

City & Guilds International English for Speakers of Other Languages Assessment



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Summary

IESOL Assessment

Overall Result Determination

The IESOL examination comprises three parts: Listening, Reading and Writing. To pass the examination, you need to achieve **at least a pass** in two of the three parts and **at least a narrow fail** in the third part.

There are three possible overall grades: First Class Pass, Pass and Fail. The table below shows what the requirements for each grade are.

First Class	3 First Class grades
Pass	3 Pass grades or 2 First Class + 1 Pass grades or 1 First Class + 2 Pass grades or 2 First Class + 1 Narrow Fail grades or 1 First Class + 1 Pass + 1 Narrow Fail grades or 2 Passes + 1 Narrow Fail grades
Fail	1 or more Fail grades or 3 Narrow Fail grades or 1 Pass + 2 Narrow Fail grades or 1 First Class + 2 Narrow Fail grades

Assessment of Listening and Reading

The Listening and Reading Sections of the examination are assessed based on the number of correct answers you give. No marks are deducted for wrong answers, so your total for each of these sections is the total of your correct answers.

The only exception to this is questions 1 and 2 in Part 4 of the Reading Section of the C1 (Expert) level, which are worth 2 marks each. All other questions in all listening and reading tasks at all the levels of the IESOL assessment are worth one mark each.

Assessment of Writing

The Writing Section of the IESOL exam requires the candidate to produce two pieces of written language. At the lower levels (A1, A2, B1), there are also “closed tasks” requiring the candidates to fill in forms and identify and correct errors. Details of the task content of each part as well as the maximum marks awarded are given below.

A1: 4 parts	Total Marks: 34
Part 1 – completing a form	5 marks
Part 2 – identifying correct punctuation	5 marks
Part 3 – writing to produce four sentences on specified topic	12 marks
Part 4 – writing to produce a simple text for a specified reader.	12 marks

A2: 4 parts	Total Marks: 39
Part 1 – completing a form	10 marks
Part 2 – correcting errors in punctuation, spelling and word order	5 marks
Part 3 – writing to produce an informal response to an informal text	12 marks
Part 4 – writing to produce a specified text to a specified public reader.	12 marks

B1: 3 parts	Total Marks: 32
Part 1 – correcting errors in punctuation, spelling and grammar	8 marks
Part 2 – writing to produce a neutral or formal text for a public audience	12 marks
Part 3 – writing to produce a letter using informal language.	12 marks

B2, C1 and C2: 2 parts	Total Marks: 24
Part 1 – writing to produce a neutral or formal text for a public audience	12 marks
Part 2 – free writing to produce a text using informal language.	12 marks

Assessment of Open Writing Tasks

The open writing tasks are worth 12 marks each. The assessment is based on the following criteria, which carry a maximum of 3 marks each.

- **Task fulfillment**

A measure of how far the candidate has achieved/addressed the task. This criterion looks at whether the candidate has given an answer that is relevant to the topic specified in the rubric, whether the extent of the answer is within the range indicated in the rubric and whether all the relevant content points have been covered.

- **Grammar**

A measure of the range, appropriacy and accuracy of grammar. This criterion looks at whether the language produced is grammatically correct, whether there is an adequate range of grammatical structures for the level, and whether the grammatical structures used are appropriate to the register of the task.

- **Vocabulary**

A measure of the range, accuracy and appropriacy of vocabulary. This criterion looks at whether the vocabulary used is correct, whether it is suitable, whether it is spelt correctly and whether it is appropriate to the register of the task.

- **Structure**

A measure of coherence and cohesion. This criterion looks at how the ideas are organised, how coherent the text produced by the candidate is, as well as what cohesive devices (connectors, referring expressions, punctuation, etc) are used.

There are four levels of performance with a corresponding mark in each of the above criteria:

3	First Class Pass
2	Pass
1	Narrow Fail
0	Fail

The total marks awarded for the task are the sum of the marks awarded to each criterion.

Levels of Performance and Marks

The tables below show the minimum marks required for each level of performance at each level of the IESOL examination.

A1	Listening	Reading	Writing
Grade	Total Marks = 25	Total Marks = 20	Total Marks = 34
FCP	18 - 25	16 - 20	28 - 34
Pass	13 - 17	11 - 15	17 - 27
NF	12	10	15 - 16
Fail	0 - 11	0 - 9	0 - 14

A2	Listening	Reading	Writing
Grade	Total Marks = 25	Total Marks = 20	Total Marks = 39
FCP	19 - 25	14 - 20	32 - 39
Pass	13 - 18	10 - 13	21 - 31
NF	12	9	19 - 20
Fail	0 - 11	0 - 8	0 - 18

B1	Listening	Reading	Writing
Grade	Total Marks = 24	Total Marks = 30	Total Marks = 32
FCP	19 - 24	24 - 30	26 - 32
Pass	12 - 18	15 - 23	16 - 25
NF	10 - 11	13 - 14	14 - 15
Fail	0 - 9	0 - 12	0 - 13

B2	Listening	Reading	Writing
Grade	Total Marks = 30	Total Marks = 30	Total Marks = 24
FCP	23 - 30	23 - 30	20 - 24
Pass	15 - 22	15 - 22	12 - 19
NF	13 - 14	13 - 14	11
Fail	0 - 12	0 - 12	0 - 10

C1	Listening	Reading	Writing
Grade	Total Marks = 30	Total Marks = 30	Total Marks = 24
FCP	23 - 30	23 - 30	20 - 24
Pass	15 - 22	15 - 22	12 - 19
NF	13 - 14	13 - 14	11
Fail	0 - 12	0 - 12	0 - 10

C2	Listening	Reading	Writing
Grade	Total Marks = 30	Total Marks = 30	Total Marks = 24
FCP	23 - 30	23 - 30	20 - 24
Pass	15 - 22	15 - 22	12 - 19
NF	13 - 14	13 - 14	11
Fail	0 - 12	0 - 12	0 - 10

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GROUP

PEOPLECERT - Personnel Certification Body

3 Korai st., 105 64 Athens, Greece, Tel.: +30 210 372 9100, Fax: +30 210 372 9101
e-mail: info@peoplecert.org, www.peoplecert.org

Contact Us:
www.cityandguilds.gr
tel: 210 3729150

