

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Listening Part 1: A1 and A2

Format of the task

There are three parts to the A1 and A2 Listening tests. In **Part 1**, candidates will listen to 5 short recordings, which may be a dialogue or monologue (between 30-60 words for A1, and between 60-90 words for A2). The topics will be on everyday life contexts and appropriate to A1 and A2 level.

Questions in this part consist of a single three-option multiple choice question (MCQ) for each recording. The focus of these questions will be on one main point. Candidates will need to answer the questions as they listen.

Candidates will have time to read and check their answers. All audio recordings and questions are at A1 and A2 levels and each recording will be played twice.

Skills/functions being assessed

- Comprehension of the main message in monologues and in simple conversations for a given purpose
- Understanding of specific concrete information of everyday personal nature
- Understanding of language relating to numbers, times, directions, locations, likes, needs, agreements and disagreements

Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- Skills in time management: candidates need to be aware of the pace of the test
- Practice in listening and identifying key message, key information and factual
- Information from various sources such as announcements, broadcasts and messages
- Skills to be able to understand unfamiliar words and phrases through context
- Opportunities to do tests without taking notes (as the online test does not permit using pen and paper)

Tips for learners

- In preparation, listen to as many different types of audio recordings as you can
- Read the questions carefully before listening and remember the key words to listen out for in the recordings
- Use the second listening to check your answers
- Prepare by using the online Skills for English (SfE) practice tests

Sample A1/A2 Listening Part 1 Task

The extract below is an example of the type of recording and questions a candidate may encounter in Part 1.

Clare	On Monday morning I have science class which I quite like. But in the afternoon, I have 2 hours of maths – I find it so difficult and tiring. Tuesday is much better – art and music all day, it’s so fun! I hate Wednesdays because I always have lots of homework to do.
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Candidates will hear the recording twice.

Both dialogues and monologues are used in Part 1.

1. Which day does the speaker like most?

- a. Monday
- b. Tuesday**
- c. Wednesday

The wrong options (A and C) are also mentioned in the text, so listen for the details connected to each option in order to choose the correct answer.

Answer:

1. b

MCQs will always have 3 options but only one correct answer.

Note: this sample task is for guidance purposes only. For examples of level-specific listening tasks, please refer to the Skills for English Practice Tests available through the Skills for English website: <https://skillsforenglish.com/language-learning/>