

## Exploring Skills for English Tests

# Listening Part 3: C1 and C2

### Format of the task

There are three parts to the C1 and C2 Listening tests. In **Part 3**, candidates will listen to an extended talk (for example, a broadcast) on a topic of general interest (approximately 550-700 words for both C1 and C2 level). Topics can be work or study-oriented but focus of questions will be general in nature and appropriate to C1 or C2 level.

The type of questions found in this part consist of 10 notes-completion items where candidates are required to provide an answer. Candidate responses to notes-completion items will be limited to one or two words and/or a number only. The focus of these questions will be on key information and finer points of detail, attitudes and opinions, implied meaning and the supporting evidence for arguments. Candidates will need to answer the questions as they listen.

There will be time for candidates to read and check their answers. All audio recordings and questions are at C1 and C2 level. Candidates will hear this section played twice.

### Skills/functions being assessed

- Key information and finer points of detail, attitudes and opinions, implied meaning, arguments presented with supporting evidence
- Following lectures and a wide range of recorded and broadcast material
- Understanding of detailed arguments

### Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- Practice in listening to a variety of recordings which explore lines of arguments and opinions as in lectures or talks
- Skills to understand how informal and formal monologues are organised including how feelings, opinions and information are conveyed
- Strategies that focus on sentence completion such as practice with synonyms and word formation. Practice in note taking and filling in gaps
- Skills to be able to understand unfamiliar and inferred words through context

### Tips for learners

- In preparation, listen to a wide variety of audio recordings in English as you can
- Read the questions carefully before listening, note key words and their position in the recordings
- Use the second listening to check your answers as some answers could be implied

- Practise using cues in the text to help you identify meanings of words/phrases you don't know.
- Practice note taking exercises where there are gaps to identify the relevant information, ideas and opinions
- Prepare by using the online Skills for English (SfE) practice tests

## Sample C1/C2 Listening Part 3 Task

The extract below is a short example of the type of recordings and questions a candidate may encounter in Part 3.

Listen to longer monologues for practice and try and notice new vocabulary.

(Speaker 1: male)

<p>Speaker 1</p>	<p>Good morning everyone. My name is Adam Smith and I work as a lecturer at the university here. Part of my role is to help you settle into university life so that you can cope with the academic demands of your courses. But today I really want to focus our attention on the <b>informal</b> side of learning a language which is shaped and defined by culture and social practice. So, I want to begin this talk today with some guidance about making the most of your life here in the UK and specifically how to apply your language to the outside world.</p>
<p>Q1</p>	<p>One of the most demanding aspects of learning and settling into a new country is navigating the <b>unwritten</b> rules of human relationships. Because learning a language is not merely about learning vocabulary and phrases, it's also about understanding the cultural norms and how to apply these rules alongside the language you use in your interactions with people.</p>
<p>Q2</p>	<p>For example, let's imagine that you go to the shop and do something which is of itself very British - purchasing some crisps and a sandwich! (laugh) Now, you may know the appropriate language and phrases that are required to buy these items – perhaps a simple “Can I take these, please”? But can you use the appropriate <b>cultural behaviours</b> which are generally expected with such expressions? This includes eye contact and possibly a smile. And depending on the location, place, and time, may warrant a little social interaction, but as an absolute minimum I would suggest that it should certainly include a “please” and “thank you”...</p>
<p>Q3</p>	

Questions will focus on key information and the finer points of detail, attitude and opinion.

All the speakers that you hear will have clear accents.

**Complete the notes:**

You will have 1 minute to read the questions.

- The speaker's main role is to assist with academic life in the UK  
The speaker intends to talk about **1.** \_\_\_\_\_ aspects of language learning
- Importance of culture/social practice

Answers for this section should include the exact word/s used in the audio and should NOT be grammatically different.

**Main Challenges of Learning Language/Culture**

- Understanding **2.** \_\_\_\_\_ rules of social interaction
- Not just learning vocabulary and phrases
- Shopping- using the right language/phrases
- Use of the right **3.** \_\_\_\_\_ that fit with the language.  
- Includes eye contact and a smile

Answers will be limited to one or two words. Instructions will specify how many words candidates need to write.

**Answers:**

1. informal
2. Unwritten
3. cultural behaviours/ behaviours

**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 at <https://skillsforenglish.com/language-learning/>