

LCLT3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LETTORATO ORAL EXAM FORMAT

All the LCLT3 English lettorato exams are pitched at the B2+ CEFR level. The oral exam involves two parts:

Part one:

The oral exam begins with a pre-exam task, where each student receives a single reading text on an A4 page. They are allotted 15 minutes to thoroughly read the text, taking notes as they read. These notes cannot be removed from the examination room.

Part two:

The oral exam will last 15-20 minutes and is conducted in pairs. During the oral exam, students are paired up to discuss the main points of their respective texts. They provide a short summary of the main points to their partner, who subsequently asks a question related to the text. The pair discusses the question, with the interlocutor intervening if a student struggles to participate, and to develop conversation related to the topics, if necessary.

The listening student has the opportunity to suggest a title for their partner's text, demonstrating comprehension and critical thinking skills. Additionally, students are tasked with defining 2-3 words based on contextual clues from the text.

Grading:

The final result is communicated immediately. The written exam result is the basis for grading this oral exam and therefore the result of the oral exam cannot be lower than the written.

Oral exam criteria:

Language:

- Ability to develop an argument effectively
- Skill in defending a point of view
- Proficiency in expressing beliefs and opinions
- Capacity to express opinions tentatively
- Competence in summarizing information, ideas, and arguments
- Aptitude for deducing conclusions
- Promptness and fluency of response
- Relevance of response

Grammar:

- Utilization of a broad range of complex structures to express thoughts clearly
- High degree of grammatical accuracy, with minor errors permissible when combining structures across sentence boundaries

Lexis:

- Command of vocabulary specific to the topic and subject areas
- Utilization of a range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms
- Use of modifiers (e.g., basically, quite, certainly), intensifiers (e.g., absolutely, completely, totally), tentative expressions (e.g., I may be wrong but..., Don't you think it might be...), and signposting words (e.g., firstly, finally)

- Incorporation of phrases and expressions relevant to the topic
- Awareness of register and appropriacy of lexis

Phonology:

- Correct pronunciation of topic and subject-area specific vocabulary
- Pronunciation with minimal interference from the first language
- Variation in stress and intonation patterns, pitch, and volume to engage and maintain the examiner's interest, signal the provision of new information, and indicate discourse structure

Suggestions for exam practice:

In order to prepare for the exam, students are advised to read articles from reputable sources such as The Guardian and The Conversation, focusing on topics related to culture and education.

1. Reading Practice: Regularly read articles from reputable sources like The Guardian and The Conversation. Focus on topics related to culture and education to familiarize yourself with the types of texts likely to appear in the exam.
2. Note-taking Skills: Practice taking concise and effective notes while reading. Highlight key points, important details, and any unfamiliar vocabulary. These notes will serve as valuable reference material during the exam.
3. Discussion Practice: Engage in discussions with classmates or language partners about various topics. Practice summarizing main points, asking and answering questions, and expressing opinions fluently and coherently.
4. Mock Exams: Simulate the exam environment by participating in mock oral exams with classmates or teachers. Practice discussing reading texts, summarizing main points, asking and answering questions, and suggesting titles for your partner's text.
5. Vocabulary Building: Expand your vocabulary by learning new words and phrases related to the topics you encounter in your reading practice. Pay attention to context clues to infer word meanings, and practice using them in sentences.
6. Critical Thinking Skills: Develop critical thinking skills by analyzing and evaluating the content of the reading texts. Consider different perspectives, identify biases or assumptions, and form well-supported opinions on the topics discussed.
7. Time Management: Practice managing your time effectively during the pre-exam task and the oral exam itself. Allocate sufficient time to read the text, take notes, and participate in discussions without feeling rushed.
8. Consider audio recording your practice oral exams and listening to yourself. Make note of any errors you make.
9. Test your lexical inferencing skills before looking the words up in a dictionary.