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# About OPIc (Oral Proficiency Interview – Computer)

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## 1 What is OPIc?

The OPIc is an internet delivered test which provides valid and reliable oral proficiency testing on a large scale. It was developed in response to the increased worldwide demand for the testing of oral language proficiency. The computer delivered assessment emulates the 'live' OPI, but delivery of questions is through a carefully designed computer program, and via a virtual avatar. Thus the test can be taken on demand, and at a time convenient to the candidate and proctor.

## 2 Taking the OPIc

Before beginning the OPIc, test takers complete a Background Survey and a Self-Assessment. They also receive a full overview and explanation of OPIc procedures, including a sample test question.

## 3 Background Survey

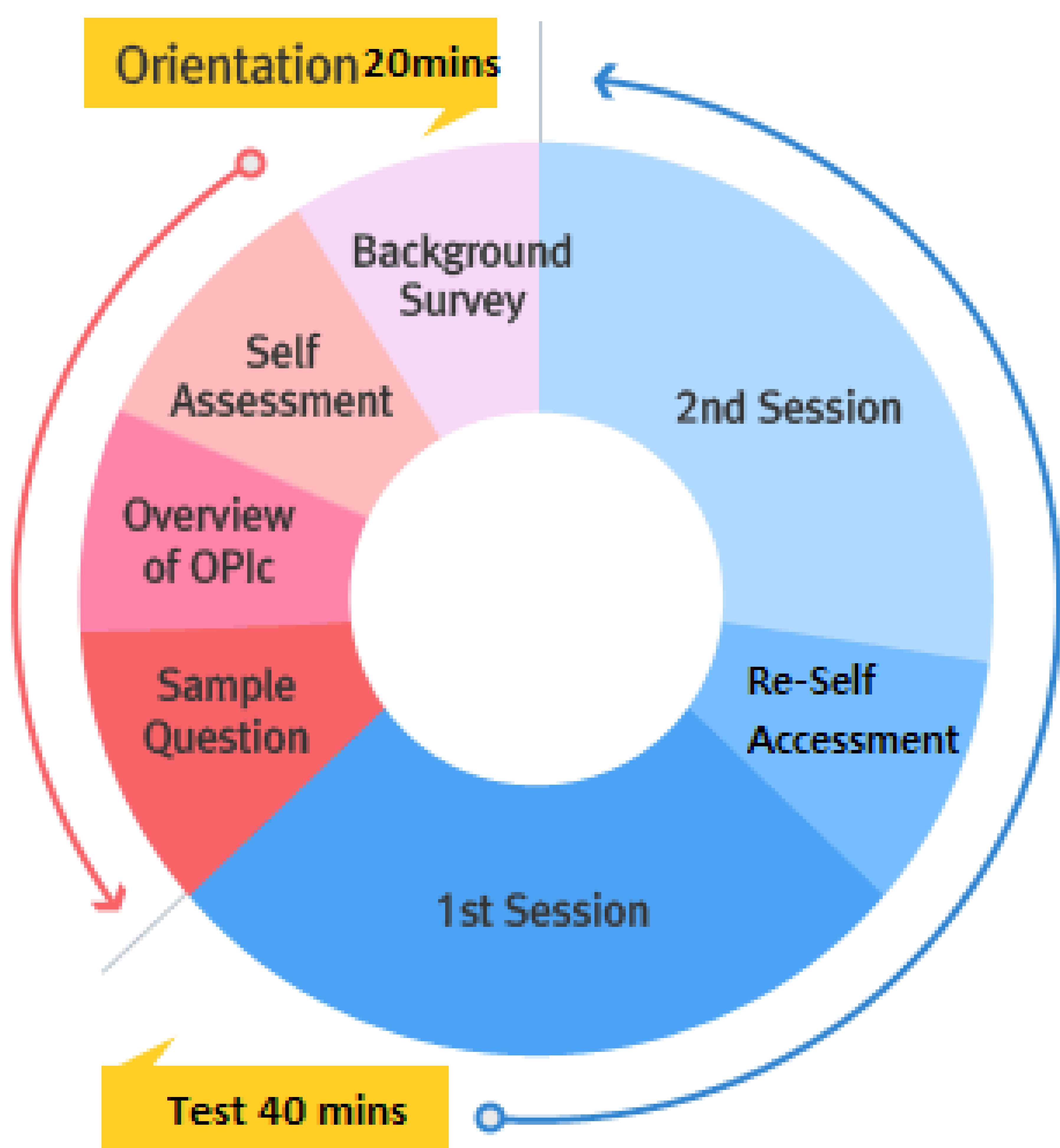
The Background Survey is a questionnaire which gathers information about the test taker's work, school, home, personal activities, and interests. The test taker completes the survey and the answers determine the pool of topics from which the computer will randomly select questions. The variety of topics, the types of questions, and the range of possible combinations the computer can generate allow for individually designed interviews.

## 4 Self-Assessment

The Self-Assessment provides six different descriptions of how well a person can speak a language. Test takers select the description that they feel most accurately describes their language ability. Samples of speech accompany each descriptor; thus test takers can also listen to samples to help select the most appropriate description. The choices made by the test taker in response to the Background Survey and the Self-Assessment assure that each test taker receives an OPIc that targets their range of ability and provides questions on topics familiar to the candidate.

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## 5 Test Process



## 6 Sample Test Screen



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## 7 OPIC Level System

### Advanced Low(AL)

- narrate and describe in all major time frames in order to have conversations about both personal experiences, as well as topics related to community interest.
- handle a routine situation with an unexpected complication.
- produce paragraph-length or connected discourse when narrating and describing about a variety of topics.

### Intermediate High (IH)

- able to demonstrate the ability to function at the Advanced level most of the time.
- unable to sustain Advanced-level across all rating criteria all of the time.

### Intermediate Mid (IM)

- fulfill all of the requirements for the Intermediate level
- produce Intermediate level responses with both quantity and quality.

### Intermediate Low (IL)

- fulfill all of the requirements for the Intermediate level
- produce Intermediate level responses but struggles to do so
- communicate primarily by using what they have practiced and hear from their interlocutors.

### NH(Novice High)

- able to demonstrate the ability to function at the Intermediate level most of the time.
- unable to sustain Intermediate level across all rating criteria all of the time.

### NM(Novice Mid)

- able to communicate minimally by using a number of isolated words and memorized phrases.

### NL(Novice Low)

- able to exchange greetings, introduce themselves, and name a number of familiar objects from their immediate environment.

# **Part 1. General Questions**

Unit 1. Self Introduction

Unit 2. Describing People

Unit 3. Describing Places

# 1

## Unit 1. Self Introduction

### Learning Objectives

After this lesson, you will be able to

- ✓ introduce yourself using diverse adjectives
- ✓ describe your appearance and personality

### 1 Skill up! Expressions

Read the following expressions and make your own example.

#### 1) Name and Age

Hello. My name is David, and I *am 36 years old*.

**You:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Useful Expressions

in my late 20's

in my mid 30's

in my early 40's

#### 2) Family and Martial Status

I have *a younger brother and an older sister*.

I am *married with two children*.

**You:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Useful Expressions

be an only child,

have two siblings

live at home with my parents,

live alone

be married with a young son[no children]

#### 3) Occupation

I *work for* a company called ABC.

**You:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Useful Expressions

work at a bank

work as a marketing supervisor