

SUBJECT DESCRIPTORS

A typical candidate at Level 5 :

- Develops ideas well in writing, and generally writes in a way suitable for the purpose in both style and content; uses accurate spelling and punctuation, and mainly correct grammar; uses a wide vocabulary, and appropriate paragraphing.
- Reads a range of texts with understanding; follows the development of arguments in texts; has a wide vocabulary and is usually able to work out the meaning of unfamiliar words; can follow detailed written instructions, and select appropriate information from texts to complete a task.
- Can understand spoken English at near-normal speed, in both familiar and some less familiar accents; interprets speakers' stress and intonation to identify their attitudes and intentions; takes relevant notes while listening to a speaker.
- Expresses a range of ideas, in clear and well-pronounced English; can hold an extended conversation in most situations; participates actively and constructively in discussions.

A typical candidate at Level 4:

- Writes in a way suitable for the purpose in familiar common tasks; uses mainly accurate spelling and punctuation; writes simple sentences clearly and comprehensibly with mainly correct grammar; uses common words correctly and appropriately; uses paragraphs, generally appropriately.
- Understands most of what is read in simple texts and in more complex texts on familiar topics; identifies clearly expressed views and attitudes; can often work out the meaning of unfamiliar words where the context makes this clear; follows straightforward written instructions, and some more detailed ones; selects most of the information needed to complete a task from both simple and more complex texts.
- Understands spoken English on both familiar and less familiar topics, at moderate speed, especially when the accent is familiar; identifies some straightforward aspects of speakers' stress and intonation to identify their attitudes and intentions; takes relevant notes when information is given clearly.
- Expresses most ideas and information clearly, with accurate pronunciation of familiar words; sustains a conversation, especially with a sympathetic conversational partner; contributes to discussions.

A typical candidate at Level 3:

- Expresses straightforward ideas and information in writing with reasonable clarity; uses mainly accurate punctuation and spells common words correctly; uses most basic grammatical structures correctly; uses appropriate paragraphing and style in short tasks of a familiar type.
- Understands most of what is read in simple texts, and understands some more complex texts when topics are familiar; identifies clearly expressed opinions; can work out the meaning of some unfamiliar words with a very clear context; follows straightforward written instructions; selects appropriate information to complete a task from simple texts and from more complex texts on familiar topics.
- Understands spoken English on familiar topics, at a moderate to slow pace, with familiar accents; identifies appropriate factual information while listening and is able to record this, especially when information is given clearly and slowly.
- Expresses familiar ideas and information clearly and comprehensibly, with accurate pronunciation of most familiar words; takes part in short simple conversational exchanges; makes occasional useful contributions to discussions.

A typical candidate at Level 2:

- Expresses some simple ideas in writing, particularly when these are of personal relevance; uses short and simple sentences mainly correctly, with some accuracy in simple basic grammatical structures; generally spells common words and uses basic punctuation with some accuracy; organises writing when guidance and structure is given.
- Understands explicitly stated factual information in simple texts of familiar types, and some parts of more complex texts if the topic is very familiar; works out the meaning of unfamiliar words when this is given very clearly by the context; follows most simple written instructions and locates appropriate information from simple texts to carry out tasks.
- Understands speakers on familiar topics, when they speak slowly and have familiar accents; identifies appropriate information, especially if speech has a clear structure and information is emphasised or repeated; records information if given a template for note-taking and sufficient time for writing.
- Expresses simple familiar ideas, generally briefly, with some accurate pronunciation; can sustain a short conversation on familiar topics; makes brief but generally relevant contributions to discussions.

A typical candidate at Level 1:

- Writes simple sentences on familiar topics, with some accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar; attempts longer paragraphs or texts when guidance or structure is given; completes forms and tables in written English; uses a small range of simple written vocabulary.
- Understands simple texts with mainly familiar vocabulary; uses headings or key words to locate appropriate parts of text for a task; follows short, structured written instructions; locates appropriate information for simple tasks, and transfers this to tables or forms.
- Understands speakers who speak slowly and clearly on very familiar and predictable topics; identifies some simple factual information, and records information such as names and addresses, numbers, and brief messages.
- Communicates some brief, factual information; takes part in very predictable short conversational exchanges; makes brief contributions to discussions if given time and support from others.