

ESOL

advancing learning, changing lives

Assessment

	Speaking & Listening	Writing	Reading
Level 1	Edexcel test L1 Speaking and Listening	Edexcel test L1 Writing	National Adult Literacy test (multiple-choice)
Level 2	Edexcel test L2 Speaking and Listening	Edexcel test L2 Writing	National Adult Literacy test (multiple-choice)
Entry 1	Edexcel test E1 Speaking and Listening	Edexcel test E1 Writing	Edexcel test E1 Reading
Entry 2	Edexcel test E2 Speaking and Listening	Edexcel test E2 Writing	Edexcel test E2 Reading
Entry 3	Edexcel test E3 Speaking and Listening	Edexcel test E3 Writing	Edexcel test E3 Reading

Introduction

The ESOL qualifications have been designed to support flexibility of assessment.

The key features at each level are:

- No portfolio.
Tests are set by Edexcel and can be taken when the learner is ready.
- Tests are administered under supervised conditions by the centre and are internally marked and verified prior to external verification.

In order to access the ESOL tests, you must first register your candidates. You must then complete the ESOLF1 form, which is available on the Edexcel website, to request the CDROM. The form requires your centre details and name of contact. We will also require a signature from the Principal of your centre to confirm confidentiality of all materials. Please send this form back to us at least two weeks before the date you wish to deliver the ESOL tests. We will then issue you with a CDROM containing the test materials and instructions. The tests can then be given to candidates when they are ready.

The scheme of assessment

Each of the modes is separately assessed by a unit test for:

- Speaking and Listening (S&L)
- Reading
- Writing

Units are available as follows:

S&L	Writing	Reading
Level 2	Level 2	Level 2*
Level 1	Level 1	Level 1*
Entry 3	Entry 3	Entry 3
Entry 2	Entry 2	Entry 2
Entry 1	Entry 1	Entry 1

All units at the same level must be successfully completed in order for the overall qualification to be awarded at that Level.

The certificate for the qualification will:

- be awarded at Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, Level 1 & Level 2
- list each unit which has been achieved, as well as the overall Level
- be awarded at the level of the lowest achieved unit.

Candidates who achieve the National Literacy (Reading) Test will receive the Adult Literacy Qualification, as well as their achievements in the ESOL qualification.

Assessments

The assessments are:

- set by Edexcel
- taken by learners under supervised conditions
- assessed by the centre
- internally verified by the centre
- validated by an External Verifier.

Each unit of the assessment has equal weighting.

Each unit test has to be completed within a specified time allocation.

Each test has a pass mark of 66% and is not graded.

Candidates are reported as having passed, or not yet passed. If the candidate is within 10% of achieving the pass mark in any unit, formative feedback to this effect should be offered. Centres are encouraged to devise a written feedback form for this purpose.

The mark schemes for each test will clearly identify which area of the specification is being tested for each question, to aid centres in giving feedback.

The assessment is designed to be taken when learners and their tutors feel confident that they have achieved the learning outcomes detailed in the Adult Literacy Standards and the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum. This should be achieved through the development of teaching and learning programmes using the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum.

Arrangements for assessment for Reading - Levels 1 & 2

At Levels 1 and 2, the reading assessment will be the Adult Literacy test. This is a multiple-choice test, available on a monthly basis on paper or on-demand as onscreen tests. Centres are encouraged to consider onscreen testing as it is more compatible with the assessment methods of the Edexcel tests.

Details of the arrangements for paper-based assessment can be found in the Instructions for the Conduct of External test (ICE) - ESOL. Edexcel Information Manual - These documents and others are available from the Edexcel website www.edexcel.org.uk

Details of the arrangements for onscreen assessment can be found on the Edexcel website www.edexcel.org.uk

Speaking & Listening

The unit test will consist of three parts:

Part 1 - Listen and Respond

Part 2 - Speak to Communicate

Part 3 - Engage in Discussion.

Delivery

The test will be conducted by a tutor/assessor and candidates will be tested in pairs and will be internally assessed and externally moderated. The test must be recorded using audio or video equipment.

Time Limit

Entry Level: Candidates will have up to 15 minutes to complete the test.

Level 1 or 2: Candidates will have up to 15 minutes to complete the test.

Writing

At all Levels: The unit test will consist of two or more writing tasks.

Delivery

- At all Levels: The test will be internally assessed and externally verified. The tests will be scenario-based.

Time Limit

- At all Levels: Candidates will have up to 1 hour to complete the test.

Reading

Delivery

Entry Level: The test will be internally assessed and externally verified. Each unit test will consist of multiple-choice questions.

Level 1 or 2: The unit test will be assessed by means of the National Literacy test.

The test will be externally assessed.

Time Limit

Entry Level: Candidates will have up to 1 hour to complete the test.

Level 1 or 2: Candidates will have up to 1 hour to complete the test.

More detailed information is provided with each assessment and mark scheme, which are sent to centres as soon as candidates' registrations have been made.

The Edexcel Tests

- must be reserved exclusively for formal assessment purposes and must not be used as practice tests
- should be given at a time when the candidate is ready for assessment
- should be taken in an appropriate environment for a candidate under supervised conditions, especially where assessment work may include both oral and practical aspects
- must be worked on independently by the learner: the product must be the learner's own work
- have a stipulated time limit on completion
- should usually be completed at one sitting except if designated part assessments for Speaking and Listening are sat separately (any single part assessment would have to be completed in one session)
- must not be taken out of the tutor/assessor's direct supervision at any time
- must not be influenced in outcome by support given to the candidate; help given must be stated on the front of the test paper
- must be marked by the assessor according to the published mark scheme
- must be kept secure when marked and be available for verification
- should be subject to the centre's internal verification processes (see Quality Monitoring section of Guidance and National Standards)
- may be repeated when the learner has had sufficient further examining to ensure success. This will vary according to the circumstances in which the learner is being taught, but should never be fewer than 14 days. An alternative test will be provided in these circumstances
- are not limited in the number of times a candidate may retake the assessments
- must not under any circumstances be given back to the candidates

Re-assessment

- Although learners should not be entered for assessments until they are ready, it is possible that a learner may be unsuccessful. Such learners should be re-assessed in the next available window after sufficient progress has been made.
- By September 2005, assessments and reassessments become available on-demand.

Language of Assessment

Assessment of this specification will be available in English only. Assessment materials will be published in English and all written and spoken work submitted for examination and verification must be produced in English.

Candidates with particular requirements - Special requirements

The Joint Council publication *Guidance for candidates with particular requirements* can be found on the Edexcel website. However, it should be noted that the arrangements do not refer to Adult Basic Skills, and so the following guidelines have been prepared by Edexcel for all ESOL tests. It is anticipated that most candidate special requirements can be accommodated by early dialogue with the External Verifier, who can advise on the particular situation. Most special requirement needs can be evidenced by recording the need on the front of the test paper.

These include:

- Up to 25% time on individual papers
- A location other than the usual examination premises
- The need to enlarge test papers
- The need to alter colour preferences
- The use of an amanuensis
- The need to sign questions for deaf candidates

Use of a keyboard for the visually impaired, or those who have difficulties writing due to disability (this must not have use of spell or grammar check).

Candidates who have been in this country for fewer than two years may use a dictionary, but can have no extra time allowance for this purpose.

Candidates who require Braille versions of the test papers should contact Edexcel Special Requirements Team for Key and Basic Skills, giving at least 6 weeks notice.

Special Considerations

For candidates who need special considerations to be taken into account, the centre should record the circumstances on the front of the test paper. The External Verifier will confirm if the special considerations can be taken into account when verifying the paper.

Awarding, Reporting and Equivalence

The grading, awarding and certification of these specifications will comply with the requirements of Entry Level and Levels 1 and 2, which are published by the regulatory authorities. Awarding will be conducted according to the code of practice approved and published by QCA. The specification has been designed to allow attainment to be recognised and reported at standards consistent with those specified by QCA.

The Language of the Specification

The specification will be available in English only. Every effort has been made to ensure that the language of the specification is plain, clear, free from bias and appropriate to the qualification.

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Contact us

For further information see the Guidance and National Standards document or contact us at:

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About Edexcel

Edexcel is one of the UK's largest providers of qualifications, with the widest portfolio of academic and vocational qualifications. Regulated by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to offer qualifications, Edexcel works with over 5,500 education partners in over 100 countries