



SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI



DEPARTMENT FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

STANDARDIZED TEST OF BULGARIAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

EXPLANATION OF THE EXAMINATION RESULTS

DEVELOPED BY

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The results from the Standardised Test of Bulgarian examination are presented in form of:

- oral exam grade (result of the assessment of speaking);
- written exam grade (the average of listening, reading and writing assessment grades);
- final exam mark (combining 25% of the oral and 75% of written exam grades);
- verbal description of examinee’s communicative skills in terms of CEFR Can-Do statements.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSESSMENT

Available examination levels according the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR):

- for young learners: A1, A2
- for upper secondary, college and university students and adults: A2, B1, B2, C1, C2

At each examination level (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) the four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) are tested independently with equal weights (25%) at the same competence level.

The grading is according to the officially accepted system of assessment in the Republic of Bulgaria six-grade scale with the highest grade “Excellent 6” and the lowest pass grade “Satisfactory 3”.

Correspondence between Verbal, Numeric and American grades is as follows:

Numeric	Verbal	American
2.00 – 2.99	Fail	F
3.00 – 3.49	Satisfactory	D
3.50 – 4.46	Good	C
4.50 – 5.49	Very Good	B
5.50 – 6.00	Excellent	A

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION LEVELS AND RESULTS

CERF A1 LEVEL ASSESSMENT – MINIMUM SEAL OF BILITERCY LEVEL FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

The four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) are tested independently with equal weights (25%) at the same competence level A1.

The pass grade (satisfactory, 3) for each skill means that candidate has the “minimally acceptable competence” for this skill at the level being tested, e.g. A1.

The other exam grades indicate the following: the higher the exam grade the more competent is the candidate staying within the tested CEFR level, e.g. A1.

According to ACTFL competence scale the exam results may be interpreted depending on the exam grade as follows:

grade band 3.00 – 4.49

grade band 4.50 – 6.00

receptive skills (listening and reading)

NOVICE HIGH

INTERMEDIATE LOW

productive skills (speaking and writing)

NOVICE HIGH

NOVICE HIGH

SKILLS TESTED AND TEST TASKS

Speaking

10 minutes live conversation on the following topics: my pets, on the street, shopping, my house

Listening

4 listening tasks – listening to 3 dialogs and a song for identifying words, people, events, facts

Reading

4 reading task – reading short texts (3 – 5 simple sentences) for word definition, completing a dialog, gap filling

Writing

Providing short answers – words or short simple sentences

Gap filling (words only)

Scrambled words

BENCHMARKS OF CANDIDATE’S ABILITIES AT CEFR LEVEL A1:

- Can understand and use familiar concrete everyday expressions and very basic phrases.
- Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has.
- Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

CERF A2 LEVEL ASSESSMENT – MINIMUM SEAL OF BILITERACY LEVEL FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

The four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) are tested independently with equal weights (25%) at the same competence level A2.

The pass grade (satisfactory, 3) for each skill means that candidate has the “minimally acceptable competence” for this skill at the level being tested, e.g. A2.

The other exam grades indicate the following: the higher the exam grade the more competent is the candidate staying within the tested CEFR level, e.g. A2.

According to ACTFL competence scale the exam results may be interpreted depending on the exam grade as follows:

<u>grade band 3.00 – 4.49</u>	<u>grade band 4.50 – 6.00</u>
receptive skills (listening and reading)	
INTERMEDIATE MID	INTERMEDIATE MID
productive skills (speaking and writing)	
INTERMEDIATE LOW	INTERMEDIATE LOW

SKILLS TESTED AND TEST TASKS

Speaking

Short interview

Role playing in a communicative situation

Narration – short monologue describing event, people, object, place

Commenting a picture

Listening

Listening for main idea -YES/NO questions

Listening for specific information

Listening for detailed information

Listening to infer intention

Reading

Expeditious reading for gist

Expeditious reading for details

Careful reading - locating, identifying, understanding facts

Careful Reading - understanding grammar and common language structures.

Writing

Fill in missing letters in a word

Fill-in short questionnaire

Gap filling (missing words in a text)

Writing a short picture story

BENCHMARKS OF CANDIDATE’S ABILITIES AT CEFR LEVEL A2:

- Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, school life).
- Can communicate in simple and routine tasks and exchange information on familiar and routine matters.

- Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

CERF B1 LEVEL ASSESSMENT – MIMIMUM REQUIRED SEAL OF BLILITERACY LEVEL FOR 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

The four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) are tested independently with equal weights (25%) at the same competence level B1.

The pass grade (satisfactory, 3) for each skill means that candidate has the “minimally acceptable competence” for this skill at the level being tested, e.g. B1.

The other exam grades indicate the following: the higher the exam grade the more competent is the candidate staying within the tested CEFR level, e.g. B1.

According to ACTFL competence scale the exam results may be interpreted depending on the exam grade as follows:

<u>grade band 3.00 – 4.49</u>	<u>grade band 4.50 – 6.00</u>
receptive skills (listening and reading)	
INTERMEDIATE HIGH	ADVANCED LOW
productive skills (speaking and writing)	
INTERMEDIATE MID	INTERMEDIATE HIGH

NOTE:

1. The CEFR proficiency level B1 (ACTFL Intermediate level) is apparently matching the AP exam level 3 as required by California State Seal of Biliteracy program - see <https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/SealofBiliteracy-ComparisonofScales-TalkingPointsv3.pdf>

SKILLS TESTED AND TEST TASKS

Speaking

Interview
 Role playing in a communicative situation
 Narration (Long monologue)
 Commenting a picture

Listening

Listening for key message
 Listening for main idea(s) or important information
 Listening to infer opinion/attitude/intention
 Listening for detailed/specific information

Reading

Expeditious reading for details - names, figures, dates, any other surface-level information

Expeditious reading for gist

Careful Reading - locating, identifying, understanding facts, opinions, intentions, etc.

Careful Reading - understanding lexis - gap filling

Careful Reading - understanding grammar and common language structures

Writing

Writing a letter/e-mail to a friend (80 words)

Writing a message/article for a personal blog (120-130 words)

BENCHMARKS OF CANDIDATE’S ABILITIES AT LEVEL B1:

- Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in everyday life, school, leisure, etc.
- Can deal with most situations while travelling in an area where the language is spoken.
- Can produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of interest.
- Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

CERF B2 LEVEL ASSESSMENT – SUITABLE FOR 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

The four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) are tested independently with equal weights (25%) at the same competence level B2.

The pass grade (satisfactory, 3) for each skill means that candidate has the “minimally acceptable competence” for this skill at the level being tested, e.g. B2.

The other exam grades indicate the following: the higher the exam grade the more competent is the candidate staying within the tested CEFR level, e.g. B2.

According to ACTFL competence scale the exam results may be interpreted depending on the exam grade as follows:

grade band 3.00 – 4.49

grade band 4.50 – 6.00

receptive skills (listening and reading)

ADVANCED MID

ADVANCED MID

productive skills (speaking and writing)

ADVANCED LOW

ADVANCE MID

NOTE:

The CEFR proficiency level B2 apparently corresponds to AP level 4+ - see

<https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/SealofBiliteracy-ComparisonofScales-TalkingPointsv3.pdf>

SKILLS TESTED AND TEST TASKS

Speaking

Interview

Role playing in 2 communicative situations
Narration (Long monologue)
Commenting a picture

Listening

Listening for key message
Listening for main idea(s) or important information
Listening for specific information
Listening to infer the speaker's opinion/attitude/intention.

Reading

Expeditious reading for details – locating names, figures, dates, any other surface-level information
Expeditious reading for gist - Identifying text purpose, intended audience and format
Careful Reading - locating, identifying, understanding facts, opinions, moods, intentions, etc.
Careful Reading - understanding lexis - gap filling, identifying the meaning of words and expressions
Careful Reading - understanding grammar and some common language structures and idioms.

Writing

Writing a short article/publication in a blog expressing personal opinion and argumentation
“pro” and “con” different views on a subject (about 150 words)
Writing an argumentative text describing personal point of view, experience or recommendations on a subject (about 150 words)

BENCHMARKS OF CANDIDATE'S ABILITIES AT CEFR LEVEL B2:

- Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialization.
- Can interact with fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party.
- Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

SAMPLE CERTIFICATE

SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"
DEPARTMENT FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

European Certificate Transcript
CERTIFICATE OF LANGUAGE
PROFICIENCY

Register number 125-EC
December 12, 2017
(date)



(signature)

████████████████████
(name and surname)

date of birth **August 12, 1999**

state of birth ██████████

has passed an exam in **BULGARIAN LANGUAGE**

(CEFR) Level B2

Final grade **VERY GOOD** **5.40**
(verbal) (numeric)

Head of the Department:

Associate Professor, Dr. S. HALACHEVA

The officially accepted system of assessment in the Republic of Bulgaria is the six-grade scale with the highest grade "excellent 6" and the lowest pass grade "satisfactory 3".

№	Name of the examination	GRADES	
		verbal	numeric
1.	BULGARIAN LANGUAGE WRITTEN EXAM	VERY GOOD 5.20	
2.	BULGARIAN LANGUAGE ORAL EXAM	EXCELLENT 6.00	

CEFR – the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
ALTE – the Association of Language Testers in Europe

CEFR (ALTE) Level B2 Interpretation in terms of CEFR can-do statements

The owner of this certificate in *Bulgarian Language Vantage (or Upper Intermediate) Level B2* has the following communicative skills:

- **Listening and speaking:** Can understand messages and instructions related to routine activities, professions or education. Can easily lead a spontaneous, natural and fulfilling conversation on a large variety of topics related to everyday life, specialization courses or professions. Can express an opinion on topical issues; discuss problems in a lucid and detailed manner and point out advantages and disadvantages when describing different options.
- **Reading:** Can follow the essentials of complex texts on concrete or abstract topics. Can extract both general and specific information from long texts related to preferred and familiar subjects.
- **Writing:** Can write informal and formal letters. Can take notes and describe objects, places, people and events.

Sofia, December 12, 2017
Based on the Bulgarian original

MATERIALS DEVELOPED BY:

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