

Syllabus & Examination Specification Classic B1

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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 Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Classic B1)

Examinations Overview

The GA Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (B1) consists of four examinations:

Examination	No. of Tasks	Task 1 Type	Task 2 Type	Task 3 Type	Time Allowed
Speaking	3	Communicating personal information	Prepared presentation	Discussion	Up to 20 minutes per 2 Candidates
Listening	3	6 x multiple choice questions (ABC)	8 x multiple choice questions (ABC)	8 x matching statements to speakers	Approximately 20 minutes
Reading	3	6 x multiple choice (ABCD Gap Fill)	8 x Multiple choice (ABCD)	8 x matching statements to texts	40 minutes
Writing	2	Candidate writes an email or letter on a given topic email or letter (minimum 100 words)	Candidate writes an email or letter; they can choose 1 of 2 topics: (minimum 100 words)	N/A	45 minutes

Text Types

At Entry Level 3 / B1, Candidates are expected to read and understand short straightforward texts on familiar topics accurately and independently, reading and obtaining information from everyday sources, in texts such as

- Forms
- Notes
- Records
- Emails
- Short reports
- Simple instructions
- Narratives

At this level, Candidates are expected to write to communicate information and opinions with some adaptation to the intended audience in documents such as

- Forms
- Notes
- Records
- Emails
- Letters
- Narratives
- Simple instructions
- Short reports & Articles

B1 Language Specification

Functions	Grammar	Discourse markers	Topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directions • Describing habits and routines • Giving personal information • Greetings • Telling the time • Understanding and using numbers • Understanding and using prices • Describing habits and routines • Describing past experiences • Describing people • Describing places • Describing things • Obligation and necessity • Requests • Suggestions • Checking understanding • Describing experiences and events • Describing feelings and emotion • Describing places • Expressing opinions; language of agreeing and disagreeing • Initiating and closing conversation • Managing interaction (interrupting, changing topic, resuming or continuing) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Level A2+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverbs • Broader range of intensifiers such as too, enough • Comparatives and superlatives • Complex question tags • Conditionals, 2nd and 3rd • Connecting words expressing cause and effect, contrast etc. • Future continuous • Modals - must/can't deduction • Modals – might, may, will, probably • Modals – should have/might have/etc • Modals: must/have to • Past continuous • Past perfect • Past simple • Past tense responses • Phrasal verbs, extended • Present perfect continuous • Present perfect/past simple • Reported speech (range of tenses) • Simple passive • Wh- questions in the past • Will and going to, for prediction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting words, and, but, because • Linkers: sequential – past time • Connecting words expressing cause and effect, contrast etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books and literature • Education • Entertainment and media • Film • Health, medicine and exercise • Language • Lifestyles • News • Personal feelings, opinions and experiences • Social interaction • Sport • Transport • Travel and holidays • Work and jobs

B1 Communicative Functions & Notions

- Greet
- Take leave
- Give personal information
- Introduce others
- Ask for personal information
- Describe self/others
- Describe places and things
- Ask for descriptions of people, places and things
- Compare people, places, things
- Make comparative questions
- Narrate events in the past
- Give factual accounts
- Ask about past events
- Express certainty about the future
- Ask about future events
- Express opinions about future possibilities
- Express obligation
- Offer help
- Make arrangements
- Make requests on the phone, in formal and informal situations
- Make requests—ask someone to do something in formal and informal situations
- Make requests—ask for directions
- Respond to request for directions
- Respond to request for instructions
- Respond to request for an explanation
- Make requests—ask for permission formally
- Express feelings, likes and dislikes, with reasons, cause and effect
- Ask about people’s feelings, opinions, interests, wishes, hopes
- Express views and opinions
- Apologise in formal and informal situations
- Explain and give reasons
- Show contrast, cause, reason, purpose
- Ask for clarification and explanation
- Confirm information
- Check back and ask for confirmation
- Ask for advice and suggestions
- Respond to suggestions
- Respond to advice
- Make suggestions and give advice
- Suggest action with other people
- Praise and compliment others
- Complain
- Warn and prohibit

B1 Key Language Items

<p>Simple & compound sentences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variations in word order • Word order in complex sentences • There has / have been • There will be / there was going to be • Complex sentences with one subordinate clause of either time, reason, result, condition or concession • Defining relative clauses using who, which, that • A range of verbs + ing form • Verbs + infinitive, with and without 'to' • Infinitive of purpose • Simple reported statements • A wide range of 'wh-' questions • Simple embedded questions • Statements with question tags using Entry 3 tenses
<p>Noun phrase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun phrases with pre- and post-modification • a range of determiners • Use of articles including: definite article with post modification; use of indefinite article to indicate an example of; use of indefinite articles in definitions
<p>Verb forms and time markers in statements, interrogatives, negatives and short forms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present perfect with: since/for; ever/never; yet/already • Used to for regular actions in the past • Past continuous • Future simple verb forms • Modals and forms with similar meaning: positive and negative, e.g. You should/shouldn't to express obligation; might, may, will probably to express possibility and probability in the future; would/should for advice; need to for obligation; will definitely to express certainty in the future; may I? Asking for permission; I'd rather stating preference • Common phrasal verbs and position of object • Pronouns
<p>Adjectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative and superlative adjectives • Comparative structures
<p>Adverbs and prepositional phrases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider range of prepositions and prepositional phrases • A wide range of adverbial uses, e.g. To express possibility and un/certainty – possibly, perhaps, definitely • More complex adverbial phrases of time, place, frequency, manner • A range of intensifiers, including too, enough
<p>Discourse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markers to indicate: addition, sequence, contrast • Markers to structure spoken discourse • Use of ellipsis in informal situations • Use of vague language

Examination Specification: B1

Overview of the B1 Speaking Examination

The total guide time for the Speaking examination is 20 minutes, including an introduction read by the Interlocutor. There are 3 tasks in total.

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

Successful B1 Candidates will demonstrate the following competencies across the examination:

- Can follow clearly articulated speech directed at him/her in everyday conversation, though will sometimes have to ask for repetition of particular words and phrases.
- Can enter unprepared and maintain a conversation or discussion on familiar topics
- Can exchange factual information on familiar routine and non-routine matters
- Can describe how to do something, e.g. by giving instructions or directions
- Can give a straightforward descriptive presentation on a variety of familiar topics, including describing events and experiences, narrating a story, and take follow up questions
- Can express a point of view clearly, giving brief reasons and explanations
- Can express and seek thoughts, views and opinions on topics of interest, and express agreement and disagreement
- Can compare and contrast alternatives as regards solutions to problems or practical questions
- Can express their own feelings and reactions, dreams, hopes and ambitions
- Can communicate with reasonable accuracy in familiar contexts
- Can express him/herself with relative ease and keep going effectively.

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 B1 Speaking Examination

B1 Speaking Examination (total time: up to 20 minutes)		
Task	Summary	Timings
Task 1: Conversation	<p>The Candidates listen and talk to the Interlocutor and each to introduce themselves and exchange personal information.</p> <p>Example questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you like going to restaurants? (Why/ Why not?) • Tell me something about your home town. • What did you do last weekend? 	6 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. They are expected to speak for up to 1.5 minutes. 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"> • To learn English, it is better to live in an English speaking country. • People's lifestyles used to be healthier in the past. • Fashion is an important part of life. 	6 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 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"> • Our friend is spending all her free time watching television. Discuss what other activities you can recommend to our friend, and why they are better than watching TV. 	6 minutes for two Candidates

Overview of the B1 Listening Examination

The approximate time allowed for the Listening examination is 20 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 B1 Candidates will demonstrate the following competencies across the examination:

- Can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure etc.
- Can understand straightforward factual information about common every day or job related topics
- Can understand the main point of recorded or broadcast audio materials, e.g. radio programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest
- Can follow the main points of extended discussion around him/her, provided speech is clearly articulated in standard dialect
- Can follow a lecture or talk within his/her own field, provided the subject matter is familiar and the presentation straightforward
- Can understand the information content and the main points of the majority of recorded or broadcast audio material on topics of personal interest delivered in clear standard speech.

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 B1 Listening Examination

B1 Listening Examination (total time: approximately 20 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, talk, presentation or instructions) and answer 8 multiple choice ABC questions about the content of the recording. The Candidates hear the recording twice.	8
Task 3: Listen to 3 different speakers	The Candidates listen to three speakers presenting their opinions on the same 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 B1 Reading Examination

The total time allowed for the Reading examination is 40 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 B1 Candidates will demonstrate the following competencies across the examination:

- find and understand relevant information in everyday material, such as letters, brochures and short official documents
- scan longer texts in order to locate desired information, and gather information from different parts of a text, or from different texts in order to fulfil a specific task
- recognise the main line of argument in the treatment of the issue presented
- recognise significant points in straightforward newspaper articles on familiar subjects
- understand clearly written, straightforward instructions
- understand the description of events, feelings and wishes
- identify the main conclusions in clearly signalled argumentative texts.

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 B1 Reading Examination

B1 Reading Examination (time allowed: 40 minutes)		
Task	Summary	Marks Available
Task 1: Gap fill – a continuous text	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: Multiple choice - 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: Matching - three short texts	The Candidates read three 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 B1 Writing Examination

The total time allowed for the Writing examination is 45 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 B1 Candidates will demonstrate the following competencies across the examination:

- write messages communicating enquiries, explaining problems or conveying simple information, getting across comprehensibly the points he/she feels are important
- write personal letters describing experiences, feelings and events in some detail
- write very brief reports to a standard conventionalised format, which pass on routine factual information and state reasons for actions
- write straightforward connected texts on a range of familiar subjects within his field of interest, by linking a series of shorter discrete elements into a linear sequence
- write straightforward, detailed descriptions on a range of familiar subjects within his field of interest

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 & cohesion

Content of the B1 Writing Examination

B1 Writing Examination (time allowed: 45 minutes)	
Task	Summary
<p>Task 1: Letter or email</p>	<p>Candidates are expected to produce either a letter or an email 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 100 words in this task.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your friend Carlos wants to do something special for his mother's birthday. Write an email to Carlos, and offer him some advice about how he can celebrate his mother's birthday.
<p>Task 2: Letter or email</p>	<p>Candidates are given a choice of two different options in this task and must choose one. They are expected to produce either a letter or an email.</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 100 words in this task.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an email to a friend telling them about a new language course you are attending. <p>Write about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> why you chose it the teacher other students if you enjoy it