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Total Score: 160 (160 points X 4 sections, will not show up as the total (640), but rather show up as 160, a weighted average of the 4 sections)

Total Testing Time:

- 60 minutes. 4 competencies being tested which get scored as 4 sections, all of which happen concurrently.

Adaptive?: The Duolingo English Test **is** adaptive.

- The difficulty level of the content **does** change based on performance as the test taker progresses through the exam. This is true of the entire exam.

Sections and Timing:

While the Duolingo exam only has two distinguished sections within the exam, there are four basic competencies being tested. The two identifiable sections are the regular questions and then the speaking and writing sample section. A third arguable distinguishable section is the conversation segment, but Duolingo does not consider this separate from the main exam. Here is a chart displaying what is actually being tested on the exam. There is some overlap for the questions and the main skill being tested:

Skill Tested	# of Questions	Question Type	Question Format
Reading	Random/Adaptive (but each type of question will appear at least once)	Read and Complete, Read and Select, Read then Write, Complete the Sentence, Complete the Passage, Highlight the Answer, Identify the Idea, Title the Passage	fill-in-the-blanks, select all that apply, open response
Writing	Random/Adaptive (but each type of question will appear at least once)	Write about the Photo, Summarize the Conversation, Writing Sample	open response (written)
Speaking	Random/Adaptive (but each type of question will appear at least once)	Read Aloud, Speak about the Photo, Read then Speak, Speaking Sample	open response (spoken)
Listening	Random/Adaptive (but each type of question will appear at least once)	Listen and Type, Listen then Speak, Listen and Respond,	open response (written) and open response (spoken)

While questions do vary in terms of how many times they show up, here is a somewhat reliable guide for how many times *at minimum* the student can expect to see each question type on the exam. The questions are adaptive and there are no formal section segregations, but this is a fairly reliable indicator for frequency:

Type of Question	Frequency
Read and Complete, Read and Select, Listen and Type, and Read Aloud	4-6 times for each
Write about the Photo	3 times
Speak about the Photo, Read then Write, Read then Speak, Writing Sample, Speaking Sample	Once for each
Listen then Speak	Twice
Interactive Reading and Interactive Listening	2 sets of 6 questions (sometimes 5 questions for Interactive Listening)

Scoring Details:

- The composite score is a scaled score out of **160 points**
 - Points are gained for correct answers.
 - Points are not lost for incorrect answers.
- The four different skills tested (Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening) are all scored out of 160 in 5-point intervals, with the lowest possible score being a 10. These four numbers (“subscores”) are then taken and averaged on a scale unavailable to test-takers to produce the composite, or what Duolingo calls the “holistic” score.
- Both the composite score and individual section scores will be sent to schools. Schools will also be able to access the student’s writing and speaking sample, which, while a necessary part of the exam, is technically ungraded, but rather serve as a reference point for the student’s competency beyond the exam score.

FAQs:

- **How often can a person take the test?**
 - Three tests can be purchased to take within a 30 day period of the first attempt. While the student must wait for one attempt to be scored before beginning another, and cannot take more than three attempts in a 30 day period starting from the first attempt, there is no stated limit on how many times they can take the exam.

- **How long does it take to get the scores back?** 2 business days.
 - Students can get scores back as soon as 12 hours later by paying extra if desired.

- **For how long are the scores valid?** Two years from the exam date.

- **If the exam doesn't have sections, how is it broken up?** The test is broadly broken up into three distinct parts:
 - Information and registration (~5 minutes): filling in information, confirming you understand the rules, setting up your camera and microphone
 - The actual exam (~45 minutes): all standard question types, including the conversation practice questions
 - The writing and speaking sample (~10 minutes): producing a sample of writing and speaking on a topic determined by the exam, to be sent to colleges alongside other scores, but not scored itself