Versant Overview

Brands that trust Versant

A portfolio of language tests

Product	Skills	Duration	Purpose
Versant English Test	Speaking / Listening*	17 minutes	Placement
Versant Writing Test	Writing	35 minutes	Placement
Versant Four Skills Essential Test	Four Skills	30 minutes	Placement
Versant English Placement Test	Four Skills	50 minutes	Placement, Benchmarking
Versant Professional English Test	Four Skills	60 minutes	Benchmarking
Versant Spanish / Arabic / French / Dutch Tests	Speaking / Listening*	15 minutes	Placement

Our portfolio of tests

Place

Help learners get off to a flying start by placing them in the right English class on their first day

Benchmark

Monitor English progress with benchmark tests - not just their knowledge of one coursebook - prepare them for certificates and advanced English tests.

Certify

To prove learners' skills to potential employers or schools, choose a certificated test recognised by your local government or institution.

Verify

To study or move abroad, choose PTE Academic, accepted by the Australian Government and 1000s of universities around the world.

Versant for corporate

Talent acquisition funnel

- Part of the selection process
 - Top of the funnel
  - End of the funnel

Learning and development

- Language training programs
  - Test in: for placement and baseline
  - Test out: individual progress, company shows ROI, improve teaching program.

Questions that Versant answer

- Does this job candidate have the ability they need to communicate effectively with customers?

- Is this potential hire going to be effective in communicating with colleagues?

- Does this person have the level of language proficiency they require to be successful in a special assignment / overseas placement / training programme?

- What are this employee's language learning needs?

- What learning gains has this employee made on their language course?

Versant
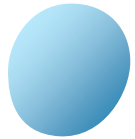
Productive skills

Versant tests the productive skills of language (speaking and writing) in addition to the receptive skills (listening and speaking) for a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of an individual's language proficiency.
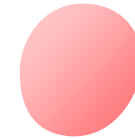
Accurate

Versant tests are incredibly accurate. When compared to expert human scorers they have a .97 correlation, and never have human biases.
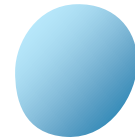
Quick results

AI scoring allows results to come almost instantaneously. This means that it is easy to include the Versant English test in the hiring process.

Time and scale

Organisations save time and money by easily administering and tracking results through our Scorekeeper platform for a few tests or hundreds without the need for additional human scorers.

Great user experience

Test-takers can take the test in multiple convenient ways accommodating all technology situations – making for a more positive user experience.

Productive Skills

Productive skills

Versant tests the productive skills of language (speaking and writing) in addition to the receptive skills (listening and speaking) for a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of an individual's language proficiency.

Unlike **TOEIC** and **EnglishScore,** the focus of the Versant portfolio is on productive language.

No competitor can offer the same depth / quality when assessing extended speech and writing.

Productive skills are essential in any customer-facing role

Integrated skills approach of four-skills tests mirrors real-life English use

Harder to drill / strategise / guess your way to an unrepresentative score than with multiple choice tests

Accuracy

Accurate

Versant tests are incredibly accurate. When compared to expert human scorers they have a .97 correlation, and never have human biases.

Unlike a face-to-face interview (and many competitor tests), Versant offers a consistent, reliable and **objective** measure of proficiency

Human biases and errors are eliminated

Same standard applied to all test takers, all over the world

Accurate, granular scores open up scope for remediation with the GSE

If the test is wrong, you're likely to end up hiring the wrong people!

Speed

Quick results

AI scoring allows results to come almost instantaneously. This means that it is easy to include the Versant English test in the hiring process.

Most results come back within five minutes

Easy to include Versant testing as part of interview process – no delays

Comparable degree of accuracy to traditional high-stakes test results but in a fraction of the time

Fast results enable fast decisions!

Scalability and user experience

Time and scale

Organisations save time and money by easily administering and tracking results through our Scorekeeper platform for a few tests or hundreds without the need for additional human scorers.

Affordable and accessible enough to deliver to large cohorts of applicants

Easy administration journey through Scorekeeper platform – no extra steps, no wasted time

Low technological barrier – computer / headset / microphone for four-skills tests, Speaking-focused tests can be taken on a mobile phone app

Versant + Remote Monitoring option enables testing from home

You're not cutting out potentially great applicants by making the test too much of a hassle to take and not neglecting to test everyone you should because it's too much of a hassle to deliver!

Versant English Test

- Test of facility with spoken English

- 17 minutes

- Can be done via mobile phone app

- Overall GSE score

- Fluency, Sentence Mastery, Vocabulary, Pronunciation

- Additional score for Intelligibility

- RM an option

Versant English Placement Test

- Four Skills – 50 minutes

- Age 16+

- Linear placement test

- Precise GSE scores

- Results in ten minutes

- Optional remote monitoring security (18+)

- Popular with universities
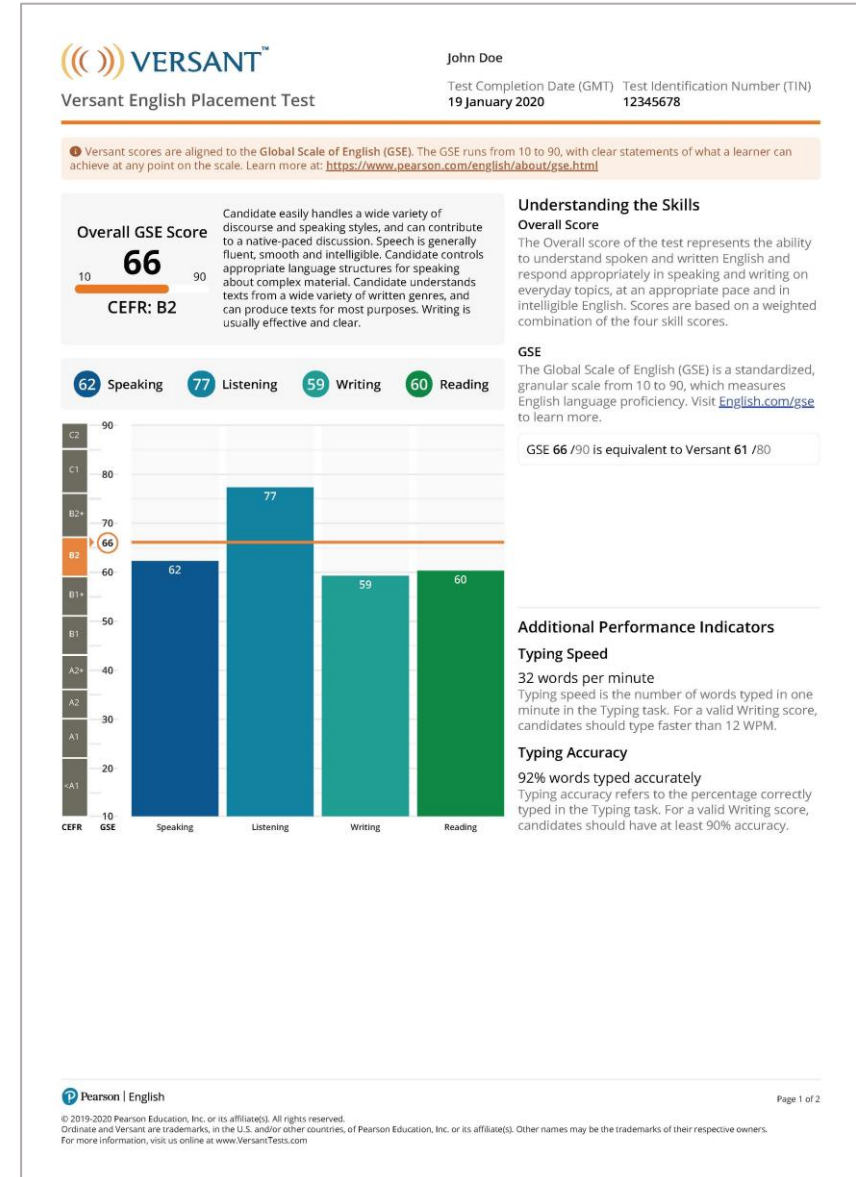
Versant English Placement Test

- Delivered via Scorekeeper platform
- Fast and efficient
- Integrated skills approach
- 9 item types (8 scored)
- Randomised test forms
- Recommendations for remediation
- Good value for money
- Price per test attempt (12 month license validity)

Current Capabilities in Detail

Understanding the Skills

**Speaking:** GSE: **62**/90   Versant: **59**/80   CEFR: **B2**

Speaking
Speaking reflects the ability to produce English phrases and clauses in complete sentences. The score is based on the ability to produce consonants, vowels, and stress in a native-like manner, use accurate syntax, use words appropriately in contexts, and use appropriate rhythm, phrasing, and timing.

Candidate produces a range of meaningful sentences. Candidate speaks with adequate rhythm but with some inappropriate phrasing and pausing. Many vowels and consonants are produced in a clear manner.

Tips to improve:
- Practice telling a short story about something funny that happened to you, including as many details as you can.
- Practice explaining how to do something, such as making your favorite meal, giving detailed instructions.

HighNote - L2:
SB: 8D ex 10   SB: 10E ex 7

Listening: GSE: **77**/90   Versant: **69**/80   CEFR: **C1**

Listening
Listening reflects the ability to understand specific details and main ideas from everyday English speech. The score is based on the ability to track meaning and infer the message from English that is spoken at a conversational pace.

Candidate follows most of what is said around him/her on most topics, although occasionally some information may be lost.

Tips to improve:
- Practice actively listening to spoken language delivered at fast speeds, such as TED Talks.
- Practice listening to complex podcasts and extracting the important details.
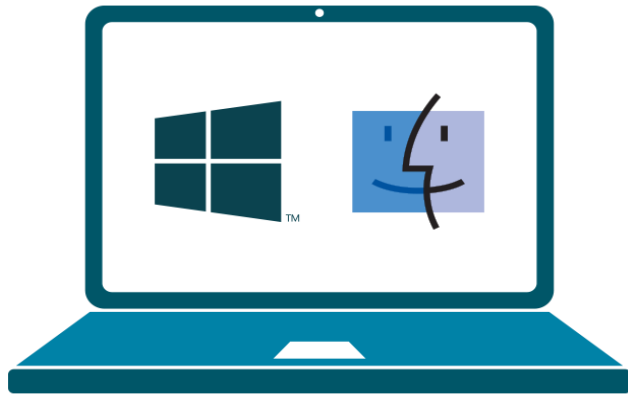
Versant Professional English Test

- Four skills
- Two levels A1 to B1+, B1+ to C2
- Professional / workplace English
- Overall GSE score
- Individual skill scores
- Recommendations for remediation
- Randomised test forms
- RM an option
- Great match with Business Partner
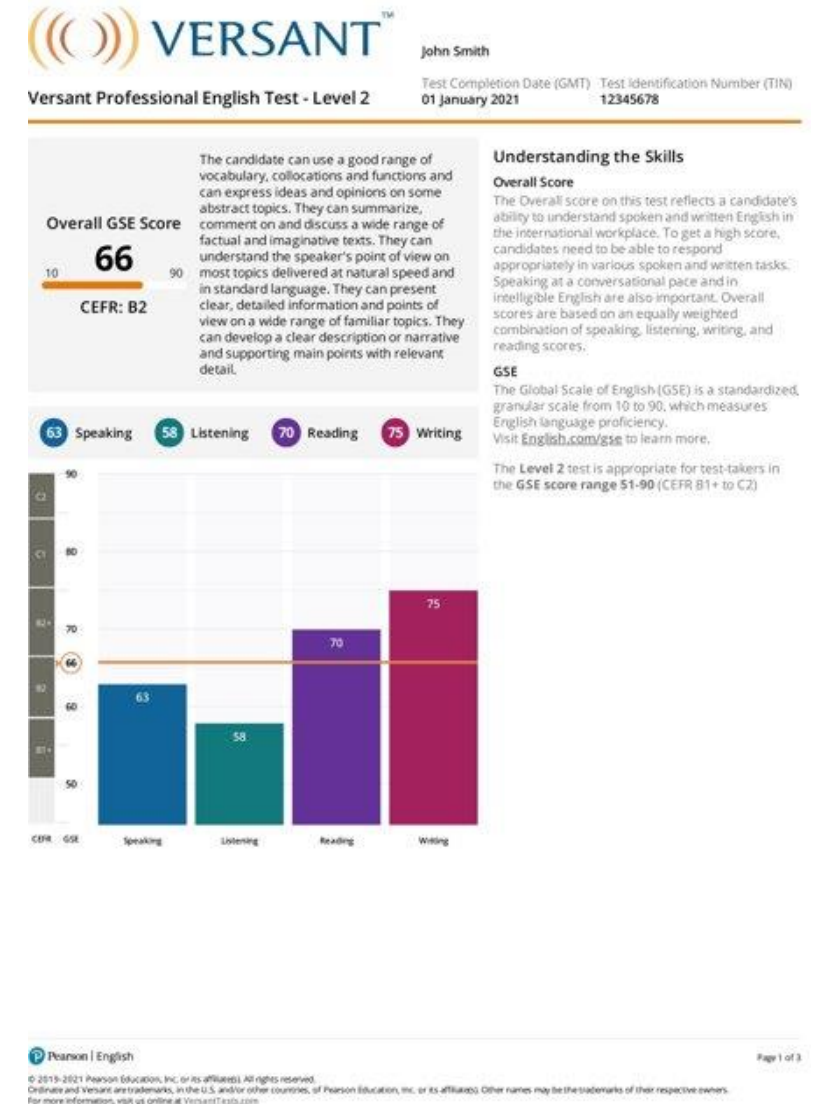
Admin and modalities

Tools for Web Administration

Computer
(PC or Mac)

Stable Internet
connection

Headset with
built-in microphone

Other Administration Options

Available options depends on test type

Desktop client
(CDT)

Windows only

Smartphone

With app on Android or iPhone devices

Tools for Administration – 4 Step Process

Admin or test taker accesses the Versant Testing System

Test taker responds to test questions or tasks
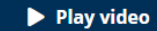
Responses are sent to the Versant scoring system
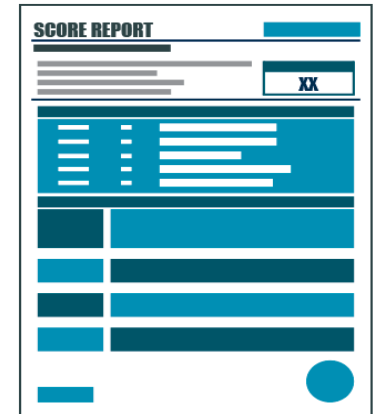
Versant Testing System scores the test and posts scores to the test administration tool

Scorekeeper – what the test takers see
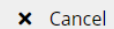
Scorekeeper – what the test takers see

vfw.versant.zone/wizard/line_noise_check?cartridge_id=15&ptp_wizard=true&user_id=6972167&written=false

PEARSON   Versant for Web

Speaking Tips.

It is important to **speak naturally** during the test.

Here are some tips:

- Speak at a **normal speed** like you would during a conversation.

- Speak like you are **talking to a person** on the phone. There is no need to speak too carefully or slowly.

- Speak at a **normal volume**, not too loud or too soft.

When you are ready, click Next.   Next

→ Next

cy Policy

s reserved.

Versant + Remote Monitoring

- Fully AI-powered proctoring analysis to flag suspicious behaviour

- Adds additional security and confidence to make placement and hiring decisions

- Browser-based Versant delivery

- Records video, made available to admin

Scores and Scoring

Scores and scoring

Tests typically return scores on two scales

  - Versant scale(s)

  - Global Scale of English

Additional CEFR reporting (overall / per skill)

Automated scoring

- Tests are 100% machine-scored, no human intervention
- Not new technology – Versant has been in use since 1996
- Same technology that powers our high-stakes tests
- Results typically returned within 5-10 minutes
- Key benefits = speed, accuracy, reliability
- Replicates human judgement without human biases or errors
- Tests can be shorter as we can extract more information from responses than human examiners can in real time

Automated scoring – how does it work?

- We train computer marking engine to look for the same traits in answers as expert human markers

- Every item is marked thousands of times by humans before it can be scored by computer

- Important to emphasise the human element

- Comparable to 'collective judgement' of expert markers

Score setting

Organisations will usually need to determine a cut score to make use of Versant tests for hiring.

Options include:

- Guidance from Pearson on comparable job roles

- Formal benchmarking exercise

- Informal benchmarking / piloting

- Reference to external standard (TOEIC / CEFR / etc)

Job role	CEFR B1+		CEFR B2		CEFR B2+ & above	
	GSE 55-58	GSE 59-62	GSE 61-64	GSE 62-65	GSE 65-70	GSE 70+
Simple Customer Service – routine responses with minimal data capture	✔					
Customer Service – more complex longer call		✔				
Customer Service with a cross sell			✔	✔		
High Value Customer Support					✔	✔
Technical Support – 2nd level support or escalation						✔

Preparation

Preparation

- No preparation is required to take Versant tests
- Some degree of test familiarisation may be helpful
- Free test guides and clickable demos available from website
- Option of paid (13 euro) scored practice test
- Only one version of practice test available, per test type