

UCLM CertAcles Exam B1 Level

Part 1: The Written Exam (3 hours)

The written exam is comprised of the following three sections:

A. Listening Comprehension

The main goals for listening comprehension in the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) for the B1 level are that the student:

1. Can understand straightforward factual information about common everyday or job related topics, identifying both general messages and specific details, provided speech is clearly articulated in a generally familiar accent.
2. Can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure etc., including short narratives.

In order to assess the CEFR Listening Comprehension Goals the Listening Section of the UCLM CertAcles exam shall be comprised of **two separate parts** with a total value of **20 points**. The following is a list of **possible** activities that may be used for this part of the exam:

- **Multiple Choice Questions:** A long conversation, interview, monologue or announcement followed by four-option multiple choice questions in which only one option is correct.
- **Fill in the Gap:** A long conversation, interview, monologue or announcement followed by summary sentences in which the student must fill in the gaps with a word or a few words from the listening text.
- **True/False/Doesn't Say:** A long conversation, interview, monologue or announcement followed by sentences about the listening in which the student must decide whether the sentence is true, false or doesn't say.

B. Reading Comprehension

The main CEFR goal for reading comprehension for the B1 level is that the student:

1. Can read straightforward factual texts on subjects related to his/her field and interest with a satisfactory level of comprehension.

In order to assess the CEFR Reading Goals the Reading Section of the UCLM CertAcles exam shall be comprised of **three separate parts** with a total value of **24 points**. The following is a list of **possible** activities that may be used for this part of the exam:

- **Fill in the Gap:** A long text followed by summary statements in which some information is missing. The student must complete the sentence with no more than three words using the information from the text.

- **Heading Identification:** The student will be given paragraphs of a text followed by a list of possible headings for each one. There will be one heading that the student will not use.
- **Multiple Choice Questions:** A long text followed by three-option multiple choice questions in which only one option is correct.
- **Multiple Matching:** Short texts related to a specific topic followed by either short descriptions of people or questions related to the information in the short texts. The student must match the people or each question to one of the short texts that best fits the description.
- **True/False/Doesn't Say:** A long text followed by questions about the text where the student must answer true, false or doesn't say according to the text.

C. Written Interaction and Production

The main CEFR goals for writing for the B1 level are that the student:

1. Can convey information and ideas on abstract as well as concrete topics, check information and ask about or explain problems with reasonable precision.
2. Can write personal letters and notes asking for or conveying simple information of immediate relevance, getting across the point he/she feels to be important.
3. Can produce simple connected text on topics, which are familiar, or of personal interest.

In order to assess the CEFR Written Interaction and Production Goals, the Writing Section of the UCLM CertAcles exam shall be comprised of **two separate parts** with each part allowing the student to choose one of two options. There is a total of **30** points for this section. The following is a list of **possible** activities that may be used for this part of the exam:

Part 1-Short Composition (10 points):

- **Short Message Task:** The student is asked to write a short message in the form of an email or postcard conveying specific information.
- **Review:** The student is asked to write a review for a restaurant, film, hotel, etc. using the prompts given.
- **Short Letter:** The student is asked to write a short letter describing a recent trip they have been on using the visual prompts given.

Part 2-Long Composition (20 points):

- **Essay:** The student is asked to write an opinion essay on a particular everyday topic.
- **Letter:** The student is asked to write an informal letter to a friend expressing their opinion about a particular everyday topic or respond to a letter that was received from a friend giving them advice, suggestions or expressing their opinions.
- **Story:** The student is asked to write a story based on a given title or the first line of a story.

Part 2: The Oral Exam (14 minutes)

On a separate day, all students will take the oral exam. Students will be placed in pairs or in groups of three if necessary. The following is an explanation of this part of the exam:

Spoken Interaction and Production

The main CEFR goals for Spoken Interaction and Production for the B1 level are that the student:

1. Can communicate with some confidence on familiar routine and non-routine matters related to his/her interests and professional field. Can exchange, check and confirm information, deal with less routine situations and explain why something is a problem. Can express thoughts on more abstract, cultural topics such as films, books, music etc.
2. Can exploit a wide range of simple language to deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling. Can enter unprepared into conversation of familiar topics, express personal opinions and exchange information on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events).
3. Can reasonably fluently sustain a straightforward description of one of a variety of subjects within his/her field of interest, presenting it as a linear sequence of points.

In order to assess the CEFR Spoken Interaction and Production Goals, the Speaking Section of the UCLM CertAcles exam shall be comprised of **three separate parts**. There is a total of **10 points** for this section. The following is the structure used for this exam:

Part 1: Interview (approximately 2 minutes per student): The examiner asks each student questions about personal information, daily routines, past experiences, future plans, among others.

Part 2-Individual Long Turn: Describing a Photo (approximately 2 minutes per student): In turns, each student is given a different photo that they have to describe. Both photos relate to a particular topic.

Part 3-Interactive Task (approximately 6 minutes): This part of the exam is a conversation between the two students. The students are given a topic that is related to the photos in the previous part and questions to guide the conversation. The students are expected to interact with their partner as if it were a normal conversation. Therefore, it's important that, in addition to expressing their opinions or experiences, the student ask their partner questions about what they think in order to maintain the conversation.