

## **TOEIC Training and Prediction Test to Improve Student Competency of SMKN 44 Jakarta**

**Redjeki Agoestyowati**

[redjeki.agoestyowati@gmail.com](mailto:redjeki.agoestyowati@gmail.com)

**Institut Ilmu Sosial STIAMI Jakarta**

### **ABSTRACT**

The English language skills of students at State Vocational School 44 Jakarta are very diverse; some are very good, some are pretty good, some are passable, and many are still lacking, so improving English in the school environment is necessary. One indicator that more students are less able to use English to communicate is seen from the TOEIC Prediction Test Score, which has only reached 26.5% for students who got a TOEIC score above 405. Apart from improving competency, this training also aims to determine predicted TOEIC scores and increase English communication skills for SMK Negeri 44 Jakarta students. This activity is carried out as training before taking the TOEIC Prediction Test, which is conducted for 6 hours (3 hours per day). Introductory training about TOEIC and how to do TOEIC questions, which total 200 questions, is an effort to get a TOEIC score above 400. Implementing this activity is carried out by providing training in the form of delivering Listening Comprehension and Reading Comprehension material, discussions, and TOEIC test simulations, including listening and reading skills. Two hundred students of SMK Negeri 44 Jakarta attended this activity. The activity results showed increased knowledge about TOEIC, how to answer TOEIC questions, and student competence in the TOEIC test. It can be seen from the questionnaire distributed after attending the training. The questionnaire results showed an increase in students' knowledge of the TOEIC test with a percentage of 90% and an increase in students' English competence to communicate using English. However, it still needs to be better regarding value or score improvement. The highest TOEIC score from test participants was 890, and the lowest TOEIC score was 60. Of the total 200 students, 53 students got a score above 405 or still only 26.5%, so to get better results, it is recommended that the training time be increased to 10 - 12 hours.

**Key Words:** TOEIC Prediction Test; TOEIC Score; TOEIC Training

### **INTRODUCTION**

Currently, National Education aims to develop the abilities of students who are dignified, faithful, of noble character, healthy, knowledgeable, and responsible. To achieve the goal of professionalism in the current era of globalization of information, it is necessary to prepare students to use English as a language of communication in spoken and written contexts.

English language skills will help students develop intellectually, socially and emotionally. English is also a determinant of success in studying all fields of study. English has become one of the subjects that must be taught in formal school environments such as at SMK Negeri 44 Jakarta.

The knowledge of English they have will ultimately help them to develop themselves, open their horizons of knowledge, broaden their horizons and socialize. This is because English is an international language. In other words, science and technology will be communicated well and widely with English as an intermediary.

Some things must be paid attention to and studied in English. These skills include Listening (listening), Reading (reading), Speaking (speaking), and Writing (writing). Listening and Reading skills can also be practised through TOEIC learning or training. With this background, SMK Negeri 44 Jakarta held TOEIC Training and continued with the TOEIC Prediction Test to increase students' competency at SMK Negeri 44 Jakarta. This activity aims to improve competence, find out predicted TOEIC scores, and increase English communication skills for students at SMK Negeri 44 Jakarta.

In the vocational school context, students need to have English language skills. Generally, vocational schools use an English competency test to measure their readiness level in general and office or work contexts. This competency test is to improve skills that refer to international demands (Rifai, 2021). One of the competency tests is the Prediction Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC Prediction). TOEIC is an English competency test widely used for recruitment in multinational and international companies (Setiawati & Setyowati, 2020).

The TOEIC test is an English-based skills test for anyone whose native language is not English. TOEIC measures everyday abilities; the score will be a benchmark for a person's ability to communicate using English with other people. Arbogast et al. (2001:9) explain that The TOEIC and TOEFL tests were developed for different purposes. The TOEIC used in this research is the TOEIC listening and reading test, which measures a person's English language skills in listening and reading. The multiple-choice test questions last for two hours, consisting of 200 questions, namely 100 Listening questions and 100 Reading questions.

Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) is an English language test in the world of work or the world of international business (Didi Sukyadi, 2015: 34). Many educational institutions, especially vocational ones, recommend TOEIC as a relevant test for measure students' or students' English language skills (Suminto, 2010: 1). Results. A good TOEIC test can also increase the competitiveness of vocational school graduate students in the world of work. Even the Ministry of Education and Culture's Directorate of Vocational School Development, in collaboration with the International Test Center (ITC), is holding a Vocational School English Challenge program so that selected vocational school students can get help with the TOEIC

international exam and get a TOEIC Score Report which is very useful for consideration by HRD in looking at prospective employees. For information, as quoted from *kompas.com*, English language skills on the TOEIC are divided into six levels, with level 1-Novice being the lowest level and level 6-General Professional Proficiency being the highest level. Meanwhile, the recommendation for vocational school graduates is to achieve English language skills at a minimum of level 3-intermediate or equivalent to a TOEIC score of at least 405.

*Table 1. English language proficiency level and TOEIC*

TOEIC Can Do LEVEL	SKALA NILAI TOEIC®
Level 6 - General Professional Proficiency	905 – 990
Level 5 - Advance Working Proficiency	785 – 900
Level 4 - Basic Working Proficiency	605 – 780
Level 3 – Intermediate	405 – 600
Level 2 – Elementary	255 – 400
Level 1 – Novice	10 – 250

## METHOD

The method for implementing this activity is two days of training (3 hours per day), including presentations, lectures, discussions, questions and answers, games and TOEIC test simulations. Moreover, 2 hours on day 3 for carrying out the TOEIC Prediction Test (computer-based) using Google Forms. The TOEIC test simulation consists of listening, listening, and reading skills and adding grammar and vocabulary material, which often appear during the TOEIC test.

TOEIC training will be held on 19 and 20 September 2023, and the TOEIC Prediction Test will be held on 21 September 2023 at SMK Negeri 44 Central Jakarta, with 200 participants from OTKP, BDP, TKJ and AKL majors and 4 TOEIC presenters and two administrative officers.

In this training activity, the presenter explains the TOEIC test, the number of questions and topics tested on the TOEIC test, how to complete each part of the TOEIC questions, the processing time, types of abilities or skills on the TOEIC test, which include listening and reading abilities, practical tips and tricks answer TOEIC questions. Then, the presenter gave a TOEIC test simulation. In this activity, the presenter directs students to answer several TOEIC test questions directly by applying the practical strategies and tips taught.

## RESULT AND DISUSSION

Before the training and implementation of the TOEIC Prediction Test, there was information from the school that students needed to learn English to improve their competency of students at SMK Negeri 44 Jakarta. Apart from improving competency, this training also aims to determine predicted TOEIC scores and increase English communication skills for SMK Negeri 44 Jakarta students.

This TOEIC training activity focuses on strategies or methods for taking the TOEIC test with the hope that the result or TOEIC prediction test score can be above a score of 405. The TOEIC training taught by the presenter consists of seven different parts, namely (1) Listening: photos (2) Listening: question and response (3) Listening: short conversation (4) Listening: short talk (5) Grammar: Incomplete sentences (6) Grammar: text completion (7) Reading comprehension. Apart from the seven sections mentioned, the presenter also inserts or adds aspects of English grammar related to TOEIC questions, for example, the use of subjects, subject-verb agreement, to be, present continuous tense, basic verbs in the workplace, nouns related to the workplace, introduction to vocabulary. Words (verbs and nouns) that often appear in the TOEIC test. In this section, students also learn that TOEIC questions are often tricky. Namely, some nouns are correct, but the verb is wrong, or correct verbs, but the noun is wrong, and other examples.

After the two-day training program, the TOEIC test continues, and students are asked to choose one of four available answers, namely options a, b, c, or d. The following are the results of the TOEIC test taken by the participants.

1. The highest score is 890

*Table 2. Highest TOEIC Prediction Test Score*

	Nama	Kelas & Jurusan	F/M	Benar Listening	Listening Score	Benar Reading	Reading Score	Total Pembulatan
1								
2	Indyra Ardhya Kirana	XII TKJ	F	91	495	80	395	890
3	Emirsyah Natha Deanra	XII TKJ	M	92	495	77	380	875
4	Abdul Halim	XII TKJ	M	77	420	83	410	830
5	Hibatullah Fatih	XII TKJ	M	85	470	68	325	795
6	Athifah Salwa	XII BDP 2	F	48	240	91	455	695
7	Novelia	XII AKL	F	75	405	54	235	640
8	Najwah Maulidiyah	XII BDP 1	F	37	170	92	465	635
9	Charina Azzahra	XII BDP 1	F	39	180	90	450	630
10	Aulia Putri Ramadhani	XII BDP 1	F	36	165	92	465	630
11	Aurellia Arvitafannisa Nirmalahati	XII BDP 1	F	71	385	55	240	625
12	Dwi Nur Affah	XII BDP 1	F	33	145	92	465	610
13	Habibah Nuraini	XII OTKP 2	F	43	200	83	410	610
14	Sandria Nailah Nahdah	XII OTKP 2	F	47	230	73	355	585

2. The lowest score is 60.

Table 3. Highest TOEIC Prediction Test Score

195	NAMA DITUTUP	XII BDP 2	F	28	120	22	40	160
196		XII OTKP 1	F	24	95	25	60	155
197		XII OTKP 1	F	25	100	24	50	150
198		XII OTKP 2	F	28	120	20	30	150
199		XII BDP 1	F	0	0	39	145	145
200		XII TKJ	F	0	0	39	145	145
201		XII TKJ	F	0	0	25	60	60

3. If you look at the TOEIC English language skill level as in Table 1, the following results are obtained:

Level 6, score 905-990: none  
 Level 5, score 785-900: 4 students (2%)  
 Level 4, score 605-780: 8 students (4%)  
 Level 3, score 405-600: 41 students (20.5%)  
 Level 2, score 255-400: 97 students (48.5%)  
 Level 1, score 10-250: 50 students (25%)



## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there is an increase in the knowledge and understanding of students at SMK Negeri 44 Jakarta about TOEIC, the number of TOEIC questions, the format of TOEIC questions, how to do all parts of the TOEIC, and TOEIC tips and tricks. There is an increase in students' listening and reading skills when they apply practical tips and tricks for answering questions correctly and precisely. Of the 200 students, those who got a score above 405 were 53 students or 26.5%. To improve our TOEIC score, we need to hold TOEIC training longer or add additional training

hours. The English language skills of students at State Vocational School 44 Jakarta are very diverse; some are very good, some are pretty good, some are passable, and many are still lacking, so improving everyday English in the school environment is felt necessary.

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