

Preparing your students for the BCCE™ examination

A webinar for teachers



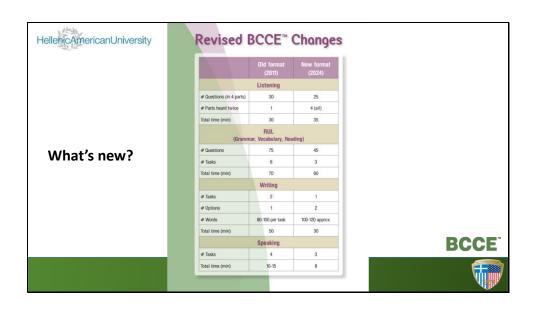
Preparing your students for the BCCE™ examination





**BCCE** 

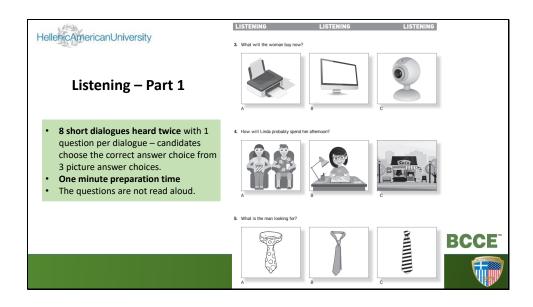
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SIDE 1	ВА	SIC COMMUNICA	TION CERTIFICA	TE IN ENGLISH	
Code: Last Name: First Name: Father's Name: Oate of Birth:	FULL NAME (PRINT) TEST CENTER			YOUR SIGNATURE TODAY'S DATE	
EXAMPLES	Listening Section	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4	FORM
MOTOR AND	A B C A B C A B C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	A B C 6 OOO A B C 19 OOO A B C 11 OOO A B C 12 OOO A B C 12 OOO	A B C 4 OO OO A B C	A B C BO C C C A B C A B C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C B C C C C	A O B O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O





3. What will the woman buy now?

# **Listening Part 1: Example**





- N: Number 3.
- N: Hello, I'd like to buy a PC for my son. Do you have the one you can see on my phone here?
- M: I'm sorry, but we've just sold out. I'll check to see when we'll get more... Yes, we have a delivery next week.
- W: OK. He'd also like this webcam and this printer if you have them?
- M: I'm sorry but that printer also will be here next week. I have the webcam for you, though. It's a good choice. How would you like to pay?







# HELLENIC AMERICAN UNION CENTER FOR EXAMINATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

# HellenicAmericanUniversity

Tips!

- $\,\succ\,$  During the one-minute preparation time:
- Read the questions and look at the visuals very carefully.
- Predict the relevant context by carefully examining the visuals (try to find their similarities or differences).
- Predict the language/words about to be heard.
- ✓ Get ready to listen *for* the answers!
- > During the first listening:
- Be careful about choosing answer choices which lift words directly from the recording.
- Make a tentative choice if unsure and move on!
- > During the second listening:
- Double-check your answers.
- Make a final decision on unanswered items (guess if still unsure!)







# Listening - Part 2

- 5 short monologues heard twice with 1 question per monologue candidates choose the correct answer choice from 3 short written options.
- · One minute preparation time
- The questions are not read aloud.

- 9. What can customers get for free today?

  - A. two pillows
     B. a cotton blanket
     C. a washing machine
- 10. Where did the man go last night?

  - A. to a talk
    B. to a café
    C. to a party
- 11. Which number should a customer press to find out prices?
  - A. 1 B. 2 C. 3
- 12. Where will the students have their physics lesson?
- A. the library
  B. the laboratory
  C. Classroom 1A
- 13. What is causing the unusual weather?

  - A cold air from the north
    B. warm air from the Atlantic
    C. warm air from the south



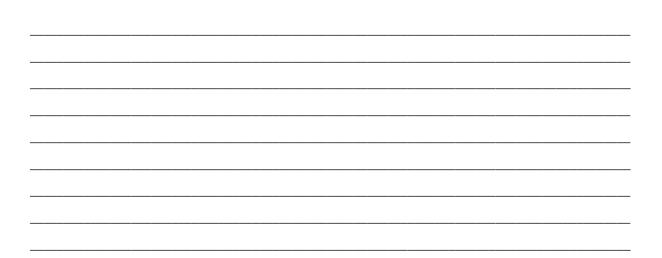




# **Listening Part 2: Example**

- 9. What can customers get for free today?
  - A. two pillows
  - B. a cotton blanket
  - C. a washing machine
- N: Number 9.
- W: Good morning customers. We have two special offers for you today! Purchase two or more pillows in our *Headington Beds* store, and you'll receive a free cotton blanket! That's right! Completely free. And don't forget to take part in our prize draw. Our first prize today is a brand-new washing machine. Register at the information desk before 5pm today and find out on Friday if you're a winner!

BCCE



# HELLENIC AMERICAN UNION CENTER FOR EXAMINATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

HellenicAmericanUniversity

 $\,>\,$  During the one-minute preparation time:

• Read the questions and answer choices very carefully.

## Tips!

- Predict the relevant context.
- Predict the language/words about to be heard.
- ✓ Get ready to listen for the answers!
- > During the first listening:
- Be careful about choosing answer choices which lift words directly from the recording.
- Make a tentative choice if unsure and move on!
- > During the second listening:
- Double-check your answers
- Make a final decision on unanswered items (guess if still unsure!)







## Listening - Part 3

- 1 dialogue between 2 speakers (interview) heard twice with 6 questions – candidates use the information they hear to choose the correct answer choice from 3 short written options.
- One minute preparation time
- Questions are not read aloud.

- 14. Why did Sasha change her music style for her latest song?
  - A. to attract a bigger audience B. to try something new C. to make herself happy
- 15. Who does Sasha think were most important when she began acting?

  - A. her parents
    B. her friends
    C. her colleagues
- 16. How did Sasha start her singing career?
  - A. by singing in an acting scene
     B. by going to music lessons
     C. by recording a demo
- 17. What did Sasha like most on her world tour?
  - A. playing to audiences
     B. signing autographs
     C. talking to fans
- 18. What will Sasha do first this year?
- A. bring out a new album
  B. spend time with her family
  C. act in a TV series
- 19. What advice does Sasha give to young people who want to become singue? become singers?

  A pay attention to others
  B. trust yourself
  C. change your beliefs





### **Listening Part 3: Example**

- M: Welcome to On the Spot. On tonight's show, we're talking to pop singer Sasha Contessa about her new song, Always on Fire and asking her about her experience as an actor on the hit teen show, Ridge High. Sasha, your latest song is a change of style, isn't it?
- W: Yes, it's a big change. I wanted to attract more fans by singing a ballad instead of another pop song. I know it's a sad song, but in fact I wrote it during one of the happiest times of my life. I used to sing some ballads when I first started, so it wasn't difficult to go back to that type of music.
  - 14. Why did Sasha change her music style for her latest song?
    - A. to attract a bigger audience
    - B. to try something new
    - C. to make herself happy





# HELLENIC AMERICAN UNION CENTER FOR EXAMINATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

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 $\,>\,$  During the one-minute preparation time:

• Read the questions and answer choices very carefully.

## Tips!

- Predict the relevant context.
- Predict the language/words about to be heard.
- ✓ Get ready to listen for the answers!
- > During the first listening:
- Be careful about choosing answer choices which lift words directly from the recording.
- Make a tentative choice if unsure and move on!
- > During the second listening:
- Double-check your answers
- Make a final decision on unanswered items (guess if still unsure!)







## Listening - Part 4

- 1 long monologue heard twice with 6 questions – candidates use the information they hear to choose the correct answer choice from 3 short written options.
- One minute preparation time
- Questions are not read aloud.

#### 20. Why are the people visiting the White House?

- A. to hear about its history
   B. to learn about architecture
   C. to receive an award

- A. a personal advisor
   B. a tour guide
   C. a history teacher

# 22. What might people find surprising about George Washington?

- A. He never lived in the White House.
- B. He helped build the White House.C. He redesigned the White House.

#### 23. Where does the President's family live?

- A. The East Wing
  B. The West Wing
  C. The Executive Residence

### 24. What will someone always remember about the Grounds?

- A. the number of flowers
  B. an extremely old tree
  C. the large variety of roses

#### 25. What will the group do next?

- A. They will visit the gardens.
   B. They will enter a famous room.
   C. They will leave the building.







# **Listening Part 4: Example**

M: Hello everyone. I'm Jason, one of our President's personal advisors. Welcome to the White Housel Though I'm not a tour guide, later today I'll be showing you around this fantastic building and will be telling you about its long history.

#### 21. Who is the speaker?

- A. a personal advisor
- B. a tour guide
- C. a history teacher

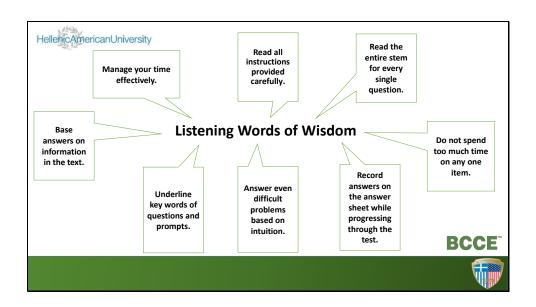


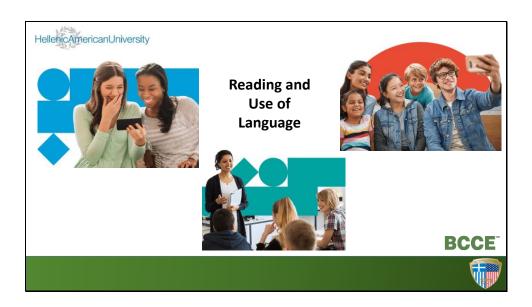


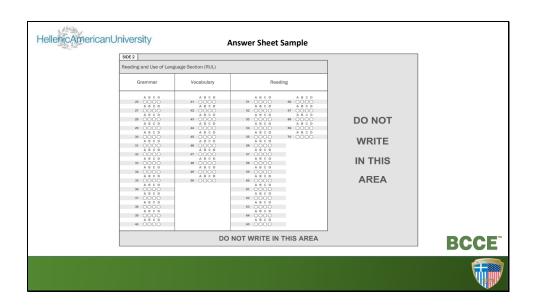

## Tip: How can I better prepare my students for the BCCE Listening test?

- Expose students to a variety of listening texts.
- Expose students to spoken texts: TV news & Internet audio files.
- Use practice materials.
- Challenge students and ask HOW they got to the right answer (and do not only concentrate on WHAT the answer was).
- Remind students that they are not expected to understand every single word (just like in real-life situations).

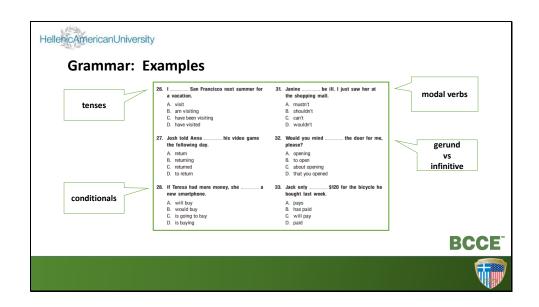


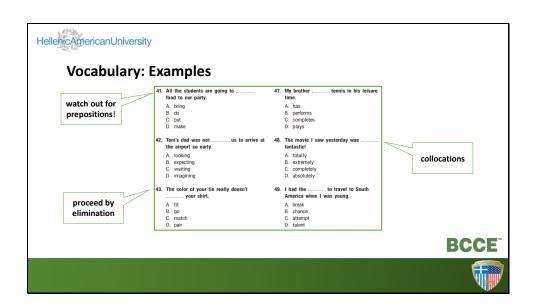





# HellenicAmericanUniversity Overview of the Reading and Use of Language Section (60 min) Short description Short sentences with a gap. For each sentence, candidates choose the Grammar best answer choice from 4 answer choices 10 short sentences with a gap. For each sentence, candidates choose Vocabulary 10 the best answer choice from 4 answer choices Reading Part 1 4 short texts about a topic with 8 questions – candidates choose the best answer choice for each question from 4 answer choices 45 4 social media posts, comprising a post with a question and 3 posts with Reading Part 2 answers. Candidates choose the best answer to 6 questions with 4 answer choices Reading Part 3 1 long text with 4 paragraphs – candidates choose the best answer to 6 questions with 4 paragraphs | questions with 4 answer choices

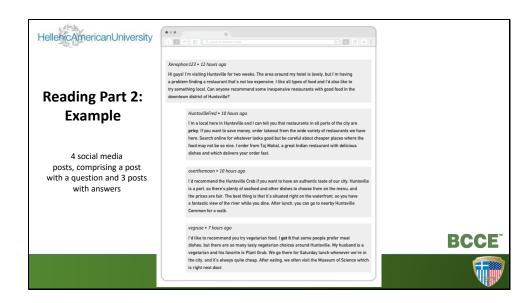


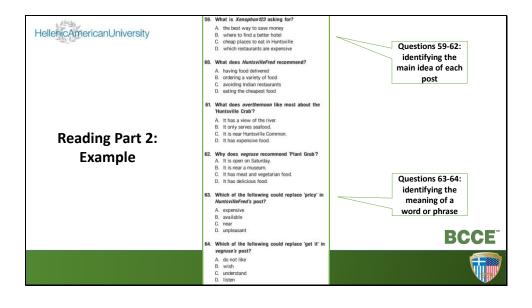

## HellenicAmericanUniversity **Overview of the Reading Portion** Short description Four short related texts presented as advertisements or reviews Part 1 10 (multiple matching 4 options) ${\bf 4}$ social media posts, comprising a post with a question and ${\bf 3}$ posts with 5 Part 2 answers (multiple choice – 4 options) 25 1 long text with 4 paragraphs (multiple choice – 4 options) Part 3 5 BCCE



HellenicAmericanUniversity	Movies T	This Week	
311/20	is suitable for young children?     has the most expensive ticket for children?	56. was cheap to make?	
	<ul><li>53. starts showing after 9 pm on Sunday?</li><li>54. is about a dog?</li></ul>	57. has an excellent Director? 58. is the first movie of a three-part series?	
Reading Part 1	(A) Cool Water	B Bugsy's Adventure	
Example	Arkville Movie Theater  Cool Water is an action movie, the first of a new	Ashton Cinema This comedy centers around Bugsy, a homeless	
	trilogy. The movie tells the story of a family living in the countryside. One day, a stranger comes who changes everything. Although this is a low-cost movie, fantastic acting and great scenery make for a spectacular experience, and the ending will leave	puppy who is found by a young couple. At first, Bugsy causes all sorts of trouble, and there are many comical moments as the couple try to deal with their unexpected guest. The star of the show is Bugsy, but with a wonderful performance by Marcia, the 'evil'	Chinamba a
Four short related texts presented as advertisements or	you impatient for the second part. For moviegoers 16 and older. Monday – Thursday 7 pm, Friday – Sunday 6 pm & 9 pm Tickets \$7	neighbor. This is a great movie for all the family.  Monday – Sunday 6:30 pm & 9 pm  Tickets adults \$12, children \$6	Skimming & Scanning
reviews	© Weird Weekend	D The World Beneath	
	Denby Cinema	Princeton Plaza Movie Theater	
	This horror movie is about four young college students who are trapped in an old hotel after their car breaks down. Based on a real story, there are some terrifying twists and turns as the group tries to escape. A fantastic plot and a performance from Sal Wilmer that could earn her a Purple Rose this year. Only for over 18s.	This science fiction movie tells the story of a group of people forced to live underground, in a world very different to our own. The acting in the movie is excellent and Jane Beaks looks favorite to win her first Ocara Spierctor. This movie is already hugely successful, showing that independent movies can make money. Not suitable for children under 12.	BCCE
	Monday - Friday 7 pm, Saturday - Sunday 7 pm & 10 pm Tickets \$14	Monday – Sunday 6 pm & 9 pm Tickets adults \$10, children \$8	









# Reading Part 3: Example

1 long text with 4 paragraphs The discussion about climate change is a part of our lives today, with many US teenagers more willing to do something about it. They are calling for the protection of the environment because they know that in the future they will be the ones dealing with the results of the crisis. These teenagers are worried about the environment, and not all of them trust their political leaders' ability to make the right decisions.

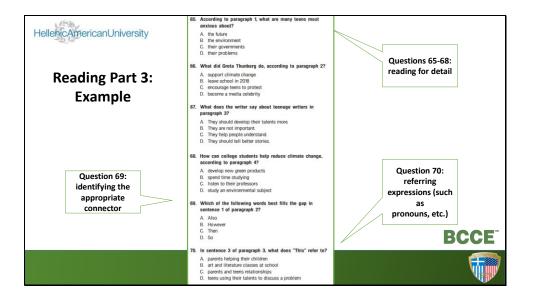
\_\_\_\_\_, these teens are taking action, and they are making their voices heard around the world. Ever since a Swedish teenager, Greta Thunberg, encouraged millions of teens to miss knool and go on the streets to show their support in the fight against climate change in 2018, the world's media has been paying attention to young people's protests, both in the US and overseas.

But there are also other ways to make a teenager's opinion heard. Parents and teachers can help teens develop their talents as artists or writers, so they can make art about the climate crisis, or lationer about the crisis issue for other teens. This may not necessarily make the biggest difference, but it brings about a conversation regarding the topics teens care about, and more understanding that there is a need for action.

Many tenagers go on to become college students. There, they have the chance to learn how to develop products and services to build a green world, even when their studies are not about the environment. Students can feel that they are taking part in the fight against climate change with professors able to provide space and time to listen to their fears. Then, as adults, with the knowledge gained at college, they can do their best to find a solution to the climate change problem.





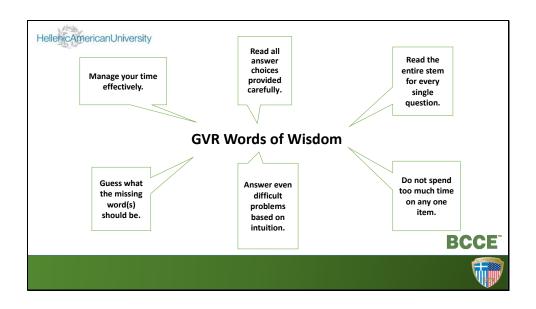




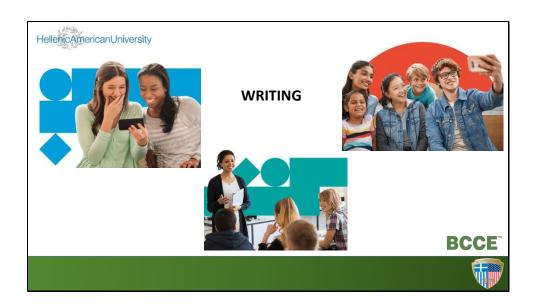

# Reading portion (parts 1,2,3): Strategies (Train your students to)

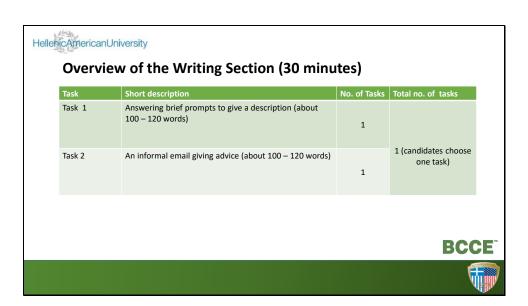
- Read the whole passage and focus on the main idea.
- Be careful about choosing answer choices which lift words directly from the text.
- Find the meaning of a word by checking its context.
- Answer the questions in order.
- Look for signals to relate the question to the right paragraph.
- Underline key words (in the questions or in the text).





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# **Writing Section Task 1: Example**

#### Task 1

Describe a city you have visited recently. Use the questions below to help you with your answer.

- Which city did you visit and why did you choose it?
- Who did you go with? Describe the people.
- What did you do in the city?
- What did you like most about your trip? Would you go again?






# **Writing Section Task 2: Example**

#### Task 2

Your friend John wants to do something with his friend who is visiting him from Brazil. He is not sure whether to take his friend to an American football game, or to take him to a shopping mall. He has emailed you to ask for your opinion. Decide which one would be better and write to him with some advice.

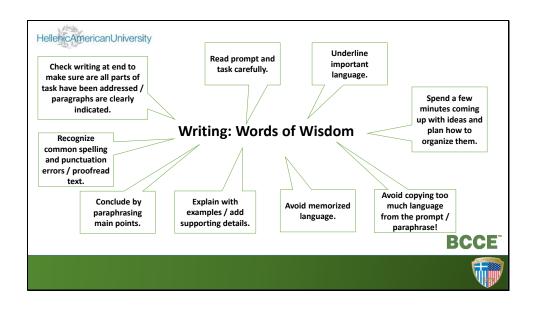
Start your email with: "Hi John", and end with: "Best", and your first name.

Your email should include:

- an introduction
- at least one advantage of the option you chose
- at least one disadvantage of the option you did not choose
- a conclusion













### **Speaking Task 1: Personal Questions (Example)**

Introduction
Hello and velocome. My name's (Examiner's first name) and what's your name? (Examiner checks ID and Registration Form). And your Registration Number is... (Examiner reads out number).
Thank you. There are three tasks in the Speaking Section. First, I'll ask a few questions about you. Then we'll take part in a short role play. Finally, I'll ask you a few general questions about the topic. Are you ready to begin?

### Task 1: Getting to Know You (1-2 minutes)

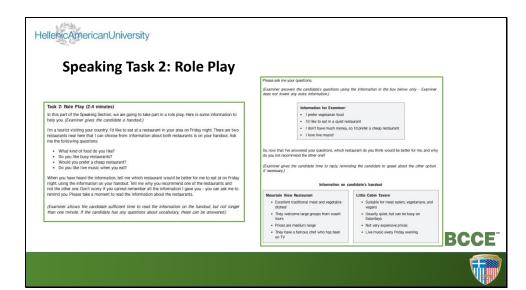
(Examiner asks a selection of the questions below, taking care not to exceed the time limit.) So, (name of candidate):

- Where do you live? Do you like it there? Why or why not?
   What do you like about your school or work?
   Do you have any hobbies? What hobbies do you have? Do you do them with family or friends?
   What about the future what are your ambitions?

(Examiner offers a polite natural closing and moves on to Task 2)



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### **Speaking Task 3: Questions about the Topic**

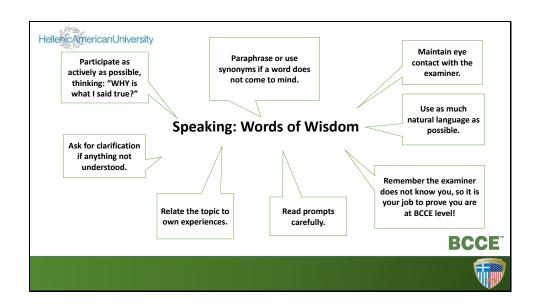
#### Task 3: Questions about the Topic (2-4 minutes)

Now, I'm going to ask you a few general questions about the topic:

- Which of the two restaurants would you prefer and why?
  What kinds of food do people usually set in your country! Do young people prefer different foods?
  Do you think students should be taught how to cook at school? Why or why not?
  Do you think it's better to eat meat or to be a vegetarian?

Thank you very much for your answers. (Examiner ends the conversation in a friendly manner, while checking all materials have been returned. Stop the recording equipment.)







# **Scoring & Assessment**

For each section of the examination, raw scores are converted into scaled scores ranging from 100 to 1000. The passing score for each section is 650 out of 1000. The scores for each section are combined and averaged to give a total possible average scale score of 1000 for all four sections.





Iniversity	
Listening	
Candidates preparing for the exam should aim for a <b>minimum raw</b> score of at least 12 out of 25 for the Listening section.	
	BCCE
	Candidates preparing for the exam should aim for a <b>minimum raw</b>



# Reading & Use of Language

Candidates preparing for the exam should aim for a **minimum raw** score of at least 21 out of 45 for the RUL section.




HellenicAmericanUnive	ersity	
	Writing	
	Candidates preparing for the exam should aim for a <b>minimum raw</b> score of at least 8 out 15 for the Writing section.	
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		BCCE™
	<del></del>	

NEW YORK			ATION CERTIFICATE G SECTION: SCORIN	IN ENGLISH (BCCE <sup>TM</sup> ) G RUBRICS	
HellenicAmericanUniversity		Task Completion	Organization	Linguistic Resources	
	Focus	Relevance to the task     Elaboration     Style & format	Text organization: - Coherence - Cohesion	Complexity & accuracy of:  * Grammar & syntax  * Vocabulary	
	5 HIGH PASS Effective Writing	Completes the task fully and relevantly, using all the prompts provided.  Covers all aspects of the topic effectively.	Text is coherent. Consistently uses simple cohesive devices in an effective manner.	Consisterity uses a wide range of linguistic forms and smokines effectively, even in less soutine solutions.  Consisterity maintains a good control of generational and operational accuracy and appropriate vocabulary.  Minor errors may occur, expecially in less mutine solutions.	
Writing Rating Scale	4 PASS Good Writing	Develops the topic mostly relevantly, using all the prompts provided.  Covers most aspects of the topic effectively.	Text is mostly coherent. Mostly uses some simple cohesive devices effectively.	Uses some variety of structures and displays authorist local range, even in loca recibie substitution. Mostly maintains a fainly high degree of grammatical and syntactical accessive and meetity chooses appropriate vocabulary. Some errors may occur in more complex structures, but mostly do not improte communication.	
	3 LOW PASS Satisfactory Writing	Develops the topic satisfactorily, using most of the prompts provided. Covers some aspects of the topic more effectively than others.	Simple cohesive devices	Other uses some variety of structures and displays sufficient lessest range to accomplish the task, sunfolictorily.  Maintains a satisfactory degree of grammatical and syntactical accesses, and offers chooses appropriate violativate. Errors may occur in simple and more complex swoctures but carely impede communication.	
	2 NARROW FAIL Limited Writing	Often does not develop the topic satisfactorily. Some ineffective use of the prompts or some misundenstanding of the task.	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 task of fescial range.  Errors occur in both simple and complex structures, which may offen impede commenciation and some vecabulary may be inappropriately used.	BCCE <sup>™</sup>
	FAIL Ineffective Writing	Monthly does not develop the topic satisfactorily.  Mostly ineffective use of the prompts or misuadenstanding of the task.  No attempt at task.	Use of cohesive devices is very limited or	Mostly uses a very limited variety of structures and deplays a last of fesical range. Errors frequently occur in simple structures, trequently impeding communication, while vocabulary may frequently be trappropriately used. No assessable language.	


HellenicAmericanUniversity	
Speaking	
Candidates preparing for the exam should aim for a <b>minimum raw</b> score of at least 8 out of 15 for the Speaking section.	
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15th			INICATION CERTIFICAT AKING SECTION: SCOR	E IN ENGLISH (BCCE™) NG RUBRICS	
HellenicAmericanUniversity		Task Completion	Fluency & Interaction	Linguistic Resources	
	Focus	Relevance     Development	Flow of speech     Understanding	Complexity & accuracy of: Grammar & syntax Vocabulary	
	5 HIGH PASS Effective speaker	Utterances are consistently relevant to the task. Points are well developed.	Consistently maintains a flow of language, with hesitations mainly confined to longer responses.  Consistently understands the interlocutor.	Consistently good control of structures and vocabulary, even on lass routine topics.  Consistently maintains a high degree of grammatical and syntactical accountry on frequently used gatterns, and consistently chooses appropriate vocabulary.  Errors may occur, but do not impede communication.	
Speaking Rating Scale	4 PASS Good speaker	Utterances are mostly relevant to the task. Points are mostly developed.	Some hisritations and pauses may occur, including in shorter responses, but do not hinder communication.  Mostly understands the interiocutor, though may seek occasional clarification.	Mostly has good control of structures, and mostly displays antificiant lexical range to accomplish the tasks effectively.  Mostly maintains a tairly high degree of gammatical and syndericial accuracy and mostly choose appropriate vocabulary, especially for more routine topics.  From may occasionally occur but mostly do not impede communication.	
	3 NARROW PASS Satisfactory speaker	Utterances are often relevant to the task. Some points may be more developed than others.	Some hesitations and pauses may interrupt the flow of communication at times, but not enough to deter a patient listener.  Mostly understands the interlocutor but may need to ask for repetition or clarification.	Often uses frequently used situations correctly, and often displays sufficient lexical range to accomplish the tasks satisfagation. The control of the satisfactory degree of gammatical and opticational accuracy, and often chooses appropriate values of the satisfactors evident when addressing less control topics. Basic errors may correstmen occur, but do not usually impost communication.	
	2 NARROW FAIL Limited	Utterances are often irrelevant to the task. Many points are not sufficiently developed.	Mostly produces very short responses. Hesitations and pauses are frequent enough to disrupt the flow of speech noticeably.  Often has difficulty	Often uses a limited variety of structures, and often displays a tack of testical range.  Errors may often impede communication.	
	speaker	Utterances are mostly	often has difficulty understanding the interlocutor. Very frequent hesitations and	Mostly uses a very limited variety of structures, and	<b>BCCE</b> **
	1 FAIL Ineffective speaker	irrelevant to the task.  Most points are not sufficiently developed.  No attempt at task.	long pauses occur which require a great deal of patience from the listener. Very frequent difficulty in understanding the interlocutor.	mostly displays a lack of lexical range.  Basic errors occur which frequently impede communication.  No language produced.	
			No language produced.		Will be a second of the second







# Hellenic American Union Center for Examinations and Certifications Social media



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



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