



LanguageCert Test of English (LTE) (Writing)

Qualification Handbook

April 2020

Version 01.0

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1. About LanguageCert

LanguageCert is a business name of PeopleCert Qualifications Ltd, UK company number 0962026, subsidiary of PeopleCert Group (PeopleCert).

LanguageCert is an awarding organisation regulated by Ofqual and offers language qualifications that are globally recognised and aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) at levels A1 to C2. LanguageCert delivers language qualifications through a network of approved test centres worldwide.

LanguageCert combines language qualification heritage with unparalleled exam administration systems and processes, and excellent customer service. For the dissemination and delivery of high-quality language qualifications, LanguageCert relies on the capabilities and systems developed and deployed by its sister companies within PeopleCert.

About PeopleCert

Established in 2000, PeopleCert is one of the leading players in the global certification industry, partnering with educational institutions, multinational organisations and governmental bodies for the development and management of globally recognised qualifications and the delivery of their related exams.

Equal opportunities

PeopleCert fully supports the principle of equal opportunities and is committed to satisfying this principle in all its activities and published material.

The aim of LanguageCert is to produce assessments that are based solely on the requirements of the qualification, and that do not discriminate against any group of learners. No group of learners should be put at a disadvantage by encountering questions or tests which are biased or might cause offence. Assessment material should not discriminate against any group on the grounds of culture, gender, age, disability, ethnic background, nationality, religion and belief, marital status, gender identification, social class or employment status.

Please refer to LanguageCert's Equality and Diversity Policy on LanguageCert's official website, [languagecert.org](https://www.languagecert.org).

2. Purpose of the LanguageCert Test of English (LTE) (Writing) qualification handbook

The LanguageCert Test of English (LTE) (Writing) qualification handbook provides a comprehensive introduction to the suite of LTE (Writing) examinations. It also serves as a reference point for test centres, teachers, test takers and other stakeholders involved in the delivery of the LTE (Writing) exams.

3. Introduction to the LanguageCert Test of English (LTE) (Writing) qualification

3.1 Aim of the LTE (Writing) qualification

The LTE (Writing) qualification is designed to assess a test taker's language proficiency across six levels (A1- C2) that are aligned to the descriptions and levels of language proficiency as set out in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

LTE is a suite of English 'for work' and General English exams. The LTE Test of Writing is intended for use either independently or in conjunction with other elements of the LTE 'for work' suite of examinations. The rest of the LTE 'for work' suite currently comprises three variants of a Listening and Reading test – an adaptive computer-based test measuring English language proficiency in a work context from CEFR A1-C2 levels; two paper-based linear tests, one measuring from CEFR A1-B1 and one from CEFR A1-C2 level.

The LTE Test of Writing is intended for people 18 plus who are in work, looking for work or in higher or further education and about to enter the world of work. It is intended that it will be officially accredited by Ofqual and it is, therefore, a high-stakes testing product. Consequently, it will be taken under secure exam conditions and test security and integrity is a high priority.

3.2 Who is the LTE (Writing) qualification for?

The LTE (Writing) qualification is suitable for:

- non-native speakers of English who
 - wish to acquire an internationally recognised certification of their English language competence,
 - wish to provide current or potential employers with information as to their English language level,
 - wish to master the English language and monitor their own progress,
 - wish to undertake a course of study at an English-speaking university or college and require evidence of their English proficiency,
- employers who
 - wish to identify the English language level of their applicants,
 - wish to benchmark the English language level required for different positions within their workforce,
 - require an internationally recognised certification as part of their hiring process,
 - wish to measure English language levels before and after language training provided by a third-party training organisation
- universities and colleges that
 - need to establish the English language level of students to evaluate their ability to follow their chosen course of study,
 - wish to use student level of English language proficiency as part of the matriculation process and/or to award credits towards degrees and other qualifications,
 - wish to offer students a test which will provide them with an internationally recognised certification of their English language competence.

3.3 Entry Requirements

There are no entry requirements for any test taker prior to taking their LTE (Writing) exam. However, it is important that test centres provide information and advise test takers about the most suitable qualification according to their individual needs.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is not applicable to the LTE (Writing) qualification.

3.4 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) and Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Guided Learning Hours (GLH) is the number of hours that a test centre or other provider of education or training delivering the qualification might need to provide. Guided learning refers to English language learning preparation activities, such as lessons, tutorials, online instruction, and any kind of supervised study that directly involves teachers and assessors. The LTE (Writing) qualification has been mapped to the approximate learning hours that a learner needs to progress between levels according to the CEFR.

For the LTE (Writing) qualification, LanguageCert specifies a total number of hours – stated as Total Qualification Time (TQT) – that indicates how learners progress through levels.

LTE (Writing), CEFR and RQF/CQFW (England and Northern Ireland/Wales) Levels	Qualification Title	Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	Total Qualification Time (TQT)
LTE (W) A1 – CEFR A1 – Entry 1	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 1) (Writing) (LanguageCert Test of English (Writing) A1)	95 hours	200 hours
LTE (W) A2 – CEFR A2 – Entry 2	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 2) (Writing) (LanguageCert Test of English (Writing) A2)	95 hours	200 hours
LTE (W) B1 – CEFR B1 – Entry 3	LanguageCert Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 3) (Writing) (LanguageCert Test of English (Writing) B1)	180 hours	300 hours
LTE (W) B2 – CEFR B2 – Level 1	LanguageCert Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International (Writing) (LanguageCert Test of English (Writing) B2)	180 hours	300 hours
LTE (W) C1 – CEFR C1 – Level 2	LanguageCert Level 2 Certificate in ESOL International (Writing) (LanguageCert Test of English (Writing) C1)	200 hours	350 hours
LTE (W) C2 – CEFR C2 – Level 3	LanguageCert Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (Writing) (LanguageCert Test of English (Writing) C2)	250 hours	350 hours

Please note that the above figures are estimates of numbers of hours a learner is reasonably likely to undertake with reference to each respective level of the qualification, not cumulative estimates across levels. LanguageCert liaises with its test centres and users to ensure that appropriate and

consistent numbers of study hours are assigned to its test centres and users to ensure that appropriate and consistent numbers of study hours are assigned to its qualifications.

3.5 Skills tested

The LTE (Writing) qualification consists of high quality, reliable test content that uses a variety of authentic tasks to assess a test taker's writing skills. The test of Writing is a standalone examination. Candidates may or may not also be taking the LTE Reading & Listening test. There is no overall certification across the LTE test components.

Writing

The test taker is required to complete two writing tasks, a short and a longer writing task. The writing tasks assess the test taker's ability to write for a wide variety of real-life or work-related purposes. The test taker will be expected to write to demonstrate control of grammatical forms, knowledge and use of a wide range of vocabulary, and the ability to carry out a range of functions in English.

3.6 Alignment of the LTE (Writing) qualification to the CEFR

The LTE (Writing) qualification and the associated exams are directly calibrated to the CEFR¹, the LanguageCert IESOL examinations, and the RQF/CQFW (England and Northern Ireland/Wales) levels via qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative methods include direct reference to the CEFR and the use of language testing experts in its implementation. Quantitative methods include a common scale of difficulty - the LanguageCert Item Difficulty (LID) scale - which utilises Rasch statistical measurement techniques to ensure calibration across all LanguageCert examination products. The comparative levels chart below shows how the levels relate to each other.

LTE (Writing) Levels	LanguageCert IESOL Levels	CEFR Levels	RQF/CQFW (England and Northern Ireland/Wales)
LTE (W) A1	Preliminary	A1 Breakthrough	Entry 1
LTE (W) A2	Access	A2 Waystage	Entry 2
LTE (W) B1	Achiever	B1 Threshold	Entry 3
LTE (W) B2	Communicator	B2 Vantage	Level 1
LTE (W) C1	Expert	C1 Effective Operational Proficiency	Level 2
LTE (W) C2	Mastery	C2 Mastery	Level 3

¹See 'Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment', Cambridge University Press 2001 ISBN 0521 005310

3.7 'Can Do' level descriptors

The LTE (Writing) qualification is developed according to the CEFR descriptors of language competency for each CEFR level (A1-C2). A selection of CEFR Can-Do descriptors that apply to the skill of Writing are provided below for illustrative purposes.

LTE (Writing) and CEFR levels	Descriptors
LTE (W) A1 – CEFR A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can give information in writing about matters of personal relevance (e.g. likes and dislikes, job, family,) using simple words and basic expressions. • Can write simple isolated phrases and sentences in documents such as forms, lists, emails and messages. • Can ask questions about personal details such as possessions, job, address and people known.
LTE (W) A2 – CEFR A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can write a series of simple phrases and sentences linked with simple connectors like 'and,' 'but' and 'because'. • Can write a series of simple phrases and sentences about their family, living conditions, educational background, present or most recent job. • Can give his/her impressions and opinions in writing about topics of personal interest (e.g. lifestyles and culture, job), using basic everyday vocabulary and expressions.
LTE (W) B1 – CEFR B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can write straightforward connected texts on a range of familiar subjects within his/her field of interest/work by linking a series of shorter discrete elements into a linear sequence. • Can write very brief reports to a standard conventionalised format, which pass on routine factual information and state reasons for actions. • Can summarise, report and give his/her opinion about accumulated factual information on familiar routine and non-routine matters within his/her field with some confidence. • Can convey information, feelings and opinions on familiar topics, using appropriate formality and adapting to the intended audience.
LTE (W) B2 – CEFR B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can write clear, detailed texts on a variety of subjects related to his/her field of interest, synthesising and evaluating information and arguments from a number of sources. • Can write an essay or report which develops an argument, giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view and explaining the advantages and disadvantages of various options. • Can communicate with a degree of fluency that makes comprehension possible for the reader without strain. • Can communicate clearly and in detail on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint, varying format and style appropriate to purpose and audience.
LTE (W) C1 – CEFR C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can write clear, well-structured texts of complex subjects, underlining the relevant salient issues, expanding and supporting points of view at some length with subsidiary points, reasons and relevant examples, and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion. • Can employ the structure and conventions of a variety of written genres, varying the tone, style and register according to addressee, text type and theme. • Can produce clear well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices • Can communicate ideas and opinions effectively, using length, format and style appropriate to purpose, content and audience

LTE (W) C2 – CEFR C2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can write clear, smoothly flowing, complex texts in an appropriate and effective style and a logical structure which helps the reader to find significant points. • Can produce clear, smoothly flowing, complex reports, articles or essays which present a case, or give critical appreciation of proposals. • Can set out multiple perspectives on complex academic or professional topics, clearly distinguishing his/her own ideas and opinions from those in the sources. • Can express him/herself very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
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The above descriptors are adapted from the global description of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Text from these is reproduced by kind permission of the Council of Europe.

4. Overview of scoring

The LTE (Writing) exams are stringently assessed against the criteria as detailed in the overview of assessment for the LTE (Writing) test (see section 9) and the topics, functional language and grammar inventory (see *section 8*). Test takers receive a score out of 100 and a CEFR level.

5. The LTE (Writing) qualification formats

The LTE (Writing) qualification is available in two different formats:

- the LTE (Writing) A1-C2 paper-based test,
- the LTE (Writing) A1-C2 computer-based test.

5.1 The LTE (Writing) Paper-Based (PB) test

The LTE (Writing) paper-based (PB) test assesses test takers' writing skills. The two tasks in the LTE (Writing) A1-C2 paper-based test are designed to assess a wide range of writing skills and to determine the CEFR level of the individual test taker. Task 1 will primarily target CEFR A1-B2 students. Task 2 will primarily target students at CEFR B1-C2 level.

5.2 The LTE (Writing) A1-C2 Computer-Based (CB) test

The LTE (Writing) A1-C2 computer-based (CB) test is a fully digital test that is identical in terms of content (i.e. domains, task types, language functions, topics, etc.) and design to the paper-based tests.

6. Advantages of the LTE (Writing) qualification

Flexible Examination Dates

LTE (Writing) exams are available on demand to approved test centres. The dates for the paper-based exam are scheduled monthly. The computer-based test can be taken any time, at any approved test centre. Where necessity or demand requires it, LanguageCert will respond favourably to requests for additional scheduled paper-based exams.

Flexibility of exam format

Test takers have the choice to take the LTE (Writing) exam either in a paper-based or in a computer-based format according to their needs and schedule.

Results and Certificates

Official results (i.e. Statement of Results and e-Certificate) for both computer-based and paper-based exams will be available online within 10 business days from the date of the exam.

Hard copy certificates will be issued and shipped to test takers and test centres within 5 business days from the official announcement of the results.

International recognition

LanguageCert's International English Qualifications (IEQs) are quality English language exams recognised by employers, educational institutions and professional bodies worldwide for both academic progression and employment.

Relevance

The tasks are sufficiently universal to suit all language learning styles and preparation methods.

Exam content authentically replicates real-life English in use. All efforts are made to minimise bias, including statistical analysis methods.

7. The LTE (Writing) test structure

7.1 Overview

The chart below shows the structure of the LTE (Writing) qualification and the duration of the exam.

The LTE (Writing) A1-C2 paper-based and computer-based test	
Duration	Total number of items
60 mins Task 1: approx. 15-20 mins Task 2: approx. 40-45 mins	2 tasks

7.2 The Writing tasks

The LanguageCert Test of English (LTE) (Writing) is an international English test. Different varieties of 'standard' English eg American English, British English are acceptable. The emphasis is on communication.

The LTE (Writing) qualification comprises two tasks.

7.2.1 Description of writing tasks

Writing Task 1

Overview	Candidates must write a short communicative message of about 50 words.
Testing aim	The task tests the candidate's ability to produce a short piece of writing which successfully communicates the required information.
Task type	Guided writing.

Writing Task 2

Overview	Candidates must produce an extended piece of writing in the form of a brief report, article or review of around 200 words.
Testing aim	The task tests the candidate's ability to produce extended writing. The context is a topical issue or workplace matter. The tasks allow candidates to use advanced level grammar and vocabulary resource and show that they can organize coherently an extended piece of writing.
Task type	Report, article or review writing.

8. Topics, functional language and grammar inventory for LTE (Writing)

8.1 Introduction

The following list of topics and functional areas and the grammar inventory are provided to give an indication of the range of topics candidates will encounter in the examination, the most common functions they will need to carry out and a broad indicator of the areas of grammar students should have mastered for each level of the CEFR.

8.2 Topics for LTE (Writing)

The following topics are intended as examples of areas that may be covered in the LTE Test of Writing.

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

- asking for and giving personal details (name, occupation, etc.)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- health and safety rules in the workplace
- regulation

THE OFFICE AND ROUTINE

- asking about and describing jobs and responsibilities
- asking about and describing a company and its organisation
- arranging appointments and meetings
- planning future events and tasks
- talking about tasks – past, present, future

ENTERTAINMENT OF CLIENTS

- making arrangements
- offering and accepting offers
- food/drink/corporate hospitality

GENERAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- talking about business/company/country economic and performance trends
- making business deals
- statistical data
- industrial relations
- inflation
- international trade

FREE TIME, RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES AND CLIENTS

- socialising
- talking and asking about family/home town/country
- leisure activities/interests

COMPANY INFORMATION

- company mission
- performance
- strategy
- competition
- departments of a company – HR, Finance, Marketing, Sales, Operations/Production, Processing etc,
- descriptions and explanations of company performance and results, trends, events and changes

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- describing products and services
- future developments
- innovation
- costs and pricing
- buying and selling
- understanding and discussing prices and delivery dates
- offers and agreements
- making comparisons
- expressing opinions, preferences, etc
- making and receiving complaints

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- talking and asking about current, past, future education and training
- role of education in society and business
- business courses, training courses and events
- building competences in an organisation

TECHNOLOGY

- technological innovation and developments
- impact of technology on the workplace and education

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND HEALTH

- arrangements
- plans
- schedules
- mode of transport
- hotel bookings/facilities
- issues and complaints
- local health services

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- company/country performance
- employee performance
- employee salary and benefits

OTHER TOPICS

- a number of other topics in areas of general business and general interest, such as
 - advertising,
 - consumer goods,
 - consumerism
 - shopping and prices
 - economising etc.

8.3 Functional language areas for LTE (Writing)

The following functional language areas are intended as examples of areas that may be covered in the LTE Test of Writing. (See Topics list for contexts)

In LTE (Writing), test takers will be asked to carry out a range of actions and to communicate using a wide range of functional language. This list below includes some of the most common areas of functional language that students will need to engage with.

Functional language areas

- agreeing and disagreeing
- apologising and giving excuses
- asking for and giving opinions
- asking for and giving permission
- asking for and giving recommendations
- compromising
- congratulating
- discussing problems/issues
- expressing advantages and disadvantages
- expressing certainty and doubt
- giving and justifying opinions
- giving and receiving instructions,
- justifying decisions and past actions
- making comparisons
- making recommendations
- making suggestions
- predicting and describing future possibilities
- purpose/cause/result and giving reasons
- reporting
- summarising/synthesising
- talking about routines
- thanking
- warnings and prohibitions

8.4 Grammar – LTE (Writing) A1-B1 levels

	A1	A2	B1
		as A1 and in addition	as A2 and in addition
Simple sentences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> word order in simple statements: subject-verb-object/adverb/adjective/prepositional phrase word order in instructions word order in questions <i>There is/are</i> + noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There was/were</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There has/have been</i> <i>There will be/there is going to be</i>
Compound sentences		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of conjunctions <i>and/but/or</i> word order subject-verb-(object) (+<i>and/but/or</i>) + subject-verb-(object) 	
Complex sentences		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clauses of: time with <i>when, before, after</i> reason <i>because</i>, result <i>so</i> noun clause with <i>that</i> defining relative clauses with <i>who, which, that</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> word order in complex sentences complex sentences with one subordinate clause clause as subject/object

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Verb forms

	A1	A2	B1
		as Preliminary and in addition	as Access and in addition
Verb forms	<p>Present reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple present tense of <i>be/have/do</i> and common regular verbs • present continuous of common verbs • <i>Have got</i> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes/no questions • Question words: <i>who/what/where/when/how much/how many/how old</i> • Auxiliary 'do' for questions and negatives (positive questions only) • Short answers such as <i>yes he does, no I haven't</i> • imperatives and negative imperatives • contracted forms appropriate to this level • <i>let's + infinitive</i> for suggestion 	<p>Present reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple present with no time focus • present continuous to express continuity <p>Past reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • past tense of regular and common irregular verbs with time markers • Present perfect (with reference to present time, with 'for', 'yet') <p>Future reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP + <i>be going to</i>, present continuous and time markers • Future simple with 'will' <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited range of common verbs <i>-ing</i> form, such as <i>like, go</i> • verb + to + infinitive such as <i>want, hope</i> • very common phrasal verbs such as <i>get up, get off</i> • questions such as <i>what time, how often, why, which</i> • simple question tags using all the verb forms at this level • contracted forms appropriate to this level 	<p>Present/Past reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present perfect with <i>since/for, ever, never, yet, already, just</i> <p>Past reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>used to</i> for regular actions in the past • past continuous • past perfect with reference to a previous time <p>Future reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future simple verb forms, NP + <i>will</i> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero, 1st and 2nd conditional • Range of verbs + <i>-ing</i> forms • <i>to + infinitive</i> to express purpose • common phrasal verbs and position of object pronouns, such as <i>I looked it up</i> • simple reported/embedded statements and questions • question tags using all verbs appropriate at this level • contracted forms appropriate to this level

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Modals, nouns, pronouns, possessives, prepositions

	A1	A2	B1
		as A1 and in addition	as A2 and in addition
Modals	<p>Present reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>can, can't</i> (ability/inability, permission) and <i>would like</i> (request) 	<p>Modals and forms with similar meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>must</i> (obligation) • <i>mustn't</i> (prohibition) • <i>have to, have got to</i> (need) • <i>can, could</i> (requests) • <i>couldn't</i> (impossibility) • <i>may</i> (permission) • single modal adverbs: <i>possibly, probably, perhaps</i> 	<p>Modals and forms with similar meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>should</i> (obligation, advice) • <i>might, may, will, probably</i> (possibility and probability in the future) • <i>would/should</i> (advice) • <i>need to</i> (obligation) • <i>needn't</i> (lack of obligation) • <i>will definitely</i> (certainty in the future) • <i>may I</i> (asking for permission) • <i>I'd rather</i> (stating preference)
Nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular and common irregular plural forms • very common uncountable nouns • cardinal numbers 1-100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • countable and uncountable nouns • simple noun phrases • cardinal numbers up to 100 and multiples of 100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noun phrases with pre- and post-modification such as <i>fair-haired people with sensitive skin</i> • all cardinal numbers
Pronouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal - subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • object, reflexive 	
Possessives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possessive adjectives such as <i>my, your, his, her, its, our, their</i> • use of 's, s' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possessive pronouns such as <i>mine, yours, whose</i> 	

<p>Prepositions and prepositional phrases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • common prepositions such as <i>at, in, on, under, next to, between, near, to, from</i> • prepositional phrases of place, time and movement, such as <i>at home, on the left, on Monday, at six o'clock</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepositions of place, time and movement, such as <i>before, after, towards, up, down, along, across, in front of, behind, opposite</i> • prepositional phrases of place and time, such as <i>after dinner, before tea</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wide range of prepositions, such as <i>beyond, above, beneath, below</i> • prepositional phrases such as <i>in her twenties, of average height, in the top right-hand corner</i>
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Articles, determiners, adjectives, adverbs, intensifiers

	A1	A2	B1
		as A1 and in addition	as A2 and in addition
Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definite, indefinite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> definite article zero article with uncountable nouns definite article with superlatives use of indefinite article in definitions, such as an architect is a person who designs buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> definite article with post-modification, such as <i>the present you gave me</i>
Determiners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>any, some, a lot of</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>all, none, not (any), enough, (a) few, (a) little, many, more, most, much, no</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of determiners, eg <i>all the, most, both</i>
Adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> common adjectives in front of a noun demonstrative adjectives <i>this, that, these, those</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> order of adjectives comparative, superlative, regular and common irregular forms use of <i>than</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adjectives ending <i>-ed + -ing</i> such as <i>tired</i> and <i>tiring</i> comparative and superlative adjectives comparative structures, e.g. <i>as.....as</i>, <i>is the same as</i>, <i>not so....as...</i>, <i>looks like/is like</i>
Adverbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> simple adverbs of place, manner and time, such as <i>here, slowly, now</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> simple adverbs and adverbial phrases: sequencing, time and place, frequency, manner position of adverbs and word order of adverbial phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more complex adverbial phrases of time, place, frequency, manner, e.g. <i>as soon as possible</i>
Intensifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>very</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>really, quite, so, a bit</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of intensifiers such as <i>too, enough</i>

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Punctuation and spelling

	A1	A2	B1
		as A1 and in addition	as A2 and in addition
Punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of capital letters and full stops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of question marks, exclamation marks, use of comma in lists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of punctuation in formal and informal texts, such as dashes, brackets, bullet points, speech marks
Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct spelling of personal keywords and familiar words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct spelling of most personal details and familiar common words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct spelling of common words and key words relating to own work, leisure and study interests
Discourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sentence connectives: <i>then, next</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adverbs to indicate sequence (<i>first, finally</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> markers to indicate addition (<i>also</i>), sequence (<i>in the first place</i>), contrast (<i>on the other hand</i>) use of vague language (<i>I think, you know</i>)

8.5 Grammar – LTE (Writing) B2-C2 levels

	B2	C1	C2
	as B1 and in addition	as B2 and in addition	as C1 and in addition
Simple, compound and complex sentences with subordinate clauses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> word order in sentences with more than one subordinate clause <i>there had been</i> use of common conjunctions expressing contrast, purpose, consequence, condition, concession non-defining relative clauses defining relative clauses with <i>where, whose, when</i> defining relative clauses without relative pronouns participle clauses describing action with <i>-ing</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> word order in complex sentences, including order selected for emphasis <i>there could be/would be/should be</i> <i>could have/would have/should have</i> wider range of conjunctions including <i>on condition that, provided that</i> comparative clauses more complex participial clauses describing action with <i>-ed</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> full range of conjunctions

Verb forms

	B2	C1	C2
	as B1 and in addition	as B2 and in addition	as C1 and in addition
Verb forms	<p>Present/Past reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present perfect continuous <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verb forms 3rd conditional • verbs + (object) _ gerund or infinitive such as would like someone to do something, + suggest doing something • causative use of <i>have</i> and <i>get</i> • reported speech with a range of tenses • wider range of phrasal verbs such as <i>give up, put up with</i> • reported requests and instructions • question tags using tenses appropriate to this level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all verb forms active and passive <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>would</i> expressing habit in the past • mixed conditionals • reported speech with full range of tenses and introductory verbs • extended phrasal verbs such as <i>get round to, carry on with</i> • question tags using all tenses • imperative + question tag • contracted forms appropriate to this level 	

Modals, nouns, prepositions

	B2	C1	C2
	as B1 and in addition	as B2 and in addition	as C1 and in addition
Modals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ought to</i> (obligation) • negative of <i>need</i> and <i>have to</i> to express absence of obligation • <i>must/can't</i> (deduction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>should have/might have/may have/could have/must have</i> and negative forms of these • can't have, needn't have 	
Nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wider range of noun phrases with pre- and post-modification • word order of determiners, eg <i>all my books</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extended range of complex noun phrases 	
Prepositions and prepositional phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wider range of prepositions including <i>despite, in spite of</i> • collocations of verbs/nouns + prepositions such as <i>point at, have an interest in</i> • preposition + <i>-ing</i> form such as <i>after leaving</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preposition + having + past participle such as <i>having eaten</i> 	

Articles, determiners, adjectives, adverbs, intensifiers

	B2	C1	C2
	as B1 and in addition	as B2 and in addition	as C1 and in addition
Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> definite, indefinite and zero article with both countable and uncountable nouns in a range of uses 		
Adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> comparisons with <i>fewer</i> and <i>less</i> collocation of adjective + preposition such as <i>responsible for</i> 		
Adverbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adverbial phrases of degree, extent, probability comparative and superlative of adverbs 		
Intensifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wide range such as extremely, much, too 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collocation of intensifiers with absolute and relative adjectives such as <i>absolutely</i> <i>horrendous</i>. 	

Punctuation and Discourse

	B2	C1	C2
	As B1 and in addition	as B2 and in addition	as C1 and in addition
Punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple uses of commas • use of apostrophes for possession and omission • use of other punctuation to enhance meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate use of all punctuation 	
Discourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a range of discourse markers expressing addition, cause and effect, contrast (<i>however</i>), sequence and time (<i>at a later date</i>) • markers to structure written discourse (<i>In addition to this,</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a range of logical markers (in this respect, accordingly) • sequence markers (subsequently) • a wider range of discourse markers to structure formal and informal writing (<i>Further to this point,</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a full range of discourse markers adapted to context and register

9. Overview of Assessment for the LTE (Writing) test

9.1 Assessment of the LTE (Writing) test

All examiners are approved by LanguageCert and undergo rigorous and frequent training and moderation, to ensure that grades are awarded strictly in accordance with the CEFR levels and LanguageCert examination requirements.

The LanguageCert LTE suite of examinations is directly calibrated to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference produced by the Council of Europe

9.2 Marking criteria

In Task 1, there are 4 marking criteria (task fulfilment; grammar; vocabulary; organisation) with 4 marks per criteria resulting in a total of 16 marks. The levels of performance are:

0	Indecipherable, below A1
1	A1
2	A2
3	B1
4	B2 and above

In Task 2, there are 4 marking criteria (task fulfilment; grammar; vocabulary; organisation) with 5 marks per criteria resulting in a total of 20 marks. The levels of performance are:

0	A1
1	A2
2	B1
3	B2
4	C1
5	C2

9.3 Grading

Grades are established by adding together scores on the two Tasks. Out of a total of 36 marks, CEFR levels are indicated by the following cut-offs:

A1	4 marks
A2	10 marks
B1	18 marks
B2	26 marks
C1	30 marks
C2	34 marks

9.4 Results

Results are provided as an overall score out of 100. This LTE Writing test scale (0-100) is aligned to the six levels (A1-C2) of foreign language mastery as set out in the scale of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

LTE (Writing) Scaled Scores	
LTE (Writing) scaled score	CEFR Level
0 – 9	Below A1
10 – 19	A1
20 – 39	A2
40 – 59	B1
60 – 74	B2
75 – 89	C1
90 – 100	C2

10. Access Arrangements

LanguageCert’s Equality and Diversity Policy is in compliance with all current and relevant legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and requires all learners to have equal opportunity to access all qualifications and assessments. To ensure that test takers’ language ability is assessed fairly and objectively, LanguageCert provides access arrangements for test takers who have special requirements, including specific learning difficulties, hearing or visual difficulties, impaired mobility and medical conditions.

Access arrangements ensure that test takers receive recognition of their achievement so long as the equity, validity and reliability of the assessments can be assured. Such arrangements are not concessions to make an assessment easier for test takers, but to meet their particular needs without affecting the integrity of the assessment. All LanguageCert approved test centres work in tandem with LanguageCert, so that LanguageCert qualifications and assessments do not bar test takers from taking them. The principles and guidelines according to which test centres are expected to operate are included in the LanguageCert Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations Policy document, and can be found at languagecert.org.

Reasonable adjustments are approved before the exam takes place. As the needs and circumstances of each test taker are different, LanguageCert will consider requests for reasonable adjustments on a case-by- case basis. Moreover, special considerations can be applied after an assessment if there was a reason the test taker may have been indisposed at the time of the assessment. LanguageCert’s decision to award special considerations will be based on various factors such as the severity of the circumstances and the nature of the assessment. The specific timeframes to apply for reasonable adjustments and special considerations can be found in the LanguageCert Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations Policy document at languagecert.org.

Tabulated below are the access arrangements for each LTE (Writing) exam format.

Access Arrangement	Definition	Writing	
		Paper-based	Computer based
Extra Time	Test takers normally receive additional time of up to 25% of the standard duration of a test session.	Yes	Yes
Separate exam room	Test takers take the exam in a separate room to reduce external distractions.	Yes	Yes
Reader	A Reader is a person who reads the exam instructions and questions to the test taker.	Yes	Yes
Scribe	A Scribe is a person who writes down the test taker’s dictated answers.	Yes	Yes
Sign Language Interpreter	To sign the questions.	Yes	Yes
Transcript	Where the candidate’s handwriting is illegible.	Yes	N/A

Braille or Modified question papers	A range of formats are available, including Large Print and a Braille version of the test.	Yes	N/A
Practical Assistant	A practical assistant is a person who helps with practical tasks not related to the test.	Yes	Yes
Supervised rest breaks	Test takers may leave the exam room if necessary, but they must be supervised at all times.	Yes	Yes

Note that a reasonable adjustment may be unique to that individual and may not be included in the list of available access arrangements. For information on arrangements not listed here, please contact LanguageCert through the “Contact us Guide”.

11. Resources and Support

A wide range of practice materials and resources (i.e. lesson plans, classroom activities, sample papers, teacher’s guide, etc.) along with valuable information about the content and format of the LTE (Writing) qualification are available at languagecert.org.

LanguageCert also offers a series of free interactive webinars which have been designed to help teachers prepare their students for their LTE (Writing) exams.

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