

THE LISTENING SUB-TEST

- The Listening Sub-test takes 30 minutes: approximately 20 minutes to listen to the tape and answer the questions, and 10 minutes to transfer your answers to an Answer Sheet provided with the test booklet.
- The test consists of 4 sections, and you will hear the tape only once. There are 40 questions in total.
- The listening passages become more difficult as you progress through the test.
- Section 1 is based on social or life situations: for example, travel arrangements, visiting a new city, or making arrangements to go out. This is usually a conversation between at least two speakers.
- Section 2 is also based on social or life situations: for example, a news broadcast, or a description of college facilities. This is usually a passage with only one person speaking.
- Section 3 is usually based on education and training situations: for example, a group of students planning a project, or a tutor and a student discussing career options. This is often a conversation with up to four speakers.
- Section 4 is also based on education and training: for example, a lecture or a talk of general academic interest.
- Spelling is not important in the Listening Sub-test, except that you must spell words correctly when they are spelt out for you on the tape.
- Your answers need to be legible, that is, they must be able to be read. This applies to all the types of answers you give: letters, numbers and phrases.
- You write your answers on the question paper as you do the Listening Sub-test, and when it is completed, you have 10 minutes to transfer them carefully onto the Answer Sheet. Make sure that each answer is transferred accurately and is legible.

THE READING SUB-TEST

- The Reading Sub-test takes 60 minutes and is in 3 sections. There are 3 passages with a combined length of 1500-2500 words and a total of 40 questions.
- The reading passages become more difficult as you progress through the test.
- The passages are taken from journals, magazines, books and newspapers. All the topics are of general interest and are not specialised texts.
- The reading passages may contain diagrams, charts or graphs, and at least one passage will include an argument. If a reading passage contains technical or specialised words, a glossary is usually provided.
- The questions may come before or after the reading passages in the examination booklet, and instructions and examples are given at the beginning of a new group of questions.
- You must write your answers during the Reading Sub-test on the Answer Sheet provided.

THE WRITING SUB-TEST

The Writing Sub-test takes 60 minutes.

There are two writing tasks.

The first task will take approximately 20 minutes, and you are required to write a minimum of 150 words. The second task will take approximately 40 minutes with a minimum of 250 words.

For Task 1 you describe information that is presented to you in a graph, table, chart, diagram, or short piece of text. The description is usually given in the form of a report. You might have to compare sets of data, or use a set of data to support a given statement. Alternatively, you might be required to describe the stages of a process, describe an object, or explain how something works, or how it is used.

For Task 2 you are asked to write a formal essay or a report in which you might have to offer a solution to a particular problem, present and justify an opinion, compare information given in the question task, or evaluate and challenge a given argument.

In both tasks you must write in the formal academic style appropriate to the question task. You will also be marked on your ability to organise your writing, and on your choice of content within your answers.

The question tasks do not require you to have any specialised knowledge of a particular subject.

THE SPEAKING SUB-TEST

The Speaking Sub-test takes between 11 and 14 minutes.

The Sub-test consists of an interview with a trained examiner, and is recorded on a tape recorder. However, this recording is made to assess the examiner and not the candidate.

There are 3 parts to the Speaking Sub-test.

- Part 1: you answer questions about your home life or family life, work or study, your interests and other familiar topics of a general nature to reveal your background. *(4-5 minutes)*
- Part 2: you are given exactly 1 minute to prepare yourself to talk about a particular topic. The instructions to guide your talk are written on a card given to you by the examiner. Your talk should last for 1-2 minutes. The examiner will ask one or two questions at the end. *(3-4 minutes - including preparation time of 1 minute)*
- Part 3: you have a discussion with the examiner based on themes connected to the topic given in Part 2. This part of the test requires discussion of more abstract ideas. *(4-5 minutes)*

The interview is then closed and the Speaking Sub-test is completed.

Most of the questions asked in the Sub-test are scripted; they come from a bank of questions prepared by the test authorities. These questions are being continually added to and updated.

The Speaking Sub-test Band Score is calculated from a comprehensive checklist of speaking skills in 4 distinct areas of ability:

Fluency and Coherence	Lexical Resource
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Pronunciation