



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

# ***LEVEL 1 TEST IN ENGLISH***

Level B1 in the Council of Europe's  
Common European Framework of  
Reference (CEFR)



## Level 1 test format

The test is made up of five papers:

- **Listening**
- **Reading**
- **Use of English**
- **Writing**
- **Speaking**



## Listening Paper

### Skills to be tested

- understanding factual information on familiar topics (study, work, leisure, etc.)
- listening for detail
- listening to relatively short texts for gist

### Format

The test consists of four tasks including **25** items. It is composed of clearly articulated authentic non-fiction texts of comparatively short length and various genres presented in standard British English (an announcement, a fragment of an interview, speech, radio programme or presentation).

**Task A1-A7 – Multiple choice** (7 mini texts, 7 three-option items)

**Task A8-A13 – Multiple choice** (6 three-option items)

**Task B1-B6 – Gap fill** (6 items)

**Task A14-A19 – True/False** (6 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 according to the task instructions.

The maximum raw score is **25**.

### Timing

40 minutes





## Listening Paper: Task types

### Task A1-A7 Multiple choice

#### Task A1-A7

*You will hear people talking in seven different situations. For questions A1-A7, choose the correct answer. You will hear each recording twice.*

**A1** You hear Jamie and his friend Rosalind talking about Jamie's clocks. From what they say we understand that Jamie

1. sets all his clocks ten minutes fast.
2. has ten clocks set to the same time to wake him up.
3. wants his clocks to show different times.

### Task A8-A13 Multiple choice

#### Task A8-A13

*You will hear an interview with Ellen Bar, a ballerina, talking about her career. For questions A8-A13, choose the correct answer. You will hear the recording twice. You now have 50 seconds to look at the questions.*

**A8** Ellen decided to become a ballerina because

1. both her parents were ballet dancers.
2. she grew interested in her ballet classes.
3. she wanted to dance like her sister.





## Task B1-B6 Gap fill

### Task B1-B6

You will hear a talk about a small island called **Mauritius**. For questions **B1-B6**, 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** Europeans first arrived to live in Mauritius in \_\_\_\_\_.

**B2** The production of \_\_\_\_\_ has always been important for the island's economy.

## Task A14-A19 True/False

### Task A14-A19

You will hear a conversation between two friends, Tim and Kate, about **books**. Decide if each sentence **A14-A19** is correct or not correct. You will hear the recording **twice**. You now have **30 seconds** to look at the questions.

**A14** Both Kate and Tim don't watch TV because they are too busy.

1. correct                      2. not correct

**A15** Tim likes to listen to audiobooks which are recorded by actors.

1. correct                      2. not correct





## Reading Paper

### Skills to be tested

- reading relatively short texts for gist
- reading for detail
- fully comprehending directly stated factual information and opinion

### Format

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

**Task A1-A6 – Multiple choice** (6 mini texts, 6 three-option items)

**Task B1-B5 – Matching** (5 items)

**Task A7-A12 – Multiple choice** (6 three-option items)

**Task B6-B12 – Multiple matching** (7 items, 6 mini texts)

### Marking criteria

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

The maximum raw score is **24**.

### Timing

47 minutes





## Reading Paper: Task types

### Task A1-A6 Multiple choice

#### Task A1-A6

Recommended task completion time – 8 minutes.

*For questions A1-A6, choose the correct answer.*

**A1** Council Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month except when the first Monday falls on a public holiday. In that case, the meeting will be delayed until the following month.

*What is true about council meetings?*

1. A council meeting is held every month of the year.
2. Council meetings are always held on the same weekday.
3. Public holidays do not cause changes to council meetings.





## Task B1-B5 Matching

### Task B1-B5

Recommended task completion time – 15 minutes.

The people **B1-B5** all want to choose some interesting **cooking class** to go to. Read the descriptions of classes **A-H** and decide which one would be the most suitable for each person. Use the letters **only once**. There are **three extra** descriptions of cooking class which you **do not need to use**.

**B1**  Julienne Eve loves to eat sweets and chocolates, especially with a good book and a nice cup of tea. During their winter holidays to France, she loves to visit local cafes with her husband, where they eat freshly baked pastries and handmade breads. Julienne would like to surprise her husband by making him some delicious cookies herself that she can give to him to open on Christmas morning.

#### **A** *Chinese Appetiser and Main Dish Favourites*

Chef Theresa Liu will demonstrate how to cook popular Asian appetisers along with main courses of pork and a hot and spicy beef dish. Theresa is a cooking class favourite because of her warm personality and the authentic touch her Chinese roots bring to her delicious food!





## Task A7-A12 Multiple choice

### Task A7-A12

**Recommended task completion time – 10 minutes.**

*Read the article and the questions below. For each question A7-A12, choose the correct answer.*

What is the Blues? Most African Americans will tell you that the Blues is a feeling. If your girlfriend or boyfriend leaves you, for instance, you'll feel sad for days. In other words, you'll have the blues. The expression itself isn't black and American, but English, although today it's usually associated with Black Americans. In the 16th century English people used to say that those who were depressed were attacked by "blue devils". Later, in 1807, American author Washington Irving, along with a number of others, was already talking about "having an attack of the blues".

**A7** What information does the author give us about the Blues in the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph?

1. The word was used for the first time by African Americans.
2. It was first described by the American author Washington Irving.
3. It was used to describe a reaction to some emotional stress.
4. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was more common in England than in America.





## Task B6-B12 Multiple matching

### Task B6-B12

Recommended task completion time – 10 minutes.

You are going to read a magazine article about the *school subjects people like or dislike*. For questions **B6-B12**, match people **A-D** to each question **B6-B12**, and choose the correct letter in the box provided. Each person may be chosen *more than once*. There is an *example* at the beginning **0**.

Which person says that

<b>B0</b>	<b>D</b>	their attitude to a subject changed?
-----------	----------	--------------------------------------

+

<b>B6</b>		their memory often fails them?
-----------	--	--------------------------------

**A** I like reading about history in my own time but I don't like taking the class. I'm really not good at remembering stuff. Boring names, facts, dates – this is what history is for the majority of people – just a list of events to learn. They just want to get definite answers to the questions “who, what and when” but nothing more. But historians think about history differently. They see themselves as detectives, often unsure about what happened, what it means, and rarely able to agree amongst themselves. This is what it's about for me. Trying to fill the gaps between the facts is often more interesting than the facts themselves.





## Use of English Paper

### Skills to be tested

- using appropriate lexis and grammar structures in a context
- using finite and non-finite verb forms
- using correct and appropriate grammar structures and lexis for paraphrasing

### Format

The test consists of three tasks including **24 items**.

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

**Task B1-B6 – Gap fill** (6 items)

**Task B7-B16 – Key word transformation** (10 items, 10 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 **24**.

### Timing

38 minutes





## Use of English Paper: Task types

### Task A1-A8 Multiple choice

#### Task A1-A8

Recommended task completion time – 8 minutes.

For questions A1-A8, read the text below. Choose the correct answer. There is an **example** at the beginning 0.

#### Has the iPod Made Us Antisocial?

Some time ago, footballers travelling to take part in games would start a game of cards on the team bus. Now they 0 \_\_\_ off the coach with headphones on. Many runners, cyclists and even swimmers A1 \_\_\_ with headphones.

0	1 take	2 set	3 get	4 go
A1	1 exercise	2 use	3 work	4 prepare





## Task B1-B6 Gap fill

### Task B1-B6

Recommended task completion time – 12 minutes.

For each question **B1-B6**, read the text below and **write** the correct form of the word given in capitals to complete the sentence. There is an **example** at the beginning **0**.

An experimental technology may change the way many novels **0** are  
read.

E-books offer a richer reading experience than is possible through  
traditional books. By an e-book, we really mean a digital copy of a **B1**  
\_\_\_\_\_ text that we can read on an electronic device.

READ

PRINT





## Task B7-B16 Key word transformation

### Task B7-B16

Recommended task completion time – 15 minutes.

For each question **B7-B16**, complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first sentence. Write your answer in the spaces provided. Use **no more than three words and no more than 17 characters**. There is an example at the beginning **0**.

*Example:*

**0** Emily began to work in the bookstore when she finished college.

Emily has worked in the bookstore since she finished college.

**B7** As a child Emily liked books more than games in the park.

As a child Emily preferred reading books \_\_\_\_\_ playing games in the park.





## Writing Paper

### Skills to be tested

- producing a written text in line with the communicative task
- using language material appropriate to the communicative task
- using informal and neutral registers appropriate to the communicative task
- producing a coherent text using the most common cohesive devices
- explaining one's point of view
- giving advice, expressing a wish or an intention
- expressing one's attitude

### Format

The test consists of two tasks: Task C1 «**Short message**» (40-60 words) and Task C2-A «**Email**» (100-140 words) or Task C2-B «**Article**» (100-140 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

50 minutes





## Writing paper: Task types

### Task C1 Short message

#### Task C1

**Recommended task completion time – 20 minutes.**

#### Short Message

*Your English friend Kate has sent you a present for Christmas.*

Write a **short message** to Kate.

In your message you **must**:

- *thank her for the present*





## Task C2-A Email (optional task)

### Task C2-A

**Recommended task completion time – 30 minutes.**

#### **Email**

This is part of an email you have received from your English pen friend Simon, who writes:

*... You know, I've been studying Russian for 5 months, but I keep forgetting the new words we've studied in class! What do you think I should do?*

*By the way, how popular is learning English in Russia?*

Write an **email** to Simon.





## Task C2-B Article (optional task)

### Task C2-B

Recommended task completion time – 30 minutes.

#### Article

You see this notice on the *SportsEvents* website and would like to try writing yourself.

#### WRITERS WANTED!

We are looking for writers who can write **articles** on different topics connected with **sport**. The best author of the best piece of writing will be invited to join our team.

Describe your favourite type of sport.

Would you recommend doing exercise at home or at the gym? Why?





## Speaking Paper

### Skills to be tested

- producing coherent and logical utterances relevant to the task
- using language material appropriate to the task
- supporting one's point of view
- describing events, phenomena, objects and things
- 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 “Dialogue” and Task C4 “Talk”.

### 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

**14-18 minutes** per two tasks, including warming up (**1 minute**) and preparation time (**1 minute**).





## Speaking Paper: Task types

### Task C3 Dialogue

#### CANDIDATE CARD

##### Task C3 (5-6 minutes)

*You have 1 minute to prepare the task.*

Imagine that you and your partner are going to make a presentation “**The Youth of Russia**” at an international youth conference. You have **4-5 minutes** to discuss these aspects of young people’s life and decide which aspect will be the most interesting topic to speak about.

- **young people at work**
- **modern Russian music**





## Task C4 Talk

### CANDIDATE CARD

#### Task C4-A (4-5 minutes)

You have **1 minute** to prepare the task.

**Give a talk on being happy**

#### You MUST

- **describe** a situation in the past when you felt really happy (*When was it? What made you happy?*)
- **explain** what things usually make people feel happy





# 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.

Бланк ответов С 

Код тестируемого

Ф.И.О.  
Документ

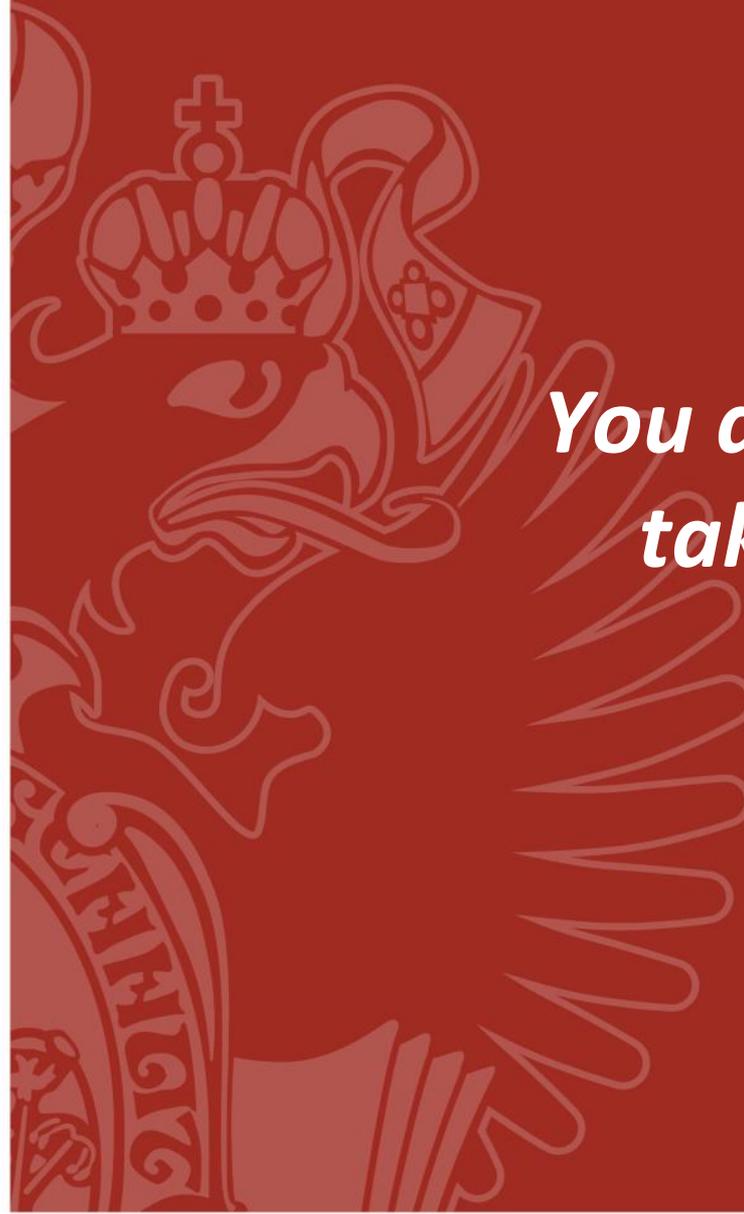
№ ППТ  
Этаж  
Аудитория

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)