

About BULATS: a brief overview of the exam

What is BULATS?

- BULATS stands for the Business Language Testing Service. It helps companies and organisations find out the level of language skills among staff and job applicants.
- BULATS assesses language skills which are needed for the workplace and in training situations.
- BULATS can be used as a progress test, to monitor language improvement.
- BULATS offers the Standard test, the Computer-based test, the Speaking test and the Writing test.
- BULATS candidates usually choose either the Standard or the Computer-based test, and then decide whether they will also take the Speaking test and/or the Writing test.
- BULATS is available as a test of English, French, German and Spanish.
- You are strongly recommended to visit www.bulats.org. The information on this official website is comprehensive and up-to-date.

What level is BULATS?

- BULATS tests language at all levels of ability.
- BULATS gives candidates a score in one of six bands (there isn't a 'pass mark').
- BULATS bands are linked to ALTE (Association of Language Testers in Europe) and CEF (Council of Europe Framework) levels.

ALTE Levels	Council of Europe (CEF) Levels	BULATS scores	Level Description	Cambridge ESOL certificated examinations at these levels
Level 5	C2	90–100	Upper Advanced	CPE
Level 4	C1	75–89	Advanced	CAE, BEC Higher
Level 3	B2	60–74	Upper Intermediate	FCE, BEC Vantage
Level 2	B1	40–59	Intermediate	PET, BEC Preliminary
Level 1	A2	20–39	Elementary	KET
Level 0	A1	0–19	Beginner	–

The Standard test

- The Standard test takes 110 minutes and contains a total of 110 questions.
- It tests listening and reading skills and also knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.
- The table shows the parts and sections into which the test is divided.

Skill	Parts & Sections	Type of task	Number of Questions
Listening *	Part 1	Short conversations or monologues; 3-option multiple choice questions.	10
	Part 2 (3 sections)	Short conversations or monologues; filling in missing information in notes, etc.	12
	Part 3 (2 sections)	Five different monologues; matching statements, opinions, etc.	10
	Part 4 (3 sections) *	Longer monologue or discussion; 3-option multiple choice questions.	18
Reading and Language Knowledge	<u>Part 1</u>		
	Section 1*	Reading. Short texts (notices, messages, timetables, adverts, leaflets, graphs, etc); 3-option multiple choice questions.	7
	Section 2*	Grammar and vocabulary. Sentences with 4-option multiple choice to fill the gap.	6
	Section 3*	Reading. Longer text (article, advert, leaflet, etc) with 3-option multiple choice questions.	6
	Section 4*	Grammar. Shorter text with gaps to be filled with grammatical words.	5
	<u>Part 2</u>		
	Section 1	Reading. Four shorter texts with sentences to match.	7
	Section 2*	Vocabulary. Shorter text with 4-option multiple choice questions to fill gaps.	5
	Section 3*	Grammar. Shorter text with gaps to be filled with grammatical words.	5
	Section 4*	Grammar and Vocabulary. Sentences with 4-option multiple choice to fill the gap.	6
Section 5*	Reading. Longer text (article, report, etc) with 4-option multiple choice questions.	6	
Section 6	Grammar and vocabulary. Short text with errors to find and correct.	7	
Total			110

The Computer-based test

- The Computer-based BULATS is a version of the Standard test that is taken on a computer. It uses many of the tasks that are used in the Standard test. These are indicated * in the table showing the Standard test above.
- The Computer-based test responds to your performance, so the particular number and sequence of tasks you do in the test will be special to you. However, you can prepare for the tasks in the same way as for the Standard test.

The Speaking test

- The Speaking test has three parts.
- In Part 1, you answer questions about yourself and your work and interests.
- In Part 2, you choose a topic from a list you are given and give a short presentation.
- In Part 3, you ask questions in a role-play situation and have a discussion on the topic.

The Writing test

- The BULATS Writing test lasts for 45 minutes.
- In Part 1, you write a short (50 – 60 words) message or letter using the information you are given.
- In Part 2, you write a report or letter (180 – 200 words) following the instructions you are given.