

Government Decree No. 137/2008 (V. 16.)

on the certified examination of foreign language attainment and on the nationalisation in the Republic of Hungary of language certificates of foreign language attainment issued abroad

The Government, acting in the scope of its duties as described in point b) of Article 35. (1) of Act XX of 1949 on the Constitution of the Republic of Hungary, and acting based on authorisation stemming from point 6. of Article 153. (1) of Act CXXXIX of 2005, creates following Decree:

Certified language exams

1. § (1) Language exams serving to certify language competence that are conducted by organisations endowed with the right of examination and that are acting in line with a language exam system accredited according to the rules of this Decree are qualified as certified language exams.

(2) Accredited language examination centres are entitled to conduct language examination that acts as a basis of awarding certified language certificates and are entitled to issue certified language certificates.

2. § (1) Language exams may be taken in natural or artificial, in living or classical languages.

(2) A language exam measures the following skills:

- a) reading comprehension,
- b) listening comprehension,
- c) creating written text,
- d) oral skill,
- e) mediation skill.

(3) A language exam is monolingual if it measures the skills referred to in points a)-d) of section (2) and it is bilingual if it measures the skills listed in points a)-e) of section (2). The monolingual language exam can be converted into a bilingual one through a complementary exam.

(4) A language exam can be:

- a) according to the sort
 - aa) general purposes exam if it measures, in all skills, the presence of language attainment necessary for foreign language communication in everyday situations,
 - ab) technical purposes exam if it measures, in all skills, the presence of technical language attainment necessary for foreign language communication connected to vocational activities;
- b) according to the type
 - ba) oral if it measures listening comprehension and oral skills,
 - bb) written if it measures reading comprehension and writing skill,
 - bc) complex if it measures oral and writing skill as well.

(5) A certificate can be issued for an oral exam, for a written exam, further for an oral and a written exam passed within the same exam period at the same language examination centre. Language certificates issued for oral and written exams can together be equivalent to language certificates certifying complex language competence, independent of time elapsed between the two exam activities and independent of the language centres conducting the exams. Partial exams concerning the same language can be merged. Types of partial exams that can be merged are listed in *Annex I*. Partial exams of different levels can be merged into a complex exam that will be on the level of the lowest partial exam of the ones to be merged. Technical purposes partial exams can only be merged in case of identical vocational content and within educational areas as defined in Act CXXXIX of 2005 on higher education. The Educational Authority (hereinafter referred to as the Authority) issues upon request certificates on the merging of partial exams. The certificate is only valid together with the original partial exam certificates.

(6) Language exams comprehensibly measure all language skills listed in section (2) of paragraph 2 on elementary, intermediate and advanced level, indicating the attained level in the language certificate in line with the six-level system proposed in the Common European Framework (hereinafter referred to as the CEFR) of the Council of Europe. The Hungarian state recognised accredited language exam levels are in following relation to the levels of

the CEFR: basic level is equivalent to the threshold level of the CEFR (B1), intermediate level equals the vantage level of the CEFR (B2) and the advanced level is equivalent to the effective operational proficiency level of the CEFR (C1). *Annex 2* contains the description of the levels.

Examination of foreign language attainment

3. § (1) All persons who have attained the age of 14 in the calendar year of their application can enter for a language exam. Hungarian examinees can enter for any exam of the accredited foreign language of their choice, non-Hungarian examinees for exams in any accredited foreign language and in Hungarian language, at an accredited language centre endowed with the right of examination. Exams of specified sort, type and level can be entered for. The applicant can take the exam at any examination location of the language examination centre operating in accordance with section (3) of paragraph 8.

(2) In connection to section (1) all languages other than the official language of the Republic of Hungary are to be regarded as foreign languages.

(3) For a language exam an examination fee, determined by the language examination centre, is to be paid.

4. § (1) Language examining is being conducted before the committee delegated by the accredited language examination centre. The committee consists of at least two members. Individuals that are in a connection to the examinee as described in point b) of paragraph 685 of Act IV of 1959 on the Civil Code or individuals that participated in preparing the examinee for the exam cannot be members of the examining committee. During the language exam all language performance of the examinee is measured by two assessors. The language examination centre informs the examinee of the written, oral or complex exam's result within 30 days after the date of the exam at the latest. The examinee can view all of his/her written examination task sheets, including the description of tasks and the evaluation guidelines, and the assessment of the oral exam; the examinee can per handwriting or – where the possibility is given, on his/her expenses – per photocopying create a copy of his/her solutions of the tasks. The reproduction must be undertaken in a way that does not provide a possibility for accessing the assessor's personal data. The language examination centre can limit the copying of examination papers if it has already informed the examinee about this on the application form, nevertheless, the time provided for manual copying must not be shorter than 30 minutes.

(2) The language examination centre, with exception of the case regulated in section (3), has to provide examinees with exam certificates of successful exams, issued by the Authority in accordance with section (4), within 60 days of the exam event at the latest.

(3) It is possible to appeal within 10 working days from the disclosure of the result, based on the evaluation of the exam, a violation of legal regulations or a case of miscounting in the calculation of the scores. The head of the language examination centre examines the appeal and, if he/she agrees with it, the language examination centre alters its decision. The head of the language examination centre decides on the appeal within 10 working days from its receipt and informs the examinee of the decision. The examinee can, citing a violation of legal rules or a miscalculation in the calculation of the scores, within 10 working days from the notification of the decision taken on the appeal issue a complaint addressed to the Authority, to be submitted to the language examination centre. The complaint is being dealt with by the Authority according to the rules laid down in paragraphs 102-105 of Act CXL of 2004 on the general rules of administrative action and services (hereinafter referred to as the *Ket.*). In case an exam is deemed successful after an appeal or a complaint, the language centre has to provide the examinee with the exam certificate within 10 working days from the notification of the legally binding decision.

(4) The language examination centre issues a language exam register about the exam on the electronic interface of the Authority. The language exam register is opened by the language examination centre no later than ten days after the examinee entered for the exam. The language centre fills in the language exam register continuously with the data related to exam assignment, examiners and assessors and exam evaluation. The language examination centre assigns the examinee to an exam on the 10th day preceding the exam date the latest and it simultaneously informs the examinee. The electronic language exam register must be closed upon 90 days from its opening at the latest. The Authority issues certificates only based on totally filled-in and orderly language exam registers. Based on the language exam register, an official certificate of the language certificate can be issued by the Authority upon petition from the entitled person.

Duties of the state related to the examination of language attainment

5. § (1) The Authority, acting in the scope of its duties connected to the examination of language attainment:

a) elaborates and publishes in the Accreditation Manual the description of documents to be handed in for the purpose of accreditation, along with the methodological guidelines for measuring language competence,

b) annually revises the Manual and undertakes the modifications necessary,

c) considers applications aiming at establishing language examination centres, examination locations and language exam systems and accreditation applications related to the extension of language exam systems with new languages, and at least bi-annually conducts their reviews.

(2) The Authority makes first-level accreditation decisions, it conducts the nationalisation of language certificates attained abroad and it is responsible for supervising the database of language exam registers.

(3) The Authority administers the accreditation revenues which are used to cover the necessary expenses related to its tasks connected to language examination.

(4) The Authority elaborates and provides the language examination centres with the country-wide, uniform, paper-based and electronic form of certificates authentically certifying successful language exams and of language exam registers. The costs of producing certificates are borne by the language examination centres.

(5) The Authority, with the consent of the National Security Service, designates the printing office that the examination centre can contact to produce the exam certificates.

(6) The Authority gives statements on language exam related affairs upon request.

(7) The Authority regularly, at least twice a year, convenes the heads of the accredited language examination centres to hold professional consultations.

6. § (1) In completing the language examination related tasks of section (1) of paragraph 5 and in connection to the tasks listed under paragraph 8, the Language Examination Accreditation Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board), consisting of a minimum of five and a maximum of nine members, has to be appointed as expert.

(2) The members of the Board have university level language and literature pedagogical degrees attained in Hungary or MA-s in foreign language and pedagogy and have at least ten years of experience in the field of language teaching and language examination. The head of the Authority via competition mandates the members and the chairman of the Board for a term of three years. After three years the competition has to be repeatedly initiated. An individual person may hold a mandate for a maximum of six years. The head of the Authority can relieve a member or the chairman of the Board of his/her duty if he/she – due to imputable reasons – fails to fulfil his/her tasks related to membership/chairmanship.

(3) The rules concerning the activities and the remuneration of the Board's members and chairman are laid down in a rules of procedure which is subject to approval by the head of the Authority.

Joint rules of the accreditation and of the nationalisation procedure

7. § (1) During the procedure of accreditation and of nationalisation the Authority proceeds according to the rules of the Ket. Appeals against the first-level decisions of the Authority can be handed in to the minister of education and culture (hereinafter referred to as the Minister).

(2) In the nationalisation procedure of foreign language certificates the Authority takes a decision within 35 working days from the date of handing in the plea, in case of the accreditation procedure the decision is being taken within 30 working days from receiving the application.

(3) In accreditation procedures initiated by language centres and in the nationalisation procedure of language certificates the authority executes its procedural actions – with the exception of the notification on a decision – also electronically. In these administrative actions the client can submit his/her plea also electronically, except for the annexes that constitute notarial documents. In the administrative actions regulated by this Decree the proceeding authority provides electronic informational services in line with the provisions of the Ket.

Accreditation of language examination centres and language exam systems

8. § (1) Those legal persons, having their registration in Hungary and exercising educational or examination activities, can operate as accredited language examination centres that are capable of and suitable for conducting language exams, have a language exam system which meets the criteria of accreditation, and in case of examining in English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish, can certify employing a minimum of five persons per language, in case of other languages a minimum of three persons as examiners who are capable of conducting language examination. A foreign legal entity can request its accreditation as language examination centre through its organisational unit or institution that is registered in Hungary.

(2) The duties of a language examination centre and the rules governing its operation are the following:

- a) it announces at least one exam per year in all its accredited languages and on all levels;
- b) an exercise measuring one individual skill – except for oral skills – can only be used at one exam event per year in an unaltered form;
- c) it has to continuously inform examinees in printed form and on an electronic interface about the system of requirements of exams and their organisation;
- d) it continuously develops its language exam systems;
- e) it comprehensively documents exam-related events, including the administration of electronic language exam registers and the production of language certificates;
- f) it creates adequate exam conditions for persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal opportunities;
- g) it instructs and at least once in a year trains the examiners;
- h) it regulates in its rules of procedure the consequences of violating the rules of the exam.

(3) The language examination centre can organise language exams also outside the language examination centre. In these cases the examination locations other than the premises of the organisation have to be involved in an accreditation procedure referred to in point c) of paragraph 5 (1) as well.

9. § (1) The accredited language exam system:

- a) measures and separately assesses all language skills on all three levels through a language exam elaborated specifically for the level in question;
- b) documents the internal validity and reliability of its exams at every exam event;
- c) it constitutes a spiritual product of the language centre requesting accreditation, it is based on own developments, is original and meets the needs of the relevant target group;
- d) its evaluation system is in line with the measuring tools used.

(2) Accredited language exam systems can be extended by new exam languages.

(3) If the language examination centre intends to modify any element of the language exam system it has to submit a related plea to the Authority. If the Authority does not come to a decision within the relevant administrative deadline, the client is entitled to exercise the requested rights.

10. § (1) Only those persons can be employed as examiners at accredited language centres who have from the language concerned a university level language and literature pedagogical degree, or a BA in language, literature and pedagogy, language teaching, or an MA in foreign language and pedagogy

- a) attained in Hungary, or
 - b) issued in a country that uses the relevant language as an official language and recognised in Hungary, or
 - c) issued in a country of the European Economic Space and recognised in Hungary
- and who, following the attainment of the above document, can certify at least three years of experience in language teaching and, in the field of language teaching, three years of examination experience.

(2) In connection to point c) of section (1) countries of the European Economic Space include the countries of the European Union and other countries participating in the agreement on the European Economic Space.

(3) Deviating from the rule set out in section (1), in case of languages in connection to which there is no language teacher training in Hungary, persons can be examiners who have higher-level pedagogical qualification, an advanced level (C1) certified language exam of the relevant language, at least one year examination experience in the field of language teaching and two years of language teaching experience.

(4) In case of technical purposes exams, deviating from the rules of sections (1) and (3), also those persons can be examiners who have a vocational diploma in line with the requirements of the technical purposes exam system, acknowledged in Hungary and attained in a country using the relevant language as an official language, or attained in Hungary, and who further have a certified or an equivalent advanced level general purposes or technical purposes language exam and who can certify a high proficiency level of vocational language attainment.

11. § (1) During the course of the accreditation procedure, both in case of the accreditation of language examination centres and of language exam systems, persons can get mandates as experts who comply with the rules set out in paragraph 10, who are not employed nor engaged in any other working contract with the language centre seeking accreditation, and who did not participate in the elaboration of the language exam system.

(2) Complementing the language exam system can be requested as well in cases where the language examination centre wishes to extend its accredited language exam system by new languages.

(3) In case of technical purposes language exams that are organised for a circle of public and civil servants obligated by legal acts or internal regulations to take language exams and that are conducted or organised by internal organisational units of ministries only the language exam system and the chosen languages have to be accredited. These examination locations organise language exams only for the obligated. These technical purposes exams are to be regarded as certified technical purposes language exams.

(4) Legally binding accreditation decisions are to be published on the web site of the Authority. Accreditations are

valid until withdrawal.

(5) The Authority allocates a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 per cent of its revenues of a current year originating from language examination to tasks of the next year connected to the development of language teaching and language examining.

12. § (1) The Authority and the experts delegated by it monitor language centres, language exam systems and examination locations at least once in every two years.

(2) Persons conducting monitoring activities have the right to inspect documents relevant to the professional operation of the language centre, further written task sheets used in the exams, and they can enter the exams and can ask the examiners and examinees questions.

(3) If it is determined during monitoring that the accredited language examination centre, the whole language exam system or a part of it or the examination location is not compliant with the conditions of accreditation, or if the committee conducting the monitoring finds that operation deviates from the documents the accreditation is based on, the Authority calls upon the language examination centre, setting a deadline, to resolve the conflict with the legal framework. If the language examination centre does not comply with the content of the request in due time, if it hinders the successful implementation of the monitoring activities or if it commits repeated or serious legal offences the Authority can suspend the process of accreditation. The Authority withdraws the accreditation in case of repeated and grave irregularities that directly influence the outcome of exams. In the decision on the suspension or withdrawal, the Authority has to dispose of the solutions that handle financial, legal and organisational issues arising due to the withdrawal or suspension. The legally binding resolution on the withdrawal of the accreditation has to be published on the web page of the Authority.

Nationalisation of language certificates issued abroad

13. § (1) Monolingual, general purposes or technical purposes language certificates issued by foreign language examination centres can be nationalised.

(2) The nationalisation procedure is twofold:

- a) general nationalisation procedure,
- b) individual nationalisation procedure.

(3) In the framework of a general nationalisation procedure monolingual, foreign language certificates can be nationalised into certified language certificates if

a) the foreign language exam system owns an accreditation decision in Hungary and the language certificate has been issued in Hungary before the date of the accreditation decision;

b) the foreign language exam system owns an accreditation decision in Hungary and the petitioner has attained the language certificate to be nationalised abroad;

c) the foreign language exam system does not own an accreditation decision in Hungary but the Authority, after having examined the requirements of the foreign exam and having compared them to the Hungarian system of requirements, ascertains and, in line with section (4), publishes the possibility of nationalisation of the relevant foreign language centre's language certificate.

(4) The Authority publishes on its web page continuously for information purposes the list of those language certificates issued by foreign language centres that can be nationalised in the framework of the general nationalisation procedure.

(5) In the framework of a nationalisation procedure, exam certificates issued after the 1st of January 2000 by foreign organisations that do not conduct examination activities in Hungary can be nationalised into certified language certificates. In the course of ascertaining the possibility of nationalisation the Authority can contact the organisation that issued the certificate or other official authorities and it can involve experts.

(6) The nationalisation procedure starts upon a plea. The plea has to be submitted to the Authority. The plea has to refer to the level, sort and type of the language exam that the petitioner wishes to nationalise. If the petitioner intends to nationalise his/her monolingual certificate into one equalling a bilingual certified language certificate he/she has to pass a complementary exam as described in section (8).

(7) The following have to be attached to the plea:

- a) the authentic copy of the foreign language certificate,
- b) in case of individual procedure the authentic translation of the foreign language certificate,
- c) proof of payment of the nationalisation fee to the bank account held by the Authority.

(8) During the course of the accreditation procedure the Authority, based on the plea, examines the presence of the skills certified by the foreign language certificate and listed in paragraph 2 (2) and it makes, if the certificate does not certify the measuring of an individual skill, the passing of a complementary exam a prerequisite to the nationalisation

of the foreign certificate. In case where a complementary exam is prescribed, the deadline for passing the exam and the language centre undertaking the examination have to be regulated.

(9) In the decision on nationalisation the Authority declares if the foreign language certificate can be regarded as equivalent to a Hungarian certified language certificate of the level, sort and type indicated in the plea.

(10) The accreditation decision is only valid together with the original foreign language certificate.

(11) The classification of levels follows the CEFR and is related to accredited certified language exams in Hungary and their levels.

Documents equivalent to language certificates

14. § (1) Certified graduation certificates, attained at foreign education institutions, that certify completed studies in a certain language and certified diplomas earned at foreign higher education institutions are equivalent to a certified general purposes, monolingual, complex type advanced level language exam of the relevant language. The foreign diploma, based on the acknowledged or nationalised vocational qualification, and the foreign diploma attesting a qualification that is recognised as a vocational qualification linked to a secondary education graduation certificate in Hungary are equivalent to certified technical purposes, monolingual, complex type advanced level language exams.

(2) Differing from the rules set out in section (1), the arts faculty diploma attained at Hungarian or foreign higher education institutions in living or extinct languages, the teacher's and language teacher's diploma, further the teachers' diploma with an MA in foreign language, in living or extinct languages and literature, further the teacher's diploma earned in pedagogy in the literacy field of foreign languages are equivalent to certified general purposes (if attained in Hungary, bilingual, if issued abroad, monolingual) complex type advanced level language exams, exclusively in connection to the foreign language actually studied. A BA qualification in foreign language is equivalent, in respect of the language indicated in the qualification, to a certified general purposes (if attained in Hungary, bilingual, if issued abroad, monolingual) complex type advanced level language exam. A BA qualification with foreign language orientation is equivalent, in respect of the language studied in the orientation, to a general purposes (if attained in Hungary, bilingual, if issued abroad, monolingual) complex type language certificate of the level of the language output level determined in the educational and output requirements.

(3) Certificates and diplomas certifying completed studies at higher education institutions in Hungary on a nationality teacher, nationality school-teacher or nationality kindergarten educator department are equivalent to certified general purpose, complex type advanced level language exams in the language of the institution's education.

(4) International graduation certificates attained abroad or in Hungary are equivalent to certified general purpose, monolingual, complex type advanced language exams regarding the language of education.

(5) In case of non-Hungarian citizens the graduation certificate or diploma received after the completion of secondary education or higher education studies in Hungarian language is equivalent to a certified monolingual, complex type advanced language exam in Hungarian as a foreign language.

(6) Diplomas certifying completed studies in a foreign language at higher education institutions listed in Annex 1 of Act CXXXIX of 2005 on higher education are equivalent to a certified monolingual, complex type advanced level language exam regarding the language of education.

(7) In case of a successfully completed graduation exam the result of the graduation exam in the foreign language is, based on Government Decree No. 100/1997 (VI. 13.), equivalent to a certified language exam and the graduation certificate certifying the exam result is equivalent to a certified language certificate.

(8) Qualification certificates or qualifying examination certificates that were issued after the completion of a special translators' or special translators' and interpreters' training that is in conformity with the provisions of Decree No. 7/1986 (VI. 26.) of the Minister of Culture on the requirements for attainment of the special translator's and interpreter's qualification, with the provisions of the vocational training decrees or that is based on a licence by the Minister are, regarding the language studied, equivalent to a certified bilingual, complex type advanced level technical purposes language exam. Master level translators' and interpreters' diplomas are, in respect of the language studied, equivalent to certified general purpose, bilingual complex type advanced level language exams.

Closing provisions

15. § (1) This Decree enters into force on the 30th day after its promulgation. Its rules are to be used in connection to pleas submitted after its entry into force.

(2) The following pieces of legislation are overruled simultaneously to this Decree's entry into force:

a) Government Decree No. 71/1998 (IV. 8.) on the rules of the certified examination of foreign language attainment and on language certificates, its modifications Government Decree No. 166/2000 (IX. 29.), Government Decree No. 300/2001 (XII. 27.), Government Decree No. 39/2003 (III. 27.) and Government Decree No. 95/2005 (V. 21.), point e) of paragraph 39 of Government Decree No. 307/2006 (XII. 23.) on the Educational Authority;

b) paragraphs 1-4 and 7-9 of Decree No. 26/2000 (VIII. 31.) of the Ministry of Education on the nationalisation in Hungary of language certificates of foreign language attainment issued abroad, Decree No. 28/2002 (V. 17.) of the Ministry of Education modifying Decree No. 26/2000 (VIII. 31.) of the Ministry of Education on the nationalisation in Hungary of language certificates of foreign language attainment issued abroad, Decree No. 16/2006 (IV. 6.) of the Ministry of Education, Decree No. 20/2007 (III. 23.) of the Ministry of Education and Culture on the modification of Decree No. 31/2004 (III. 23.) of the Ministry of Culture on the Register of national experts, the Register of national examination, the Register of national vocational experts and the Register of national vocational exam-chairmen and on expert activities and of Decree No. 26/2000 (VIII. 31.) of the Ministry of Culture on the nationalisation in Hungary of language certificates of foreign language attainment issued abroad, Decree No. 33/2004 (XII. 16.) of the Ministry of Education on the modification of individual MoE decrees on the examination fees and accreditation procedures of certified language exam systems and on the nationalisation fees of certified language exams certifying foreign language attainment, Decree No. 37/2004 (XII. 25.) of the Ministry of Culture on the modification of individual education-related decrees connected to the organisational restructuring of the House of Professors, paragraphs 1-15 and Annex 3 of Decree No. 30/1999 (VII. 21.) of the Ministry of Education on the uniform system of requirements of certified language exams and its revision, on the accreditation procedure and on the modification of examination fees, further Decree No. 20/2002 (V. 11.) of the Ministry of Education on the modification of Decree No. 30/1999 (VII. 21.) of the Ministry of Education.

(3) Simultaneously to this Decree's entry into force the text "appeals" is replaced by "complaint" in point a) of paragraph 39 of Government Decree No. 307/2006 (XII. 23.) on the Educational Authority, further, the text "register" is replaced by "language exam register" in point f) of paragraph 39 of the same Decree.

(4) This Decree does not affect the validity of language certificates issued before its entry into force.

(5) The competition for membership in the Language Examination Accreditation Board is published by the Authority within 30 days from this Decree's entry into force and the Board is established within 60 days from the publication of the competition.

(6) Language centres accredited or equated according based on Government Decree No. 71/1998 (IV. 8.) on the rules of the certified examination of foreign language attainment and on language certificates have to revise and modify their language exam systems and operating conditions until the 1st of January 2009 in order to be in line with the dispositions of this Decree.

(7) On the 30th day after this Decree's entry into force sections (2) and (3) are overruled. On the 91st day after this Decree's entry into force section (5) is overruled.

Annex 1 to Government Decree No. 137/2008 (V. 16.)

| Types of partial exams that can be merged | Equivalent exam type |
|--|--|
| General purposes monolingual oral and General purposes monolingual written | General purposes, monolingual, complex |
| General purposes, bilingual oral and General purposes, bilingual written | General purposes, bilingual, complex |
| General purposes, monolingual oral and General purposes bilingual written | General purposes, monolingual, complex |
| General purposes, monolingual written and General purposes bilingual oral | General purposes, monolingual, complex |
| General purposes, monolingual oral and Technical purposes, monolingual written | General purposes, monolingual, complex |
| General purposes, monolingual written and Technical purposes, monolingual oral | General purposes, monolingual, complex |
| General purposes, bilingual oral and Technical purposes, bilingual written | General purposes, bilingual, complex |
| General purposes, bilingual written and Technical purposes, bilingual oral | General purposes, bilingual, complex |
| General purposes, monolingual oral and Technical purposes, bilingual written | General purposes, monolingual, complex |
| General purposes, monolingual written and Technical purposes, bilingual oral | General purposes, monolingual, complex |
| General purposes, bilingual oral and Technical purposes, monolingual written | General purposes, monolingual, complex |
| General purposes, bilingual written and Technical purposes, monolingual oral | General purposes, monolingual, complex |
| Technical purposes, monolingual oral and Technical purposes, monolingual written | Technical purposes, monolingual, complex |
| Technical purposes, bilingual oral and Technical purposes, bilingual written | Technical purposes, bilingual, complex |
| Technical purposes, monolingual oral and Technical purposes, bilingual, written | Technical purposes, monolingual, complex |
| Technical purposes, monolingual written and Technical purposes, bilingual oral | Technical purposes, monolingual, complex |

Annex 2 to Government Decree No. 137/2008 (V. 16.)

1. Exams measuring threshold level (B1 level) language competence

1.1. In case of a language exam measuring B1 level language competence the presence of language competence necessary for simple foreign language communication in everyday situations and/or during vocational activities has to be examined.

1.2. The exam encompasses the examination of following language skills and competences:

a) the language user understands slow and clear idiomatic conversations that is related to well-known topics (e. g. family, home, leisure time, workplace etc.); smaller misunderstandings occur frequently; changes in tempo can lead to problems;

b) the language user reacts to speech directed towards him/her, does not lose the thread of conversation; he/she is capable of expressing basic needs but occasionally speaks inaccurately, with quite a lot of pauses;

c) the language user understands simple written text because he/she is in possession of a proportional passive range beyond his/her active minimum vocabulary and knows the basic structures of the target language;

d) the language user is, within the realm of topics familiar to him/her, capable of creating simple text and can put

it down in writing;

e) the language user knows the most basic everyday communicational and cultural customs and conventions of the target language community;

f) in case of a bilingual exam the language user is capable of translating simple text written in the target language into Hungarian and can transmit Hungarian text into the target language with relative accuracy; the latter can contain formal, grammar or lexical mistakes but no grave informational mistakes.

2. Requirements of exams measuring vantage level (B2 level) language competence

2.1. In case of a language exam measuring B2 level language competence the presence of language competence necessary for competent foreign language communication in everyday situations and/or during vocational activities has to be examined.

2.2. The exam can be directed towards examining following language skills and competences:

a) the language user understands the essence and nature of oral communication although there can be unsubstantial details that he/she does not understand exactly; the language user is able to make use of this skill also in areas that go beyond frequent conversational topics, as well as in appropriate vocational topics he/she is familiar with;

b) the language user can engage in continuous, varied and natural interaction with a native speaker partner as well and does not have to look for words; nevertheless, he/she avoids more abstract lexical levels, his/her speech is not idiomatic;

c) the language user understands more complex and abstract written text as well, grave misunderstandings do not occur;

d) the language user is capable of creating clear and detailed text, of expressing his/her opinion, of simple reasoning and of conducting analyses of common general topics or vocational topics he/she is familiar with; nevertheless, his/her language use can contain stylistic mistakes, verbal phrasing can stall at times;

e) the language user knows the most important everyday communicational and cultural customs and conventions of the target language community;

f) in case of a bilingual exam the language user is capable of mediating more complex and abstract general and vocational written text; his/her translations and summarisations into Hungarian reflect routine and a sense of style; his/her translations and summarisations into the target language, although grammatically and mostly lexically correct, can often contain stylistic errors, circumscriptions instead of common expressions.

3. Requirements of exams measuring effective operational proficiency level (C1 level) language competence

3.1. In case of a language exam measuring level C1 language competence the presence of stable language competence necessary for optional and proficient foreign language communication in everyday situations and/or during vocational activities has to be examined which uses all instruments of the target language in a generally correct way.

3.2. The exam can be directed towards examining following language skills and competences:

a) the language user understands, in its parts and as a whole, high-standard, varied and lengthy verbal manifestations as well, this also entails the comprehension of hidden meanings;

b) the language user speaks in a continuous and properly articulate way, without disturbing accent, with accurate stresses and mostly with right intonation; he/she uses the more complex structures and set phrases characteristic of the target language in a natural rhythm; he/she can keep up a fluent (but not necessarily vocational) conversation also about more abstract topics;

c) the reading comprehension of the language user is also confident in case of written text of varied topics and styles, he/she recognises the substantial stylistic elements;

d) the language learner is capable of creating, for general, vocational and educational purposes clear, detailed, well drafted text that is in line with the character of the target language and that is practically flawless;

e) the language user knows the literal language, recognises non-standard language variations and, based on his/her routine, is capable of keeping the linguistic and cultural customs and conventions of the target language;

f) in case of a bilingual exam the language user reflects the informational content of the original text in its entirety,

in varied Hungarian language and within the proper register; when preparing a translation or summarisation in the target language he/she mediates in a clear and fluent style and according to the linguistic and cultural norms of the target language.