

# HOW TO READ YOUR SCORE REPORT

## Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP)

### Overview

The Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) consists of the following four independently scored subtests:

- Reading Comprehension
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Writing

Your score report provides the following information regarding your results for the TAP: your scaled score by subtest for the test date indicated, your testing history for both the TAP and/or the Basic Skills test by subtest, and diagnostic information for subtests taken on the test date indicated.

Evaluation Systems reports your official scores to you, to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and to the educator preparation program(s) you indicated during the registration process. In addition, approved Illinois educator preparation programs will be able to access any of your test results (pass or did not pass) posted to the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). You should keep the score report for your own records.

### Scaled Scores

Your score for each TAP subtest is reported on a scale from 100 to 300. To pass the TAP, you must obtain a scaled test score of 240 or higher on each TAP subtest or in combination with Basic Skills (300) subtests.

### Multiple-Choice Subtest Scores

Your scaled score for the Reading Comprehension, Language Arts, and Mathematics TAP subtests is based on the number of multiple-choice questions answered correctly; you do not "lose" any points for wrong answers. Each multiple-choice test question counts the same toward the subtest score.

### Writing Subtest Score

The written response for the TAP is scored by at least two qualified educators who receive extensive orientation in standardized scoring procedures and take a qualifying assessment to ensure that they are ready to score. Responses are scored based on the extent to which they effectively communicate a whole message to the specified audience for the stated purpose. Examinees are assessed on their ability to express, organize, and support opinions and ideas. They are not assessed on length or on the positions they take. The composition should conform to the conventions of edited English as used in the United States and should be the examinee's own original work. More specifically, each response is scored according to the following performance characteristics:

1. **Focus:** the clarity with which the response presents and maintains the main idea
2. **Support/Elaboration:** the extent to which the main idea is supported and explained by details and reasons
3. **Organization:** the explicitness of the text structure or plan and the clarity of the logical flow of ideas
4. **Grammar and Conventions:** the extent to which the response shows control of the use of standard written English and the extent to which errors interfere with communication of the main idea

A score is assigned to each response based on a six-point scale that describes various levels of performance, with 1 representing a totally undeveloped response and 6 representing a response that is very well developed. Each response is read and scored by two readers; the sum of the two readers' scores is the total score assigned to the essay. In most cases, if the two readers' scores differ by more than one point, the scores are regarded as discrepant and the response is scored by a third reader. For example, a total score of 10 can result only from readers' scores of 5 plus 5, not from scores of 4 plus 6, since the scores in the latter pair differ by more than one point. In some cases scores are regarded as discrepant if they differ by only one point, and they are then scored by a third reader.

The raw score for each written response is converted to a scale from 100 to 300, with 240 or above representing acceptable performance on the assignment.

**More information about the scoring process, including detailed descriptions of the score points (1–6) and a sample essay, is provided in the ILTS Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) study guide, which is available on the ILTS website at [www.il.nesinc.com](http://www.il.nesinc.com).**

### Testing History

This section of your report lists each TAP and/or Basic Skills subtest you have passed to date and the date on which you passed it. Each subtest you have not yet taken is noted as "Not Taken." Please note that testing history is not available on score report reprints.

### Diagnostic Information

Your score report contains information regarding your performance to help you identify your relative strengths and weaknesses.

For multiple-choice subtests, you will find the number of scored subtest questions as well as the percentage of these questions that you answered correctly by an applicable test standard/objective.

If you did not obtain a Writing subtest scaled score of 240 or higher, the features of your writing that may need improvement are indicated. If your response is off topic, illegible, written primarily in a language other than English, or lacking a sufficient quantity of original work to score, you will receive a score of "U" for unscorable. A designation of "B" is assigned if you provided no response.

Please note that while large differences in percent correct across standards indicate relative strengths and weaknesses, small differences in performance may be due to fluctuations in performance that are typical of multiple test administrations.