

EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF
ATTAINMENT IN MODERN LANGUAGES



ECL Language Examination System

Handbook

for Candidates and Language Teachers



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EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF ATTAINMENT IN MODERN LANGUAGES

THE ECL EXAMINATION SYSTEM

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND MISSION OF ECL

The ECL Consortium (European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages) is an association of institutions representing European languages. ECL has the following aims and objectives to promote language learning in Europe and across the globe:

- to promote teaching European languages (with a special focus on less widely taught and used languages) by developing and disseminating a standardised language course system both in and outside school-based contexts.
- to provide unified and reliable standards for assessing language knowledge with ECL language examinations, which provide a standardised testing system adapted to the languages of the member states of the European Union and other countries.
- to provide the comparability of certificates obtained and exam results achieved in the individual languages for both the candidates and employers with the ECL exam system in accordance with the harmonisation objectives of the European Union.

TEST DATES, APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND FEES

The International ECL Examination Centre (hereinafter the Examination Centre) publishes test dates and application procedures on its official website (see <https://eclexam.eu/exam-dates-2/>).

Application Information

Individuals turning 14 in the year of application may register for the ECL language exam. Candidates may take this language exam in 15 different languages; however, there are not exams organized in every language on every exam date. Applicants can register online three weeks before the application deadline. In addition to applying to take a complex exam (i.e., taking the written and oral partial exams at the same time), candidates may also apply to only take a partial exam (i.e., written or oral). Before applying to take an ECL exam, it is advisable to read the [Exam Regulations](#) on the ECL website. Candidates may apply for an ECL exam online with an electronic application form. The deadline of the application closes four weeks before the scheduled exam.

An automatic confirmation e-mail about the application with a *personal page* is sent to each applicant using the e-mail address provided.

Examination of Candidates with Disabilities

The Examination Centre provides an appropriate testing environment for candidates with disabilities to ensure equal opportunity. Candidates with disabilities who are in possession of the required medical documents are entitled to get specific testing accommodations.

Candidates with special educational needs may take the exam in the framework of a special arrangement provided they request it in writing at their respective examination site. The form for this process is available at the examination sites and also electronically on the website of the Examination Centre.

Medical documentation has to be attached to the application in all cases. In case of a late submission of a medical certificate, individual arrangements cannot be ensured. In this case, the candidate may postpone the examination to the next examination date without paying the examination fee again.

The Examination Centre decides whether testing accommodations will be provided on the basis of a candidate's medical certificate. No changes in the content of the examination material can be made, and only the format of examination material can be altered.

Examination Fees

Examination fees are established by local examination sites. Information about examination fees is provided at respective examination sites.

Payment of Examination Fees

Once the exam fee has been paid, the candidate has the right to take the exam or postpone the exam for the next exam period. An application needs to be completed and an extra fee has to be paid to complete this process.

Refund of Fees

The exam fee cannot be refunded. If the candidate does not appear for the exam and has not officially postponed the exam, the exam fee is nonrefundable. Under these circumstances, applying for a new exam is only possible by paying the exam fee again.

If the candidate cannot take the exam because of an emergency, the examination site may return 40% of the exam fee on the basis of a written request and a decision made about the specific circumstances. This request may be accepted only if it is received at least one day before the day of the exam. The fee for a postponed exam is also nonrefundable.

Postponing an Exam

Candidates may request to postpone an exam if they are unable to appear for acceptable reasons. The exam can be postponed to the next exam date if it is approved by the local exam centre. A re-scheduled exam cannot be postponed again.

If the candidate applied for a complex exam (both written and oral exams), only the full exam can be postponed until the next exam date and session. If the candidate has registered for a partial exam (only written or oral exam), the partial examination can be postponed. Individual skills (Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking) cannot be postponed separately.

Candidates can request postponement by sending the Examination Centre of the local exam site a [*Request for Exam Postponement*](#) form, which is available on ECL's website.

When a candidate submits the postponement request, the exam will NOT be automatically re-scheduled. Since it is a special procedure, candidates are asked to explain their reasons in detail.

They must present supporting documents to verify their request (e.g. medical certificate, official declaration of an authority by the relevant authority, death certificate of the deceased relative etc.). The deadline to request rescheduling of an exam is 10 days after the original exam date.

ECL policy accepts both personal and family reasons for postponing a scheduled ECL exam. Submitting the request form along with the supporting documentation is required in all cases.

Exams can be postponed by taking the following steps:

1. The candidate fills out the *Postponement Request* form.
2. The candidate submits the form to the local exam site with the supporting documentation.
3. The local exam site has the right to **accept** or **reject** the request based on the submitted documents.
4. If it is accepted by the local exam site, the candidate will be informed about the fee and deadline.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES DURING EXAMS

All candidates have to verify their identities with valid picture IDs (i.e. passport, driving license, identity card or residence permit). If a candidate cannot show this documentation, the examination site must deny entry to the exam room.

Candidates may not bring the following items into examination rooms: mobile phones, smart watches, earbuds, and any other electronic devices. Staff at local exam sites are permitted to use metal detectors when candidates enter examination rooms after presenting ID documentation to ensure that none of these devices are brought into exam sites. Additionally, other items such as bags, books, notebooks, and printed or handwritten materials are not permitted in exam rooms. During language exams, candidates are only allowed to write draft answers in the reading, writing, and listening test booklets. There is also a *Notes* page at the end of written communication section where candidates can write draft responses. Dictionaries may only be used for the written communication section of the exam. Final answers should be written in black or blue ink on the answer sheets.

No candidates may leave the examination room before finishing the written parts, except for health reasons or restroom breaks. In such cases, candidates may leave the examination room only when they are accompanied by a supervisor.

Candidates Arriving Late

If a candidate arrives when the instructions are being given during the reading comprehension section, the candidate can enter the examination room, but no extra time can be provided for late arrivals. Candidates are not permitted to enter the examination room if they arrive during the listening comprehension section once the recording has begun.

Disruptive Events

If the candidate wants to report a disruption during the exam, this has to be completed right after the section of the exam in question. The report has to be made in writing, and it has to be

submitted to the head of the examination site or another representative immediately after the exam.

Cheating and Misbehaviour

In order to detect candidates attempting to take an exam under someone else's name, the ECL examination sites strictly check the identity of the candidates and compare candidates' ID cards with the names appearing on registration and attendance sheets. IDs must remain on the candidates' desks during the written exam and checked for security purposes when answer sheets are collected.

In the event of a fraud (e.g. hired test taker), a report has to be made and the examination site informs the Examination Centre. All candidates involved will be disqualified from taking ECL exams in the future.

For verified cheating (copying someone else's test, using unpermitted devices, etc.), the candidate's exam will be invalidated and the candidate may be disqualified from the possibility of taking ECL language exams in the future. If it is determined during the rating of the written exams that a candidate plagiarized from the internet or any other source, this is considered exam fraud; therefore, the Examination Centre will cancel the score received on this particular task.

Candidates are not allowed to pass information or material to one another during the exam. Candidates are not permitted to copy from one another or from anyone else, or to help one another in any way.

If any misconduct occurs, the invigilator must report the details to the head of the examination site and, if pertinent, may discontinue the exam of the candidate(s) involved. This action is taken if the invigilator finds that disciplinary action is necessary for exam safety and to ensure an ideal environment for all other candidates completing the exam. A report must be made about the incident.

In accordance with the applicable guidelines for conducting examinations, the Examination Centre has the authority to cancel an examination if there are violations of these guidelines. In such cases, the results of the exam in question will be declared invalid and the participating candidates will not receive an evaluation. Furthermore, the Examination Centre reserves the right to exclude such candidates from participating in future examinations.

In situations where serious violations pose a significant threat to the fairness and equal treatment of all examination candidates, the Examination Centre may also decide to temporarily or permanently close the examination site in question.

If during the examination the local exam site jeopardises the security of the examination by deliberately causing an administrative error (e.g. by changing a candidate's name afterwards), the Examination Centre may unilaterally terminate the contract with immediate effect, without justification or any proof.

If during the examination the safety of the examination is compromised because of the local exam site (e.g. inattention of the invigilator, irregularities in the conduct of the examination) or behaviour of candidates (e.g. communication between candidates, use of prohibited aids, attempt to photograph the examination material, removal of the tests from the examination

room), the Examination Centre may suspend the operation of the Exam Site with immediate effect for a fixed or indefinite period. The suspension will take effect immediately. If registration for the next examination is already in progress at the time of the suspension, it is the responsibility of the local exam site to notify registered candidates that the examination will be cancelled. The local exam site will be obliged to refund to the candidates the examination fee.

The conditions for lifting the suspension will be communicated to the local examination site by the Examination Centre after the case has been investigated. The Examination Centre has the right to terminate the contract after the case has been resolved.

In the event of the above points, the Examination Centre is under no obligation to the candidates to provide a makeup examination, and no new contract can be concluded between the partners.

Confidentiality

All employees involved in conducting language exams sign a Declaration of Confidentiality agreement.

Copyright

Testing materials are under copyright. It is forbidden for the examination site or others to copy or photocopy blank or completed test papers and answer sheets.

TEST RESULTS AND CERTIFICATES

Reporting Exam Results

The Examination Centre announces the results of the exam on its website (<https://eclexam.eu/>) within 30 days from the date of the written exam. Candidates are also notified via email that their results are available online via the *Personal Page*. If candidates make a written request to the Examination Centre, they can also receive information about the results via mail within the time frame stipulated by the regulations.

International Certificates

Candidates may apply to take a complex exam or a written or oral partial exam. Certificates are awarded to those candidates who are successful on a complex or partial exam.

The candidate is successful on an oral partial exam if he/she achieves at least 40% of the total score on both the listening comprehension test and the oral exam, and if the average of the two parts is a minimum of 60%. A written partial exam is successful if the candidate achieves at least 40% of the total score in both the reading comprehension and the writing test, and if the average of the two parts is a minimum of 60%.

If the candidate applied to take a complex exam and achieved a minimum of 40% in each part of the exam (reading comprehension, written communication, listening comprehension and oral communication), and the average of the four parts of the exam is a minimum of 60%, he/she receives a certificate verifying that they successfully passed the complex exam. If the candidate

is only successful on the written or oral partial exam, he/she receives a certificate verifying that they have passed a partial exam.

Language exam certificates are sent from the Examination Centre to examination sites where the exams were taken. Language exam certificates are distributed directly to candidates by staff at the examination sites.

ECL certificates in German and English are monolingual and provide information about the result in the target language. Certificates of the other examination languages are bilingual and provide information about the result in the target language and in English. The reverse side of the certificate contains a brief description of language competencies at corresponding levels.

Inspection of Exam Results

Candidates have the opportunity to inspect their evaluated examination materials within 15 days of the notification of results. (If a candidate is a minor, he or she must be accompanied by a parent or legal representative.) The inspection is carried out after prior registration by completing a form and it takes place exclusively at the Examination Centre. During the inspection, the following materials can be reviewed: exam papers, answer sheets, evaluation criteria, and oral exam recordings (only the monologue section for data protection reasons).

Procedure for the Inspection

The inspection is conducted under supervision. Candidates are only allowed to take handwritten notes about their own answers and use materials (paper and pen) provided by the Examination Centre. Copies or electronic recordings (e.g., via mobile phone) of the answer sheets or audio recordings are not permitted. Before leaving the room, the notes must be presented to the supervising staff who will review and sign them. In case of rule violations (e.g., unauthorized note-taking), a report will be made and the notes will be confiscated. At the end of the inspection, candidates sign a declaration confirming the inspection.

Inspection with Consultation

For a fee, candidates have the opportunity to review their evaluated examination materials together with a language expert for 45 minutes. (If a candidate is a minor, he or she must be accompanied by a parent or legal representative.) The purpose of the consultation is to explain the evaluation, clarify any questions, and provide individual recommendations for further preparation. During the consultation, candidates are only allowed to take handwritten notes about their own answers, using materials provided by the Examination Centre. Making copies or electronic recordings is strictly prohibited.

Review and Re-evaluation

Candidates may request a review or re-evaluation within 15 days after the results were published. A candidate may request a review by reference to infringement of the law or miscalculation of the score, or a candidate may request the re-evaluation of their written tests and oral exam by a third assessor.

The form to request a review or re-evaluation can be downloaded from the ECL website. The [*Request for Review/Re-evaluation*](#) form must be submitted to the local examination site within 15 days after the results were published. The head of the Examination Centre makes his/her decision with respect to the request for review/re-evaluation including a detailed professional opinion within 30 days and informs the candidate about the decision in a letter. In the case of a request for review/re-evaluation, the Examination Centre may modify the exam results.

Issuing Duplicate Certificates and Correcting Erroneous Certificates

Requests for duplicates should be submitted to the Examination Centre or the local examination site. The [*relevant form*](#) can be downloaded from the Examination Centre's website.

If the certificate contains erroneous data, upon the request of the candidate and depending on the nature of the error, the Examination Centre can issue a new certificate (e.g. in the case of a misspelled name within one year after the certificate was issued, or for gender and name changes) or an official verification (e.g. lack of second Christian name, wrong place or date of birth). The cost of the duplicate is paid by the party responsible for providing the incorrect information.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE ECL EXAMS

ECL's Mission

ECL stands for *European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages*. ECL as a language examination system operated by prestigious universities in the home country of each language that constructs the tests and evaluates the exams. On the basis of the uniform criteria established in the first phase of standardisation, ECL exams can be taken in English, German, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish, Slovak, Polish, Serb, Romanian, Russian, Bulgarian, and Czech.

Features of the Test

The content and overall validity of the tests have been established after extensive research by specialists utilising pilot tests with specific target groups. The ECL exams test oral and written language competence in everyday discourse on practical, professional and personal topics at varying degrees of complexity.

Levels and Skills

The monolingual ECL language test does not include grammar or translation tasks. It features four levels (A2, B1, B2, C1), and four basic language skills are tested and evaluated at each level:

Written Exam:

- reading comprehension skills
- Written communication skills

Oral Exam:

- Listening comprehension skills
- Oral communication skills

Test Structure

The oral test takes place in front of a two examiners. Two candidates have a guided conversation about given topics followed by individual monologues on a topic related to a photo montage. The testing of the other three skills is demonstrated in written format (i.e., multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the blank, and short answer questions).

Candidates must complete two tasks for each of the four language skills. During the eight different topics, they must demonstrate their language knowledge as it corresponds to the requirements of the level of the exam (A2, B1, B2, or C1).

Comparability

Comparability is one of the important characteristics of the ECL tests. To ensure this, examinations as well as test materials and certificates are constructed on uniform principles. The parameters, criteria of evaluation, and the types of tasks are the same in each language. The ECL tests are aligned to the CEFR.

Reliability

ECL staff members and language experts are responsible for constructing and grading tests in their own native languages. To ensure maximum reliability for the ECL tests, all items are pre-tested, test constructors and markers are trained before each session, and a system of double marking is used. A committee of specialists for each of the languages being tested monitors the standards of writing questions, marking and awarding points to ensure equivalence between levels of achievement across the languages.

Exam locations

The exam sites with their contact information and available language exams can be found on the ECL website.

SECTIONS OF THE ECL EXAM

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Sample tests are available on the ECL website (see <https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/>).

The listening test assesses the ability of candidates to understand conversations between native speakers about familiar topics that are adapted to the respective level.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Candidates generally take speaking exams in pairs. However, odd numbers of candidates are permitted to complete their speaking exams in threes.

Part 1 Introduction (3-5 minutes approximately) – is not to be assessed.

The main purpose of this part of the test is to put the candidates at their ease and to enable the interviewer to gather information about the candidates for the remainder of the exam.

Part 2 Guided conversation (5 – 8 minutes)

The interviewer initiates a conversation based on a given topic by asking questions to encourage a conversation between the candidates.

Part 3 Picture description based on visual stimuli (5-8 minutes)

The pictures and the topic are randomly selected by an online examination system. If necessary, the interviewer can help the candidates with questions.

Points are awarded on a scale of 0 to 5 (a total of 25) according to each of the following criteria:

Formal accuracy (morphology and syntax)	0-5 points
Oral accuracy (pronunciation, prosody and fluency)	0-5 points
Vocabulary (range and activation)	0-5 points
Style (pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects)	0-5 points
Communicative effectiveness (adequate task completion)	0-5 points

WRITING

The test assesses the ability of candidates to write short texts related to everyday situations and general information. At each exam level of the written communication tasks, candidates can use monolingual and bilingual printed dictionaries.

Candidates are assessed on the following five areas of language proficiency:

Formal accuracy (morphology and syntax)	0-5 points
Accuracy (text construction and spelling)	0-5 points
Vocabulary (range and activation)	0-5 points
Style (pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects)	0-5 points
Communicative effectiveness (adequate task completion)	0-5 points

Sample tests are available on the ECL website (see <https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/>).

READING COMPREHENSION

The test assesses the ability of the candidate to understand short, simple texts with general content (e.g. announcements, short travel information, short news, timetables, articles, stories).

Sample tests are available on the ECL website (see <https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/>).

DESCRIPTION OF THE ECL TEST REQUIREMENTS

The required level of communicative skills is uniform across all exam languages and is based on the CEFR, while syntax and morphology vary depending on the specific language. The following description is provided as an example based on the English language exam.

LEVEL A2

SPEECH INTENTIONS / SPEECH ACTS

1. Establishing and maintaining communication (respecting spelling rules in writing).
2. Establishing social contacts:
 - 2.1. Greetings and farewells
 - 2.2. Introductions
 - 2.3. Giving thanks
 - 2.4. Seeking attention
3. Giving and receiving personal information.
4. Locating persons, places and things.
5. Identifying and describing people and things.
6. Personal attitudes (likes, rejection, dislikes, preferences/praise, comparisons).
7. Making and accepting/refusing offers, requests, invitations and permission.

8. Relating actions in time:

8.1. Giving and receiving information about past events and actions

8.2. Giving and receiving information about habitual events and actions (present)

8.3. Giving and receiving information about future events and actions

9. Apologising

10. Giving and receiving specific information about dates, times, quantities, numbers, prices, weather.

SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY AND LEXIS

English

Syntax

- positive statements and negative statements
- open-ended and yes/no questions
- polite requests
- verbs and prepositions
- use of adjectives
- use of adverbs of time, place, frequency, manner
- use of modal verbs
- co-ordinate sentences
- use of direct and indirect objects
- use of infinitive
- use of basic conjunctions (and, but, however, because)
- use of numerals
- use of relative and possessive pronouns
- the word order of simple sentences
- negation

Morphology

- present simple and continuous
- past simple
- future simple, going to
- to BE
- DO as verb and modal

- pronouns
- definite and indefinite articles
- basic prepositions (movement, place, agent)
- possessive adjectives
- quantifiers: many, much, some, any
- numbers

Lexis

Basic vocabulary related to everyday situations and to the communicative tasks listed above (see list of topics).

OTHER LINGUISTIC ASPECTS

- standard British/American English, spoken at moderate speed with pauses
- current usage but few colloquialisms

TEST FORMAT

Listening

Time: ca. 15-20 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Totalling ca. 400-600 words

The texts are played twice. Time proportionate to the difficulty of the task is given for reading the instructions and working after the first and second playing.

Oral communication

Time: 20 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Procedure: conversation with candidates in pairs:

1. warming up
2. guided conversation about one or two of the given topics
3. picture description based on visual stimuli such as pictures to stimulate a narrative

Reading

Time: 35 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Two texts: totalling ca. 400-600 words (the two texts are equal in length).

Writing

Time: 35 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Totalling 100 words (tasks are equal in length and around 50 words each)

Two tasks: Writing an informal and a (semi-)formal text, e.g. a forum post, e-mail, note or message.

LEVEL B1

SPEECH INTENTIONS / SPEECH ACTS in addition to those described for Level A2:

1. Expressing and responding to feelings such as surprise, happiness, sadness, interest and indifference.
2. Giving instructions.
3. Expressing necessity, obligation and possibility.
4. Making proposals, suggestions and invitations.
5. Expressing belief, opinion, agreement and disagreement.
6. Expressing intention and offering justification.
7. Discussing people, events and experiences from the past; recounting short stories.

SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY AND LEXIS

English

Syntax

- imperatives, positive and negative
- statements with infinitive and gerund
- compound and complex sentences
- question tags
- clauses of time, manner, place, purpose
- exclamations
- use of linking devices

Morphology

- present perfect
- conditional
- continuous tenses
- past perfect
- modals: can, must, may, might
- passives
- possessive pronouns (statements and interrogatives)

- comparative and superlative
- prepositions
- conjunctions

Lexis

Extended to include abstract and concrete nouns related to everyday life and to the communicative tasks listed above.

OTHER LINGUISTIC ASPECTS

- standard British/American English, extended to include standard Scottish and Welsh English accents
- use of shortened forms, e.g. “didn’t” in spoken English
- some current colloquialisms

TEST FORMAT

Listening

Time: ca. 20-25 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Totalling ca. 500-700 words

The texts are played twice. Time proportionate to the difficulty of the task is given for reading the instructions and working after the first and second playing.

Oral communication

Time: ca. 20 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points 25

Procedure: conversation with candidates in pairs:

1. warming up
2. guided conversation about given topics
3. picture description based on visual stimuli such as pictures to stimulate a narrative

Reading

Time: 35 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Two texts - totalling ca. 500-700 words

Writing

Time: 40 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Totalling 200 words (tasks are equal in length and around 100 words each)

Two tasks: Writing an informal and a (semi-)formal text, e.g. a forum post, e-mail, note or message.

LEVEL B2

SPEECH INTENTIONS / SPEECH ACTS (in addition to those described for Levels A2 and B1):

1. Expressing and responding to feelings (such as astonishment, concentration / being at a loss for ideas, preoccupation, resignation, concern, desire, expectation and disappointment).
2. Receiving and giving advice and complex instructions (reacting to them appropriately)
3. Complaining, arguing; praising and paying compliments.
4. Summarising, contradicting, evaluating, clarifying, exemplifying, drawing conclusions, affirming and modifying information and opinions.
5. Transmitting complex information to a third person (in direct and indirect speech).
6. Planning projects in the future.

SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY AND LEXIS

English

Syntax

- complete sentences, including clauses of comparison, concession, purpose, condition
- reporting of speech
- nominalisation
- expression of complex ideas and hypotheses
- reinforcement of syntax learned at Levels A2 and B1
- adjectival and adverbial phrases

Morphology

- all tenses, including past conditionals
- all passive forms
- modals of obligation, need, possibility, intention, etc.
- suffixes, prefixes, including adjective and adverb formation, and their meaning
- review of morphology acquired at Levels A2 and B1

Lexis

Broader range to include not only everyday personal contexts but also to enable discussion of major contemporary events and issues relevant to the communicative tasks.

OTHER LINGUISTIC ASPECTS

- English spoken at normal speed
- use of texts of more complex structure
- greater use of current idioms and colloquialisms
- use of spoken regional varieties

TEST FORMAT

Listening

Time: ca. 25-30 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Totalling ca. 800-1000 words

Two texts. The texts are played twice. Time proportionate to the difficulty of the task is given for reading the instructions and working after the first and second playing.

Oral communication

Time: 20 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points 25

Procedure: candidates in pairs

1. warming up
2. general guided conversation about given topics
3. picture description based on visual stimuli such as a series of pictures to stimulate a narrative

Reading

Time: 45 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Two texts - totalling ca. 800-1000 words

Writing

Time: 60 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Totalling ca. 300 words (150-150 words each)

Two tasks: Writing an informal and a (semi-)formal text, e.g. a forum post, e-mail, note or message.

LEVEL C1

SPEECH INTENTIONS / SPEECH ACTS (in addition to those described for Levels A2, B1 and B2 the candidate shall be expected to deal with the following tasks):

1. Exchanging and evaluating information.
2. Persuading, negotiating and getting things done.
3. Interacting in interpersonal relations and socialising.
4. Expressing, discovering and discussing attitudes.
5. Formulating and responding to value judgements.
6. Discussing certainty, necessity, obligation, etc.
7. Expressing and responding to emotions.

SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY AND LEXIS

English

Syntax

- review of all work at previous levels
- comprehension of structure of texts (written and spoken)
- coherent and cohesive structure of spoken and written discourse.

Morphology

- review of all work at previous levels
- mastery of morphological features used in written and spoken expression

Lexis

- a broad range of vocabulary resulting from extensive use of English

OTHER LINGUISTIC ASPECTS

- English spoken at a variety of speeds
- use of texts with which an educated national of an English-Oral communication country might expect to be confronted
- range of regional varieties, which could include varieties from outside UK and North America

TEST FORMAT

Listening

Time: ca. 30-35minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Totalling ca.1200-1500 words.

Two texts

The texts are played twice. Time proportionate to the difficulty of the task is given for reading the instructions and working after the first and second playing.

Oral communication

Time: 20 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points 25

Procedure: candidates in pairs:

1. warming up
2. interview: the first phase of which is a guided conversation about given topics, the second phase is a more specific discussion about the candidate's professional experience and interests
3. picture description based on visual stimuli such as a series of pictures to stimulate a narrative

Reading

Time: 45 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Two texts - totalling ca. 1000-1300 words

Writing

Time: 75 minutes

Proportion: 25% / Points: 25

Totalling 400 words (tasks to be fairly even in length, 200 words each)

Two tasks: Writing an informal and a (semi-)formal text, e.g. a forum post, e-mail, note or message.

ECL TOPICS

LEVEL A2	LEVEL B1	LEVEL B2	LEVEL C1
<p>The individual personal particulars appearance clothing daily routine</p>	<p>The individual personal particulars appearance inner characteristics casual/ evening wear</p>	<p>The individual behavioural patterns fashion/clothing/cosmetics</p>	<p>The individual ambition/ career building the individual and the society problems of social integration</p>
<p>Partnership family relatives acquaintances/ friends classmates/ colleagues</p>	<p>Partnership relatives, friends acquaintances, neighbours classmates/schoolmates/colleagues</p>	<p>Partnership roles in the family making friends (in person, on the net, etc.) relationships and contacts at work/ at school</p>	<p>Partnership forms of partnership nationalities/minorities</p>
<p>Family family members family occasions /celebrations</p>	<p>Family family members family occasions/celebrations distribution of tasks in the family</p>	<p>Family family/bringing up children relationship of generations/living together marriage/ forms of partnership</p>	<p>Family the social status of families the system of family allowances family/career</p>
<p>Place of living house/ flat furnishing of the living room/ bedroom kitchen furniture, gadgets the street, the town sharing the housework</p>	<p>Place of living house/ block house/ flat furnishing/ gadgets of the rooms furnishing/ gadgets of the kitchen and the bathroom rent and bills housework</p>	<p>Place of living rental/property/ lodgings buying a flat/buying on credit/ renovation way of living in a town and in a village</p>	<p>Place of living housing situation difficulties of building a house homelessness/ its causes/ problems housing and mobility</p>
<p>Travelling/transport means of transport timetable/ information buying tickets (bus, train, plane) travelling documents</p>	<p>Travelling/transport means of transport public transport timetable/ information buying tickets/ preparation for a journey travelling abroad/ travelling documents</p>	<p>Travelling/transport driving/highway codes walking, riding the bike reasons/forms of travelling abroad</p>	<p>Travelling/transport problems of city traffic public transport versus using cars transport and environmental protection tourism as a source of income development in transport/ its aspects</p>

LEVEL A2	LEVEL B1	LEVEL B2	LEVEL C1
Shopping/shops shops special shops electronics markets grocery clothes shops departments in a shopping centre	Shopping/shops shops/ markets department stores/ departments groceries/ household goods clothing electric appliances	Shopping/shops shopping habits/ commercials, ads chains/ shopping by mail retail shops versus shopping centres	Shopping/shops consumers' society buying on credit/with credit cards/on the Internet shopping tourism
Communication/keeping in contact post (letter, postcard) telephone/ fax text messages/ e-mail	Communication/keeping in contact post (letter, telegram, parcel) telephone (traditional, mobile) Internet (e-mail, Skype, chat)	Communication/keeping in contact reasons of the popularity of mobiles the role of language knowledge in communication the increasing dominance of the English language	Communication/keeping in contact the Internet in business communication fax, e-mail versus traditional letter writing less widely used languages versus English
Services restaurant (menu, ordering, paying) hotel (booking, paying)	Services financial services (transfer, exchange) restaurant (menu, ordering, paying) hotel (booking, paying)	Services car rental/ travel agencies repairs/ guarantees	Services quality/guarantee of services role, significance of services electronic services/ online ordering
Culture/entertainment guests cinemas theatres concerts free time activities museums concerts	Culture/entertainment guests cinemas/ theatres museums concerts library (school, at home, public)	Culture/entertainment books versus Internet cinema, theatre versus TV, video, DVD the Internet and social networking sites	Culture/entertainment role of arts in the past and present public collections and their maintenance/ art/ historic relics/ monuments mentorship/ sponsorship/ advertising
Time/weather seasons weather rainy weather/ winter weather/ snowing	Time/weather seasons/ weather weather forecast	Time/weather role, accurateness of forecasts relationship of climate and flora/fauna	Time/weather natural catastrophes and their consequences hole in the ozone layer (its development, consequences)

LEVEL A2	LEVEL B1	LEVEL B2	LEVEL C1
Health/illnesses at the pediatrician's at the doctor's at the dentist's some common illnesses (flu, cold) medication at the chemist's	Health/illnesses at the doctor's common illnesses and their symptoms prescriptions/ medication/ pharmacy	Health/illnesses outpatient department/ hospital/ specialists nature cure/ medicines prevention/ screening healthy diet	Health/illnesses science/research serving medical care / genetics alternative methods of healing health tourism
Sport popular sports football athletics doing sports sport and hobby	Sport popular sports national sports doing sports	Sport doing sports – healthy lifestyle ball games/ team sports/ rules water sports/ winter sports dangerous sports/ extreme sports Olympic Games	Sport first-class sports – mass sports / doping professionalism in sports/amateur sports/ extreme sports sport and women (chess, boxing, weightlifting, football) extreme sports sport and commercials
Media television/ radio newspapers/ magazines	Media television/ radio newspapers/ magazines	Media features of newspapers, their columns sensation and news	Media stars/ celebrities objectivity / impartiality of providing information
Hobby reading/listening to music the candidate's favourite pastime computer games	Hobby gardening/ DIY reading/ listening to music computer	Hobby pursuing amateur arts clubs (sport, cultural, professional) hobby and work modern/ peculiar hobbies	Hobby promoting traditions exclusive hobbies (golf, riding, scuba diving, etc.) hobby and/or professionalism?
Studying/work subjects popular professions workplaces colleagues/ school-friends daily routine at home/ at work	Studying/work types of schools subjects popular professions/ workplaces daily routine colleagues/ bosses/ classmates	Studying/work language knowledge/ skills/career equal chances in education/ finding a workplace unemployment exchange programs/ scholarships abroad/ professional development new forms of studying	Studying/work (over)qualification/chances on the work market lifelong education finding work/mobility chances of the underprivileged

LEVEL A2	LEVEL B1	LEVEL B2	LEVEL C1
	European Union members of the EU travelling/ work/ mobility	European Union work in the EU language teaching/language knowledge/work opportunities in the EU	European Union Common/national currency the role of the EU in world politics
	Culture and civilisation basic practical information regarding the home country and the target language country (weather, currency, eating habits, daily routine, celebrations, shopping opportunities, etc.) tourist attractions accommodation/ restaurants	Culture and civilisation <i>The home country and the target language country</i> population/ethnic minorities historic traditions/monuments cultural values artistic/ethnographic characteristics	Culture and civilisation <i>The home country and the target language country</i> fame/recognition in the world their relationship to each other their image difference in traditions/ customs /ideology
		Public life public institutions/personal documents public safety national holidays	Public life political parties/ elections/referendum the purity of public life/ corruption
		Environmental protection pollution (air, water, soil, etc.) selective waste management recycling alternative sources of energy	Environmental protection prevention in environmental protection environmental catastrophes and their consequences
		Current topics/events public life/politics/NGOs economy arts sport	Current topics/events public life/politics/NGOs economy arts sport
			Globalisation uniformity (dressing, eating, culture, consumer products, etc.) globalisation/ maintaining national characteristics

LEVEL A2	LEVEL B1	LEVEL B2	LEVEL C1
			Current questions of ethics animal experiments nuclear experiments
			Current questions on economy/society smuggling: goods/people dangers of drug addiction /smoking

Further information

For further information about the ECL language examinations and materials please contact the International ECL Examination Centre or the National ECL Examination Centre.

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