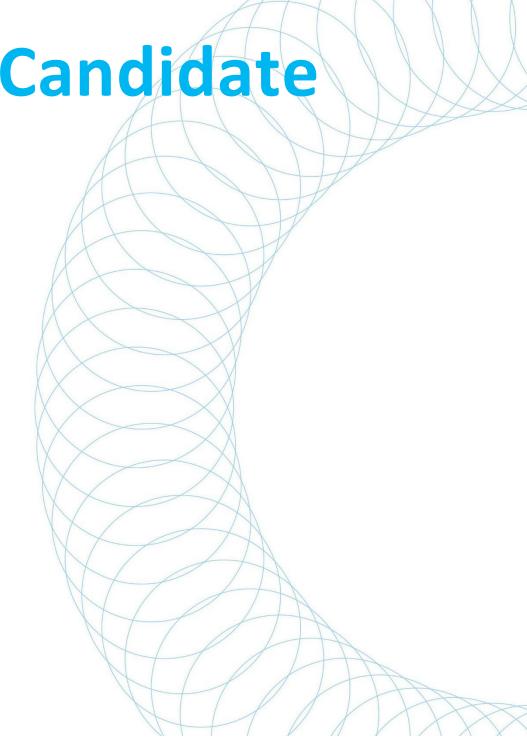




Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) Assessment



Guide



Introducing the Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) Assessments

The Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) Assessments are a suite of computer-delivered English language literacy and numeracy assessments from the British Council, developed in collaboration with SkillsFuture Singapore Agency (SSG) for the WPLN program. The assessments are used to assess English language literacy in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing, and Numeracy ability.

The assessments do not assess at a single level. They include a range of questions designed to allow you to show your best ability. The assessment results are reported both on a numerical scale (0–50) and their corresponding WPLN proficiency levels. The English language Workplace Literacy (WPL) assessments are also linked to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

This guide helps you prepare for the assessments. It has an overview of the assessments, and each component is described. You will find advice on how to prepare for the assessments, as well as information on how the assessments are marked.

Table of Contents

Introducing the Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) Assessments	2
Table of Contents	3
OVERVIEW: THE STRUCTURE OF THE WPLN ASSESSMENTS	5
The Literacy Assessments	5
The Numeracy Assessment	5
Literacy Assessments	6
Numeracy assessment	9
WPL Core Assessment (Grammar and Vocabulary)	10
Sample grammar questions	10
Written grammar	
Spoken grammar	11
Sample vocabulary questions	12
2. WPL Speaking Assessment	14
Sample speaking questions	16
Speaking Part 1: Personal information	
Speaking Part 2: Describe, express opinion and provide reasons and explanations	
Speaking Part 3: Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations	
Speaking Part 4: Discuss personal experience and opinion on an abstract topic	
3. WPL Listening Assessment	
Sample listening questions	
Listening Part 1: Information Recognition	
Listening Part 2: Information Matching	
Listening Part 4: Monologue Comprehension	
4. WPL Reading Assessment	
Sample reading questions	
Reading Part 1: Sentence comprehension	
Reading Part 2: Text cohesion	
Reading Part 3: Opinion matching	
Reading Part 4: Long text comprehension	38
5. WPL Writing Assessment	39
Sample writing questions	41
Writing Part 1: Word-level writing	41
Writing Part 2: Short text writing	
Writing Part 3: Three written parts of text, all of which require responses	
Writing Part 4: Formal and informal writing	
Register	<i>4</i> 8
6 Numeracy Assessment	⊿ 0

Mathematical formula used in the WPN assessments	50
Units of measurement, symbols and their abbreviations	50
Sample numeracy questions	
WPLN Assessments for all	55
Final checklistUseful web resources	
For more information, please visit www.britishcouncil.sq/exam/wpln	57

OVERVIEW: THE STRUCTURE OF THE WPLN ASSESSMENTS

The Literacy Assessments

The Workplace Literacy (WPL) assessments consist of five components.

- Grammar and Vocabulary (Core)
- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing

The Core assessment is mandatory. You will prepare for the Core Assessment and the skill components you have chosen. You may be taking only one skill component (for example, Listening) or all four skill components (Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing).



The Numeracy Assessment

The Workplace Numeracy (WPN) assessment is divided into two parts. In the first part, you will complete the questions without using a calculator. In the second part, you will use a virtual calculator to solve more complex questions. The assessment becomes increasingly more difficult as it progresses.

The WPN assessment is designed to assess mathematical competencies and skills in everyday workplace operations and situations. The assessment questions range from simple questions on basic numeracy to more complex mathematical problems. The assessment is based on four mathematical content areas:

- number and operation sense
- patterns, functions and algebra
- measurement and shape
- data, probability and statistics

It is a good idea to take a familiarisation assessment so that you understand what you need to do. You can find familiarisation assessments for each of the components on the British Council Singapore website https://www.britishcouncil.sg/exam/wpln/prepare.

Here is the structure of the Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) assessments.

Literacy Assessments

ASSESSMENT	ASSES	SSMENT DESIGN	ACTIVITY	FORMAT
Core 25 minutes	Part 1	Grammar	Sentence completion	25 questions with 3-option multiple choice
	Part 2	Vocabulary	Word matching (similar meaning). Match words to definitions. Sentence completion. Word pairs or word combinations (words commonly used together)	5 tasks with 5 questions
Speaking 12 minutes	Part 1	Personal information	Respond to three personal information questions	30 seconds for each response
	Part 2	Describe, express opinion and provide reasons and explanations	Describe a picture and answer three additional questions of increasing difficulty	45 seconds for each response
	Part 3	Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations	Describe two contrasting pictures and answer two additional questions of increasing difficulty	45 seconds for each response
	Part 4	Discuss personal experience and opinion on an abstract topic	Answer three questions on an abstract topic	1 minute to prepare 2 minutes response time

	1	T	I	T
Listening 40 minutes	Part 1	Information recognition	Listen to a short monologue or dialogue to identify specific information	3-option multiple choice
	Part 2	Information matching	Match people's monologues to information	6 pieces of information. 4 people's monologues
	Part 3	Opinion matching	Listen to a dialogue and decide who expresses an opinion	2 questions. Man, woman or both options
	Part 4	Monologue comprehension	Listen to two monologues and answer two questions for each	2 questions 3-option multiple choice
Reading 35 minutes	Part 1	Sentence comprehension	Choose words to complete sentences	3-option multiple choice
	Part 2	Text cohesion	Put sentences into the correct order	2 tasks 6 sentences jumbled up in each task
	Part 3	Opinion matching	Match people's opinions to statements	7 statements matched to 4 people's opinions
	Part 4	Long text comprehension	Match headings to paragraphs	7 paragraphs and 8 headings

Writing 50 minutes	Part 1	Word-level writing	Respond to messages using individual words	1–5 words for each question
	Part 2	Short text writing	Write personal information	20-30 words
	Part 3	Three written responses to questions	Respond to written questions on a social network-type website	30–40 words for each question
	Part 4	Formal and informal writing	Write an informal email to a friend and a formal email to an unknown person	About 50 words for the informal email 120–150 words for the formal email

Numeracy assessment

Numeracy 75 minutes	Part 1	26 items including questions covering: numbers, algebra, measurement, and data	No calculator will be provided	A mixture of 4- option multiple choice questions (1 correct answer per question) and short answer questions
	Part 2	24 items including questions covering: numbers, algebra, measurement, and data	Virtual calculator provided	A mixture of 4- option multiple choice questions (1 correct answer per question) and short answer questions

1. WPL Core Assessment (Grammar and Vocabulary)

The Core Assessment consists of two parts. The first part assesses your knowledge of English grammar. The second part assesses your knowledge of English vocabulary.

ASSESSMENT DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1	In this part of the	To know which parts of grammar are
Grammar	assessment, you will answer 25 questions.	tested, see the British Council / EAQUALS core inventory. This is free and available online at:
	Most of the questions assess formal written English. A small number of questions assess spoken English, such as knowing the appropriate grammar to use in a particular situation (formal or informal	https://englishagenda.britishcouncil. org/continuing-professional- development/cpd-teacher- trainers/british-council-eaquals-core- inventory-general-english
	situations, for example). All 25 questions are 3-option multiple choice.	One great way to prepare for the grammar assessment is to use the British Council's LearnEnglish Grammar App:
	Complete a sentence by choosing the correct word.	http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar
Part 2 Vocabulary	In this part, there are 5 tasks with 5 questions.	To help you prepare for this part of the assessment, the LearnEnglish website has games and activities to
	There are several question types:	help you improve your vocabulary. http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary
	Word matching: find a word with a meaning similar to the target word.	There are also many useful websites, for example: www.englishclub.com
	Word definition: match a definition to the correct word.	Another useful tip is to take note of interesting words or word
	Word usage: complete a sentence by choosing the correct word.	combinations when you read English texts.
	Word pairs or word combinations: select the most common combinations of words; you are given a target word and a list of words which may or may not be commonly used in combination with the target word. (e.g. where card is the target word, birthday + card is a common combination but blue + card is not).	

Sample grammar questions

There are two question types. The first focuses on written English grammar, and the second focuses on the use of English grammar when speaking.

Hara are some examples:

Should

Shall

Could

В

С

пеі	nere are some examples.					
Wri	Written grammar					
He is	s single. He never					
А	marrying					
В	marries					
С	married					
She r	eads every day she isn't serious.					
А	because					
В	and					
С	but					
Excus	e me, I'm lost. you help me?					

Spoken grammar

We could cook dinner. _____, we could buy some takeaway food.

А	Therefore
В	On the other hand
С	Although

A: I enjoy working on challenging projects at work.

B: So ____ I!

А	am
В	do
С	can

Sample vocabulary questions

In the first question type, you need to match words with similar meanings from a list of options. To do this, click on the arrows and choose the similar word.

Here is an example:

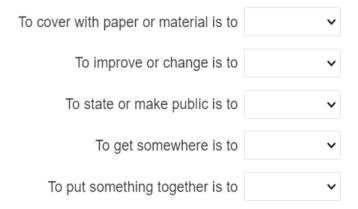
Select a word from each drop-down list on the right that has the same or a very similar meaning to each word on the left.



For the next question type, you need to match a definition to a word. Click on the arrow and choose the word that matches the definition.

Here is an example:

Complete each definition using a word from the drop-down list.



The next question type asks you to identify a word from a list that is commonly used with the given word.

Select a word from each drop-down list on the right that is most often used with each word on the left.



There is a final question type that asks you to complete a sentence using a word from a list.

Complete each sentence using a word from each drop-down list.



2. WPL Speaking Assessment

For each question, you are given a maximum amount of time to speak but you can end the recording early by clicking on a stop button. Please make sure you fully respond to the question before you stop the recording.

The most common reasons people receive lower scores than they expect include:

- not doing a proper sound check (details on how to do this are shown below)
- 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.

ASSESSMENT DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Personal information	In this part, you are asked to answer three questions on personal topics. You are expected to talk for 30 seconds per question.	It's a good idea to practise introducing yourself and talking about your personal experiences. Think about how you can talk about familiar topics (e.g. holidays, weekend activities, sports) and practise giving general information about those topics.
Part 2 Describe, express opinion and provide reasons and explanations	In this part, you are asked to describe a photograph and then answer two questions related to the topic illustrated in the photo. The three questions increase in complexity (from description to opinion). You are expected to talk for 45 seconds per question.	You should try to be fluent and spontaneous, showing little sign of effort. Make sure you answer all three questions.
Part 3 Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations	In this part, you are asked to compare two pictures and then answer two questions related to the topic. The three questions increase in complexity (from description to speculation). You are expected to talk for 45 seconds for each question.	To prepare for this task, practise comparing two different things (e.g. two cities or two houses). Focus on describing their advantages and disadvantages. To achieve a very high score in this part, it's important to make sure you are using correct grammatical structures when you speculate.

Part 4

Discuss personal experience and opinion on an abstract topic In the final part, you will see a picture and be asked three questions about an abstract topic.

You are given one (1) minute to prepare an answer and during this time you can take notes.
You are expected to talk for two (2) minutes.

A common error is to describe the photo. You will not receive a high score if you just describe the photo. The questions are more abstract (e.g. how you feel about something).

Another common error is to go offtopic. Focus on answering each question in clear, flowing, wellstructured speech.

To prepare for this part it is a good idea to practise speaking for two minutes on an abstract topic (e.g. How do you feel about ____?).

Make sure you practise using your planning time to structure what you're going to say.

Sample speaking questions

Speaking Part 1: Personal information

In this part, you answer some questions about yourself. Listen to the instructions and speak clearly into your microphone when you hear the signal.

Each part of the assessment will appear automatically. You can stop recording your response before the timer runs out by tapping on the stop button, but we recommend that you try and speak for the full time available to maximise your score.

Prompt

Part One - In this part, I am going to ask you three short questions about yourself and your interests. You will have 30 seconds to reply to each question.

Begin speaking when you hear this sound.

When the time to record comes, the timer begins. This tells you the amount of time you have left (in the screenshot below the timer shows that you have 20 seconds more to record your answer).

Speaking
Part 1 of 3

Please tell me about a famous place in your country.

As each new question appears, the same procedure is followed.



Speaking
Part 3 of 3

Please tell me about your favorite film.

The areas assessed in this part of the Speaking Assessment are how completely and relevantly you have answered the question, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation and fluency. Here is the marking scale.

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Some simple grammatical structures are used correctly but basic mistakes systematically occur.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions, although inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and frequently place a strain on the listener.

Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations but the meaning is still

clear.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Some simple grammatical structures are used correctly but basic mistakes systematically occur.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions, although inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and frequently place a strain on the listener.

Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations but the meaning is still

clear.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.

Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information.

Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible except for isolated words.

Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations impede understanding.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.

Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information.

Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible except for isolated words.

Frequent pausing, false starts and reformulations impede understanding.

No meaningful language or all responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Speaking Part 2: Describe, express opinion and provide reasons and explanations

You will see a photo and answer three questions. You have 45 seconds to respond to each question.



Describe this picture



Speaking Part 2 of 3



Tell me about a time when you gave or received a gift.



Speaking Part 3 of 3



Why is it important to give people gifts on special occasions?



The areas assessed in this part of the Speaking Assessment are how completely and relevantly you responded to the question, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation, fluency and cohesion. Here is the marking scale.

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.

Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.

Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.

Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.

Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Speaking Part 3: Describe, compare and provide reasons and explanations

In this part, you will see two photos and answer three questions.

Speaking Part 1 of 3





Tell me what you see in the two pictures.

Recording...



Finish Recording

Speaking Part 2 of 3





What would it be like to work in these two places?

Recording...



Finish Recording

23

Speaking Part 3 of 3





Which of these two places would you prefer to work in? Why?

Recording...



Finish Recording

The marking scale is the same as for Part 2.

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.

Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Sufficient range and control of vocabulary for the task. Errors occur when expressing complex thoughts.

Pronunciation is intelligible but inappropriate mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Some pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.

Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Uses some simple grammatical structures correctly but systematically makes basic mistakes.

Vocabulary will be limited to concrete topics and descriptions. Inappropriate lexical choices for the task are noticeable.

Mispronunciations are noticeable and put a strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts and reformulations.

Cohesion between ideas is limited. Responses tend to be a list of points.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

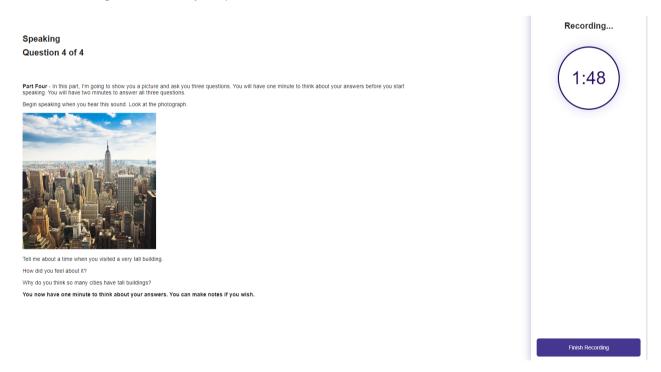
Low Scoring



Speaking Part 4: Discuss personal experience and opinion on an abstract topic In this part, you need to answer three questions but this time you answer them all in one response.



You have one minute to prepare a structured response. When preparation time is over, the message appears at the bottom 'You now have two minutes to talk'. You should speak until the recording automatically stops after two minutes.



During the preparation time in Part 4, it's important to make notes, as these will help you organize your response and remember what you want to speak about. Rather than writing out exactly what you want to say, make brief notes and use these to structure your speech.

Areas assessed in this part are how completely and relevantly you have answered the questions and the grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, pronunciation, fluency and cohesion of your response.

Here is the marking scale:

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Response addresses all three questions and is well-structured.

Uses a range of complex grammar constructions accurately. Some minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.

Uses a range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Some awkward usage or slightly inappropriate lexical choices.

Pronunciation is clear and intelligible.

Backtracking and reformulations do not fully interrupt the flow of speech.

A range of cohesive devices are used to clearly indicate the links between ideas

Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Some complex grammar constructions are used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstandings.

Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.

Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding.

Some pausing while searching for vocabulary but this does not put a strain on the listener.

A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Some complex grammar constructions are used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstandings.

Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.

Pronunciation is intelligible. Mispronunciations do not put a strain on the listener or lead to misunderstanding

Some pausing while searching for vocabulary but this does not put a strain on the listener.

A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task.

Pronunciation is intelligible but occasional mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts, reformulations and repetition.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Limitations in vocabulary make it difficult to deal fully with the task.

Pronunciation is intelligible but occasional mispronunciations put an occasional strain on the listener.

Noticeable pausing, false starts, reformulations and repetition.

Uses only simple cohesive devices. Links between ideas are not always clearly indicated.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorized script, guessing).

Low Scoring



3. WPL Listening Assessment

The Listening Assessment has four task types. You can choose to listen to the question once or twice.

ASSESSMENT DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Information recognition	In these questions, you listen to a short phone message, or a short monologue or dialogue and you need to identify specific information such as a phone number, a time, or a place.	Visit the British Council's LearnEnglish website for lots of very useful activities, tips, apps and podcasts: http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en The elementary podcasts are useful preparation for these questions.
Part 2 Information matching	In these questions, you listen to four people's monologues and match the person to the information. There are six pieces of information to match to the monologues.	There are quite a few useful practice videos and podcasts on the LearnEnglish website, so that's a very good starting point. In addition, try to listen to as much English as possible (e.g. films, television or radio). Another possible source is the BBC World Service radio http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio
Part 3 Opinion matching	In this task, you listen to a dialogue between a man and a woman and then decide who expresses an opinion. There are two questions. Your task is to decide if the man, woman or both the man and woman have expressed the opinion.	Listening to authentic speech, such as television drama programs or films, is a good way to prepare for this task.
Part 4 Monologue comprehension	In these tasks, you listen to a monologue and answer two questions. The focus here is not on understanding the meaning of what the speaker is saying, but on identifying clues in their language or tone to help identify the attitude of the speaker, their intention or opinion.	There are several higher-level podcasts on the LearnEnglish website. Also, try the BBC World Service radio station.

Sample listening questions

Remember that if you'd like to hear a question for a second time, just click on the Play button (). The system will not allow you to listen more than twice.

Listening Part 1: Information Recognition

You listen to a short monologue or dialogue and identify specific information such as a phone number, a time, or a place.

A doctor's secretary calls about a change to an appointment. What is changing?

Play/Stop



Listening Part 2: Information Matching

You listen to four different people and match the person to the information.

Four people are describing their plans for the future. Complete the sentences below.

Play/Stop

Speaker A wants to	•
Speaker B wants to	•
Speaker C wants to	•
Speaker D wants to	•

Listening Part 3: Opinion Matching

You listen to a dialogue between a man and a woman and decide who expresses a particular opinion – the man, the woman or both.

Listen to two parents discussing the issue of children's health. Read the opinions below and decide whose opinion matches the statements, the man, the woman, or both the man and the woman.

1. Parents should better manage their children's diets.	•	
2. Parents should support their child's interest in sport.	•	
3. Quiet time can promote children's concentration abilities.		~

4. Excessive sleep can be bad for young people.

Listening Part 4: Monologue Comprehension

You listen to a monologue to identify the attitude of the speaker, their intention or opinion.

Listen to a city planner talk at a press conference about a new transport plan and answer the questions below.

⊙ <u>Play/Stop</u>				
What	What is his opinion of the plan overall?			
А	It is very similar to previous community projects in the same area.			
В	It was prepared without proper consultation with the community.			
С	C It does not represent the opinions of the whole community.			
What is his opinion of the role of the media?				
А	He is critical of the media's reporting of the plan.			
В	He is surprised by the media's interest in the plan.			
С	C He is confused by the media's reaction to the plan.			

4. WPL Reading Assessment

This assessment assesses your reading ability. The tasks become more difficult as the assessment progresses.

ASSESSMENT DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Sentence comprehension	In this part, you need to choose a word (you're given three to choose from) to complete a sentence. There are five sentences to be completed. This part assesses your ability to read a sentence and to complete the sentence with an appropriate word.	Make sure you read each sentence and all the possible answer words carefully before trying to answer this question. The best way to become a better reader is to practice. Easy books written especially for English language learners might help. For example, try: Cambridge Bookworms Starter / Stage 1 Cambridge Readers Level 1 Penguin Readers – Level 1 Macmillan Readers – Starter / Beginner Headway Skills series.
Part 2 Text cohesion	In this part, you will see five sentences that make a whole text. The sentences need to be put in the correct order. There is only one correct way to organise the sentences. Your task is to click on each sentence and then move them so each one is in the correct position. There are two of these tasks. This part assesses your knowledge of the cohesion of a text. You need to look for clues in each sentence that show how it links to the sentences around it.	Read all the sentences carefully first. Then, decide on the correct order (the first sentence is identified for you). Appropriate graded readers for preparation for this level are: Cambridge Bookworms Stage 1 and 2 Cambridge Readers – Level 2 Penguin Readers – Level 3 Macmillan Readers – Elementary.

Part 3

Opinion matching

In this part, you will match people's opinions to statements. You will read four people's opinions on the same topic. Then you need to read seven statements and decide which person's opinion matches each statement.

This part tests your ability to read and understand short texts.

First, read and understand each person's opinion Then read the statements and decide which person the statement best matches.

Appropriate readers for this level are:

Cambridge Bookworms Stage 2 and 3

Cambridge Readers – Level 3, 4 and 5

Penguin Readers - Level 4

Macmillan Readers – Pre-Intermediate.

Part 4

Long text comprehension

In this part, you will read a long text (about 750 words). You will also read seven headings. The task is to match seven of the headings to paragraphs in the text. There is always an extra heading that does not fit with any paragraph.

This part is designed to assess your ability to read and understand a long text. To get the correct answers you need to be able to demonstrate an understanding of how the headings reflect the paragraphs in different ways (sometimes using similar words, sometimes similar ideas, or by sharing a topic).

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.

Appropriate readers for this level are:

Cambridge Bookworms Stage 4, 5 and 6

Cambridge Readers – Level 4, 5 and 6

Penguin Readers – Level 5 and 6

Macmillan Readers – Intermediate and Upper Intermediate.

Sample reading questions

Reading Part 1: Sentence comprehension

In this part, you must select the appropriate word from a drop-down list. You should complete this in about three (3) minutes.

Read the email from Janice to her friend Sally. Choose one word from the drop-down list for each gap. The first one is done for you.

Dear Sally,
Tim and I are on holiday in Greece. We have a nice view ✓ of the sea from our hotel.
The weather is and it's really hot.
Yesterday morning we went on a voto catch some fish.
We had lunch in a bar and we visited an old church.
Tomorrow we are going to take a car and around.
I hope it won't be hot!
Love.

Reading Part 2: Text cohesion

In the second part, you must sort the sentences into the correct order to make the text make sense. You do this by clicking on a sentence and dragging it to its correct position. There are two of these tasks in this part.



Reading Part 3: Opinion matching

In the third part, you match four people's opinions to seven statements.

Four people respond in the comments section of an online magazine article about education and work. Read their comments and answer the questions below.

Education and work

Person A

As you get older, responsibilities like a job and family dominate your life. It can be hard to balance things. Studying at university is demanding. So you should do it at an age when you are independent and carefree. It is also important to learn how the world of business works. Spending unpaid time in a company is a great way to get that experience. Any course that can give you an opportunity to do that is worth considering.

Person F

Life doesn't really get serious until you hit your mid-twenties. Before that, try out different things and get some life experience. It's only as you approach your thirties that you need to get serious about your career. That's the time to start thinking about further education. Many colleges offer inexpensive courses for more mature students. Going back to student life for a year is a great idea and you can then return to the world of work at management level.

Person C

Nowadays it is popular for school leavers to take a break before they think about an occupation or a place at university. I think the most important thing is to start working as soon as you can. You need practical experience for your CV and that can be more valuable than a diploma. Nevertheless, your studies do not have to stop just because you are working. Colleges and universities offer options for people who want to do both.

Person D

I think we should all keep learning, but you don't need a piece of paper from an institution to prove it. There are many free courses available online. Of course, not all are good, but a little research will help you identify which one is best for you. A lot of young people get into debt because they have to pay for their studies. With the resources available online these days, you can take control. You won't regret it.

1. Who thinks you should study when you are older?	~
2. Who thinks formal qualifications are too expensive?	~
3. Who thinks you should go to university when you are	young?
4. Who thinks you should study independently?	~
5. Who thinks you should combine a job with studying?	•
6. Who thinks you should choose a course that is practic	cal?
7. Who thinks you should get a job immediately after lea	aving school?

Reading Part 4: Long text comprehension

For the final part, you must scroll the reading text to see all of it. You can do this by clicking on the sidebar and moving the bar up and down. To complete the task you need to match seven headings to the correct paragraphs in the text.

Select the appropriate heading from the drop-down list on the right-hand side.

Please scroll down to access all 7 response boxes.

Read the passage quickly. Choose a heading for each numbered paragraph (1–7) from the drop-down box. There is one more heading than you need.

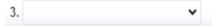
Mission to Mars

1.

1. On 3rd June 2010 an international crew of six astronauts entered a space ship and prepared themselves for a 520-day voyage to the planet Mars and back. The module that was to be their home for the next year and a half contained their sleeping quarters, a kitchen/dining room, a living room, a control room and a toilet. There was also space for food storage, a small greenhouse, a bathroom, a sauna and even a gym. The Mars landing was scheduled for 12th February 2011, following a 255-day flight, and would involve a full two days of exploration of the planet surface. An equally long return journey would see the astronauts return to earth on 4th November 2011.



2. Emerging from the spaceship after an exhausting 520 days, Russian commander Alexei Sitev declared the mission finally over. 'The programme has been fully carried out,' he announced at a press conference. 'All the crew members are in good health. We are now ready for further tests.' Indeed, the general consensus in the scientific community was that the Mars 500 project had achieved its aims, and, what is more, the crew had managed to complete their mission without ever having to leave the Earth's atmosphere.



5. WPL Writing Assessment

There are four parts to the Writing Assessment. You will interact in a social mediatype written conversation and write emails. All writing tasks are marked by an examiner.

Make sure you fully understand the questions. Plan what you are going to write and then edit your writing before clicking on the next question. The most common mistakes include:

- 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 (text messaging) spelling.

The total time allowed for the Writing Assessment is 50 minutes. The timings for each section below are recommendations only.

ASSESSMENT DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Word-level writing	In the first part, you have joined a club, course or activity and must answer a series of five text messages from other members of the club, course or activity. There is no extended writing in this part (no sentence writing), just individual words. If you are targeting a very high score, you should spend no more than three (3) minutes on this part.	The focus is on communication (this means spelling, capitalisation and grammar will not be considered by the markers).
Part 2 Short text writing	This part is about form filling. In this part, you need to write in sentences. If you are targeting a very high score, you should spend no more than seven (7) minutes on this part.	You are asked to write 20–30 words. The focus is on writing sentences that are on-topic and have accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling. A common error is to write more than 30 words and as a result, making a lot of mistakes. Keep to the word limit and focus on accuracy.

Part 3 Three written parts of text, all of which require responses	In this part, you will have a social network-type interaction. You will receive three questions and need to respond. If you are targeting a very high score, you should spend no more than ten (10) minutes on this part.	Answer all three questions and don't go off-topic. Focus on accurate spelling and punctuation and write sentences that link together and make sense. Keep to the word count of 30–40 words per answer.
Part 4 Formal and informal writing	This part requires that you write two emails: 1) an informal email to a friend; and 2) a more formal email to an unknown person. Both emails are in reaction to information about a change. You should spend all of your remaining time on this part (around 30 minutes).	Keep to the word count of about 50 words for the first email and 120– 150 words for the second email. Make sure your emails are written for different people. The first email should clearly be an informal email to a friend or close family member, while the second should clearly be a formal email to a company. You are also assessed on how accurately you write and your flexibility with the English language, so check your writing and use a wide range of vocabulary, grammar and cohesive devices.

Sample writing questions

Writing Part 1: Word-level writing

You need to write five pieces of information.

You want to join the History Club. You have 5 messages from a member of the club. Write short answers (1–5 words) to each message. Recommended time: 3 minutes.

Example How are you? I'm fine, thanks.

What is the weather like today?

Type your answer here

What is your favourite time of year?

Type your answer here

What is your favourite colour?

Type your answer here

What is your job?

Type your answer here

What do you usually do in your free time?

Type your answer here

Writing Part 2: Short text writing

There may be one or two questions.

You want to join the History Club. Fill in the form. Write in sentences. Use 20–30 words. Recommended time: 7 minutes.

Please write some of the reasons why you are interested in history.



The areas assessed are how complete and relevant your answer is, grammatical range and accuracy, punctuation, vocabulary range and accuracy, and cohesion. Here is the marking scale:

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



On-topic.

Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with basic structures common. Errors do not impede understanding of the response.

Mostly accurate punctuation and spelling.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the question(s).

Some attempts at using simple connectors and cohesive devices to link sentences.

On-topic.

Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with basic structures common. Errors impede understanding in parts of the response.

Punctuation and spelling mistakes are noticeable.

Vocabulary is mostly sufficient to respond to the question(s) but inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable.

Response is a list of sentences with no use of connectors or cohesive devices to link sentences.

Not fully on-topic.

Grammatical structure is limited to words and phrases. Errors in basic patterns and simple grammar structures impede understanding.

Little or no use of accurate punctuation. Spelling mistakes common.

Vocabulary is limited to very basic words related to personal information and is not sufficient to respond to the question(s).

No use of cohesion.

Response limited to a few words or phrases.

Grammar and vocabulary errors are so serious and frequent that the meaning is unintelligible.

No meaningful language or all responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Writing Part 3: Three written parts of text, all of which require responses

In Part 3, you will answer social media-type questions which will look like the following:

00: 49: 5°

Writing Question 3 of 4 You are communicating with other members of the club in the chat room. Reply to their questions. Write in sentences. Use 30–40 words per answer. Recommended time: 10 minutes. Sam: Hil Welcome to the club. I was interested in history at school and I studied it at university. What about you? BIUS Type your answer here Words 0 / 60 Miguel: Welcome. Can you tell me something about the history of your country? B I <u>U</u> 9 Type your answer here Words 0 / 60 Michelle: Who is your favourite person from history, and why are you interested in him or в <u>г у</u> э Type your answer here Words 0 / 60

The areas assessed are how completely and relevantly you answer the question, punctuation, grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy and cohesion. Here is the marking scale:

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Responses to all three questions are on-topic and show the following features.

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Punctuation and spelling mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions.

Uses simple cohesive devices to organise responses as a linear sequence of sentences.

Responses to two questions are on-topic and show the following features.

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Punctuation and spelling mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.

Vocabulary is sufficient to respond to the questions.

Uses simple cohesive devices to organise responses as a linear sequence of sentences.

Responses to at least two questions are on-topic and show the following features.

Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with simple structures common and sometimes impede understanding.

Punctuation and spelling mistakes are noticeable.

Vocabulary is not sufficient to respond to the question(s). Inappropriate lexical choices are noticeable and sometimes impede understanding.

Responses are lists of sentences and are not organised as cohesive texts.

Response to one question is on-topic and shows the following features:

Uses simple grammatical structures to produce writing at the sentence level. Errors with simple structures common and sometimes impede understanding.

Punctuation and spelling mistakes are noticeable.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Writing Part 4: Formal and informal writing

The areas assessed are task fulfilment and register (see below for more information about register), grammatical range and accuracy, vocabulary range and accuracy, and cohesion.

00: 48: 35 Time remaining

Writing Question 4 of 4 You are a member of the History Club. You received this email from the club. Dear Member, We are writing to tell you that the trip to Blackrock Castle has been cancelled because of lack of interest. You will be given a refund for the cost of the coach trip. However, because this is a late cancellation we cannot refund the cost of your entrance ticket to the castle. We applogise for this and thank you for your understanding. The President Write an email to your friend. Write about your feelings and what you think the club should do about the situation. Write about 50 words. Recommended time: 10 minutes. B I U S Type your answer here Words 0 / 75 Write an email to the president of the club. Write about your feelings and what you think the club should do about the situation. Write 120–150 words. Recommended time: 20 minutes. B I U S Type your answer here

Highest score - above the descriptor below.



Response shows the following features:

Response on-topic and task fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register. Two clearly different registers.

Range of complex grammar constructions used accurately. Some minor errors occur but do not impede understanding.

Range of vocabulary used to discuss the topics required by the task. Some awkward usage or slightly inappropriate lexical choices.

A range of cohesive devices is used to clearly indicate the links between ideas.

Response on-topic and task fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register: appropriate register used consistently in both responses. Response shows the following features:

Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstandings.

Minor errors in punctuation and spelling occur but do not impede understanding.

Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.

A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas

Response partially on-topic and task partially fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register: appropriate register used consistently in one response. Response shows the following features:

Some complex grammar constructions used accurately. Errors do not lead to misunderstandings.

Minor errors in punctuation and spelling occur but do not impede understanding.

Sufficient range of vocabulary to discuss the topics required by the task. Inappropriate lexical choices do not lead to misunderstanding.

A limited number of cohesive devices are used to indicate the links between ideas.

Response partially on-topic and task not fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register: appropriate register not used consistently in either response. Response shows the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Punctuation and spelling are mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.

Response not on-topic and task not fulfilled in terms of appropriateness of register. No evidence of awareness of register. Response shows the following features:

Control of simple grammatical structures. Errors occur when attempting complex structures.

Punctuation and spelling are mostly accurate. Errors do not impede understanding.

Below the descriptor above or no meaningful language or the responses are completely off-topic (e.g. memorised script, guessing).

Low Scoring



Register

'Register' means the different ways language is used in different situations, depending on the relationships between the speaker and listener, or the author and the intended reader. This is an important part of language use. For example, your language choices will be different when you're writing to a new business partner and when you're writing to a friend.

To be successful in Part 4, you need to show that you can write in both casual and formal registers. The first section of Part 4 asks you to write in an intimate or casual register (one used among family members and close friends). The second part asks you to write in a formal register (one used between strangers or in a business setting).

6. Numeracy Assessment

The Numeracy Assessment has two parts.

In Part 1, you will answer 26 questions without using a calculator. When you need to do calculations, you should use the pen and paper provided on your desk.

In Part 2, you will answer 24 questions. You can use a calculator, which will be provided on the screen. The questions will get more difficult as the assessment continues.

The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice and short-answer items. For the short-answer items, you will only need to key in numbers. You cannot key in letters or special characters in the answer box in short answer items.

Each time you complete a question and move onto the next screen your answer is locked. This means that you cannot go back during the assessment and change your answer.

ASSESSMENT DESIGN	DESCRIPTION	PREPARATION
Part 1 Simpler questions (no calculator)	In this part of the assessment, you answer 26 questions.	To prepare for this part, you should practice adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing from 0 to 100 without a calculator, adding and subtracting units of time, calculating percentages, or interpreting simple line graphs and pie charts. It is also a good idea to make sure you understand basic mathematical symbols and abbreviations such as \$, kg, or m (a list of symbols and abbreviations is provided on the following page).
Part 2 More complex questions with calculator	In this part of the assessment, you answer 24 questions. A calculator is provided. To access it, click on the calculator icon at the top right-hand corner of your screen.	To prepare for this part, you should practice applying operations such as the Pythagorean Theorem, using and manipulating formulas, computing the probability of combined events, and using various algebraic methods as problemsolving tools.

Mathematical formula used in the WPN assessments

Area of a rectangle $Length \times Width$

 $\frac{1}{2}$ × Length × Height Area of a triangle

Circumference of a circle $2 \times Radius \times \pi$

Diameter of a circle $2 \times Radius$

Perimeter of a rectangle $2 \times (Length + Width)$

 $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$ Pythagorean theorem

Distance Speed Time

Surface area of a cylinder $2 \times Radius \times \pi \times Height$

 $4 \times \pi \times Radius^2$ Surface area of a sphere

Volume of a box $Length \times Width \times Height$

 $\frac{1}{2} \times Radius^2 \times \pi \times Height$ Volume of a cone

 $Radius^2 \times \pi \times Height$ Volume of a cylinder

Units of measurement, symbols and their abbreviations

\$ dollar sign gram g

degrees (angle) or degrees kg kilogram

celsius (temperature)

mm millimetres ml millilitre

cm centimetres litre

metre mins minutes m

kilometre h hours km

cm² centimetre squared mΑ milliamps

m² metre squared amps

cm³ centimetre cubed volume

metre cubed m^3 ante meridiem (before midday) am

> pm post meridiem (after midday)

Sample numeracy questions

Numeracy Part 1: Simpler questions (no calculator)

00: 24: 41

Numeracy Question 1 of 16 Which number is missing? 57 58 59 60 ____ A 61 B 62 C 63 D 64

00:23:46 Time remaining

Numeracy Question 4 of 16

You find the following coins and notes in your wallet.

How much money do you have?





Numeracy Question 5 of 16

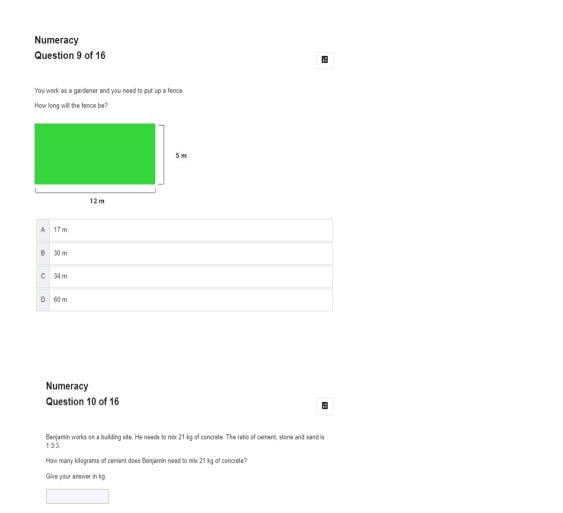
A heat wave reached Tokyo on Saturday. The temperature rose from 25°C at 10.00 a.m. to 38°C at 5.30 p.m. How long did it take the temperature to rise from 25°C to 38°C?

Α	2 hours
В	5 ½ hours
С	6 hours
D	7 ½ hours

Numeracy Part 2: More complex questions with calculator

00:24:45 Time remaining

00: 24: 18 Time remaining



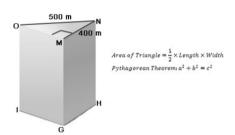
Numeracy

Question 11 of 16

The prism shows a planned skyscraper. On the roof, the developer wants to build a swimming pool. Calculate the area of the roof.

-x +=

-x +=



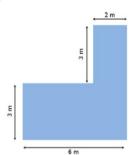
Α	300 m²
В	60,000 m²
С	75,000 m²
D	120,000 m²

00: 23: 59 Time remaining

54

Numeracy Question 13 of 16

Rajesh wants to fill his pool with water. The pool is 2 m deep.



 $Volume\ of\ Cuboid = Length \times Width \times Height$

What is the volume of the pool?

Give your answer in m³.

WPLN Assessments for all

The British Council is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in testing. We believe that the WPLN Assessments should be accessible to anyone who wants to take them. We also believe that each person should have the opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability on the WPLN Assessments.

If you have a disability and believe that the WPLN Assessments are not accessible to you or believe that the form of the assessment will not allow you to show your true level of English or numeracy, please contact British Council Singapore Customer Service to talk about ways in which the assessment can be modified for your needs. We can make changes to the assessment such as offering a Braille version or adjusting the font size on screen. We need at least 4 weeks' notice to prepare these adjustments so please contact us as early as possible.

Please discuss your needs with us to ensure that we can support you with an assessment which is both fair to you and maintains the high standards and reliability of the WPLN Assessments.

Final checklist

We hope these notes will help you prepare for your Workplace Literacy and Numeracy assessments. Here is a checklist to make sure you're fully prepared:

Review the different grammar parts:

http://englishagenda.britishcouncil.org/continuing-professional-development/cpd-teacher-trainers/british-council-eaquals-core-inventory-general-english

Visit the LearnEnglish website to prepare for the grammar and vocabulary assessment: http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en

Visit the English Club to prepare for the vocabulary assessment: www.englishclub.com

Practise your English skills at every opportunity. Listen to English radio (e.g. BBC World Service), watch English-language television and films and read the graded readers (e.g. Cambridge, Penguin, Macmillan and Headway).

Read the tips in this booklet on how to prepare for each assessment.

Useful web resources

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/british-council-eaguals-core-inventory-general-english

http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar

http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary

https://www.englishclub.com/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio

