

THE TOLES FOUNDATION EXAMINATION

AN EXPLANATION OF THE TOLES FOUNDATION EXAM GRADES

The TOLES Foundation exam is the first level in the Test of Legal English Skills (TOLES) series of exams. The Foundation exam tests candidates with an elementary/beginner level of legal English. This exam tests a candidate's legal English skills in the areas of English language and law listed in the TOLES Foundation exam syllabus.

TOLES Foundation exam results are reported within a four-band grade scale. The explanation of a candidate's results within a particular band is explained in clear, plain English and is designed to be easy to read and understand.

A candidate's result will be reported as a percentage, on a scale between 1-100, with BAND ONE (81-100%) being the highest and BAND FOUR (1-40%) being the lowest

BAND ONE

81 – 100% This candidate is assessed as having **EXCELLENT** legal English skills at Foundation exam level. This candidate:

- can deal confidently and ably with all of the examination requirements listed in the syllabus;
 - is competent to understand written legal English at Foundation exam level and has good strategies for coping with new language;
 - has an excellent understanding of key legal English vocabulary within certain authentic legal documents;
 - is ready to progress to the TOLES Higher examination.
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BAND TWO

61 – 80% This candidate is assessed as having **VERY GOOD** legal English skills at Foundation exam level. This candidate:

- can deal competently with many of the examination requirements listed in the syllabus and would benefit greatly from more practice in their legal English studies;
 - has made some excellent progress at understanding written legal English at this level;
 - has a good understanding of key legal English vocabulary within certain authentic legal documents;
 - is almost ready to progress to the TOLES Higher examination.
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BAND THREE

41 – 60% This candidate is assessed as having **SATISFACTORY** legal English skills at Foundation exam level. This candidate:

- is quite challenged by the examination requirements listed in the syllabus. They have a basic grasp of the skills tested in the examination but need to focus on developing a good legal English vocabulary and on achieving better accuracy in use of grammar
 - has made a start at understanding legal English at Foundation exam level but requires a significant amount of further study;
 - has a basic understanding of legal vocabulary at this level but some key terminology is lacking.
 - requires significant further study at Foundation exam level before progressing to the TOLES Higher examination.
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BAND FOUR

1-40% This candidate is assessed as having **LESS THAN SATISFACTORY** legal English skills at Foundation exam level. This candidate:

- is seriously challenged by the examination requirements listed in the syllabus. They have a poor grasp of the skills tested in the examination and need to focus on making a start in acquiring legal vocabulary and being more accurate in their use of grammar
 - needs to make a better start at understanding legal English at Foundation exam level and requires a significant amount of further study;
 - has a poor understanding of legal vocabulary at this level with most key terminology lacking.
 - requires significant further study at Foundation exam level before attempting the TOLES Foundation examination again.
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