



BRAYS

APTIS GENERAL EXAM

How to Pass the Aptis General Exam

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1. Introduction

This book is for students who want good marks in the Aptis exam. It is also for teachers. Use it exactly as you like. Forward it to students. Print it out. Use it in class. It's completely up to you. I hope you find it useful.

Enjoy your English and every success with exams.

2. Format of the exam

Aptis doesn't test at a single level. Instead, it includes a range of questions, which are designed to allow you to show your best ability. The test results are reported either on a numerical scale (0–50) or as a Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) level.

It's usually taken on a computer or a tablet, but the core test, the reading test and the writing test can be taken using pen and paper.

Aptis consists of five components: core (grammar and vocabulary), reading, listening, writing and speaking. Clients decide which components are needed for their situation. You, the test-taker, will prepare for the core test (everyone takes the core test) and the skill components the client has chosen. You may be taking one skill component (for example, listening) or all four skill components (reading, listening, writing and speaking).

3. Aptis scores explained

As we said above, Aptis results are reported in two ways: with numerical scores and CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) levels.

You can find all the information about the scores [here](#)

4. What's in the Grammar and Vocabulary test?

Grammar and Vocabulary is the core test of the Aptis exam. It consists of two parts. On the first part, your knowledge of English grammar will be assessed. On the second part, your knowledge of English vocabulary will be assessed,

For more information about the grammar and vocabulary section, visit the Aptis candidate guide [here](#)

5. What's in the Reading test?

The test assesses your reading ability. It is divided into 4 tasks and they become more difficult as the test progresses. The Aptis reading test takes 30 minutes

For more information about the Reading Test section, visit the Aptis candidate guide [here](#)

6. What's in the Listening test?

The Aptis Listening Test contains around 25 short recordings, each with its own 4-option multiple choice format and all focusing on different aspects of real life listening. You will have around 55 minutes to complete the listening test. The questions will involve identifying specific information in a phone message, listening to short speeches or conversations between two speakers and identifying specific information or listening to other short speeches or conversations and identifying the general topic or key point.

Important information:

-You should listen to the whole recording before choosing your answer. It's possible all options may be mentioned, so you will need to listen for clues such as phrases used to say the same thing as the options given or opinions expressed that are the opposite of those options.

-Each listening input has a single question

-You may listen to the question a second time if you want, but you don't have to.

-The three types of questions described above may not appear in this sequence

For more information about the listening test section, visit the Aptis Candidate Guide [here](#)

7. What's in the Writing test?

There are four parts to the Aptis writing test. You will fill in forms, interact in a social media-type written conversation and write emails. All writing tasks are marked by an examiner. The writing test takes up to 55 minutes, the timings for each section are recommendations only.

The most common mistakes are the following:

- Not answering the questions (going off-topic).
- Read the question and understand what you need to do.
- Writing too much but with poor grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Keep to the word count and focus on accuracy.
- Not using a variety of sentence structures.
- Not writing in sentences or paragraphs.
- Using SMS spelling.

For more information about the writing section, visit the APTIS Candidate Guide [here](#)

8. What's in the Speaking Test?

The Aptis Speaking Test is divided into four parts and takes about 12 minutes to complete. Each question has a maximum amount of time to speak but you can end the recording early by clicking on a stop button. If you finish early, you may not score at the highest levels.

The most common mistakes are the following:

- Not doing a proper sound check.
- Not speaking clearly.
- Not answering the questions.
- Giving under-length answers – not using the full amount of time to speak.
- Overusing words such as 'and' and 'so'.
- Speaking in simple sentence lists.
- Not using a variety of sentence structures

For more information about the speaking section, visit the Aptis Candidate Guide [here](#)

9. Advice and Practice Materials

9.1 Grammar & Vocabulary section

Advice: Reading is an excellent way to acquire a language. As your reading level gets better your vocabulary improves, your grammar improves, your reading comprehension improves, your oral and written communication improves and exams become a lot easier. Read a variety of materials; books, articles, poems, lyrics, newspapers. Read anything and read often.

Another useful tip is to take note of interesting words or word combinations when you read English texts.

Practice samples

[Vocabulary Practice - Collocation](#)

[Vocabulary Practice - Synonyms](#)

[Aptis Vocabulary Practice - 1](#)

[Aptis Vocabulary Practice - 2](#)

[Grammar Practice - Grammar A1](#)

[Grammar Practice - Grammar A2](#)

[Grammar Practice - Grammar B1](#)

[Grammar Practice - Grammar B2](#)

[Grammar Practice - Grammar C1](#)

[Grammar Practice - All grammar questions](#)

[Grammar Practice - Task 1](#)

[Grammar Practice - Task 2](#)

[Aptis Grammar and Vocabulary Practice](#)

9.2 Reading section

Part 1 (Sentence Comprehension)

Advice: Make sure you read each sentence fully and the options before trying to answer this question. The best way to become a better reader is to practice.

Part 2 (Text Cohesion)

Advice: Read all of the sentences carefully first. Then, decide on the order (the first sentence is identified for you).

Part 3 (Short Text Comprehension)

Advice: Read over the whole text before attempting the questions.

Part 4 (Short Text Comprehension)

Advice: Read the main text carefully but as quickly as you can. Then carefully read the headings. Do all this before starting the task. Look for clues to connect the headings to the paragraphs; these might be similar words, ideas or topics.

Practice samples

[Aptis Reading Practice](#)

[Reading Practice – Task 1](#)

[Reading Practice – Task 2](#)

[Reading Practice – Task 3](#)

[Reading Practice – Task 4](#)

[Reading Practice - Task 1](#)

[More Reading Practice](#)

[Reading Practice - 1](#)

[Reading Practice - 2](#)

[Reading Practice - 3](#)

[Reading Practice - 4](#)

[Reading Practice - 5](#)

[More reading practice](#)

9.3 Listening section

Advice:

You should listen to as much English as you can. Tips for the Aptis Listening include:

Read the questions carefully before listening.

Identify key words and understand what it is you need to listen for,

Watch for synonyms because you may see a word in a question and hear a different word with a similar meaning in the audio.

Use the second listening to check or confirm your answer.

Practice samples

[APTIS Listening Component Part 1: Names and Numbers](#)

[APTIS Listening Component Part 2: Literal Meaning](#)

[APTIS Listening Component Part 3: Inference](#)

[APTIS Listening Practice](#)

[Listening Practice - 1](#)

[Listening Practice - 3](#)

[Listening Practice - 2](#)

[Listening Practice - 4](#)

[Listening Practice - Task 1](#)

[Listening Practice - Task 3](#)

[Listening Practice - Task 2](#)

[Listening Practice - Task 4](#)

[Listening Practice - Task 5](#)

[Listening Practice - Task 7](#)

[Listening Practice - Task 6](#)

[Listening Practice - Task 8](#)

[More listening practice](#)

9.4 Writing Section

Advice: 5 essentials for good answers

1. Answer the question
2. Plan
3. Use paragraphs
4. Revise your work
5. Make sure you answer the question exactly and no more.

It is essential to plan your writing. This should take at least 10 minutes to plan for each question.

Part 1 (Basic personal information)

Advice:

- Your Name: First letter of your First and Last Name are written with a CAPITAL LETTER
- Months: are written with a CAPITAL LETTER: June, September
- Languages: are written with a CAPITAL Letter: Arabic, Korean
- Hobbies and Interests: should be related to the general topic of your writing task.
Example: If you are enrolling for a travel club, you wouldn't list hobbies and interest about playing football. Would you?

Part 2 (Short informal text)

Advice: Use complex sentences and interesting vocabulary, but don't go over the word limit.

Examples of how to answer these questions

Q: Why did you decide the ____ club?

- **I decided to join because** a friend of mine recommended it to me and I badly want to improve my photography skills.
- **I've only just joined but I already** like it a lot. I hope I can learn one or two useful things here.
- **I decided to join for a number of reasons.** First of all, I need to lose a little weight before summer. I also want to find activities which would help me relax at the end of a busy day.

Q: How often do you plan on attending the club?

- I'd like to take part in _____ classes **once or twice a week.**

Q: Why did you join ____ club?

- **I'm looking forward to meeting** like-minded people.
- **I'm looking forward to trying out** new things and meet new people.

Part 3 (Social network conversation)

Advice: Again, these questions are pretty simple but here as well as part two you should try to use a range of interesting grammar, vocabulary, and stay within the word and time limits.

Examples:

Q: Hello. I see you're new to our club. I've been a member for nearly a year now. Why did you decide to join?

A: Hi, **I decided to join because** I love cooking and I would love to meet new people. Learn to cook new dishes, and improve my overall cooking skills.

Q: So what dishes do you enjoy cooking?

A: **I love cooking all kinds of dishes,** but my absolute **favorite kind of food to cook** is Korean food.

Q: Apparently the club is going to start posting members' favorite dishes on the website. What do you think of this idea?

A: **I think that's a great idea.** I hope they post recipes as well. I look forward to finding out what others in the club like to eat, and hopefully I can learn how to cook some new dishes at the same time.

Part 4 (Formal / Informal email)

Useful phrases (Writing essays)

Presenting two advantages or disadvantages together:

- not only ... but ... also
- not only ... but also

Presenting two opposing views:

- on the one hand, on the other hand

Expressing Contrast:

- nevertheless
- even so
- even though
- however
- in spite of
- despite
- but
- although

Expressing results:

- because of this
- therefore
- thus
- as a result
- for this reason
- Consequently

Giving examples:

- such as
- like
- for example
- for instance

Expressing the opinion of someone else:

- some people say
- some people say that
- many people say
- many people say that
- people often say

- it is said
- it is said that
- according to

Useful phrases (Writing formal letters or emails)

a) Writing formal letters generally: Greetings:

- Dear Sir
- Dear Madam
- Dear Sir/Madam
- Dear Mr Brown
- Dear Ms Jones etc.

b) Reason for writing:

- I am writing in response to your article/advertisement/letter
- I am writing with regard to your article/advertisement/letter
- I am writing regarding your article/advertisement/letter
- I am writing on behalf of

b) Ending the letter:

- I look forward to receiving your reply
- I look forward to your reply
- I look forward to hearing from you
- I am, yours faithfully (if you don't know the name of the person you are writing to)
- I am, yours sincerely (if you know the name of the person you are writing to)
- Yours faithfully
- Yours sincerely

Useful phrases (Writing informal letters or emails)

Informal Letters - Greetings:

- Dear Jim
- Hello Jim
- Hi Jim

Informal Letters - Introductory paragraph:

- Sorry I haven't written for ages
- Sorry it's taken me so long to write
- How's it going?

- How are you?
- How are things with you?
- How are things?

An informal letter referring to good news:

- Glad to hear about
- I'm really glad to hear about
- I'm very happy to hear about
- I was very happy to read about
- Great news about your

An informal letter referring to bad news:

- I'm extremely sorry to hear about
- I'm very sorry to hear about
- Sorry to read about
- Its very sad to hear about your
- I can't tell you how sad I am that

Informal Letters - Introducing points

- By the way
- Did you hear about
- Did you see
- Have you seen
- Tell me about
- Oh, another thing

Ending an informal letter or email:

- Well, time to go
- Well, it's time to go
- Well, got to go
- Well, time to close
- I've got to leave off now
- Write soon
- Make sure you write soon
- Love
- Lots of love
- All my love
- Will write again soon
- Look after yourself
- Take care of yourself

- All the best
- Everything good

Practice Samples

[Aptis Writing Task 1 & 2 Practice Movie Club](#)

[Aptis Writing Task 1 & 2 Sports Club](#)

[Aptis Writing Task 1 & 2 Travel Club](#)

[Aptis Writing Task 3 Language Club](#)

[APTIS Writing Task 3 EEN Gym – Sports Club](#)

[Aptis Writing Part 3 \(Community Service Club\)](#)

[Aptis Writing Task 4 Travel Club](#)

[Aptis Writing Task 4 Photography Club](#)

[Aptis Writing Task 4 Customer Service](#)

[Writing Practice - Parts 1 & 2 Task 1](#)

[Writing Practice - Parts 1 & 2 - Task 2](#)

[Writing Practice - Part 3 Task 1](#)

[Writing Practice - Part 4 Task 1](#)

[Writing Practice - Part 4 Task 3](#)

[More writing practice](#)

9.5 Speaking Section

Advice: Be careful with common errors. One of them is to go off-topic. Focus on answering each question in a clear, smoothly flowing, well-structured speech. Using connectors and a wide range of vocabulary is the best way to pass your speaking part.

You can use the same connectors you used in your writing which are collected in the writing section above.

Practice samples

[Speaking Practice - Task 1](#)

[Speaking Practice - Task 2](#)

[Speaking Practice - Task 3](#)

[Speaking - Exam 2](#)

[Speaking Practice - Exam 1](#)

[Speaking Practice - 2](#)

[Speaking Practice - 1](#)

[Speaking Practice - 3](#)

10. Finally

We at Brays hope that the information you have read helps you master the English language.

The fact that you have read this far should prove useful. But, obviously, the more you practice, the better you become, especially if you have a good teacher to guide you.

To get the best from what you have read you need now to go to the next important stage:

- Select a question!
- Answer it
- Ask a tutor to guide you through the correction
- Repeat the process
- Repeat again and again

The more practice and guidance you have, the better you will become.

If you don't have someone with a sufficiently high level to guide you then [contact us here](#). If you live in Santander or Getafe we have small classes specializing in Aptis exam.

Online tutoring



If you are unable to attend one of our academies, Sarah Bray provides very thorough online tutorials, with a free online course via Skype. Sarah is a Management graduate from Warwick University with a Masters from Cranfield. She also has an 'A' grade Cambridge CELTA certificate and is a very highly rated expert in the English teaching field. This [link](#) will take you to her Linked In profile. She can be contacted by phone (00 34) 916 823977.

Online Course

If you intend taking the Aptis exam you can find an excellent online course, with 100-150 hours of practice covering all sections of the exam , [on this page](#). This course is completely free for students of Brays.

Every success with your exams, and in life.

Enjoy your English,