

Information for Test Takers: Test Format EPSO Third Language Test B2

Valid for all languages

27.09.2021

Subtest	Aim	Type of task	Test takers are expected to	Time in minutes	Points per part
Reading				40	45
Part 1	Reading for Gist	5 matching items and 10 headlines	understand the main ideas of five newspaper articles and find the appropriate headline out of a choice of 10.		15
Part 2	Selective Reading	5 multiple-choice items	understand the main ideas of five newspaper articles and find the appropriate headline out of a choice of three.		15
Part 3	Reading for Detail	5 multiple-choice items	understand detailed information in a magazine article and choose the correct answer out of a choice of three.		15
Listening				approx. 20	45
Part 1	Listening for Gist	5 true / false items	understand the global content of five short news items and decide whether the statement is true or false in each case. True (or false) means that the information can (or cannot) be verified according to the text. False is not based on the idea that the information is not given in the text.		15
Part 2	Listening for Detail	10 true / false items	understand the relevant details in a recorded interview decide whether the statement is true or false in each case. True (or false) means that the information can (or cannot) be verified according to the text. False is not based on the idea that the information is not given in the text.		30
Writing			allocate the time available for all three tasks as they see fit. They are, however, strongly advised to spend more time on Parts 1 and 2 than on Part 3. The minimum number of words serves merely as a guideline for the test takers.	45	45
Part 1	Writing a formal email	reactive	write an appropriate formal business email based on a given situation of at least 80 words.		18
Part 2	Writing a semi-formal online forum post	productive	write a semi-formal forum post of at least 150 words on a topic expressing their opinions and giving examples for or against a point of view. They should end their text with a question or provocative statement inviting further contributions. There is a choice of two topics relevant for the staff of the European Commission.		18
Part 3	Writing an informal text message	interactive	write an informal message of at least 30 words to a colleague based on a given situation in the form of three text messages.		9
Speaking			speak into the microphone and make sure they use the time allotted to each part.	approx. 15	45
Part 1	Talking about work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monologue providing information 	describe their work or that of their department. There is no additional time to prepare during the exam as this part is the same in all examinations.	Preparation: 0 Speaking: approx. 2	5
Part 2	Expressing your opinion on a topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monologue expressing opinions 	express their opinions and support their arguments on a topic relevant to the staff of the European Commission. There is a choice of two topics and five minutes to prepare during the exam.	Preparation: 5 Speaking: approx. 3	10
Part 3	Talking about experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monologue describing experiences 	describe the experiences they've had with one out of two general work-related topics. Test takers have three minutes to prepare during the exam.	Preparation: 3 Speaking: approx. 2	8
Parts 1-3	Criteria 2-4				22