CZECH
B2
Essay: More people know more

Description of Test Task*

The task described here was provided by the test institution ÚJOP (The Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic). ÚJOP test tasks have been subject to the ALTE auditing procedures. In the MERLIN project, all written learner productions were re-rated by especially trained telc and ÚJOP raters who used the MERLIN rating grid. It should be noted that the descriptions below refer to these *post hoc* rating procedures, not to the original marking inside the test institutions.

Report on analysis of	**Writing**
Target language of this test	**Czech**
Target level (CEFR) of this test	**B2**
Task number/name	**Writing**

General Information - the whole original test

1	Total test time	Reading Comprehension 40 minutes, Listening Comprehension 30–35 minutes, Grammar/lexical test 30 minutes, Writing 80 minutes, Speaking 20–24 minutes
2	Purpose	General proficiency

3 Examination background

High stakes test developed by ÚJOP

4 Candidature

Adult language learners

5 Structure of the test

Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking

*The task analysis is based on the "CEFR Grid for Writing Tasks v. 3.1 (presentation)". The original template for this grid was developed by ALTE members: www.alte.org. For explanations of the numbered items in the grid please refer to "Notes on the task descriptions".

General Information - the writing component

6	Number of tasks in the writing paper	2
7	Total component time	80 minutes
8	Integration of skills	Reading and writing
9	Channel	Handwritten
10	CEFR level of this component	B2

11 The writing component format

Open writing task

12 Specific Information - example task

Candidates are asked to write a reflection essay based on one of two topics (sayings). Four additional points help candidates structure their texts.

13 Mark distribution in MERLIN

n.a.

14 Task rating in MERLIN

The test was rated on the basis of the MERLIN rating grid which is directly related to the CEFR levels. The grid is available on the MERLIN platform.

15 Effective level

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16 Sample task:

Úloha 2 – Přísloví

Vyberte si jedno ze 2 témat A nebo B a napište na něj vyprávění nebo úvahu (zamyšlení) v rozsahu minimálně 150 slov.

Text musí mít:

- úvod,

- vyjádření vlastního názoru,

- vysvětlení,

- závěr.

Témata:

A. Šaty dělají člověka.

B. Víc hlav, víc ví.

	i) Task input/prompt	
17	Language of input/prompt	Czech
18	CEFR level of input/prompt	B2
19	Time permitted or suggested for this task	80 minutes
20	Control/guidance	Semi-controlled
21	Content	Specified
22	Genre	Essay
23	Rhetorical function(s) of input	Describing, giving opinions, arguing, persuading, exemplifying
24	Imagined audience	General public
25	Mode of input/prompt	Written
26	Topic or theme of input	Personal identification, daily life
27	Integration of skills for input	Reading

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ii) Response (description of written response elicited by the prompt(s)/input)		
28	Number of words expected	At least 150
29	Rhetorical function(s) expected	Explaining a saying, expressing the own opinion.
30	Text purpose	Referential, conative
31	Register	Unmarked to formal
32	Domain	Personal/public
33	Grammatical competence expected	B2
34	Lexical competence expected	B2
35	Discoursal competence expected	B2
36	Authenticity: situational	Medium
37	Authenticity: interactional	Medium
38	Cognitive processing	Reproduction of known ideas
39	Content knowledge required	Personal/everyday life knowledge areas, general/non-specialised knowledge areas

iii) Rating of Task in the MERLIN project		
40	Known criteria	MERLIN rating grid
41	Task rating method	Analytical scale
42	Assessment criteria	Grammatical accuracy, vocabulary range & vocabulary control, coherence/cohesion, orthography, sociolinguistic appropriateness
43	Number and combination of raters	Each test of the MERLIN sample was rated by a trained rater; 10% of the tests were double-rated. The double-ratings serve as a link to calculate a fair average, i.e. to adjust test results to rater severity/lenience.

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