

Online English proficiency test

Guidelines and instructions for students

Test structure

The test consists of 2 parts:

1. Use of English (grammar and vocabulary): a total of 30 questions divided into 3 tasks
2. Listening: more or less 15 short passages to listen in order to answer some questions

Test duration

The test lasts **60 minutes**. The students will have to manage autonomously the time available.

How to complete the test correctly

1.

At the beginning of the test, you will see a page in which you will be asked to select the starting level of the test.

The students who have to take the A2 or B1 exam, should select “**Lower level starting point**”.

The students who have to take the B2 exam, should select “**Mid-level starting point**”.

2.

Each page shows a question. Once a question has been answered, candidates **cannot go back** and correct their answers at a later stage.

3.

A non-given answer is considered as a wrong answer; so even if you do not know an answer, we suggest that you **do not leave it in blank** and **give all the answers**.

4.

The test is considered valid only if **you have responded to every question assigned to you** within the 60 minutes. You are advised to pay close attention to the available time to them: it is **necessary** to see the “**end of test**” screen by the 59th minute. Your available time will appear on the top right corner of your screen in mm:ss. A popup will appear when candidates are in their last 15 minutes of the test.

NOTE: The number of questions and level of difficulty of the questions varies according to the progress you make during the test, so you may find some questions which don't exactly match the level you have to achieve (B1 or B2).

Use of English

This part is made up of 3 tasks described below.

Task 1

10 short dialogues with a **fill-in-the-gap multiple choice (4 options)** to evaluate your **grammatical** knowledge.

Example:

Woman: I always travel by bus.

Man: Why?

Woman: Because it's _____ than the train

- a. More cheap
- b. Cheap
- c. Cheaper
- d. As cheap

Task 2

10 short dialogues with **multiple choice questions (3 options)** to evaluate your ability to understand **literal, intended, and implicit meaning**.

Examples:

Literal meaning:

Man: What's Julia like?

Woman: She's nice.

What does the man mean?

- a. What does Julia like?
- b. What does Julia look like?
- c. What do you think of Julia?

Intended meaning:

Man: Would you like to go out for dinner with me on Saturday?

Woman: I'd love to, but I've got tickets to the theatre that night

The woman is...

- a. Accepting an offer
- b. Refusing an offer

c. Making an offer

Implicit meaning:

Man: Can we talk?

Woman: Well, I have to leave in five minutes.

What does the woman mean?

a. I don't like talking to you

b. We can talk in five minutes

c. I only have five minutes to talk to you

Task 3

A passage with around 7 fill-in-the-gaps which you have to fill **with JUST ONE word (without multiple choice)** to evaluate both your **active grammatical knowledge** and your **active ability to understand the meaning**.

Example:

New York City is of the largest cities in world. It is also one of the most densely populated, with an estimated 8 million inhabitants. Manhattan is the popular part of New York with tourists and has many interesting sights. There is also a large number businesses in this area of the city, including the head offices of some of the world's leading companies. New York's subway system provides transport for more a third of the city's workforce. New York is also regarded the centre of entertainment. The city has choice of food, entertainment and social life than any other American city.

Listening

In this part you will find more or less 15 short passages to listen, with one or two multiple choice questions (4 options) for each passage.

The passages may be short dialogues and monologues.

Each listening may last from 45 seconds to 1:30 minutes.

Each track may be listened twice. Once the track has been played, it cannot be paused.

Esempio:

Read the sentences below. Then, listen to the short conversation. Select the correct answer from the options below. You will have time to play the recording twice.

(Audio track)

A man is talking about a trip he took. What does he say about it?

- a. The trip was very expensive
- b. The service at the hotel was excellent
- c. The weather was bad
- d. His hotel room was too small

Suggestion

Pay attention that, to listen twice the 15 passages, you will need at least 30 minutes. In addition, you must consider the time you need to read and answer the questions. For this reason, we suggest that you perform the listening task in 35-40 minutes.

Note: Students will not be able to check their result immediately, but it will be published later in the CLA website, according to the deadlines of each Degree Programme Administration Office.