

BENCHMARK TEST B1

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Institution: Downing Street Languages and exchanges

Current capabilities

The student can understand most correspondence relating to their field of interest and identify key information in an extended text or article. They can recognise the general line of a written argument though not necessarily all the details. They can follow rapid or extended speech, but may require repetition or clarification. They can communicate using longer stretches of connected clauses and functional language and can respond with some flexibility within familiar topic areas. They can write articles and reviews (which include some expression of self), short basic informational reports and longer formal emails and letters to express opinion and complaint.

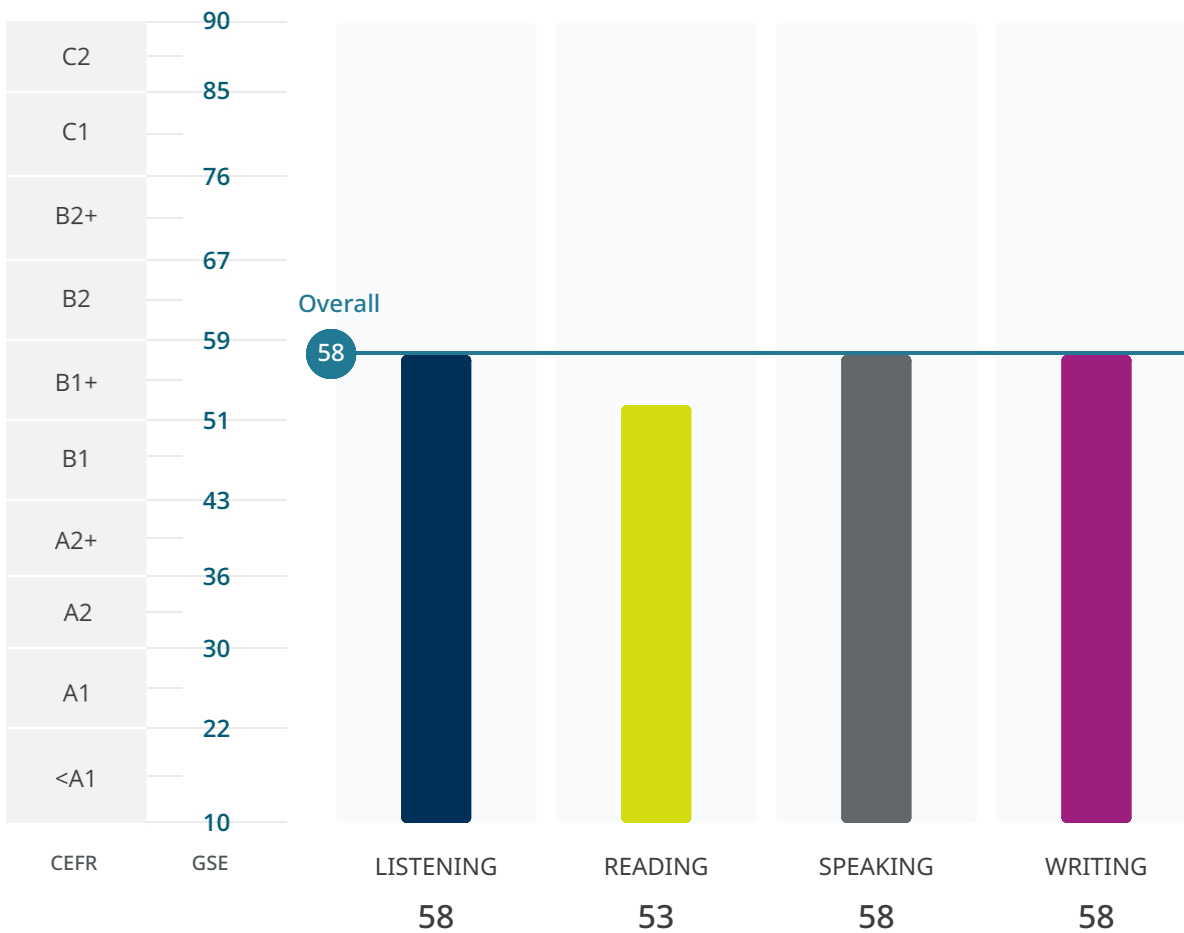
OVERALL SCORE

**58**

CEFR: B1+

Please note your overall score assesses your English proficiency across all skills displayed on this report as well as enabling skills such as Grammar and Vocabulary. This explains why your overall score is not an average of your individual skills scores.

Scores for each skill



## Listening: 58

### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The student can understand a large part of many TV programmes on familiar topics, structured presentations within their own field and classes and training courses on a range of topics (provided the content is simple). They can extract the meaning of unknown words from context if the discussed topic is familiar. They can recognise examples and their relation to the idea they support. They may struggle to understand speech that is not standard or when the topic is not familiar.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

Give exercises extracting detail from extended texts. Use authentic texts in class such as talks, lectures, presentations or discussions. Continue practice of guessing unfamiliar words, giving students more challenging contexts and encouraging peer support rather than reliance on the teacher. Give group class language focus on the differences between fact, opinion and point of view and identify facts from opinions in recordings.

### SUGGESTED GSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Can extract the meaning of unknown words from context if the topic discussed is familiar.  
Can deduce the general meaning of a passage from context in a longer, structured text.  
Can follow most of a clearly structured presentation within their own field.

## Reading: 53

### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The student can follow a chronological sequence in a formal structured text. They are generally able to understand details of events, feelings and wishes in letters, emails and online postings. They can distinguish between fact and opinion, infer meaning based on information in a text, recognise example and their relation to the main idea they support.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

Practice reading a variety of different text types, asking the student to distinguish between fact and opinion. Practice matching opinions stated in texts with summaries of those opinions, and matching inferences with texts.

### SUGGESTED GSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Can follow chronological sequence in a formal structured text.  
Can make simple inferences based on information given in a short article.  
Can distinguish between fact and opinion in relation to common topics.

## Speaking: 58

### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The student can use synonyms to describe or gloss an unknown word. They can ask for clarification of an unknown acronym or technical term used in conversation. They can carry out a prepared interview, checking and confirming information as necessary. They can collate information from several written sources and summarise the ideas orally.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

Develop activities designed to encourage the student to give and ask about opinions on various topics without too much preparation. For instance, presenting their thoughts on a short story or article they have read. Support students in summarising their ideas by paraphrasing and encourage them to talk around an idea if exact language is not known.

### SUGGESTED GSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Can summarise and comment on a short story or article and answer questions in detail.

Can use synonyms to describe or gloss an unknown word.

Can express their thoughts in some detail on cultural topics (e.g. music, films).

## Writing: 58

### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The student can generally write short simple essays on topics of interest giving their opinion; can convey information and ideas on some abstract as well as concrete topics. They can write articles and reviews which include some expression of self. They can write short basic informational reports. They can write longer formal emails and letters to express opinion and complaint.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

Focus the student on language to create a simple relationship between a main point and an example in a text. Give the student a factual text and ask them to summarise the information. Support students in showing a simple relationship between a main point and an example or introducing a counter-argument using 'however' and similar connector words in their writing.

### SUGGESTED GSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Can write personal emails/letters, reporting recent events in detail.

Can write emails/letters responding to personal news and views in detail.

Can show a simple relationship between a main point and an example in a structured text.