

DAAD Exam Preparation Tips

General remarks

Because the purpose of the DAAD exam is to assess your current level of English, no specific preparation is required. However, depending on how much time you have, you may want to do all or several of the following:

1. Take an English class with us.
2. Immerse yourself in the language environment by listening to or watching online lectures, TedTalks, and podcasts.
3. Engage in self-study.

Self-study resources

1. Writing a letter of motivation:

The following DAAD-authored handout clearly spells out what to include in a letter of motivation:
http://ic.daad.de/imperia/md/content/islamabad/letter_of_motivation.pdf

An American equivalent of a letter of motivation would be a statement of purpose. Several US universities offer excellent resources:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/graduate_school_applications/graduate_school_applications_statements_of_purpose/statements_of_purpose_drafting_your_statement.html

A personal statement falls in the same category:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/job_search_writing/preparing_an_application/writing_the_personal_statement/index.html

Letter of Intent/Statement of Purpose:

<https://towc.nmsu.edu/letter-of-intentstatement-of-purpose/>

2. Wring an expository essay:

“The expository essay is a genre of essay that requires the student to investigate an idea, evaluate evidence, expound on the idea, and set forth an argument concerning that idea in a clear and concise manner. This can be accomplished through comparison and contrast, definition, example, the analysis of cause and effect, etc.” (Purdue OWL)

You will find more about how to write an essay here:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/expository_essays.html

3. Practicing reading comprehension and speaking:

One of the ways to boost your performance is to do online practice tests.

❖ **Resource 1: British Council**

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills>

“Here you can find activities to practice your listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. Improving your skills will help you use English more effectively and do well in your studies, get ahead at work and communicate in English in your free time.

The self-study lessons in these sections are written and organized according to the levels of the *Common European Framework of Reference for languages* (CEFR). There are different types of texts, recordings and videos with interactive exercises and worksheets that practice the skills you need.”

❖ **Resource 2: IELTS practice tests**

IELTS scores range from 0 - 9. Students and teachers can map scores against the Common European Framework to help gauge a student's language ability:

https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/teach-ielts/test-information/scores-explained?_ga=2.13623987.566696882.1520307681-748360070.1513222155

- ✓ Free IELTS practice tests (listening, reading, speaking, and writing): There are two types of IELTS test to choose from, IELTS Academic or IELTS General Training. All test takers take the same Listening and Speaking tests but different Reading and Writing tests <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests>
- ✓ pdf. files (with answer key) of all six test components: <https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/sample-test-questions>
- ✓ Practice Tests for computer-delivered IELTS: <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/computer-delivered-ielts>

❖ **Resource 3: Cambridge English practice tests**

https://www.examenglish.com/cambridge_esol.php

“Please click on the name of the exam to find out more about it, and access the free practice tests.

IELTS - International English Language Testing System

First (FCE) - First Certificate in English (B2)

Advanced (CAE) - Certificate of Advanced English (C1)

Proficiency (CPE) - Certificate of Proficiency in English (C2)

Preliminary (PET), PET for Schools - Preliminary English Test (B1)

Key (KET) - Key English Test (A2)

BEC - Business English Certificates (B1, B2, C1)

BULATS - Business Language Testing Service”

Cambridge English grammar test (At the end of the test, your level will be assessed at a CEF level A2 to C2):

https://www.examenglish.com/leveltest/grammar_level_test.htm

English vocabulary practice test:

<https://www.examenglish.com/vocabulary/index.html>

❖ **Resource 4: TOEFL Practice tests**

TOEFL® structure and written expression test 1:

https://www.examenglish.com/TOEFL/toefl_structure_1.htm

“This free practice test has the same sort of questions as you will find in the paper-based TOEFL test. You have 20 minutes to do 20 questions. When you have completed the test you will get a score and you can review your answer to each question.”

TOEFL® reading test 1: Free Practice Test:

https://www.examenglish.com/TOEFL/TOEFL_reading1.htm

“This page will help you practice for the TOEFL reading test. This section has a reading passage about the development of language and grammar and 13 questions. Think carefully before you select an answer. Your answer is scored on the first click! This test is part 1 of a complete TOEFL test.”

TOEFL® Listening: Lectures 1 to 5 and conversation 1 to 6 (with the scripts)

https://www.examenglish.com/TOEFL/toefl_listening.htm

TOEFL iBT® Free Practice Test

https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare/free_practice_test

The TOEFL iBT® Free Practice Test provides free unlimited access to 1 full length TOEFL iBT test, including:

- ✓ *answer keys* for the Reading and Listening questions
- ✓ sample responses with rater commentary for the Speaking and Writing questions

❖ **Resource 5: Purdue Online Writing Lab (B2-C2 level exercises with answer key)**

These OWL resources contain grammar exercises about adjectives, adverbs, appositives, articles, count and noncount nouns, prepositions, and tense consistency:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl_exercises/grammar_exercises/index.html

These OWL resources contain information regarding punctuation rules and include exercises to help students practice using some basic punctuation marks, apostrophes, quotation marks, and commas:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl_exercises/punctuation_exercises/index.html

These OWL resources contain information regarding common spelling errors and include exercises to help students practice distinguishing between the different uses of these errors:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl_exercises/spelling_exercises/index.html

These OWL resources offer information and exercises on how to clarify sentences and specifically discuss sentence clauses, sentence fragments, sentence structure, and subject-verb agreement:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl_exercises/sentence_structure/index.html

These OWL resources contain information on how to write clear and strong sentences and include exercises on how to eliminate wordiness:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl_exercises/sentence_style/index.html

The exercises in this category cover a wide range of topics, but have been designed for second language writers of a variety of proficiency levels (basic and intermediate):
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl_exercises/esl_exercises/index.html

❖ ***Resource 6: Free online English practice for IELTS, General English and more***

<https://www.englishpracticeonline.com/>

“This free online resource is the result of many years of English teaching experience, with contributors from all over the world – the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand”

❖ ***Resource 7: British Council online English test***

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/es/online-english-level-test>

“Answer each of the 25 questions carefully. After each question indicate how sure you are of your answer (Certain, Fairly sure, Not sure).”

❖ ***Resource 8: English Exercises according to levels***

https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises_list/levels.htm

1 to 6 years of English; with answer key