

Syllabus & Examination Specification Classic C2

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The examination specification for each level provides teachers, Candidates, and other stakeholders with comprehensive information about the content of the examinations.

Overview of the Topics Used Across the Levels

Topic	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Personal Details						
Family & Friends						
Hobbies & Leisure Activities						
Holidays						
Transport						
Weather						
Shopping						
Health & Exercise						
Education						
Work, Jobs & Careers						
Films, Media & Entertainment						
Books and Literature						
News, Lifestyles & Culture						
Environment						
Technology & Science						
Community and Society						
Law and Order						
Abstract topics						

At each level, the following information is provided:

- **Examinations Overview:** details of each examination’s structure, how individual skills are examined, the types of tasks the examinations consist of and how long the examinations take to complete.
- **Text Types:** details of the general text types that Candidates are expected to be familiar with and may find in their examination.
- **Language Specification:** details of the functions, grammar, discourse markers and topics that Candidates are expected to be familiar with and use and which may form part of the examination.
- **Communicative Functions and Notions:** details of the kinds of functions that Candidates are expected to be familiar with and able to perform and which may be part of the examination.

- **Key Language Items:** Further details of elements of language Candidates are expected to be familiar with and use, and which may be part of the examination.
- **Candidate Skills, Knowledge and Understanding:** the criteria against which Candidates will be assessed.
- **Examination Specification:** the breakdown of each task within each individual examination.

Please note that as the units of the [GA Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International \(Speaking and Listening\) \(Classic\)](#) qualifications are included in the full ESOL International certificate, the details for the Speaking and Listening qualification have not been reproduced as separate sections below.

GA Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (Classic C2)

C2 Examinations Overview

The GA Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (C2) consists of four examinations:

Unit	No. of Tasks	Task 1 Type	Task 2 Type	Task 3 Type	Time Allowed
Speaking	3	Communicating personal information	Prepared presentation	Discussion	Up to 30 minutes per 2 Candidates
Listening	3	6 x multiple choice (ABC)	8 x multiple choice (ABC)	8 x matching statements to speakers	Approximately 30 minutes
Reading	3	6 x multiple choice (ABCD Gap Fill)	8 x multiple choice (ABCD)	8 x matching statements to texts	55 minutes
Writing	2	Candidate produces an essay or an article on a given topic (minimum 240 words)	Candidate chooses 1 of 2 options: story/descriptive narrative/blog entry (minimum 240 words)	N/A	90 minutes

C2 Text Types

At Level 3 (C2), Candidates are expected to have reached a near native level of proficiency in English and as such there is no definitive list of text types for this level.

Candidates will encounter texts which are both familiar and relevant to them as learners of English as well as texts that are technical, abstract and unfamiliar to them, including classic and contemporaneous literary works.

The Candidate is able to understand with ease virtually everything heard or read and be able to summarise from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts and presenting them coherently.

At this level, the Candidate is expected to be able to express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely and be able to differentiate finer shades of meaning even in complex situations in both written and spoken form.

C2 Language Specification

At Level 3 (C2), Candidates are expected to have reached a near native level of proficiency in English and as such there is no definitive list of grammar, functions and structures at this level.

The Language Specification table for level C1 can be used as a basis of initially assessing a Candidate's ability prior to undertaking a course of study at Level 3 (C2). Candidates should be able to demonstrate a mastery of the language and be able to manipulate the language in order to respond to both explicit and implied meanings in a wide variety of contexts and settings which may be unfamiliar to them.

At this level, Candidates should express themselves appropriately and accurately for the intended purpose with ease, in the reception, interaction and production of language.

C2 Communicative Functions & Notions

The C2 Candidate will be able to successfully perform all of the communicative functions and notions as provided for level C1 above; AND

- have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, even when delivered at fast, native speed
- read with ease virtually all forms of written language, including abstract, structurally or linguistically complex texts such as manuals, specialised articles and literary works
- effortlessly take part in conversation and discussion and have a good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms, expressing him/herself fluently and conveying finer shades of meaning
- backtrack and re-structure around any difficulties so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it
- express him/herself with clarity and precision, relating to the addressee flexibly and in an assured, personal style
- present clear, smoothly-flowing descriptions or arguments in a style appropriate to the context and with effective logical structures which help recipients to notice and remember significant points
- write clear, smoothly-flowing text in an appropriate style, including complex letters, reports or articles, and can present a case with an effective logical structure which helps recipients to notice and remember significant points
- write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works

C2 Key Language Items

At Level 3 (C2), Candidates are expected to have reached a near native level of proficiency in English and as such there is no definitive list of key language items at this level.

The Key Language Items table provided for level C1 can be used as a basis of initially assessing a Candidate's ability prior to undertaking a course of study at Level 3 (C2).

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a mastery of all these key language items and be able to manipulate the language in order to respond to both explicit and implied meanings in a wide variety of contexts and settings which may be unfamiliar to them.

At this level, Candidates should express themselves appropriately and accurately for the intended purpose with ease, in the reception, interaction and production of language.

Examination Specification: C2

Overview of the C2 Speaking Examination

The total guide time for the Speaking examination is up to 30 minutes, including an introduction read by the Interlocutor. There are 3 tasks in total.

The examination takes place with two Candidates and the Interlocutor present.

Successful C2 Candidates will demonstrate the following competencies across the examination:

- Can take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion
- Can present smoothly-flowing, elaborate and memorable descriptions
- Can present articulate and persuasive arguments using appropriate style
- Can use a good command of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms
- Can express him/herself fluently, precisely and spontaneously
- Can handle difficult questioning
- Can show great flexibility and differentiate finer shades of meaning even in complex speech
- Can use structure to help the listener notice and remember significant points
- Can keep up with his/her side of the dialogue extremely well, interacting authoritatively
- Can converse comfortably, unhampered by any linguistic limitations

Candidates' performance is assessed across two categories:

1) Communicative Effectiveness – in other words, how appropriately they responded to each task. The maximum number of marks that can be achieved in this category is 9 marks.

2) Overall Linguistic Competency – in other words, how well they used the language to respond to the tasks.

Within Overall Linguistic Competency, Candidates receive a global score (i.e. a score based on their performance across all three tasks). The maximum number of marks that can be achieved in this category is 12.

Overall Linguistic Competency is broken down into the following components:

- Vocabulary range and control
- Grammar range and control
- Phonological control and fluency
- Coherence and cohesion

Content of the C2 Speaking Examination

C2 Speaking Examination (total time: up to 30 minutes)		
Task	Summary	Timings
Task 1: Conversation	<p>The Candidates listen and talk to the Interlocutor to introduce themselves and exchange personal information.</p> <p>Example questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your favourite part of learning English? • Why do you think people enjoy sporting competitions? • Why do you think so many young people use social media? 	8 minutes for two Candidates
Task 2: Prepared presentation	<p>The Presentation topics are published in advance to allow Candidates to prepare for this task.</p> <p>In turn, each Candidate delivers their prepared presentation. Candidates are expected to talk for approximately 3 minutes.</p> <p>Candidates ask questions about each other's presentation and respond to questions from the Interlocutor.</p> <p>Example presentation topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People should spend more money on helping others than on buying luxury items for themselves. • The best way to meet a future husband or wife is to join an online dating website. 	10 minutes for two Candidates
Task 3: Discussion	<p>The Candidates participate in a discussion on a topic introduced by the Interlocutor. A scenario is given and the Candidates discuss various options, ideas and opinions.</p> <p>Visual prompts are provided.</p> <p>Example discussion topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your teacher asked you to talk about different ways of spending a gap year, and discuss which way you think is most beneficial for society. 	8 minutes for two Candidates

Overview of the C2 Listening Examination

The approximate time for the Listening examination is 30 minutes. There are 3 tasks in total.

The Listening examination is completed under the supervision of an Invigilator, under controlled examination conditions. The Examination may be conducted with one or multiple Candidates at the same time.

Successful C2 Candidates will demonstrate the following competencies across the examination:

- Can follow any kind of speech even when delivered at fast, native speed
- Can understand any native speaker, even on abstract and complex topics of a specialist nature
- Can follow specialised lectures and presentations employing a high degree of colloquialisms, idiomatic expressions and unfamiliar terminology
- Can follow propositionally and linguistically complex speech even on unfamiliar or abstract topics
- Can understand animated conversation between native speakers
- Can infer attitude, mood and intentions and anticipate what will come next
- Can understand speech even when it is not clearly structured

Candidates' performance in this examination is assessed based on the number of correct answers they chose in each task. All of the questions across the assessment tasks are equally weighted.

Content of the C2 Listening Examination

C2 Listening Examination (total time: approximately 30 minutes)		
Task	Summary	Marks Available
Task 1: Listen to a conversation	The Candidates listen to a conversation between two speakers and answer 6 multiple choice ABC questions about the content of the conversation. The Candidates hear the recording twice.	6
Task 2: Listen to a monologue	The Candidates listen to a monologue (e.g. news, lecture, presentation or instructions) and answer 8 multiple choice ABC questions about the recording. The Candidates hear the recording twice.	8
Task 3: Listen to 3 different speakers	The Candidates listen to three different speakers presenting their opinions, ideas or experiences on a related subject. The Candidates match 8 statements to the correct speaker. The Candidates hear the recording twice.	8
Total marks available in the Listening examination: 22		

Overview of the C2 Reading Examination

The total time allowed for the Reading examination is 55 minutes. There are 3 tasks in total.

The Reading examination is completed under the supervision of an Invigilator, under controlled examination conditions. The Examination may be conducted with one or multiple Candidates at the same time.

Successful C2 Candidates will demonstrate the following competencies across the examination:

- Can read and understand with ease virtually all forms of the written language including structurally or linguistically challenging texts
- Can understand and critically interpret texts
- Can read and understand any lengthy, complex texts, appreciating subtle distinctions of style
- Can understand implicit meaning and implied attitudes
- Can scan quickly through long and complex texts to locate relevant details
- Can quickly identify the content and relevance of everyday materials and news, articles and reports on virtually any topic

Candidates' performance in this examination is assessed based on the number of correct answers they chose in each task. All of the questions across the assessment tasks are equally weighted.

Content of the C2 Reading Examination

C2 Reading Examination (time allowed: 55 minutes)		
Task	Summary	Marks Available
Task 1: Gap fill	The Candidates read a continuous text which contains 6 gaps and choose the most suitable word to complete the text from a choice of four options.	6
Task 2: Long text	The Candidates read a continuous text and answer 8 multiple choice ABCD questions based on the content of the text.	8
Task 3: Four short texts	The Candidates read four separate texts on the same topic and match 8 statements or questions to the most appropriate text.	8
Total marks available in the Reading examination: 22		

Overview of the C2 Writing Examination

The total time allowed for the Writing examination is 90 minutes. There are 2 tasks in total.

The Writing examination is completed under the supervision of an Invigilator, under controlled examination conditions. The Examination may be conducted with one or multiple Candidates at the same time.

Successful C2 Candidates will demonstrate the following competencies across the examination:

- Can write clear, smoothly-flowing text in an appropriate style
- Can write complex essays or articles which present a case or give critical appreciation with an effective logical structure
- Can express him/herself with clarity and precision, relating to addressee flexibly and effectively
- Can write clear, developed descriptions and imaginative texts in an assured, natural style
- Can use emotional, allusive and joking language in personal correspondence
- Can write fully engrossing stories and descriptions of experiences in a style appropriate to the genre adopted
- Can produce writing orthographically free of error

Candidates' performance is assessed across two categories:

1) Task Achievement – in other words, how appropriately they responded to each task. The maximum number of marks that can be achieved in this category is 27 marks.

2) Overall Linguistic Competency – in other words, how well they used the language to respond to the tasks.

Within Overall Linguistic Competency, Candidates receive a global score (i.e. a score based on their performance across both writing tasks). The maximum number of marks that can be achieved in this category is 28.

Overall Linguistic Competency is broken down into the following categories:

- Vocabulary range
- Vocabulary control
- Grammar range
- Grammar control
- Spelling, punctuation and legibility
- Propositional precision
- Coherence

Content of the C2 Writing Examination

C2 Writing Examination (time allowed: 90 minutes)	
Task	Summary
Task 1: Essay or article	<p>The task requires the Candidate to produce an essay or an article on a given topic.</p> <p>Guidance is provided.</p> <p>Candidates should spend approximately half of the total time allowed on this task.</p> <p>Word Count: Candidates are expected to write a minimum of 240 words in this task.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Advertising products to children should be banned.’ Write an essay discussing this statement.
Task 2: Story / descriptive narrative or blog entry	<p>Candidates are given a choice of two different options in this task. One of the options is to produce a short story or descriptive narrative, and the other to produce a blog entry. The Candidate must choose one option. Guidance is provided.</p> <p>Candidates should spend approximately half of the total time allowed on this task.</p> <p>Word Count: Candidates are expected to write a minimum of 240 words in this task.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a blog entry about a change you made in your life that changed your life for the better. • Write a story describing a situation that really made you laugh.