

IELTS TRAINING BRAMPTON BY PREETI INC

Phone: 647-425-4088, 905-789-6677
2575 Steeles Ave East, Unit 4, Brampton ON L6T5T1

TEF Canada vs TCF Canada – Structure & Format Comparison

Overall Structure

Feature	TEF Canada	TCF Canada
Total Skills	4 (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking)	4 (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking)
Validity	2 Years	2 Years
Difficulty	High	Medium
Progression	Direct	Progressive

Listening

Feature	TEF Canada	TCF Canada
Questions	40 MCQs	39 MCQs
Duration	40 min	35 min
Speed	Fast	Moderate
Accents	Multiple	Standard

Reading

Feature	TEF Canada	TCF Canada
Questions	40 MCQs	39 MCQs
Duration	60 min	60 min
Texts	Formal/Professional	General/Daily Life

Writing

Feature	TEF Canada	TCF Canada
Tasks	2	3
Duration	60 min	60 min
Task 1	Formal Email/article continuation (80 words)	Short Message (60 words)
Task 2	Opinion Essay (200 words)	Description (120 words)
Task 3	-	Opinion Essay (180 words)

Speaking

Feature	TEF Canada	TCF Canada
Tasks	2	3
Duration	15 min	15 min
Task 1	Role Play	Interview
Task 2	Opinion	Role Play
Task 3	-	Opinion

TEF and TCF: Complete and Easy Explanation

TEF and TCF are both official French language tests. People take them mainly for **immigration, studies, or work**, especially for Canada. Even though they have the same purpose, they are **not exactly the same**, and choosing the right one is important.

Both certificates are valid for **two years**, and both test your level from beginner (A1) to advanced (C2).

Purpose of the Exams

If your goal is **Canadian immigration**, you can use either **TEF Canada** or **TCF Canada**. Both are accepted by the government.

However, in practice:

- TEF is more popular among candidates.
- TEF often gives better chances to get high scores if your French is strong.
- TCF is often chosen by beginners and intermediate learners.

So, your level and confidence matter a lot when choosing.

Structure of the Exams

TEF

In TEF, the exam is more direct and compact. There are fewer tasks, but each one is demanding.

You will do:

- A listening test with many fast conversations and announcements
- A reading test with formal and professional texts
- A writing test with two serious tasks
- A speaking test with two strong tasks

TEF does not start “slowly.” From the beginning, the level can be high.

TCF

In TCF, the exam is more progressive. It starts easier and becomes harder.

You will do:

- Listening with clearer audio
- Reading with simpler texts at first
- Writing with three levels of difficulty
- Speaking with three steps

TCF is designed to help candidates feel more comfortable at the start.

Speaking Test: The Biggest Difference

The speaking part is where TEF and TCF are most different.

In TEF

You only have **two tasks**, but both are important.

First, you must do a role play. For example, you may need to call an agency, a hotel, or a company and ask questions. You must speak naturally and control the conversation.

Second, you must give your opinion on a topic. You need to organize your ideas, give examples, and conclude clearly.

There is no small talk. You must perform well immediately.

In TCF

You have **three tasks**.

First, the examiner asks you simple personal questions, such as about your work, family, or hobbies. This helps you relax.

Second, you do a role play, like in TEF.

Third, you give your opinion on a topic.

So, TCF prepares you step by step.

Writing Test: Different Approaches

In TEF

You write **two texts.**

The first is usually an article, story continuation or a formal email or letter. For example, writing to a manager, landlord, or administration.

The second is an argumentative text where you must defend your opinion in about 200 words.

The language must be correct and well organized.

In TCF

You write **three texts.**

First, a very short message (like a note or invitation).

Second, a description (a place, a situation, an experience).

Third, an opinion essay.

This gradual structure helps candidates with lower levels.

Listening: Speed and Difficulty

In **TEF, the listening is usually fast.** People speak quickly, sometimes with different accents. Some answers are tricky.

In **TCF, the listening is clearer.** Speakers talk more slowly, and questions are more direct.

So, listening is one of the hardest parts of TEF.

Reading: Type of Texts

In TEF, you often read:

- Administrative documents
- Professional articles
- Official letters
- Complex texts

In TCF, you usually read:

- Advertisements
- Emails
- Short articles
- Daily-life texts

So, TEF reading feels more “serious” and “professional.”

Scoring and Levels

Both exams give you a score that corresponds to CEFR levels (A1 to C2) and to CLB levels for Canada.

For immigration, higher scores mean more points.

Generally:

- Reaching B2 or C1 in TEF is very valuable.
 - Reaching B2 in TCF is already good, but C1 gives more advantage.
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