

ENGLISH B2 LEVEL EXAM

Exam Description

This is a written exam in two parts: Reading Comprehension and Grammar. The reading passage is on a general topic (i.e. it does not require specialized knowledge). It is followed by multiple choice questions which test comprehension skills and key vocabulary. The Grammar part of the exam consists of completion exercises (i.e. the candidate has to complete the sentence) relating to various aspects of B2 level grammar.

Candidates are given one hour to complete the exam and are evaluated on a pass/fail basis (idoneità). The number of questions may vary, but the pass mark is 60%.

The following grammar points may be included in the exam:

The present simple (I do)

The present continuous (I am doing)

The past simple of regular and irregular verbs (I went. Did you go..?)

The past continuous (I was watching TV...)

The past perfect (The match had finished...)

The future forms: *going to* for intentions and predictions (We are going to buy a new car/It is going to rain); the *present continuous* for future arrangements (I am flying to Paris tomorrow); *will/won't* for predictions, promises, offers and decisions (You'll love New York/I'll pay you back tomorrow/I'll make you a coffee/I'll have the onion soup, please.)

The present perfect simple (James has never been to Portugal)

The present perfect continuous with *for* and *since* (I've been waiting for half an hour)

Conditionals: First type (If it rains tomorrow, we'll stay at home)

Conditionals: Second type (If I had time, I would like to study German)

Conditionals: Third type (We would have had a longer holiday if we had had more money)

Reported speech ("It's a good pub"/David said [that] it was a good pub)

The passive form (all tenses)

Modals: *can, could, be able to* (for ability and possibility); *must/have to* (for obligation); *may, might* (for possibility – e.g. John may be at home); *should/shouldn't* (for advice – e.g. You should take an aspirin); *must, may, might, might not, can't* (for deduction – e.g. She can't be forty; she must be younger than that.)

Relative clauses: (defining and non-defining): *who, which, that, whose, where*

Comparatives and Superlatives of adjectives and adverbs

Gerunds and Infinitives

Articles: *a, an, the* or *no article* (Sport is an important part of the curriculum)

Prepositions of time and place (*at, in, on* etc.)

Prepositions of movement (*towards, under, across, through* etc.)

Phrasal verbs (common ones): (The plane *took off* from Fiumicino/You should *put on* a pullover)

Quantifiers (*some, any, much, many, a few, a little, a lot of*)

You will find all these grammar points in a good reference book such as "English Grammar in Use" by Raymond Murphy (4th edition, published by Cambridge) or "Grammar Foundations" by Vince and Cerulli (published by Macmillan).

Dott. Simon Jarvis

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