

From TWE scoring guide which TOEFL uses to grade the Test of Written English.

Trait Level (Reference Only)	Characteristics	Exam Points (To be used for scoring)	ESL Course Placement
6	<p>Clearly demonstrates competence on both the rhetorical and syntactic levels, though it may have occasional errors.</p> <p>A paper in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is well organized and well developed • Effectively addresses the writing task • Uses appropriate details to support a thesis or illustrate ideas • Shows unity, coherence, and progression • Displays consistent facility in the use of language • Demonstrates syntactic variety and appropriate word choice 	18-20	<p>Proficient: Freshman or Transfer</p> <p>FYS101 International</p> <p>Exchange: Test Out</p>
5	<p>Demonstrates competence in writing on both the rhetorical and syntactic levels, though it will have occasional errors.</p> <p>A paper in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is generally well organized and well developed though it may have fewer details than does a 6 paper • May address some parts of the task more effectively than others • Shows unity, coherence, and progression • Demonstrates some syntactic variety and range of vocabulary • Displays facility in language, though it may have more errors than does a 6 paper 	14-17	<p>Competent FYS101 International</p>
4	<p>Demonstrates minimal competence in writing on both the rhetorical and syntactic levels.</p> <p>A paper in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is adequately organized • Addresses the writing topic adequately but may slight parts of the task • Uses some details to support a thesis or illustrate ideas • Demonstrates adequate but undistinguished or inconsistent facility with syntax and usage • May contain some serious errors that occasionally obscure meaning 	9-14	<p>ESL 112</p>
3	<p>Demonstrates some developing competence in writing, but it remains flawed on either the rhetorical or syntactic level, or both.</p> <p>A paper in this category may reveal one or more of the following weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate organization or development • Failure to support or illustrate generalizations with appropriate or sufficient detail • An accumulation of errors in sentence structure and/or usage • A noticeably inappropriate choice of words or word forms 	5-9	<p>ESL 111</p>
2	<p>Suggests incompetence in writing.</p> <p>A paper in this category is seriously flawed by one or more of the following weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to organize or develop • Little or no detail or relevant specifics • Serious and frequent errors in usage or sentence structure • Serious problems with focus 	1-5	<p>ESL 111</p>
1	<p>Demonstrates incompetence in writing.</p> <p>A paper in this category will contain serious and persistent writing errors, may be illogical or incoherent, or may reveal the writer's inability to comprehend the question. A paper that is severely underdeveloped, or one that exhibits no response at all, also falls into this category.</p>	0	<p>ESL 111</p>