



## BOOKLET FOR TEST TAKERS

[www.medicalenglishtests.eu](http://www.medicalenglishtests.eu)



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



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## General information

The International Medical English Testing System (IMETS) is specifically designed to assess the level of English proficiency required for academic and professional purposes in medical context.

It is intended to test language competence of different professional groups in the field of medicine and health care:

- Doctors, biomedical researchers, pharmacists, dentists, nurses and other allied health care providers
- Students of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, as well as nursing, physiotherapy, and other health sciences

## The Test format

The IMETS is a computer-based exam that can be taken in the authorised exam centers. All the examination procedures including the registration, the exam organisation and assessment will be carried out online. The exam centers will publish on their websites the information for candidates such as the exam dates and venues.

The IMETS examination covers all four skills: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. There are two examination modules that can be taken separately: the IMETS written test that includes Reading and Writing papers and the IMETS oral test that includes Listening and Speaking papers.

## The Test Levels

The IMETS examination system is directly linked to the CEFR. It is currently the only standardized English test that accurately measures all key language skills in medical context in alignment with the internationally recognized standard, the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The IMETS tests are available at three CEFR levels: B1 (lower intermediate), B2 (upper intermediate), and C1 (advanced).

## B1 IMETS test

### Skills assessed at Level B1

<b>Reading</b>	<p>The reading paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· understand important information in familiar professional topics</li><li>· understand simple and factual texts in your field</li><li>· skim long texts to find the required information</li><li>· collect the information necessary for solving a task from different parts of a text</li><li>· pick out important information about preparation and usage on medicine labels</li><li>· assess whether an article, report or review is on the required topic</li></ul>
<b>Listening</b>	<p>The listening paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· understand factual information in familiar professional topics</li><li>· identify the main points and important details</li><li>· follow clearly structured lectures in your field</li><li>· follow detailed instructions</li></ul> <p>when the speech is slow and clearly articulated in standard pronunciation</p>
<b>Writing</b>	<p>The writing paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· create simple texts in familiar topics</li><li>· describe experiences, events and ambitions</li><li>· briefly argue and explain different viewpoints and plans</li><li>· relate a story</li><li>· write a detailed report focusing on given points</li><li>· write short accounts of factual information in standard formats related to a specific genre</li></ul>
<b>Speaking</b>	<p>The speaking paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· give straightforward descriptions or narratives on a variety of familiar subjects within your field of interest</li><li>· explain the main points in an idea or problem with reasonable precision</li><li>· give detailed instructions in your professional field</li><li>· argue in an easily understood manner</li><li>· make short announcements concerning everyday professional topics</li><li>· give prepared presentations focusing on familiar topics in your field</li><li>· can answer short and simple questions following your presentations</li></ul>

## B1 Test Overview

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Reading</b> (60 mins)	Task 1 Multiple Choice Task 2 Matching Headings	Tests your understanding of global and factual information in medical texts on general topics.
<b>Listening</b>	Task 1 Multiple Choice Task 2 Multiple Matching Task 3 Open Gap-fill Task 4 Multiple-choice Gap-fill Task 5 Multiple Matching	Tests your listening for the main points of factual information in medical setting.
<b>Writing</b> (60 mins)	Task 1 Official letter Task 2 Case presentation	Tests your writing skills in medical context.
<b>Speaking</b> (12 – 15 mins)	Task 1 Introductory Talk Task 2 Medical History Taking Task 3 Graph description	Tests your ability to communicate in real-life academic and professional situations in medical context.

## B1 Reading Paper

The Reading Paper tests your understanding of global and factual information in two authentic medical texts on general topics.

You do not need any special background knowledge to answer the questions in the Reading paper/section correctly. All the necessary information to answer the questions is contained in the texts.

You can expect the following text types and professional scenarios:

- text book extracts
- product descriptions
- instructions
- abstracts
- information leaflets
- case reports
- referral letters
- internal communication

The texts are typically around 300 words in length. There are two tasks for each text.

### **Task 1 Matching Headings**

There are 4 paragraphs for which you must find the most appropriate heading from a choice of 6 headings. There are 2 extra headings that do not match any paragraph. Task 1 tests your ability to understand main points and overall meaning of the text.

### **Task 2 Multiple Choice**

You will read a text and answer 8 multiple-choice questions by choosing one of the available answers (A, B or C).

This task tests your understanding of content and text organisation. (Text 2 tests your analytical reading skills.)

## [B1 Listening Paper](#)

The listening paper tests your understanding of spoken English in medical context.

In this section, you will listen to recorded medical interviews, lectures, health reports, patient's narratives or case reports. The recordings are in standard British English or American English accents.

There are five parts of the listening test. In Task 3 and Task 4 you will hear a dialogue and in the other tasks you will hear monologues. The recordings in Task 1 and Task 2 last about 3 mins. The recordings for other tasks last about 1 minute each. You will hear each recording twice.

### **Task 1 Multiple choice**

You will listen to a mini-lecture on a medical topic and you will need to answer 5 multiple choice questions by choosing one of the available options (A, B, C).

The task tests your ability to understand the main points of factual information given in the recordings.

### **Task 2 Multiple matching**

You will hear five short monologues and you will need to match an option to the correct speaker. Each option may be chosen only once. For example you will be asked to select the five correct health professionals from eight options or select the five correct topics of the monologue from eight options.

In this part, you will be tested on your global listening skills such as identifying main ideas and identifying contexts.

### **Task 3 Open gap fill**

You will listen to a dialogue in which a doctor is taking a patient's history or is discussing the patient's history with a healthcare professional. You will need to find and correct five mistakes in the patient's notes.

In this part, your ability to listen for concrete facts will be tested.

### **Task 4 Multiple-choice Gap-fill**

You will hear a conversation related to the patient's history from Task 3 and you will need to complete the five gaps in the treatment plan by selecting the correct answers from a shortlist.

In this part you will be tested on your note taking skills and your ability to listen for detail.

### **Task 5 Multiple choice gaps**

You will hear five short monologues and you will need to match a statement to the correct speaker. You will need to select the correct answer from the eight options.

In this part you will be tested on your ability to listen for specific words or phrases.

## **B1 Writing Paper**

The Writing Paper tests your ability to apply your writing skills in real-life academic and professional situations in the field of medicine and healthcare. The IMETS Writing Test consists of two separate tasks.

### **Task 1 Formal letter**

You will be presented with a situation and asked to write a formal letter of approximately 130-150 words. Letter types include: job application, congress application, invitation and acknowledgement.

### **Task 2 Case report**

In Task 2 you will need to write a medical case report based on the information presented in the form of short notes. The case report should be 130-150 words long.

## B1 Speaking Paper

The IMETS Speaking Paper tests how well you can communicate in English in real-life academic and professional situations.

The Speaking Test consists of three separate tasks.

### **Task 1 Introductory Conversation**

At the start of the test you will provide a spoken personal introduction and you will have about your job and research field based on the following topics:

- (1) Choice of profession
- (2) Education for healthcare professionals
- (3) Daily routine of the professional
- (4) Future of the profession
- (5) Research and development within the profession
- (6) Healthcare professional – patient relationship
- (7) Healthcare system
- (8) Prevention
- (9) Role of foreign languages in the healthcare profession
- (10) Conventional medicine vs. alternative medicine

You will be asked to discuss two of these topics selected by the examiner.

### **Task 2 Medical History Taking**

You will be asked to role-play a scenario of medical history taking between a health care professional and a client based on the information given from a client's file.

### **Task 3 Graph description**

You will be presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and you will be asked to describe the figure in your own words.

## B2 IMETS test

### Skills assessed at Level B2

<b>Reading</b>	<p>The reading paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> can follow specific or abstract thinking implied in a text</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can obtain information, ideas and opinions from highly specialised sources within your field</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can skim long and complex texts to find the important details</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can identify the content and importance in a wide range of professional topics</li></ul>
<b>Listening</b>	<p>The listening paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> understand the main ideas of complex lectures, talks and reports on both concrete and abstract topics in your field</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> follow technical discussions in your field</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> understand complex lines of argument in a professional discussion</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> identify speakers' viewpoints and attitudes as well as the information content when the speech is clearly articulated in standard pronunciation and is delivered at normal speed</li></ul>
<b>Writing</b>	<p>The writing paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> can write clear, detailed texts on a variety of subjects related to your field</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can express your opinion on a given topic</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can write an essay with appropriate arguments</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can explain the advantages and disadvantages of different alternatives</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can emphasise important points</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can evaluate problems and provide solutions</li></ul>
<b>Speaking</b>	<p>The speaking paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> can give clear and detailed presentations on a wide range of topics related to your professional field</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can communicate complex information and advice on the full range of matters related to your occupational role</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can give a clear, detailed description of how to carry out a procedure</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can relate your ideas with supporting examples and data</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can introduce topics in a logical and systematic manner</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can highlight important messages</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can clearly argue supporting his/her opinions</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can show an understanding of how different views relate to each other</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can make fluent and prompt announcements</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can give prepared presentations listing advantages and disadvantages</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can divert from prepared texts in a natural way</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> can demonstrate a notable fluency in speech</li></ul>

## B2 Test Overview

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Reading</b> (60 mins)	Task 1 Multiple Choice Task 2 Matching Headings	Tests your understanding of global, factual and implied information in two narrative or descriptive medical texts on general and not deeply specialized topics.
<b>Listening</b>	Task 1 Multiple Choice Task 2 Multiple Matching Task 3 Multiple Choice Task 4 Multiple-choice Gap-fill Task 5 Multiple Choice	Tests your listening for global and detailed factual and implied information.
<b>Writing</b> (60 mins)	Task 1 Official letter Task 2 Case presentation	Tests your ability to write texts containing factual and implied information on medical topics.
<b>Speaking</b> (17 – 20 mins)	Task 1 Introductory Talk Task 2 Medical History Taking Task 3 Graph description	Tests your ability to communicate complex information in real-life academic and professional situations in medical context.

## B2 Reading Paper

The Reading Paper tests your understanding of factual and implied information in two medical texts on general and not deeply specialized medical topics.

You do not need any special background knowledge to answer the questions in the Reading paper/section correctly. All the necessary information to answer the questions is contained in the texts.

You can expect the following text types and professional scenarios:

- text book extracts
- official letters on professional topic
- research articles
- case reports
- referral letters
- ethical approvals
- motivation letters
- abstracts

- informed consent statements
- letters of application
- grant applications
- internal communication

The texts are typically around 450 words in length. There are two tasks for each text.

### **Task 1 Matching Headings**

There are 4 paragraphs for which you must find the most appropriate heading from a choice of 6 headings. There are 2 extra headings that do not match any paragraph. Task 1 tests your ability to understand main points and overall meaning of the text.

### **Task 2 Multiple Choice**

You will read a text and answer 8 multiple-choice questions by choosing one of the available answers (A, B, C or D).

This task tests your understanding of content and text organisation. (Text 2 tests your analytical reading skills.)

## [B2 Listening Paper](#)

The listening paper tests your understanding of spoken English in medical context.

In this section, you will listen to recorded medical interviews, lectures, medical news reports, patient's narratives or case reports. The recordings are in standard British English or American English accents including light regional accents.

There are five parts of the listening test. In Task 1 and Task 2 you will hear a monologue and in the other tasks you will hear dialogues. The recordings in Task 1 and Task 2 last about 3 minutes. The recordings for other tasks last about 1.5 minute each. You will hear each recording twice.

### **Task 1 Multiple choice**

You will listen to a mini-lecture on a medical topic and you will need to answer 5 multiple choice questions by choosing one of the available options (A, B, C).

The task tests your ability to understand the main points of factual information given in the recordings.

### **Task 2 Multiple matching**

You will hear five short monologues and you will need to match an option to the correct speaker. Each option may be chosen only once. For example you will be asked to select the five correct health professionals from eight options or select the five correct topics of the monologue from eight options.

In this part, you will be tested on your global listening skills such as identifying main ideas and identifying contexts.

### **Task 3 Multiple Choice**

You will listen to a dialogue in which a doctor is taking a patient's history or is discussing the patient's history with a healthcare professional. You will need to answer 5 multiple choice questions by choosing one of the available options (A, B, C).

In this part, your ability to listen for concrete facts will be tested.

### **Task 4 Multiple-choice Gap-fill**

You will hear a conversation related to the patient's history from Task 3 and you will need to complete the information about the patient by selecting the correct answers from a shortlist.

In this part you will be tested on your note taking skills and your ability to listen for detail.

### **Task 5 Multiple choice gaps**

You will listen to a dialogue in which a doctor talking to a patient or a healthcare professional. You will need to answer 5 multiple choice questions by choosing one of the available options (A, B, C).

In this part, your ability to listen for concrete facts will be tested.

## **B2 Writing Paper**

The Writing Paper tests your ability to apply your writing skills in real-life academic and professional situations in the field of medicine and healthcare. The IMETS Writing Test consists of two separate tasks.

### **Task 1 Formal letter**

You will be presented with a situation and asked to write a formal letter of approximately 180-200 words. Letter types include: job application, congress application, invitation and acknowledgement.

### **Task 2 Case report**

In Task 2 you will need to write a medical case report based on the information presented in the form of short notes. The case report should be 220-240 words long.

## **B2 Speaking Paper**

The IMETS Speaking Paper tests how well you can communicate in English in real-life academic and professional situations.

The Speaking Test consists of three separate tasks.

### **Task 1 Introductory Conversation**

At the start of the test you will provide a spoken personal introduction and you will have about your job and research field based on the following topics:

- (1) Choice of profession
- (2) Education for healthcare professionals
- (3) Daily routine of the professional
- (4) Future of the profession
- (5) Research and development within the profession
- (6) Healthcare professional – patient relationship
- (7) Healthcare system
- (8) Prevention
- (9) Role of foreign languages in the healthcare profession
- (10) Conventional medicine vs. alternative medicine

You will be asked to discuss two of these topics selected by the examiner.

### **Task 2 Medical History Taking**

You will be asked to role-play a scenario of medical history taking between a health care professional and a client based on the information given from a client's file.

### **Task 3 Graph description**

You will be presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and you will be asked to describe and analyse the figure in your own words.

## C1 IMETS test

### Skills assessed at Level C1

<b>Reading</b>	<p>The reading paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> understand in detail lengthy, complex texts, whether or not they relate to your own area of speciality</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> understand a wide variety of texts including specialised academic or professional publications</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> understand implicit as well as explicit attitudes, emotions and opinions expressed in emails, discussion forums, blogs etc.</li></ul>
<b>Listening</b>	<p>The listening paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> understand lectures, presentations, conversations and debates including complex technical information with relative ease</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> easily follow complex interactions between third parties in group discussion and debate, even on abstract, complex unfamiliar topics</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> identify implicit attitudes and relationships between speakers in an animated discussion that is delivered at a natural speed</li></ul>
<b>Writing</b>	<p>The writing paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> create well-structured written texts on complex topics</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> write a suitable introduction and conclusion to a longer report, article or dissertation on a complex academic or professional topic</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> reliably use cohesion devices</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> relate complex topics in a well-structured manner</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> use additional ideas, arguments and appropriate examples for relating and supporting your views</li></ul>
<b>Speaking</b>	<p>The speaking paper tests if you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> provide detailed descriptions of complex topics and link the individual sub-topics</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> give instructions on carrying out a series of complex professional or academic procedures</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> relate individual topics and use appropriate closing</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> make announcements fluently</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> express subtle shades of meaning using appropriate intonation and accent</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> give clear, well-structured presentations on complex topics</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> easily handle interactions</li></ul>

## C1 Test Overview

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Reading</b> (60 mins)	Task 1 Multiple Choice Task 2 Matching Headings	Tests your understanding of global, factual and implied information in two argumentative medical texts on general and not deeply specialized topics.
<b>Listening</b>	Task 1 Multiple Choice Task 2 Multiple Matching Task 3 Multiple Choice Task 4 Multiple-choice Gap-fill Task 5 Multiple Choice	Tests your listening for global and detailed factual and implied information of complex medical issues.
<b>Writing</b> (60 mins)	Task 1 Official letter Task 2 Case presentation	Tests your ability to write texts containing factual, implied and argumentative information on medical topics.
<b>Speaking</b> (17 – 20 mins)	Task 1 Introductory Talk Task 2 Medical History Taking Task 3 Graph description	Tests your ability to communicate complex information in real-life academic and professional situations in medical context.

## C1 Reading Paper

The Reading Paper tests your understanding of factual and implied information in two argumentative medical texts on general and not deeply specialized medical topics.

You do not need any special background knowledge to answer the questions in the Reading paper/section correctly. All the necessary information to answer the questions is contained in the texts.

You can expect the following text types and professional scenarios:

- text book extracts
- official letters on professional topic
- research articles
- case reports
- monographs
- referral letters
- letters to the editor
- ethical approvals
- editorials
- reviewers comments

- motivation letters
- abstracts
- informed consent statements
- letters of application
- grant applications

The texts are typically around 650 words in length. There are two tasks for each text.

### **Task 1 Matching Headings**

There are 4 paragraphs for which you must find the most appropriate heading from a choice of 6 headings. There are 2 extra headings that do not match any paragraph. Task 1 tests your ability to understand main points and overall meaning of the text.

### **Task 2 Multiple Choice**

You will read a text and answer 8 multiple-choice questions by choosing one of the available answers (A, B, C or D).

This task tests your understanding of content and text organisation. (Text 2 tests your analytical reading skills.)

## **C1 Listening Paper**

The listening paper tests your understanding of global and detailed factual and implied information of complex medical issues.

In this section, you will listen to recorded medical interviews, lectures, research reports, conference presentations or case reports. The recordings are naturally structured and articulated medical recordings in British or American English (including regional accents) and non-native English.

There are five parts of the listening test. In Task 1 and Task 2 you will hear a monologue and in the other tasks you will hear dialogues. The recordings in Task 1 and Task 2 last about 3 minutes. The recordings for other tasks last about 2 minutes each. You will hear each recording twice.

### **Task 1 Multiple choice**

You will listen to a mini-lecture on a medical topic and you will need to answer 5 multiple choice questions by choosing one of the available options (A, B, C).

The task tests your ability to understand the main points of factual information given in the recordings.

### **Task 2 Multiple matching**

You will hear five short monologues and you will need to match an option to the correct speaker. Each option may be chosen only once. For example you will be asked to select the five correct topics discussed by the speakers of the monologue from eight options.

In this part, you will be tested on your global listening skills such as identifying main ideas and identifying contexts.

### **Task 3 Multiple Choice**

You will listen to a dialogue in which a doctor is taking a patient's history or is discussing the patient's history with a healthcare professional. You will need to answer 5 multiple choice questions by choosing one of the available options (A, B, C).

In this part, your ability to listen for concrete facts will be tested.

### **Task 4 Multiple-choice Gap-fill**

You will hear a conversation related to the topic in Task 3 and you will need to complete the information about the patient by selecting the correct answers from a shortlist.

In this part you will be tested on your note taking skills and your ability to listen for detail.

### **Task 5 Multiple choice gaps**

You will listen to a dialogue in which a doctor talking to a patient or a healthcare professional. You will need to answer 5 multiple choice questions by choosing one of the available options (A, B, C).

In this part, your ability to listen for concrete facts will be tested.

## **C1 Writing Paper**

The Writing Paper tests your ability to apply your argumentative writing skills in real-life academic and professional situations in the field of medicine and healthcare. The IMETS Writing Test consists of two separate tasks.

### **Task 1 Formal letter**

You will be presented with a situation and asked to write a formal letter of approximately 220-250 words.

Letter types include: letter to the editor, response to professional issues, case report, congress application, support letter, complaint, referral and answering reviewers comments.

## **Task 2 Case report**

In Task 2 you will need to write a medical case report based on the information presented in the form of short notes. The case report should be 300-320 words long.

## C1 Speaking Paper

The IMETS Speaking Paper tests how well you can communicate complex issues in English in real-life academic and professional situations.

The Speaking Test consists of three separate tasks.

### **Task 1 Introductory Conversation**

At the start of the test you will provide a spoken personal introduction and you will have about your job and research field based on the following topics:

- (1) Choice of profession
- (2) Education for healthcare professionals
- (3) Daily routine of the professional
- (4) Future of the profession
- (5) Research and development within the profession
- (6) Healthcare professional – patient relationship
- (7) Healthcare system
- (8) Prevention
- (9) Role of foreign languages in the healthcare profession
- (10) Conventional medicine vs. alternative medicine

You will be asked to discuss three of these topics selected by the examiner.

### **Task 2 Medical History Taking**

You will be asked to role-play a scenario of medical history taking between a health care professional and a client based on the information given from a client's file or informed consent form.

### **Task 3 Graph description**

You will be presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and you will be asked to describe and analyse the figure in detail in your own words.