

- **Time** is an issue for many non-native speakers of English even when they have been given an extension.
- There is a **perceived cultural bias** in some of the questions (“... assuming I know what a "Spelling Bee" contest is or other items describing baseball.”) which puts test takers who have not grown up in America at a disadvantage (“Since I wasn't born or didn't go to school in the US the social studies part, specifically the history of the US [was difficult]”) and means they need more time to process questions for comprehension.
- The **vocabulary** appears to be of a higher level of difficulty than elementary school teachers, in particular, might need to know and contains terminology specific to subcultures (“They use scientific and medical vocabulary that is often hard to fully understand.”).
- The essay questions appear also to require candidates to write about subjects **outside their field of education** adding an extra burden to non-native speakers who will be unfamiliar with the necessary vocabulary (“It is not easy to produce a good essay with the pressure of time plus answering prompts related with international trading, civil rights or law. It would be way much easier for a teacher if you ask questions related with education”; “When I have to write my paragraphs I found topics that are not relevant to me as a teacher.”)
- In addition, since immersion teachers spend their day teaching in another language, they do not have the same opportunities to **build their English vocabulary** that teachers in English-medium schools will have (“I am teaching all day in Spanish because it is a requirement for my job, my family speaks Spanish and I teaching my son Spanish at evenings; I don't have enough time to practice in English, I am taking some evenings classes, I think is not enough to use the right vocabulary”).
- The test results do not indicate to the candidate what **areas of improvement** are needed to pass (“I have difficulties on reading test, but I'm not sure which area I need to work on. The score report just give the score but not specific tell which area I'm strong and which area is my weakness.”)
- Sections of the test seem to be **assessing several things at one time** whereas for non-native speakers a focus on one area at a time might help them focus and, ultimately, succeed (“It was difficult to be able to identify the mistakes in the texts. We were asked to read a text, comprehend it, and answer questions about it, and then identify what grammar mistakes it contained. The order of the words in a sentence is really tricky for a non native speaker, because it may actually make sense if translated. The text was difficult to read and understand because it had mistakes to begin with. So it took me a very good chunk of time to be able to understand it, let alone spot the mistakes. I wish the readings that contained comprehension questions were separated from the ones bearing mistakes, so I can concentrate in one task or the other.)