

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Listening Part 2: A1 and A2

Format of the task

There are three parts to the A1 and A2 Listening test. In **Part 2**, candidates will listen to a conversation between two speakers (one male and one female) exchanging information (approximately 200-250 words for A1 and 300-360 words for A2). Topics will be on everyday issues and appropriate to A1 and A2 levels.

Questions found in this part consist of 5 three-option multiple choice questions (MCQs). The focus of these questions will be on key information which can come from one or both speakers. 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. Candidates will hear this section played twice.

Skills/functions being assessed

- Comprehension of the main message in a simple conversation 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:

- Practice in listening to a variety of recordings with a range of situations
- Skills to understand how informal and formal dialogues are organised
- Strategies to exploit different audio and question types
- Practice in listening and identifying the key message, key information, and factual information

Tips for learners

- In preparation, listen to as many audio exercises in English as you can, paying close attention to both speakers
- Read the questions carefully before listening and make note of key words
- Use the second listening to check your answers
- Practise using cues in the text to help you identify meanings of words you don't know
- Prepare by using the online Skills for English (SfE) practice tests

Sample A1/A2 Listening Part 2 Task

This is a short example extract from the type of recording and questions a candidate may encounter in Part 2.

Listen to 2 friends, Jim and Sonya, talking about their plans for this evening.

Sonya	Jim, what time did you say the film finishes?
Jim	It ends at 6pm, why?
Sonya	Well, there's a train at 6.35 – shall we get that?
Jim	Hmmm, how about we get some dinner after the film and take a later train?
Sonya	Yes, that's a great idea. We can catch the 7.35 train instead.
Jim	Perfect. There's a pizza restaurant between the cinema and the station that we could go to?
Sonya	Yeah. I can't wait! ...

Part 2 is always a conversation

Candidates will hear the recording twice.

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

1. Which train will they take?

- a. The 6 p.m. train
- b. The 6.35 p.m. train
- c. The 7.35 p.m. train

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

Answer:

1. c

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/>