

## **State Exam in English Language Proficiency**

**4<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 – 9.00 am**

The State Exam in English Language Proficiency consists of four parts: **Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing**. Each part is worth 25% of the overall mark.

The Speaking part takes 15 minutes. **Please carefully read the instructions below.**

The Written test takes 3 hours and consists of three sections (Listening, Reading and Writing) with two tasks in each.

The exam tests students' language skills at an upper-intermediate level and the ability to use English language with confidence in a business environment. The exam is equivalent to BEC Vantage, Cambridge FCE and to Council of Europe Level B2.

### **Speaking Test Instructions**

Students are required to prepare an **individual oral presentation** (5 – 7 minutes) on a topic of their own choice.

They can make a short summary of their graduate diploma project or to choose from a broad topics list. Students are expected to narrow their main idea and focus on a specific problem which matches their interests and knowledge.

**Detailed instructions for the State Exam in English Language Proficiency, a full list of suggested topics, assessment criteria, recommended online resources and an example test paper can be downloaded from the Resources option in the Business & Academic English – Dobrich section on DEC at [dec.vumk.eu](http://dec.vumk.eu).**

**Use of visuals is not required;** however the test takers may support their presentations with power point, pictures, drawings, graphs, etc., if they wish to do so.

**Every student is required to bring a printed outline of their presentation on the exam date.** The outline must be printed on **one** page (A4 size page, MS Word document) and must contain the following: student number, full name, the surname of student's English lecturer and the title of the topic with a brief description of the main points of the presentation. Use Times New Roman font, size 11, spacing 1.5. Citations and references must follow VUM specific format requirements.

Should you have any questions related to the State exam in English language proficiency, please do not hesitate to contact your English lecturer or to write to [academic@vumk.eu](mailto:academic@vumk.eu) .

**The Speaking Test is a face to face oral interview with two examiners. It consists of three parts:**

*Part 1 Introduction and interview (2 – 3 minutes)*

Students are asked some questions about themselves, their work/studies, family, hobbies, etc. This is a test of the student's ability to give personal information. Follow-up questions will be asked to develop the conversation as appropriate. This section should help the student to relax and talk naturally.

*Part 2 Individual presentation (5 - 7 minutes)*

Students spend up to 7 minutes talking about a topic of their own choice. This is a test of the student's language skills and presentation technique. The student will not be interrupted during the presentation.

*Part 3 Follow-up discussion (3 – 5 minutes)*

The examiners will ask further questions which are connected to the topic of Part 2. These questions are designed to give the student an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas.

**Assessment criteria**

- Presentation skills
- Clarity of pronunciation and level of fluency (long answers, lack of hesitation, confidence and ability)
- Accuracy and appropriateness of language (grammar, functional phrases, vocabulary)
- Range of language (grammar, functional phrases, vocabulary)
- Ability to organise ideas clearly (linking ideas, justifying, reasoning, etc.)

**Note: Reading from written notes will not be accepted during the oral presentation.**

**Recommended online study resources and sample project topics:**

<http://product.pearsonelt.com/marketleader/>  
<http://www.businessenglishsite.com/>  
<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/business-and-work>  
<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-test/free-practice-tests>  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/  
Oral\\_Presentation\\_skills.pdf](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/Oral_Presentation_skills.pdf)  
<http://www.hodu.com/BC-Menu12.shtml>  
<http://www.businessenglishpod.com/category/presentations/>  
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/presentationskills.htm>  
<http://www.skillsyouneed.com/presentation-skills.html>  
<http://esl.about.com/od/businessspeakingsskills/ss/presenting.htm>  
<http://www.businessballs.com/presentation.htm>  
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/english-for-uni/oral-presentation/>

## Topic Ideas

### Business

- E-business
- Business Ethics
- Political corruption
- Outsourcing
- Economic crisis
- Factors of success and failure in business
- How to write a business plan.
- How to manage small and large companies.
- How to make your business successful.
- The Internet business: how to make money online.
- The advertising industry; the Internet and advertising.
- Job hunting

### Crime and Law

- Animal rights
- Work-related violence
- Civil rights
- Drinking age laws
- Drug legalization
- Gun control
- Police brutality
- Sexual harassment

- Doping in sports
- Drunk driving
- Marijuana

### **Education**

- College admission policies
- College tuition planning
- Distance education
- Education and funding
- Grade inflation
- Intelligence tests
- Learning disabilities
- Literacy
- Plagiarism
- Religious education in schools
- Sex education

### **Environmental**

- Alternative fuel/hybrid vehicles
- Deforestation
- Endangered species
- Energy
- Global warming
- Marine pollution
- Pollution
- Population control
- Radioactive waste disposal
- Recycling
- Soil pollution

### **Family issues and Friendship**

- Child abuse
- Divorce rates
- Domestic abuse
- Family values
- Friendship, love and successful communication.

### **Health**

- Alternative medicine
- Birth control
- Cancer
- Depression
- Exercise and fitness

- Fast food
- In vitro fertilization
- Obesity
- Organic foods
- Prescription drugs
- Plastic surgery
- Sleep
- Smoking
- Stem cell research
- Teen pregnancy
- Vegetarianism
- Weight loss surgery
- How to change our lifestyle.
- Healthy lifestyle.
- Eating disorders
- Birth control and Pregnancy

### **Media and Communications**

- Copyright Law
- Freedom of speech
- Media conglomerates/ownership
- Reality television
- Stereotypes
- Television violence
- The secrets of successful communication.
- Communication in the work place
- Dealing with difficult people
- Business and workplace etiquette
- Conflict resolution
- Negotiation skills
- Communicating with your customers
- Job hunting skills
- Management and leadership strategies
- Skills for delivering presentations
- Building effective work team
- Technology and human communication
- Body language

### **Political Issues**

- Budget deficit
- Election reform
- Migration processes
- International relations
- Social Security Reform
- Taxes

- Bribery, Fraud and Corruption

### **Psychology**

- Work-Life balance
- Stress at the work place
- Motivation
- Thinking styles
- Happiness
- Dreams
- Learning disabilities
- Memory
- Physical attraction
- Cultural psychology
- Psychological aspects of Management

### **Social Issues**

- Adoption
- Airline safety/security
- Discrimination in education
- Employee rights
- Gambling/online gaming
- Gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender
- Gender discrimination
- Identity theft
- Interracial marriage
- Poverty
- Problems of traffic jams and their solutions.
- Science and technology in 2056.
- Automobile, pollution and accidents.
- Racism and its history.
- Problems of ethnicity and race in the modern world.
- Racist and sexist language and how to avoid it.
- Freedom of religion
- Marriage and Divorce
- Prostitution
- Terrorism

### **Culture**

- Culture and cross-cultural misunderstandings.
- Symptoms of culture shock. Stages most people go through in adjusting to a new culture.
- Coping strategy for culture shock: survival techniques.
- Principles of Western culture and etiquette.
- Cultural aspects of thinking, speaking and writing
- Differences between Western and Eastern business etiquette.

- Etiquette and cross-cultural misunderstandings.
- Basic table manners.
- Cultural expectations and practices
- Cultural Stereotypes

