review: GSE values are approved by content editors

Publication
Identifying gaps and writing new GSE LOs

Sources
- Syllabuses and course materials
- National curricula
- CEFR ‘can-do’ statements

GSE Learning Objectives
- Gap analysis
- Draft additional learning objectives

Expert Consensus on GSE value
- Teacher rating – ‘expert’ and ‘online’
- Consensus = retain
- Lack consensus = review and revise
The distribution of the GSE values for the new LOs
Aligning various resources to GSE

Various proficiency tests

Vocabulary

Grammar

CEFR-J
Alignment between CEFR-J and GSE

Technical Report:
Aligning CEFR-J descriptors to GSE

October 2016
Mike Mayor
Daeryong Seo
John H.A.L. de Jong
Simon Buckland

Global Scale of English Research Series

\[ y = 1.0442x - 3.4086 \]
\[ r^2 = 0.97 \]
GSE Teacher Toolkit

• The following information is available on the GSE scale:
  • Learning objectives
  • Grammar
  • Vocabulary

• Let’s take a look at the database

• https://www.english.com/gse/teacher-toolkit/user/lo