

**Introduction to the *Life placement test package***

The *Life Placement Test Package* was developed to help teachers place students in the most appropriate level of the *Life* programme.

The *Life Placement Test Package* includes:

- Short multi-choice placement tests
- Full multi-choice placement test
- Placement test answer keys
- Placement test answer tables

**Short Placement Tests**

The short placement tests are designed to help teachers determine the appropriate level of *Life* for a student between two adjacent levels. There are five tests in all:

- Short placement test 1 – Beginner / Elementary
- Short placement test 2 – Elementary / Pre-intermediate
- Short placement test 3 – Pre-intermediate / Intermediate
- Short placement test 4 – Intermediate / Upper Intermediate
- Short placement test 5 – Upper Intermediate / Advanced

**Test administration and scoring**

Provide each student with a test paper. An answer table is provided so that the tests can be re-used for other students.

Each test has 120 multi-choice questions covering the grammar of the relevant levels. Thus, the first 60 questions of Short placement test 1 cover the Beginner syllabus and questions 61 to 120 cover the Elementary level syllabus, and so forth. Allow one hour for each test and each correct answer scores one point.

Each group of 60 questions should be marked separately so that the student has a separate score out of 60 for each level.

**The pass mark for each level of 60 questions is 45/60.** It has been set this high to account for the role of chance in multi-choice answer selection.

The level at which a student first scores below the pass mark is the level they should begin with in the *Life* course. In the short placement test score illustration below, the student should start with the second level.

Questions 1 – 60	50/60	✓
Questions 61 – 120	30/60	X

### ***Full Placement Test***

The **Full Placement Test** consists of 360 multi-choice questions that follow the full grammar syllabus of the six levels of *Life*. After every 60 questions, a new level begins. It has been designed so that a teacher, with some previous knowledge of a student's English learning history, can estimate which point in the test a student should begin at. The student then proceeds through the test, abandoning it when it becomes too difficult, and the level at which their score is below the pass mark is their appropriate level.

The levels break down as follows:

Questions 1 – 60	<i>Life</i> Beginner
Questions 61 – 120	<i>Life</i> Elementary
Questions 121 – 180	<i>Life</i> Pre-intermediate
Questions 181 – 240	<i>Life</i> Intermediate
Questions 241 – 300	<i>Life</i> Upper Intermediate
Questions 301 – 360	<i>Life</i> Advanced

### **Test administration and scoring**

Provide each student with a test paper. An answer table is provided so that the tests can be re-used for other students.

Allow one hour for each test.

As with the short placement test, each group of 60 questions should be marked separately so that a student has a separate score out of 60 for each test.

Here is an illustration of a full placement test score. In this example, the teacher has asked the student to begin at question 121, Pre-intermediate and instructed them to stop when the questions become too hard (Advanced in this instance).

Questions 1 – 60	<i>Life</i> Beginner		Not assigned
Questions 61 – 120	<i>Life</i> Elementary		Not assigned
Questions 121 – 180	<i>Life</i> Pre-intermediate	55/60	✓
Questions 181 – 240	<i>Life</i> Intermediate	50/60	✓
Questions 241 – 300	<i>Life</i> Upper Intermediate	22/60	X
Questions 301 – 360	<i>Life</i> Advanced	/60	Not attempted

From the example above, we can see that this learner has a good knowledge of English at the Pre-intermediate and Intermediate levels, but struggled with the Upper Intermediate questions. The learner's cut-off point is clearly at the Upper Intermediate level, so this learner should be placed in the class studying *Life Upper Intermediate*.