

**Aptis**

Advanced

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# Practice Test – Answer Key

January 2024



# Aptis Advanced – Speaking Practice Test

## Part One

**Areas assessed:** task fulfilment / topic relevance, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation, fluency and cohesion.

<b>5: B2 (or above)</b>	Likely to be above B1 level.
<b>4: B1.2</b>	<p>Responses to all three questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.</li><li>• Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.</li><li>• Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.</li><li>• Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.</li><li>• Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.</li></ul>
<b>3: B1.1</b>	<p>Responses to two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.</li><li>• Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.</li><li>• Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.</li><li>• Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.</li><li>• Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.</li></ul>
<b>2: A2.2</b>	<p>Responses to at least two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.</li><li>• Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.</li><li>• Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.</li><li>• Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.</li><li>• Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points</li></ul>
<b>1: A2.1</b>	<p>Response to one question is on topic and shows the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.</li><li>• Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.</li> <li>• Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.</li> <li>• Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.</li> </ul>
<b>0: A0</b>	Performance below A2, or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

## Part Two

**Areas assessed:** task fulfilment / topic relevance, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation, fluency and cohesion.

<b>6: C2</b>	Likely to be above the C1 level.
<b>5: C1</b>	<p>Response addresses all three questions and is well-structured.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a range of complex grammar constructions accurately. Some minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.</li> <li>• Uses a range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Some awkward usage or slightly inappropriate lexical choices.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is clearly intelligible.</li> <li>• Backtracking and reformulations do not fully interrupt the flow of speech.</li> <li>• A range of cohesive devices are used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>4: B2.2</b>	<p>Responses to all three questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.</li> <li>• Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task.</li> <li>• Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding.</li> <li>• Some pausing while searching for vocabulary but this does not put a strain on the listener.</li> <li>• A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>3: B2.1</b>	<p>Responses to two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.</li> <li>• Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task.</li> <li>• Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding.</li> <li>• Some pausing while searching for vocabulary but this does not put a strain on the listener.</li> <li>• A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.</li> </ul>

2: B1.2	<p>Responses to at least two questions are on topic and show the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.</li> <li>• Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is intelligible but occasional mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.</li> <li>• Noticeable pausing, false starts, reformulations and repetition.</li> <li>• Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.</li> </ul>
1: B1.1	<p>Response not on topic and task not fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register. No evidence of awareness of register. Response shows the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.</li> <li>• Punctuation and spelling is mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.</li> <li>• Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task. Errors impede understanding in most of the text.</li> <li>• Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.</li> </ul>
0: A1/A2	<p>Performance below B1, or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).</p>

## Part Three

**Areas assessed:** task fulfilment / topic relevance, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation, fluency and cohesion.

6: C2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation is convincingly presented and well-structured, highlighting and expanding on points from each section.</li> <li>• The follow-up question response is well-structured. There is a clear and coherent response.</li> <li>• Uses a range of complex grammar constructions accurately. Some very minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.</li> <li>• Uses a range of vocabulary to discuss the topic required by the task. No awkward usage or inappropriate lexical choices.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is clearly intelligible.</li> <li>• Backtracking and reformulations do not interrupt the flow of speech.</li> <li>• A range of cohesive devices are used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.</li> </ul>
5: C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation is clear, highlighting points from each section. Gives reasons in support of or against particular points of view.</li> <li>• The follow-up question response is coherent.</li> <li>• Uses a range of complex grammar constructions accurately. Some minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a range of vocabulary to discuss the topic in the poster in his/her own words. Some awkward usage or slightly inappropriate lexical choices.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is clearly intelligible.</li> <li>• Backtracking and reformulations do not fully interrupt the flow of speech.</li> <li>• A range of cohesive devices are used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>4: B2.2</b>	<p>Response fully on topic and appropriate register used. Response shows the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not impede understanding.</li> <li>• Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task.</li> <li>• Inappropriate lexical choices do not impede understanding.</li> <li>• Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.</li> <li>• Limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.</li> </ul> <p>Response addresses points from each section, the follow-up question is on-topic and the response shows the features associated with B2 spoken production.</p>
<b>3: B2.1</b>	<p>Response does not address points from both sections, the follow-up question is on-topic and the response shows the features associated with B2 spoken production.</p> <p>Features associated with B2 spoken production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.</li> <li>• Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task.</li> <li>• Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding.</li> <li>• Some pausing while searching for vocabulary, but this does not put a strain on the listener.</li> <li>• A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>2: B1.2</b>	<p>The candidate is unable to construct a coherent and sustained response, is heavily dependent on the input prompts and is not able to address the follow-up question. The response shows the features associated with B1 spoken production.</p>
<b>1: B1.1</b>	<p>The candidate is unable to construct a coherent and sustained response, reads directly from the prompts and is not able to address the follow-up question. The response shows the features associated with B1 spoken production.</p> <p>Features associated with B1 spoken production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.</li> <li>• Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task.</li> <li>• Pronunciation is intelligible but occasional mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.</li> <li>• Noticeable pausing, false starts, reformulations and repetition.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.</li> </ul>
<b>0: A1/A2</b>	Performance not sufficient for B1, or no meaningful language, or the responses are completely off-topic (memorised or guessing).