

## **Language Proficiency Index Exam (LPI)**

This test is used by many Canadian colleges, universities and employers to determine proficiency in English. The LPI Test is 2.5 hours long and consists of four parts.

### **Test Format**

#### Part 1

##### **Sentence Structure**

Ten sentences are presented, and examinees are asked to recognize, though not identify by name, common errors in sentence structure. The sentence errors tested are selected from the following:

- An incomplete sentence
- A run-on sentence (sometimes called a comma fault)
- A misplaced modifier
- A dangling modifier
- Faulty pronoun reference
- Faulty subject-verb agreement
- Faulty parallel structure
- Redundant subordination/coordination

#### Part 2

##### **English Usage**

Ten sentences are presented, and examinees are asked to recognize, though not identify by name, common errors in English usage typically made by people for whom English is their second language. The usage errors to be tested are from the following categories:

- Incorrect use of “a” or “the”
- Incorrect plural of a noun
- Incorrect form of a noun or incorrect use of a noun
- Wrong case of a pronoun
- Confusion between an adverb and an adjective
- Incorrect form of a verb
- Incorrect tense of a verb
- Incorrect preposition
- A non-standard English expression or idiom

### Part 3

#### **Reading Comprehension**

In **Section A**, examinees are asked to read two prose passages (each of about 300 words) and then answer four multiple-choice questions that accompany each passage.

In **Section B**, examinees are given three prose passages to read (each of about 200 words) and asked to summarize the passage's main idea or ideas in no more than three sentences.

### Part 4

#### **Essay Writing**

The examinee is required to write a 300-400 word argumentative essay on one of three topics.

The writer will be expected to state a point of view and explain it, or the writer will be expected to agree or disagree with a statement and provide reasons for his or her choice.

#### **Useful links to get help and practice with the LPI**

Main LPI website: [www.lpitest.ca](http://www.lpitest.ca)

Grammar and reading practice: [www.pluralsight.com](http://www.pluralsight.com)