



Preparing your students for the ABLE B2 Writing & Speaking tests



ABLE
Assessment Board for Language
Examinations Level B2

Preparing your students for the ABL B2 Writing & Speaking tests

Format of the ABLE B2

Test sections

- Listening
- Reading and use of language
- Writing**
- Speaking



**ABLE B2 Writing:
Meeting the Standard**



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
4 PASS Good Writing	Develops the topic mostly relevantly, using all the prompts provided. Covers most aspects of the topic effectively. Style and format are mostly appropriate.	Text is mostly coherent. Mostly uses cohesive devices effectively to achieve the smooth flow of the text.	Uses some variety of structures and displays sufficient lexical range to accomplish the task mostly effectively. Mostly maintains a fairly 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.



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
3 LOW PASS Good Writing	Develops the topic satisfactorily, using most of 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.



Writing section

TASK 1

You are emailing a friend who has asked you about your favorite movie. Describe the best movie you have ever seen. You should include:

- Where you saw it
- Who was in the movie
- What happened in the movie
- Why it is your favorite movie

Start your email with 'Hi Antony' and end with 'Take care' and your name.



Writing task 1 – Sample

Hi Antony!

It's me! How are things? I am fine. I am looking forward to the summer holidays when we will meet again. Yesterday was a rainy day so we couldn't do our exercise class outside in the school yard. So our gym teacher decided to take us to the classroom and show us a film. Everyone was pleased. When I saw that my favorite actor was playing I was very excited. He was Kevin Costner and the movie was "Robin Hood".

As the story goes Robin returns from war only to find his father dead and that a bad sheriff had taken all his fortune. So what does he do? He finds some other men and they steal from the rich who pass through the forest of Sherwood. Besides all that he falls in love with Marion a girl from the castle. At some point he is sent to prison but fortunately the real king returns and releases him.

I love this film so much because we see that "good" always wins in the end. I can't wait for school to finish so I can come to the island to stay at my grandmother and spend time with you every day.
Take care,
Kostas



Writing task 2 – Sample

Hi Kate,
How are you? Today I help you with your problem. I give you some advice. I am very happy to help you.
The best thing for you should be a trip for a few friends to go to the beach because you can invite your friends.
The trip in the beach is very good idea because you can go on the beach and you're swimming at the sea. The trip is better because you can do many things with your friends you can listen songs and you can dance.

It shouldn't be a good idea to go on vacation with your parents because is very boring. The vacation with your parents isn't good because you don't play with your friends and you don't spend time with your friends.

I wish to help you and solve your problem. I hope to choice the better thing for you. You don't forget to tell me..

See you soon,
Dora



Writing task 2 – Sample

Task Completion: 3

Develops the task satisfactorily, using most of the prompts provided.
Covers some aspects of the topic more effectively than others.
Style and format are often appropriate.

Organization: 3

Text is satisfactorily coherent.
Often uses cohesive devices effectively to achieve a smooth flow of the text.

Linguistic Resources: 3

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.



Writing section

TASK 3

Your friend Kate is trying to decide how to celebrate her birthday. She is not sure whether to have a party at her parents' apartment or organize a trip for a few friends to go to the beach. She has emailed you to ask for your opinion. Decide which one would be better and write to her with some advice. Your email should include:

- an introduction
- at least two advantages of the option you chose
- at least two disadvantages of the option you did not choose
- a conclusion

Start your email with '*Hi Kate*' and end with '*See you soon*' and your name.



Writing task 3 – Sample 1

Hi Kate,

Thanks for your email. It was great to hear from you. I'm sending you this email to express my opinion whether you should celebrate your birthday at your parent's house or celebrate it with your friends at the beach.

First of all, if I were you, I would celebrate my birthday with my friends at the beach because it's summer now, the weather is getting hot, and so I think it would be a good idea to go there for a swim. Also, you can play tennis or volleyball and generally you can do plenty of crazy things as you'll have a lot of space.

However, organizing your birthday at your parents house isn't a good idea because you have to behave well and you can't put the music too loud because the neighbours might come to your parents apartment and complain that you are making a lot of noise. Also, it is a tiny place, so you can't do a lot of things there.

So, I think you ought to celebrate your birthday at the beach, as you'll have more fun there than to celebrate it at your parent's apartment. I have to go now! I'm sure whatever you decide you'll be fine. Happy birthday!

See you soon,
Cleo



Writing task 3 – Sample 1

Task Completion: 5

Completes the task fully and relevantly, using all the prompts provided.
Covers all aspects of the topic effectively.
Consistently uses an appropriate style and format.

Organization: 5

Text is fully coherent.
Consistently uses cohesive devices in an effective manner to make the text flow smoothly.

Linguistic Resources: 5

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.



Writing task 3 – Sample 2

Hi Kate,

I am writing this email because I want to tell you about how to celebrate your birthday and whether it is better for you to have a party at your parents apartments or organize a trip for a few friends to go to the beach.

In my opinion I think that the best is to spend time with your friends in this age. I think it is a great idea to organize a trip for a few friends to go to beach because you will have fun as you tell with your friends more things than with your parents. Also you can do a lot of things without parents, as parents all the time tell you what is right and what is wrong, but with your friends you can do what you want and that is fabulous.

On the other hand I have to tell you that it is not amazing to have a party at your parents apartment, because they will tell you all the time what is fine and what is bad and this is very anchotic. Also before the party they will tell you what to wear and how you must be in the party. In this age it is better to spend time with your friends, as all your other birthdays you were with your parents. Now it is time to change it.

In conclusion, in my opinion I think the best thing is to organize a trip for a few friends to go to the beach because I believe that will be wonderful and I think there will be a beautiful place. Well, that is my opinion about how to celebrate your birthday. I want to believe that the advice that I gave you will help you.

See you soon,
Christina



Writing task 3 – Sample 2



Task Completion: 4

Completes the task relevantly, using all the prompts provided.
Covers most aspects of the topic effectively.
Style and format are mostly appropriate.

Organization: 4

Text is mostly coherent.
Mostly uses cohesive devices effectively to achieve the smooth flow of the text.

Linguistic Resources: 4

Uses some variety of structures and displays sufficient lexical range to accomplish the task mostly effectively.
Mostly maintains a fairly 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.



Writing task 3 – Sample 3

Hi Kate

How are you? I'm fine! I was very glad to receive your email. I'm very happy that you will have a party and I think it would be a very good party because whichever option you choose it would be amazing. Firstly I'm going to give you my opinion which is to organize a trip for a few friends to go to the beach because I think that is the best way to celebrate your birthday with people who love.

There are also a lot of things to do with your friends during the party such as swimming in the beach, playing beach volleyball and waterpolo too. Also there are a lot of restaurants and cafes-bars where you can eat and drink.

Also about the other option I think it would be the badest option because after the party you must clean the apartment of your parents and that it would be very exhausting. Also there is one last disadvantage which is the organization of the party. You have to get balloons, to buy drinks food and you will put your mom to work to cook a wonderful birthday cake. Also it would be a very expensive party in your parents apartment. I think I have been really helpfull and I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

See you soon
Anjelos



Writing task 3 – Sample 3



Task Completion: 3

Develops the topic satisfactorily.
Covers some aspects of the topic more effectively than others.
Style and format are often appropriate.

Organization: 3

Text is satisfactorily coherent.
Often uses cohesive devices effectively to achieve the smooth flow of the text.

Linguistic Resources: 3

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.



Writing task 3 – Sample 4

Hi Kate,

How are you?

I am fine. I read your last letter and I am writing to give you some advice what to do about your party.

I suggest you should to organize a trip for a few friends and go to the beach.

First of all, the friends will give you most usefull gifts clothes, and electronic games. Also it is amazing in your birthday you will be there with your best friends.

The birthday with your parents it's a little boring and you haven't a good nice day.

I hope I will help you. Tell me about you choose.

See you soon
Smaragda



Writing task 3 – Sample 4



Task Completion: 2
Often does not develop the topic satisfactorily.
Style and format are often not appropriate.

Organization: 2
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.

Linguistic Resources: 2
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



Remember to:

Focus on

- The writing topics listed for the upcoming test administrations
 - Developing the skills of describing and giving advice in writing
 - Developing a set of writing approaches applicable to all probable topics
 - Using all prompts provided in the produced texts
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Format of the ABLE B2

Test sections

- Listening
- Reading and use of language
- Writing
- Speaking**



Speaking tasks

- **Task 1:** Answering non-sensitive personal questions
- **Task 2:** Understanding and providing information in an information-gap activity with the Examiner
- **Task 3:** Answering follow-up questions about the topic



Speaking task 1 – Tips

- **Task 1:** Answering non-sensitive personal questions

Practice Task 1 with your friends and fellow students to give you confidence in this part of the test. The aim of Task 1 is to help you relax in the Speaking Section by giving you a chance to speak about a topic where *you* are the expert!



Speaking task 2 – Tips

- **Task 2:** Understanding and providing information in an information-gap activity with the Examiner

For Task 2, the Examiner will ask you to help him/her by giving advice about which of two options to choose. The two options are on your handout. Read both options. The type of information will be in the same order for both options, for example, price, location, facilities, etc. Notice what type of information there is and look quickly at the questions you will be asking – these questions follow the same order as the information in your options.

To find out which of the options is the most suitable, ask the Examiner the questions on your handout. As the Examiner answers, compare what he/she says to the information about your two options. Only **one** of the options will be suitable.

If you find it difficult to remember everything the Examiner has answered, you can ask the Examiner to repeat the information. The Speaking Test is **not a memory test**, so do not feel worried or embarrassed about asking for repetition. Make sure you develop your response – if you only give a summary, your answer will be too short, and you may lose marks for topic development.



Speaking section tips – You should:

- Give full answers when examiners asks personal questions
- Read instructions while examiner explains the role play
- Ask examiner to explain, clarify or rephrase points they might not understand
- Use the information provided and choose one of the two options
- Explain why you selected one of two options using information on the sheet (you can add your own ideas too) and then why you did not recommend the other option
- Respond to questions related to the topic of discussion giving full answers (justify, explain, give examples) – The first question is always about which option you prefer
- Relax and enjoy the speaking test!



Writing & Speaking Topics for Administrations

Description

- A past experience/event (e.g. vacation/trip, etc.)
- People (e.g. close friend or relative, a favorite teacher, etc.)
- Favorite TV series, movies, books, etc.
- Favorite places (e.g. local place, holiday place, etc.)
- Ambitions and future plans
- Hobby/sport

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Writing & Speaking Topics for Administrations

Giving advice

- Sports (e.g. individual/team sports, etc.)
- Shopping(e.g. what to buy, etc.)
- Animals/pets (e.g. type of animal, zoos, etc.)
- Vacations/trips (e.g. where to go, type of accommodation, etc.)
- Transport (e.g. mode of transport, etc.)
- Where to live (e.g. town/countryside, apartment/house, etc.)
- Study (e.g. subjects, school schedule, etc.)
- New free time activity (e.g. exercise, collecting, volunteering, etc.)
- Work (e.g. at home/abroad, large/small company, at home/in office, etc.)
- Social occasions (e.g. where to have a party/who to invite/what to do, etc.)

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ABLE scoring

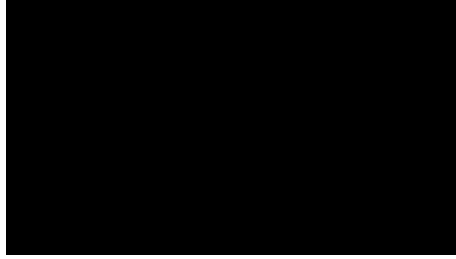


Aggregate scoring

Section	Raw score to meet standard
Listening	16/30
Reading & Use of Language	27/50
Writing	8/15
Speaking	8/15



Speaking Video Sample



Thank you!



Center for Examinations and Certifications

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