LanguageCert

International English for Speakers of Other Languages exams
In May 2015, LanguageCert acquired all assets and IP of the International English Language exam suite from City & Guilds, with the aim to combine a highly reputable series of qualifications with unrivalled examination technologies for global delivery.
Team of Experts.

Dr Michael Milanovic, Chairman
Former CEO of Cambridge English Language Assessment, with over 38 years of experience in English Language learning and assessment.

Nigel Pike, Qualification Development Manager
Distinguished assessment expert, with over 25 years of experience in language testing and previously Director of Assessment at Cambridge English.

Suzy Gunn, Quality Officer
Suzy is dedicated to ensuring LanguageCert’s design, delivery and award of qualifications is of high-quality and value, and is fully committed to the growth of the business on a global scale.
Hard copies of tests (more than 250 test forms in total; over 18,500 exam questions) were marked up with available statistics from previous administrations.

Teams of senior consultants vetted all items, and
- either accepted items with minor/major edits
- or rejected items
## LanguageCert International ESOL Vetting and Editing Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Accepted</th>
<th>Rewritten</th>
<th>Rejected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Qualification Development

In parallel to the Vetting and Editing Project, the following have also been undertaken:

- Exam Development Processes were reviewed
- Assessment Methodology adjusted to reflect up-to-date, communicative assessment
- An item-banking system was developed to ensure efficiency and accuracy in the management of exam content
- A difficulty scale (LanguageCert Item Difficulty) was developed and implemented
- Certain amendments to the exam paper were implemented to improve its layout, clarity, and precision
Recognised by

Czech Republic

England

Greece

Hungary

Italy

New Zealand

Romania

Spain

Wales
Validation Project

- We are currently working with the Centre for Research in English Language Learning and Assessment (CRELLA) of the University of Bedfordshire to validate LanguageCert exams.
- Members of CRELLA have been involved in the development or validation of the following major testing and assessment programmes:
  - IELTS
  - TOEFL
  - Cambridge English: Advanced
  - Cambridge English: Proficiency
LanguageCert
International ESOL Qualifications.

- Communication
- Separate exams leading to separate certificates
- Same format in all CEFR levels
Two separate exams at each CEFR level, leading to respective certificates covering all four language skills:

- International ESOL Written Exams (Listening, Reading, Writing)
- International ESOL Spoken Exams (Speaking)
## LanguageCert International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEFR</th>
<th>LanguageCert</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Skills Tested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Preliminary</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins</td>
<td>✗ Listening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins</td>
<td>✗ Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Achiever</td>
<td>2 hours 30 mins</td>
<td>✗ Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>Communicator</td>
<td>2 hours 30 mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Expert</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>Mastery</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LanguageCert International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing).

Main Features.

- Optimal exam duration: 2-3 hours depending on level, +10 min for final check
- Candidates are free to allocate time as they need (Reading & Writing)
- Grammar & Vocabulary are integrated in the Listening, Reading & Writing sections and not examined separately
- Student and teacher friendly exam – requiring little exam specific preparation
- 1 mark per item – no penalty for wrong answers
- Pass mark: Overall 50%
LanguageCert International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing).

Exam content and task types.

- **Listening: Four parts / 26 items**
  - Multiple choice questions (3 tasks)
  - Filling in gaps using 1-5 words (1 task)

- **Reading: Four parts / 26 items**
  - Multiple choice questions (2-3 task)
  - Multiple matching questions (1 task at higher levels)
  - Filling in gaps using 1-5 words (1 task)

- **Writing: Two writing tasks**
  - The length of the texts to be produced depends on the level
  - Both extended writing tasks are compulsory
LanguageCert International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing).

Marking Criteria.

Task Fulfilment

- Whether the candidate has given an answer that is relevant to the topic specified in the rubric
- Whether the extent of the answer is within the range indicated in the rubric
- Whether all the relevant content points have been covered.
LanguageCert International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing).

Marking Criteria.

Grammar

- Whether the language produced is grammatically correct
- Whether there is an adequate range of grammatical structures for the level
- Whether the grammatical structures used are appropriate to the register of the task.
LanguageCert International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing).

Marking Criteria.

Vocabulary

- Whether the vocabulary used is correct
- Whether the spelling is correct
- Whether the vocabulary is appropriate to the register of the task.
LanguageCert International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing).

Marking Criteria.

Structure

- How the ideas are organized
- How coherent the text produced by the candidate is
- What cohesive devices (connectors, referring expressions, punctuation, etc.) are used
LanguageCert International ESOL Assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International ESOL Skill</th>
<th>Scaled score</th>
<th>Total score (scaled)</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fail 0-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass 75-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HP 101-150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Grade reflective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>Overall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Grades reflect overall performance (i.e. candidates may not fail the exam as a result of their performance at a single section or skill)
LanguageCert International ESOL (Speaking).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEFR</th>
<th>LanguageCert</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Preliminary</td>
<td>6 minutes</td>
<td>□ Personal Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>9 minutes</td>
<td>□ Personal Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Achiever</td>
<td>12 minutes</td>
<td>□ Situational Roleplay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>Communicator</td>
<td>13 minutes</td>
<td>□ Interactive Task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Expert</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>□ Long Turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>Mastery</td>
<td>17 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LanguageCert International ESOL (Speaking).

Main Features.

- Short exam duration: 6-17 minutes depending on level
- Topics and tasks based on practical experience
- Friendly exam set-up – each candidate examined individually, not with another candidate
- Session is led by an Interlocutor, who does not make the assessment
- Session is recorded for marking by an independent Marker
- Re-marking available
- Pass Mark: 50%
LanguageCert International ESOL Speaking.

**Marking Criteria.**

**Task fulfilment and coherence**

- The ability to engage in effective communicative exchanges and connect utterances
LanguageCert International ESOL Speaking.

Marking Criteria.

Accuracy and range of grammar

• The ability to vary and demonstrate control of grammatical structures as appropriate to the task
LanguageCert International ESOL Speaking.

Marking Criteria.

Accuracy and range of vocabulary

- The ability to vary and demonstrate control of lexis as appropriate to the task
LanguageCert International ESOL Speaking.

Marking Criteria.

Pronunciation, intonation and fluency

- The ability to produce the sounds of English in order to be understood with appropriate stress and intonation and maintain the flow of speech.
**LanguageCert International ESOL Assessment.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International ESOL Skill</th>
<th>Scaled score</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Fail 0-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass 25-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HP 35-50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LanguageCert International ESOL

Results

- Results are made available within ten business days
- Candidates receive feedback on their performance
  - Per skill
  - Per assessment criterion
Ongoing seminars and webinars for teachers and candidates

Qualification handbooks

Qualification Overview

Practice materials

Excellent customer service and support services

Flexible registration and result issuance services

Please visit www.languagecert.org
Thank you.

Yiannis Papargyris (PhD, MCIEA)
Language Assessment Development Manager