

Secondary English Test

Test format overview



Test components



Core Test 25 minutes

Part 1	Grammar
Part 2	Vocabulary



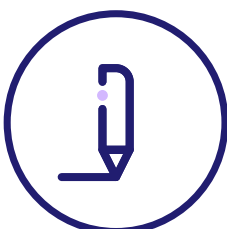
Reading 30 minutes

Part 1	Sentence comprehension
Part 2	Text cohesion
Part 3	Opinion matching
Part 4	Long text comprehension



Listening 55 minutes

Part 1	Information recognition
Part 2	Information matching
Part 3	Opinion matching
Part 4	Monologue comprehension



Writing 50 minutes

Part 1	Word-level writing
Part 2	Short text writing
Part 3	Three written responses to questions
Part 4	Essay



Speaking 15 minutes

Part 1	Personal information
Part 2	Describe, express opinion, and provide reasons and explanations
Part 3	Describe, compare, and provide reasons and explanations
Part 4	Discuss personal experience and give an opinion on an abstract topic

Core Test (grammar and vocabulary)

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

Part	Description
Grammar Part 1	<p>The grammar test tests your knowledge of a wide variety of grammar from the simplest to the most complex. There are 25 questions and you should take about 12 minutes to complete this section.</p> <p>For each question, you see a sentence with a gap with three words below it. You click on the circle next to the word which correctly goes into the gap.</p> <p>Preparation tips: 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/publications/case-studies-insights-and-research/british-council-eaquals-core-inventory-general</p> <p>One great way to prepare for the grammar test is to use the British Council's LearnEnglish website: https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary</p>
Vocabulary Part 2	<p>The vocabulary test tests your knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary from words that are very well known to words that aren't used so often.</p> <p>There are five parts to the vocabulary section. Each part is scored out of five, giving 25 marks in total. There are four types of tasks. One is done twice.</p> <p>Word matching: put together words that have the same or a similar meaning.</p> <p>Meaning in context: create meaningful sentences.</p> <p>Word definition: match definitions to words.</p> <p>Collocation matching or word matching: match words that often go together.</p> <p>Preparation tips: To help you prepare for this part of the test, the LearnEnglish website has games and activities to help you improve your vocabulary: https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary</p> <p>Another useful tip is to take note of interesting words or word combinations when you read English texts.</p>

Take a full Secondary English Test Grammar and Vocabulary practice test:
<https://admin.testreach.com/rest/auth-service/v1/deeplinks/987654789766/practice>



Reading Test

This part of the test assesses your reading ability. The tasks become more difficult as the test progresses.

Part	Description
Sentence comprehension Part 1	<p>You read a short text of six sentences. Each sentence has a gap. You open a drop-down menu next to the gap and see three words. You click on the right word to fill the gap. The first sentence is an example with the gap completed.</p> <p>This part assesses your ability to read a sentence and complete it with an appropriate word.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>Make sure you read each sentence and all of the possible answer words carefully before trying to answer this question.</i></p> <p><i>The best way to become a better reader is to practise. Easy books written especially for English language learners might help.</i></p>
Text cohesion Part 2	<p>You read a six-sentence text. The first sentence is in the correct place but the other five are in the wrong order. You drag and drop the sentences into the correct order to make a short clear text.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>This part assesses your knowledge of the cohesion of a text. You need to look for clues in each sentence that show how it links to the sentences around it.</i></p> <p><i>Read all the sentences carefully first. Then, decide on the correct order.</i></p>
Opinion matching Part 3	<p>You read four short paragraphs. Each paragraph gives one person's ideas and opinions on the same topic. You read seven sentences, each of which asks which of the four people has a particular idea or opinion. You open a drop-down menu next to each sentence which shows you the names of the four people who have written the paragraphs. You click on the person who has that idea or opinion.</p> <p>This part tests your ability to read and understand short texts.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>The exact words in the question usually won't be included in the text, so you will have to understand what each person thinks.</i></p>
Long text comprehension Part 4	<p>You open a drop-down menu and see eight possible headings for that paragraph. There are only seven paragraphs to give headings to, so there is one extra heading.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>Read the whole text quickly. Then carefully read the headings. Do all this before starting the task. Look for clues to connect the headings to the paragraphs; these might be similar words, ideas, or topics.</i></p>

Take a full Secondary English Test Reading practice test:

<https://admin.testreach.com/rest/auth-service/v1/deeplinks/987654789528/practice>



Listening Test

The Listening test has four task types. You can choose to listen to the text once or twice.

Part	Description
Information recognition Part 1	<p>In this part, you will listen to a short phone message or a short monologue or dialogue, and you need to identify specific information such as a phone number, a time, or a place.</p> <p>You will see one question and three possible answers. You click on the right answer.</p> <hr/> <p>Preparation tips: Visit the British Council's LearnEnglish website for lots of very useful activities, tips, apps, and podcasts: https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org</p> <p>The elementary podcasts are useful preparation for these questions.</p>
Information matching Part 2	<p>In this part, you will be tested on your ability to find factual information in slightly more difficult monologues or two person conversations.</p> <p>You will see one question and three possible answers. You click on the right answer.</p> <hr/> <p>Preparation tips: There are quite a few useful practice videos and podcasts on the LearnEnglish Teens website, so that's a very good starting point. In addition, try to listen to as much English as possible (e.g. films, television or radio).</p>
Opinion matching Part 3	<p>In this part, you will be tested on your ability to identify opinions or recommendations in longer and more complex monologues.</p> <p>You will see one question and three possible answers. You click on the right answer.</p> <hr/> <p>Preparation tips: Listening to authentic speech, such as television drama programs or films, is a good way to prepare for this task.</p>
Monologue comprehension Part 4	<p>In this part, you will be tested on your ability to find information in longer and more difficult monologues or two person conversations.</p> <p>You will see two questions. Each question has three possible answers. You click on the right answer.</p> <hr/> <p>Preparation tips: There are a number of higher-level podcasts on the LearnEnglish website. Also try the BBC World Service radio station.</p>

Take a full Secondary English Test listening practice test:

<https://admin.testreach.com/rest/auth-service/v1/deeplinks/987654789768/practice>



Writing Test

All parts of the Writing test will share a common theme. You will sign up to a forum or an online social club and each task you complete will be related to the theme of the club. There are four tasks in total.

Part	Description
Word-level writing Part 1	<p>Part one tests your ability to write words or short phrases in response to simple messages. You see a message and write a reply in the text box beside it. There are five messages.</p> <p>Preparation tips:</p> <p><i>Spelling, capitalisation, and grammar will not be considered in this task. You will be scored on your ability to use English to communicate successfully. Remember to fill in all the boxes. You should try to spend less than three minutes on this task.</i></p>
Short text writing Part 2	<p>Part two tests your ability to write a short text (20 – 30 words) using sentences in response to a simple question. You see a question and write an answer in the text box below it. There is one question and you need to write one text.</p> <p>Preparation tips:</p> <p><i>This task should take less than seven minutes. Write in complete sentences and stay within the word count. You can use informal language (contractions, informal vocabulary, colloquialisms, etc.)</i></p>
Three written responses to questions Part 3	<p>Part three tests your ability to write a slightly longer and more complex text (30 – 40 words) using sentences in response to more demanding questions. There are three questions similar to ones you see on social network sites or Internet forums. You have to write three replies in the text boxes below the questions.</p> <p>Preparation tips:</p> <p><i>You should try to spend no more than 10 minutes on this task.</i></p> <p><i>Write in complete sentences with an informal tone. As this is like writing in a chat room, you can use idioms and colloquial language. However, you shouldn't use SMS language or text speak.</i></p>
Essay Part 4	<p>Part four tests your ability to write a longer 'for and against' style essay (220 – 250 words).</p> <p>You will read a short introduction giving you the reason you are writing and the topic you need to write on. You will be given a statement or a question to respond to. You write your response in a text box below this information.</p> <p>Preparation tips:</p> <p><i>If you have managed your time well in the first three parts, you should have about 30 minutes to write your essay.</i></p> <p><i>Think carefully about the vocabulary you use in this task to make sure you are using appropriate language for an essay. In this situation, formal language is preferred, so idioms should not be used. Coherence and cohesion, which is the flow and linking in your writing, is important here too. Also watch your grammar, punctuation, and spelling.</i></p>

Take a full Secondary English Test writing practice test:

<https://admin.testreach.com/rest/auth-service/v1/deeplinks/987654789770/practice>



Speaking Test

There are three tasks. Each time you give a spoken answer there is a maximum amount of time in which you can speak. You can end your answer before that time runs out. However we recommend speaking for the allocated time so the examiner can hear your full capability.

Part	Description
Personal information Part 1	<p>In this part, you are asked to answer three questions on personal topics. You hear a recording giving you instructions and asking you a question. You are expected to talk for 30 seconds per question.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>When practising for the exam, record yourself with your phone or computer and then listen to it. You can also ask your friends or teachers to listen and discuss what they think you can do to improve.</i></p>
Describe, express opinion, and provide reasons and explanations Part 2	<p>In this task, you give one description and answer two questions.</p> <p>You are asked to describe a photograph and then answer two questions related to the topic illustrated in the photo. The three questions increase in complexity (from description to opinion). You are expected to talk for 45 seconds per question.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>It is important to describe the photo and then expand on your discussion. Don't just list everything you see in the photo. Try and talk about how you think the people might feel or what it would be like to be in the photo. This will also help you with the next two questions.</i></p>
Describe, compare, and provide reasons and explanations Part 3	<p>You answer two questions in this task. You will see two pictures and will be asked a question that gives you a chance to compare and contrast something about the picture. Then you will hear and read a second question. You will have 45 seconds to answer each question.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>In this task, you need to compare the photos. One good strategy for this task is to spend some of your time describing the photos or answering the question, and the rest of your time talking about how the photo connects to your life and experiences. Remember, it is important that you speak and demonstrate your range of English vocabulary and grammar, and your fluency.</i></p>
Discuss personal experience and give an opinion on an abstract topic Part 4	<p>In the final part, you will be asked to give a presentation about the poster to your class. You will be given 90 seconds to prepare and at the end of the 90 seconds you will be asked to give your presentation. You will have two minutes to talk.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>You should give your presentation as if you were giving it to your class. Remember, you mustn't just read the words on the poster, and you must use your time wisely to prepare what you are going to say and structure your presentation well.</i></p>



Take a full Secondary English Test speaking practice test:

<https://admin.testreach.com/rest/auth-service/v1/deeplinks/987654789765/practice>

Your results

British Council English tests scores reflect candidates' ability to understand and communicate in English.

How the results are presented

The results from Secondary English Test are presented in two ways:

- **Numerical score:** A scale of 0 to 50 for each skill tested and a score for the Grammar and Vocabulary component.
- **CEFR level by skill:** A CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) level is allocated for each skill tested and an overall CEFR level is awarded. Each CEFR band describes the English language competence in a specific skill and is described on the back of the individual report.



Secondary English Test

Candidate report



QR Code:

The validity of Secondary English Test results can be confirmed by scanning the QR code or by following the link at the bottom of the certificate.

Demo Customer	19.11.2024	SET-0299721
Candidate name	Test date	Enrolment ID
British Council HQ		
Organisation		

Candidate details and session information

Numerical Score:

Note that these scores should NOT be compared across skills. This is because benchmarks between CEFR levels vary according to skill.

Scale score		CEFR skill profile	
Skill name	Skill score	CEFR grade	
Listening	20/50	C	
Reading	30/50	B2	
Speaking	40/50	B1	
Writing	48/50	A2	
Final Scale Score	138/200	A1	
Grammar and Vocabulary	42/50	A0	

The grammar and vocabulary score is only reported as a numerical score. When a candidate's score in a particular skill component falls just below a CEFR level threshold, their performance in grammar and vocabulary is taken into account in assigning the CEFR level.

Please turn over for CEFR skill descriptors.

CEFR Skill Profile:

Provides CEFR levels across the different skills tested which can be compared and an overall CEFR level.

<https://sandbox.credential.net/70050887-6ef4-41ff-818b-5606619e3c6c>



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