

# › YOUR LANGUAGECER<sup>T</sup> ACADEMIC TEST GUIDE

Your academic journey  
starts here







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# Start Here: Your Roadmap to Success

Welcome to your Test Guide! This resource has been designed to help you understand the test format, how to book your test, what to expect on test day, and how to receive and interpret your results. By following the steps outlined in this guide, you'll gain a clear understanding of the entire process, ensuring you're fully prepared for success.

Explore the journey below and take the first step toward achieving your academic goals!



LANGUAGECER<sup>T</sup> Academic is globally recognised for university/college entrance and is also approved by:

- › UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) as a Secure English Language Test (SELT) for UK student visas.
- › the Australian Department of Home Affairs for student visas.





# Understanding the LANGUAGECERT Academic test structure

Multilevel test designed to assess your ability to understand, use, and communicate effectively in English within an academic setting, including comprehending lectures, participating in discussions, reading and analysing academic texts, and writing research papers or essays.



## What is a multilevel test?

A multilevel test spans across more than one CEFR levels and your final CEFR level is determined based on your test score.

## Test Structure

LANGUAGECERT Academic is divided into two components – **Written and Spoken**.



The **Written component** contains the Listening, Reading and Writing tests, and the **Spoken component** contains the Speaking test.



You can take the two components on the same day or on different days, but they must be taken within 14 days of each other.



Please note that Listening, Reading and Writing are completed straight after each other, on the same day.



### You have the power

Speaking can be taken either before or after the written part of your exam! Simply select your preferred slots during the registration for maximum flexibility!

# > Written Component

## Listening



4 parts



30 questions



40 minutes



Audio is  
played  
twice

### Part 1

Listen to 7 unfinished conversations in an academic setting and choose the correct option (a, b or c) to complete each one.

### Part 2

Listen to 5 conversations in an academic setting and choose the correct option (a, b or c) to answer 2 questions about each one.

### Part 3

Listen to a person speaking in an academic setting ((for example a lecture, podcast, narrative, presentation, etc.) and complete the 7 gaps on the notepad using 1–3 correctly spelt words.

### Part 4

Listen to a discussion between 3 speakers in an academic setting and choose the correct option (a, b or c) to answer 6 questions about it.

## Reading



4 parts



30 questions



50 minutes

### Part 1a

You read 6 sentences from academic texts and choose the correct option (a, b, c or d) to replace the word(s) in bold so the sentence has the same meaning.

### Part 1b

You read an authentic academic text with 5 gaps and choose the correct option (a, b or c) to complete it.

### Part 2

You read an academic text with 6 missing sentences and choose the correct option (A–H) to complete it. (There are two extra sentences that you won't need.)

### Part 3

You read 4 academic texts (A–D) and match them to the 7 questions that follow.

### Part 4

You read an academic text and choose the correct option (a, b, c or d) to answer 6 questions about it.

## Writing



2  
parts



50  
minutes

### Part 1

You write a report, argument or article of between 150–200 words in response to a written, graphic or visual input with the intended reader specified, expressing stance, opinion, justification, argumentation.

### Part 2

You produce an essay of approximately 250 words, in which you discuss two opposing views in response to a statement, finishing with your own opinion.

## > Spoken Component

### Speaking



4  
parts



14  
minutes



Interview with a  
real person online

### Part 1

You share personal information and your own opinions on a variety of topics.

### Part 2

You take part in 2 or more role plays which replicate real-life situations in higher education settings.

### Part 3

You read a text aloud and answer questions about it.

### Part 4

You prepare and deliver a short presentation and then answer questions about it.



# Where to take the test

If you're applying for a degree-level course or higher (HEI) in any English-speaking country, or to a university where academic English is required, you can take the LANGUAGECERT Academic test at a High Stakes Test Centre worldwide or online from home with live remote invigilation.



At LANGUAGECERT  
**High Stakes Test  
Centres** worldwide



Online at home  
**24/7/365**



At SELT Test Centres  
for **UKVI** purposes



# Where can LANGUAGECERT Academic take you

## Applying for a student visa in the UK?

If you're applying for a course in the UK that's below degree level (e.g. a foundation, pathways or professional English course) and/or not at a High Education Institution (HEI), you'll need to take a SELT (Secure English Language Test) version of the test at one of our global UKVI-approved Test Centres.

**Note:** When you receive your Test Report, you'll be given a Unique Reference Number (URN) which is required for your UK visa application.



To find your nearest LANGUAGECERT UKVI-approved Test Centre, visit our website.

## Applying for a student visa in Australia?

You can take LANGUAGECERT Academic to prove your English proficiency for your visa application to study, work or live in Australia. Our test is accepted by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) for all visa categories that require proof of language ability. **The test must be taken at a High Stakes Test Centre.**



# How to Register for the Test (It's Easy!)

## Booking Your Test is Quick and Easy!

It's time to book your test! You can book up to 24 hours before the test begins.

Note: For access arrangements, allow extra time—see details below.

Make sure you have valid proof of ID as you'll need it to book your test.

- › Photographic government issued identity cards, excluding drivers licenses (in the UK or outside the UK in the country where the document is issued)
- › Passport
- › Identity card of EEA nationals, excluding drivers licenses (in the UK or outside the UK in the country where the document is issued)
- › UK Biometric Residence Card
- › UK Biometric Residence Permit
- › Convention travel document
- › Stateless persons travel document

Please note that the name you use to register for your test must exactly match the name on your valid photo ID, otherwise you won't be allowed to take the test.



### Important

Check the expiration date of your identification form to ensure it will be still valid on the day of your test. For the online version of LANGUAGECERT Academic, only your valid passport will be accepted.



Please always check with your Higher Education Institution (HEI) to confirm their specific English requirements.

## Book your test at a Test Centre

### Step 1

Visit the LANGUAGECERT Academic page on our website and go to the Select a test section.

Choose from the two options – UKVI approved Test Centre or Test Centre – and click Book a test, depending on your application requirements.

### Step 2

Select the LANGUAGECERT Academic test option from the drop-down menu under Exam.

Choose your country and closest city from the drop-down menus and then click on Search. You'll be shown all the Test Centres in your chosen city. Choose the Test Centre where you'd like to take your test and click on Book Exam.





### Step 3

- › You'll then be shown all the available test dates and time slots for your chosen Test Centre. Once you've selected the date for each component, choose your time slot.
- › If you're planning to take the complete test in one day, don't forget to allow enough time between the Written and Spoken components (the Written component is 2 hours 20 minutes and the Speaking component is 14 minutes).
- › Select your preferred slots and click Register.
- › You need to either sign up or login with your account.
- › To sign up, enter your personal details and a password.
- › Enter your payment details to complete your booking. If you have a promotional code, you can redeem it at this stage.
- › You'll be sent an email confirming your booking. When you receive this email, please check all your details are correct. For any changes on your test schedule or other issues/questions, email us at [info@languagecert.org](mailto:info@languagecert.org).

## Book your online test

### Step 1

Visit the LANGUAGECERT Academic page on our website and go to the Select a test section. Choose Online and Book a test.

### Step 2

Click on Schedule or Edit Date and Time and select your time zone, native language, and Proctor's language for the Written component, followed by the date and time you'd like to take each part of the test.

### Step 3

If you have a promotional code, enter the details. Then click PROCEED TO CHECKOUT and follow Steps 4 and 5 as for a Test Centre booking.



If you have a voucher, create your account and sign in to enter the voucher number on the homepage to initiate the registration process.



## CHANGING THE DATE/TIME OF YOUR TEST

To change the date and/or time of your test after you've booked it, log in to your LANGUAGECERT account and select **Overview**. Then find the test you wish to change and select **Change date** under **My exams**.

Please note that changes made more than 48 hours before the start of your test are free, but a fee will be charged for changes made less than 48 hours before the start.



## ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

If you have learning difficulties, disabilities or temporary injuries, you'll need to notify us at least 30 days before the test to make access arrangements. If this isn't possible, please contact us as soon as you can at **[info@languagecert.org](mailto:info@languagecert.org)**.

You'll find more information about access arrangements in our **Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy** guide on our website.



# Get Ready Like a Pro: All the Resources You Need

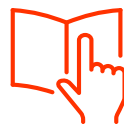
## The support you need for your test journey

We want you to succeed, which is why we've created a range of free web resources to guide and support you every step of the way.

### Resources for all 4-skills



Test  
Overview  
Videos



Writing and  
Speaking  
samples



Practice  
Papers



Tips to level  
up your  
exam game



Test  
Demo/Online  
Simulator

### Resources for the Speaking Part



Speaking videos for  
practice and  
familiarise yourself  
with the format



Listen to a variety of  
English speakers –  
Get used to different  
accents and speech  
patterns. Check our  
TikTok account

Find the  
Preparation  
Material  
here!



[languagecert.org/en/preparation/practice-material/languagecert-academic](https://languagecert.org/en/preparation/practice-material/languagecert-academic)



# Want to improve your English for the test?

Follow these simple but effective strategies to sharpen your Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking skills! Tips that work and help you organise yourself in a smart way before the test, as well as stay focused and calm during the exam.



## Use our official resources

Get familiar with the test format using past papers and practice tests. Analyze sample answers



## Practise under timed conditions

Simulate test-day pressure to improve time management. Learn what information to look for and give the correct answers. OR

Practise under test conditions, improve time management and learn to identify key information for accurate answers.



## Keep a vocabulary log with new words

Write down new words and practice using them in context. Your vocabulary bank is key to showcasing your language skills.



## Expose yourself to English daily

Listen to different accents through podcasts, YouTube, and TV.



## Join a study group

Practise English conversations with others preparing for the exam. Getting support for a common goal keeps your motivation high.



## Connect with us

Follow us on social for more tips and content!



**BELIEVE IN YOURSELF  
YOU'VE GOT THIS!**



Get a good night's  
sleep before the test



Keep yourself  
hydrated



Eat something light  
but energising



# > What to expect during the examination

## The Written component – Listening, Reading and Writing

There are **no breaks** between the Listening, Reading and Writing tests, and when you've completed a test, you won't be able to go back to it once the next test has started.

You're **not allowed to take notes** during the Listening, Reading and Writing tests

To try to maximise your score, **answer all the questions**, even if you're not confident of the answer.

### > Listening

The Listening test is the first part of the Written component.

You'll be given **time to read the questions before hearing the audio recording**.

You'll hear **each audio recording twice**.

Pay close attention to your spelling – as the test is marked by computer, you'll lose marks for any words that **aren't spelled correctly**.

### > Reading

The Reading test will begin straight after the Listening test.

An **on-screen timer** will show you how much time you have to complete both the Reading and Writing tests.

The questions will appear on the screen next to each reading text.

**You can navigate** through the Reading test **freely**, doing the parts in any order – from one question to the next, skip questions, or click the flag icon next to questions you'd like to return to later.

### > Writing

An **on-screen timer** will show you how much time you have to complete the test. Try to avoid going over the word count – you won't lose marks, but you won't receive extra marks either.

Although writing in capital letters won't be marked as incorrect, **we recommend using sentence case**.

Once you've completed the Writing test, this is the end of the Written component.



# The Spoken component

## > Speaking

- The format of the Speaking test is an interactive, one-to-one session with a LANGUAGECERT Marking Interlocutor, which is recorded. When you start you'll be connected to the Interlocutor. You'll then be able to communicate with them using your headset and microphone.
- For Parts 1 and 2, you won't be given (or need) any preparation time. You'll have 20 seconds to prepare for Part 3, and one minute to prepare for Part 4, after you're given a prompt.
- Don't be afraid to ask the Marking Interlocutor to repeat a question, or to correct any mistakes you make - you won't lose marks for this.
- You're only allowed to take notes during Part 4 of the Speaking test.



## Taking a break

- You'll only be allowed to take a break during the test under certain circumstances (for example, if you need the toilet or feel unwell).  
**Note:** *The test timer will not stop while you're taking a break.*
- During a break, you won't be allowed access to locker. If you need any food, water or medicine from your locker, speak with the Test Centre staff.
- When you return from an exam break, you must go through the security process again as you did before the start of the test.

## Finishing the test

- When you completed the test, you'll be prompted to click **End Exam** on your screen.
- You should then raise your hand to let the Test Invigilator know you've finished. They'll escort you from the test room.
- All materials issued by Test Centre staff must be returned at the end of the test.
- Remember to remove all personal items from the lockers before you leave the Test Centre.



# TAKING YOUR TEST AT A TEST CENTRE



# Your Test Day: In-Person Edition

## On Test Day



### Before you arrive

Bring the same valid passport or photo ID used to book your test. Without it, you won't be allowed to test.

Arrive at least 30 minutes early for check-in.  
Late arrivals won't be allowed to test.



### Remember!

Notify the Test Centre in advance if you need medication during the test.



### Important

Late arrivals or missing photo ID will result in losing your test fee!



### Before entering the test room

After signing in, you'll be asked to remove large jewellery, watches, coats, hats and scarves and place them in one of the secure lockers provided, along with any bags, phones and electrical items. (See below for details of what you can and can't take into the test room.)

Your photo ID will then be checked. This must be the same photo ID that you used to book your test.

You'll now undergo a series of security checks, including a metal detector scan. As part of these checks, you'll be asked to roll up your trousers and shirt sleeves, empty out your pockets and remove eye glasses.

Finally, you'll have your photo taken for your Test Report.





**YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS INTO THE TEST ROOM (YOU CAN PUT ANY PERSONAL ITEMS IN THE LOCKERS PROVIDED):**



**Hats, coats and scarves**



**Food and drinks**



**Large jewellery**



**Bags and briefcases**



**Wallets and purses**



**Notebooks, books and other test aids**



**Mobile phones**



**Electronic devices**



**Wearable technology**



**PLEASE NOTE THAT NO WEAPONS OR SMOKING ARE ALLOWED IN THE TEST CENTRE.**



**YOU ARE ALLOWED TO BRING THESE ITEMS INTO THE TEST ROOM:**

- › Soft ear plugs (with no wires/cords attached) and centre-supplied tissues.
- › Certain pieces of medical equipment and some medicines – these should be arranged at least 30 days before your test (see Access arrangements on p9 of this guide for more details).
- › Religious items and headwear.



## Entering the test room

A Test Invigilator will show you to your workstation, where you can make yourself comfortable. If you take off any light items of clothing (e.g. sweaters, suit jackets, etc), you must hang them on the back of your chair. You mustn't put them in your lap or on your workstation.

Once everyone is seated, the Test Invigilator(s) will explain the test rules and give an overview of how to navigate the test.

You'll then be asked to put on your headset and to follow the on-screen instructions on the computer.

**› YOU'RE NOW READY TO START YOUR TEST!**



# TAKING AN ONLINE TEST



# Taking an online exam? Here's what you'll need

With LANGUAGECERT's innovative and easy-to-use technology, you can take your test from the comfort of your own home at a time that suits you best. We are here to assist you every step of the way, from the initial setup to the final completion, guaranteeing a smooth and hassle-free experience.

## Before Test Day

You'll need to do the following at least 24 hours before your test (starts):

- › Make sure your computer meets the test's minimum requirements for running the test (you can find more information about this on our website), and that your smartphone has a working camera, microphone and reliable internet connection.
- › Open the email from LANGUAGECERT and follow the simple instructions for downloading our ExamShield software onto your computer.
- › Scan the QR code, which will take you to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, and download the ExamShield app onto your smartphone. You'll need your LANGUAGECERT login details to sign in (or you can sign in through your Google account).
- › Check that all your details in your LANGUAGECERT account are correct.



Once you've downloaded the ExamShield app onto your computer, it'll automatically perform a compatibility test to check your internet, camera and microphone settings. If you have any problems at this point, please email us at [info@languagecert.org](mailto:info@languagecert.org) or call +44 20 3564 7044.

You also need:



A **home computer, keyboard and mouse** (or another pointing device)



Access to **web camera** which you can rotate **360 degrees**, for example, the built-in webcam on your computer.



A **wired headset** (headphones with a built-in microphone).  
Note: Bluetooth headsets and in-ear headphones/ earphones/ earbuds with an in-line microphone are not allowed.



### Note

We recommend that you take the test on a home computer rather than a work computer as restrictions may prevent ExamShield from working properly. But if you have no other option, please refer to the guidelines on the website, which can be shared with your IT department.

# Test Day is here!



## Before the test

### Choose the right space

The room where you take your test must:

- › be private (open spaces aren't allowed, and you must be alone)
- › have a door that can be closed and is visible through your webcam
- › have enough light so the Online Proctor and Marking Interlocutor can see you clearly at all times.

### Clear your desk

- › Only your smartphone and test computer should be on your desk – no extra devices like headphones, smartwatches, monitors or cameras are allowed.
- › You can have a sheet of paper and a pencil, but no notes, manuals, whiteboards or similar items.

### Have your passport ready

- › The Online Proctor and Marking Interlocutor will need to see this to verify your identity.[LM1]

### Set up your computer

- › Exit any programs currently running on your computer.
- › Open ExamShield and run another compatibility check to allow for app updates and/or changes to your device.

### Set up your smartphone

- › Check your smartphone is fully charged and that the 'Do not disturb' setting has been turned on.
- › Open the ExamShield app on your phone and allow permissions for your camera and microphone.



## Starting the test

- › ExamShield will guide you through a few simple steps to get you started. Including checking your ID and taking your photo.
- › You'll then be connected to your Online Proctor or Marking Interlocutor, who will check your test environment and ID before inviting you to start your test.
- › Next, the Online Proctor or Marking Interlocutor will be comfortable, secure and stress-free.
- › If you need to contact the Online Proctor, you can type a message in the chat box. If contact is lost, the Online Proctor will email or call you to let you know what to do next.





# ALL ABOUT YOUR SCORE



# All about your score

## The Written component

### Listening

The Listening test is scored by computer.

#### **In Part 3:**

- Both US and UK English forms are accepted.
- Scoring is not case-sensitive.
- Only correct spellings are accepted.

### Reading

The Reading test is scored by computer.

### Writing

The Writing tasks are scored by approved examiners against four criteria:

- Task Achievement
- Accuracy and Range of Grammar
- Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary (including spelling) — Organisation (including punctuation)

You'll be awarded a score between 0–8 for each criterion in each task.

Part 1 is weighted at 40% of the total score, while Part 2 is weighted at 60%.

You won't receive any marks for off-topic responses.

## The Spoken component

### Speaking

The Speaking test is scored by two trained and experienced assessors against five criteria:

- Task Fulfilment and Communicative Effect
- Coherence
- Accuracy and Range of Grammar
- Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary
- Pronunciation, Intonation and Fluency

The Marking Interlocutor awards the score for the Task Fulfilment and Communicative Effect criterion in real time. The examiner listens to the test recording and awards the scores for the other criteria.

You'll be awarded a score between 0–8 for each criterion.

# Access your test results!



## Fast Results!

Your results are issued within **five business days** of your test session.

## Login to get your score and share for free your achievement with your dream university

- › Your Test Report will give you a score for each of the four skills and an overall score. All scores are graded out of 100 on the LANGUAGECERT Global Scale. You'll be given a CEFR level, and you'll receive feedback on your Writing and Speaking performance if you scored 40 or above.

LANGUAGECERT GLOBAL SCALE	CEFR	LANGUAGECERT Academic
90-100	C2	90+
75-89	C1	75-89
60-74	B2	60-74
40-59	B1	40-59

- › Please note that while your LANGUAGECERT Academic qualification doesn't have an expiry date, most institutions will only accept a qualification that's less than two years old, so check first with the one that you're applying to.
- › Login to your LANGUAGECERT account to download your e-Certificate and Test Report.



## Remember!

You can share your results via your account with as many Universities as you wish without any cost.

## Appealing your results

If you're not happy with your results or have a query about them, you can have your test rescored. Please see the Policies and Terms of Service section on our website for more details.







LANGUAGECERT is an Awarding Organisation recognised by Ofqual. It spearheads innovations in language assessment and certification, providing high-quality services to the global learners' community. It is a UK-based member of the PeopleCert Group, a global leader in the certification industry, that delivers millions of exams in over 200 countries.

LANGUAGECERT is a business name of PeopleCert Qualifications Ltd, UK company number 09620926

[peoplecert.org](https://peoplecert.org) | [info@peoplecert.org](mailto:info@peoplecert.org)

