

The Altissia Language Assessment

Presentation and Pedagogical Principles





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1. Overview



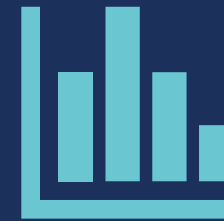
Composed of 55 questions



- Duration: 30 to 40 minutes
- The test can be interrupted at any time; progress will be saved for 15 days



Immediate results



Assessment of skills according to the CEFR* (A1 to C2)



Test can be retaken once a month

*Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)





2. Structure of the Language Assessment

Altissia's language assessment has 4 parts which evaluate various macro- and micro-skills of the CEFR:

- ✓ Grammar (20 questions)
- ✓ Vocabulary (15 questions)
- ✓ Listening comprehension (10 questions)
- ✓ Reading comprehension (10 questions)

At the end of the language assessment, a certificate detailing the learner's level in each category is provided.



3. Questions and Question-Types

Our language assessment is a discrete item test, which means:

- Questions within the same section are **independent** of one another.
- Each screen corresponds to **a single question**. Once a question has been validated, the participant can **no longer change** their answer.

The test is composed of **multiple choice questions** (with only one correct choice) and **open questions** (the participant must write the correct response in the blank space provided).

VOCABULARY

Choose the right answer.

I have very happy of Madrid.
I lived there for many years.

memories

reminders


souvenirs

mindes

VALIDATE

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Choose the right answer.



During the week...

the park is almost empty.

there are lots of people doing yoga.

the park is full of people running.

many people walk their dogs.

VALIDATE



3. Questions and Question-Types

The questions are selected from a database of several thousand items. It is therefore statistically very improbable that one will come across the same questions when taking the test again.

Language Assessment - English

Reading Comprehension

Choose the right answer.

Seven Dials, in central London, is a good place to people-watch. Outside the Crown pub, ruddy men laugh loudly, sloshing their pints; shoppers' heels click on cobblestones; and tourists spill bewildered out of a musical at the Cambridge Theatre. A column marks the seven-street intersection, and its steps make a sunny perch for gazing on the parade. Charles Dickens soaked up the scene here too, but saw something utterly different. Passing through in 1835, he observed "streets and courts [that] dart in all directions, until they are lost in the unwholesome vapour which hangs over the house-tops and renders the dirty perspective uncertain and confined." There were drunken women quarrelling—"Vy don't you pitch into her, Sarah?"—and men "in their fustian dresses, spotted with brick-dust and whitewash" leaning against posts for hours. Seven Dials was synonymous with poverty and crime, a black hole to most Londoners. Dickens stormed it with pen and paper. It's hard to conjure the notorious slum from the column steps today. Passing reference to the area's history in a guidebook is abstract, leaving you with a cloudy image of sooty faces. But read Dickens' description of the Dials in "Sketches by Boz", and it comes to life.

Source: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/how-charles-dickens-saw-london-13198155/> [accessed 08/02/2018]

Seven Dials is still notorious for its rough drinking culture.

Though much improved, Seven Dials remains a rundown area today.

Dickens' description helped to sanitise the area around Seven Dials.

Dickens' description brought Seven Dials to the notice of Londoners.

Validate

Choose the right answer.

3 listening attempts left

According to the speaker:

a poet's physical appearance is very important.

Ezra Pound's appearance didn't change when he moved to Paris.

Ezra Pound had a consistent sense of style.

poetry is not linked to the appearance of the poet.

Validate

The language assessment is based on an **'adaptive test'** methodology i.e. the level of the next question increases or decreases **based on the previous answers.**





4. Methodology of the Adaptive Test

The adaptive test allows elements to be **dynamically selected** during use. The test is therefore “intelligent” and progressive; it determines which questions to ask based on the participant’s previous responses, in order to gradually refine the assessment of his/her linguistic level. Thus, the higher the learner’s level, the more precise the assessment can be, with questions oriented towards more specialised themes.

This is a **statistical approach** that works by level and by step. Each of the 6 CEFR levels (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) is broken down into 5 sub-levels in Altissia’s language assessments. Each participant will therefore be evaluated on a scale of 0 (no knowledge of the language) to 30 (excellent knowledge of the language).

The evolution algorithm in Altissia's tests **is based on the candidate's successive responses.**

This language assessment is subject **to statistical analysis** to ensure consistency with the level assessed, the relevance of the questions and the adequacy of the calculation method used. This task has been entrusted to the Statistical Methodology and Computing Service (SMCS) at the Université catholique de Louvain.





5. Correction and Results

The correction of the language assessment takes place in **real time**; it is corrected immediately by the system. Once the test is finished, the participant receives the complete results, including the overall level obtained and a definition of the associated skills according to the CEFR.

The test can be retaken **once a month**.

This restriction is intended to prevent **over-familiarisation** with the questions and to provide participants with enough opportunity to spend **sufficient time learning to improve their level**.

This does **not** mean that an increase in level is expected every month.

Language Assessment - English

Congratulations

Your level in English is:

A1- A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 **C2**

You can understand with ease virtually everything you hear or read and differentiate finer shades of meaning.

CEFR

Vocabulary C2
You understand with the greatest ease all lexical areas of general and specific terminology, and even unusual usage of most idiomatic and colloquial expressions.

Grammar C1
Only on extremely rare occasions will the use of a grammatical structure interfere with your comprehension of any written text.

Reading Comprehension C2
You are able to read almost any form of writing, including abstract texts, structurally or linguistically complex materials including manuals, specialised articles and literary works.

Listening Comprehension C2
You have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, live or broadcast, even at fast native speed, provided you have time to familiarise yourself with the accent. You can pick up on non-verbal and intonational cues with no apparent effort.

Continue

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LANGUAGE EMPOWERED PEOPLE

LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT - ENGLISH

Congratulations

Your level in English is:

A1- A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2

You are a beginner and you are taking your first steps in the language.

CEFR

Grammar A1-
You are a beginner and you are taking your first steps in the language.

Vocabulary A1-
You are a beginner and you are taking your first steps in the language.

Listening comprehension A1-
You are a beginner and you are taking your first steps in the language.

Reading comprehension A1-
You are a beginner and you are taking your first steps in the language.

CONTINUE





6. Use of the Language Assessment Results in Class

The **reporting tool** allows you to consult:

- Your learner's **overall results** in the language assessment.
- The results for each skill/sub-skill.

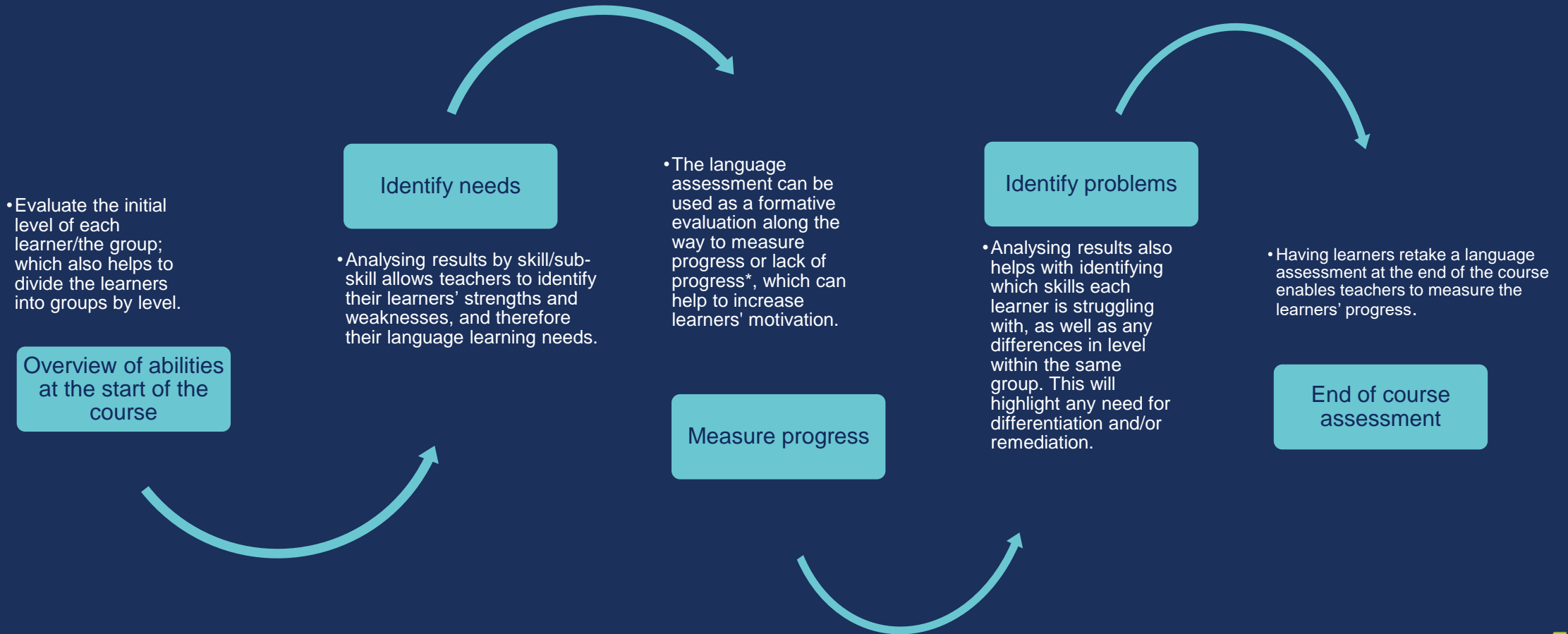
The screenshot shows a user interface for a language assessment reporting tool. At the top, there is a profile card for 'Baptiste Student' with a placeholder icon. Below this, there are tabs for 'English', 'Spanish', 'French', and 'Dutch', with 'Spanish' selected. The interface displays two summary cards: 'TIME SPENT' showing '2h 38m' and 'LAST CONNECTION' showing '29/10/2019 17:23'. A section titled 'LATEST LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT' for 'Spanish' on '18/10/2019' shows an overall result of 'A1-' and four sub-skill results: 'A1- Grammar', 'A1- Vocabulary', 'A1- Listening Comprehension', and 'A1- Reading Comprehension'.





6. Use of Language Assessment Results in Class

The language assessment can be used for more than just evaluating the level of your learners.



*Please note, that it is not always possible to measure a marked difference in level, as this depends on numerous factors (number of hours spent practising, original level, motivation, etc.).

