



BRITISH COUNCIL

International Certificate in English Language (8939)

Our English language certification

Our English Language test package has been developed in association with the British Council, the largest English Language teaching organisation in the world and like City & Guilds, a charitable organisation with a shared commitment to international skills development.

The test package is delivered by globally recognised partners, testing all five language skill areas making it a powerful addition to work or further study. This provides you with the confidence that your learners will have the right language skills to succeed in whatever they choose to do.



Why choose City & Guilds for English Language

About us

A world leader in skills education, City & Guilds works with governments, employers, colleges and training providers to deliver workplace-relevant qualifications, certification and assessment. We believe in a world where people and organisations have the confidence and capabilities to prosper, today and in the future.

We operate across five continents – Asia to the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East and Africa – reaching millions of people every year. As workplaces evolve, so do we. That's why we set the standard for skills that transform lives, industries and economies. We anticipate the changing needs of people and organisations, embrace technology and new approaches to learning, and work with like-minded partners to develop the skills that industries demand across the world.

World-recognised certification

We have been developing the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to help businesses thrive for over 130 years and employers around the world see City & Guilds as the benchmark for workplace excellence. Our heritage makes us uniquely positioned to anticipate the future of work and learning.

Developed in association with the British Council

City & Guilds and the British Council are well recognised and respected international brands. Combining our English Language and assessment expertise ensures this certification is a powerful addition to your learners' future success.

Covers all language skills

The certification covers 5 units across all core English language skills: speaking, listening, reading, writing and vocabulary and grammar.

Speed and flexibility

Our computer-based platform enables you to book a test up to 24 hours in advance, giving both you and your learners the flexibility you need. Computer-based testing means results are provided within 5 working days of upload.

Aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

The certification aligns to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), a framework which sets the global benchmark in language skills. Certificates are awarded at B1 and B2 (CEFR).



Our assessment

Assessment details

In association with the British Council we have developed a computer-based test which is relevant, engaging, coherent and fair. The computer-based test package assesses all five language skills with questions from levels A1 to B2.

The test package can be taken in one single session or taken separately within five days from when the first test is taken.

The computer-based test covers the following five language skills:

Speaking

12-minute computer-based test, with the four tasks required of the candidates recorded and assessed by experienced assessors.

Listening

55-minute computer-based test consisting of 25 questions.

Vocabulary and grammar

25-minute computer-based test with 50 questions.

Writing

50-minute test with four tasks to be completed.

Reading

35-minute test consisting of 25 questions.

The speaking and writing tests are marked by trained markers using a computer-based rating system. The listening, reading and vocabulary and grammar tests are marked by an automated marking system. For more detailed information on our assessments please see our FAQs.

How we support teaching and learning

Starting-up support package

You buy so much more than just the certification. We include support that helps you and your learners, including:

- system demonstrations for centre staff
- paper and computer-based sample tests
- schemes of work
- lesson plans, handouts and classroom activities
- sample speaking and writing tasks with model answers

This package gives you the confidence to start preparing your learners for success quickly and easily.

Your guide to delivering our courses

When becoming an approved City & Guilds centre, you'll receive your International Centre Guide. It's included in the approval fee and is your step-by-step guide to ensuring that you're delivering our courses to the City & Guilds standard. The guide covers four key areas:

- management and administrative systems
- physical and staff resources
- assessment
- quality assurance



