

ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



**ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking:
Aiming high!**



HELLENIC
AMERICAN
UNION

CENTER FOR
EXAMINATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS


ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

HellenicAmericanUniversity

ALCE C1-C2


Aiming high!

WRITING & SPEAKING

 HELLENIC AMERICAN UNION | CENTER FOR EXAMINATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



ALCE
Advanced Level
Certificate in English

ALCE C1-C2 Writing Presentation outline

- Test Format
- Assessment
- Tips

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High! 2



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

HellenicAmericanUniversity

Specifications

Argumentative essay based on prompts: Test takers choose one option from a choice of two possible tasks. They need to argue a case based on at least two of the prompts provided.



Duration: **45 min.**

Tasks: **2 (test takers choose 1)**

Words: **about 250**

Target level: **C1 (score: 8-10/15)**
or
C2 (score: 11+/15)

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High! 3





ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

Writing section sample

Test takers are given:

- a writing section answer sheet
- the Writing tasks

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!

Writing Section

Choose ONE of the two writing tasks. You should write at least 250 words. You have 45 minutes to complete the Writing Section. Your writing will be assessed on Task Completion, Organization, and Linguistic Resources.

Task A

In some countries around the world, students have to pay to attend higher education establishments. Some people believe that colleges require funding so as to maintain the quality of their degree programs. Others argue that higher education establishments are a public service and should be free to everyone. In your opinion, should students have to pay for higher education? Give reasons to support your views.

You *must* use at least two points from the box below to develop and support your opinion, but you can also add your own ideas.

For:
PAYING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

- Better facilities
- Funding to attract best faculty
- Incentive for careful choice of studies
- Respect for opinions of students

For:
FREE HIGHER EDUCATION

- Beneficial for lower income families
- Motivation for going to college
- No student debt
- Freedom to choose studies

Task B

Many young people devote much of their free time to playing video games. Some people believe that certain types of video games can create problems for adolescents and should be banned. Others maintain that video games with good content can educate adolescents. In your opinion, should specific kinds of video games be banned for adolescents? Give reasons to support your views.

You *must* use at least two points from the box below to develop and support your opinion, but you can also add your own ideas.

For:
BANNING SOME VIDEO GAMES

- Unsuitable content for age group
- Possible encouragement of violent behavior
- Addictive for vulnerable children
- Loss of face-to-face communication

For:
ALLOWING ALL VIDEO GAMES

- Difficulty of deciding what should be banned
- Freedom of choice a human right
- Parental control more important
- No difference from TV and movies



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

PROFICIENT USER

- C2** Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
- C1** Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

CEFR

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!



Writing section scoring rubrics

Test takers are assessed based on:

- Task Completion
- Organization
- Linguistic Resources

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!

REVISED ADVANCED LEVEL CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH
WRITING SECTION: SCORING RUBRICS

	Task Completion	Organization	Linguistic Resources
FOCUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance to the task • Elaboration • Style and format 	Text organization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherence • Cohesion 	Complexity & accuracy of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar & syntax • Vocabulary
5 HIGH PASS <i>Effective Writing</i>	Completes the task fully and relevantly, using the prompts provided. Effectively describes, supports, and expands at length. Consistently uses an appropriate style and format.	Text is fully coherent. Consistently uses cohesive devices in an effective manner to make the text flow smoothly.	Consistently uses a wide range of linguistic forms and structures effectively. Consistently maintains a high degree of grammatical and syntactical accuracy and consistently chooses appropriate vocabulary. Minor errors may occur.
4 PASS <i>Good Writing</i>	Develops the topic mostly effectively and relevantly, using the prompts provided. Mostly describes, supports, and expands at some length. Style and format are mostly appropriate.	Text is mostly coherent. Mostly uses cohesive devices effectively to achieve the smooth flow of the text.	Mostly uses a variety of structures and displays sufficient lexical range to accomplish the task. Mostly maintains a high degree of grammatical and syntactical accuracy and mostly chooses appropriate vocabulary. Some errors may occur in more complex structures, but mostly do not impede communication.
3 LOW PASS <i>Satisfactory Writing</i>	Develops the topic satisfactorily, using the prompts provided. Covers some aspects of the topic more effectively than others. Style and format are often appropriate.	Text is satisfactorily coherent. Often uses cohesive devices effectively to achieve the smooth flow of the text.	Often uses some variety of structures and displays sufficient lexical range to accomplish the task satisfactorily. Maintains a satisfactory degree of grammatical and syntactical accuracy and often chooses appropriate vocabulary. Errors may occur in simple and more complex structures, but rarely impede communication.
2 NARROW FAIL <i>Limited Writing</i>	Often does not develop the topic satisfactorily. Some ineffective use of the prompts or some misunderstanding of the task. Style and format are often not appropriate.	Lack of coherence may sometimes impede communication. Often uses a limited range of cohesive devices, which may often hinder the smooth flow of the text.	Often uses a limited variety of structures and displays a lack of lexical range. Errors occur in both simple and complex structures, which may often impede communication and some vocabulary may be inappropriately used.
1 FAIL <i>Ineffective Writing</i>	Mostly does not develop the topic satisfactorily. Mostly ineffective use of the prompts or misunderstanding of the task. Style and format are mostly not appropriate.	Mostly incoherent writing. Use of cohesive devices is very limited or inappropriate and hinders the smooth flow of the text.	Mostly uses a very limited variety of structures and displays a lack of lexical range. Errors frequently occur in simple structures, frequently impeding communication, while vocabulary may frequently be inappropriately used.



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

HellenicAmericanUniversity

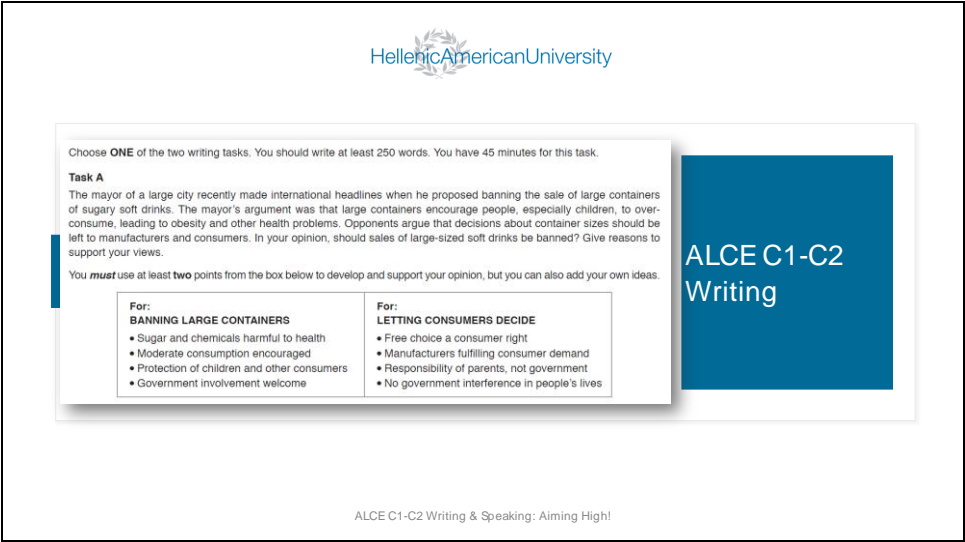
Sample task

ALCE C1-C2
Writing

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



The image shows a task card for the ALCE C1-C2 Writing test. At the top is the Hellenic American University logo. The main text asks the candidate to choose one of two writing tasks, with a 250-word minimum and a 45-minute time limit. The task is titled 'Task A' and describes a scenario where a mayor proposed banning large containers of sugary soft drinks. It asks the candidate to give reasons for or against the ban. A box on the right contains the text 'ALCE C1-C2 Writing'. Below the main text are two columns of bullet points representing arguments for and against the ban. At the bottom of the card, it says 'ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!'

Choose **ONE** of the two writing tasks. You should write at least 250 words. You have 45 minutes for this task.

Task A

The mayor of a large city recently made international headlines when he proposed banning the sale of large containers of sugary soft drinks. The mayor's argument was that large containers encourage people, especially children, to over-consume, leading to obesity and other health problems. Opponents argue that decisions about container sizes should be left to manufacturers and consumers. In your opinion, should sales of large-sized soft drinks be banned? Give reasons to support your views.

You *must* use at least **two** points from the box below to develop and support your opinion, but you can also add your own ideas.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>For:</p> <p>BANNING LARGE CONTAINERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sugar and chemicals harmful to health• Moderate consumption encouraged• Protection of children and other consumers• Government involvement welcome | <p>For:</p> <p>LETTING CONSUMERS DECIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free choice a consumer right• Manufacturers fulfilling consumer demand• Responsibility of parents, not government• No government interference in people's lives |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

ALCE C1-C2
Writing

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

Sample 1

As scientific knowledge progresses, governments are becoming increasingly aware of the impact certain products can have on people's well-being. As a result, a city mayor has put forward a proposal which would ban large containers of unhealthy soft drinks from being sold. In my opinion, this is an innovative idea that should undoubtedly be considered seriously.

To begin with, I think it is essential to state the obvious: sugar and other chemicals contained in those drinks are detrimental to one's health. In addition to that, children frequently seem to be the target of most sugary beverage sellers. Therefore, eliminating large drink containers would not only benefit adults, but it would additionally protect children and adolescents from developing significant health issues later in life.

To further support this proposal, I believe it is crucial to consider the way it encourages moderate consumption. For instance, when an individual is at a store, they are more likely to get one large can of soda rather than two smaller ones. Consequently, if the former is not available, that consumer would probably resort to purchasing one item in a small container, rather than spend more money to buy two.

Despite its positive impact, however, numerous concerns have been expressed on the mayor's proposal. Critics are of the opinion that protecting a child from overconsumption is not the government's responsibility. Instead, they suggest it is an issue that lies with the parents. While that is certainly true, people need to understand that adults also fall prey to marketing techniques, not just their offspring. When a customer notices that there is only a minor price difference between the small and large version of a product, they will definitely choose the latter.

In conclusion, I personally am in favor of this proposal. In spite of the existing concerns, I believe it is a great and ethical way of promoting a healthier lifestyle to young individuals and adults alike.

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

HellenicAmericanUniversity

Task Completion	Organization	Linguistic Resources
---	---	---

Sample 1 Scores

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

Sample 1

Task Completion	Organization	Linguistic Resources
5	5	5

Commentary:

- Completes the task fully and relevantly, using the prompts provided. Effectively describes, supports, and expands at length. *...sugar and other chemicals contained in those drinks are detrimental to one's health, ...eliminating large drink containers would not only benefit adults, but it would additionally protect children and adolescents from developing significant health issues later in life.*
- Text is fully coherent. Consistently uses cohesive devices in an effective manner to make the text flow smoothly. *To begin with, ... Therefore, ... To further support this proposal, ... Despite its positive impact, however, ... Instead, ... While that is certainly true, ... In conclusion, ... In spite of the existing concerns*
- Consistently maintains a high degree of grammatical and syntactical accuracy and consistently chooses appropriate vocabulary. Minor errors may occur. *this is an innovative idea that should undoubtedly be considered seriously, ... it is crucial to consider the way it encourages moderate consumption... adults also fall prey to marketing techniques... it is a great and ethical way of promoting a healthier lifestyle to young individuals and adults alike...*

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

Sample 2



Nowadays, people consume more than ever sugary soft drinks and so a mayor has suggested to ban large containers for beverages for health purposes as it leads to obesity and diabetes. My personal opinion on the topic is that it is not beneficial to ban these containers.

In my view, consumers have the right for free choice and do not need someone else to care and decide for them, unless they are children. But children have their parents to take care of them and make their decisions for them. Moreover, the manufacturer is fulfilling the consumers demand for the product and the government has no good reason to interfere between those two. The government should build training equipment in parks and at coasts to decrease the obesity rates and assist people to get healthy, instead of thinking that banning large containers would fix the problem.

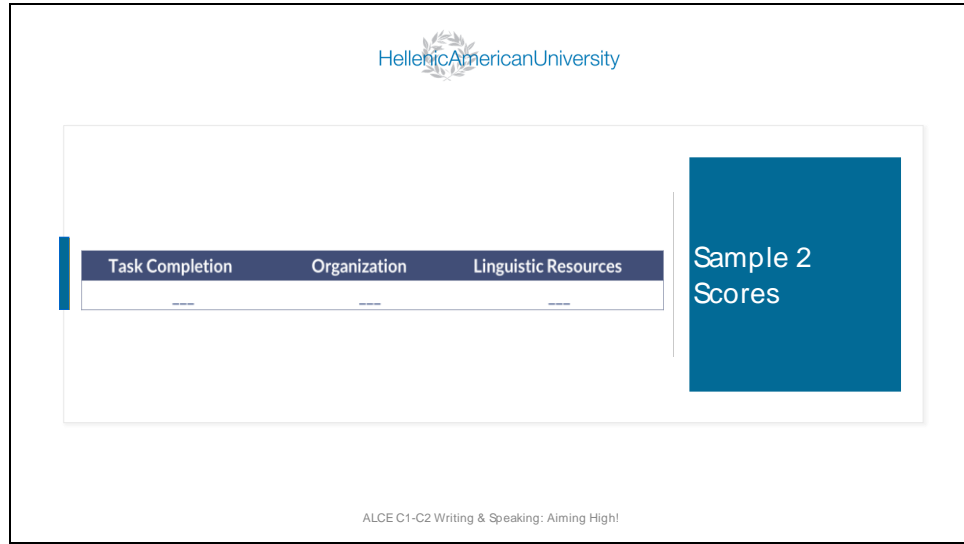
Furthermore, by banning large containers for beverages for obesity and health reasons, overweight people might get even more discouraged and fall into depression and get worse weightwise. It may cause them to close themselves into their rooms and become introverts because by saying publicly that you are banning large containers for obesity problems, people will immediately make the connection that being overweight is bad.

To sum up everything that has been said, when you are suggesting doing something as a mayor, you have to also think of the negative consequences that it will have on people's personal life. For this reason, I cannot support this proposal.

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test





ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

Sample 2

Task Completion	Organization	Linguistic Resources
3	3	3




Commentary:

- Develops the topic satisfactorily, using the prompts provided. *...consumers have the right for free choice and do not need someone else to care and decide for them... children have their parents to take care of them and make their decisions for them... become introverts because by saying publicly that you are banning large containers for obesity problems, people will immediately make the connection that being overweight is bad.*
- Text is satisfactorily coherent. Often uses cohesive devices effectively to achieve the smooth flow of the text. *In my view, But... Moreover... Furthermore...* (but connection is sometimes absent)
- Maintains a satisfactory degree of grammatical and syntactical accuracy and often chooses appropriate vocabulary. *...the manufacturer is fulfilling the consumers demand for the product and the government has no good reason to interfere between those two... to decrease the obesity rates and assist people to get healthy, instead of thinking that banning large containers would fix the problem.* Errors may occur in simple and more complex structures, but rarely impede communication. *interfere/ government / immediatly/ consumers demand*

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!





ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

<h1>C1</h1>	 HellenicAmericanUniversity	<h1>C2</h1>	
Task completion			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">... consumers have the right for free choice and do not need someone else to care and decide for them... children have their parents to take care of them and make their decisions for them... become introverts because by saying publicly that you are banning large containers for obesity problems, people will immediately make the connection that being overweight is bad.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">... sugar and other chemicals contained in those drinks are detrimental to one's health, ... eliminating large drink containers would not only benefit adults, but it would additionally protect children and adolescents from developing significant health issues later in life.	
Organization			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In my view, But... Moreover,... Furthermore,... (but connection is sometimes absent)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">To begin with,... Therefore,... To further support this proposal,... Despite its positive impact, however,... Instead,... While that is certainly true,... In conclusion,... In spite of the existing concerns,	
Linguistic Resources			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">... the manufacturer is fulfilling the consumers demand for the product and the government has no good reason to interfere between those two... to decrease the obesity rates and assist people to get healthy, instead of thinking that banning large containers would fix the problem... interfere / government / immediately / consumers demand		<ul style="list-style-type: none">... it is crucial to consider the way it encourages moderate consumption... adults also fall prey to marketing techniques... it is a great and ethical way of promoting a healthier lifestyle to young individuals and adults alike...	
			



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



ALCE C1-C2 Speaking Presentation outline

- Test Format
- Assessment
- Tips

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High! 16



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

Specifications

Delivery method: **One-to-one interview (recorded)**
Duration: **8-10 min.**
Tasks: **3**
Target level: **C1 (score: 8-10/15)**
or
C2 (score: 11+/15)

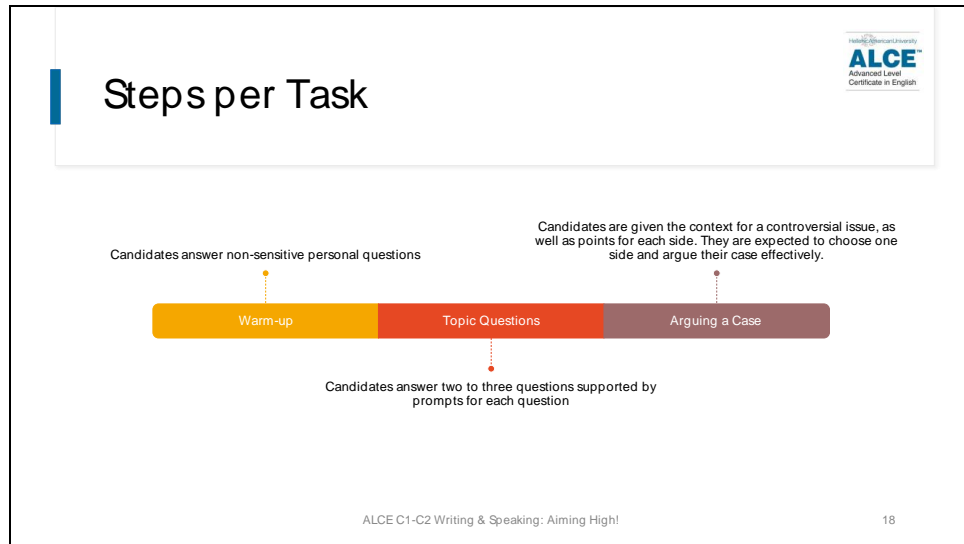


ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!

17




ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test





ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



Task 1: Warm-up | **1 min.**

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!





Warm-up

Candidates answer non-sensitive personal questions

(examples)

- *Tell me a few things about your hobbies, future plans, interests, etc.*
- *Do you play any sports?*
- *What are you studying at the moment?*

Train your students to:

- Answer specific questions and elaborate
- Keep eye contact with examiner
- Ask for clarification if necessary

Train your students not to:

- Recite pre-rehearsed presentation
- Give 'dry' yes-no answers



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



Task 2: Topic questions

4 min.

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



Four Topic Questions

Candidates answer two to three questions supported by prompts for each question

- Note: Oral examiners point to the question asked
(example)

In this part of the speaking test, you will be asked to respond to questions about the topic of animals. If you wish, you may use the points for each question to help you with your answer.

1. In what ways do animals teach us about important aspects of life?

- Companionship
- Learning about responsibility
- Diversity of nature

Train your students to:

- Answer specific questions and elaborate (this is a chance to show off their language skills and score high!)
- Ask for clarification if necessary

Train your students not to:

- Give very short answers
- Give irrelevant answers



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



Task 3: Arguing a case

3-4 min.

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High!



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

Controversial issue



Candidates are given the context for a controversial issue, as well as points for each side. They are expected to choose one side and argue their case effectively.

In this part of the speaking test, you will read a text that presents two sides of a controversial issue. Your task will be to argue in favor of one side. If you wish, you may use any of the points provided below to help you develop your argument.

Issue: Many cities have a problem with stray dogs that are homeless. Some people argue that local authorities should collect these dogs and encourage citizens to adopt them. Others believe it is preferable for local authorities to care for them in designated areas on the streets.

Question: What do you think? Should city authorities organize the adoption of stray dogs, or should they look after them on the streets?

For:
ADOPTION OF STRAY DOGS

- Danger if left on the streets
- Proper medical care and feeding needed
- Stray dogs a threat to people
- Adopting a dog beneficial to new owner

For:
LOOKING AFTER STRAY DOGS ON THE STREETS

- Difficulty of finding owners for older dogs
- Some dogs completely undomesticated
- Well-looked-after dogs pleasant for locals
- Too expensive to house dogs until adoption

ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



Arguing a case

Train your students to:

- Answer specific questions and elaborate
- Use the prompts provided (Note: it's fine to use arguments from both boxes as long as it makes sense and helps argue their case!)
- Ask for clarification if necessary

Train your students not to:


- Give vague answers

Remember:

The ALCE Speaking test is not a background knowledge test. What matters is the quality of language used and the level of elaboration based on the prompts provided



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



ALCE
Advanced Level
Certificate in English


ALCE C1-C2 Speaking Sample

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High! 27

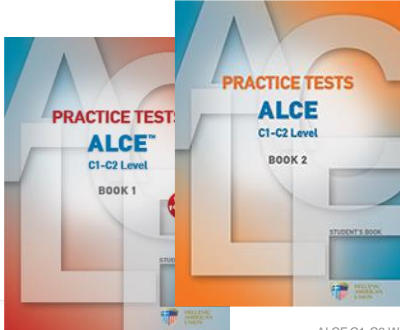
https://siteresources.blob.core.windows.net/siteresourcescontainer/hauptportal/media/root/orfeas/hauportal/alce/alce_sample-test-b_new-scoring-2024.pdf



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



Preparation material



- 6 complete practice tests in the format of the ALCE™ C1-C2 examination
- Introduction with a complete description of the revised examination
- Rating scales for the Writing and Speaking sections
- Sample answer sheet
- Complete transcripts

ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High! 35



ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test

Remember


Practice makes perfect!

Best of luck in your students' exams!








ALCE™ C1-C2 Writing & Speaking Test



Thank you

 exams@hau.gr

 www.hau.gr



ALCE C1-C2 Writing & Speaking: Aiming High! 37



**Hellenic American Union
Center for Examinations and Certifications
Social media**



www.facebook.com/HAU.CEC/

Athens: Massalias 22, 10680 Athens
T: (+30) 210 3680000, F: (+30) 210 3634200

Thessaloniki: Fragon 14, 54626 Thessaloniki
T: (+30) 2310 557600, F: (+30) 2310 553925

E-mail: exams@hau.gr

Url: www.hau.gr/exams



The Hellenic American Union Center for Examinations and Certifications applies a Management System in accordance with the ISO 9001: 2015 standard for the following scopes: “Planning, organization, and administration of examinations” and “Provision of support services to candidates, foreign-language schools, and teachers”.



HELLENIC
AMERICAN
UNION

CENTER FOR
EXAMINATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS