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The English language skill assessment has been a huge source of worry and distress to thousands of people. I do not dispute or rule out its importance completely but a lot need to be put into consideration.

Firstly, I come from a bi-lingual country where English is being used both at home and in schools. we do not learn to speak English as a second language because it is a national language used by all to communicate and yet we are subjected to this assessment.

Secondly, this assessment is way out of the ordinary. the skills required to pass the assessment is way to complicated and really not fair in that an average Australian or English speaking person could hardly pass it let alone people from a non English speaking background. I think a research should be done to determine its fairness by giving an average Australian, students and lecturers too same test to sit for especially the reading and writing.

Thirdly, a compulsory score of 7 out of 9 is way too high for just a pass. 7 in each not the average band score is just not fair. there are instances where people have sat for this test 3 or more times and still falling short with just 0.5 mark which is absolutely ridiculous also considering the money being spent. it is also very frustrating to know that results can not be combined when each time the candidates do not fall short in the same thing. For instance, my last IELTS result was 8 in listening, 7.5 in reading, 7.5 in speaking and then 6.5 in writing. what a heart break!

Finally, the idea of placing an 'expiry date' on the result does not make sense to me or anyone I have met. ideally, our English should get better with time while in an English speaking country, why then do we have to re take the test after 2 or 3 years after passing the test?

I think that the assessment score should be reduced to at least a 6 hoping it wouldn't make the assessors stricter. I also think that multiple results should be accepted. In addition, countries colonised by the British should be exempted from it and institutions should be able to determine the English speaking capacity and communication level of students before either accepting them into the study or before graduation. while seeking for jobs, interviewers can also call the shots. An average band score should seriously be considered rather than individual scores.

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