

# English Communication Skills Test (Total time: 1 hour 50 minutes)

## 1. Aptis General Core Test (Time: 25 minutes)

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.

Part	Description
<b>Part 1: Grammar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ In this part of the test, you will answer 25 questions.</li><li>▪ 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).</li><li>▪ All 25 questions are multiple choice with three options.</li><li>▪ Complete a sentence by choosing the correct word.</li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ To know which parts of grammar are tested, see the British Council/ EAQUALS core inventory. This is free and available online at: <a href="https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/british-council-eaquals-core-inventory-general-english">https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/british-council-eaquals-core-inventory-general-english</a></li><li>▪ One great way to prepare for the grammar test is to use the British Council's LearnEnglish website: <a href="https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar">https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar</a></li></ul>
<b>Part 2: Vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ There are 25 questions in this part of the test. There are a number of question types:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Word matching:</b> find a word with a meaning similar to the target word.</li><li>– <b>Word definition:</b> match a definition to the correct word.</li><li>– <b>Word usage:</b> complete a sentence by choosing the correct word.</li><li>– <b>Word pairs or word combinations:</b> select the most common combinations of words.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ To help you prepare for this part of the test, the LearnEnglish website has games and activities to help you improve your vocabulary: <a href="https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary">https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary</a></li><li>▪ Another useful tip is to take note of interesting words or word combinations when you read English texts.</li></ul>

## 2. Aptis General Reading test (Time: 35 minutes)

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

Part	Description
<b>Part 1: Sentence comprehension</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ In this part, you need to choose a word (choice of three) to complete a sentence. There are five sentences to complete.</li><li>▪ You do not need to understand all of the sentences to complete each individual sentence.</li><li>▪ This part assesses your ability to read a sentence and to complete it with an appropriate word.</li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Make sure you read each sentence and all of the possible answer words carefully before trying to answer this question.</li><li>▪ The best way to become a better reader is to practise. Easy books written especially for English language learners might help.</li></ul>
<b>Part 2: Text cohesion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ In this part, there are two tasks. Both have six sentences that make a whole text.</li><li>▪ The sentences have been put into the wrong order and you need to put them 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.</li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ Read all the sentences carefully first. Then, decide on the correct order (the first sentence is identified for you).</li></ul>
<b>Part 3: Opinion matching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ This part tests your ability to read and understand short texts.</li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read over all four options before attempting the questions.</li></ul>
<b>Part 4: Long text comprehension</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 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.</li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read the whole text quickly. 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.</li></ul>

### 3. Aptis General Writing test (Time: 50 minutes)

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.

Part	Description
<b>Part 1: Word-level writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ If you are targeting a high score, you should spend no more than three minutes on this part.</li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The focus is on communication (this means spelling, capitalisation, and grammar will not be considered by the markers).</li></ul>
<b>Part 2: Short text writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ If you are targeting a high score, you should spend no more than seven minutes on this part.</li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 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.</li></ul>
<b>Part 3: Three written responses to questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ In this part, you will have a social network-type interaction. You will receive three questions to which you need to respond.</li><li>▪ If you are targeting a high score, you should spend no more than ten minutes on this part.</li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ Keep to the word count of 30-40 words per answer.</li></ul>
<b>Part 4: Formal and informal writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ This part requires that you write two emails:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) an informal email to a friend; and</li><li>2) a more formal email to an unknown person.</li></ol></li><li>▪ Both emails are in reaction to information about a change. You should spend all of your remaining time on this part (around 30 minutes).</li></ul> <p><i>Preparation tips:</i></p> <p>Keep to the word count of 40-50 words for the first email and 120-150 words for the second email.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>