

UNlcert® and the Council of Europe Levels of Language Competence

Appendix 1 to the UNlcert® Framework

The following table shows the relationships between the UNlcert® levels and the levels in the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), that is, the CEFR levels have been adapted to the contexts of higher education and graduate professions. A detailed description of the UNlcert® Levels can be found in Appendix 2.

Based on:

Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe, *Modern Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment. A Common European Framework of Reference*, Strasbourg 1998.

Th. Barth / E.-M. Huschka, "Beschreibung der Leistungsstufen", in: K.-H. Eggensperger / J. Fischer, *Handbuch UNlcert®*, Bochum 1998, 81-91.

Council of Europe Level	Language Competence: Description of levels according to the CEFR, adapted for UNlcert®	UNlcert®-Level
BASIC USER		
A 1 Breakthrough	<p>Listening: He/she can recognise basic vocabulary items and simple utterances relating to familiar topics, provided they are spoken slowly and clearly.</p> <p>Speaking: He/she can make him/herself understood on familiar topics using simple structures and vocabulary.</p> <p>Reading: He/she can understand familiar names, terms and very simple sentence structures, such as those on public notices, on posters or in catalogues.</p> <p>Writing: He/she can write a short simple email and can complete forms with his/her personal details.</p>	--
A 2 Waystage	<p>Listening: He/she can understand straightforward information and the most common expressions within a known subject area as well as the main information in simple messages.</p> <p>Speaking: He/she can call upon a limited number of expressions and phrases in order to describe other people, living conditions / housing situations and university / studies etc. and can communicate briefly and simply in everyday situations.</p> <p>Reading: He/she can understand short simple texts and can extract information from simple texts on everyday topics.</p> <p>Writing: He/she can compose simple messages and notes.</p>	approx. UNlcert® Basis (preparatory stage of Level I)

Council of Europe Level	Language Competence: Description of levels according to the CEFR, adapted for UNlcert®	UNlcert®-Level
INDEPENDENT USER		
B 1 Threshold	<p>Listening: He/she can understand the main information on familiar topics when clearly spoken in standard language.</p> <p>Speaking: He/she can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe his/her experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions. He/she can communicate with others on everyday topics and can use basic grammatical structures and an adequate, though limited, vocabulary range.</p> <p>Reading: He/she can understand texts that consist mainly of high-frequency everyday or work-related language. He/she can understand the main points of simple texts.</p> <p>Writing: He/she can compose texts on matters of general interest and can thereby use the most important grammatical structures and basic vocabulary.</p>	approx. UNlcert® I
B 2 Vantage	<p>Listening: He/she can understand extended speech and lectures and follow even complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar. He/she can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes.</p> <p>Speaking: He/she can present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to his/her field of interest. He/she can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options. He/she can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible.</p> <p>Reading: B2 He/she can read articles and reports of intermediate level of difficulty with a limited general and subject-specific vocabulary. He/she can understand key information, viewpoints and specific details.</p> <p>Writing: He/she can compose detailed, easy-to-understand texts on a variety of subjects relating to his/her personal interests. He/she can write texts in the context of his/her field of study and use a certain degree of complex language structures and subject-specific vocabulary.</p>	approx. UNlcert® II

Council of Europe Level	Language Competence: Description of levels according to the CEFR, adapted for UNlcert®	UNlcert®-Level
PROFICIENT USER		
C 1 Effective Operational Proficiency	<p>Listening: He/she can understand difficult extended authentic speech on general and specialised topics, even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled. He/she can understand television programmes and films without too much effort and can follow lectures.</p> <p>Speaking: He/she can express him/herself fluently, can make presentations on topics relating to his/her degree subject and express his/her opinion on these topics. He/she can use complex grammatical structures and a wide range of general and subject-specific vocabulary. He/she is familiar with the idiomatic expressions necessary for study abroad. He/she can make presentations in which he/she can explain graphics, diagrams and tables.</p> <p>Reading: He/she can understand long and complex authentic texts and through careful reading can understand both implicit and explicit information. He/she can understand specialised articles relating to his/her field of study and is familiar with the specialist vocabulary in his/her field. He/she is able to deal with texts relevant to study abroad.</p> <p>Writing: He/she can express him/herself on general and specialised topics in correct, clearly-structured and easy-to-understand texts and can thereby express his/her opinion at length in a confident, personally relevant way which is tailored to the given audience.</p>	approx. UNlcert® III

<p>C 2 Mastery</p>	<p>Listening: He/she can understand complex utterances in authentic situations, including abstract and very specific content. He/she can understand highly-specialised subject-specific terminology and can recognise implied meaning and fine stylistic nuances.</p> <p>Speaking: He/she can take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion with both native and non-native speakers and express him/herself without any difficulty. He/she can restructure and paraphrase his/her utterances when this is necessary for better understanding. He/she can present content logically and according to the target-language standards for an academic presentation. He/she can use with ease a variety of linguistic styles and registers.</p> <p>Reading: He/she can understand very long, complex, abstract authentic texts on both general and subject-specific topics. He/she can understand implied meaning and nuances and can identify the level of formality, style and register.</p> <p>Writing: He/she can compose detailed, logically structured, coherent texts on specialised subjects and can use a wide range of differentiated, subject-specific vocabulary. The texts produced comply with the conventions of the target language and convey the writer's meaning and opinion logically and convincingly.</p>	<p>approx. UNCert® IV</p>
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