Pearson

Versant

A smarter way to test language skills

Presented by Derya Uysal

Versant

Versant was created 25 years ago by two Stanford professors who discovered a better way to run English language tests.

They created a tool that predicts how expert human interviewers would score a test, allowing institutions to get instant, unbiased results, anywhere in the world.

Universities

- Intensive English Programs
- ESL/EFL Programs

Private Language Schools

- Intensive English Programs
- Pathways Programs

Place your learners into the right learner level

Versant English Placement Test

VEPT measures a person's ability to:

- Understand spoken and/or written English on everyday topics

- Respond appropriately when speaking or writing
  - on everyday topics
  - clearly and intelligibly
  - at a pace comparable to a native speaker

Reading

Listening

Writing

Speaking

Pearson

Test Structure
Versant English Placement Test

- ✓ ~50 minutes
- ✓ 81 questions
- ✓ 9 task types

Read Aloud	Repeats	Sentence Builds
Conversations	Typing	Sentence Completion
Dictation	Passage Reconstruction	Summary and Opinion

Impact of Using Versant

Save time in testing – easy administration for staff and learners

No need for human scoring or rater training

Test more learners – scalable to meet institution's needs

Monitor progress before and after English learning

Reduce turnaround time, enable faster placement decisions

Anytime, anywhere – test learners pre-arrival

Pearson

Simple
Administration

Tools for Administration
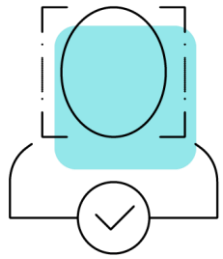
Computer (PC or Mac)

Stable Internet connection

Headset with built-in microphone
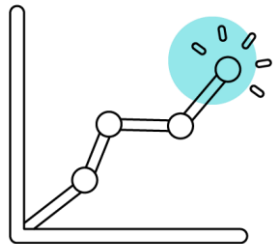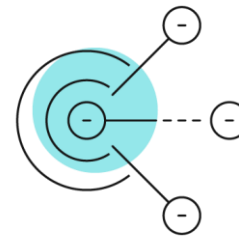
Tools for Administration
4 Step Process

Admin accesses the Versant Testing System

Test taker responds to test questions or tasks

Versant Testing System scores the test and posts scores to the test administration tool

Responses are sent to the Versant scoring system

ScoreKeeper

Test administration platform where admins can access testing materials, monitor test takers and manage results.

Set up test sessions, your way

A few clicks and you're on your way to administering Versant tests to one or thousands.

Manage all your test takers in one place

Upload rosters, assign tests, and monitor progress with easy contact management.

Work smarter with groups

Create groups for easy organization, quicker setup and to monitor your test takers' progress over time.

Flexible testing experience

Web or desktop client? Let your users choose how they want to take their test.

Identify passing scores

Admins set cut scores to see at a glance who passed or not based on your organization's standards.

In-depth reporting

Review test scores, usage reports and scoring trends in the tool, or download to review at a later time.

Score Report
Versant English Placement Test

Score report provides an accurate Overall score and diagnostic breakout scores in four skill areas.

Score report also includes:

- Suggestions for improvement
- Detailed descriptions of language capabilities
- Suggestions of relevant activities in Pearson courseware, including Roadmap and Speakout

VEPT scores are mapped to the CEFR

VERSANT™

Versant English Placement Test

John Smith

Test Completion Date (GMT) 1 January 2022
Test Identification Number (TIN) 12345678

Versant scores are aligned to the Global Scale of English (GSE). The GSE runs from 10 to 90, with clear statements of what a learner can achieve at any point on the scale.

Overall GSE Score
10 — **66** — 90
CEFR: B2

Candidate easily handles a wide variety of discourse and speaking styles, and can contribute to a native-paced discussion. Speech is generally fluent, smooth and intelligible. Candidate controls appropriate language structures for speaking about complex material. Candidate... texts from a wide variety of... and can produce texts for... Writing is usually effective...

Understanding the Skills

Overall Score
The Overall score of the test represents the ability to understand spoken and written English and respond appropriately in speaking and writing on everyday topics, at an appropriate pace and in...

62 Speaking   77 Listening   59 Writing

© 2019-2022 Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s). All rights reserved.
Ordinate and Versant are trademarks, in the U.S. and/or other countries, of Pearson...
For more information, visit us online at VersantTests.com

TIN: **12345678**

Current Capabilities in Detail

Understanding the Skills

Speaking: GSE: 62/90   Versant: 59/80   CEFR: B2
Candidate produces a range of meaningful sentences. Candidate speaks with adequate rhythm but with some inappropriate phrasing and pausing. Many vowels and consonants are produced in a clear manner.
Tips to improve:
- Practice telling a short story about something funny that happened to you, including as many details as you can.
- Practice explaining how to do something, such as making your favorite meal, giving detailed instructions.

Speakout - Advanced:
SB: Unit 1.3 Function: speculating
SB: Unit 1.4 DVD: Preview
SB: Unit 6.1 Speaking
SB: Unit 1.3 Speaking: speculate about people based on their portraits
SB: Unit 1.4 Speakout: a possession
SB: Unit 6.2 Speaking

Speaking
Speaking reflects the ability to produce English phrases and clauses in complete sentences. The score is based on the ability to produce consonants, vowels, and stress in a native-like manner, use accurate syntax, use words appropriately in contexts, and use appropriate rhythm, phrasing, and timing.

Listening: GSE: 77/90   Versant: 69/80   CEFR: C1
Candidate follows most of what is said around him/her on most topics, although occasionally some information may be lost.
Tips to improve:
- Practice actively listening to spoken language delivered at fast speeds, such as TED Talks.
- Practice listening to complex podcasts and extracting the important details.

Listening
Listening reflects the ability to understand specific details and main ideas from everyday English speech. The score is based on the ability to track meaning and infer the message from English that is spoken at a conversational pace.

Writing: GSE: 59/90   Versant: 57/80   CEFR: B2
Candidate writes clear, connected texts on a variety of subjects using a sufficient range of grammatical structures and a good range of common English words.
Tips to improve:
- Practice writing detailed descriptions of people and places that you know.
- Practice writing advice that you would give to a friend, including reasons.

Speakout - Advanced:
SB: Unit 4 Writeback: a short article
SB: Unit 5.1 Writing: a narrative
SB: Unit 8.2 Writing: a personal story
SB: Unit 8.4 Writeback: a major decision
SB: Unit 9.4 Writeback: a recommendation

Writing
Writing reflects the ability to produce written English texts on everyday topics. The score is based on the ability to present ideas and information in a clear and logical sequence, use a wide range of appropriate words as well as a variety of sentences structures.

Reading: GSE: 60/90   Versant: 58/80   CEFR: B2
Candidate reads, understands and responds to texts on everyday topics at a functional pace. In more complex texts, specific, important details may be lost.
Tips to improve:
- Practice reading and following the exchanges on a discussion board of a website.
- Practice using an English dictionary to check the meaning of words, rather than a bilingual dictionary.

Reading
Reading reflects the ability to understand written English texts on everyday topics. The score is based on the ability to operate at functional speeds to extract meaning, infer the message, and respond appropriately.

Page 2 of 2

© 2019-2022 Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s). All rights reserved.
Ordinate and Versant are trademarks, in the U.S. and/or other countries, of Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s). Other names may be the trademarks of their respective owners.
For more information, visit us online at VersantTests.com

P Pearson | English

Test Validity

Machine scoring and validation

Versant has been created by a team of experts and backed years of research in:

- ✓ speech processing,
- ✓ statistical modeling,
- ✓ linguistics,
- ✓ latent semantic analysis,
- ✓ testing theory.

The AI based scoring technology is regularly monitored by Pearson's test development team.
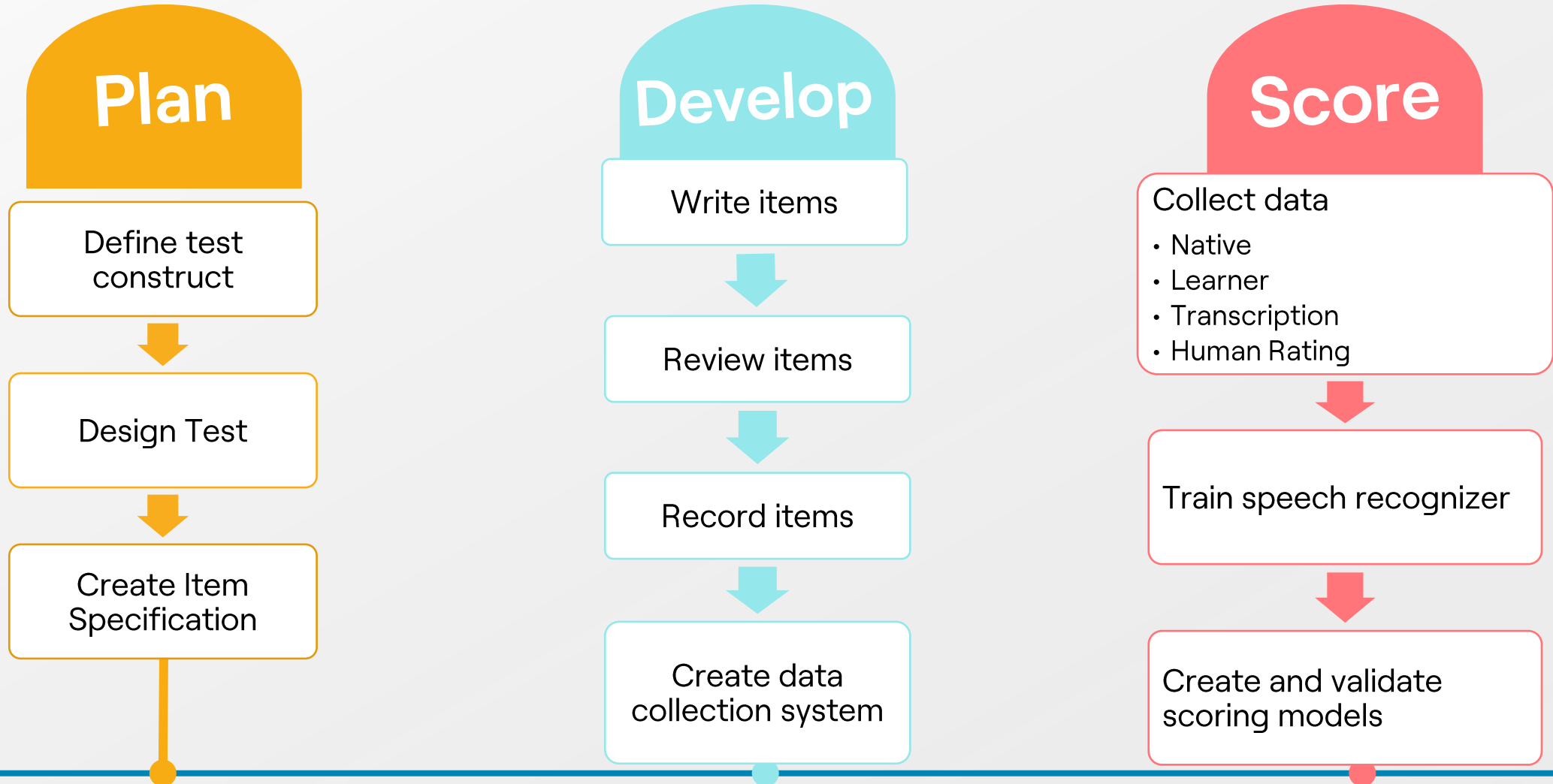
"My team's responsibility is to build and maintain AI scoring systems that reliably and accurately predict human scores, so that you can make quicker and more informed placement decisions."

Bill Bonk, Director of Assessment & Measurement at Pearson

Learn more:
https://www.pearson.com/english/versant/how-it-works/validity-and-reliability.html

Security & Monitoring

VEPT Security
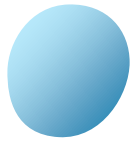
Institutions can offer in person testing on campus

Testing completed at home

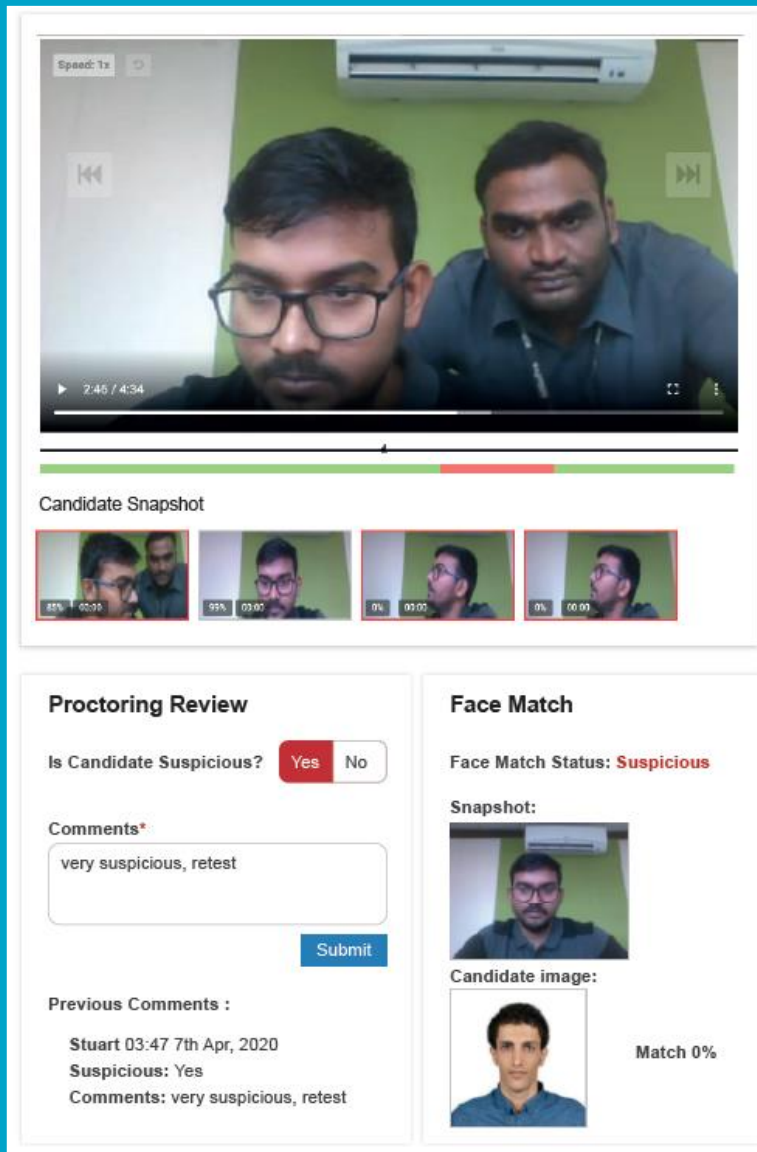VEPT with remote monitoring

Remote Monitoring

Fully AI-powered proctoring analysis to flag suspicious behavior

Adds additional security and confidence to make placement

Browser-based Versant delivery

Records test session, recordings made available to admin

Pearson

Flagging Suspicious Behavior

Image monitoring

- a different face or multiple faces appearing in the video frame
- camera blocked

Browser monitoring

- navigating away from the test window or changing tabs multiple times will be counted as violations

Video monitoring

- test taker moving out of camera view
- more than one person in camera view
- looking away from the camera multiple times

Complete recording

- access anytime for audits and reviews. Suspicious segments highlighted for easy review

What next?

What's to come?

- Continued development of new question to add to our question bank

- Improvement to the ScoreKeeper platform

- Merging remote monitored platform to ScoreKeeper

Follow us | Pearson | ▶ @PearsonEnglish | 📷 @PearsonEnglish

Pearson

Pearson
PTE Academic

Thank you!

Any Questions?