

B2 Listening Test specifications, v10

Criteria	Description	CEF
General purpose	To determine if students have reached B2 level in listening	
Specific purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can understand the main ideas of propositionally and linguistically complex speech on both concrete and abstract topics delivered in a standard dialect, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. (OLC) 2. Can follow extended speech and complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar and the direction of the talk is sign-posted by explicit markers. (OLC) 3. Can with some effort catch much of what is said around him/her, but may find it difficult to participate effectively in discussion with several native speakers who do not modify their speech in any way. (UCBNS) 4. Can follow the essentials of lectures, talks and reports and other forms of academic / professional presentation which are propositionally and linguistically complex. (LMLA) 5. Can understand announcements and messages on concrete and abstract topics spoken in standard dialect at normal speed. (LAI) 6. Can understand most radio documentaries and most other recorded or broadcast material delivered in standard dialect and can identify the speaker's mood, tone etc. (LAMR) 7. Can use a variety of strategies to achieve comprehension including listening for main points checking comprehension by using contextual clues. (ICI) <p>General Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Gist (G) B Listening for specific information (SI) C Listening for important details (ID) D Search listening (SR) E Listening for main ideas and supporting details (MISD) F Listening to infer (propositional) meaning (IPM) G Listening to deduce the meaning of a word (DMW) 	<p>p. 66-68</p> <p>p. 72</p>
Target language situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ leaving qualification at the end of secondary school ✦ qualification for academic studies 	
Description of the test taker	Age 17 upwards; majority 18-20; L1 majority German speakers.	
Test level	B2	
Input	Recordings played twice. Should include an appropriate amount of redundancy.	
Sources	radio / radio phone-in, internet, audio books, self-created, films, TV, DVD special features	

Topics	Recordings may contain appropriate / supportive background noise. Inadequate discourse structure and/or inadequate idiomatic usage should be avoided. Social and professional life ; environment, science and technology, free time, entertainment, media, sports, travel, relations with other people , health and body care, education, services (museums, libraries, hospitals), places, languages, work, multicultural society, crime, global problems, history, art , music; youth culture, culture, traditions and customs (see curriculum), food, fashion Exercise discretion with the following topics which may cause offence / emotional distress e.g. religion, sex, drug abuse, violence, serious illnesses, disability (mental/physical) child abuse Sources which must be avoided: examination materials, teaching materials or those specifically written for L2 learners.	
Length	1½-4½ minutes per task; recommended length for specific information /important details = 2½-3 minutes	
Authenticity	As authentic and non-scripted as possible; semi-scripted [as in interviews]	
Mode	Audio	
Input types (Textsorte)	Recordings of monologues, dialogues etc. e.g. interviews, lectures, talks, reports, animated conversations, announcements, pre-recorded messages, answer phone messages, documentaries, news items, speeches, telephone conversations/phone-in, instructions, adverts.	66-68
Discourse type	Narrative, persuasive, descriptive, expository	
Nature of content	Abstract and concrete	
Speaker characteristics	Gender: Male, female Age: different ages Accents: Variety of standard native and non-native accents exhibiting different voices and pitch Speed of delivery: on average 150-180 wpm Number of voices: max 2; up to 5 if separate input	
Test methods	Multiple matching, multiple choice, note form [sentence completion, table completion, gap filling; 1-4 words]	
instructions	Target language – clear, simple with appropriate time to read. Example given	
No. of items per task	6-10 items (preferably minimum of 8 items after trialling)	
Weighting per item	1 point per item	
No. of tasks	4 tasks	
Criteria for marking	1 point per item; a correction key will be available; spelling and punctuation will not be penalised provided it does not interfere with communication	
Sample tasks	Available on the website	
Administration	Guidelines for test takers and administrators, regulations in the exam room (seating plan, silence) No dictionaries. Special administration for those with hearing impairment.	