

» Pearson

Entry Level Certificate English: quick start

Clare Haviland: English Subject Advisor

August 2025

[Access the recording](#)



Agenda

1

Who is ELC for?

Aims of the session. Looking at different contexts.

2

What levels are there?

3

Comparing ELC to other English qualifications

Entry patterns, administration, costs.

4

Assessment overview

5

Resources

6

Questions

7

Contact

Who is ELC English suitable for?

Who is it for?

- Entry Level Certificate is typically aimed at learners with lower levels of attainment or those who may struggle with exam-based qualifications.
- Entry level qualifications generally are below GCSE level and are available at three sub-levels: Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3.
- Entry level 3 is the most difficult & is just below a Grade 1 GCSE.
- ELC (and EL FS) does not count in school performance measures.

Contexts

- I have a few students in Y11 doing ELC as well as GCSE using the [mapped course planner](#).
- My students are entered for FS, ELC and GCSE. They are in mainstream classes for English but have additional sessions when other students are doing MFL.
- I work in a small school/special school/AP/PRU where most students have additional needs and are working at different speeds and will be assessed at different times.
- I'm delivering over 1 or 2 years.
- My students come and go during the year and we try and assess them as soon as they are ready.
- I want to map out assessments over 2 or 3 years so that learners always have a clear learning aim and get a sense of achievement by passing a qualification at a particular level.

How does ELC English compare to Entry Level Functional Skills & other English qualifications?

Comparing English qualifications

[Access the summary](#)

	Available UK/International	Guided learning hours (GLH)	Number of certifications per year/entry deadline	Students' work submitted by	Main age range	Style of content & assessment	Admin & paperwork (see details below)	Fees (2025-2026) updated each year on 1.8
ELC	UK & Int	60-120	1, in May/June. Enter by 21.2 each year.	15 May each year	14-16	Like GCSE	Around 3 steps	£31.20
EL FS 1-3	UK only	55 each	On demand. Register in autumn, ideally.	NA	14+	Life/work	Around 7 steps	£18.35
FS L1/2	UK only	55 each	On demand	NA	14+	Life/work	Around 9 steps	£11.95 each Reading/Writing. SLC free
GCSE 1EN0 or 1EN2	UK & Int	120	2*, in May/June & November. Enter by 4.10 for Nov and 21.2 for June each year.	15 May for summer; early November for November series	14+	Academic	Around 3 steps	£56.40

Reasons to choose ELC

- Younger students (14-16)
- Stable cohort: students stay and are present for the whole academic year
- Looking for an assessment style & content aligned to GCSE English Language
- Looking for an entry/admin style aligned to GCSE

Example from EL1 Reading:

ANSWER QUESTIONS 3 TO 7.

These questions are about a book called 'The Worst Witch'.

It is a story about a school for witches called Miss Cackle's Academy.

3 Read the start of the story below, then **draw lines** to match the nouns with their descriptions.

Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches stood at the top of a high mountain surrounded by a pine forest.

It looked more like a prison than a school, with its gloomy grey walls.

Nouns	Descriptions
mountain	grey
forest	high
walls	pine

(Total for Question 3 = 3 marks)

Reasons to choose EL FS

- Older students, students with work/life links/experience of the world of work.
- Looking for a flexible entry pattern, possibly because students may join and leave your setting through the academic year.

Example from EL FS Reading:

Read Text B and answer Questions 5 to 9.

Text B

Staff wanted for The Town Cafe

Would you like to work in a cafe?

It is a nice place to work.

The money is good. There is free coffee.

The staff are fun. You can make new friends.

Talk to Priya about the jobs at the cafe.

We need a person to work on Saturday and Sunday.

To get information:

Come in and see us on Wednesday or Friday morning.

Or look at our website www.towncafe.biz

How is ELC assessed?

EL1

Component	Assessments	Total time in minutes for all tasks	Total marks for component
Speaking and listening	2 tasks	4-8	20
Writing	2 tasks: 1 transactional & 1 creative	30	30
Reading	2 tests: 1 fiction and 1 non-fiction	60	50

EL2

Component	Assessments	Total time in minutes for all tasks	Total marks for component
Speaking and listening	2 tasks	6-10	20
Writing	2 tasks: 1 transactional & 1 creative	60	30
Reading	2 tests: 1 fiction and 1 non-fiction	70	50

EL3

Component	Assessments	Total time in minutes for all tasks	Total marks for component
Speaking and listening	1 task	4-6	10
Writing	2 tasks: 1 transactional & 1 creative	80	40
Reading	2 tests: 1 fiction and 1 non-fiction	90	50

Where do I find assessment materials? How do I record outcomes?

Assessment materials: S&L

Choose from the assessments in the specification or adapt these for your students:

Task 1: Who are you?

Expected outcomes		
Entry Level 1	Entry Level 2	Entry Level 3
<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• give their name and age and where they live• talk about whether they have any brothers and sisters and provide some information about them.	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• give their name and date of birth, and say if they have any brothers and sisters• include some additional information, such as whether they have any pets and what they like to do in their spare time.	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• give an extended talk to include details about who they are and present information about their family/carers• develop ideas to include their dreams and ambitions for the future and any other information that will interest the listener.

Assessment materials: writing

Choose from the assessments in the specification or adapt these for your students:

Task 1: Write the opening of a short story entitled 'Lost and Alone'

Expected outcomes		
Entry Level 1	Entry Level 2	Entry Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Writes a brief opening to a story, with a short description of a character or place.Ideas may be in bullet points or captions to images that tell the story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Writes a straightforward opening to a story, with a description of the place, the landscape or the feelings of a character.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Writes the opening of a story that engages the reader. Includes descriptions of the setting, the atmosphere of the place or the feelings of the characters. Ideas are more developed, using language features and detail.

Assessment materials: writing

Record details of the student's assessment on the assessment record sheet.

Entry Level 1: Writing <i>Include a description of the tasks undertaken and brief reasons for the marks awarded – the tasks can also be annotated to show justification for the marks.</i>		
Task 1	AO5	/12
	AO6	/3
	Total	/15
Task 2	AO5	/12
	AO6	/3
	Total	/15
EL1 Writing total marks		/30

Assessment materials: reading

Download the Pearson-set assessments from the website (Edexcel Online login required). There are a choice of 3 fiction and 3 non-fiction topics at each level. The assessments are valid for the lifetime of the specification. You do not need to look for assessments dated for the current academic year.

Entry Level Certificate English



Course materials

FILTERS

[CLEAR ALL](#)

Exam materials (40)

SORT BY

Exam Series



CATEGORIES

- Specification and sample assessments (2)
- Exam materials (40)
- Forms and administration (7)
- Teaching and learning materials (10)

CONTENT TYPE



- All
- Mark scheme (18)
- Question paper (18)

EXAM SERIES



- All
- Reading assessment materials (36)
- June 2024 (1)

[EXPAND ALL](#)

Reading assessment materials



NEN0 English Fiction Reading (Animals) Level 1 - Mark Scheme
Valid for the lifetime of the qualification
| PDF 308.9 KB | 25 September 2023



NEN0 English Fiction Reading (Animals) Level 1 - Question Paper.
Valid for the lifetime of the qualification
| PDF 520.2 KB | 25 September 2023



NEN0 English Fiction Reading (Animals) Level 2 - Mark Scheme
Valid for the lifetime of the qualification
| PDF 305.9 KB | 25 September 2023



NEN0 English Fiction Reading (Animals) Level 2 - Question Paper
Valid for the lifetime of the qualification
| PDF 743.9 KB | 25 September 2023



NEN0 English Fiction Reading (Animals) Level 3 - Mark Scheme
Valid for the lifetime of the qualification
| PDF 319.0 KB | 25 September 2023



Assessment materials: reading

Record details of the student's assessment on the assessment record sheet.

Entry Level 1: Reading	
Non-fiction	/25
Fiction	/25
EL1 Reading total marks	
Total marks for Entry Level 1	

Resources

Resources 1

Initial assessment/practice papers: use [sample assessment materials](#), tasks in the specification

[Marked exemplars](#): for getting a sense of performance at each level and to understand what your students are aiming for.

[This pack](#) includes completed assessment record sheets and demonstrate teacher marking annotation which you can use as a model for completing documents for your students.

Entry Level 3: Speaking and Listening		Discussion included with this exemplar	
Include a description of the tasks undertaken and reasons for the marks awarded.			
Task 1: Performance poem discussion	A07, A08, A09		
Students discussed how their life experiences influenced a performance poem they had written. Arguments clear, responded well to questions/feedback, listened to others points of view.		9/10	
Entry Level 3: Writing		Include a description of the tasks undertaken and brief reasons for the marks awarded – the tasks can also be annotated to show justification for the marks.	
Task 1 – Creative Writing – War Story	A05 6/12		
Using images as prompts, write an introduction to a war story.	A06 3/8		
Some use of descriptive writing, however, the story form is missing			
	Total 9/20		
Task 2 – Transactional Writing – Rap Club letter	A05 11/12		
Students to write to their local council asking for a venue to be provided to open a Rap Club. Clear, successful letter of appeal, using audience to his advantage.	A06 7/8		
	Total 18/20		
EL3 Writing total marks		27/40	
Entry Level 3: Reading			
Non-fiction		20/25	
Fiction		15/25	
EL3 Reading total marks		35/50	
Total marks for Entry Level 3		70/100	

Candidate 1: Writing Task 2

Dear city council *form*

I am writing to you to ask you to open a rap club. *not clear*

Having no where to go when homelife is rough means that I would like to go to have some peace because myself and these kids are bored. *good reason persuasive point*

I'll go to the rap club every day because I have nothing to do after school apart from play games.

The rap club can help Portsmouth youngsters that no one will help us with at the moment and help us maybe open a future in rapping and people want to rap we will teach anyone who wants

If we do this it may stop police wasting their time with petty crime. *persuasive audience purpose*

I look forwards to hearing from you soon
yours sincerely

form
charter academy
Hyde park road
southsea Portsmouth Harb
PO5 4hl

Resources 2

[Course planners](#): 2-year model and 2-year model mapped to GCSE English Language

[Getting ready to teach](#) (past training pack)

You could make use of [EL FS resources](#)

[GCSE-style KS3 assessments](#)

[Let's Think in English materials](#)

Any questions?

Contact

Clare Haviland

Pronouns: She, her, hers

- (+44) 344 463 2535
- qualifications.pearson.com/contactus
- Email: teachingenglish@pearson.com
- Sign up to regular subject advisor updates
- Book an appointment with Clare



