

BUSINESS ENGLISH CERTIFICATE (BEC) VANTAGE

BEC Vantage assesses English language ability used in the context of business at Level B2 in the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference. It is at Level 1 in the UK National Qualifications Framework.

Further details of BEC are given in the BEC Handbook, and at www.cambridgeenglish.org

For BEC Vantage, there are three passing grades, A, B and C. Candidates who have achieved a Grade A have demonstrated ability at Council of Europe Level C1. Candidates who have not achieved a BEC Vantage passing grade (Council of Europe Level B2) but have demonstrated ability at the level below this, are awarded a certificate stating Council of Europe Level B1.

A † symbol next to the grade indicates that the candidate was exempt from satisfying the full range of assessment objectives in the examination.

The Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference covers six levels of language proficiency. Research carried out by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) shows what learners can typically do at each level. The table below gives examples of typical ability in the work domain in each of the skill areas for Council of Europe Levels C1, B2 and B1.

Level	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing
C1	CAN contribute effectively to meetings and seminars within own area of work and argue for or against a case.	CAN understand correspondence expressed in non-standard language. CAN deal with all routine requests for goods or services.
B2	CAN ask for factual information and understand the answer. CAN take and pass on most messages during a normal working day. CAN express own opinion, and present arguments to a limited extent. CAN give a simple, prepared presentation on a familiar topic.	CAN understand the general meaning of non-routine letters. CAN understand the general meaning of a report even if the topic isn't predictable. CAN write a simple report of a factual nature and begin to evaluate, advise, etc. CAN write a non-routine letter where this is restricted to matters of fact.
B1	CAN offer advice to clients within own job area on simple matters.	CAN understand the general meaning of non-routine letters within own work area. CAN write straightforward, routine letters of a factual nature.

Further information and examples of the ability statements can be found at www.alte.org

Any alteration to this certificate renders it invalid and use of an altered certificate could constitute a criminal offence.

Cambridge English Language Assessment provides a results verification service to help organisations and agencies quickly and securely validate candidates' Cambridge English examination results at <https://verifier.cambridgeenglish.org>