

News release

**Announcement of revisions to the EIKEN Test in Practical English Proficiency from the 2024 Academic Year
[Grades 1, Pre-1, 2, Pre-2, and 3]**

The Eiken Foundation of Japan (Eiken) (located in Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo; Chairman: Koichi Matsukawa) announces plans to revise the EIKEN Test in Practical English Proficiency (EIKEN) for Grades 3 and above (Grade 1, Grade Pre-1, Grade 2, Grade Pre-2, and Grade 3) by introducing new question formats starting from the 2024 academic year.

【Background】

- ✓ The EIKEN tests are periodically revised to align with prevailing standards in English language education.
- ✓ The current Courses of Study emphasize language activities that integrate multiple skills and domains, with a focus on developing not only knowledge but also critical thinking, judgment, and expressive ability, depending on the purpose, situation, and context of communication.
- ✓ Based on these considerations, Eiken has decided to incorporate new question formats that reflect the updated standards. The target grades for the revision are Grades 1 to 3.

【Timing of introduction】

The first tests with the new format are scheduled to be administered in the first session of the 2024 academic year.

【Details】 (Blue cells indicate revised content. ※Refer to the following pages for examples of①②③.)

Grade	First stage			Second stage	
	Written exam			Listening	Speaking
	Reading	Writing	Duration		
1	Reduced number of vocabulary and reading comprehension questions (time adjustment)	Number of writing tasks increased from 1 to 2.	No change (100 min)	No change	No change
Pre-1			Added 'Summary' task to existing 'Opinion' task. ※①	No change (90 min)	No change
2		No change (85 min)		No change	No change
Pre-2		Number of writing tasks increased from 1 to 2.		Time extended (75→80 mins)	No change
3			Added 'E-mail' task to existing 'Opinion' task. ※②	Time extended (50→65 mins)	No change

Note that the timing, question format, and structure of the revisions are subject to change. Any updates will be announced on our website. Further details, including the 2024 exam fees, are planned to be announced by the end of September. Examples of the new tasks are presented in the following pages.

[Example of Task ①]

Grade 1	Writing	Added 'Summary' task to existing 'Opinion' task.
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- **Instructions:** Read the article below and summarize it in your own words as far as possible in English.
- **Suggested length:** 90–110 words
- **Write your summary in the space provided on your answer sheet. Any writing outside the space will not be graded.**

Poyang Lake is China’s biggest freshwater lake. Although people have fished it for generations, these days, a new resource is being removed—sand. Up to 10,000 tons of sand are dug up from the lake floor per hour, making this the world’s largest sand mine. Much of the sand is shipped to Shanghai—a city whose population has risen by 7 million since 2007—where it is used in the construction of high-rises, roads, and other structures. Massive mining operations exist not only in China but also in other nations, including Australia and the United States. Globally, the largest importer of sand is Singapore, which has used the resource to increase its territorial landmass by 20 square miles.

The consequences of sand mining are a major concern. Removing sand from water bodies increases water sediment, blocking out sunlight; this interferes with underwater plants’ production of oxygen, making survival for fish and other organisms difficult. In the case of Poyang Lake, sand removal has made the channels leading out of the lake much deeper and wider, doubling the amount of water flowing outward. Consequently, the lake’s water level has dropped dramatically. This threatens the water supply to neighboring wetlands, which are home to numerous bird species and other wildlife.

Many countries are becoming increasingly aware of the damage caused by sand mining. Demand for the resource has taken a toll on Indonesia, Malaysia, and Cambodia, which have banned sand exports in efforts to preserve local ecosystems. However, increasing demand means that when mining stops in one area, other areas take on the burden of supply. China’s Yangtze River, for example, was formerly a major sand-mining site, but by the late 1990s so much had been removed that bridges collapsed along with large sections of the riverbank. When sand mining was banned on the Yangtze in 2000, operations shifted to Poyang Lake.

[Example of Task ①]

Grade Pre-1	Writing	Added 'Summary' task to existing 'Opinion' task.
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- **Instructions: Read the article below and summarize it in your own words as far as possible in English.**
- **Suggested length: 60–70 words**
- **Write your summary in the space provided on your answer sheet. Any writing outside the space will not be graded.**

From the 1980s to the early 2000s, many national museums in Britain were charging their visitors entrance fees. The newly elected government, however, was supportive of the arts. It introduced a landmark policy to provide financial aid to museums so that they would drop their entrance fees. As a result, entrance to many national museums, including the Natural History Museum, became free of charge.

Supporters of the policy said that as it would widen access to national museums, it would have significant benefits. People, regardless of their education or income, would have the opportunity to experience the large collections of artworks in museums and learn about the country's cultural history.

Although surveys indicated that visitors to national museums that became free increased by an average of 70 percent after the policy's introduction, critics claimed the policy was not completely successful. This increase, they say, mostly consisted of the same people visiting museums many times. Additionally, some independent museums with entrance fees said the policy negatively affected them. Their visitor numbers decreased because people were visiting national museums to avoid paying fees, causing the independent museums to struggle financially.

[Example of Task ①]

Grade 2	Writing	Added 'Summary' task to existing 'Opinion' task.
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- 以下の英文を読んで、その内容を英語で要約し、解答欄に記入しなさい。
- 語数の目安は 45 語～55 語です。
- 解答欄の外に書かれたものは採点されません。
- 解答が英文の要約になっていないと判断された場合は、0 点と採点されることがあります。英文をよく読んでから答えてください。

When students go to college, some decide to live at home with their parents, and others decide to rent an apartment by themselves. There are other choices, too. These days, some of them choose to share a house with roommates.

What are the reasons for this? Some students have a roommate who is good at math or science and can give advice about homework. Other students have a roommate from abroad and can learn about a foreign language through everyday conversations. Because of this, they have been able to improve their foreign language skills.

On the other hand, some students have a roommate who stays up late at night and watches TV. This can be noisy and make it difficult for others to get enough sleep. Some students have a roommate who rarely helps with cleaning the house. As a result, they have to spend a lot of time cleaning the house by themselves.

【Example of Task ②】

Grade Pre-2	Writing	Added 'E-mail' task to existing 'Opinion' task.
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- あなたは、外国人の知り合い（Alex）から、Eメールで質問を受け取りました。この質問にわかりやすく答える返信メールを、に英文で書きなさい。
- あなたが書く返信メールの中で、Alex の Eメール文中の下線部について、あなたがより理解を深めるために、下線部の特徴を問う具体的な質問を2つしなさい。
- あなたが書く返信メールの中でに書く英文の語数の目安は40語～50語です。
- 解答欄の外に書かれたものは採点されません。
- 解答が Alex の Eメールに対応していないと判断された場合は、0点と採点されることがあります。Alex の Eメールの内容をよく読んでから答えてください。
- の下に Best wishes, の後にあなたの名前を書く必要はありません。

Hi!

Guess what! My father bought me a robot pet last week online. I wanted to get a real dog, but my parents told me it's too difficult to take care of dogs. They suggested that we get a robot dog instead. I'm sending a picture of my robot with this e-mail. My robot is cute, but there's a problem. The battery doesn't last long. Do you think that robot pets will improve in the future?

Your friend,
Alex

Hi, Alex!

Thank you for your e-mail.

解答欄に記入しなさい。

Best wishes,

【Example of Task ②】

Grade 3	Writing	Added 'E-mail' task to existing 'Opinion' task.
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- あなたは、外国人の友達（James）から以下のEメールを受け取りました。Eメールを読み、それに対する返信メールを、に英文で書きなさい。
- あなたが書く返信メールの中で、友達（James）からの2つの質問（下線部）に対応する内容を、あなた自身で自由に考えて答えなさい。
- あなたが書く返信メールの中でに書く英文の語数の目安は、15語～25語です。
- 解答欄の外に書かれたものは採点されません。
- 解答が友達（James）のEメールに対応していないと判断された場合は、0点と採点されることがあります。友達（James）のEメールの内容をよく読んでから答えてください。
- の下 Best wishes, の後にあなたの名前を書く必要はありません。

Hi,

Thank you for your e-mail.

I heard that you went to your friend's birthday party. I want to know more about it. How many people were at the party? And how was the food?

Your friend,
James

Hi, James!

Thank you for your e-mail.

解答欄に記入しなさい。

Best wishes,

[Example of Task ③]

Grade Pre-1	Speaking	Added introductory sentence to opinion question (No.4)
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Topic card

You have **one minute** to prepare.

This is a story about a couple who was interested in nature.
You have **two minutes** to narrate the story.

Your story should begin with the following sentence:
One day, a couple was at home.



Oral questions asking for test-taker's own opinion, No.1-4 (asked by examiner)

Preparation for narration: Here's your card. You have one minute to prepare before you start your narration.

Narration: Please begin your narration. You have two minutes.

No. 1 Please look at the fourth picture. If you were the woman, what would you be thinking?

No. 2 Do zoos play an important role in the protection of animals?

No. 3 Do you think that marriage is losing its importance in society?

No. 4 The wealth gap between rich countries and poor countries often becomes a topic for discussion.
Should rich countries do more to help poor countries develop?

Added introductory sentence (underlined)