

Exam description

The exam is written and divided into two parts: Reading Comprehension and Grammar. In Part 1, there is a scientific passage with 20 multiple choice/matching questions testing general comprehension skills, key vocabulary and referents. In Part II A, there are 16 multiple choice questions on linkers, problem structures/verb patterns, nominal groups, verb/preposition and noun/preposition combinations, modal verbs of deduction, countable/uncountable nouns, quantifiers and the infinitive of purpose. In Part II B there are 56 completion/transformation exercises on various other aspects of B2 level grammar (see topics below). Students are given one hour and fifteen minutes to complete the entire exam and are evaluated on a pass-fail basis (idoneità). To pass candidates must answer 61 of the 92 exam questions correctly.

The following grammar topics may be included on the exam:

The present simple

The present continuous (including action and non-action verbs)

The past simple: regular and irregular verbs

The past continuous

The past perfect

The future forms: *going to* for intentions and predictions; the present continuous for future arrangements; *will/won't* for predictions; promises, offers, and decisions

The present perfect simple

The present perfect continuous

Conditionals (1st, 2nd and 3rd)

Reported speech

The passive form (all tenses)

Modals: *can, could, be able to* (ability and possibility); *must, have to* (obligation); *may, might* (possibility); *should, shouldn't* (advice); *must, may, might, might not, can't* (deduction)

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

The comparative and superlative

Gerunds and infinitives

Articles (use of definite, zero and indefinite articles)

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

Common verb/preposition and noun/preposition combinations

Quantifiers

Problem structures: *suggest, recommend, allow, advise, enable, make possible, likely, unlikely, appear, seem*

nominal groups

the infinitive of purpose

uncountable and countable nouns

transition signals (linkers)