

B2 Reading Test Specifications, v14

Criteria	Description	Source
General purpose	To determine if students have reached B2 level in reading.	
Specific purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can read with a large degree of independence, adapting style and speed of reading to different texts and purposes, and using appropriate reference sources selectively. Has a broad active reading vocabulary but may experience some difficulty with low frequency idioms (ORC) 2. Can read correspondence relating to his/her field of interest and readily grasp the essential meaning (RC) 3. Can scan quickly through long and complex texts, locating relevant details or a sequence of events. (RO) (<i>descriptor currently under revision</i>) 4. Can quickly identify the content and the relevance of news items, articles and reports on a wide range of professional topics. (RO) 5. Can understand articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular stances and viewpoints. (RIA) 6. Can understand lengthy, complex instructions in his field, including details on conditions and warnings, provided he/she can reread different sections. (RI) 7. I can understand contemporary literary prose. 8. Can use a variety of strategies to achieve comprehension; checking comprehension by using contextual clues. <p>General Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Gist (G) B Reading for specific information (SI) C Reading for important details (ID) D Search reading (SR) E Reading for main ideas and supporting details (MISD) F Reading to infer (propositional) meaning (IPM) G Reading to deduce the meaning of a word/phrase (DMW) 	<p>CEFR</p> <p>CEFR</p> <p>CEFR adapted</p> <p>CEFR (one part deleted)</p> <p>CEFR</p> <p>CEFR</p> <p>CEFR p.27</p> <p>CEFR (“identifying clues and inferring”, one part deleted)</p>
Target language situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ leaving qualification at the end of secondary school ⊕ qualification for future academic studies 	
Description of the test taker	Age 17 upwards; majority 18-20; L1 majority German speakers.	
Test level	B2	
Text source	Entire or part of a text from any of the following sources: newspapers, internet [blogs, social	

	networking sites], books, brochures / leaflets, adverts, magazines/journals, manuals etc. Sources which must be avoided: examination materials, teaching materials or those specifically written for L2 learners.	
Authenticity of text	Authentic, not simplified; original layout wherever possible; editing as necessary to correct any errors	
Text types	General interest, literary, non-literary e.g. correspondence, news items, instructions, guidebooks etc.	CEFR 49
Discourse type	Narrative, descriptive, argumentative, expository, persuasive	
Register / style	Formal and informal; literary, non-literary	
Nature of content	Both abstract and concrete	
Number of words	Approximately 250-600 words [+/- 10%]; approximately 1500-2000 words	CEFR 70
Number of texts	4 texts	
Form of texts	Prose, pictures/graphics, bullets etc.	
Test Methods	Multiple choice, multiple matching [including gapped variety], note form [sentence completion, table completion, gap filling; test takers provide answers to questions using 1-4 words], sequencing, true/false/justification	
Instructions	Target language with examples	
Topic areas	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, animals 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	see also CEFR p102-3 English
No. of items per text	6-10 per text; maximum 8 preferably approximately 30 items	
Weighting per item	1 point per item [TFJ both parts need to be correct for 1 point]	
Time for test	60 minutes	
Criteria for marking	1 point per item; a correction key and justifications 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 re regulations in the exam room (seating plan, silence etc) Procedures available for candidates with special circumstances	
Aids	No dictionary allowed	