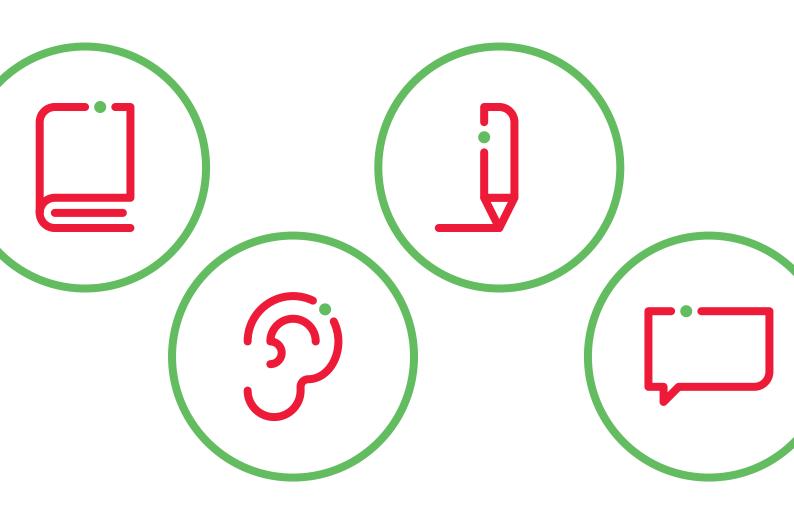


Aptis Advanced

Guide for Teachers

May 2025



Introducing the Aptis test

Aptis is an innovative English testing system from the British Council. It is a suite of assessments for adults and young adults, which can be used to assess English language ability in all four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Aptis tests include a range of questions, which are designed to allow candidates to show their best ability. The test results are reported on a numerical scale (0–50) and as a level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

There are four variations of Aptis tests.

1. Aptis General

tests from A1 to C on the CEFR and is suitable for most test-takers.

2. Aptis Advanced

tests English language ability from B1 to C2 on the CEFR and is for higher level test-takers.

3. Aptis for Teachers

tests from A1 to C on the CEFR and is designed for teachers.

4. Aptis for Teens

As of January 2025, Aptis for Teens has been renamed the Secondary English Test. For more information, visit: www.britishcouncil.org/exam/english/english-assessment-schools/secondary-english-test

Aptis tests are taken on a computer.

Accommodations can be made for special educational needs. Information is provided in the 'Aptis for all' section at the end of this guide.

The purpose of this guide is to help you prepare your students for the Aptis Advanced tests. An overview of each component is provided followed by detailed descriptions and advice on how your students can best prepare. You will also find tips on how your students can practise for the test and information on how the test is marked.



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Test structure

Aptis Advanced consists of five components: core (grammar and vocabulary), reading, listening, writing and speaking.

Your students may be taking one skill component (for example, listening) or all four skill components (reading, listening, writing and speaking) depending on the requirements by the organisation or institution.



It is a good idea for them to take a practice test so that they become familiar with what they need to do.

Aptis Advanced test structure

Part 1	C	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
	Grammar	Sentence completion.	Three-option multiple choice
Part 2	Vocabulary	Word matching (similar meaning).	Sets of five target words with ten options
		Match words to definitions.	
		Sentence completion.	
		Word pairs or word combinations (words commonly used together).	
Part 1	Opinion matching	Match people's opinions to statements.	Seven statements matched to four people's opinions
Part 2	Long text comprehension	Match headings to paragraphs.	Seven paragraphs and eight headings
Part 3	Reading for global understanding	Select a word or phrase to complete gaps.	Five gaps and three options per gap
Part 4	Reading across two texts	Select word or phrase to complete gaps.	Six gaps and three options per gap
Part 1	Identifying factual information	Listen to a monologues and dialogues to identify the correct information.	Four-option multiple choice Listen twice
Part 2	Identifying opinion and attitude	Listen to a monologue to identify opinion and attitude.	Three-option multiple choice Two questions per monologue Listen twice
Part 3	Understanding an extended spoken text	Listen to a dialogue to identify which speakers express which opinions.	Three-option multiple choice Six questions per dialogue Listen once
Part 4	Understanding an extended story	Listen to a monologue to identify information.	Three-option multiple choice Four questions per monologue Listen once
	Part 1 Part 3 Part 1 Part 2 Part 2 Part 3	Part 1 Opinion matching Part 2 Long text comprehension Part 3 Reading for global understanding Part 4 Reading across two texts Part 1 Identifying factual information Part 2 Identifying opinion and attitude Part 3 Understanding an extended spoken text Part 4 Understanding an	meaning). Match words to definitions. Sentence completion. Word pairs or word combinations (words commonly used together). Part 1 Opinion Match people's opinions to statements. Part 2 Long text comprehension paragraphs. Part 3 Reading for global understanding to complete gaps. Part 4 Reading across Select word or phrase to complete gaps. Part 1 Identifying Listen to a monologues and dialogues to information identify the correct information. Part 2 Identifying opinion and attitude Part 3 Understanding an extended spoken text Part 4 Understanding an Listen to a monologue to identify which speakers express which opinions.

Test	Test de	esign	Activity	Format
Writing 45 minutes	Part 1	Three written responses to questions	Respond to written questions on a social network-type website.	30-40 words for each question
	Part 2	Formal writing	Write an email in response to a short email and some notes (provided).	120-150 words
	Part 3	Article for website publication	Write an informative and interesting text on a topic using notes provided.	180-220 words
Speaking 10 minutes	Part 1	Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations	Describe two contrasting pictures and answer two additional questions.	45 seconds for each response
	Part 2	Discuss personal experience and opinion in relation to an abstract topic	Answer three questions on an abstract topic.	One minute to prepare Two minutes response time
	Part 3	Presentation	Select and develop points from a list of for/against ideas related to a topic.	60 seconds preparation 90 seconds presentation
	Part 4	Question on your presentation	Respond to a follow-up question related to the topic in Part 3.	No preparation time 45 seconds to respond

+ card is not.

Aptis Advanced core test (grammar and vocabulary)

The core test consists of two parts. The first part assesses candidates' knowledge of English grammar. The second part assesses their knowledge of English vocabulary.

Part	Description	Preparation
Part 1 Grammar	In this part of the test, candidates will answer 25 questions. All 25 questions are in the format of a three-option multiple choice. Candidates complete a sentence by choosing the correct word.	To know which parts of grammar are tested, see the British Council / EAQUALS core inventory. This is free and available online at: https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/british-council-eaquals-core-inventory-general-english One great way to help candidates prepare for the grammar test is to use the British
		Council's LearnEnglish website: http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/ grammar
Part 2 Vocabulary	There are 25 questions in this part of the test. There are a number of question types:	To help your students prepare for this part of the test, the LearnEnglish website has games and activities to help them improve their vocabulary. http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/
	Word matching: candidates find a word with a meaning similar to the target word.	vocabulary
	Word definition: candidates match a definition to the correct word.	Another useful tip is to encourage them to take note of interesting words or word combinations when they read English texts.
	Word usage: candidates complete a sentence by choosing the correct word.	
	Word pairs or word combinations: candidates select the most common combinations of words. They are given a target word and a list of words which may or may not be commonly used in combination with the target word, e.g. where card is the target word, birthday + card is a common combination but blue	

Sample grammar questions

There are two question types. The first focuses on written English grammar, and the second focuses on the use of English grammar when speaking.

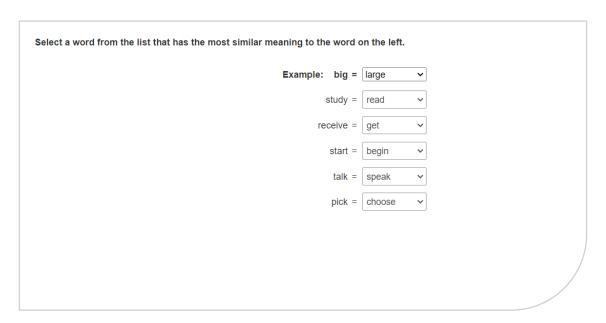
Here are some examples:

1. Written grammar	
Heme that the	machine was broken.
o told	
O spoke	
O said	
My boss says that I	to finish the report by Friday.
o must	
o have	
O should	
My new computer works _	faster than my old one.
o many	
O more	
O much	
I have worked for this com	panyI left university.
o since	
O after	
O from	
2. Spoken grammar	
John: She's French, isn't sh	e?
Ahmed: No, she's	
o exactly	
o actually	
O anyway	
Zeynep: I really don't feel li	ke going to see that movie tonight.
Peter: Okwe	can go next week instead.
Maybe	
However	
Nevertheless	

Sample vocabulary questions

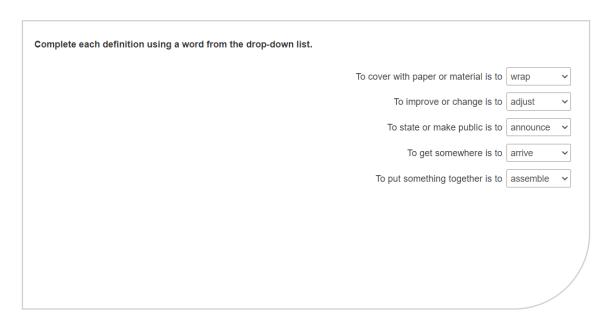
In the first question type, candidates need to match words with similar meanings from a list of options. To do this, they click on the arrows and choose the similar word.

Here is an example:



For the next question type, candidates need to match a definition to a word. They click on the arrow and choose the word that matches the definition.

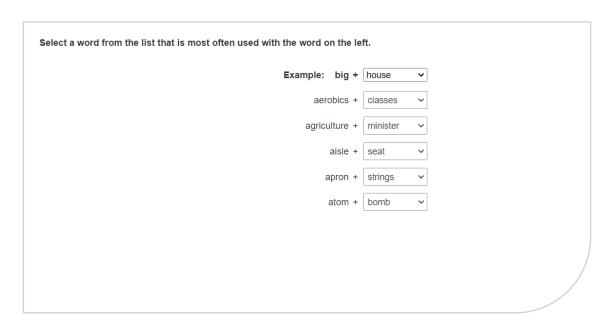
Here is an example:



The next question type asks candidates to complete a sentence using a word from a list.

Complete each sentence using a word from the drop-down list.		
More and more people go	abroad ~	for their holidays these days.
Drivers need to remain	alert v	when in charge of a car.
The city has many	ancient ~	and interesting buildings.
She's a highly	articulate ~	person who explains things clearly.
He's a very	aggressive v	person – always getting into fights.

The final question type asks candidates to identify a word from a list that is commonly used with the given word.



To take a full Aptis Grammar and Vocabulary practice test, please visit our website.

Aptis Advanced Reading test

The test assesses candidates' reading ability. The tasks start at B1 level and become more difficult as the test progresses.

Part	Description	Preparation
Part 1 Opinion matching	In this part, candidates will match people's opinions to statements. They will read four opinions on the same topic and seven statements. Then they need to decide how the sentences should be matched. This part tests candidates' ability to read and understand short texts.	Candidates should read all four opinions before trying to answer the questions. To prepare, candidates can look at the comments section in online media and practise summarising the main opinions.
Part 2 Long text compre- hension	In this part, candidates will read a long text (about 750 words). They will also read eight headings. The task is to match seven of the headings to paragraphs in the text. There is always an extra heading that does not fit with any paragraph. This part is designed to test candidates' ability to read and understand a long text. To get the correct answers they need to be able to demonstrate an understanding of how the headings reflect the paragraphs in different ways (sometimes using similar words, sometimes similar ideas, or by sharing a topic).	Candidates should read the whole text quickly and then carefully read the headings. They should look for clues to connect the headings to the paragraphs; these might be similar words, ideas or topics. To prepare, candidates can read magazine articles and find the main idea for each paragraph.
Part 3 Reading for global under- standing	This is a short text of around 300 words with missing gaps. Candidates must choose the right word or phrase from the drop-down to complete the gap.	Candidates should make sure they read the whole text before trying to answer. This is not a grammar test so all the options can fit grammatically into the sentence. They need to understand the whole text to choose the correct one.
Part 4	Candidates read two short texts on the	Candidates need to read both texts

before answering as all of the options

understood both texts.

are grammatically possible, so they can

only choose the correct one if they have

same topic. They need to fill in the blank

with the appropriate phrase.



Reading

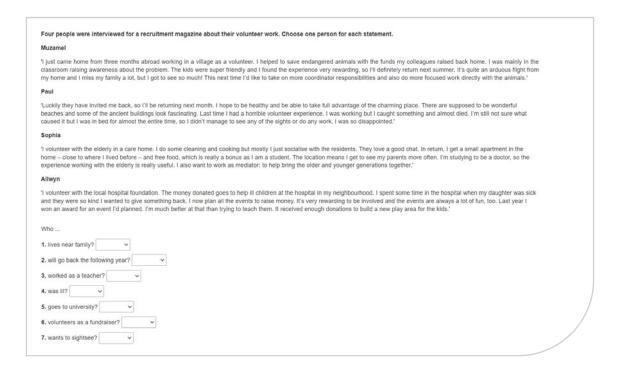
two texts

across

Sample reading questions

Reading part 1: Opinion matching

In this part, candidates match four people's opinions to seven statements by selecting the correct person from the drop-down list.

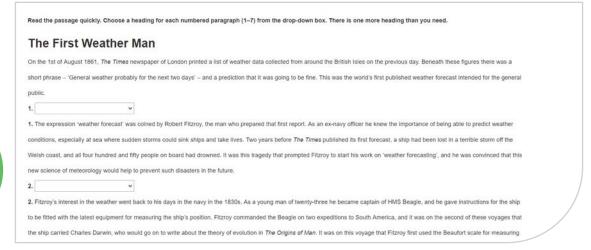


Reading part 2: Long text comprehension

In the second part, candidates must scroll through the reading text to see all of it. They can do this by clicking on the side bar and moving the bar up and down.

To complete the task, candidates need to match seven headings to the correct paragraphs in the text.

They select the appropriate heading from the drop-down list on the left-hand side.





Reading part 3: Reading for global understanding

In the third part, candidates choose the right word or phrase from the drop-down to complete the gap.



Reading part 4: Reading across two texts

For the final part, candidates need to fill in the blank with the appropriate phrase.

	Article 1	
salised that, despite the diminutive size o ubbed it Homo floresiensis: Flores Man. " ialims, which would potentially add a new ncestor of modern humans much larger it owever, presented papers in academic jo iteresting aspect of this debate is the way	discovered on the island of Flores in 2003 had a major impact on the study of human origins. The Australian researchers who made the find fit he skeleton, the teeth were those of an adult. They claimed the remains were from a previously undiscovered species of early human, and This new species had managed to survive for thousands of years after the closest relative to modern humans died out. The member to the human family tree, were 1) The Australian team suggested that Homo floresiensis was descended from Homo erectus, an han Homo floresiensis. According to this view, the species shrunk through evolutionary processes after being stranded on the Island. Sceptics, burnals to suggest that the fossils were in fact members of the same species as modern humans who were deformed through disease. One by the same objects were used by proponents of 2) The use of the fossil skulls to estimate the brain size of Homo floresiensis is a case in been collected. Nonetheless, controversy surrounding Homo floresiensis continues, and new theories of their origins continue to emerge. Indeed,	
	Article 2	
ilogy, continue to spark interest. The exis hether the bones belonged to 4) In mall brain capacity of the fossil skulls to 8 urge difference in brain size between the	of Flores until approximately 17,000 years ago, dubbed 'hobbits' after the diminutive fantasy characters of the same name in the Lord of the Rings stence of the hobbits was first suggested by Australian researchers who had uncovered small fossil skeletons. The find led to a heated debate over interestingly, some pieces of evidence were used by the different sides to support opposing views. For example, some researchers pointed to the 5) the link to an earlier human ancestor, Home erectus, suggested by the Australians. There was not enough time, the sceptics said, for the two to have occurred through evolution. However, later estimates put the brain capacity of the hobbits at 426cc, big enough to allow for evolution we begun to consider why the hobbits eventually died out. One theory with strong circumstantial evidence puts the cause down to natural disaster.	
olcanic ash deposits indicate a large eruj ack record of modern humans to suggest	ption occurred around the time the hobbits died out. Some researchers, including the team that discovered the fossils, 6), They point to the ta different end. They claim that it is more likely the hobbits died out through conflict with our species.	
olcanic ash deposits indicate a large erup	ption occurred around the time the hobbits died out. Some researchers, including the team that discovered the fossils, 6), They point to the	
olcanic ash deposits indicate a large eruj ack record of modern humans to suggest	ption occurred around the time the hobbits died out. Some researchers, including the team that discovered the fossils, 6), They point to the	
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Aptis Advanced Listening test

The Aptis Advanced listening test has four parts. Candidates can choose to listen to the text once or twice in the first two parts but will only hear the text once in parts 3 and 4.

Part	Description	Preparation
Part 1 Identifying factual information	In this part, candidates will listen to five short recordings of monologues or dialogues and answer one question for each recording.	Candidates can visit the British Council's LearnEnglish website for lots of very useful activities, tips, apps and podcasts: http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/
Part 2 Identifying opinion and attitude	In this part, candidates will listen to three recordings of monologues and they will have to answer two questions for each recording.	You can advise your students to use the fact that they can listen twice to their advantage here. They should read through the questions before they listen. Then, on their first listen, they should select their answers and listen a second time to confirm.
Part 3 Understanding an extended spoken text	In this part, candidates will hear a discussion between a man and a woman. On the screen they will see a number of opinions. They will need to identify who expresses which opinion: the man, the woman, or both the man and the woman.	Candidates will only hear the recording once and they have 20 seconds to read through the options before it starts. They should make sure they know what information they are listening for.
Part 4 Under- standing an extended story	In this part, candidates will hear two separate monologues. They will need to select the correct answers from a table.	Candidates will only hear each monologue once. The information in the monologue does not appear in the same order as the table.



Sample listening questions

If candidates would like to hear a question for a second time, they can just click on the Play button (>). The system will not allow them to listen more than twice. For part three and four they will be able to hear the recording just once.

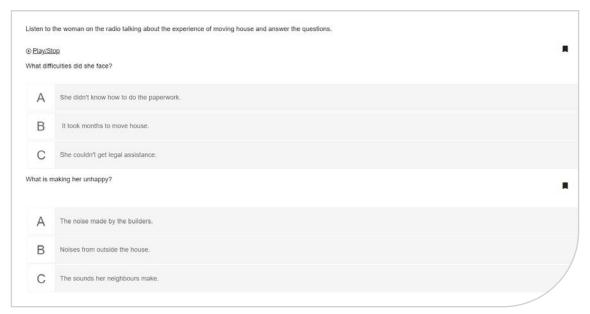
Listening part 1: Identifying factual information

Candidates listen to a short monologue or dialogue and identify specific information.



Listening part 2: Identifying opinion and attitude

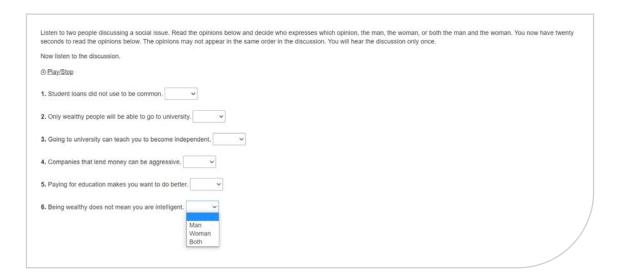
Candidates listen to three separate monologues and answer two questions for each recording.





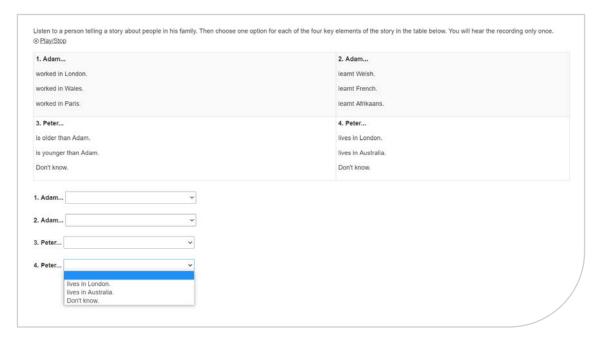
Listening part 3: Understanding an extended spoken text

Candidates listen to short conversations with two speakers to identify the opinions of the speakers.



Listening part 4: Understanding an extended story

Candidates listen to a monologue to identify four key pieces of information.





To take a full Aptis Listening practice test, please visit our website.

Aptis Advanced Writing test

There are three parts to the writing test. Candidates will interact in a social media-type written conversation, write an email and write a short article for an online publication. All writing tasks are marked by human examiners.

Candidates should make sure they fully understand the questions. They should plan what they are going to write and then edit their writing before clicking to the next question.

The most common mistakes include:

- not answering the questions (going off-topic)
 - · candidates should read the question and understand what they need to do
- O writing too much but with poor grammar, spelling and punctuation
 - candidates should keep the word count and focus on accuracy
- not using a variety of sentence structures
- o not writing in sentences or paragraphs.



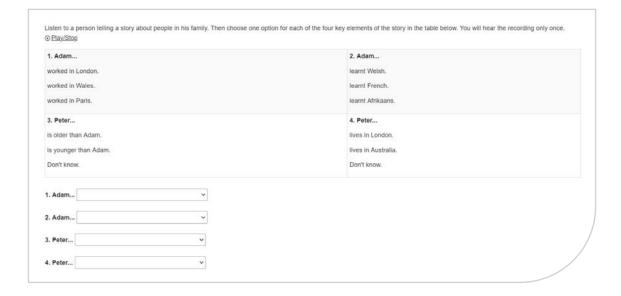
Part	Description	Preparation
Part 1 Three written responses to questions	In this part, candidates will have a social network-type interaction. They will receive three questions and need to respond.	Candidates should make sure they correctly answer all three questions and do not go off-topic. They should focus on accurate spelling and punctuation and write sentences that link together and make sense. It's best to keep to the word count of 30–40 words per answer.
Part 2 Formal writing	In this part, candidates will read an email from an authority. They need to respond to the email in 120 –150 words, using the notes provided, expressing how they feel about the situation.	Candidates should make sure they are on-topic and that they use the appropriate register for the situation. They should avoid text message or social media language, instead focusing on formal writing.
Part 3 Article for website publication	In this part, candidates will write an article for a website that is both informative and interesting. Notes about the topic are provided and they need to use the information to help write the article. The article needs to be between 180–220 words.	Candidates should try to make their article informative and interesting and use original text (i.e. not just copy the notes).



Sample writing questions

Writing part 1: Three written responses to questions

Candidates need to write responses to three questions.





Here is the marking scale:

Areas assessed: task fulfilment / topic relevance, punctuation, grammatical range & accuracy, vocabulary range & accuracy, cohesion.

5. B2 (or above) Likely to be above A2 level.

4. B1.2

Responses to all **three** questions are on topic and show the following features:

- · Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Punctuation and spelling mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.
- Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions.
- Uses simple cohesive devices to organize responses as a linear sequence of sentences.

3. B1.1

Responses to **two** questions are on topic and show the following features:

- · Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Punctuation and spelling mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.
- Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions.
- Uses simple cohesive devices to organize responses as a linear sequence of sentences

2. A2.2

Responses to at least **two** questions are on topic and show the following features:

- Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with simple structures common and sometimes impede understanding.
- · Punctuation and spelling mistakes are noticeable.
- Vocabulary is not sufficient to respond to the question(s). Inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable and sometimes impede understanding.
- Responses are lists of sentences and not organized as cohesive texts.

1. A2.1

0.

Response to **one** question is on topic and shows the following features:

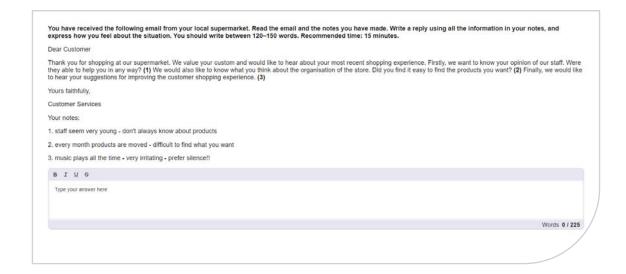
- Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with simple structures common and sometimes impede understanding.
- · Punctuation and spelling mistakes are noticeable.
- Vocabulary is not sufficient to respond to the question(s). Inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable and sometimes impede understanding.
- Responses are lists of sentences and not organized as cohesive texts.



Performance below A2, or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Writing part 2: Email response

Candidates need to respond to the email in 120 –150 words, using the notes provided, expressing how they feel about the situation.





Areas assessed: task fulfilment, register, grammatical range & accuracy, vocabulary range & accuracy, punctuation and spelling, cohesion.

6. C2

Response fully on topic and appropriate register used. Response shows the following features:

- Range of complex grammar constructions used accurately. No grammar errors occur.
- Range of vocabulary used. No awkward or inappropriate lexical choices.
- No more than two minor punctuation or spelling errors occur.
- Range of cohesive devices used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.

5. C1

Response fully on topic and appropriate register used. Response shows the following features:

- Range of complex grammar constructions used accurately. Minor grammar errors occur.
- Range of vocabulary used. Some awkward or slightly inappropriate lexical choices.
- Minor errors in punctuation and spelling occur.
- Range of cohesive devices used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.

4. B2.2

Response fully on topic and appropriate register used. Response shows the following features:

- Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not impede understanding.
- Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not impede understanding.
- Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.
- Limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

3. B2.1

Response partially on topic and/or appropriate register partially used. Response shows the following features:

- Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not impede understanding.
- Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not impede understanding.
- · Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.
- Limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.



Response partially on topic and/or appropriate register partially used. Response shows the following features:

- Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task. Errors impede understanding in parts of the text.
- Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.
- Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

1. B1.1

Response not on topic and/or task not fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register. Response shows the following features:

- Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task. Errors impede understanding in parts of the text.
- Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.
- Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

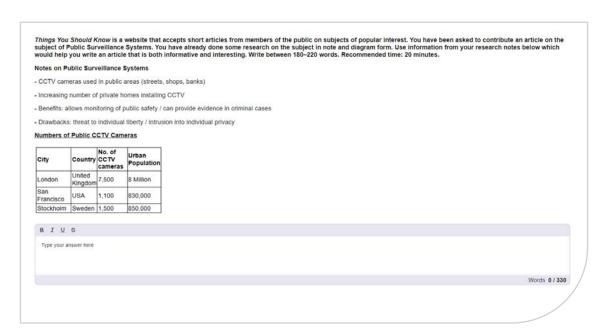
0. A1/A2

Performance below B1, or no meaningful language or the response is completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).



Writing part 3: Article for website publication

Candidates will write an article for a website that is both informative and interesting.





Here is the marking scale:

Areas assessed: task fulfilment, grammatical range & accuracy, vocabulary range & accuracy, coherence and cohesion.

6. C2

Response is informative and interesting. Clever use of the input with mostly original text. Response shows the following features:

- Range of complex grammar constructions used accurately. Minor errors occur.
- Range of vocabulary used accurately. No awkward or inappropriate lexical choices.
- Minor errors in punctuation and spelling occur.
- Range of cohesive devices used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.

5. C1

Response is not interesting. Correct use of the input with mostly original text. Response shows the following features:

- Range of complex grammar constructions used accurately. Minor errors occur.
- Range of vocabulary used. Some awkward or slightly inappropriate lexical choices.
- Minor errors in punctuation and spelling occur.
- Range of cohesive devices used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.

4. B2.2

Response is not interesting. Correct use of the input with mostly original text. Response shows the following features:

- Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not impede understanding.
- Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topic required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not impede understanding.
- · Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.
- · Limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas

3. B2.1

Response is not interesting or informative. Key parts of the input are missing with mostly original text. Response shows the following features:

- Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not impede understanding.
- Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not impede understanding.
- · Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.
- · Limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.



2. B1.2

Response is not interesting or informative. Key parts of the input are missing with mostly original text. Response shows the following features:

- Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task. Errors impede understanding in parts of the text.
- · Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.
- Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

1. B1.1

Response is not interesting or information. Input is not used correctly or text is mostly copied from the input. Response shows the following features:

- Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task. Errors impede understanding in most of the text.
- · Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.
- Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

0. A1/A2

Performance below B1, or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

To take a full Aptis Writing practice test, please visit our website.



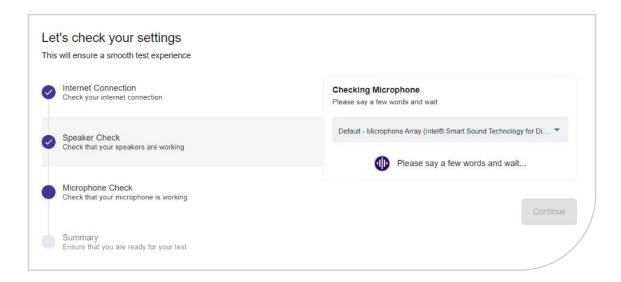
Aptis Advanced Speaking test

For each question, candidates are given a maximum amount of time to speak, but they can end the recording early by clicking on the 'finish recording' button. Candidates should make sure they fully respond to the question before they stop the recording.

The most common reasons people receive lower scores than they expect include :

- O not doing a proper sound check (details on how to do this are shown below)
- not speaking clearly
- not answering the questions
- O giving under-length answers not using the full amount of time to speak
- overusing words such as 'and' and 'so'
- speaking in simple sentence lists
- o not using a variety of sentence structures.

Before the Speaking test begins, candidates will be asked to check their microphones.



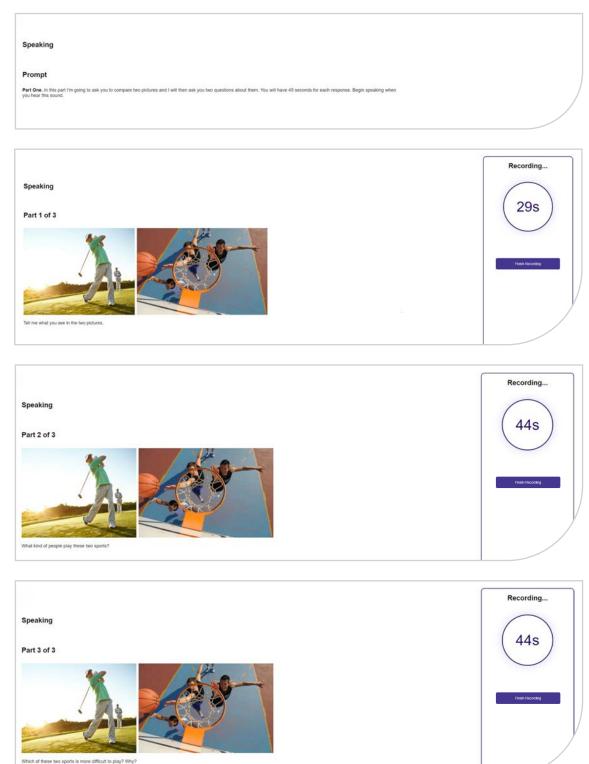




Speaking part 1: Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations

In this part, candidates will see two photos and answer three questions.

Each part of the test will appear automatically. Candidates can stop recording their response before the timer runs out by tapping on the 'Finish recording' button, but we recommend that they try to speak for the full time available to maximise their score.





The areas assessed in part 1 of the Speaking test are how completely and relevantly candidates responded to the question, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation, fluency and cohesion.

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

5. B2 (or above) Likely to be above the B1 level.

4. B1.2

Responses to all **three** questions are on topic and show the following features:

- · Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.
- Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.
- Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.
- Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

3. B1.1

Responses to **two** questions are on topic and show the following features:

- · Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.
- · Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.
- Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.
- Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

2. A1.2

Responses to at least **two** questions are on topic and show the following features:

- Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.
- Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.
- Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.
- Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.
- Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.



Response to **one** question is on topic and shows the following features:

- Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.
- Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.
- Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.
- · Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.
- Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.

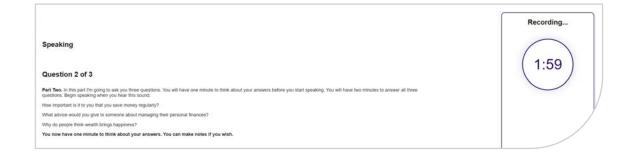
0.

Performance below A2, or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).



Speaking part 2: Discuss personal experience and opinion on an abstract topic

In this part candidates will answer three questions on an abstract topic.





During the preparation time, it is important for candidates to take notes, as these will help them organise and remember what they want to speak about. Rather than writing out exactly what they want to say, they should make brief notes and use these to structure their speech.

Here is the marking scale:

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

6. C2

Likely to be above C1 level.

5. C1

Response addresses all **three** questions and is well-structured.

- Uses a range of complex grammar constructions accurately. Some minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.
- Uses a range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Some awkward usage or slightly inappropriate lexical choices.
- · Pronunciation is clearly intelligible.
- · Backtracking and reformulations do not fully interrupt the flow of speech.
- A range of cohesive devices are used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.

4. B2.2

Responses to all **three** questions are on topic and show the following features:

- Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.
- Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.
- Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding.
- Some pausing while searching for vocabulary but this does not put a strain on the listener.
- A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

3. B2.1

Responses to **two** questions are on topic and show the following features:

- Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.
- Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.
- Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding.
- Some pausing while searching for vocabulary but this does not put a strain on the listener.
- A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.



2. B1.2 Responses to at least **two** questions are on topic and show the following features:

- Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task.
- · Pronunciation is intelligible but occasional mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.
- Noticeable pausing, false starts, reformulations and repetition.
- Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

1. B1.1 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:

- · Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- · Punctuation and spelling is mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.
- Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task. Errors impede understanding in most of the text.
- Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

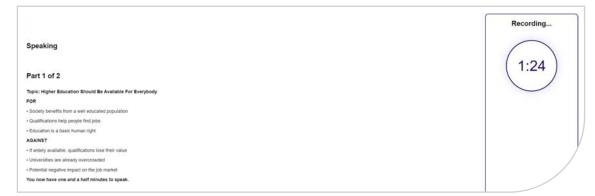
0. A1/A2 Performance below B1, or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).



Speaking part 3 and 4: Presentation and question on your presentation

In these two sections candidates will have to select and develop points from a list of for or against ideas related to a topic and respond to a follow-up question related to the topic.









Here is the marking scale:

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

6. C2

- Presentation is convincingly presented and well-structured, highlighting and expanding on points from each section.
- The follow-up question response is well-structured. There is a clear and coherent response.
- Uses a range of complex grammar constructions accurately. Some very minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.
- Uses a range of vocabulary to discuss the topic required by the task. No awkward usage or inappropriate lexical choices.
- · Pronunciation is clearly intelligible.
- · Backtracking and reformulations do not interrupt the flow of speech.
- A range of cohesive devices are used to clearly indicate the links between

5. C1

- Presentation is clear, highlighting points from each section. Gives reasons in support of or against particular points of view.
- The follow-up question response is coherent.
- Uses a range of complex grammar constructions accurately. Some minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.
- 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.
- · Pronunciation is clearly intelligible.
- Backtracking and reformulations do not fully interrupt the flow of speech.
- A range of cohesive devices are used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.

4. B2.2

Response fully on topic and appropriate register used. Response shows the following features:

- Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not impede understanding.
- Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not impede understanding.
- Punctuation and spelling errors do not impede understanding.
- Limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

Response addresses points from each section, the follow-up question is on-topic and the response shows the features associated with B2 spoken production

3. B2.1

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.

Features associated with B2 spoken production:

- Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.
- Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.
- Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding.
- Some pausing while searching for vocabulary, but this does not put a strain on the listener.
- A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between
- 2. B1.2

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 followup question. The response shows the features associated with B1 spoken production.

1. B1.1

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.

Features associated with B1 spoken production:

- · Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.
- Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task.
- · Pronunciation is intelligible but occasional mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.
- Noticeable pausing, false starts, reformulations and repetition.
- · Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

0. A1/A2

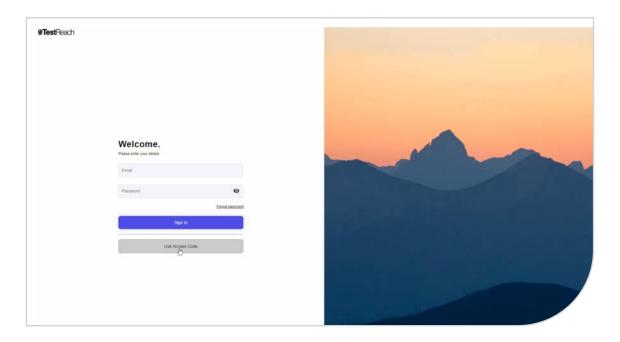
Performance not sufficient for B1, or no meaningful language, or the responses are completely off-topic (memorised or guessing).



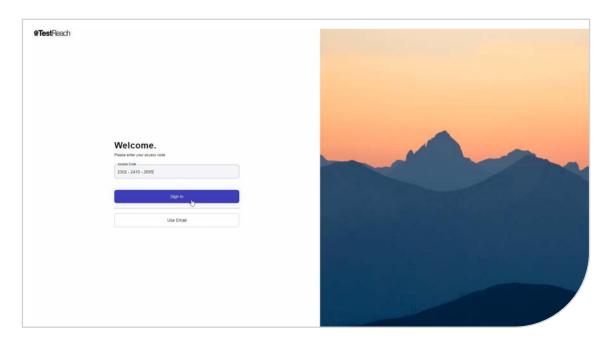
To take a full Aptis Speaking practice test, please visit our website.

How to take the test on a computer

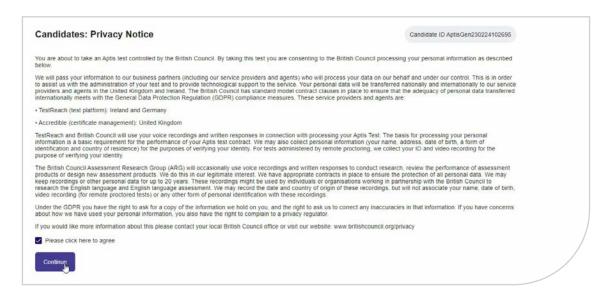
The introductory screen for every Aptis test looks like this. Candidates will need to click "Use Access Code".



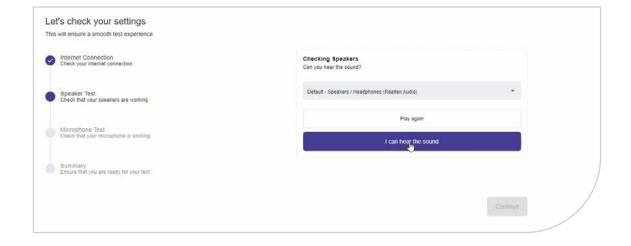
Candidates can then enter their personal access code and click "Sign in".



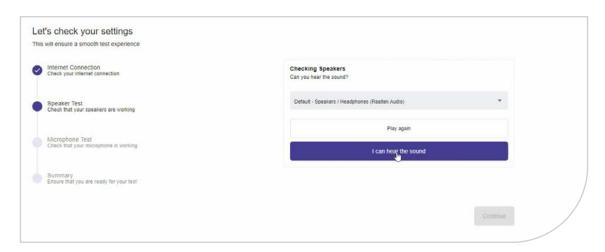
After clicking "**Sign in**", candidates will be prompted to read a privacy notice. To continue with the test, candidates must accept the terms and click "**Continue**".

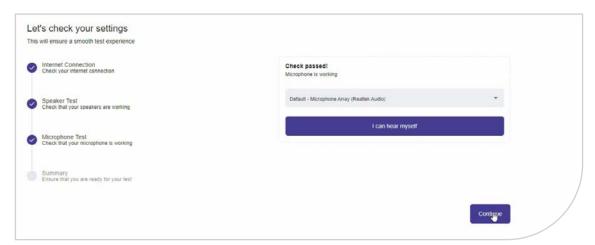


Candidates will then be asked to complete a system check. First they will need to check their internet connection.



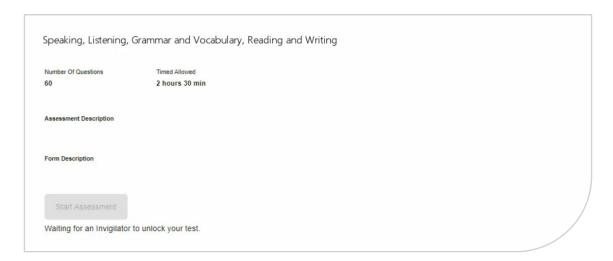
Once the internet connection is checked, candidates will need to check their speakers and microphone. Once that is completed, they will be able to continue with the test.



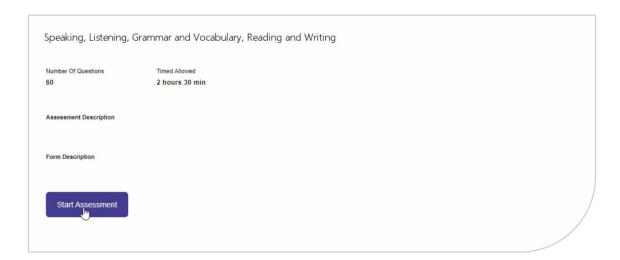




Candidate will then land on the introduction page. From here, they will need to wait for the test day invigilator to admit them into the test.



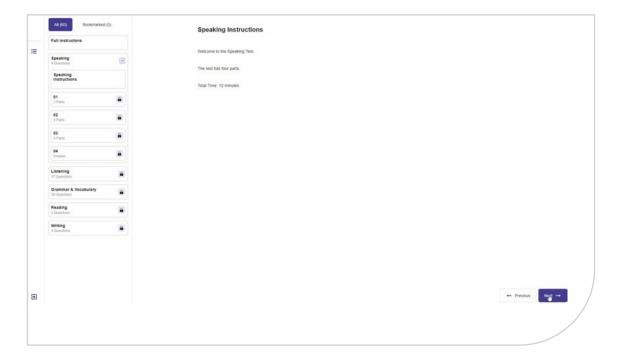
Once the invigilator grants them access, they will be able to click "Start Assessment".



Test day instructions will be shown on the screen. Candidates should read the instructions and then click "Next".



They will then be able to start the speaking test, and the rest of their Aptis test.



Aptis for all

The British Council is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in English language testing. We believe that the Aptis tests should be accessible and fair to anyone who wants to take them. We also believe that each person should have the opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability on the Aptis tests.

If your student(s) have a disability and believe that Aptis is not accessible to them, or believe that the form of the test will not allow them to show their true level of English, please advise them to contact their test centre to talk about the ways in which the test can be modified for their needs. We can make adjustments such as providing pen and paper tests, face-to-face tests, Braille and large font tests, adjusting timing, and a range of other modifications.



Final checklist

We hope these notes will help your students prepare for their Aptis test. Here's a checklist they can refer to make sure they're fully prepared.

- Visit the official British Council preparation page and take a full practice test: https://www.britishcouncil.org/exam/aptis/practice-materials
- O Visit the LearnEnglish website to prepare for the grammar and vocabulary test: http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en
- O Practise your English skills at every opportunity: Listen to English radio, watch English-language television and films and read the graded readers (e.g. Cambridge, Penguin, Macmillan and Headway).
- O Read the tips in this booklet on how to prepare for each test.

Useful web resources

- O British Council | EAQUALS Core Inventory for General English: http://englishagenda.britishcouncil.org/continuing-professional-development/cpd-teach er-trainers/british-council-eaquals-core-inventory-general-english
- British Council | TeachingEnglish: https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/
- British Council | LearnEnglish: https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/

More information

O www.britishcouncil.org/aptis



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