

Aptis
Advanced

Test format overview



Test components



Core 25 minutes

Part 1	Grammar
Part 2	Vocabulary



Reading 60 minutes

Part 1	Opinion matching
Part 2	Long text comprehension
Part 3	Reading for global understanding
Part 4	Reading across two texts



Listening 30 minutes

Part 1	Identifying factual information
Part 2	Identifying opinion and attitude
Part 3	Understanding an extended spoken text
Part 4	Understanding an extended story



Writing 45 minutes

Part 1	Three written responses to questions
Part 2	Formal writing
Part 3	Article for website publication



Speaking 10 minutes

Part 1	Describe, compare, and provide reasons and explanations
Part 2	Discuss personal experience and opinion in relation to an abstract topic
Part 3	Presentation
Part 4	Question on your presentation

Aptis Advanced 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>In this part of the test, you will answer 25 questions.</p> <p>Most of the questions test formal written English. A small number of questions test spoken English, such as knowing the appropriate grammar to use in a particular situation (formal or informal situations, for example).</p> <p>All 25 questions are multiple choice with three options.</p> <p>Complete a sentence by choosing the correct word.</p> <hr/> <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: www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/british-council-eaquals-core-inventory-general-english</p> <p>One great way to prepare for the grammar test is to use the British Council's LearnEnglish website: www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar</p>
Vocabulary Part 2	<p>There are 25 questions in this part of the test. There are a number of question types:</p> <p>Word matching: find a word with a meaning similar to the target word.</p> <p>Word definition: match a definition to the correct word.</p> <p>Word usage: complete a sentence by choosing the correct word.</p> <p>Word pairs or word combinations: select the most common combinations of words.</p> <hr/> <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: www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary</p> <p>Another useful tip is to take note of interesting words or word combinations when you read English texts.</p>



Aptis Advanced Reading test

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

Part	Description
Opinion matching Part 1	<p>In this part, you will match people's opinions to statements. You will read four people's opinions on the same topic. Then you need to read seven statements and decide which person's opinion matches each statement.</p> <p>This part tests your ability to read and understand short texts.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>Read all four opinions before trying to answer the questions. Remember, the same person can be used for more than one answer.</i></p> <p><i>To prepare, look at the comments section in online media and practise summarising the main opinions.</i></p>
Long text comprehension Part 2	<p>In this part, you will read a long text (about 750 words). You 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.</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> <p><i>To prepare, read magazine articles and find the main idea for each paragraph.</i></p>
Reading for global understanding Part 3	<p>This is a short text of around 300 words with missing gaps. You must choose the right word or phrase from the drop-down to complete the gap.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>Make sure you read the whole text before trying to answer. This isn't a grammar test so all the options can fit grammatically into the sentence. You need to understand the whole text to choose the correct one.</i></p>
Reading across two texts Part 4	<p>You have two short texts on the same topic. You need to fill in the blank with the appropriate phrase.</p> <p>Preparation tips: <i>You need to read both texts before answering as all of the options are grammatically possible, so you can only choose the right one if you have understood both texts.</i></p>



Aptis Advanced Listening test

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

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



Aptis Advanced Writing test

There are three parts to the Writing test. You 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 examiners.

Part	Description
Three written responses to questions Part 1	In this part, you will have a social network-type interaction. You will read three questions and need to respond. <i>Preparation tips:</i> Make sure you correctly answer all three questions and don't go off-topic. Focus on accurate spelling and punctuation and write a text that is cohesive and coherent. Keep to the word count of 30–40 words per answer.
Formal writing Part 2	In this part, you will read an email from an authority. You need to respond to the email in 120–150 words, using the notes provided, expressing how you feel about the situation. <i>Preparation tips:</i> Make sure you are on-topic and that you use the appropriate register for the situation. Avoid text message or social media language, instead focusing on formal writing.
Article for website publication Part 3	In this part, you will write an article for a website that is both informative and interesting. Notes about the topic are provided and you need to use the information to help write the article. The article needs to be between 180–220 words. <i>Preparation tips:</i> Try to make your article informative and interesting and use original text (i.e. don't just copy the notes).



Aptis Advanced Speaking test

The Advanced Speaking test has four parts. For each question, you are given a maximum amount of time to speak, but you can end the recording early by clicking on a stop button.

Part	Description
Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations Part 1	<p>In this part, you are asked to compare two pictures and then answer two questions related to the topic.</p> <p>The three questions increase in complexity (from description to speculation).</p> <p>You are expected to talk for 45 seconds for each question.</p> <hr/> <p>Preparation tips:</p> <p><i>To prepare for this part, it is a good idea to practise comparing two different things (e.g. two cities or two houses). Focus on describing their advantages and disadvantages.</i></p> <p><i>With speculation, it is important to make sure you are using the correct grammatical structures.</i></p>
	<p>In this part, you will be asked three questions about an abstract topic. You are given one minute to prepare an answer and can take notes.</p> <p>You are expected to talk for two minutes.</p> <hr/> <p>Preparation tips:</p> <p><i>A common error is to go off topic. Focus on answering each question in clear, smoothly flowing, well-structured speech.</i></p> <p><i>To prepare for this part it is a good idea to practise speaking for two minutes on an abstract topic (e.g. How do you feel about _____?).</i></p>
	<p>In this part, you need to speak on a topic for one and a half minutes. You will have one minute to prepare.</p> <p>After your presentation, you will be asked an additional question about the topic and asked to speak for 45 seconds.</p> <p>There is no preparation time for this additional question.</p> <hr/> <p>Preparation tips:</p> <p><i>Structure your presentation and make sure you provide both sides of the argument.</i></p> <p><i>Try to act like you are speaking to an audience or a group.</i></p>
Presentation and question on your presentation Part 3 and 4	



Your results

Aptis scores reflect candidates' ability to understand and communicate in English.

How are the results presented?

The results from Aptis 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. If the components for all four skills have been completed there will also be an overall CEFR level awarded. Each CEFR band describes the English language competence in a specific skill and is described on the back of the individual report.

The image shows a sample Aptis Candidate report certificate. It includes the British Council logo, a QR code, and the title 'Candidate report'. The certificate is divided into several sections:

- Candidate details and session information:** A table with fields for Candidate name, Test date, Enrolment ID, Organisation, Test package, ID type, and ID number.
- Scale score:** A table listing scores for Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing, Final Scale Score, and Grammar and Vocabulary.
- CEFR skill profile:** A bar chart showing CEFR grades for each skill and an overall CEFR grade.

Red and blue callout boxes highlight specific features: the QR code, the candidate details table, the 'Numerical Score' section, and the 'CEFR Skill Profile' section.

QR Code:

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

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.

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.

CEFR Skill Profile:

Provides CEFR levels across the different skills tested. These can be compared.

Overall CEFR level:

Provided when all four skills have been tested.



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