

English 3201 Public Exam Listening Component – FAQs

- What is listening?
 - For the purpose of English Language Arts (ELA), listening refers to the ability to understand, analyze and then respond to a non-written, oral text. A student may listen by utilizing many different cueing strategies such as hearing, ASL (American Sign Language), and speech reading. Therefore, listening may not require the student to hear or decode sounds. Listening refers to a person's ability to access "through the air communication" not written text.

- Why assess listening?
 - The English 3201 curriculum contains a listening strand. In order to have the English 3201 Public Exam reflect the curriculum as much as possible, a listening component covering listening outcomes will be included on the exam beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

- What will be included in the listening component?
 - Students will be presented with an oral text that may be fiction or non-fiction, from media, prose or poetic sources. Students will be expected to complete four multiple choice questions (four marks) and one constructed response question (six marks).

- What percentage of the English 3201 Public Exam will be listening?
 - The listening component of the English 3201 Public Exam will be 10%.

- When will the assessment happen?
 - The listening component of the English 3201 Public Exam will be administered two weeks prior to the beginning of the Public Examination schedule. For example, if the Public Examination schedule was to begin on Tuesday, June 14, the listening component of the English 3201 Public Exam would take place two weeks prior, on Tuesday, May 31. All English 3201 students in the province will complete the listening component at the same time.

- Who will be assessed?
 - All students registered for English 3201 in a given school year will be expected to complete the listening component of the exam.

- What will students do during the listening assessment?
 - The selected text will normally be two to four minutes in duration. Students will be given the questions at the beginning of the session. They will have two minutes to review and become familiar with the questions. They will then listen to the text for the first time. Following the first listening, students will be given two minutes to make notes and/or respond to any examination questions they choose. Students will then listen to the text for a second time. Following the second listening, students will complete the assigned questions. The total time (from start to finish) allowed for this evaluation will be 40 minutes. Students cannot leave the exam room until the 40 minutes have expired.

- How will CDLI students be assessed?
 - The listening component will be made available to CDLI students online on the same date and time as the evaluation for the entire province.

- What if a student is absent for the assessment?
 - Students who miss the listening component in May/June may complete it during the August Supplementary Examination period. For guidelines, see Section 11.4: Special Consideration Policies (<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/highschool/Section11.pdf>) of the High School Certification Handbook. A student who misses the listening component will receive a mark of zero which means the total possible mark on the public exam will be 90%. If the student writes in August, they can do the whole exam including the listening or just complete the listening component. The listening component will be offered in its own time slot on the exam schedule on a separate day from the rest of the English exam in August. If they choose to do the listening component only, the June mark will be adjusted to reflect the additional 10 marks. It is important that the school apply for a deferral for the listening component in order to ensure the 10 marks is applied correctly to the student's transcript.

- Will the Supplementary Exam in English 3201 have a listening component?
 - Yes. Any student who chooses to write the Supplementary Examination in English 3201 will have to write the listening component as well. The date and time of the listening component for Supplementary Exams will be made available when the Supplementary Exam Schedule is released each school year.

- Can the English 3201 teacher administer the listening component of the exam?
 - No. As per regulations cited in Section 12: Public Examination Administration guidelines (<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/highschool/Section12.pdf>) of the High School Certification Handbook, teachers of the course being evaluated cannot be in the room during the evaluation.

- How will it be scored?
 - The listening component of the English 3201 Public Exam will be scored along with the rest of the exam at the Public Exam Marking Board, which is composed of English 3201 teachers, and takes place at the end of each school year.

- What format will be used in schools to access the listening evaluation?
 - Hard copy CDs will be sent to schools as the primary mode of accessing the listening text for evaluation. The listening assessment will also be available in schools through an online link, provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, through CDLI, as a back-up. Students with accommodations may access the listening component through an alternate format as indicated on his/her record of accommodation and/or Individual Education Plan (IEP).

- Who would qualify for accommodations?
 - Students with an identified exceptionality may need accommodations for this portion of the exam. Examples of exceptionalities that may need accommodations include brain injury, hearing loss, neurodevelopmental and related disorders, specific learning disorder, and speech and/or language disorder. A comprehensive assessment must indicate the need for accommodation(s) pertaining to listening. More information on exceptionalities recognized by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development can be found at:
<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/studentssupportservices/exceptionalities.html>

- What accommodations will be available for the listening assessment?
 - Any accommodation that a student has documented in his/her record of accommodations and/or IEP will be available during the listening assessment. These may include but are not limited to:
 - extra time
 - alternate setting within the school
 - American Sign Language (ASL)
 - speech reading
 - live reader
 - quiet space
 - assistive technology
 - Providing a student the written text of the listening portion is not an acceptable accommodation for a listening assessment because it changes the focus of the assessment from listening to reading.
 - More information on the guidelines for public examination accommodations can be found in the Public Exam Accommodation Policy. It is available at <http://www.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/evaluation/exams.html> .
- Do students with Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD) qualify for accommodations?
 - CAPD by itself is not recognized as an exceptionality. To receive accommodations, students with auditory processing deficits such as CAPD must meet the criteria for an exceptionality. Based on a comprehensive assessment, these students may meet the criteria for Speech and Language Disorder or Specific Learning Disorder.
- How can deaf or hard of hearing students “listen”?
 - The purpose of the listening strand of English 3201 is to evaluate a student’s ability to understand, analyze and then respond to a non-written, oral text. Most students listen through hearing. For deaf or hard of hearing students the process of understanding, analyzing and responding to a non-written, oral text happens in other ways, such as ASL, speech reading, and assistive technology. Students with hearing loss should be availing of such modes of communication as part of their educational program.

- Can a deaf or hard of hearing student read the text of the listening portion of the English 3201 Public Exam?
 - No. Deaf or hard of hearing students are expected to utilize the approved accommodations provided during instruction.

- How will deaf or hard of hearing specialists be involved in the process?
 - Representative deaf or hard of hearing specialists will be consulted during the exam item writing process to ensure that listening texts selected for the English 3201 Public Exam are suitable and can be communicated effectively to deaf or hard of hearing students.

- How can students prepare for the listening assessment?
 - Students on prescribed curriculum participate in a listening strand in English Language Arts at all grade levels. With respect to the English 3201 Public Exam, students should be familiar with the format of the test, including the allowed time and the number of multiple choice and short answer questions. The sample exam posted online may be used, and other sample assessments may be offered in class. Students requiring accommodations for the listening assessment should have learning opportunities using these accommodations throughout their school years.

- Where can I find out more about the English 3201 Public Exam?
 - More information about the English 3201 Public Exam, including the listening component, complete with a sample exam, is available at:
http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/evaluation/english3201/The_English_3201_Public_Exam.pdf