Gateway to a wider world

Real-world communication skills for success in higher education

euroexam international

Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to provide an overview of Euroexam International's educational services, its operations and some of the main features of the Euroexams. Staff at educational institutions companies, and government departments who use language tests to assess language competence will be able to understand how the Euroexams provide real-world language assessment that is authentic, fair and reliable.

Contents:

Gateway to a wider world

Euroexam International is a leading provider of language testing and educational services in Central and Eastern Europe. Established in 2000, its original remit was to develop public state-accredited language examinations in countries across the region. By providing a comprehensive range of support services, Euroexam International seeks to make the connections that lead young people towards success in education. Euroexam International is recognised by ministries, schools, universities and the broader English language teaching profession.

The Euroexam tests

The Euroexam tests are aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and are available at levels A1 to C1 in English and German language. Each test has four components and measures candidates' abilities in the main language skills: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. The tests have a task-based approach to language testing, where the candidate's ability to communicate in real-life situations is in focus, whatever his or her specific context – general, business and professional or academic – may be.

Test centre network

Today, 14 times a year, the Euroexams are offered through a growing network of 85 local testing centres across two continents at language schools, secondary schools and university departments. All local centres are certified as compliant with Euroexam International examination hosting procedures. Test centre staff receive on-going training and administrative support, and are subject to spot-checks and continual results analysis, ensuring the highest security standards are maintained.

The majority of the Euroexams are taken at CEFR levels B2 and C1. These candidates are primarily students, many of whom wish to follow their dreams and study abroad.

Student Enrolments from Central and Eastern Europe

	UK		Germany	
	2012	**2016**	**2012**	**2016**
First Degree	7,245	10,580	7,800	8,185
Post-graduates	2,580	3,765	3,300	3,465

> The Euroexams promote quality in language teaching by providing standardised assessment for the communicative classroom.

Educational support

Euroexam International publishes a range of Eurocity and Euroexpress preparation coursebooks as well as Practice Test Books. Students have free-of-charge access to a wide range of online preparation and support materials including Euroexam's award winning teacher-assisted e-learning course.

Working with teachers

Euroexam International understands the importance of working with language teachers, syllabus designers and teaching institutions to ensure that Euroexam assessment has a positive washback effect on teaching.

Euroexam International designs and delivers accredited teacher training courses, which have helped hundreds of teachers benefit from the task-based approach of the CEFR, and apply the underlying principles and aims in language teaching.

Euroexam test designers seek and value feedback from students and teachers to guarantee that the communicative focus of the exams is fine-tuned to the needs of today's learners.

Higher education application support

Many Euroexam Level B2 and C1 certificate holders seek opportunities in higher education outside their home country. As well as providing exam preparation support for 20,000 candidates and their teachers each year, Euroexam International operates **go2uni**, a Higher Education application support service, for students applying to university in the UK, Germany and other principal destinations.

For HE institutions, **go2uni** offers a cost-free introduction to Euroexam International's regional network of partner organisations and successful candidates looking for a gateway to a wider world.

Meeting requirements

Universities and other academic institutions use a number of methods to describe their language competence requirements for non-native prospective students. Some make explicit reference to several well-known international exams; others make reference to national school leaving exams. Each of these exams has a different approach to measuring language competence and employs different assessment methodologies, which complicates efforts to compare them directly.

However, the Common European Framework levels, against which all major exams have become aligned, now provide the common point of reference to support such comparisons.

Real-life communicative performance is at the heart of the Common European Framework. In 2001, the 'can-do' approach of the CEFR and its competency levels were adopted by Euroexam International as the foundation for the new exams. At that time, the Euroexams became the first international examination system for which the specification of levels, the exam tasks, the breakdown of certificate results and related course books and preparation materials all directly corresponded to the CEFR standard.

> Euroexam unites the expertise of communicative language teaching with the 'can-do' criteria of the Common European Framework and with cutting-edge psycholinguistic research.

Full consistency with Euroexam's CEFR-based assessment model is maintained by 16 years of continuing research and by the application of cutting-edge psycholinguistic analysis of candidate performance. Quality assurance processes are overseen by leading experts of the Euroexam International Academic Advisory Board.

CEFR		euroexam international	IELTS	TOEFL iBT	Trinity	Cambridge	CEFR	
P R O F I C I E N T	**C2** Mastery		9.0 8.5 8.0	118 115 110		220 210 200	**C2** Mastery	
	C1 Op. Prof.	Distinction — Euroexam Level C1	7.5 7.0 6.5	102 94 79	ISE I.	190 180	**C1** Op. Prof.	
I N D E P E N D E N T	**B2** Vantage	Distinction — Euroexam Level B2	6.0 5.5	60 46	ISE II.	170 160	**B2** Vantage	
	B1 Threshold	Distinction — Euroexam Level B1	5.0 4.5 4.0	35 32	ISE III.	150 140	**B1** Threshold	
B A S I C	**A2** Waystage	Distinction — Euroexam Level A2			ISE Found-ation	130 120	**A2** Waystage	
U S E R	**A1** Break-through	Distinction — Euroexam Level A1				110 100	**A1** Break-through	

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Assessing real-world skills

Euroexam testing closely reflects the CEFR's action-oriented model of language use and language learning. The Euroexam approach recognises the competences and strategies a language user engages in, with productive and receptive activities as part of interaction – whether written or face-to-face.

Achieving authenticity is at the heart of the Euroexam test development processes, both regarding the situation and the required interaction. Without exception in the Euroexams, all tasks reflect real-life communicative activities. Testing candidates' underlying knowledge of the systems of language and its structures is systematically integrated into productive skills testing. Based on research into effective teaching and learning, Euroexam International's skills-based approach to language testing results in the more authentic reporting of communicative skills in exam results.

It is equally important, however, that students are also more motivated and perform better when facing relevant contexts in fair and challenging tests throughout their exam.

▟ Transparent procedures meeting international standards

A reliable and fair exam is more than just a set of good tests written by international experts with a thorough background in teaching. The security procedures governing Euroexams are fully transparent:

▰ All written exam scripts are returned to the Euroexam Centre for marking by independent examiners

▰ Speaking tests are recorded for marking by accredited oral examiners

▰ Euroexam Local Testing Centres are closely supervised and are subject to visits several times a year by representatives of both the Euroexam Centre and accreditation bodies. Regular visits ensure all security standards are maintained and quality procedures are strictly adhered to.

In these ways the Euroexams have proven themselves to be fair, impartial and secure.

The tests in context

The Euroexams certify candidates' language proficiency within a range of contexts. These contexts include a professional environment and for academic study; work and learning are the most common reasons for people sitting language exams.

The Euroexams, which focus on communication skills and are based on widely accepted international standards in language testing, provide a fair and accurate assessment of test-takers' language skills. The Euroexams are provided at all levels from A1 to C1, that is from Breakthrough to Operational Proficiency.

Test takers can choose from Euroexam General Language Tests, EuroPro for Business and Professional purposes and Euroexam Academic. All three suites of the Euroexams share a similar structure, in which the four language skills are assessed independently in separate papers.

Euroexam General Language Tests

The Euroexam General Language Tests are ideal for those who want an examination which is recognised, and helps develop real-life language skills.

These tests meet the practical, everyday needs of language users in a multilingual world and assess their ability to communicate effectively in a real-life environment.

EuroPro for Business & Professional purposes

Focusing on typical business situations, the EuroPro tests are communicative exams testing all four language skills.

They meet the real-world needs of language users in a multilingual business and professional environment.

The EuroPro tests can currently be taken at three levels B1, B2 and C1 in English.

Euroexam Academic

The Academic tests are most useful for those who wish to apply to study in higher education where the medium of instruction is English.

The tests assess whether the university applicant is able to fulfil entry language requirements and commence a course of study in English. Available from 2018.
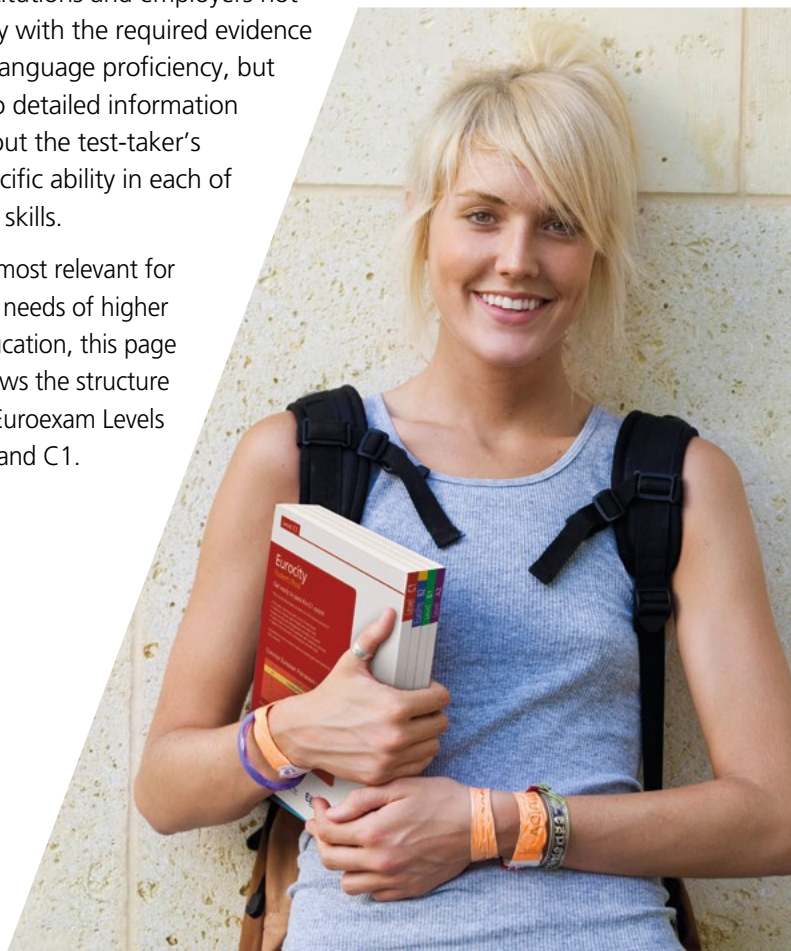
The test format

All the Euroexams focus on each language skill independently and assess candidates' ability to process information and to perform real-life communicative tasks in the target language, currently in English and German.

All papers of Euroexam tests contain domain-specific elements, which is reflected in the thematic choice of texts and the range of communication activities that the test-taker performs. Yet, despite the different vocabularies and genres, assessment is standardised to provide comparable results across the suites of examinations.

Scores for the four skills are reported separately on all Euroexam certificates, along with the final, overall score. This provides educational institutions and employers not only with the required evidence of language proficiency, but also detailed information about the test-taker's specific ability in each of the skills.

As most relevant for the needs of higher education, this page shows the structure of Euroexam Levels B2 and C1.

Reading

◤ Paragraph Headings

Reading often doesn't require understanding every detail and aspect of the text, but in picking up on the gist or general message. The Paragraph Headings task asks the candidate to determine the key information of each paragraph of the text, which is usually an article. Candidates must learn to find topic sentences in paragraphs and develop other gist reading skills.

◤ Scan Reading (B2) / Extended Reading (C1)

Often the purpose of reading is neither to understand the details of the whole text, nor the key message, but to find specific pieces of information. In Euroexam Level B2, candidates are presented with seven pieces of information to find in one of four texts. In Euroexam Level C1, the candidate is asked to indicate the location of factual information in a single extended academic text.

◤ Multiple-Choice Reading

After finding the relevant section of a text, an effective reader can gain an in-depth understanding of it through careful and intensive reading. In Euroexam Level B2 candidates have seven specific information questions, which require intensive reading of the text. In Euroexam Level C1, there are two texts of different academic genres and six questions.

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Listening

▰ Short Conversations

Irrespective of the context, general, corporate or academic, there is a wide range of situations in which dialogues take place. It is important that participants feel comfortable in these situations and can understand their partner's message. In this task, candidates listen to several dialogues and are tested on their ability to understand the main points, distinguish between fact and opinion and infer information not explicitly stated.

▰ Making Notes

Listening to formal talks and presentations is part of all students' life. An important listening skill is understanding the key points of an extended monologue, such as a lecture, and making a logical and coherent set of notes about them. In this task candidates are given skeleton notes and are asked to fill in gaps both summarising information and identifying key arguments.

▰ Radio Programme (B2) / Academic Meeting (C1)

Extended discussions and debates are common in educational settings, and understanding arguments in detail is an important skill. The task tests candidates' ability to extract the main ideas of the text, as well as understand detail and make appropriate interpretations of spoken text.

Writing

▰ Transactional Writing

This task has a transactional purpose and the candidate is presented with a real-life situation outlined in the rubric, as well as verbal and non-verbal prompts, such as notes, letters, graphs or charts. In addition to demonstrating appropriate language ability, the candidate must complete the task by writing coherently in the appropriate style.

▰ Discursive Writing

Formal or academic writing takes various forms: e.g. essays, articles, or reviews. Candidates need to plan an extended piece of writing, so it is logically structured and in an appropriate genre and style. In this task, a basic situation and context is provided, and the candidate is asked to compose a text in one of the three stipulated genres demonstrating their ability to structure ideas in a logical manner and construct arguments effectively.

Speaking

▰ Interview

Effective communicators need to be comfortable asking and responding to questions. In the introductory part of the test candidates engage in a conversation and show their ability to speak about a variety of topics and ask relevant questions to maintain the natural flow of the conversation.

▰ Picture Story (B2)

For this task, there is a 10-minute preparation time prior to the Speaking Test. Candidates tell a story based on a picture sequence to demonstrate their ability to organise their ideas logically and present them in a fluent and coherent manner.

▰ Presentation (C1)

Following the 10-minute preparation time, both candidates give a 2-minute formal presentation on the basis of a thesis statement ensuring that their delivery is linguistically accurate, coherent and well-articulated. During each presentation, the other candidate makes notes and then has a chance to make comments on or ask questions about the topic. Test-takers demonstrate their ability to open, develop and conclude a logically structured line of argument.

▰ Transactional Dialogues (B2)

B2 candidates receive role cards, prompting to pose a question or request to the examiner. The short conversations have varying degrees of formality, where appropriate register, range and functions must be used to achieve a specific transactional purpose.

▰ Discussion

On the basis of verbal and visual stimulus, candidates discuss an issue and work towards a negotiated solution using a variety of functions (convincing, eliciting, disagreeing, etc.).

> " We believe that effective everyday communication is at the heart of meaningful testing in all domains. "

Productive skills in focus

Meeting expectations and practical needs

Passing the Euroexam at a particular level demonstrates the test-taker's ability to communicate successfully and to perform tasks that occur in real life in a given domain. As each paper focuses on one of the four main communication skills, the reported scores provide a clear and detailed assessment of the test-taker's specific abilities.

The communicative needs of both the Euroexam test takers and the institutions that require proof of language proficiency have always been the first priority in the design of the Euroexams.

A college or university may want to see evidence of an applicant's skills in writing a formal article or argumentative essay, or in delivering a well-structured oral presentation as part of the Speaking test. In a business-corporate context expectations would not only differ in the choice of topics but also in the most typical communicative transactions.

Writing with a purpose

All Euroexam writing tasks have a clearly defined practical goal – whether the text is transactional or discursive in nature. In each task, the candidate engages with a communicative situation, which may entail a variety of intended audiences and levels of formality.

Most importantly, the motivation to write is central to the quality of the product, whether it is a letter of complaint, an article, or an online comment. This focus is also clearly reflected in the criteria that assessment is based on.

All Euroexam writing tasks take an action-oriented approach, which ensures that relevant content and the achievement of a successful communicative outcome have key importance. Beyond this, test-takers also demonstrate:

- sociolinguistic competence, including a sensitivity to the required level of formality and style,

- pragmatic competence, including text coherence and appropriate structure,

- linguistic competence, including the range of lexis and structures used.

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" Our vision is that students look forward to demonstrating their skills in motivating contexts, and in fair and challenging tests. "
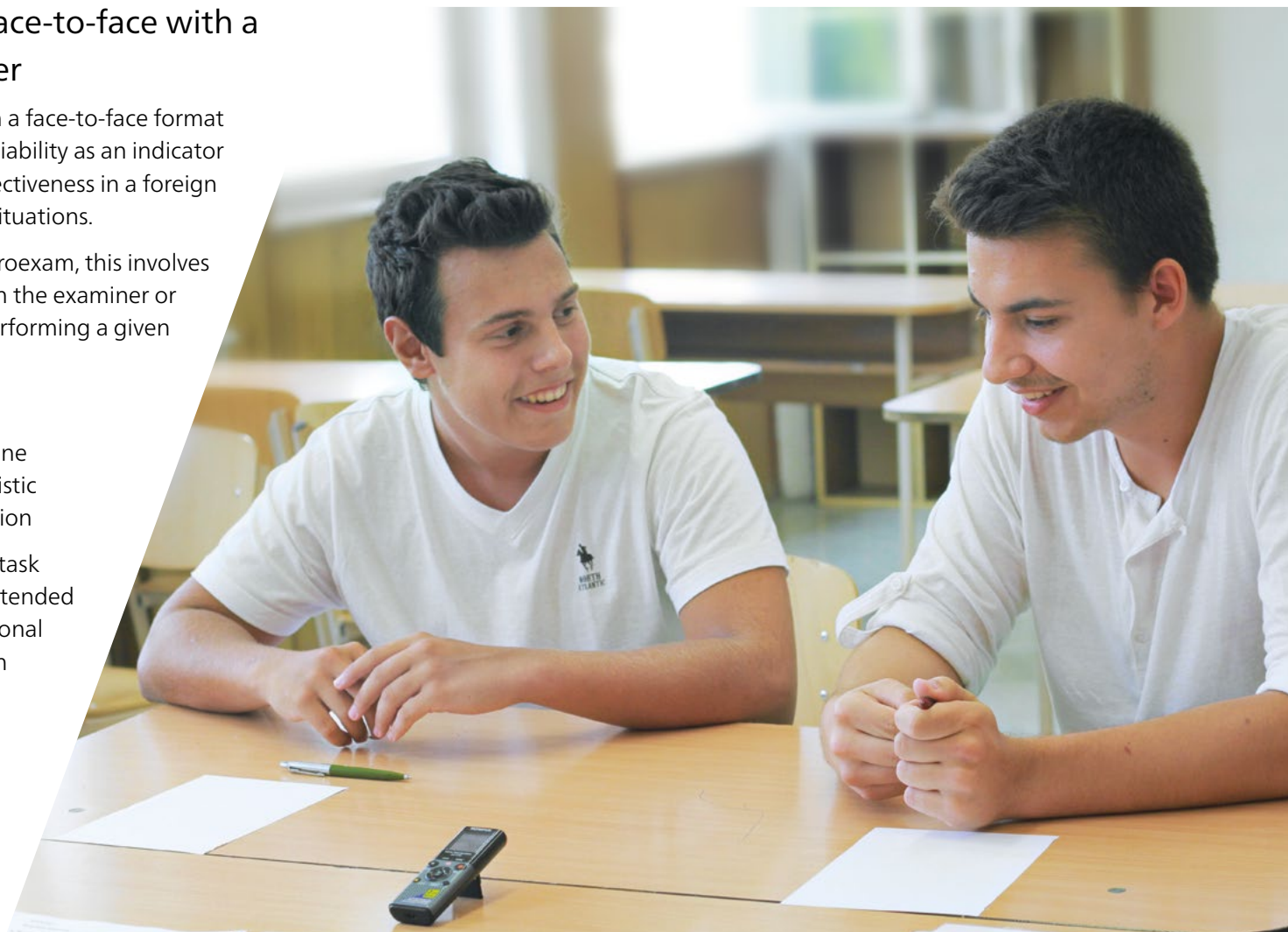
/ Speaking – face-to-face with a fellow test-taker

Speaking to people in a face-to-face format in a test adds to its reliability as an indicator of the test-takers' effectiveness in a foreign language in real-life situations.

In the context of a Euroexam, this involves interacting either with the examiner or a fellow candidate performing a given task.

This allows for:

- real-time and genuine engagement in a realistic communicative situation

- a greater variety of task types, including an extended monologue, transactional role-play and in-depth discussion

- more variety and a higher level of interaction

- more evidence of test-taker's skills

Test production

Euroexam International maintains the highest professional standards and produces examinations that do not discriminate against any group of language learners. No test-taker is put at a disadvantage by encountering questions or tasks which are biased in terms of cultural context or might cause offence.

Euroexam International's highly standardised and rigorous test production process ensures that all tasks are consistently reliable. As part of quality control, specialist review panels check the conformity of all test materials with the specifications, and make informed decisions which are based on detailed statistical information collected from pre-tests.

The seven stages of test production

1 Itemwriting

Item writers are commissioned to produce test questions on the basis of a running schedule. Regarding content and format, guidance is provided through Item writer's Guides and specifications.

2 Expert panel review I

The first stage of the review process ensures full conformity with the specifications (e.g. topic and complexity of the text, item level and focus). Item writers receive advice on revising the submitted material.

3 Amendments by item writer

Following amendments items are reviewed again and either approved for pre-testing or sent back for another round of revision.

4 Pre testing and statistical analysis

The new material is pre-tested on representative groups of learners who are preparing for a Euroexam test. The subsequent statistical analysis returns quantitative information about the difficulty of each item as well as its quality, i.e. to what extent it can distinguish between stronger and weaker test-takers.

5 Expert panel review II

The second stage of expert review uses the pre-test information to decide if the items can be used in live exams. If so, they are entered into the item bank.

6 Formatting and test assembly

Statistical data, as well as task topic and genre are taken into account to construct a test that is balanced and fair to the test-takers.

7 Final review before using test

The formatted papers are subject to a final check to ensure they are free of any printing or design errors.

Test delivery

In addition to production and assessment, delivery is also a vital part of the process to ensure that the Euroexams are administered fairly. Candidates can only take a Euroexam at an authorised test centre. Live exam material is delivered by secure post or courier and all Local Test Centres are required to follow a stringent security policy. Secure storage facilities are subject to regular inspections by the Euroexam Centre at every administration.

Euroexam administration procedure is governed by detailed regulations ensuring fair and secure test delivery throughout the Euroexam network of test centres. Our partners are responsible for administration and for providing appropriate facilities and the necessary personnel. Euroexam invigilators at all Local Test Centre must complete an accredited training course before fulfilling this role.

Availability

Tests are available in two formats: paper-based and online. This allows for a high degree of flexibility in offering the tests in more locations at on a range of test dates.

The current Euroexam calendar offers 14 test dates over the calendar year. Test locations are available in countries across Europe and Russia.

Tailor-made to meet local needs

While all Euroexam tests consist of four papers, the way scores are reported may differ in some countries due to local accreditation requirements or educational tradition. For example, so-called written (Reading and Writing) and oral (Listening and Speaking) sub-scores may also be reported.

Test centres have the opportunity to offer the exams on an on-demand basis outside the regular exam calendar.

Candidates with special needs

At Euroexam International it is a priority to assist candidates in accessing the tests with the least possible difficulty. Those with dyslexia or dysgraphia have specially-designed question and answer papers. Visually-impaired candidates may have the examination dictated to them and are allowed to use computers with a Braille keyboard. Invigilators are specifically trained to work with these candidates. Approximately 250 candidates with special needs sit the Euroexams each year.

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Test validity

Euroexam International employs a variety of methods to ensure that each actual test bears a high level of consistency with the test construct. This includes regular analysis of task content and statistical analysis of task and item performance.

Prior to each administration, the specific tasks, the instructions and the topics that appear in them are vetted to ensure a close fit with real-world contexts and the intended target language use. Using a greater variety of both task and text types provides more evidence of the test-taker's abilities, and makes the assessment fairer for the whole test-taking population.

Reliability of results

Marking system

To maintain a high level of standardisation in the assessment of candidates' work, all subjectively marked products are returned to the Euroexam Centre. These tasks are assessed by two trained and certificated examiners, who score the papers separately. Examiners use detailed Writing and Speaking assessment schemes that are linked into a coherent framework, so results can be meaningfully interpreted on a performance continuum.

The two receptive skills, Reading and Listening are assessed with objectively scored tests.

Statistical test equating

To guarantee the reporting of valid and reliable test scores, Euroexam International employs a variety of statistical analyses for each administration. These include standard Classical Test Theory methods, like calculating item-test correlations as well as applying Item Response Theory

using the OPLM model, where several test administrations are calibrated jointly to calculate reported scores. Euroexam has a sizeable bank of calibrated items, and common anchor tasks are selected based on item quality and difficulty. Statistical test equating ensures that the standard is the same through different testlets, guaranteeing fairness to all test-takers wherever or whenever they take the exam.

Ensuring examiner consistency

Examiner training

All examiners have appropriate Masters-level qualifications in TEFL/TESOL and considerable teaching experience. The 30-hour induction training consists of CEFR familiarisation, standardised use of the marking systems and standardised interlocution in the Speaking test.

Periodic monitoring

All Speaking test interlocutors are regularly observed by senior Euroexam trainers and receive written feedback on their performance.

Examiners must complete restandardisation training sessions successfully every two years to give evidence that they can apply the marking criteria accurately.

Security and certification

The Euroexam International security matrix ensures all aspects of the Euroexams are subject to internationally accepted security procedures.

Personnel	Candidate Registration	At the Exam	Test Material	Exam Material	Marking and Certification
Candidate	National issued photo ID required.	National photo ID checked against registration data. ID must be visible at all times. Unique barcode per candidate for answer papers. Exam rules visible and strictly followed at all times. Failure to follow rules will result in the disqualification of the candidate.			Barcode identification only.
Euroexam Int. Staff, developers and Examiners	Staff register candidates directly into the secure online database. Data taken directly from candidate photo ID.	Interlocutors sign declaration of no previous contact pertaining to all candidates. Can check candidate photo ID at any time. Completed papers sealed in front of candidates.	Writers and developers sign confidentiality agreements.		Interlocutor does not mark. Speaking test recorded and assessed by Euroexam examiners only.
Euroexam Partners	Test Centres register candidates directly into the secure online database. Data taken directly from candidate photo ID.	Examination room prepared in accordance with regulations. Only authorised equipment allowed in the exam room. All unauthorised electronic equipment removed.		Exam material collected by Test Centre by appointment on the day of the exam. Stored under tight security. Sealed answer sheet returned to Euroexam.	All marking takes place at Euroexam Int. premises by certified markers. Test Partners distribute results and certificates. Statistical analysis of results and answer papers follows each exam sitting.

Technical					
Contractual	All persons involved in candidate registration, the administration and/or delivery of the exams sign a confidentiality agreement.		Euroexam International owns full copyright of all exam material.		
Information Technology	Data stored centrally. Access limited to authorised staff. System logs.		Task and compiled exams stored on secure service. Access limited to Euroexam Int. authorised development staff.	Final exams stored on secure server. Access limited to Euroexam Int. authorised production staff.	Mark sheets and candidate answer sheets stored on secure server for 12 months. Candidate Results are kept for 10 years.
Transportation				Shipped by secure courier under full tracking. All question and completed answer papers returned to Euroexam via secure courier.	

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⧸ Euroexam International certificates

Euroexam International certificates document the result for each skill tested in the exam separately, along with the final, overall result. This provides educational institutions and employers not only with the required evidence of language proficiency, but also detailed information about the test-taker's specific ability in each of the skills.

The issuing of Euroexam International certificates is an integrated function of the candidate and test management system. As well as securely maintaining personal data and the detailed test results and analyses, the system has advanced built-in error discovery features that ensure that data duplication or mismanagement is easily detectable.

All examination certificates are authorised by the Euroexam Chief Examiner and carry unique identification codes. Euroexam International also provides a dedicated certificate authentication service for educational institutions and employers.

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Quality in research

Euroexam International participates in international research to contribute to the work of the global community of language testing professionals. Euroexam product development projects also involve local and regional educational institutions to enhance the quality of the Euroexam testing services as well as helping partner schools integrate communicative assessment in their curriculum.

Research outcomes underpin the validity, reliability and practical use of the Euroexam tests and enrich the wider discussion of contemporary issues in linguistics and language assessment by raising issues that may have relevance in other testing systems.

IN FOCUS – an international development project

Council of Europe Standardisation Project

In 2015, the Council of Europe invited Euroexam International and other leading institutions to participate in a Europe-wide project collecting highly standardised and reliable exam tasks as a reference for the professional community. In addition, in the same year, the Euroexam Academic Development team was invited to take part in a subsequent Council of Europe project to develop new calibrated level descriptors for 'Mediation', the new language skill to be included in the extended version of the Common European Framework.

IN FOCUS – an internal research project

Development of a novel method to assess writing products

As part of this two-year research project (2016-17), Euroexam International aimed to develop a tool that has the potential to increase the transparency and accountability of high-stakes tests. While in general testing practice rating scales in the assessment of the productive skills were designed to increase reliability by replacing the formerly applied impressionistic scoring, recent research has shown certain weaknesses of these scales and motivated the researchers to explore alternative methods. As the project outcome, a list of characteristic checklist statements was developed and has been demonstrated to constitute a viable way to enhance consistency between raters and the validity of scoring. The project paper was presented at the EALTA annual conference in June 2017.

Supporting students

Euroexam publications

Euroexam International publishes a wide range of support materials in both print and digital format. The Euroexpress exam preparation course book series not only provides step-by step development in all four language skills that enhances students' learning in general but also offers practice in those exam strategies that guarantee success. To complement the course books, complete sets of practice tests are also available. Both Eurocity course books and Practice Test Books are available from Local Testing Centres, bookshops and online.

Award winning e-learning courses

Future candidates – or any interested learner – have free-of-charge access to a wide range of online preparation and support materials including Euroexam International's award winning teacher-assisted e-learning course portfolio.

Following a placement test, students start a four-week intensive course, covering both language and exam skills, while receiving online guidance from experienced teachers. After six years of operation, the number of registered participants exceeded 100,000. Courses, provided free of charge, are managed by dedicated professional and technical staff working in the UK and Hungary.

Higher education application support

Many Euroexam level B2 and C1 certificate holders seek opportunities in higher education outside their home country. As well as providing exam preparation support for

20,000 candidates and their teachers each year, Euroexam International operates *go2uni*, its Higher Education application support service, which:

◢ provides guidance in choosing the right course, and finding the right university or college

◢ supports candidates in the application process

◢ arranges visits to overseas open days in co-operation with recruitment and admissions departments

◢ provides post-offer support, including financial planning and accommodation advice.

For participating HE institutions, *go2uni* offers a cost-free advanced introduction to Euroexam International's candidates looking for a gateway to a wider world.

Supporting teachers

The active involvement of the teaching community is a pivotal part of maintaining the highest standards in language testing for Euroexam International. Each academic year, a full events calendar provides teachers with the opportunity to participate and enhance their everyday classroom practice, debate key educational issues and share good practice.

Euroexam International works together with teachers who champion the implementation of skills-based, communicative teaching and testing. To facilitate this, Euroexam International provides a wide variety of training and other support services. The overarching aim of these services is to seamlessly integrate preparation for an external standardised assessment into students' everyday learning.

Working closely with language teachers also guarantees that Euroexam testing has a significant positive washback effect, leading to more effective language teaching

◢ Webinars

Euroexam webinars provide an excellent opportunity for teachers to access online professional development and find out more about the Euroexam tests – free of charge. The sessions give participants from around the world the opportunity to interact with others, to take part in virtual small-group activities, and to get a deeper understanding of communicative assessment.

Each webinar is presented by Euroexam testing experts, who can provide teachers with valuable information about the exams and enrich participants' methodological repertoire. All Euroexam webinars include a live question and answer session.

◢ Introduction to the CEFR and the Euroexams

This four-day series of practical workshops gives participants an introduction to Euroexam's approach to communicative testing. It builds on the CEFR as a framework on which teachers can base task design in the communicative language teaching context and produce their own formative and summative assessment tools. Preparing students successfully for a language exam requires a special range of teaching methods and a thorough understanding of the exam tasks and system of evaluation. The workshop makes use of modern teaching methodology with a problem-centred approach, where participants work on solutions together in a mini-project style setting. The main themes of the workshops are:

- ◢ the CEFR and standard setting
- ◢ task-based teaching and testing
- ◢ evaluation of sample test products

◢ Bespoke training for schools

Euroexam offers a complete package of tailor-made support services to English departments at schools. Based on an agreement that takes account of the school's specific context and needs, the programme includes tests integrated in the academic syllabus (diagnostic tests and mock exams) to prepare students for the live exam at the end of the school year. Besides the use of the Euroexam print preparation materials and the e-learning courses, schools can take advantage of a series of one-off workshops for students, presented by Euroexam trainers.

International partnerships

Euroexam International was conceived as an international partnership between experts in communicative teaching and testing professionals who are dedicated to academic excellence and educational achievement. Today, Euroexam test writers are based in the UK, Australia, the USA, Mexico and Central Europe guaranteeing a high level of cultural diversity and a global perspective in Euroexam International's tests.

Awards In 2001 Euroexam International was awarded the prestigious European Language Label for its "innovative approach in applying the Common European Framework in test development". Ten years later in 2011 Euroexam International received the European Language Label for the second time, awarded for its newly developed online examination preparation courses.

ALTE The Association of Language Testers in Europe, was founded in 1989 by the University of Cambridge and the University of Salamanca. Euroexam International has been an institutional affiliate member since 2017.

British Chamber of Commerce
In 2005, Euroexam International partnered the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain to develop a new set of Business English exams to replace the Chamber's own language examinations.

EALTA Euroexam International has been an institutional member of EALTA, the European Association for Language Testing and Assessment, since 2006.

Eaquals Euroexam International is an associate member of Evaluation and Accreditation of Quality Language Services, which advises the Council of Europe on language policy issues.

ICC The International Language Association e.V., which has a participatory status at the Council of Europe, provides services in certifying achievement in language learning, assuring the quality of language courses, offering guidelines for the evaluation of teaching institutions, and providing criteria for the evaluation of teaching materials and courses.

" Our mission is to provide reliable and fair exams which not only test students' ability to communicate, but also give a positive and motivating goal for students and their teachers to work towards. "

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