



St Petersburg  
University  
[www.spbu.ru](http://www.spbu.ru)

# ***LEVEL 2 TEST IN ENGLISH***

Level B2 in the Council of Europe's  
Common European Framework of  
Reference (CEFR)



## Level 2 test format

The test is made up of five papers:

➤ **Listening**

➤ **Reading**

➤ **Use of English**

➤ **Writing**

➤ **Speaking**



## Listening Paper

### Skills to be tested

- understanding specific factual information and opinion
- identifying the main idea of the speaker's utterance
- understanding implicit information: deducing cause-and-effect relationships, inferring meaning

### Format

The test consists of four tasks including **29 items**. The test is composed of authentic texts of various lengths and genres presented in standard British English.

**Task A1-A8 – Multiple choice** (8 mini texts, 8 three-option items)

**Task B1-B8 – Gap fill** (8 items)

**Task B9-B14 – Matching** (6 mini texts, 6 items)

**Task A9-A15 – Multiple choice** (7 three-option items)

### Marking criteria

Each correct answer is worth **one mark**. The answer in the Gap fill task is considered acceptable if it corresponds exactly to the given information and is accomplished without spelling mistakes.

The maximum raw score is **29**.

### Timing

55 minutes





## Listening Paper: Task types

### Task A1-A8 Multiple choice

#### Task A1-A8

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions **A1-A8**, **choose the best answer**. You will hear each recording **twice**. You now have **60 seconds** to look at the questions.

**A1** You hear part of a game show.

What kind of prize will Julie get if she wins the game?

1. a cash bonus covering a six-day trip to China
2. a journey abroad and a money prize
3. a set of travel bags worth \$3,000

### Task B1-B8 Gap fill

#### Task B1-B8

You will hear an interview with a man talking about his first experience in paint-on-glass animation. For questions **B1-B8**, **complete the sentences with a word, a number or a phrase that YOU HEAR (no more than 17 characters)**. You will hear the recording **twice**. You now have **40 seconds** to look at the questions.

**B1** It's \_\_\_\_\_ for Edward to see his first film on screen.

**B2** Everything in Edward's studio was arranged so that he could work in \_\_\_\_\_.





## Task B9-B14 Matching

### Task B9-B14

You will hear 6 people talking about **animal rights**. For questions **B9-B14**, choose from the list **A-G**, the statement which best conveys what each speaker is talking about. Use the letters only **once**. There is one **extra letter** which you **do not need to use**. You will hear the recording **twice**. You now have **40 seconds** to look at the questions.

Which speaker says that killing animals for clothes

- A. is not an important enough issue to worry about?
- B. is unnecessary due to technological advances?
- C. is always merciless and brutal?

## Task A9-A15 Multiple choice

### Task A9-A15

You will hear an interview with Todd talking on the radio about his **listening website**. For questions **A9-A15**, choose the best answer. You will hear the recording **twice**. You now have **60 seconds** to look at the questions.

**A9** Why did Todd start his listening website?

1. He wanted to run his own language computer course.
2. He wasn't satisfied with the listening material in the textbooks.
3. He did it at his colleagues' and students' request.





## Reading Paper

### Skills to be tested

- understanding specific factual information and opinion
- understanding relations across paragraphs
- deducing cause-and-effect relationships based on detailed comprehension of explicitly and implicitly stated information
- drawing a conclusion based on the information presented

### Format

The Reading paper consists of three tasks including **24 items**. The test is composed of authentic non-fiction texts.

**Task B1-B7 – Removed sentences** (7 items)

**Task A1-A8 – Multiple choice** (8 four-option items)

**Task B8-B16 – Multiple matching** (9 items, 6 mini texts)

### Marking criteria

Each correct answer is worth **one mark**.

The maximum raw score is **24**.

### Timing

48 minutes





## Reading Paper: Task types

### Task B1-B7 Removed sentences

#### Task B1-B7

You are going to read an article about **middle managers**. Seven sentences have been removed from it. Choose from sentences **A-H** the one which fits each gap (**B1-B7**). There is **one extra sentence** which you **do not need to use**.

Ask small children what they want to be when they grow up and you'll hear answers like "a fireman", "a ballerina" or more likely these days "a winner on *X Factor*". You will rarely hear a child proclaim, "When I grow up I want to be a middle manager." **B1** \_\_\_\_\_ They are responsible for the results and the continual improvement of their own team; and they in turn are answerable to top managers.

Most middle managers enjoy their job. Identifying and solving problems is what motivates them and there are plenty of opportunities to do that every day. **B2** \_\_\_\_\_ The first is the way middle managers are perceived by those above and below them. Many middle managers feel that they are easy scapegoats when information from the top doesn't filter down, and when information from below doesn't filter up.

- A. However, most leadership programmes focus very much on academic research and classroom-based learning that doesn't translate into a real shift in management style.**
- B. That amounts to a great many people who are not fully focused on the job in hand.**
- C. With determined effort middle managers can make the workplace inspiring and fulfilling as well as profitable and successful.**





## Task A1-A8 Multiple choice

### Task A1-A8

*You are going to read an extract from a magazine article. For questions A1-A8, choose the answer which you think best fits according to the text.*

#### **What Is Your Dog Thinking?**

Your canine companion sleeps by your side, but is he dreaming? Does he feel guilty about stealing your steak off the kitchen counter? What is he trying to say with that annoying bark? Does he like watching TV? After decades of research, neuroscientists have begun to answer such questions about the once-secret inner lives of our canine companions. At the forefront of this effort are behaviourists, who draw on decades of research to explore the psychological motivations behind dogs' everyday behaviours.

**A1** As a result of recent scientific research we now come to understand

1. who has been at the forefront of studying dogs' behaviour over decades.
2. why questions about dogs' behaviours may be difficult to answer.
3. what messages canine companions may communicate to their owners.
4. what approaches scientists use to explore the motivations of dogs' behaviours.





## Task B8-B16 Multiple matching

### Task B8-B16

You are going to read opinions of six people about the present situation regarding **formal schooling**. For questions **B8-B16**, choose from people **A-D** and put the correct letter in the box provided. The passages may be chosen **more than once**. There is an example at the beginning **0**.

#### Which person

0	E	thinks that attitude to teachers depends on public morality?
B8		describes the situation when teachers fail to form a relationship based on trust and understanding?
B9		is sure that it is impossible to apply the same educational standards across the country?

**A.** For years, the secrets to teaching have seemed more like alchemy than science. A mix of motivational stuff and misty-eyed tales of inspiration and dedication. We tend to describe teachers as having gifts of a mystical quality that we can recognize and admire — but not replicate. An excellent teacher serves as a hero but never, ironically, as a lesson. We really ought to approach the problem in a more scientific manner. We should measure teacher's performance based on students' test scores, and gather evidence about a good teacher's supposedly "ephemeral" qualities through observation, discussion or interaction, so that we can try to figure out how good teachers got to be that way and then create more of them.





## Use of English Paper

### Skills to be tested

- using conjunctions, pronouns, parenthetical words and phrases, prepositions, modal verbs, phrasal verbs, verb forms, adverbs, verb and noun collocations appropriately
- using correct and appropriate lexis in a context
- using correct and appropriate grammar structures and lexis for paraphrasing

### Format

The test consists of three tasks including **26 items**.

**Task B1-B8 – Cloze test** (8 items)

**Task A1-A10 – Multiple choice** (10 four-option items)

**Task B9-B16 – Key word transformation** (8 items, 8 sentences)

### Marking criteria

Each correct answer is worth **one mark**. Grammar accuracy and correct spelling are included into the marking criteria.

Maximum raw score is **26**.

### Timing

40 minutes





## Use of English Paper: Task types

### Task B1-B8 Cloze test

#### Task B1-B8

For questions **B1-B8**, read the text below and **write one** word which you think best fits each gap. There is an **example** at the beginning **0**.

We rest and sleep **0** because we need to. On average, people need around eight hours sleep a night, although this can vary **B1** \_\_\_\_\_ three hours and eleven hours, depending on the person and his or her age.

If we are regularly short of sleep, then our concentration and our effectiveness suffer and our energy levels decline. These factors all can increase stress. This means that a situation which is already difficult and stressful can become worse, needing even **B2** \_\_\_\_\_ effort to bring it back under control.

### Task B9-B16 Key word transformation

#### Task B9-B16

For questions **B9-B16**, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given**. You must use between **two** and **five** words, including the word given (**no more than 17 characters**). There is an example at the beginning **0**.

#### Example:

**0** She never wants to admit that she is wrong, she prefers to be miserable.

#### RATHER

She \_\_\_\_\_ would rather be \_\_\_\_\_ miserable than admit she is wrong.

**B9** James felt sorry he hadn't entered the hall.

#### SHOULD

James felt he \_\_\_\_\_ the hall.





## Task A1-A10 Multiple choice

### Task A1-A10

For questions **A1-A10**, read the text below and **choose** the answer which best fits each gap. There is an **example** at the beginning **0**.

#### The Lost Art of Handwriting

The days when children were taught to write **0** \_\_properly\_\_ are long gone. Does it matter? Yes, says Umberto Eco.

Recently, two Italian journalists wrote a newspaper article about the **A1** \_\_\_\_ of handwriting.

Why should we **A2** \_\_\_\_ the passing of good handwriting? The capacity to write well and quickly on a keyboard **A3** \_\_\_\_ quick thinking, and often the spell-checker will underline a misspelling or grammatical error.

<b>A0</b>	1 properly	2 rightly	3 suitably	4 smartly
<b>A1</b>	1 fall	2 trouble	3 decrease	4 decline
<b>A2</b>	1 regret	2 complain	3 disapprove	4 blame
<b>A3</b>	1 strengthens	2 leads	3 encourages	4 supports





## Writing Paper

### Skills to be tested

- producing a written text in line with the communicative task
- using language material appropriate to the communicative task
- producing a coherent text using appropriate cohesive devices
- presenting various points of view, providing well developed reasons, showing cause-and-effect relationships
- making an introduction and drawing a conclusion
- comparing, contrasting and showing differences
- eliciting or giving information of a formal character, following the format of a formal letter

### Format

The test consists of two tasks: task C1-A «**Formal email**» (120-160 words) or C1-B «**Graph description**» (140-160 words) and task C2 «**Opinion essay**» (160-220 words).

### Marking criteria

Writing paper tasks are marked by two independent assessors using the following criteria:

#### **Content Relevance and Register Adequacy**

**Vocabulary:** appropriacy, range

**Grammar:** accuracy, range

#### **Organisation and Mechanical Accuracy**

Maximum raw score is **40** (20 points per task).

### Timing

70 minutes





## Writing paper: Task types

### C1-A Formal email (optional task)

#### Task C1-A

#### Formal Email

*You want to study photography and have read the advertisement in the Global Photography magazine. You would like to know more.*

Read the advertisement and the notes you have made.

Then write a **formal email** to the course coordinator asking for more information.

You don't need to include any addresses.

#### Master Photography

Learn photography in 80 inspiring online classes.

Better Photo offers 4-week and 8-week on-line photography courses.

*beginner?*

*certificate after finishing?*



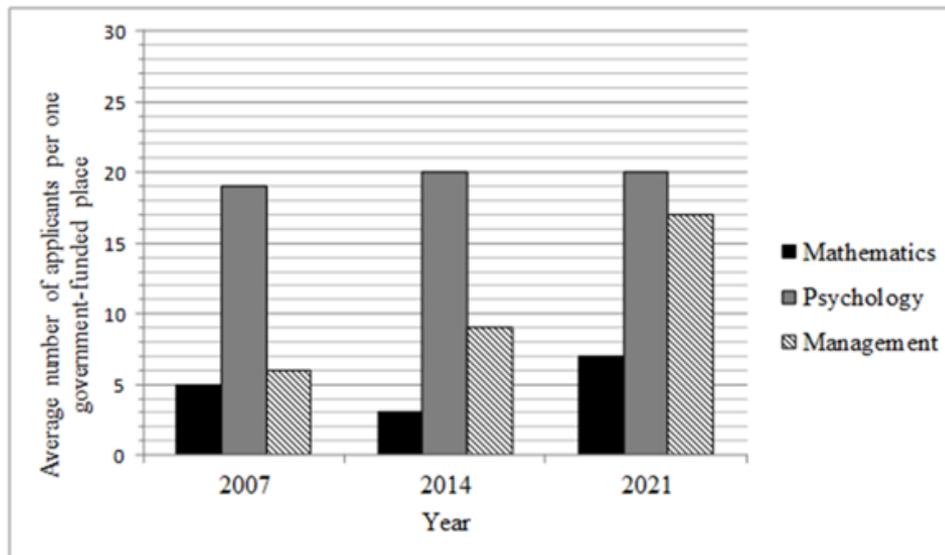


## C1-B Graph description (optional task)

### Task C1-B

#### Graph Description

As part of your research paper you have to describe the following graph: “Three Areas of Specialization at Hillside University, 2007-2021”.





## Task C2 Opinion essay

### Task C2

Write an **essay** based on the following statement:

*Recent research has shown that students' ability to communicate face to face is decreasing due to their overuse of the Internet.*

**What is your opinion?**





## Speaking Paper

### Skills to be tested

- coming up with coherent and logical utterances
- speaking fluently and with a good degree of phonological and prosodic accuracy
- using the language appropriate to the task
- supporting a point of view, providing well developed reasons and showing cause-and-effect relationships
- describing events, phenomena, objects and things
- making an introduction and drawing a conclusion
- maintaining a conversation

### Format

The test is taken face to face, with two candidates and one examiner-interlocutor. The test includes two tasks: Task C3 “**Collaborative task**” and Task C4 “**Talk with a follow-up question**”.

### Marking criteria

The candidates’ performances are recorded using a voice recorder and assessed by two independent assessors applying the following criteria:

#### **Fluency and Content Relevance and Adequacy**

**Grammar:** appropriacy, accuracy, range

**Lexical Resource:** appropriacy, accuracy, range

**Pronunciation**

**Interaction**

Maximum raw score is **23**.

### Timing

**20-24 minutes** per two tasks, including warming up (**1 minute**) and preparation time (**2 minutes**)





## Speaking Paper: Task types

### C3 Collaborative task

#### Task C3 Collaborative task

##### CANDIDATE CARD

#### Task C3 (6-8 minutes)

You have **2 minutes** to prepare the task.

Imagine that in your English class you and your partner have been given an assignment to discuss if **advances in technology have improved our lives or we are becoming too dependent on technologies.**

Consider positive and negative influence of advanced technologies on

- **communication**
- **ecology**
- **quality of life**





## C4 Talk with a follow-up question

### CANDIDATE CARD

#### Task C4-A (6-7 minutes)

You have **2 minutes** to prepare the task.

**Give a talk on your career expectations**

You **must include both** issues given below.

#### Introduce the topic

*What is more important at work: salary, working hours, or something else? Why?*

*Describe a working place (for example, a room or an office) where you would like to work.*

**Conclude the talk**





# Answer Sheets

*Answer sheet types*

*Instructions*







## Instructions on how to fill in Answer sheet A B

**For Tasks A** (multiple-choice tasks), put a cross in the correct box. All questions A are arranged horizontally. If you need to correct your answer to a question A, shade the box and put a cross in the relevant box.

Номера заданий типа А с выбором ответа из предложенных вариантов

Образец написания метки  Образец отмены нанесенной метки  Образец восстановления отменённой метки

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	A13	A14	A15	A16	A17	A18	A19	A20	
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1									
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2									
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4

If you want to return to your initial choice, you have to extend the cross going outside the box.

**Please note** that each question A has only **one** answer.







## Answer sheet C

- For the **Writing Paper tasks**, use **Answer Sheet C**. Write only on the **front side** of the paper.
- If you don't have enough space on Answer Sheet C, use your **Additional Answer Sheet C**.
- If you don't have enough space on Answer sheet C and Additional Answer Sheet C, you can ask for an extra answer sheet C. You can have only **one** extra answer sheet C.
- Use the **question paper** for making notes.
- In the top left-hand corner of Answer Sheet C, **put a tick** in the box against the task you are going to do (C1-A or C1-B).

Бланк ответов С

Вариант задания С1: А  В  Кол. тестируемого

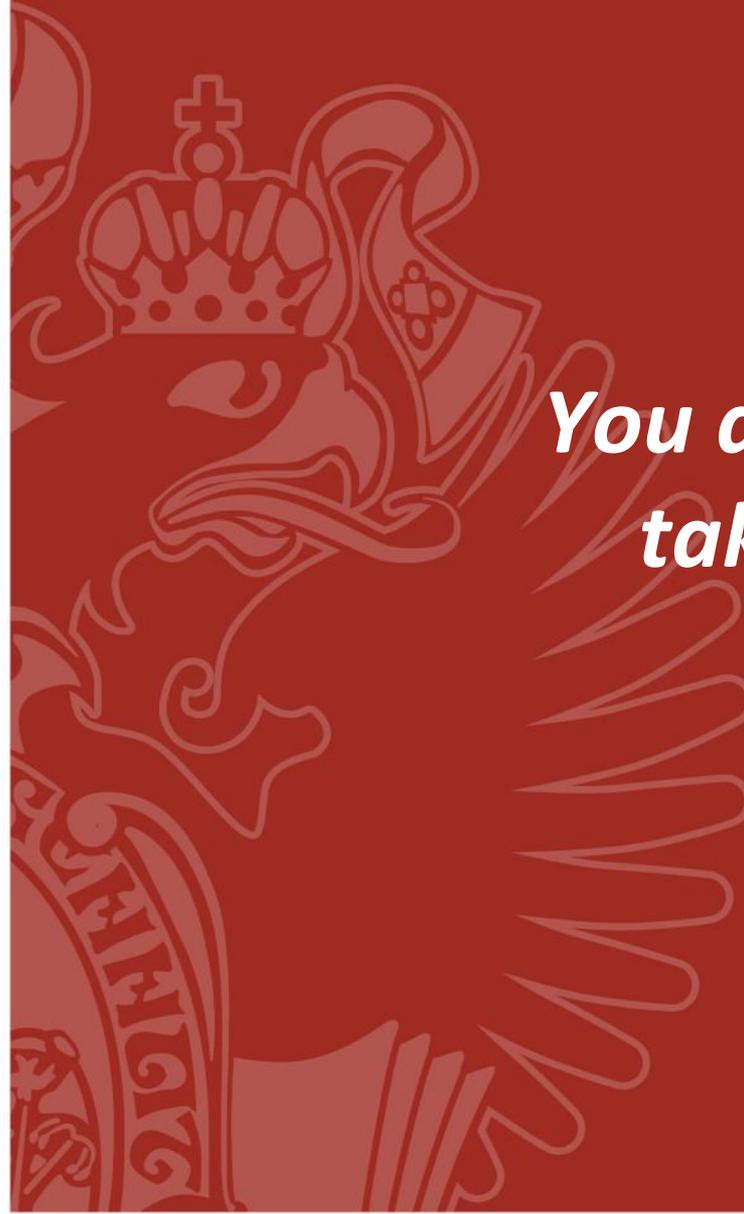
Без заполнения бланк будет считаться недействительным

Ф.И.О. \_\_\_\_\_ № ППТ \_\_\_\_\_  
Документ \_\_\_\_\_ Этаж \_\_\_\_\_  
Аудитория \_\_\_\_\_

Не выходите за границы прямоугольника

Не пишите на обратной стороне листа





***You are welcome to  
take the test!!!***

St Petersburg University  
[spbu.ru](http://spbu.ru)