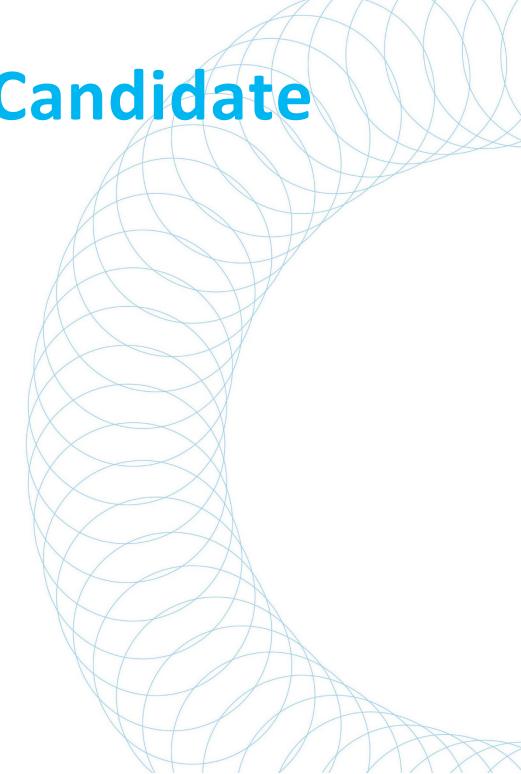




Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) Assessment

WPLN Candidate

guide



Introducing the Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) Assessments

The Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) Assessments are a suite of computer-delivered English language literacy and numeracy assessments from the British Council, developed in collaboration with SkillsFuture Singapore Agency (SSG) for the WPLN program. The assessments are used to assess English language literacy in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing, and Numeracy ability.

The assessments do not test at a single level. They include a range of questions designed to allow you to show your best ability. The test results are reported both on a numerical scale (0–50) and their corresponding WPLN proficiency levels. The English language Workplace Literacy (WPL) assessments are also linked to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). They are taken on a computer.

This guide helps you prepare for the tests. It has an overview of the tests and each component is described. You'll find advice on how to prepare for the tests, as well as information on how the test is marked.

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OVERVIEW: THE STRUCTURE OF THE WPLN ASSESSMENTS

The Literacy Tests

The Workplace Literacy (WPL) tests consist of five components.

- Core (Grammar and Vocabulary)
- Reading
- Listening
- Writing
- Speaking

Everyone takes the core test. You will prepare for the core test and the skill components you have chosen. You may be taking only one skill component (for example, Listening) or all four skill components (Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking).



The Numeracy Test

The Workplace Numeracy (WPN) Test is divided into two parts. In the first part, you complete questions without using a calculator. In the second part, you are given a calculator to solve more complex questions. The test becomes increasingly more difficult as it progresses.

The WPN Test is designed to assesses mathematical competences and skills in everyday workplace operations and situations. The test questions range from simple questions on basic numeracy to more complex mathematical problems. The test is based on four mathematical content areas:

- number and operation sense
- patterns, functions and algebra
- measurement and shape
- data, probability and statistics.

It's a good idea to take a familiarisation test so that you understand what you need to do. You can find familiarisation tests for each of the components on the British Council Singapore website https://www.britishcouncil.sg/exam/wpln.

Here's the structure of the Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) assessments.

Literacy assessment

TEST	TEST I	DESIGN	ACTIVITY	FORMAT
Core 25 minutes	Part 1	Grammar	Sentence completion.	3-option multiple choice.
	Part 2	Vocabulary	Word matching (similar meaning). Match words to definitions. Sentence completion. Word pairs or word combinations (words commonly used together).	Sets of 5 target words with 10 options.
Reading 35 minutes	Part 1	Sentence comprehension	Choose words to complete sentences.	3-option multiple choice.
	Part 2	Text cohesion	Put sentences into the correct order.	2 tasks 6 sentences jumbled up in each task.
	Part 3	Opinion matching	Match people's opinions to statements.	7 statements matched to 4 people's opinions.
	Part 4	Long text comprehension	Match headings to paragraphs.	7 paragraphs and 8 headings.
Listening 40 minutes	Part 1	Information recognition	Listen to a short monologue or dialogue to identify specific information.	3-option multiple choice.
	Part 2	Information matching	Match people's monologues to information.	6 pieces of information 4 people's monologues.

	Part 3	Opinion matching	Listen to a dialogue and decide who expresses an opinion	4 questions Man, woman or both options
	Part 4	Monologue comprehension	Listen to two monologues and answer two questions for each.	2 questions 3-option multiple choice.
Writing 50 minutes	Part 1	Word-level writing	Respond to messages using individual words.	1–5 words for each question.
	Part 2	Short text writing	Write personal information.	20-30 words.
	Part 3	Three written responses to questions	Respond to written questions on a social network-type website.	30–40 words for each question.
	Part 4	Formal and informal writing	Write an informal email to a friend and a formal email to an unknown person.	40–50 words for the informal email. 120–150 words for the formal email.
Speaking 12 minutes	Part 1	Personal information	Respond to three personal information questions.	30 seconds for each response.
	Part 2	Describe, express opinion and provide reasons and explanations	Describe a picture and answer two additional questions of increasing difficulty.	45 seconds for each response.
	Part 3	Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations	Describe two contrasting pictures and answer two additional questions of increasing difficulty.	45 seconds for each response.

Part 4	Discuss personal	Answer three questions on an abstract topic.	1 minute to prepare
	experience and opinion on an abstract topic		2 minutes response time.

Numeracy assessment

Numeracy 75 minutes	Part 1	26 items including questions covering: numbers, algebra, measurement, and data.	No calculator provided.	A mixture of 4- option multiple choice questions (1 correct answer per question) and short answer questions.
	Part 2	24 items including questions covering: numbers, algebra, measurement, and data.	Calculator provided.	A mixture of 4- option multiple choice questions (1 correct answer per question) and short answer questions.

1. WPL Core Test (grammar and vocabulary)

The Core Test consists of two parts. The first part assesses your knowledge of English grammar. The second part assesses your knowledge of English vocabulary.

TEST DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Grammar	In this part of the test, you will answer 25 questions. Most of the questions test formal written English. A small number of questions test spoken English, such as knowing the appropriate grammar to use in a particular situation (formal or informal situations, for example).	To know which parts of grammar are tested, see the British Council / EAQUALS core inventory. This is free and available online at: https://englishagenda.britishcouncil.org/continuing-professional-development/cpd-teacher-trainers/british-council-eaquals-core-inventory-general-english
	All 25 questions 3-option multiple choice. Complete a sentence by choosing the correct word.	One great way to prepare for the grammar test is to use the British Council's LearnEnglish Grammar App: http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar
Part 2 Vocabulary	There are 25 questions in this part of the test. There are a number of question types: Word matching: find a word with a meaning similar to the target word.	To help you prepare for this part of the test, the LearnEnglish website has games and activities to help you improve your vocabulary. http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary There are also many useful websites, for example: www.englishclub.com
	Word definition: match a definition to the correct word. Word usage: complete a sentence by choosing the correct word. Word pairs or word combinations: select the most common combinations of words; you are given a target word and a list of words which may or may not be commonly used in combination with the target word. (e.g. where card is the target word, birthday + card is a common combination but blue + card is not).	Another useful tip is to take note of interesting words or word combinations when you read English texts.

Sample grammar questions

There are two question types. The first focuses on written English grammar, and the second focuses on the use of English grammar when speaking.

Here are some examples:

Written grammar

said

He	me that the machine was broken
•	told
•	spoke

My boss says that I_____to finish the report by Friday.

• must

• should

have

My new computer works_____faster than my old one.

many

more

much

I have worked for this company_____I left university.

since

after

• from

Spoken grammar

John: She's French, isn't she?

Ahmed: No, she's____from Belgium.

- exactly
- actually
- anyway

Zeynep: I really don't feel like going to see that movietonight.

Peter: Ok.____we can go next week instead.

- Maybe
- However
- Nevertheless

Sample vocabulary questions

In the first question type, you need to match words with similar meanings from a list of options. To do this, click on the arrows and choose the similar word.

Here's an example:

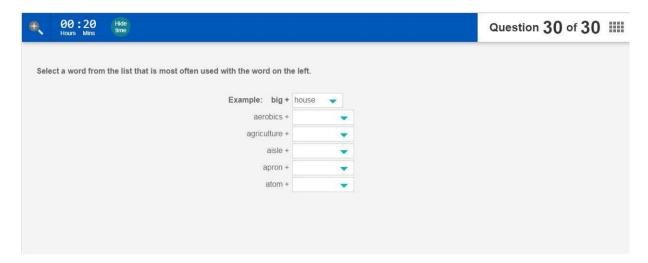


For the next question type, you need to match a definition to a word. Click on the arrow and choose the word that matches the definition.

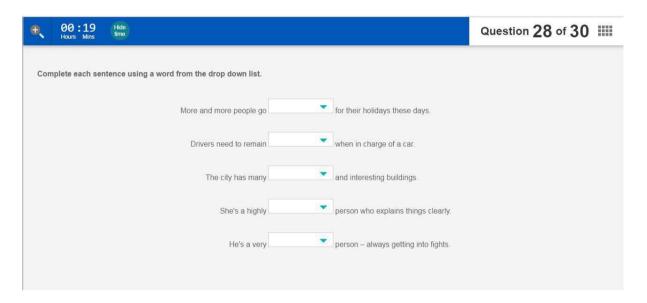
Here's an example:



The next question type asks you to identify a word from a list that is commonly used with the given word.



There is a final question type that asks you to complete a sentence using a word from a list.



2. WPL Reading Test

This test assesses your reading ability. The tasks become more difficult as the test progresses.

TEST DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Sentence comprehension	In this part, you need to choose a word (you're given three to choose from) to complete a sentence. There are five sentences to complete. You do not need to understand all of the sentences to complete each individual sentence. This part assesses your ability to read a sentence and to complete the sentence with an appropriate word.	Make sure you read each sentence and all of the possible answer words carefully before trying to answer this question. The best way to become a better reader is to practise. Easy books written especially for English language learners might help. For example, try: Cambridge Bookworms Starter / Stage 1 Cambridge Readers Level 1 Penguin Readers – Level 1 Macmillan Readers – Starter / Beginner Headway Skills series.
Part 2 Text cohesion	In this part, you will see six sentences that make a whole text. The sentences need to be put in the correct order. There is only one correct way to organise the sentences. Your task is to click on each sentence and then move them so each one is in the correct position. There are two of these tasks. This part assesses your knowledge of the cohesion of a text. You need to look for clues in each sentence that show how it links to the sentences around it.	Read all the sentences carefully first. Then, decide on the correct order (the first sentence is identified for you). Appropriate graded readers for preparation for this level are: Cambridge Bookworms Stage 1 and 2 Cambridge Readers – Level 2 Penguin Readers – Level 3 Macmillan Readers – Elementary.

Part 3

Opinion matching

In this part, you will match people's opinions to statements. You will read four people's opinions on the same topic. Then you need to read seven statements and decide which person's opinion matches each statement.

This part tests your ability to read and understand short texts.

First, read and understand each person's opinion Then read the statements and decide which person the statement best matches.

Appropriate readers for this level are:

Cambridge Bookworms Stage 2 and 3

Cambridge Readers – Level 3, 4 and 5

Penguin Readers – Level 4

Macmillan Readers – Pre Intermediate.

Part 4

Long text comprehension

In this part, you will read a long text (about 750 words). You will also read eight headings. The task is to match seven of the headings to paragraphs in the text. There is always an extra heading that does not fit with any paragraph.

This part is designed to test your ability to read and understand a long text. To get the correct answers you need to be able to demonstrate an understanding of how the headings reflect the paragraphs in different ways (sometimes using similar words, sometimes similar ideas, or by sharing a topic).

Read the main text carefully but as quickly as you can. Then carefully read the headings. Do all this before starting the task. Look for clues to connect the headings to the paragraphs; these might be similar words, ideas or topics.

Appropriate readers for this level are:

Cambridge Bookworms Stage 4, 5 and 6

Cambridge Readers – Level 4, 5 and 6

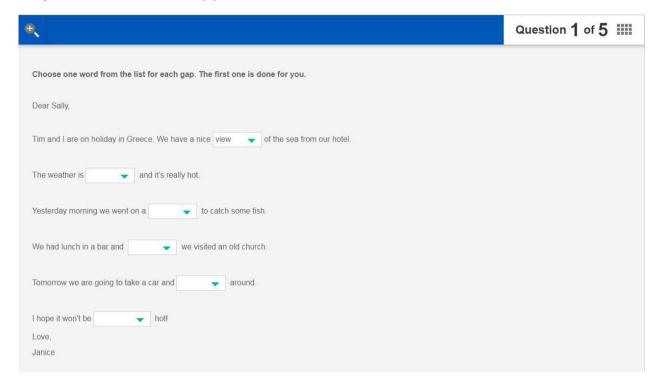
Penguin Readers – Level 5 and 6

Macmillan Readers – Intermediate and Upper Intermediate.

Sample reading questions

Reading part 1: Sentence comprehension

In this part, you must select the appropriate word from a drop-down list. You should complete this in about three (3) minutes.



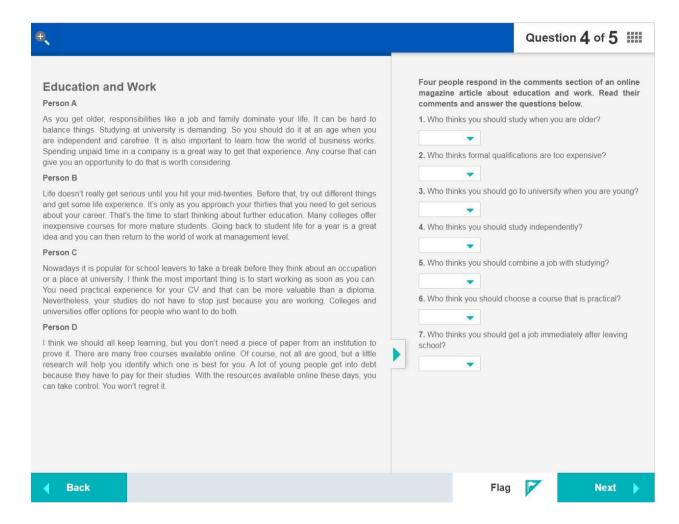
Reading part 2: Text cohesion

In the second part, you must sort the sentences into the correct order to make the text make sense. You do this by clicking on a sentence and dragging it to its correct position. There are two of these tasks in this part.



Reading part 3: Opinion matching

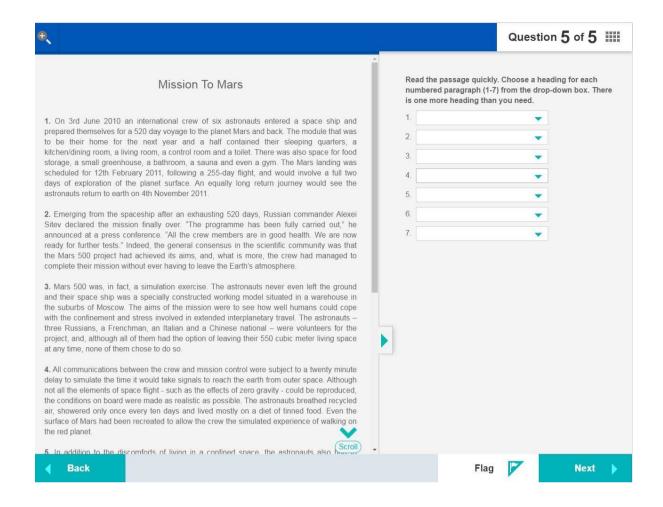
In the third part, you match four people's opinions to seven statements.



Reading part 4: Long text comprehension

For the final part, you must scroll the reading text to see all of it. You can do this by clicking on the side bar and move the bar up and down. To complete the task you need to match seven headings to the correct paragraphs in the text.

Select the appropriate heading from the drop-down list on the right-hand side.



3. WPL Listening Test

The Listening Test has four task types. You can choose to listen to the question once or twice.

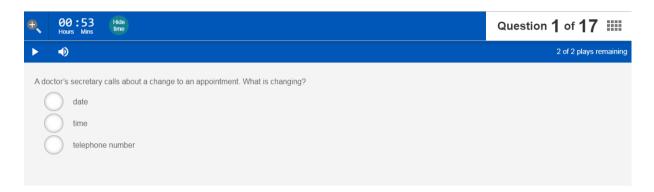
TEST	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1	In those questions, you listen	Visit the British Councille Learn English
Information recognition	In these questions, you listen to a short phone message or a short monologue or dialogue and you need to identify specific information such as a phone number, a time, or a place.	Visit the British Council's LearnEnglish website for lots of very useful activities, tips, apps and podcasts: http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en The elementary podcasts are useful preparation for these questions.
Part 2 Information matching	In these questions, you listen to four people's monologues and match the person to information. There are six pieces of information to match to the monologues.	There are quite a few useful practice videos and podcasts on the LearnEnglish website, so that's a very good starting point. In addition, try to listen to as much English as possible (e.g. films, television or radio). Another possible source is the BBC World Service radio http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio
Part 3 Opinion matching	In this task, you listen to a dialogue between a man and a woman and then decide who expresses an opinion. There are four questions. Your task is to decide if the man, woman or both the man and woman have expressed the opinion.	Listening to authentic speech, such as television drama programs or films, is a good way to prepare for this task.
Part 4 Monologue comprehension	In these tasks, you listen to a monologue and answer two questions. The focus here is not on understanding the meaning of what the speaker is saying, but on identifying clues in their language or tone to help identify the attitude of the speaker, their intention or opinion.	There are a number of higher-level podcasts on the LearnEnglish website. Also try the BBC World Service radio station.

Sample listening questions

Remember that if you'd like to hear a question for a second time, just click on the Play button (). The system will not allow you to listen more than twice.

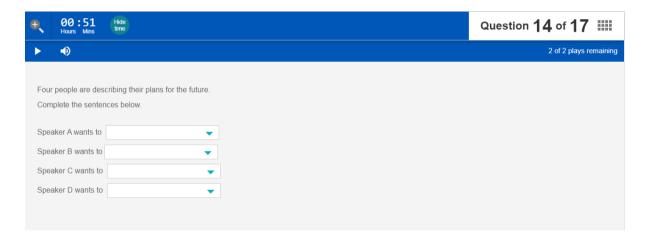
Listening part 1: Information recognition

You listen to a short monologue or dialogue and identify specific information such as a phone number, a time, or a place.



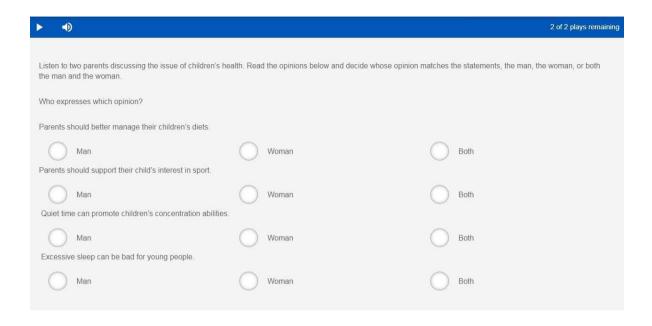
Listening part 2: Information matching

You listen to four different people and match the person to information.



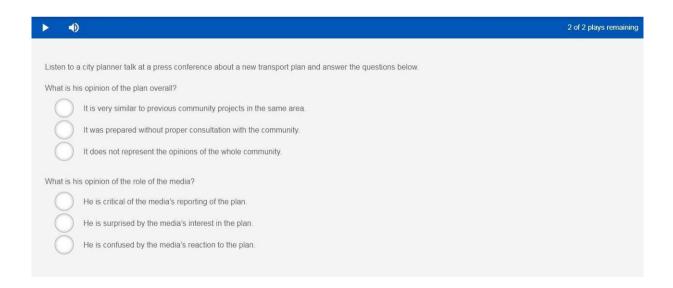
Listening part 3: Opinion matching

You listen to a dialogue between a man and a woman and decide who expresses a particular opinion – the man, the woman or both of them.



Listening part 4: Monologue comprehension

You listen to a monologue to identify the attitude of the speaker, their intention or opinion.



4. WPL Writing Test

There are four parts to the Writing Test. You will interact in a social media-type written conversation and write emails. All writing tasks are marked by an examiner.

Make sure you fully understand the questions. Plan what you are going to write and then edit your writing before clicking to the next question. The most common mistakes include:

- Not answering the questions (going off-topic).
 Read the question and understand what you need to do.
- Writing too much but with poor grammar, spelling and punctuation.
 Keep to the word count and focus on accuracy.
- Not using a variety of sentence structures.
- Not writing in sentences or paragraphs.
- Using SMS (text messaging) spelling.

The total time allowed for the Writing Test is 50 minutes. The timings for each section below are recommendations only.

TEST DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Word-level writing	In the first part, you have joined a club, course or activity and must answer a series of five text messages from other members of the club, course or activity. There is no extended writing in this part (no sentence writing), just individual words. If you are targeting a very high score, you should spend no more than three (3) minutes on this part.	The focus is on communication (this means spelling, capitalisation and grammar will not be considered by the markers).
Part 2 Short text writing	This part is about form filling. In this part, you need to write in sentences. If you are targeting a very high score, you should spend no more than seven (7) minutes on this part.	You are asked to write 20–30 words. The focus is on writing sentences that are on-topic and have accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling. A common error is to write more than 30 words and as a result, make a lot

		of mistakes. Keep to the word limit and focus on accuracy.
Part 3 Three written parts of text, all of which require responses	In this part, you will have a social network-type interaction. You will receive three questions and need to respond. If you are targeting a very high score, you should spend no more than ten (10) minutes on this part.	Answer all three questions and don't go off-topic. Focus on accurate spelling and punctuation and write sentences that link together and make sense. Keep to the word count of 30–40 words per answer.
Part 4 Formal and informal writing	This part requires that you write two emails: 1) an informal email to a friend; and 2) a more formal email to an unknown person. Both emails are in reaction to information about a change. You should spend all of your remaining time on this part (around 30 minutes).	Keep to the word count of 40–50 words for the first email and 120–150 words for the second email. Make sure your emails are written for different people. The first email should clearly be an informal email to a friend or close family member, while the second should clearly be a formal email to a company. You are also assessed on how accurately you write and your flexibility with English language, so check your writing and use a wide range of vocabulary, grammar and cohesive devices.

Sample writing questions

Writing part 1: Word-level writing

You need to write five pieces of information. This part is not worth many marks so don't spend too much time on it.

Example How are you? I'm fine, thanks.	You want to join a history club. You have 5 messages from a member of the club. Write short answers (1-5 words) to each message.				
	Example How are you?	I'm fine, thanks.			
What is the weather like today?	What is the weather like today?				
What is your favourite time of year?	What is your favourite time of year?				
What is your favourite colour?	What is your favourite colour?				
What is your job?	What is your job?				
What do you usually do in your free time?	What do you usually do in your free time?				

Writing part 2: Short text writing

There may be one or two questions.

Aptis History Club Please write some of the reasons why you are interested in history.
Please write some of the reasons why you are interested in history.
0 word

The areas assessed are how complete and relevant your answer is, grammatical range and accuracy, punctuation, vocabulary range and accuracy, and cohesion. Here is the marking scale:

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



On-topic.

Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with basic structures common. Errors do not impede understanding of the response.

Mostly accurate punctuation and spelling.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the question(s).

Some attempts at using simple connectors and cohesive devices to link sentences.

On-topic.

Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with basic structures common. Errors impede understanding in parts of the response.

Punctuation and spelling mistakes are noticeable.

Vocabulary is mostly sufficient to respond to the question(s) but inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.

Response is a list of sentences with no use of connectors or cohesive devices to link sentences.

Not fully on-topic.

Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.

Little or no use of accurate punctuation. Spelling mistakes common.

Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information and is not sufficient to respond to the question(s).

No use of cohesion.

Response limited to a few words or phrases.

Grammar and vocabulary errors so serious and frequent that meaning is unintelligible.

No meaningful language or all responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Writing part 3: Three written parts of text, all of which require responses

In part 3, you will answer social media-type questions which will look like the following:

You are a member of a history club. You are talking to three other members in the history club chat room. Talk to them using sentences. Use 30 to 40 words per answer. You have 10 minutes in total. Answer all three questions.
Aptis History Club Chat
Sam: Hi! Welcome to the club. I was interested in history at school and I studied it at university. What about you?
0 words
Miguel: Welcome. Can you tell me something about the history of your country?
0 words
Michelle: Who is your favourite person from history, and why are you interested in him or her?
0 words

The areas assessed are how completely and relevantly you answer the question, punctuation, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy and cohesion. Here is the marking scale:

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features.

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Punctuation and spelling mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions.

Uses simple cohesive devices to organise responses as a linear sequence of sentences.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features.

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Punctuation and spelling mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions.

Uses simple cohesive devices to organise responses as a linear sequence of sentences.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features.

Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with simple structures common and sometimes impede understanding.

Punctuation and spelling mistakes are noticeable.

Vocabulary is not sufficient to respond to the question(s). Inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable and sometimes impede understanding.

Responses are lists of sentences and not organised as cohesive texts.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with simple structures common and sometimes impede understanding.

Punctuation and spelling mistakes are noticeable.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Writing part 4: Formal and informal writing

The areas assessed are task fulfilment and register (see below for more information about register), grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, and cohesion.

ou are a member of a his	ory club. You received this e-mail from the club.	
	t the trip to Blackrock Castle has been cancelled because of lack of ation we cannot refund the cost of your entrance ticket to the castle.	f interest. You will be given a refund for the cost of the coach trip. However We apologise for this and thank you for your understanding.
Vrite an e-mail to your frie	nd. Write about your feelings and what you think the club should	d do about the situation. Write about 50 words. You have 10 minutes.
		0 words
Write an e-mail to the pres 0 minutes.	dent of the club. Write about your feelings and what you think t	0 words the club should do about the situation. Write 120-150 words. You have
	dent of the club. Write about your feelings and what you think t	
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Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Response shows the following features:

Response on-topic and task fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register. Two clearly different registers.

Range of complex grammar constructions used accurately. Some minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.

Range of vocabulary used to discuss the topics required by the task. Some awkward usage or slightly inappropriate lexical choices.

A range of cohesive devices is used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.

Response on-topic and task fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register: appropriate register used consistently in both responses. Response shows the following features:

Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.

Minor errors in punctuation and spelling occur but do not impede understanding.

Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.

A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

Response partially on-topic and task partially fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register: appropriate register used consistently in one response. Response shows the following features:

Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.

Minor errors in punctuation and spelling occur but do not impede understanding.

Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.

A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

Response partially on-topic and task not fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register: appropriate register not used consistently in either response. Response shows the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Punctuation and spelling is mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.

Response not on-topic and task not fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register. No evidence of awareness of register. Response shows the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Punctuation and spelling is mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Register

'Register' means the different ways language is used in different situations, depending on the relationships between the speaker and listener, or the author and the intended reader. This is an important part of language use. For example, your language choices will be different when you're writing to a new business partner and when you're writing to a friend.

To be successful in part 4, you need to show that you can write in both casual and formal registers. The first section of part 4 asks you to write in an intimate or casual register (one used among family members and close friends). The second part asks you to write in a formal register (one used between strangers or in a business setting).

5. WPL Speaking Test

For each question, you are given a maximum amount of time to speak but you can end the recording early by clicking on a stop button. Please make sure you fully respond to the question before you stop the recording.

The most common reasons people receive lower scores than they expect include:

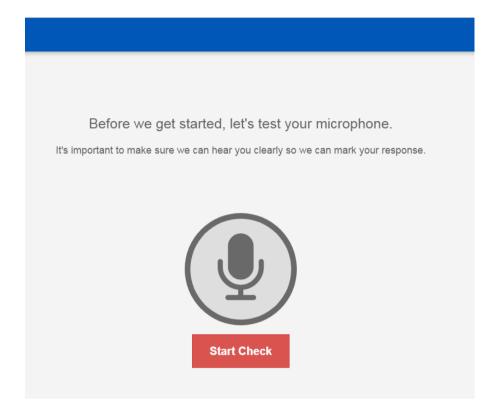
- not doing a proper sound check (details on how to do this are shown below)
- not speaking clearly
- not answering the questions
- giving under-length answers not using the full amount of time to speak
- overusing words such as 'and' and 'so'
- speaking in simple sentence lists
- not using a variety of sentence structures.

TEST DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Personal information	In this part, you are asked to answer three questions on personal topics. You are expected to talk for 30 seconds per question.	It's a good idea to practise introducing yourself and talking about your personal experiences. Think about how you can talk about familiar topics (e.g. holidays, weekend activities, sports) and practise giving general information about those topics.
Part 2 Describe, express opinion and provide reasons and explanations	In this part, you are asked to describe a photograph and then answer two questions related to the topic illustrated in the photo. The three questions increase in complexity (from description to opinion). You are expected to talk for 45 seconds per question.	You should try to be fluent and spontaneous, showing little sign of effort. Make sure you answer all three questions.
Part 3 Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations	In this part, you are asked to compare two pictures and then answer two questions related to the topic. The three questions increase in complexity (from description to speculation). You are expected to talk for 45 seconds for each question.	To prepare for this task, practise comparing two different things (e.g. two cities or two houses). Focus on describing their advantages and disadvantages. To achieve a very high score in this part, it's important to make sure you are using correct grammatical

		structures when you speculate.
Part 4 Discuss personal experience and opinion on an abstract topic	In the final part, you will see a picture and be asked three questions about an abstract topic. You are given one (1) minute to prepare an answer and in this time you can take notes. You are expected to talk for two (2) minutes.	A common error is to describe the photo. You will not receive a high score if you just describe the photo. The questions are more abstract (e.g. how you feel about something). Another common error is to go off-topic. Focus on answering each question in clear, flowing, well-structured speech. To prepare for this part it is a good idea to practise speaking for two minutes on an abstract topic (e.g. How do you feel about?). Make sure you practise using your planning time to structure what you're going to say.

Sample speaking questions

Before the Speaking Test begins, you'll be asked to check your microphone.



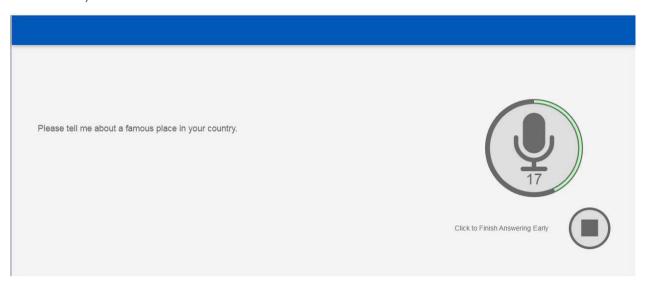
Speaking part 1: Personal information

In this part, you answer some questions about yourself. Listen to the instructions and speak clearly into your microphone when you hear the signal.

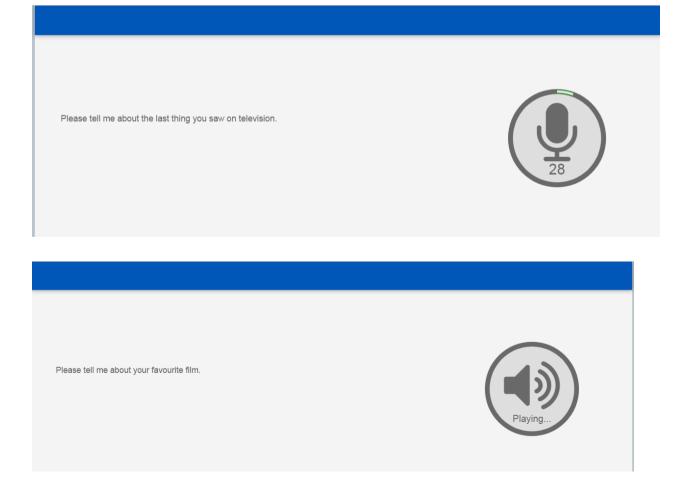
Each part of the test will appear automatically. You can stop recording your response before the timer runs out by tapping on the stop button, but we recommend that you try and speak for the full time available to maximise your score.



When the time to record comes, the timer begins. This tells you the amount of time you have been recording for (in the screen shot below the timer shows that it has been recording for 17 seconds).



As each new question appears, the same procedure is followed.



The areas assessed in this part of the Speaking Test are how completely and relevantly you have answered the question, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation and fluency. Here is the marking scale.

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Some simple grammatical structures used correctly but basic mistakes systematically occur.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions, although inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and frequently place a strain on the listener.

Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations but meaning is still clear.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Some simple grammatical structures used correctly but basic mistakes systematically occur.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions, although inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and frequently place a strain on the listener.

Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations but meaning is still clear.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.

Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information.

Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible except for isolated words.

Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations impede understanding.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.

Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information.

Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible except for isolated words.

Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations impede understanding.

No meaningful language or all responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Speaking part 2: Describe, express opinion and provide reasons and explanations You will see a photo and answer three questions. You have 45 seconds to respond to each question.

Part Two. In this part I'm going to ask you to describe a picture. Then I will ask you two questions about it. You will have 45 seconds for each response.

Begin speaking when you hear this sound.





Click to Finish Answering Early

Describe this picture.



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Click to Finish Answering Early

Tell me about a time when you gave or received a gift.



Click to Finish Answering Early

Why is it important to give people gifts on special occasions?

The areas assessed in this part of the Speaking Test are how completely and relevantly you responded to the question, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation, fluency and cohesion. Here's the marking scale.

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.

Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.

Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.

Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.

Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Speaking part 3: Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations

In this part, you will see two photos and answer three questions.

Part Three - In this part I'm going to ask you to compare two pictures, and I will then ask you two questions about them. You will have 45 seconds for each response.

Begin speaking when you hear this sound.









Click to Finish Answering Early



Tell me what you see in the two pictures.







Click to Finish Answering Early



What would it be like to work in these two places?





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Click to Finish Answering Early



Which of these two places would you prefer to work in? Why?

The marking scale is the same as for part 2.

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.

Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.

Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.

Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.

Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Speaking part 4: Discuss personal experience and opinion on an abstract topic In this part, you again need to answer three questions but this time you answer them all in one response.

Part Four - In this part I'm going to show you a picture and ask you three questions. You will have one minute to think about your answers before you start speaking. You will have two minutes to answer all three questions. Begin speaking when you hear this sound. Look at the photograph.







Tell me about a time when you visited a very tall building.

How did you feel about it?

Why do you think so many cities have tall buildings?

You have one minute to prepare a structured response. A timer on the screen will show how long you have left. When preparation time is over, the message appears at the bottom 'You now have two minutes to talk'. You should speak until the recording automatically stops after two minutes.





Tell me about a time when you visited a very tall building.

How did you feel about it?

Why do you think so many cities have tall buildings?

You now have one minute to think about your answers. You can make notes if you wish.



Tell me about a time when you visited a very tall building.

How did you feel about it?

Why do you think so many cities have tall buildings?

You now have two minutes to talk.



During the preparation time in part 4, it's important to make notes, as these will help you organise your response and remember what you want to speak about. Rather than writing out exactly what you want to say, make brief notes and use these to structure your speech.

Areas assessed in this part are how completely and relevantly you've answered the questions, and the grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation, fluency and cohesion of your response.

Here's the marking scale:

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Response addresses all three questions and is well-structured.

Uses a range of complex grammar constructions accurately. Some minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.

Uses a range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Some awkward usage or slightly inappropriate lexical choices.

Pronunciation is clearly intelligible.

Backtracking and reformulations do not fully interrupt the flow of speech.

A range of cohesive devices are used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.

Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.

Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.

Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding.

Some pausing while searching for vocabulary but this does not put a strain on the listener.

A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstanding.

Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.

Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding

Some pausing while searching for vocabulary but this does not put a strain on the listener.

A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task.

Pronunciation is intelligible but occasional mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts, reformulations and repetition.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task.

Pronunciation is intelligible but occasional mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts, reformulations and repetition.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



6. Numeracy Test

The Numeracy Test has two parts.

In part 1, you will answer 26 questions without using a calculator. When you need to do calculations, you should use the pen and paper provided on your desk.

In part 2, you will answer 24 questions. You can use a calculator, which will be provided on screen. The questions will get more difficult as the test continues.

The questions are a mixture of multiple choice and short answer items. For the short answer items, you will only need to key in numbers. You cannot key in letters or special characters in the answer box in short answer items.

Each time you complete a question and move onto the next screen your answer is locked. This means that you cannot go back during the test and change your answer.

TEST DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Simpler questions (no calculator)	In this part of the test, you answer 26 questions.	To prepare for this part, you should practice adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing from 0 to 100 without a calculator, adding and subtracting units of time, calculating percentages, or interpreting simple line graphs and pie charts. It is also a good idea to make sure you understand basic mathematical symbols and abbreviations such as \$, kg, or m (a list of symbols and abbreviations is provided on the following page).
Part 2 More complex questions with calculator	In this part of the test, you answer 24 questions. A calculator is provided. To access it, click on the calculator icon at the top right hand corner of your screen.	To prepare for this part, you should practice applying operations such as the Pythagorean Theorem, using and manipulating formula, computing the probability of combined events, and using various algebraic methods as problemsolving tools.

Mathematical formula used in the WPN assessments

Area of a rectangle $Length \times Width$

Area of a triangle $\frac{1}{2} \times Length \times Height$

Circumference of a circle $2 \times Radius \times \pi$

Diameter of a circle $2 \times Radius$

Perimeter of a rectangle $2 \times (Length + Width)$

Pythagorean theorem $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$

Speed Distance Time

Surface area of a cylinder $2 \times Radius \times \pi \times Height$

Surface area of a sphere $4 \times \pi \times Radius^2$

Volume of a box $Length \times Width \times Height$

Volume of a cone $\frac{1}{3} \times Radius^2 \times \pi \times Height$

Volume of a cylinder $Radius^2 \times \pi \times Height$

Units of measurement, symbols and their abbreviations

\$ dollar sign g gram

° degrees (angle) or kg kilogram degrees Celsius (temperature)

ml millilitre

Mm millimetres

cm centrimetres mins minutes

m metre h hours

km kilometre mA milliamps

mA milliamps cm² centimetre squared

 $\begin{array}{ccc} & & & A & amps \\ m^2 & metre \ squared & & & V & \ volume \end{array}$

cm³ centimetre cubed am ante meridiem (before midday)

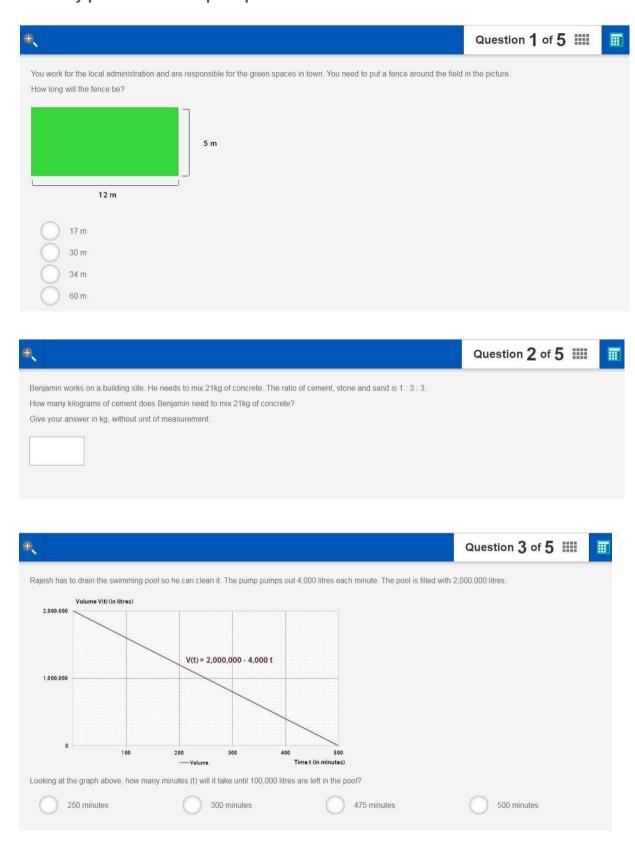
m³ metre cubed pm post meridiem (after midday)

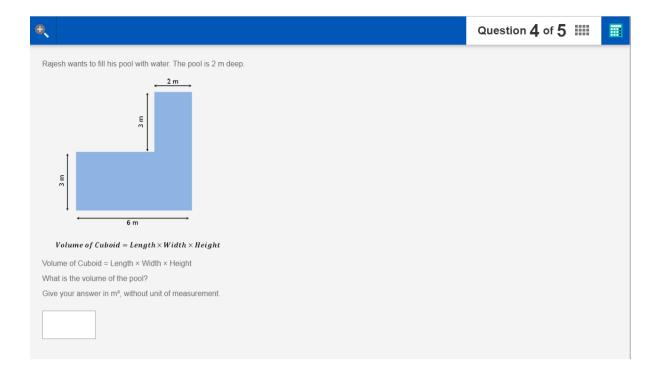
Sample numeracy questions

Numeracy part 1: Simpler questions (no calculator)

⊕ ,	Question 1 of 5
18 + 2 =	
	Question 2 of 5
You find the following coins and notes in your wallet. How much money do you have? SRECINIE STREET	
\$80 \$89 \$90	\$99
Qu	estion 3 of 5
A heat wave reached Tokyo on Saturday. The temperature rose from 25°C at 10:00 am to 38°C at 5:30 pm. How long did it take the temperature to rise from 25°C to 38°C? 2 hours 5 ½ hours 6 hours 7 ½ hours	

Numeracy part 2: More complex questions with calculator





WPLN Assessments for all

The British Council is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in testing. We believe that the WPLN Assessments should be accessible to anyone who wants to take them. We also believe that each person should have the opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability on the WPLN Assessments.

If you have a disability and believe that the WPLN Assessments are not accessible to you or believe that the form of the test will not allow you to show your true level of English or numeracy, please contact British Council Singapore Customer Service to talk about ways in which the test can be modified for your needs. We can make changes to the test such as offering a Braille version or adjusting the font size on screen. We need at least 4 weeks notice to prepare these adjustments so please contact us as early as possible.

Please discuss your needs with us to ensure that we can support you with a test which is both fair to you and maintains the high standards and reliability of the WPLN Assessments.

Final checklist

We hope these notes will help you prepare for your Workplace Literacy and Numeracy tests. Here's a checklist to make sure you're fully prepared:

Review the different grammar parts:

http://englishagenda.britishcouncil.org/continuing-professional-development/cpd-teacher-trainers/british-council-eaquals-core-inventory-general-english

Visit the LearnEnglish website to prepare for the grammar and vocabulary test: http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en

Visit the English Club to prepare for the vocabulary test: www.englishclub.com

Practise your English skills at every opportunity. Listen to English radio (e.g. BBC World Service), watch English-language television and films and read the graded readers (e.g. Cambridge, Penguin, Macmillan and Headway).

Read the tips in this booklet on how to prepare for each test.

Useful web resources

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/british-council-eaguals-core-inventory-general-english

http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar

http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary

https://www.englishclub.com/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio

