



Qualification Handbook International English for Speakers of Other Languages

Speaking

October 2025

Version 6.0

Public

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Document Revision History		
Version	Date	Description of Change
6.0	09/10/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates in Sections 1.2 International ESOL (Speaking) and 3.1 Assessment of the International ESOL (Speaking) examination - Minor updates
5.0	23/10/2024	2024 Rebranding
4.0	07/03/2024	Update in section 1 International ESOL Qualifications
1.0 - 3.6	2018 - 2020	Previous versions

About LANGUAGECERT®

LANGUAGECERT® is an Ofqual recognised Awarding Organisation responsible for the development and award of language qualifications. LANGUAGECERT®'s mission is to offer high quality language qualifications that are truly fit-for-purpose for the markets/candidates they serve.

LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL Qualifications (Entry level, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3, corresponding to CEFR levels A1 to C2) are regulated by Ofqual.

1 International ESOL Qualifications

ESOL International Qualifications are designed for candidates who are not native speakers of English and who wish to achieve a high-quality qualification in English that is globally available and internationally recognised. They are designed to reference the descriptions of language proficiency in the Common European Framework Reference for Languages (CEFR). The levels in the CEFR have been mapped to the levels in the Regulated Qualifications Framework for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (see Pathways to Proficiency: the alignment of language proficiency scales for assessing competence in English Language DFES / QCA, 2003). All examination levels (A1-C2) are aimed at adult candidates (16+) and may be used to demonstrate language proficiency for academic, vocational or professional purposes. IESOL examinations at levels A1-B2 are also available as 'for Schools' exams specifically aimed at younger candidates (aged 11-16) who wish to demonstrate that they have met the respective level of language competence. IESOL for Schools tests follow the same specifications and CEFR-alignment principles but consist of content that is appropriate for school-age test takers.

1.1 The International ESOL (Speaking) qualification handbook

The LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL (Speaking) qualification handbook provides a comprehensive introduction to the LANGUAGECERT® suite of International ESOL (Speaking) (English for Speakers of Other Languages) qualifications and their associated examinations.

The aim of this handbook is to provide information and advice for users of LANGUAGECERT®'s qualifications, inclusive of all existing and potential centres offering the LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL (Speaking) qualifications. This handbook also serves as a reference point for teachers who prepare their candidates for the LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL examinations.

Separate qualification handbooks have been produced for the International ESOL (Listening, Reading and Writing) qualifications, and for the International ESOL (Speaking & Listening) qualifications.

For further advice and/or guidance that may be required, LANGUAGECERT® can be contacted using the LANGUAGECERT® "Contact us Guide".

1.2 International ESOL (Speaking)

This range of qualifications offers a communicative approach to the testing of Speaking at six levels. The names used for each level of the LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL qualifications and each level's correspondence to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) and UK national levels are shown in the following table:

LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL Qualification Levels	Corresponding CEFR Levels	Equivalent UK (England and Wales) national levels
Preliminary	A1 Breakthrough	Entry 1
Access	A2 Waystage	Entry 2
Achiever	B1 Threshold	Entry 3
Communicator	B2 Vantage	Level 1
Expert	C1 Effective Operational Proficiency	Level 2
Mastery	C2 Mastery	Level 3

Total Qualification Time (TQT) and Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

The term 'Guided Learning Hours' is defined as the hours of guided learning under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

'Total Qualification Time' is the number of notional hours which represent an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required in order for a learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification.

With regard to Guided Learning Hours, LANGUAGECERT® is consistent with CEFR references which assign approximate values to levels of ESOL qualifications. As highlighted by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE), as a learner advances up the levels, the number of hours to attain each level increases, this being evidence of the continual nature of language learning.

CEFR Level and Corresponding LANGUAGECERT® and UK national Levels (England and Wales)	Qualification Title	Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	Total Qualification Time (TQT)
Preliminary Level – A1 – Entry 1	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 1) (Speaking) (Preliminary A1)	95 hours	200 hours
Access Level – A2 – Entry 2	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 2) (Speaking) (Access A2)	95 hours	200 hours
Achiever Level – B1 – Entry 3	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 3) (Speaking) (Achiever B1)	180 hours	300 hours
Communicator Level – B2 – Level 1	LanguageCert Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International (Speaking) (Communicator B2)	180 hours	300 hours
Expert Level – C1 – Level 2	LanguageCert Level 2 Certificate in ESOL International (Speaking) (Expert C1)	200 hours	350 hours
Mastery Level – C2 – Level 3	LanguageCert Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (Speaking) (Mastery C2)	250 hours	350 hours

Please note that the above figures are estimates of numbers of hours a learner is reasonably likely to undertake in respect of each respective level of the qualification, not cumulative estimates across levels.

LANGUAGECERT® liaises with its centres and users to ensure that appropriate and consistent numbers of study hours are assigned to its qualifications.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is not applicable to the suite of International ESOL qualifications.

1.3 Introduction to International ESOL (Speaking)

The aim of the LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL qualifications is to demonstrate a candidate's ability to communicate using the English language across the CEFR levels from A1 (Entry 1) to C2 (Level 3).

The LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL (Speaking) qualifications offer a comprehensive test of spoken English. The tasks in the examinations are designed to test the use of English in real-life situations. The Spoken ESOL series of graded examinations provides 'steps up the ladder' of proficiency and can motivate candidates who are attending courses over a long period to continue their studies. They are also suitable for candidates attending short courses in English.

These examinations have been mapped to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Who are the LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL qualifications intended for?

The overall objective of the LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL qualifications is to provide candidates with a qualification that they can use where the ability to speak, write and understand verbal and written English is required. The qualifications are suitable for:

- non-native speakers of English worldwide
- young people or adults attending an English course either in the UK or overseas
- students learning English as part of their school or college curriculum
- people needing English for their everyday or working life
- learners who require externally recognised certification of their command of the English language
- those who are attending courses over a period and require a series of graded examinations which provide steps in the ladder of English Language proficiency
- learners attending short courses in English

Entry Requirements:

- There are no other qualifications that a candidate must achieve prior to taking a LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL qualification.
- There are no prior learning requirements that candidates must achieve/have prior to taking the LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL qualifications, however it is important that centres offer candidates the most appropriate LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL qualification, dependent on each candidate's ability and needs.

Why take LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL qualifications?

Flexible Examination Dates

Centres, LANGUAGECERT® regional offices, and candidates are in control of scheduling the date and time of the examinations and can arrange examinations whenever it is suitable for them.

Integrity of total external assessment

All exams are externally set and are assessed by a closed group of markers at LANGUAGECERT®, regularly standardised through training to ensure consistency and objectivity of assessment that is benchmarked against the CEFR.

Ofqual Recognition

LANGUAGECERT® is an Awarding Organisation recognised and regulated by Ofqual. Ofqual is a non-ministerial government department that regulates qualifications, exams and tests in England. Ofqual is independent of government and reports directly to Parliament.

UK Home Office recognition

LANGUAGECERT® is authorised by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), to deliver Home Office approved, Secure English Language Tests (SELTs) in the UK and globally. UKVI is the part of the Home Office which runs the UK's visa service. LANGUAGECERT®'s SELTs are a secure, reliable, trusted and attractive choice for candidates applying for UK visas where English language ability must be demonstrated.

International recognition

LANGUAGECERT® International English Qualifications are quality English language exams recognised by employers, educational institutions and professional bodies worldwide for both academic progression and employment.

Relevance

The tasks are sufficiently universal to suit all language learning styles and preparation methods. Exam content authentically replicates real-life English in use. All efforts are made to minimise bias in the examination materials. This includes robust quality assurance in the qualifications/exams development process and extensive trialling of qualification/assessment materials before live use.

Levels and duration of the exam

The following chart shows the six levels of the International ESOL (Speaking) qualifications and the duration of each associated examination. All examinations test Speaking skills.

Examination Levels	Qualification Titles	Duration of Speaking Test
A1 – Preliminary – (Entry 1)	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 1) (Speaking) (Preliminary A1)	6 minutes
A2 – Access – (Entry 2)	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 2) (Speaking) (Access A2)	9 minutes
B1 – Achiever – (Entry 3)	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 3) (Speaking) (Achiever B1)	12 minutes
B2 – Communicator - (Level 1)	LanguageCert Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International (Speaking) (Communicator B2)	13 minutes
C1 – Expert - (Level 2)	LanguageCert Level 2 Certificate in ESOL International (Speaking) (Expert C1)	15 minutes
C2 – Mastery – (Level 3)	LanguageCert Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (Speaking) (Mastery C2)	17 minutes

1.4 Qualification Titles

The following table outlines the level names, full titles and qualification numbers for all levels of the International ESOL (Speaking) qualifications.

LANGUAGECERT® and CEFR levels	Qualification Title	Ofqual Qualification Number
Preliminary (A1)	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 1) (Speaking) (Preliminary A1)	603/1956/2
Access (A2)	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 2) (Speaking) (Access A2)	603/1958/6
Achiever (B1)	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 3) (Speaking) (Achiever B1)	603/1960/4
Communicator (B2)	LanguageCert Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International (Speaking) (Communicator B2)	603/1962/8
Expert (C1)	LanguageCert Level 2 Certificate in ESOL International (Speaking) (Expert C1)	603/1964/1
Mastery (C2)	LanguageCert Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (Speaking) (Mastery C2)	603/1966/5

The full qualification titles identify the level of each qualification inclusive of the LANGUAGECERT®, CEFR, and England and Wales levels.

The name of each examination and appropriate CEFR Level appear below the title on each certificate.

1.5 CEFR and alignment of International ESOL (Speaking) to the CEFR

The six levels of the LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL (Speaking) qualifications are linked to those of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages¹ developed by the Council of Europe. The comparative levels chart below shows how the levels relate to each other.

LANGUAGECERT® Levels	Common European Framework	Equivalent UK national levels (England and Wales)
A1 Preliminary	A1 Breakthrough	Entry 1
A2 Access	A2 Waystage	Entry 2
B1 Achiever	B1 Threshold	Entry 3
B2 Communicator	B2 Vantage	Level 1
C1 Expert	C1 Effective Operational Proficiency	Level 2
C2 Mastery	C2 Mastery	Level 3

¹See 'Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment' Cambridge University Press, (2001) ISBN 0521 005310

1.6 Descriptions of spoken competence at each level

LANGUAGECERT® and CEFR qualification level	Descriptor
Preliminary (A1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases satisfying practical needs in connection with education, training and social roles. • Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as possessions, address and people known. • Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
Access (A2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance such as basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment, education, training and social roles. • Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a direct exchange of information, feelings and opinions on familiar and routine matters. • Can engage in conversation to establish shared understanding about familiar topics.
Achiever (B1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can understand the main points of clear standard communication on matters regularly encountered in social roles, work, school, leisure, education and training. • Can convey information, feelings and opinions on familiar topics, using appropriate formality. • Can engage in discussion in a familiar situation making relevant points and responding to reach a shared understanding. • Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. • Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give explanations for opinions and plans.
Communicator (B2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can understand the main ideas of complex communication on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. • Can communicate with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes interaction quite possible without strain for either party. • Can adapt to take account of the listener(s), the context and the medium. • Can engage in discussion in familiar and unfamiliar situations making clear and relevant contributions. • Can communicate clearly and in detail on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
Expert (C1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can use the language fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. • Can respond to extended information and narratives, follow detailed explanations and complex instructions, adapting response to audience, medium and context. • Can engage in discussion in a variety of situations making clear and effective contributions. • Can use language flexibly.

LANGUAGECERT® and CEFR qualification level	Descriptor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can communicate ideas and opinions effectively, appropriate to purpose, content and audience.
Mastery (C2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

The above descriptors have been adapted from the global description of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

1.7 Format and features of International ESOL (Speaking)

Skill & Focus	Task
<p>Speaking Part 1 - to communicate personal information</p> <p>Preliminary and Access: to give personal information</p> <p>Achiever and Communicator: also, to express opinions and ideas</p> <p>Expert and Mastery: to communicate opinions and ideas on a variety of topics and to give personal opinions on contemporary issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give and spell name • Give country of origin • Answer up to five questions
<p>Speaking Part 2 - to communicate appropriately in social situations</p> <p>All levels: to communicate in real-life situations using a range of functional language to elicit or respond as appropriate</p> <p>Expert and Mastery: to also show the ability to use a wide range of language functions and use of register</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or more situations are presented by the interlocutor at each level and candidates are required to respond to and initiate interactions
<p>Speaking Part 3 - to exchange information and opinions</p> <p>Preliminary and Access: to exchange information to complete a simple task</p> <p>Achiever and Communicator: to co-operate to reach agreement/decision</p> <p>Expert and Mastery: to engage in discussion and to justify, challenge and persuade when expressing and eliciting opinion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange information to identify similarities and differences in pictures of familiar situations at Preliminary and Access levels • Hold a short discussion to make a plan, arrange or decide something using visual prompts at Achiever, and written text as the prompt at the three higher levels
<p>Speaking Part 4 - to present a topic</p> <p>Preliminary and Access: to demonstrate the ability to use sentences and produce a piece of connected spoken English</p> <p>Achiever and Communicator: to narrate, describe communicate ideas and express opinions</p> <p>Expert and Mastery: to speak in depth on one topic from a wide range of abstract and complex subjects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After 30 seconds of preparation time, talk about a topic provided by the interlocutor and answer follow-up questions • Preliminary – half a minute • Access – 1 minute • Achiever – 1 and a half minutes • Communicator – 2 minutes • Expert – 2 minutes • Mastery – 3 minutes

1.8 The four parts of International ESOL (Speaking)

Part 1 – communicating personal information and opinions

The aim of this part is to settle the candidate and to elicit personal and everyday information. The interlocutor first asks for the spelling of their surname and then asks for the candidate's country of origin. It is not necessary for any information to be written down. The interlocutor then selects further questions from the list provided.

From **Access** to **Mastery** levels, the questions are given under five topic headings. The questions allow the candidate to respond by giving personal information, ideas and opinions on a range of topics and should produce a natural interaction in the time allowed.

Questions range from very simple, e.g., *How old are you?* (**Preliminary**) to complex, e.g., *Which aspects of your education so far have been the most beneficial for you?* (**Mastery**). The interlocutor may expand the questioning, particularly at the higher levels, to help the candidate produce sufficient language.

Part 2 – communicating appropriately in social situations

The aim of this part is to test the candidate's use of functional language in a range of real-life situations. The interlocutor and candidate enact at least two situations. The Interlocutor may need to assume a different persona, but the candidate is never required to do so.

At the lower levels, the dialogue will usually involve four exchanges (up to two short turns each). At the higher levels, the given situations will require the candidate to enter into exchanges of greater length and complexity. The interlocutor reads aloud the exact words given for the chosen situation which signal the start of the dialogue.

The interlocutor first chooses one from four given situations, to which the candidate responds.

At Preliminary level, a typical situation might be:	Interlocutor: I'm your friend. I start. <i>'When can you come to my house?'</i>
At Achiever level, a typical situation might be:	Interlocutor: I'm a tourist in your town. I start. <i>'Excuse me, is there a shopping centre nearby?'</i>
At Mastery level, a typical situation might be:	Interlocutor: I'm your boss. I start. <i>'Some of your colleagues have been complaining that you're not really pulling your weight, I'm afraid.'</i>

The interlocutor then chooses one from four given situations which require the candidate to initiate the interaction.

At Preliminary level, a typical situation might be:	Interlocutor: I'm your friend. You can't do your homework. You start.
At Achiever level, a typical situation might be:	Interlocutor: I'm waiting for you outside the cinema. You're very late. You start.
At Mastery level, a typical situation might be:	Interlocutor: I'm your boss at a 24-hour store. You would like to be excused from working on the night shift. You start.

At **Preliminary** and **Access** levels the interlocutor guides the interaction and supports the candidate. At the higher levels, especially **Expert** and **Mastery**, the interlocutor allows the candidate to guide and maintain the interaction. At the higher levels the candidate's contribution is expected to demonstrate an awareness of the tone and register appropriate to the situations. For example, when making a complaint it is necessary to consider how direct the language should be and which tone of voice should be used. Further guidance for interlocutors can be found in the LANGUAGECERT® *Guide for Interlocutors*.

Part 3 – exchanging information and opinions

The aim of this part is to test the candidate's ability to use English to give and receive information in order to perform a communicative task. The task topics do not require the candidate to have specialist knowledge but at **Expert** and **Mastery** levels candidates are required to have an awareness of and opinions about social and contemporary issues. The interlocutor and candidate exchange information to perform a task.

It is the language used in the interaction that is most important, not the ability to complete the task in the given time. However, the interaction should move towards achievement of the task set.

At **Preliminary** and **Access** levels, the candidate needs to give and ask for information to spot the similarities and the differences between two pictures.

At **Achiever**, an attempt at agreement after a discussion based on visual prompts is expected.

At **Communicator** level, a plan or arrangement is attempted after a discussion based on one written prompt.

At **Expert** and **Mastery** levels, the task takes the form of a discussion or negotiation based on written prompts. The candidate is asked to rank or prioritise, analyse, eliminate or hypothesise. Candidates at these levels will be required to expand and exemplify, justify, challenge and ask the interlocutor for clarification.

A typical discursive task at Mastery level is:	Interlocutor: Here is a list of some of the factors which might be important for job satisfaction. Let's discuss the different factors and decide the most and least important ones for us. Let's also consider which jobs involve the different factors.		
	social status exercising power	variety freedom anything else?	lack of pressure meeting people

Part 4 – presenting a topic

The aim of this part is to test a candidate's ability to speak at greater length with minimum participation from the interlocutor. This part of the test gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their range and fluency in English. The interlocutor chooses one of three given topics and asks the candidate to talk about it. The candidate is given pen/pencil and paper to make notes during the 30 seconds of preparation time. The Interlocutor ensures that the chosen topic is not one which has already been touched on in the previous three parts of the test.

At Preliminary level, a typical topic might be:	What you watch on television.
At Achiever level, a typical topic might be:	An exciting experience.
At Mastery level, a typical topic might be:	The qualities you regard as essential for leadership.

The candidate may be asked to answer follow-up questions to their presentation or may be interrupted with questions from the interlocutor.

LANGUAGECERT® offers a comprehensive range of candidate practice papers and specimen assessment materials for its International ESOL qualifications which can be downloaded via the LANGUAGECERT® website.

1.9 Key responsibilities of the Interlocutors and Invigilators

The Interlocutor is responsible for conducting LANGUAGECERT® International ESOL (Speaking) examinations. S/he elicits the spoken performance of the candidate by asking questions or setting up speaking tasks using the scripted Interlocutor Framework.

The Interlocutor must be:

- fluent in spoken English
- suitably qualified and experienced in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language
- fully familiar with the six levels of the Common European Framework (CEFR)
- able to adjust their language to reflect the six levels of the CEFR
- highly skilled at eliciting

The Interlocutor may be a native or non-native speaker of English. They must have an excellent command of English and be able to use the language to high degrees of skill in order to elicit language at an appropriate level from the candidate. A wide range of spoken skills are tested: long turns, short turns, interactional and transactional language.

All recorded live exams are sent directly to LANGUAGECERT® where they are marked centrally by LANGUAGECERT® Marking examiners who do not know the candidates.

To ensure all candidates have an equal chance of giving their best performance, the examinations must be conducted fairly and consistently and in accordance with the rules and regulations laid down by LANGUAGECERT®.

Interlocutors do not assess the candidate's performance. The **Interlocutor** must:

- be fully familiar with the contents of:
 - The Guide for Interlocutors
 - The International ESOL (Speaking) Handbook
 - The regulations for the conduct of examinations
- manage the interaction in the test and facilitate the candidate's performance
- be able to attend training prior to administering a live exam
- help set up the examination room
- be completely familiar with the scripted Interlocutor Framework for each level of the International ESOL (Speaking) exams and deliver it as accurately as possible
- read each exam paper thoroughly before using it in a live exam
- adjust own use of English and speed of delivery as is appropriate for the level of the exam
- keep to the prescribed timings for all parts of the exam
- ensure that all candidates are treated fairly and given an equal opportunity to speak
- conduct the exam in accordance with LANGUAGECERT®'s Regulations for the conduct of examinations
- ensure the security of examination material at all times
- record spoken examinations in digital format

- ensure the examinations are recorded live with the candidate in the same room
- ensure that all the administration connected with the live exam recordings is accurately carried out
- ensure all necessary procedures are in place to prevent malpractice during the examination
- ensure that all examination scripts are collected immediately after the examination and handed to the person responsible for despatching them
- undertake to offer the services set out above within the specified times and in accordance with LANGUAGECERT® procedures.

Further guidance for interlocutors can be found in the LANGUAGECERT® *Guide for Interlocutors*.

During each examination, an Invigilator is available for all aspects of the examination outside the Exam Room. (In OLP exams, an online proctor or the interlocutor takes on the role of the invigilator.) The **Invigilator** is responsible for:

- checking the identity of each candidate prior to the exam
- ensuring that candidates wait in a designated area prior to their exam taking place
- showing candidates into the Exam Room at the appropriate time
- ensuring that candidates who have completed their exam do not mix with those who are still waiting to go into the Exam Room
- ensuring that timings are adhered to as accurately as possible, if necessary, by pointing out to the Interlocutor between candidates that each exam is taking too long or not long enough
- ensuring that candidates do not bring unauthorised material into the Exam Room
- ensuring that people moving around in the vicinity of the Exam Room remain quiet.

2 Syllabus

The syllabus shows the standards which a learner must achieve to gain a pass in each of the six levels of the examination. The standards must be read in conjunction with the sections showing the grammar tested at each level and the functions and topics used and tested at each level. These follow each set of standards.

The standards set out in the following pages are cumulative. That is, an A2 candidate, for example, will be able to carry out the standards set out for A1 and A2. Similarly, a C2 candidate will be able to meet the standards of all lower levels (A1-C1) in addition to the C2 standards.

2.1 Preliminary level – A1

Speaking

The candidate will be able to:

- interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech
- initiate and respond to simple statements about personal details, in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics
- communicate in a very limited range of social situations using a basic range of functional language
- exchange information to perform a task
- describe and explain familiar topics and simple routines
- give single-step instructions and directions in familiar contexts
- ask and answer simple questions
- produce simple phrases to express likes, dislikes and preferences in relation to familiar topics
- contribute points to a discussion, provided the other speakers are co-operative.

Pronunciation

The candidate will be able to:

- pronounce with sufficient clarity a limited repertoire of words and phrases so they can be understood by a sympathetic listener.

Accuracy

The candidate will be able to:

- display a limited control of very basic grammatical structures.

Range

The candidate will be able to:

- produce simple phrases and sentences to give basic information about and descriptions of familiar people and places, feelings and opinions.

Register

The candidate will be able to:

- cope appropriately, with support from the other person, in a limited range of familiar social situations.

Fluency

The candidate will be able to:

- manage the conventions of turn taking in very simple interactions
- use a very limited range of connectors to link utterances.

Topics - Preliminary Level – A1

The candidate will be able to engage in spoken interaction on the following topics.

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

- name
- address
- date and place of birth
- age
- sex
- marital status
- nationality
- origin
- occupation
- family
- likes and dislikes
- physical appearance
- title
- first language

HOUSE, HOME, AND LOCAL AREA

- accommodation, rooms
- furniture, furnishing
- services
- amenities
- region
- flora and fauna

DAILY LIFE

- at home
- at work

FREE TIME, ENTERTAINMENT

- leisure
- hobbies and interests
- TV, radio, computer, etc.
- cinema, theatre
- intellectual pursuits
- sports
- press
- internet
- music
- holidays

TRAVEL

- public transport
- private transport
- traffic
- holiday accommodation
- luggage
- travel documents
- signs and notices

LANGUAGE

- foreign language ability

- spelling and the alphabet

RELATIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE

- relationships
- correspondence
- behaviour
- friends

HEALTH AND BODYCARE

- parts of the body
- personal comfort
- hygiene
- ailments, accidents
- medical services

SHOPPING

- shopping facilities
- foodstuffs
- clothes, fashion
- household articles
- prices

FOOD AND DRINK

- types of food and drink
- eating and drinking out

SERVICES

- post
- telephone
- banking
- police
- hospital, surgery
- garage
- petrol station
- emergency

PLACES

- asking the way and giving directions
- location

WEATHER

- giving information about the climate and weather
- climate and weather

MEASURES AND SHAPES

- digits and cardinal numbers up to 31
- telephone numbers
- height, length, weight, capacity, temperature
- dates, times, days
- shape

EDUCATION

- schooling
- subjects

Functions - Preliminary Level – A1

(see Topics list for contexts)

Personal environment

- asking for and giving personal information
- describing where one lives (accommodation, area, etc.)
- asking and answering questions for confirmation, information, identification
- describing familiar people, places and things
- correcting information
- explaining daily routines.

Expressing thoughts and feelings

- expressing agreement or disagreement
- stating knowledge or ignorance of something or someone
- stating and asking about ability or inability to do something
- seeking, granting or denying permission
- expressing wishes
- expressing a preference
- expressing likes and dislikes
- offering and accepting an apology.

Making things happen

- responding to a request
- requesting something or requesting someone to do something
- inviting someone to do something
- accepting or declining an offer or invitation
- giving single-step instructions
- counting and using numbers.

Social contact

- getting someone's attention
- greeting people and responding to greetings
- expressing thanks
- addressing somebody
- introducing oneself, family and close friends
- opening, closing a conversation
- indicating lack of understanding
- asking someone to clarify something
- asking for and giving the spelling and meaning of words
- asking for and telling people the time, day, date
- taking leave.

2.2 Access level – A2

Speaking

The candidate will be able to:

- speak with reasonable ease in structured situations and short conversations on familiar topics, although from time to time will be asked to repeat or clarify
- communicate personal information to give simple descriptions of family, other people, living or working conditions, habits and daily routines, education background and/or job
- communicate in a limited number of social situations using a range of functional language
- exchange information to perform a task
- give simple directions, instructions and explanations
- ask and answer questions
- give a short description or tell a simple story using simple and compound sentences
- express simple feelings and opinions and establish a shared understanding.

Pronunciation

The candidate will be able to:

- pronounce the sounds of English sufficiently clearly to be generally understood.

Accuracy

The candidate will be able to:

- display some control of basic grammatical structures.

Range

The candidate will be able to:

- display an adequate range of vocabulary to communicate on familiar topics and perform simple tasks.

Register

The candidate will be able to:

- adjust language to suit context in straightforward situations.

Fluency

The candidate will be able to:

- manage the conventions of turn taking in short social exchanges, using simple techniques to start, maintain, and end a conversation
- use a limited number of common discourse markers.

Topics – Access Level – A2

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

- name
- address
- date and place of birth
- age
- sex
- marital status
- nationality
- origin
- occupation
- family
- likes and dislikes
- physical appearance
- title
- first language

HOUSE, HOME, AND LOCAL AREA

- accommodation, rooms
- furniture, furnishing
- services
- amenities
- region
- flora and fauna

DAILY LIFE

- at home
- at work

FREE TIME, ENTERTAINMENT

- leisure
- hobbies and interests
- TV, radio, computer, etc.
- cinema, theatre
- intellectual pursuits
- sports
- press
- internet
- music
- holidays

TRAVEL

- public transport
- private transport
- traffic
- holiday accommodation
- luggage
- travel documents
- signs and notices

RELATIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE

- relationship
- correspondence
- behaviour

- invitations
- friends

HEALTH AND BODYCARE

- parts of the body
- personal comfort
- hygiene
- ailments, accidents
- medical services

SHOPPING

- shopping facilities
- foodstuffs
- clothes, fashion
- household articles
- prices

FOOD AND DRINK

- types of food and drink
- eating and drinking out

SERVICES

- post
- telephone
- banking
- police
- hospital, surgery
- garage
- petrol station
- emergency

PLACES

- asking the way and giving directions
- location

LANGUAGE

- foreign language ability
- spelling and the alphabet

WEATHER

- providing limited information about the climate and weather

MEASURES AND SHAPES

- digits and cardinal numbers up to 100 and multiples of 100
- telephone numbers, process
- height, length, weight, capacity, temperature
- dates, times, days
- shape

EDUCATION

- schooling
- subjects

Functions - Access Level – A2

(See Topics list for contexts)

Personal environment

- asking for and giving personal information
- describing where one lives (accommodation, area, etc.)
- asking and answering questions for confirmation, information, identification
- describing people, places and things
- correcting information
- explaining daily routines
- describing past events
- comparing things, people

Expressing thoughts and feelings

- expressing agreement or disagreement
- denying something
- expressing views and feelings with reasons
- stating and asking about knowledge or ignorance of something or someone
- stating and asking about ability or inability to do something
- stating and asking about certainty or uncertainty of something
- seeking, granting or denying permission
- expressing and asking about wishes and hopes
- expressing and asking about wants, desires, needs
- stating and asking about intention
- stating a preference
- expressing and asking about likes and dislikes, with reasons
- expressing and asking about (dis)pleasure, (un)happiness
- expressing gratitude
- offering and accepting an apology
- expressing approval or appreciation
- expressing regret

Making things happen

- responding to a request
- requesting something or requesting someone to do something
- inviting someone to do something
- accepting or declining an offer or invitation
- giving instructions
- giving advice

- warning others to be careful or to stop doing something
- offering and requesting assistance
- suggesting a course of action

Social contact

- getting someone's attention
- greeting people and responding to greetings
- expressing thanks
- addressing somebody
- introducing oneself, family and close friends
- opening, closing a conversation
- congratulating someone
- indicating lack of understanding
- asking someone to clarify or explain something
- asking someone to repeat all or part of something
- asking someone to speak more slowly
- asking for help in finding words or phrases
- asking for and giving the spelling and meaning of words
- counting and using numbers
- asking for and telling people the time, day, date
- interrupting politely
- summing up
- taking leave
- observing telephone conventions

2.3 Achiever level – B1

Speaking

The candidate will be able to:

- interact competently if not always accurately in everyday situation
- communicate personal information, opinions and ideas and respond to those of others
- communicate in a variety of social situations using an appropriate range of functional language
- exchange information, feelings and opinions to perform a task
- narrate, describe, explain and express opinions in extended speech related to familiar contexts
- contribute points to a simple discussion.

Pronunciation

The candidate will be able to:

- pronounce the sounds of English sufficiently well to be generally understood and show a fair control of stress and intonation patterns.

Accuracy

The candidate will be able to:

- display a good control of basic grammatical structures without impeding errors when dealing with familiar topics.

Range

The candidate will be able to:

- display an adequate range of vocabulary and expression to deal with familiar situations and topics
- narrate using past tenses.

Register

The candidate will be able to:

- adopt a degree of formality appropriate to familiar circumstances
- use appropriate phrases in familiar situations such as greeting and leave-taking.

Fluency

The candidate will be able to:

- initiate and follow the norms of turn-taking, prompt and manage the discourse with a degree of independence
- connect descriptions, narratives and descriptions in simple ways
- speak without undue hesitation unless searching for information, vocabulary or when reformulating

Topics - Achiever Level – B1

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

- name
- address
- date and place of birth
- age
- sex
- marital status
- nationality
- origin
- occupation
- family
- likes and dislikes
- physical appearance
- title
- first language
- character, disposition

HOUSE, HOME, AND LOCAL AREA

- accommodation, rooms
- furniture, bedclothes
- services
- amenities
- region
- flora and fauna
- types of accommodation
- cost

DAILY LIFE

- at home
- at work
- income
- prospects

FREE TIME, ENTERTAINMENT

- leisure
- hobbies and interests
- TV, radio, computer, etc.
- cinema, theatre
- intellectual pursuits
- sports
- press
- internet
- music
- holidays
- exhibitions, museums
- artistic pursuits

PLACES

- asking the way and giving directions
- location

MEASURES AND SHAPES

- all digits and cardinal numbers

- telephone numbers
- height, length, weight, capacity, temperature
- dates, times, days
- shape

TRAVEL

- public transport
- private transport
- traffic
- holiday accommodation
- luggage
- travel documents
- signs and notices
- entering and leaving a country

RELATIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE

- relationships
- correspondence
- behaviour
- invitations
- club membership
- government and politics
- crime and justice
- social affairs
- friends

HEALTH AND BODYCARE

- parts of the body
- personal comfort
- hygiene
- ailments, accidents
- medical services

SHOPPING

- shopping facilities
- foodstuffs
- clothes, fashion
- household articles
- prices

FOOD AND DRINK

- types of food and drink
- eating and drinking out

SERVICES

- post
- telephone
- banking
- police
- hospital, surgery
- garage
- petrol station
- emergency

LANGUAGE

- foreign language ability
- understanding, expression
- spelling and the alphabet

WEATHER

- give information about the climate and weather

EDUCATION

- schooling
- subjects
- qualifications

Functions – Achiever Level – B1

(see Topics list for contexts)

Personal environment

- asking for and giving personal information
- describing where one lives (accommodation, area, etc.)
- asking and answering questions for confirmation, information, identification
- describing people, places, things
- correcting information
- explaining daily routines
- narrating and describing past, present and future events
- comparing things, people
- reporting facts, actions.

Expressing thoughts, feelings and attitudes

- expressing and asking about agreement or disagreement
- denying something
- expressing views and feelings with reasons
- stating and asking about knowledge or ignorance of something or someone
- stating whether a person, thing or action is remembered or forgotten
- enquiring of someone else whether a person, thing or action is remembered or forgotten
- stating and asking about degrees of probability
- expressing, denying or asking about necessity (including logical deduction)
- stating and asking about one's certainty or uncertainty of something
- stating and asking about one's ability or inability to do something
- stating and enquiring about one's obligation (or lack of) to do something
- seeking, granting or denying permission
- stating and asking about the permissibility of doing something
- expressing and asking about wishes and hopes
- expressing and asking about wants, desires, needs
- stating and asking about intention
- stating, responding to and asking about preference
- expressing and asking about likes and dislikes, with reasons
- expressing and asking about (dis)pleasure, (un)happiness
- expressing and asking about satisfaction or dissatisfaction
- expressing disappointment
- expressing gratitude
- expressing and asking about interest or lack of it

- expressing surprise or lack of it
- expressing and asking about fear or worry
- giving reassurance
- expressing regret, sympathy
- offering and accepting an apology
- granting forgiveness
- expressing approval or appreciation
- expressing regret
- expressing indifference
- expressing and asking about approval or disapproval
- expressing moral obligation

Making things happen

- responding to a request
- requesting something or requesting someone to do something
- inviting someone to do something
- accepting or declining an offer or invitation
- giving instructions
- giving and asking for advice
- responding to or rejecting advice, with reasons
- warning others to be careful or to stop doing something
- offering and requesting assistance
- insisting politely
- persuading someone to do something
- suggesting a course of action
- asking for, responding to or rejecting suggestions with reason/alternative
- encouraging someone to do something
- making and agreeing plans and arrangements
- reaching a compromise
- prohibiting someone from doing something
- making a complaint
- social contact
- getting someone's attention
- greeting people and responding to greetings
- expressing thanks
- addressing somebody
- making and responding to introductions
- opening, closing a conversation

- congratulating someone
- praising someone
- paying a compliment
- asking someone's opinion
- indicating lack of understanding
- giving and asking for clarification or explanation of something
- confirming one's own or another's understanding
- asking someone to repeat a word, phrase or sentence
- asking someone to speak more slowly
- asking for help in finding words or phrases
- asking for and giving the spelling and meaning of words
- counting and using numbers
- asking for and telling people the time, day, date
- interrupting politely
- exemplifying or emphasising a point
- encouraging another speaker to continue
- indicating a wish to continue or finish speaking
- summing up
- taking leave
- observing telephone conventions

2.4 Communicator level – B2

Speaking

The candidate will be able to:

- speak with a degree of fluency and spontaneity making sustained interaction possible without undue strain
- communicate personal information, opinions, feelings and ideas
- communicate in a variety of social situations using a range of functional language
- exchange information to perform a task
- narrate, describe, explain and express opinions in extended speech
- give straightforward descriptions, narratives, directions, instructions on topics encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational life
- contribute points to an argument on a familiar topic integrating sub-themes and coming to a conclusion.

Pronunciation

The candidate will be able to:

- pronounce clearly the sounds of English in connected speech
- produce stretches of language with few noticeable long pauses, but with some hesitation when searching for patterns and expressions.

Accuracy

The candidate will be able to:

- display a relatively high degree of grammatical control without impeding errors.

Range

The candidate will be able to:

- use sufficient range of language to give detailed descriptions and arguments and be able to highlight personal events and emotions
- produce complex sentences although there is still some searching for vocabulary and expressions.

Register

The candidate will be able to:

- adopt a degree of formality appropriate to the circumstances
- cope linguistically with more stressful kinds of interaction such as complaints or disputes.

Fluency

The candidate will be able to:

- manage the conventions of turn taking using appropriate phrases for making and dealing with interruptions and requesting information
- link utterances using some cohesive devices although there may be some 'jerkiness' in extended speech.

Topics – Communicator Level – B2

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

- personal details
- occupation
- family
- likes and dislikes
- physical appearance
- first language
- character

HOUSE, HOME, AND LOCAL AREA

- types of accommodation
- interior design
- local & regional services/amenities
- regional geographical features
- local flora and fauna

DAILY LIFE

- at home
- at work
- income
- prospects

FREE TIME, ENTERTAINMENT

- leisure, hobbies & interests
- TV, radio, cinema, theatre
- computer, internet
- intellectual/artistic pursuits
- sports
- press
- music
- photography
- the written word (reading, letter-writing, diaries, etc.)
- exhibitions, museums

TRAVEL

- public & private transport
- traffic & traffic control
- 'green' travel
- holidays
- accommodation
- entering and leaving a country

RELATIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE

- family relationships
- friendship
- manners
- social conventions

HEALTH AND BODYCARE

- parts of the body
- personal comfort
- hygiene

- ailments, accidents
- medical services

SHOPPING

- shopping facilities
- foodstuffs
- clothes, fashion
- household articles
- prices

FOOD AND DRINK

- eating habits
- sourcing food locally
- fast food
- organic food
- year-round availability
- diets

SERVICES

- communications
- financial services
- emergency services
- leisure facilities
- care for the elderly
- IT in the community

PLACES & LOCATION

- satellite navigation systems
- World Heritage sites
- locations for motorways & airports
- protecting open spaces

LANGUAGE

- foreign language ability
- accents & dialects
- preserving minority languages
- bilingualism

WEATHER

- climate and weather
- weather forecasting
- climate change
- extreme weather

MEASURES AND SHAPES

- statistics
- processes

EDUCATION

- schooling
- subjects
- qualifications and examinations

THE ENVIRONMENT

- recycling
- pollution
- global warming

BELIEFS

- the paranormal & supernatural
- superstitions
- unexplained phenomena e.g., UFOs, coincidences, etc.

ARTS

- modern art, theatre
- classical art, theatre

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- scientific development
- space exploration
- power of the computer
- important inventions

SOCIETY

- individual rights
- family life
- parental responsibilities
- social responsibilities
- equal opportunities

Functions - Communicator Level – B2

(See Topics list for contexts)

Personal environment

- asking for and giving personal information
- describing where one lives (accommodation, area, etc.)
- asking and answering questions for confirmation, information, identification
- describing people, places, things
- correcting information
- explaining routines
- narrating and describing past, present and future events
- comparing things, people
- reporting facts, actions
- stating facts, actions
- giving descriptions and specifications

Expressing thoughts, feelings and attitudes

- expressing and asking about agreement or disagreement
- denying something
- expressing agreement reluctantly or with reservations
- conceding a point or argument, demurring
- expressing views and feelings with reasons
- asserting and asking about knowledge or ignorance of something or someone
- stating whether a person, thing or action is remembered or forgotten
- enquiring of someone else whether a person, thing or action is remembered or forgotten
- stating and asking about degrees of probability/possibility
- expressing, denying or asking about necessity (including logical deduction)
- stating and asking about one's certainty or uncertainty of something
- reminding someone to do something
- expressing doubt, incredulity, bewilderment
- hypothesising
- stating and asking about one's ability or inability to do something
- stating and enquiring about one's obligation (or lack of) to do something
- seeking, granting or denying permission
- stating and asking about the permissibility of doing something
- expressing and asking about wishes, hopes, expectations
- expressing and asking about wants, desires, needs
- stating and asking about intention
- stating, responding to and asking about preference

- expressing and asking about likes and dislikes, with reasons
- expressing and asking about (dis)pleasure, (un)happiness
- expressing and asking about satisfaction or dissatisfaction
- expressing disappointment
- expressing gratitude
- expressing and asking about interest or lack of it
- expressing surprise or lack of it
- expressing and asking about fear, worry, anxiety
- giving reassurance
- expressing regret, sympathy, condolence
- expressing fellow-feeling, empathy
- expressing and asking about pain, anguish, suffering
- expressing relief
- expressing indifference
- expressing fatigue, resignation
- offering and accepting an apology
- granting forgiveness
- expressing and asking about approval, appreciation or disapproval
- expressing moral obligation
- expressing regret
- accepting, attaching or denying blame for something

Making things happen

- responding to a request
- requesting something, or requesting someone to do something
- inviting someone to do something
- accepting or declining an offer or invitation
- giving instructions or orders
- giving and asking for advice
- responding to or rejecting advice, with reasons
- warning others to be careful or to stop doing something
- offering and requesting assistance
- insisting politely
- persuading someone to do something
- suggesting a course of action
- asking for, responding to, agreeing to or rejecting suggestions with reason/alternative
- making and agreeing plans and arrangements
- encouraging someone to do something
- reaching a compromise

- prohibiting someone from doing something
- making a complaint
- refusing to do something, expressing defiance
- pleading with someone to do something

Social contact

- getting someone's attention
- greeting people and responding to greetings
- expressing thanks
- addressing somebody
- making and responding to formal and informal introductions
- opening, closing a formal or informal conversation
- congratulating someone
- praising someone
- paying someone a compliment
- asking someone's opinion
- making someone feel welcome
- indicating lack of understanding
- giving and asking for clarification, explanation or definition of something
- confirming one's own or another's understanding
- asking someone to repeat all or part of something
- asking someone to speak more slowly
- asking for help in finding words or phrases
- asking for and giving the spelling and meaning of words
- counting and using numbers
- asking for and telling people the time, day, date
- interrupting politely
- objecting, protesting
- exemplifying or emphasising a point
- classifying, generalising, defining something
- encouraging another speaker to continue
- indicating a wish to continue or finish speaking
- summing up
- taking leave
- observing telephone conventions

2.5 Expert level – C1

Speaking

The candidate will be able to:

- interact fluently and spontaneously on all subjects except the most abstract with some degree of searching for expressions or use of avoidance strategies
- communicate personal information, opinions, feelings and ideas on all topics except the most complex
- communicate in almost all social situations, including those requiring tact and diplomacy, using a wide range of language functions
- engage in discussion to express and elicit opinion, persuade someone to a point of view, try to reach agreement or perform a specific task
- explain, describe, narrate, account for and report on complex subjects integrating sub-themes
- speak clearly on complex themes, developing particular points and rounding off appropriately.

Pronunciation

The candidate will be able to:

- pronounce clearly the sounds of English in connected speech and use stress and intonation to convey finer shades of meaning precisely.

Accuracy

The candidate will be able to:

- maintain a consistently high degree of grammatical accuracy with few errors, generally correcting those that do occur.

Range

The candidate will be able to:

- use complex sentences, idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms and qualify opinions and statements without much conspicuous searching for words.

Register

The candidate will be able to:

- cope linguistically in sensitive or stressful situations even in unfamiliar contexts.

Fluency

The candidate will be able to:

- display controlled use of discourse organisation, connectors and cohesive devices and be able to backtrack or reformulate when encountering difficulty
- confidently manage the conventions of turn taking using appropriate phrases for making and dealing with interruptions and requesting clarification.

Topics – Expert Level – C1

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

- personal details
- occupation
- family
- likes and dislikes
- physical appearance
- first language
- character
- image

HOUSE, HOME, AND LOCAL AREA

- types of accommodation
- interior design
- local & regional services/amenities
- regional geographical features
- national flora and fauna
- region-specific phenomena

DAILY LIFE

- at home
- at work
- income
- prospects
- stress
- money management

FREE TIME, ENTERTAINMENT

- leisure, hobbies and interests
- TV, radio, cinema, theatre
- computer, internet
- intellectual/artistic pursuits
- sports
- press
- music
- photography
- the written word (reading, letter-writing, diaries, etc.)
- exhibitions, museums
- leisure/work ratio

TRAVEL

- public & private transport
- traffic & traffic control
- 'green' travel
- holidays
- accommodation
- entering and leaving a country
- common currency e.g., the euro
- migration

RELATIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE

- family relationships
- friendship

- manners
- social conventions
- anti-social behaviour

SHOPPING

- shopping facilities
- foodstuffs
- clothes, fashion
- household articles
- prices
- ethical shopping
- retail therapy

FOOD AND DRINK

- eating habits
- sourcing food locally
- fast food
- organic food
- year round availability
- diets
- food fashions

SERVICES

- communications
- financial services
- emergency services
- leisure facilities
- care for the elderly
- IT in the community
- diplomatic services
- employment agencies

PLACES & LOCATION

- satellite navigation systems
- World Heritage sites
- locating motorways and airports
- protecting open spaces
- how geography affects people
- alternative places to live e.g., underwater, on Mars

LANGUAGE

- foreign language ability
- accents and dialects
- preserving minority languages
- bilingualism
- universal languages e.g., Esperanto
- body language

WEATHER

- climate and weather
- weather forecasting
- climate change
- extreme weather
- weather and mood

MEASURES AND SHAPES

- statistics
- importance of maths in everyday life

EDUCATION

- schooling
- subjects
- qualifications and examinations
- education systems
- teaching and learning

THE ENVIRONMENT

- recycling
- pollution
- global warming
- endangered species
- future of the planet

BELIEFS

- the paranormal & supernatural
- superstitions
- unexplained phenomena e.g., UFOs, coincidences, etc.

ARTS

- modern art, theatre, architecture
- classical art, theatre, architecture
- literature
- popular culture

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- scientific development
- space exploration
- power of the computer
- important inventions
- genetic modification
- ethics
- animal testing

SOCIETY

- individual rights
- family life
- parental responsibilities
- social responsibilities
- equal opportunities
- human rights
- citizenship
- the global village

Functions – Expert Level – C1

(See Topics list for contexts)

Personal environment

- asking for and giving personal information
- describing where one lives (accommodation, area, etc.)
- asking and answering questions for confirmation, information, identification
- describing people, places, things
- correcting information
- explaining routines
- narrating and describing past, present and future events
- comparing things, people
- reporting facts, actions
- stating facts, actions
- giving descriptions and specifications.

Expressing thoughts, feelings and attitudes

- expressing and asking about agreement or disagreement
- denying something
- expressing agreement reluctantly or with reservations
- conceding, demurring
- expressing views and feelings with reasons
- asserting and asking about knowledge or ignorance of something or someone
- stating whether a person, thing or action is remembered or forgotten
- enquiring of someone else whether a person, thing or action is remembered or forgotten
- stating and asking about degrees of probability
- expressing, denying or asking about necessity (including logical deduction)
- stating and asking about one's certainty or uncertainty of something
- reminding someone to do something
- expressing doubt, incredulity, bewilderment
- hypothesising
- speculating
- stating and asking about one's ability or inability to do something
- stating and enquiring about one's obligation (or lack of) to do something
- seeking, granting or denying permission
- stating and asking about the permissibility of doing something
- expressing and asking about wishes, hopes, expectations
- expressing and asking about wants, desires, needs
- stating and asking about intention
- stating, responding to and asking about preference

- expressing and asking about likes and dislikes, with reasons
- expressing and asking about (dis)pleasure, (un)happiness
- expressing and asking about satisfaction or dissatisfaction
- expressing disappointment
- expressing gratitude
- expressing and asking about interest or lack of it
- expressing surprise or lack of it
- expressing and asking about fear, anxiety
- giving reassurance
- expressing regret, sympathy, condolence
- expressing fellow-feeling, empathy
- expressing and asking about pain, anguish, suffering
- expressing relief
- expressing indifference
- expressing fatigue, resignation
- offering and accepting an apology
- granting forgiveness
- expressing and asking about approval, appreciation or disapproval
- expressing moral obligation
- expressing regret
- accepting, attaching or denying blame for something.

Making things happen

- responding to a request
- requesting something, or requesting someone to do something
- inviting someone to do something
- accepting or declining an offer or invitation
- giving instructions or orders
- giving and asking for advice
- responding to or rejecting advice, with reasons
- warning others to be careful or to stop doing something
- offering and requesting assistance
- insisting politely
- persuading someone to do something
- suggesting a course of action
- asking for, responding to, agreeing to or rejecting suggestions with reason/alternative
- making and agreeing plans and arrangements
- encouraging someone to do something
- reaching a compromise

- prohibiting someone from doing something
- making a complaint
- refusing to do something, expressing defiance
- pleading with someone to do something.

Social contact

- getting someone's attention
- greeting people and responding to greetings
- expressing thanks
- addressing somebody
- making and responding to formal and informal introductions
- opening, closing a formal or informal conversation
- congratulating someone
- praising someone
- paying someone a compliment
- asking someone's opinion
- making someone feel welcome
- giving and responding to constructive criticism
- indicating lack of understanding
- giving and asking for clarification, explanation or definition of something
- confirming one's own or another's understanding
- asking someone to repeat all or part of something
- asking someone to speak more slowly
- asking for help in finding words or phrases
- asking for and giving the spelling and meaning of words
- counting and using numbers
- asking for and telling people the time, day, date
- interrupting politely
- objecting, protesting
- exemplifying or emphasising a point
- classifying, generalising, defining something
- encouraging another speaker to continue
- indicating a wish to continue or finish speaking
- summing up
- taking leave
- observing telephone conventions

2.6 Mastery level – C2

Speaking

The candidate will be able to:

- display a comprehensive and reliable mastery of the language with no sign of having to restrict what is said
- communicate personal information, feelings, ideas and opinions on a very wide range of topics including contemporary issues
- communicate in all situations using a very wide range of language functions
- engage in discussion to express and elicit opinion, defend and justify opinions when challenged, persuade someone to a point of view, try to reach agreement or perform a specific task
- provide sophisticated explanations, descriptions, narratives, account for or report on a complex subject, convey subtleties of meaning, integrate sub-themes and come to an appropriate conclusion.

Pronunciation

The candidate will be able to:

- articulate correctly and use stress and intonation patterns naturally to highlight, emphasise, and modify meaning.

Accuracy

The candidate will be able to:

- maintain consistent grammatical control of complex language.

Range

The candidate will be able to:

- display a good command of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms with awareness of connotative levels of meaning, conveying subtleties by using a wide range of modification devices.

Register

The candidate will be able to:

- adjust register appropriately across a range of situations unhampered by linguistic limitations.

Fluency

The candidate will be able to:

- produce clearly flowing, well-structured speech with an effective logical management of the discourse, highlighting significant points
- produce coherent and cohesive discourse using a variety of organisational patterns, a wide range of connectors and other cohesive devices and backtracking and reformulating seamlessly
- interact skilfully and confidently with fully natural turn taking, referencing and allusion making.

Topics – Mastery Level – C2

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

- personal details
- occupation
- family
- likes and dislikes
- physical appearance
- first language
- character
- image
- personal learning style

HOUSE, HOME, AND LOCAL AREA

- types of accommodation
- interior design
- local & regional services and amenities
- regional geographical features
- national flora and fauna
- region-specific phenomena
- demographics

DAILY LIFE

- at home
- at work
- income
- prospects
- stress
- money management
- life plans

FREE TIME, ENTERTAINMENT

- leisure, hobbies and interests
- TV, radio, cinema, theatre
- computer, internet
- intellectual/artistic pursuits
- sports
- press
- music
- photography
- the written word (reading, letter-writing, diaries, etc.)
- exhibitions, museums
- leisure/work ratio
- the social importance of leisure

TRAVEL

- public & private transport
- traffic & traffic control
- 'green' travel
- holidays
- accommodation
- entering and leaving a country
- common currency e.g., the euro

- migration
- travel restrictions & border controls

RELATIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE

- family relationships
- friendship
- manners
- social conventions
- anti-social behaviour
- tolerance & respect

SHOPPING

- shopping facilities
- foodstuffs
- clothes, fashion
- household articles
- prices
- ethical shopping
- retail therapy
- consumerism

FOOD AND DRINK

- eating habits
- sourcing food locally
- fast food
- organic food
- year round availability
- diets
- food fashions
- genetically modified food
- cookery

SERVICES

- communications
- financial services
- emergency services
- leisure facilities
- care for the elderly
- IT in the community
- diplomatic services
- employment agencies
- government

PLACES & LOCATION

- satellite navigation systems
- World Heritage sites
- locating motorways and airports
- protecting open spaces
- how geography affects people
- alternative places to live e.g., underwater, on Mars
- living in hostile environments

LANGUAGE

- foreign language ability
- accents and dialects
- preserving minority languages
- bilingualism
- universal languages e.g., Esperanto
- body language
- language and culture

WEATHER

- climate and weather
- weather forecast
- climate change
- extreme weather
- weather and mood
- effect of weather on lifestyle

MEASURES AND SHAPES

- statistics
- importance of maths in everyday life
- design

EDUCATION

- schooling
- subjects
- qualifications and examinations
- education systems
- teaching and learning
- knowledge versus skills
- a basic human right

THE ENVIRONMENT

- recycling
- pollution
- global warming
- endangered species
- future of the planet
- individual's/society's responsibilities

BELIEFS

- the paranormal & supernatural
- superstitions
- unexplained phenomena e.g., UFOs, coincidences, etc.

ARTS

- modern art, theatre, architecture
- classical art, theatre, architecture
- literature
- popular culture
- youth culture

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- scientific development
- space exploration

- power of the computer
- important inventions
- genetic modification
- ethics
- animal testing
- the limits of human endeavour

SOCIETY

- individual rights
- family life
- parental responsibilities
- social responsibilities
- equal opportunities
- human rights
- citizenship
- the global village
- world events
- world economy

Functions - Mastery Level – C2

(See Topics list for contexts)

Personal environment

- asking for and giving personal information
- describing where one lives (accommodation, area, etc.)
- asking and answering questions for confirmation, information, identification
- describing people, places, things
- correcting information
- explaining routines
- narrating and describing past, present and future events
- comparing things, people
- reporting facts, actions
- stating facts, actions
- giving descriptions and specifications.

Expressing thoughts, feelings and attitudes

- expressing and asking about agreement or disagreement
- denying something
- expressing agreement reluctantly or with reservations
- conceding, demurring
- expressing views and feelings with reasons
- asserting and asking about knowledge or ignorance of something or someone
- stating whether a person, thing or action is remembered or forgotten
- enquiring of someone else whether a person, thing or action is remembered or forgotten
- stating and asking about degrees of probability
- expressing, denying or asking about necessity (including logical deduction)
- stating and asking about one's certainty or uncertainty of something
- reminding someone to do something
- expressing doubt, incredulity, bewilderment
- hypothesising
- speculating
- stating and asking about one's ability or inability to do something
- stating and enquiring about one's obligation (or lack of) to do something
- seeking, granting or denying permission
- stating and asking about the permissibility of doing something
- expressing and asking about wishes, hopes, expectations
- expressing and asking about wants, desires, needs

- stating and asking about intention
- stating, responding to and asking about preference
- expressing and asking about likes and dislikes, with reasons
- expressing and asking about (dis)pleasure, (un)happiness
- expressing and asking about satisfaction or dissatisfaction
- expressing disappointment
- expressing gratitude
- expressing and asking about interest or lack of it
- expressing surprise or lack of it
- expressing and asking about fear, anxiety
- giving reassurance
- expressing regret, sympathy, condolence
- expressing fellow-feeling, empathy
- expressing and asking about pain, anguish, suffering
- expressing relief
- expressing indifference
- expressing fatigue, resignation
- offering and accepting an apology
- granting forgiveness
- expressing and asking about approval, appreciation or disapproval
- expressing moral obligation
- expressing regret
- accepting, attaching or denying blame for something.

Making things happen

- responding to a request
- requesting something, or requesting someone to do something
- inviting someone to do something
- accepting or declining an offer or invitation
- giving instructions or orders
- giving and asking for advice
- responding to or rejecting advice, with reasons
- warning others to be careful or to stop doing something
- offering and requesting assistance
- insisting politely
- persuading someone to do something
- suggesting a course of action
- asking for, responding to, agreeing to or rejecting suggestions with reason/alternative

- making and agreeing plans and arrangements
- encouraging someone to do something
- reaching a compromise
- negotiating a result
- prohibiting someone from doing something
- making a complaint
- refusing to do something, expressing defiance
- pleading with someone to do something.

Social contact

- getting someone's attention
- greeting people and responding to greetings
- expressing thanks
- addressing somebody
- making and responding to formal and informal introductions
- opening, closing a formal or informal conversation
- congratulating someone
- praising someone
- paying someone a compliment
- asking someone's opinion
- making someone feel welcome
- giving and responding to constructive criticism
- indicating lack of understanding
- giving and asking for clarification, explanation or definition of something
- confirming one's own or another's understanding
- asking someone to repeat all or part of something
- asking someone to speak more slowly
- asking for help in finding words or phrases
- asking for and giving the spelling and meaning of words
- counting and using numbers
- asking for and telling people the time, day, date
- interrupting politely
- objecting, protesting
- exemplifying or emphasising a point
- classifying, generalising, defining something
- encouraging another speaker to continue
- indicating a wish to continue or finish speaking
- summing up

- taking leave
- observing telephone conventions

2.7 Grammar

2.7.1 Grammar – Preliminary (A1), Access (A2) and Achiever (B1) levels

Candidates may be exposed to the grammar required for the level above but will not be tested on it.

	Preliminary	Access	Achiever
		as Preliminary and in addition	as Access and in addition
Simple sentences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">word order in simple statements: subject-verb-object/adverb/adjective/prepositional phraseword order in instructionsword order in questions<i>There is/are</i> + noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>There was/were</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>There has/have been</i><i>There will be/there is going to be</i>
Compound sentences		<ul style="list-style-type: none">use of conjunctions <i>and/but/or</i>word order subject-verb-(object) (+<i>and/but/or</i>) + subject-verb-(object)	
Complex sentences		<ul style="list-style-type: none">clauses of: time with <i>when, before, after</i>reason <i>because</i>, result <i>so</i>noun clause with <i>that</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">word order in complex sentencescomplex sentences with a subordinate clausedefining relative clauses with <i>who, which, that</i>clause as subject/object

Verb forms

	Preliminary	Access	Achiever
		as Preliminary and in addition	as Access and in addition
Verb forms	<p>Present reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple present tense of <i>be/have/do</i> and common regular verbs • present continuous of common verbs • <i>Have got</i> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes/no questions • Question words: <i>who/what/where/when/how much/how many/how old</i> • Auxiliary 'do' for questions and negatives (positive questions only) • Short answers such as <i>yes, he does & no, I haven't</i> • imperatives and negative imperatives • contracted forms appropriate to this level • <i>let's</i> + infinitive for suggestion 	<p>Present reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple present with no time focus • present continuous to express continuity <p>Past reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • past tense of regular and common irregular verbs with time markers <p>Future reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP + <i>be going to</i>, present continuous and time markers <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited range of common verbs, <i>-ing</i> form, such as <i>like, go</i> • verb + <i>to</i> + infinitive such as <i>want, hope</i> • very common phrasal verbs such as <i>get up, get off</i> • questions such as <i>what time, how often, why, which</i> • simple question tags using all the verb forms at this level • contracted forms appropriate to this level 	<p>Present/Past reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present perfect with <i>since/for/ever/never, yet/already, just</i> <p>Past reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>used to</i> for regular actions in the past • past continuous <p>Future reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future simple verb forms, NP + <i>will</i> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero and 1st conditional • Range of verbs + <i>-ing</i> forms • <i>to</i> + infinitive to express purpose • common phrasal verbs and position of object pronouns, such as <i>I looked it up</i> • simple reported/embedded statements and questions • question tags using all verbs appropriate at the level • contracted forms appropriate to this level

Modals, nouns, pronouns, possessives, prepositions

	Preliminary	Access	Achiever
		as Preliminary and in addition	as Access and in addition
Modals	Present reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>can, can't</i> (ability/inability, permission) and <i>would like</i> (request) 	Modals and forms with similar meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>must</i> (obligation) <i>mustn't</i> (prohibition) <i>have to, had got to</i> (need) <i>can, could</i> (requests) <i>couldn't</i> (impossibility) <i>may</i> (permission) single modal adverbs: <i>possibly, probably, perhaps</i> 	Modals and forms with similar meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>should</i> (obligation, advice) <i>might, may, will, probably</i> (<u>possibility</u> and <u>probability</u> in the future) <i>would/should</i> (advice) <i>need to</i> (obligation) <i>needn't</i> (lack of obligation) <i>will definitely</i> (certainty in the future) <i>may I</i> (asking for permission) <i>I'd rather</i> (stating preference)
Nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular and common irregular plural forms very common uncountable nouns cardinal numbers 1-31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> countable and uncountable nouns simple nouns phrases cardinal numbers up to 100, multiples of 100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> noun phrases with pre- and post-modification such as <i>fair-haired people with sensitive skin</i> all cardinal numbers
Pronouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal - subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> object, reflexive 	
Possessives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> possessive adjectives such as <i>my, your, his, her, its, our, their</i> use of 's, s' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> possessive pronouns such as <i>mine, yours, whose</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As Access
Prepositions and prepositional phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> common prepositions such as <i>at, in, on, under, next to, between, near, to, from</i> prepositional phrases of place, time and movement, such as <i>at home, on the left, on Monday, at six o'clock</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepositions of place, time and movement, such as <i>before, after, towards, up, down, along, across, in front of, behind, opposite</i> prepositional phrases of place and time, such as <i>after dinner, before tea</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wide range of prepositions, such as <i>beyond, above, beneath, below</i> prepositional phrases such as <i>in her twenties, of average height, in the top right-hand corner</i>

Articles, determiners, adjectives, adverbs, intensifiers

	Preliminary	Access	Achiever
		as Preliminary and in addition	as Access and in addition
Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definite, indefinite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> definite article zero article with uncountable nouns definite article with superlatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> definite article with post-modification, such as <i>the present you gave me</i> use of indefinite article in definitions, such as <i>an architect is a person who designs buildings</i>
Determiners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>any, some, a lot of</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>all, none, not (any), enough, (a) few, (a) little, many, more, most, much, no</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of determiners, e.g., <i>all the, most, both</i>
Adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> common adjectives in front of a noun demonstrative adjectives <i>this, that, these, those</i> ordinal numbers 1-31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> order of adjectives comparative, superlative, regular and common irregular forms use of <i>than</i> ordinal numbers up to 100 and multiples of 100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adjectives ending <i>-ed</i> and <i>-ing</i> such as <i>tired</i> and <i>tiring</i> comparative structures, e.g., <i>as...as, is the same as, not so...as..., looks like/is like</i> all ordinal numbers
Adverbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> simple adverbs of place, manner and time, such as <i>here, slowly, now</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> simple adverbs and adverbial phrases: sequencing, time and place, frequency, manner position of adverbs and word order of adverbial phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more complex adverbial phrases of time, place, frequency, manner, e.g., <i>as soon as possible</i>
Intensifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>very, really</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>quite, so, a bit</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of intensifiers such as <i>too, enough</i>

Punctuation and spelling

	Preliminary	Access	Achiever
		as Preliminary and in addition	as Access and in addition
Punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of capital letters and full stops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of question marks, exclamation marks, use of comma in lists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of punctuation in formal and informal texts, such as dashes, brackets, bullet points, speech marks
Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct spelling of personal keywords and familiar words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct spelling of most personal details and familiar common words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct spelling of common words and key words relating to own work, leisure and study interests
Discourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sentence connectives: <i>then, next</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adverbs to indicate sequence (<i>first, finally</i>) use of substitution (<i>I think so, I hope so</i>) markers to structure spoken discourse (<i>Right, well, OK</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> markers to indicate addition (<i>also</i>), sequence (<i>in the first place</i>), contrast (<i>on the other hand</i>) markers to structure spoken discourse, (<i>anyway, by the way</i>) use of ellipsis in informal situations (<i>got to go</i>) use of vague language (<i>I think, you know</i>)

2.7.2 Grammar – Communicator (B2), Expert (C1), Mastery (C2) levels

Candidates may be exposed to the grammar required for the level above but will not be tested on it.

	Communicator	Expert	Mastery
	as Achiever and in addition	as Communicator and in addition	as Expert and in addition
Simple, compound and complex sentences with subordinate clauses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> word order in sentences with more than one subordinate clause <i>there had been</i> use of common conjunctions expressing contrast, purpose, consequence, condition, concession non-defining relative clauses defining relative clauses with <i>where, whose, when</i> defining relative clauses without relative pronouns participle clauses describing action with <i>-ing</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> word order in complex sentences, including order selected for emphasis <i>there could be/would be/should be</i> <i>could have/would have/should have</i> wider range of conjunctions including <i>on condition that, provided that</i> comparative clauses more complex participle clauses describing action with <i>-ed</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> full range of conjunctions

Verb forms

	Communicator	Expert	Mastery
	as Achiever and in addition	as Communicator and in addition	as Expert
Verb forms	<p>Present/Past reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> present perfect continuous <p>Past reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> past perfect <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> simple passive use of 2nd and 3rd conditional verbs + (object) + gerund or infinitive such as <i>would like someone to do something</i>, <i>suggest doing something</i> causative use of have and get reported speech with a range of tenses wider range of phrasal verbs such as <i>give up</i>, <i>put up with</i> reported requests and instructions question tags using tenses appropriate to this level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all verb forms active and passive <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>would</i> expressing habit in the past mixed conditionals reported speech with full range of tenses and introductory verbs extended phrasal verbs such as <i>get round to</i>, <i>carry on with</i> question tags using all tenses imperative + question tag contracted forms appropriate to this level 	

Modals, nouns, prepositions

	Communicator	Expert	Mastery
	as Achiever and in addition	as Communicator and in addition	as Expert
Modals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ought to</i> (obligation) • negative of <i>need</i> and <i>have to</i> to express absence of obligation • <i>must/can't</i> (deduction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>should have/might have/may have/could have/must have</i> and negative forms of these • <i>can't have, needn't have</i> 	
Nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wider range of noun phrases with pre- and post- modification • word order of determiners, e.g., <i>all my books</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extended range of complex noun phrases 	
Prepositions and prepositional phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wider range of prepositions including <i>despite, in spite of</i> • collocations of verbs/nouns + prepositions such as <i>point at, have an interest in</i> • preposition + <i>-ing</i> form such as <i>after leaving</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preposition + <i>having</i> + past participle such as <i>having eaten</i> 	

Articles, determiners, adjectives, adverbs, intensifiers

	Communicator	Expert	Mastery
	as Achiever and in addition	as Communicator and in addition	as Expert
Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> definite, indefinite and zero article with both countable and uncountable nouns in a range of uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as Communicator 	
Adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> comparisons with <i>fewer</i> and <i>less</i> collocation of adjective + preposition such as <i>responsible for</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as Communicator 	
Adverbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adverbial phrases of degree, extent, probability comparative and superlative of adverbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as Communicator 	
Intensifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wide range such as <i>extremely, much, too</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collocation of intensifiers with absolute and relative adjectives such as <i>absolutely gorgeous, very pretty</i> 	

Punctuation and spelling

	Communicator	Expert	Mastery
	as Achiever and in addition	as Communicator and in addition	as Expert and in addition
Punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> multiple uses of commas use of apostrophes for possession and omission use of other punctuation to enhance meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accurate use of all punctuation 	
Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct spelling of words used in work, studies and daily life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct spelling of words used in work, studies and daily life including familiar technical words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct spelling of words used in more specialized contexts (such as business, academia, international affairs)
Discourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of discourse markers expressing addition, cause and effect, contrast (<i>however</i>), sequence and time (<i>at a later date</i>) markers to structure spoken discourse (<i>as I was saying</i>) use of ellipsis in informal speech and writing (<i>sounds good</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of logical markers (<i>in this respect, accordingly</i>) sequence markers (<i>subsequently</i>) a wider range of discourse markers to structure formal and informal speech (<i>can we now turn to</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a full range of discourse markers adapted to context and register

3 Overview of assessment for International ESOL (Speaking)

3.1 Assessment of the International ESOL (Speaking) examination

All Marking Examiners are approved by LANGUAGECERT® and undergo rigorous and frequent training and moderation, to ensure that grades are awarded strictly in accordance with CEFR levels and LANGUAGECERT® examination requirements.

Spoken ESOL examinations are assessed against the following four criteria:

- Task Fulfilment and Coherence: the ability to manage the tasks adequately for the level and link the utterances into coherent speech
- Accuracy and Range of Grammar: the ability to vary and demonstrate control of grammatical structures as appropriate to the task
- Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary: the ability to vary and demonstrate control of lexis and register as appropriate to the task
- Pronunciation, Intonation and Fluency: The ability to produce the sounds of English in order to be understood with appropriate stress and intonation and maintain the flow of speech

Each of the four parts of the test is given equal importance.

Candidates are awarded a mark from 0 to 3 for each of the four criteria, so that the maximum raw marks they can get across the four parts of the test is 12. The marks are then converted to a scaled score from zero (0) to 50.

Overall Grades

The grades awarded are High Pass, Pass, or Fail, as per the thresholds below.

	ESOL Pass	ESOL High Pass
Scaled score	25/50	38/50

For the LANGUAGECERT® ESOL speaking tests, the assessment of the candidate is not carried out by the test centre's Interlocutor. The exam is recorded, and the LANGUAGECERT® Marking Examiners listen to the recording and mark it based on a set of criteria and descriptors of performance for each level. Exams centrally managed by PeopleCert are conducted and marked by Marking Interlocutors.

3.2 International ESOL (Speaking): CEFR Descriptors

PRELIMINARY – A1 – CEFR Descriptors

Overall oral production	Can produce simple mainly isolated phrases about people and places.
Accuracy	Shows only limited control of a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in a memorised repertoire.
Range	Has a very basic repertoire of words and simple phrases related to personal details and particular concrete situations.
Phonology	Pronunciation of a very limited repertoire of learnt words and phrases can be understood with some effort by native speakers used to dealing with speakers of his/her language group.
Fluency	Can manage very short, isolated, mainly pre-packaged utterances, with much pausing to search for expressions, to articulate less familiar words and to repair communication.
Interaction	Can ask and answer questions about personal details. Can interact in a simple way but communication is totally dependent on repetition at a slower rate of speech, rephrasing and repair.
Coherence	Can link words or groups of words with very basic linear connectors like 'and' or 'then'.

ACCESS – A2 – CEFR Descriptors

Overall oral production	Can give a simple description or presentation of people, living or working conditions, daily routines, likes/dislikes, etc. as a short series of simple phrases and sentences linked into a list.
Accuracy	Uses some simple structures correctly, but still systematically makes basic mistakes.
Range	Uses basic sentence patterns with memorised phrases, groups of a few words and formulae in order to communicate limited information in simple everyday situations.
Phonology	Pronunciation is generally clear enough to be understood despite a noticeable foreign accent, but conversational partners will need to ask for repetition from time to time.
Fluency	Can make him/herself understood in very short utterances, even though pauses, false starts and reformulation are very evident.
Interaction	Can answer questions and respond to simple statements. Can indicate when he/she is following but is rarely able to understand enough to keep conversation going of his/her own accord.
Coherence	Can link groups of words with simple connectors like 'and', 'but' and 'because'.

ACHIEVER – B1 – CEFR Descriptors

Overall oral production	Can reasonably fluently sustain a straightforward description of one of a variety of subjects within his/her field of interest, presenting it as a linear sequence of points.
Accuracy	Uses reasonably accurately a repertoire of frequently used 'routines' and patterns associated with more predictable situations.
Range	Has enough language to get by, with sufficient vocabulary to express him/herself with some hesitation and circumlocutions on topics such as family, hobbies and interests, work, travel, and current events.
Phonology	Pronunciation is clearly intelligible even if a foreign accent is sometimes evident and occasional mispronunciations occur.
Fluency	Can keep going comprehensibly, even though pausing for grammatical and lexical planning and repair is very evident, especially in longer stretches of free production.
Interaction	Can initiate, maintain and close simple face-to-face conversation on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. Can repeat back part of what someone has said to confirm mutual understanding.
Coherence	Can link a series of shorter, discrete simple elements into a connected, linear sequence of points.

COMMUNICATOR – B2 – CEFR Descriptors

Overall oral production	Can give clear, systematically developed descriptions and presentations, with appropriate highlighting of significant points, and relevant supporting detail.
	Can give clear, detailed descriptions and presentations on a wide range of subjects related to his/her field of interest, expanding and supporting ideas with subsidiary points and relevant examples.
Accuracy	Shows a relatively high degree of grammatical control. Does not make errors which cause misunderstanding, and can correct most of his/her mistakes.
Range	Has a sufficient range of language to be able to give clear descriptions, express viewpoints on most general topics, without much conspicuous searching for words, using some complex sentence forms to do so.
Phonology	Has acquired a clear, natural, pronunciation and intonation.
Fluency	Can produce stretches of language with a fairly even tempo; although he/she can be hesitant as he/she searches for patterns and expressions. There are few noticeably long pauses.
Interaction	Can initiate discourse, take his/her turn when appropriate and end conversation when he/she needs to, though he/she may not always do this elegantly. Can help the discussion along on familiar ground confirming comprehension, inviting others in, etc.
Coherence	Can use a limited number of cohesive devices to link his/her utterances into clear, coherent discourse, though there may be some 'jumpiness' in a long contribution.

EXPERT – C1 – CEFR Descriptors

Overall oral production	Can give clear, detailed descriptions and presentations on complex subjects, integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion.
Accuracy	Consistently maintains a high degree of grammatical accuracy; errors are rare, difficult to spot and generally corrected when they do occur.
Range	Has a good command of broad range of language allowing him/her to select a formulation to express him/herself clearly in an appropriate style on a wide range of general, academic, professional or leisure topics without having to restrict what he/she wants to say.
Phonology	Can vary intonation and place sentence stress correctly in order to express finer shades of meaning.
Fluency	Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously, almost effortlessly. Only a conceptually difficult subject can hinder a natural, smooth flow of language.
Interaction	Can select a suitable phrase from a readily available range of discourse functions to preface his remarks in order to get or to keep the floor and to relate his/her own contributions skillfully to those of other speakers.
Coherence	Can produce clear, smoothly flowing, well-structured speech, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

MASTERY – C2 – CEFR Descriptors

Overall oral production	Can produce clear, smoothly flowing well-structured speech with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points.
Accuracy	Maintains consistent grammatical control of complex language, even while attention is otherwise engaged (e.g., in forward planning, in monitoring others' reactions).
Range	Shows great flexibility reformulating ideas in differing linguistic forms to convey finer shades of meaning precisely, to give emphasis, to differentiate and to eliminate ambiguity. Also has a good command of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms.
Phonology	Can vary intonation and place sentence stress correctly in order to express finer shades of meaning.
Fluency	Can express him/herself spontaneously at length with a natural colloquial flow, avoiding or backtracking around any difficulty so smoothly that the interlocutor is hardly aware of it.
Interaction	Can interact with ease and skill, picking up and using non-verbal and intonational cues apparently effortlessly. Can interweave his/her contribution into the joint discourse with fully natural turn-taking, referencing, allusion making, etc.
Coherence	Can create coherent and cohesive discourse making full and appropriate use of a variety of organisational patterns and a wide range of connectors and other cohesive devices.

4 Access Arrangements

Access arrangements are reasonable adjustments, and a reasonable adjustment must be applied for using the LANGUAGECERT® Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations Policy.

Access arrangements allow candidates with learning difficulties, disabilities or temporary injuries to show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment. Examples include: a reader to read the questions and a scribe to write the answers.

Access arrangements are agreed before an assessment. For some arrangements, including readers and scribes, centres must apply to LANGUAGECERT® for permission before the examination. Please refer to the LANGUAGECERT® Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations Policy for the specific timeframes to apply for permission. For information on arrangements not listed here, please contact LANGUAGECERT®. Specific contact details can be located in the LANGUAGECERT® “Contact us Guide”.

The International English for Speakers of Other Languages (Speaking) examination assesses the candidate's speaking ability and oral communication skills. As a result, certain access arrangements cannot be permitted or are not applicable. Examples are given in the table below.

Access Arrangement	Definition	Speaking
Extra Time		Yes
Reader	Someone who reads the questions to the candidate	N/A
Braille or Modified question papers	A range of formats are available, including large print	Yes
Practical Assistant	Someone who helps with practical tasks not related to the test	Yes
Supervised rest breaks	The candidate must remain under exam conditions	Yes
Sign Language Interpreter	To sign the questions	No
Transcript	Where the candidate's handwriting is illegible	N/A

Exemptions can only be considered as a last resort. For more information, please contact LANGUAGECERT®.



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