

The Test of Interactive English, C2 Level

Qualification Structure

The Test of Interactive English consists of two units:

Unit Name
Spoken Test of Interactive English
Written Test of Interactive English

Each Unit is assessed via a separate examination, set, and marked externally by Gatehouse Awards.

Unit Name	Examination Title
Spoken Test of Interactive English	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
Written Test of Interactive English	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2

Candidates must achieve a grade of at least C2 level in each examination in order to achieve the overall qualification at C2 Level.

Overview of Candidate Knowledge, Skills and Understanding at C2 level

Unit: Spoken Test of Interactive English

The Candidate can:	Criteria met/assessed in:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> converse comfortably and appropriately, unhampered by any linguistic limitations in conducting a full social and personal life. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hold his/her own in formal discussion of complex issues, putting an articulate and persuasive argument, at no disadvantage to native speakers. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep up his/her side of the dialogue extremely well, structuring the talk and interacting authoritatively with complete fluency as interviewer or interviewee, at no disadvantage to a native speaker. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> give clear, smoothly flowing, elaborate and often memorable descriptions 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> present a complex topic confidently and articulately to an audience unfamiliar with it, structuring and adapting the talk flexibly to meet the audience's needs. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> handle difficult and even hostile questioning 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> substitute an equivalent term for a word he/she can't recall so smoothly that it is scarcely noticeable 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> backtrack and restructure around a difficulty so smoothly the interlocutor is hardly aware of it. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> substitute an equivalent term for a word he/she can't recall so smoothly that it is scarcely noticeable 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> backtrack and restructure around a difficulty so smoothly the interlocutor is hardly aware of it. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use a good command of a very broad lexical repertoire including idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms; shows awareness of connotative levels of meaning. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain consistent grammatical control of complex language, even while attention is otherwise engaged (e.g. in forward planning, in monitoring others' reactions). 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistently use correct and appropriate vocabulary. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vary intonation and place sentence stress correctly in order to express finer shades of meaning. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows great flexibility reformulating ideas in differing linguistic forms to give emphasis, to differentiate according to the situation, interlocutor etc. and to eliminate ambiguity. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> convey finer shades of meaning precisely by using, with reasonable accuracy, a wide range of qualifying devices (e.g. adverbs expressing degree, clauses expressing limitations). 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> give emphasis, differentiate and eliminate ambiguity. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> express him/herself at length with a natural, effortless, unhesitating flow. Pauses only to reflect on precisely the right words to express his/her thoughts or to find an appropriate example or explanation. 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand any native speaker, even on abstract and complex topics of a specialist nature, beyond his/her own field 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> follow specialist lectures, presentations or conversations employing a high degree of colloquialism, regional usage or unfamiliar terminology 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand with ease virtually everything heard 	Spoken Test of Interactive English B2-C2

Unit: Written Test of Interactive English

The Candidate can:	Criteria met/assessed in:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand complex and specialised reports, literary works, discussion papers and correspondence 	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> produce clear, smoothly flowing, complex reports, articles or essays which present a case, or give critical appreciation of proposals or literary works 	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write clear, smoothly flowing, and fully engrossing stories and descriptions of experience in a style appropriate to the genre adopted 	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> produce writing orthographically free of error 	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> create coherent and cohesive text making full and appropriate use of a variety of organisational patterns and a wide range of cohesive devices 	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> convey finer shades of meaning by using, with reasonable accuracy, a wide range of qualifying devices 	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> give emphasis, differentiate and remove ambiguity 	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use a good command of a very broad lexical repertoire including idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms, shows awareness of connotative levels of meaning 	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain consistent grammatical control of complex language. 	Written Test of Interactive English B2-C2

Topics and Text Types at C2 Level

At C2 Level, Candidates are expected to have reached a near native level of proficiency in English and as such there is no definitive list of topics and text types.

Candidates will encounter topics and texts which are both familiar and relevant to them as learners of English, as listed for C1 Level, as well as topics that are technical, abstract and unfamiliar to them, including classic and contemporary literary works.

The Candidate is able to understand with ease virtually everything heard or read and is able to summarise from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts and presenting them coherently.

At this level, the Candidate is expected to be able to express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely and should be able to differentiate finer shades of meaning even in complex situations.

Language Specification: C2 Level

At C2 Level, Candidates are expected to have reached a near native level of proficiency in English and as such there is no definitive list of grammar, functions and structures at this level.

The C1 Language Specification table can be used as a basis of initially assessing a Candidate's ability prior to undertaking a course of study at C2 Level. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a mastery of the language and be able to manipulate the language in order to respond to both explicit and implied meanings in a wide variety of contexts and settings which may be unfamiliar to them.

At this level, Candidates should express themselves appropriately and accurately for the intended purpose with ease, in the reception, interaction and production of language

Communicative Functions & Notions at C2

The C2 Candidate will be able to successfully perform all of the communicative functions and notions listed in the C1 Language Specification table, and:

- have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, even when delivered at fast, native speed
- read with ease virtually all forms of written language, including abstract, structurally or linguistically complex texts such as manuals, specialised articles and literary works
- effortlessly take part in conversation and discussion and have a good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms, expressing him/herself fluently and conveying finer shades of meaning
- backtrack and re-structure around any difficulties so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it
- express him/herself with clarity and precision, relating to the addressee flexibly and in an assured, personal style

- present clear, smoothly-flowing descriptions or arguments in a style appropriate to the context and with effective logical structures which help recipients to notice and remember significant points
- write clear, smoothly-flowing text in an appropriate style, including complex letters, reports or articles, and can present a case with an effective logical structure which helps recipients to notice and remember significant points
- write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works

Key Language Items at C2

At C2, Candidates are expected to have reached a near native level of proficiency in English and as such there is no definitive list of grammar, functions and structures.

The Key Language Items table in the C1 Language Specification table can be used as a basis of initially assessing a Candidate's ability prior to undertaking a course of study at C2 Level. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a mastery of all these key language items and be able to manipulate the language in order to respond to both explicit and implied meanings in a wide variety of contexts and settings which may be unfamiliar to them.