



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
EDUCATION AND YOUTH BOARD

# English language options in Year 12: state exam, C1 Advanced, and more

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# UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL LANGUAGE EXAMINATION CHOICES

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*Chief specialist (Cambridge C1 administration)*

## State exam in a foreign language

### **In a foreign language, the student can:**

- pass the English language state exam (the exam measures language skills at both B1 and B2 levels) **or** the internationally recognized C1 Advanced English language exam organized by Harno (from 2019);

OR

- pass an internationally recognized French or German language exam at B1 or B2 level organized by Harno;

OR

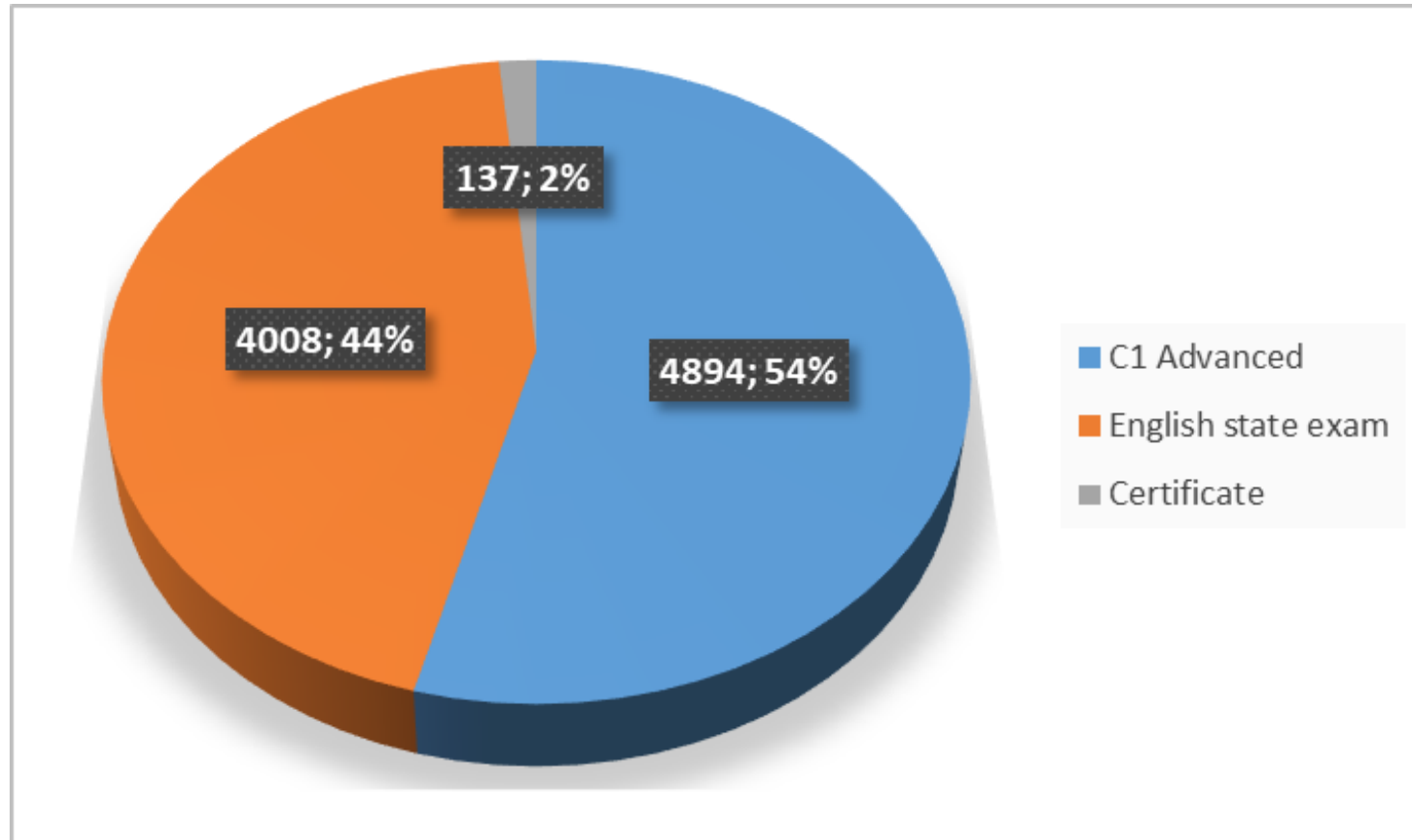
- submit a certificate/diploma of an international English, French, German or Finnish language proficiency test of at least B1 level that was previously completed and recognized by the state by January 20 (since 2014).

## State exam in a foreign language: English

The student can choose **only one** from the following options:

- pass the English language state exam (the exam measures language skills at both B1 and B2 levels);
- pass the internationally recognized C1 Advanced English language exam organized by Harno (CEPT needed to qualify);
- submit a certificate/diploma of an international English language proficiency test of at least B1 level that was previously completed by January 20 (tests recognized by the state: IELTS, TOEFL, Pearson: PTE General, Cambridge: B1 Preliminary, B2 First, C1 Advanced, C2 Proficiency).

## Statistics for the 2022/23 school year



# STATE EXAM

Kristi Ruse

*Chief specialist (English)*

# Year 12 exam (B1/B2)

	<b><u>Tasks</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
<b><u>Writing</u></b>	2	90 min	25
<b><u>Listening comprehension</u></b>	5	40 min	25
<b><u>Reading comprehension</u></b>	7	90 min	30
<b><u>Speaking</u></b>	2	15 min	20
<b><u>Total</u></b>		3 h 55 min	100

## Year 12 exam

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Test takers	6 540	4 874	3 071	4 015	3980
Mean score	71.8	?	69.4	66.5	68.6
Standard deviation	21.7	?	17.6	22.9	21.1
Lowest score	4	?	0	3	2
Highest score	100	?	99	100	100



## Year 12 exam (B1/B2)

CEFR level	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Not achieved	18%	?	14%	24%	20%
B1	25%	?	40%	29%	29%
B2	57%	?	46%	47%	51%

## Year 12 exam

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Writing	70.7%	?	64.2%	66.4%	66.6%
Listening	65.6%	?	65.9%	61.1%	65.9%
Reading	72.3%	?	71.3%	66.9%	68.9%
Speaking	79.8%	?	77.6%	73.7%	74.5%

## Year 12 exam in 2023

	N	N (%)	Mean (%)	Min	Max	St dev	B1 (%)	B2 (%)	Level not achieved (%)
Boys	1 605	40	72.1	9	100	19.6	26.2	58.2	15.5
Girls	2 375	60	66.2	2	99	21.7	31.7	45.8	22.4
Total	3980	100	68.6	2	100	21.1	29.5	50.8	19.6

# Y12 exam

- Number of appeals -12
- score not changed (12)

# Letter

## Task 1 *(9 points)*

### LETTER

You want to get some work experience at an animal rescue centre in Ireland. Write a letter to Jane Smith, secretary of the organisation.

In your letter:

- give reasons for your interest,
- say what makes you a good candidate for the job,
- ask for details about the work.

Use the **pen name** Mari Mets/Mart Mets for yourself. **Do not** write any addresses.

You should write **120 words**.

## Letter: aspects

1. giving reasons for interest
2. writing about your skills and experience
3. asking for specific details (e.g. accommodation + working conditions)

# Essay

## **Task 2** *(16 points)*

### **ESSAY**

**Many young people dream about becoming famous, but what does being famous involve?**

In your essay you should discuss all the following questions:

- What kind of people are famous in today`s world?
- Why do many young people want to become famous?
- What challenges might famous people have?

You should write **200 words**.

## **Essay: aspects**

1. what kind of people are famous in today's world
2. reasons for young people to become famous
3. challenges famous people have



# Samples

## Exam in 2024

- 2 May 2024 (written paper)
- 2–3, 6-7 May 2024 (speaking)
  
- 29 May 2024
- 29-30 May 2024
  
- Students need to register by 20 January 2024
- No more CDs for the Listening part: audio files can be downloaded from EIS

## Teacher training

- Online training course on EIS
- spring 2022 – 194 teachers
- spring 2023 – 274 teachers
- Feedback – extremely positive

# Teacher training

- Registration from 22 January 2024 – info [www.harno.ee](http://www.harno.ee)
- Training can be completed between 15 Feb and 20 March 2024

# Teacher training

<https://eis.ekk.edu.ee/eis/>

**EIS**  
Eksamite infosüsteem

EESTI ABI KRISTI RUSE

Minu töölaud Tsentraalsed testid Hindamine Haldus Muud

Tere, KRISTI!

EISi moodulid

- Plankide moodul
- Siseveeb
- Kutseksamid

**Pedagoogidele**

**EIS kasutamise juhendid õpetajale**  
Õpetajad leiavad juhendid EIS-i kasutamiseks SIIT.

**Üldised teated**

**Projekt "Kaasaegse ja uuendusliku õppevara arendamine ja kasutuselevõtt"**

Europea Liit Euroopa Sotsiaalfond Eesti Arengu teeks

EISis olevad e-kogud on loodud projekti „Kaasaegse ja uuendusliku õppevara arendamine ja kasutuselevõtt” raames.


**StateOS lõpetas teenuse pakkumise Eestis alates 31.03.2023**

Teavitame, et seoses StateOS tegevuse lõppemisega Eestis ei ole võimalik eksamite tulemusi enam StateOS kaudu avaldada. Tulemused saadetakse e-postiga.

→ Rohkem infot

**Lõpudokumentide ja hinnetelehtede haldamine**

# Teacher training

EESTI ABI KRISTI RUSE  
Administraator | Katse Kool

Minu töölaud Tsentraalsed testid Hindamine Haldus Muud

Isikuandmed Nõusolekud Määramised Profil

### Vaateleja profiil

Isik on vaateleja

**Vaatlemise keeled**  Eesti keel  Inglise keel  Vene keel  Saksa keel  Prantsuse keel  Soome keel  Ukraina keel

**Koolituse aeg**

**Käskkirja lisatud**

### Läbiviija ja intervjuerija profiil

Õppeaine	Roll	Keeletase	Koolituse aeg	Käskkirja lisatud
Inglise keel (võõrkeel)	Hindaja (kirjalikud testid)	B1		05.05.2021
Inglise keel (võõrkeel)	Hindaja (kirjalikud testid)	B2		05.05.2021
Inglise keel (võõrkeel)	Hindaja (suulised testid)	B1	27.04.2022	
Inglise keel (võõrkeel)	Hindaja (suulised testid)	B2	27.04.2022	
Inglise keel (võõrkeel)	Intervjuerija	B1	27.04.2022	
Inglise keel (võõrkeel)	Intervjuerija	B2	27.04.2022	
Inglise keel (võõrkeel)	Hindaja (kirjalikud testid)	A2		
Inglise keel (võõrkeel)	Hindaja (suulised testid)	A2		

# **C1 ADVANCED**

(organized by Harno)

Katriin Visamaa

*Chief specialist (Cambridge C1 administration)*

**The C1 Advanced exam is intended for students whose English language skills exceed the learning outcomes required in the syllabus.**

Registration for the C1 Advanced exam is available for the students:

- who have completed mandatory English language courses according to the national curriculum, **and**
- who have passed the electronic Cambridge English Placement Test (CEPT) to a result of “C1 or higher”, **and**
- who have not previously participated in the C1 Advanced exam organized by Harno or the English language state exam.



# Important dates

- **CEPT**
  - 4 – 8 September 2023
  - 4 – 15 December 2023
  - 15 April – 7 June 2024
- **Registration (EIS)**
  - **For autumn session:** 12– 22 September 2023
  - **For spring session:** 19 December 2023 – 22 January 2024
- **C1 Advanced exam**
  - **Autumn session:** 25 November – 10 December 2023 (written exam on 25 November)
  - **Spring session:** 23 March - 7 April 2024 (written exam on 23 March)

## Important to know: CEPT

- CEPT can only be taken at school. This is organized by the school's C1 Advanced contact person.
- CEPT is electronic and lasts 30 to **45 minutes**. Time does not automatically stop!
- CEPT consists of listening and reading tasks and language structure tasks.
- The test is auto-marked, and the results are made available instantly.
- Each student can take the CEPT **once**, and the result cannot be improved.
- When entering their data, students must be sure to enter their personal identification number.
- If a student passes the test with a result of C1 or above, he is allowed to register for the C1 Advanced exam through EIS. We assume that he takes the C1 exam in the same or the next academic year (11th or 12th grade).

## Overview of the C1 Advanced exam

The exam consists of four parts and takes approximately four hours to complete.

- Reading & Use of English (90 min)
- Writing (90 min)
- Listening (40 min)
- Speaking (15 min)

The Speaking exam may not take place on the same day as the written exam. The Speaking exam will be conducted as a paired interview within two weeks of the written exam date.

## **Paper-based vs computer-based exam**

- In the case of a paper exam, one exam session is conducted per day, but computer-based testing allows for two exam sessions to be held in a row on the exam day - the first in the morning and the second in the afternoon, according to Cambridge English rules.
- The decision to send students to a paper-based or computer-based exam is made by the exam center (Harno).

## Distribution by test delivery (CB/PB)

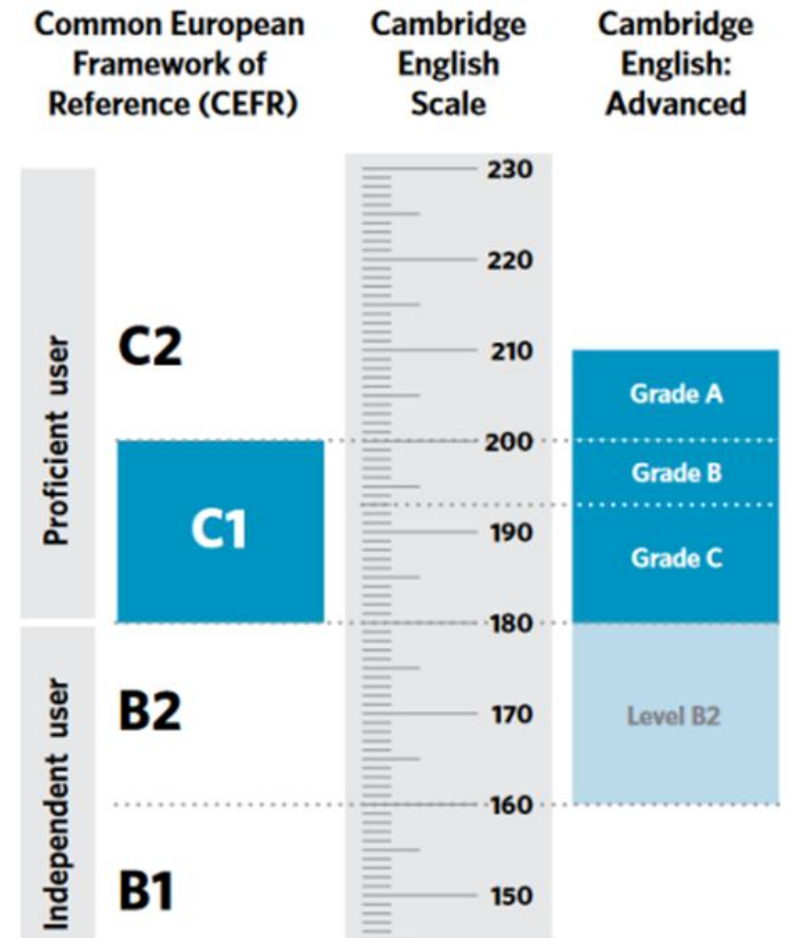
Session	Number of candidates Autumn 2020	Number of candidates Spring 2021	Number of candidates Autumn 2021	Number of candidates Spring 2022	Number of candidates Autumn 2022	Number of candidates Spring 2023
Computer-based C1 Advanced	750	800	847	1,141	1,098	1,534
Paper-based C1 Advanced	1,585	1,099	1,368	1,092	1,660	604
<b>Total candidature</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>1,899</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>2,758</b>	<b>2,138</b>
<b>Percentage of session Computer-based</b>	<b>32.1%</b>	<b>42.1%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>51.2%</b>	<b>39.8%</b>	<b>71.7%</b>

## Passing CEPT vs C1 Advanced exam results

- It is important to note that the CEPT only consists of listening and reading tasks and language structure tasks. In addition to the CEPT results, the teacher's recommendation and feedback to the student are also important when choosing the C1 Advanced exam.
- Achieving the C1 level in the preliminary test gives the school information that the student can start preparing for the C1 Advanced exam, but it does not oblige him to choose the C1 level exam.

## Exam results (1)

- If the student's result in the C1 Advanced exam is sufficient (either C1, C2 or B2 level), the student will be issued an international certificate of the corresponding language level.
- The certificate shows the overall result of the exam and the results by sub-skills (reading, language use, writing, listening, speaking).



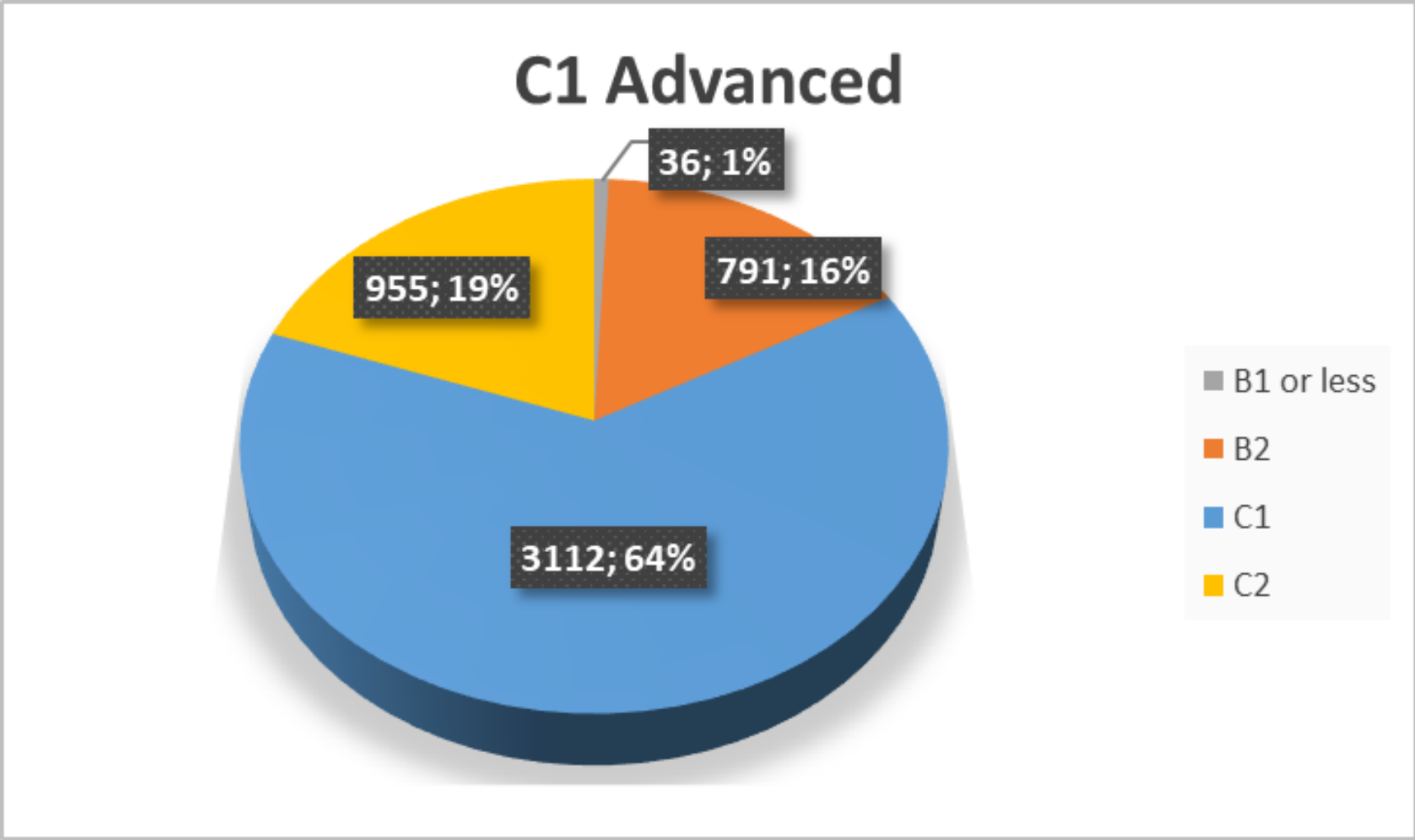
## Exam results (2)

- If the student's result is not sufficient to obtain a language level certificate, the student can still graduate from upper secondary school if he has achieved an overall result in points (142-159 points).
- If the aggregate result is below 142 points (= "not reported"), then 0 points are entered in the EIS, which means that the foreign language state exam has not been passed and the condition for graduating from high school has not been met.

Cambridge English Scale Score	Grade/CEFR	CEFR level
200-210	Grade A	C2
193-199	Grade B	C1
180-192	Grade C	C1
160-179	Level B2	B2

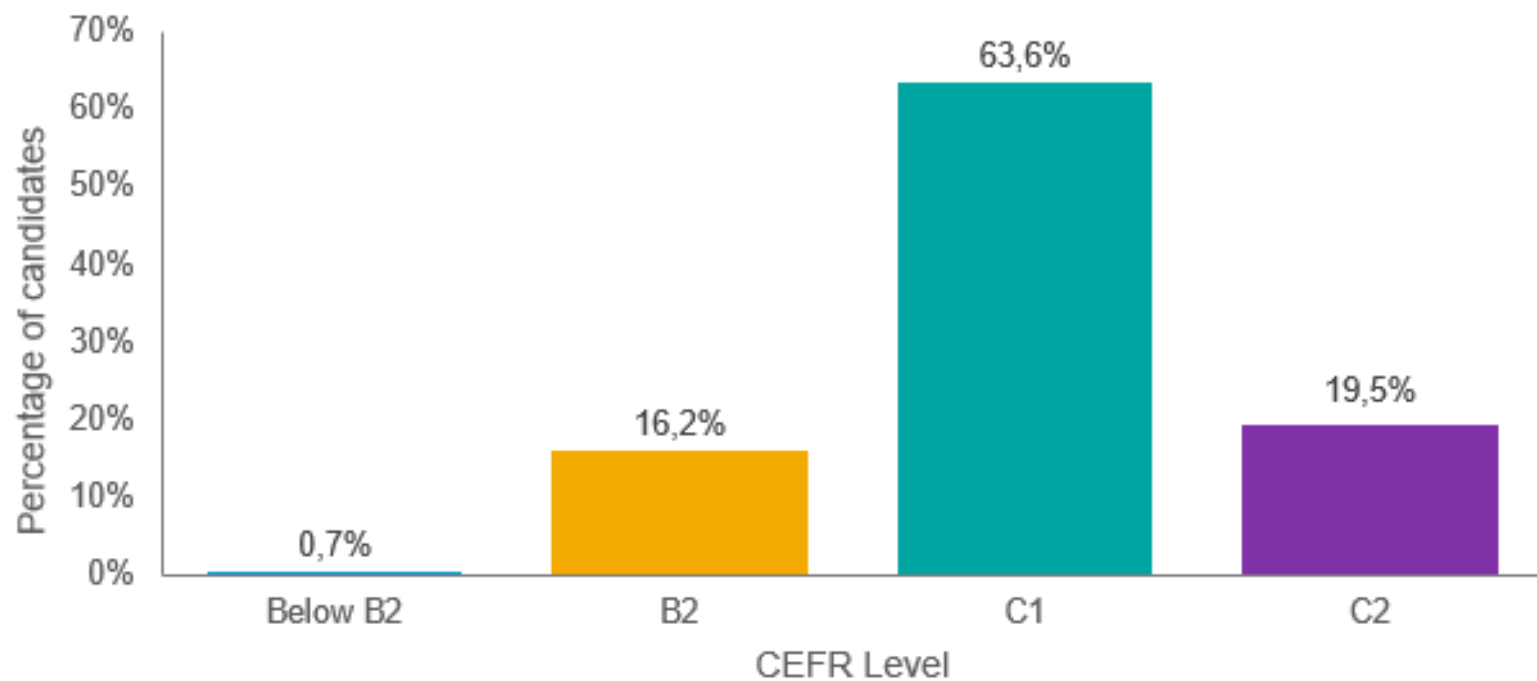


# C1 Advanced results (2022/23)



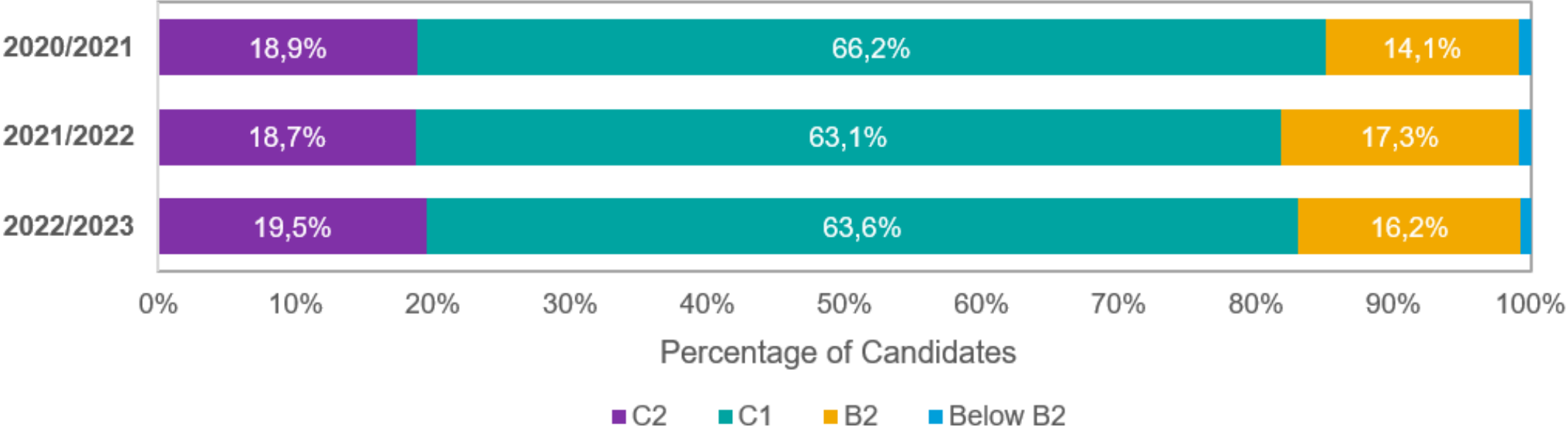
# C1 Advanced results (2022/23)

Figure 3. Candidates' overall C1 Advanced results (in CEFR levels) across the 2022/23 exam sessions/



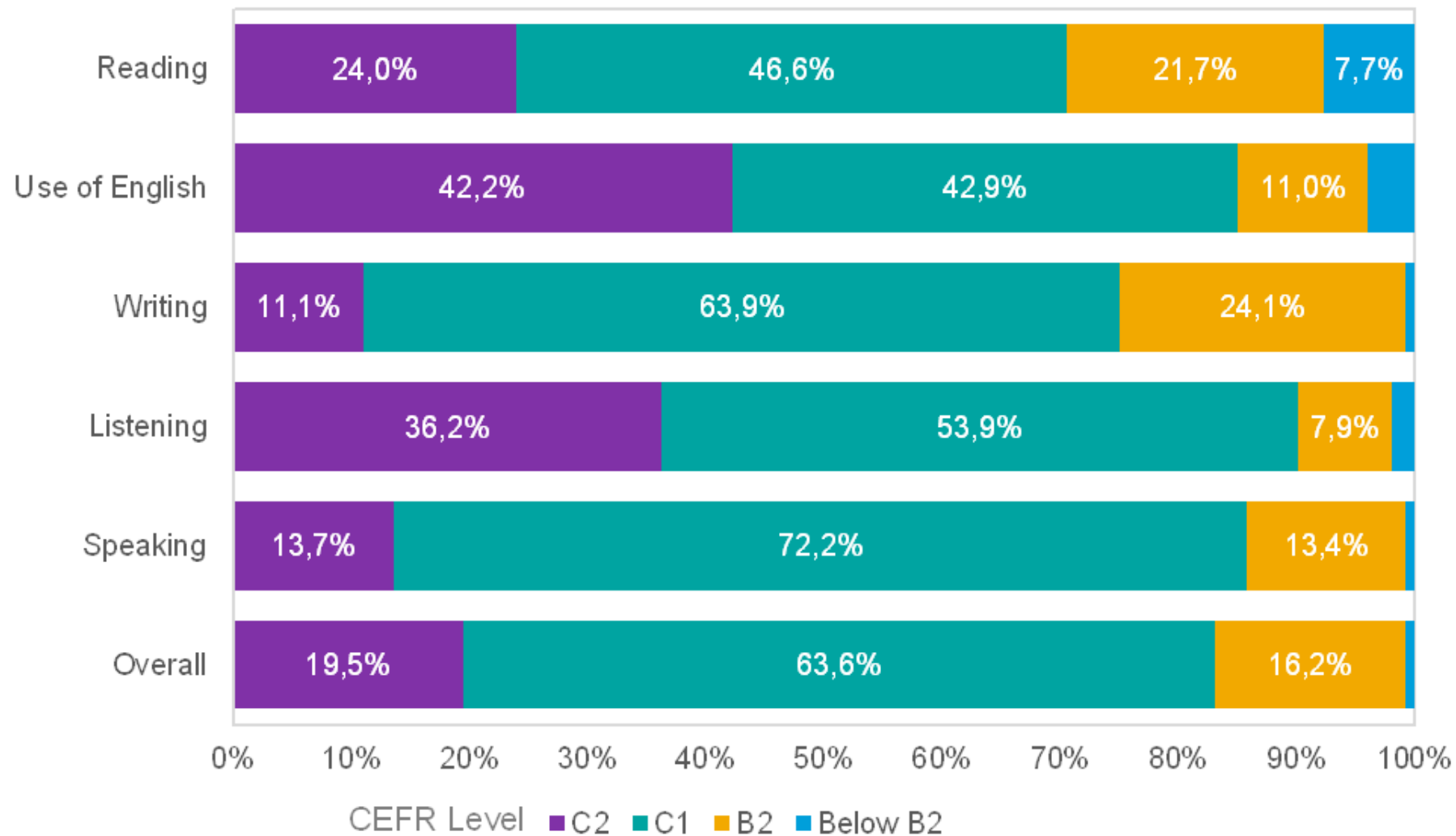
# Candidate performance year on year

Figure 10. Candidates' overall C1 Advanced results (in CEFR levels) 2020/21 to 2022/23\*

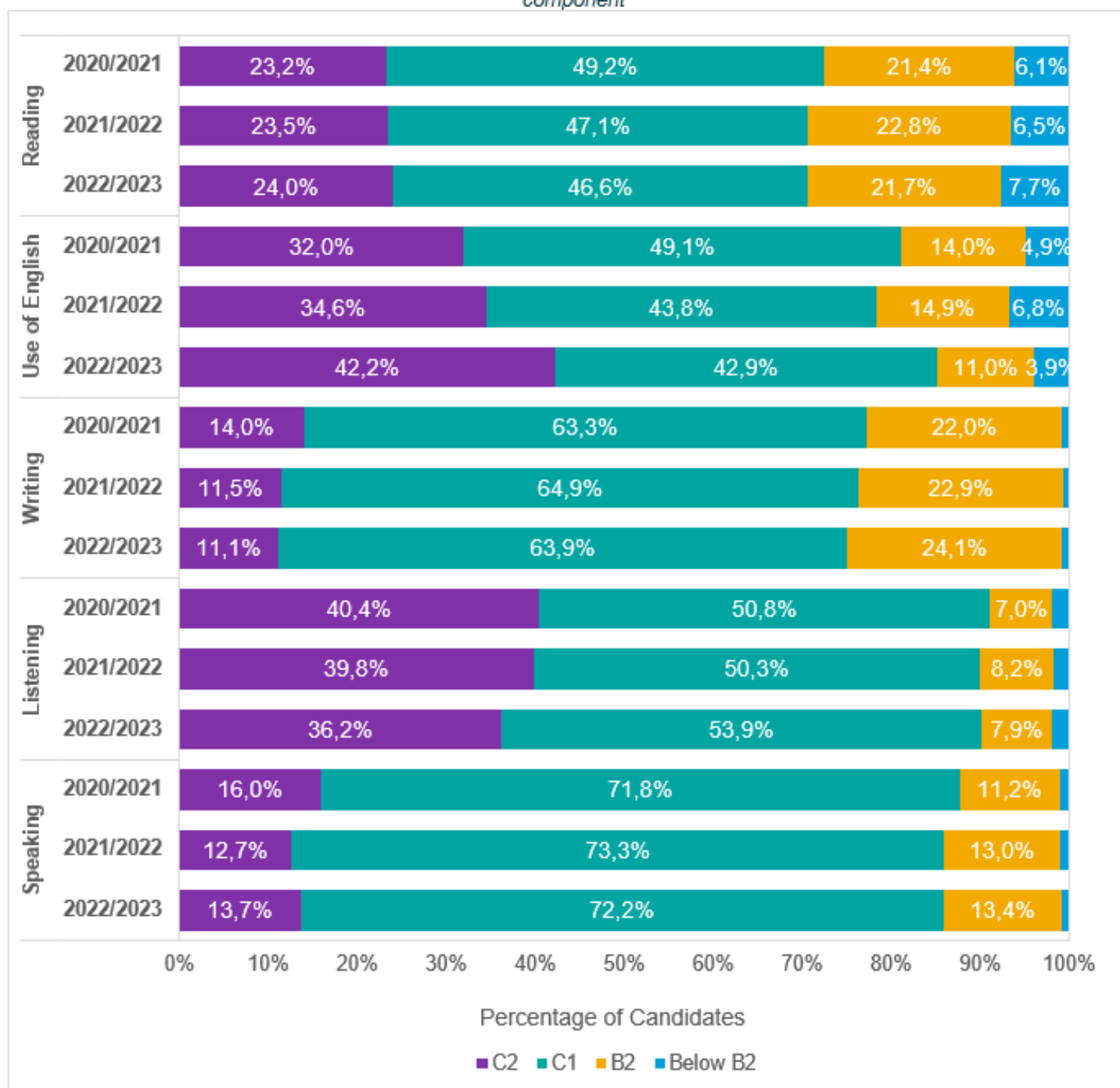


\*Unmarked "Below B2" English level of proficiency represents less than 1% of candidates.

# Results 2022/23

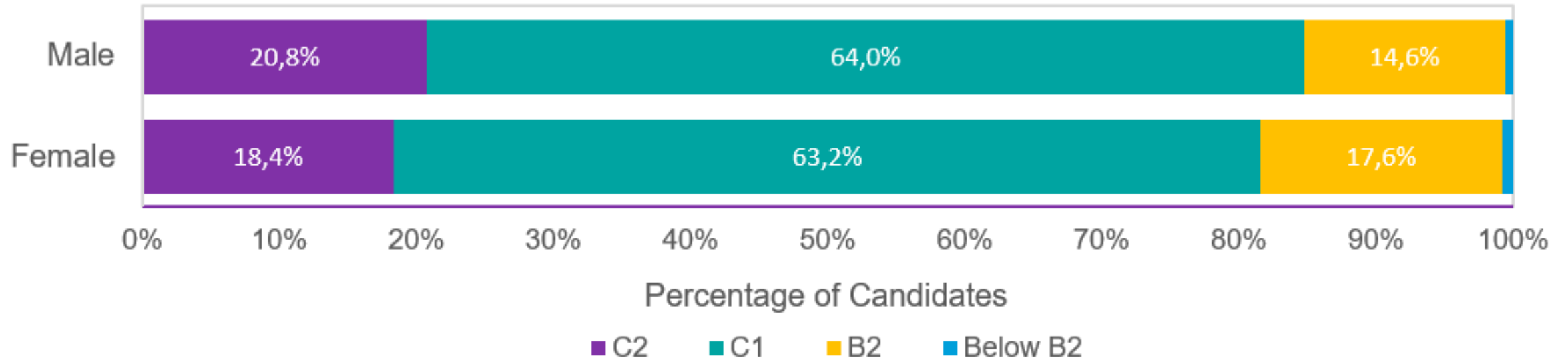


# Results across the school years for each of the components



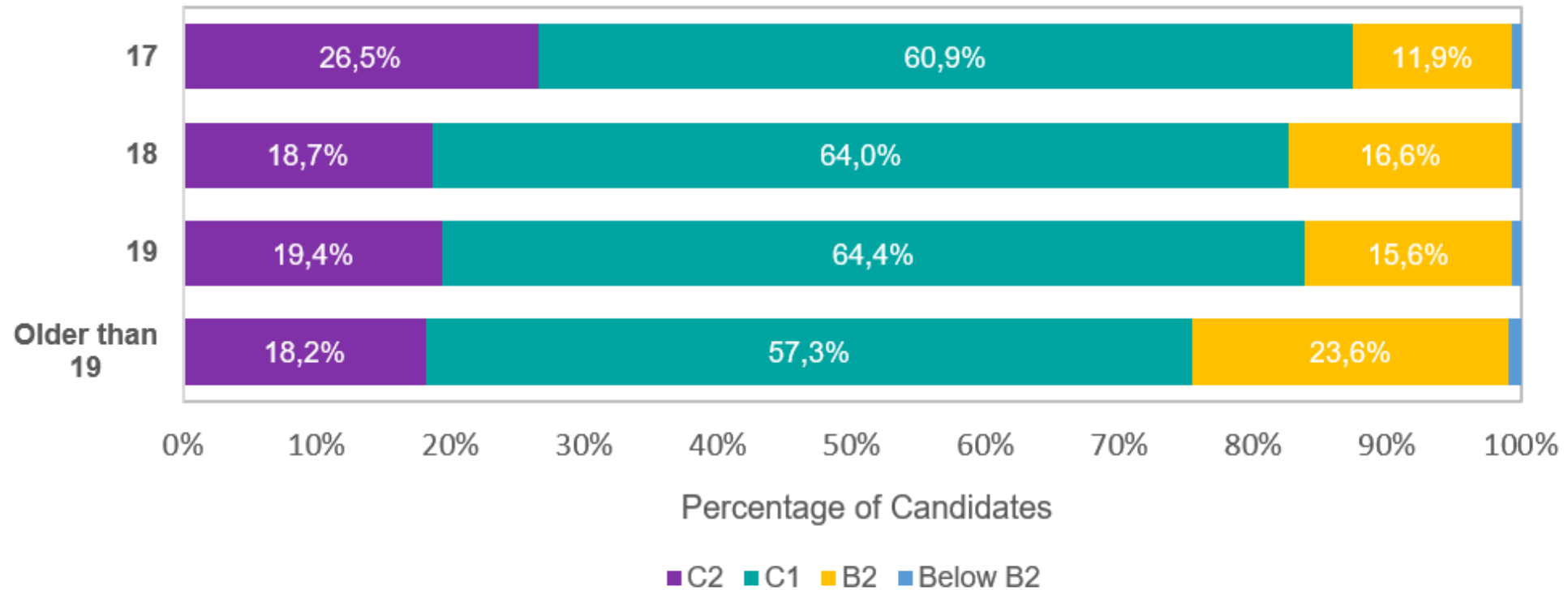
\*Unmarked \*Below B2° English level of proficiency represents less than 2% of candidates.

# Candidate performance by gender (2022/23)



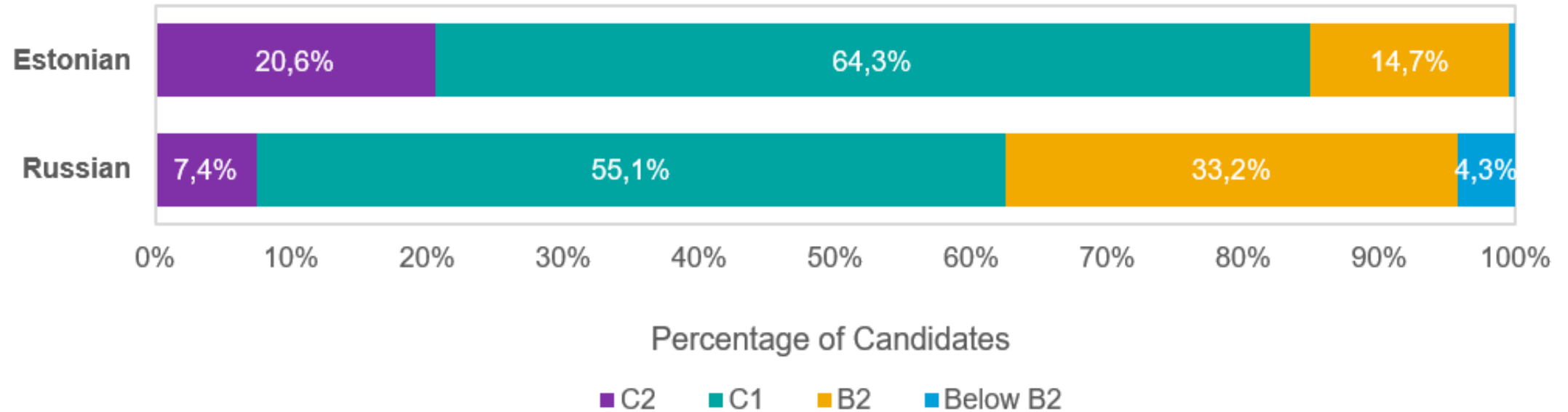
\* Unmarked "Below B2" English level of proficiency represents less than 1% of candidates.

# Candidate performance by age (2022/23)



\* Unmarked "Below B2" English level of proficiency represents less than 1% of candidates.

# Candidate performance by first language(2022/23)



\* Unmarked "Below B2" English level of proficiency represents less than 1% of candidates.



## Publication of results

The results of the exam will be announced on the **Results Service for Candidates portal** approximately 10 days to 4 weeks after the written exam.

The results will be **uploaded to EIS** 1.5-2 months after the written exam.

**Paper certificates** arrive in Estonia about two months after the exam. Certificates are **sent to the school** where the student studied at the time of taking the exam.

## Results and follow-up

In order to improve the result of C1 Advanced, the student can take the English language state exam only next year (or after finishing high school). You cannot take the C1 Advanced exam a second time through Harno.

A new certificate will not be issued in place of the lost certificate, but the student can order a certifying statement through the Cambridge English website.

# Exam preparation

- **Project website**

<https://projektid.edu.ee/display/TH0/Cambridge+English+-+C1+Advanced>

- **Cambridge English website**

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/advanced/preparation/>

- **Handbook for teachers**

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/images/167804-c1-advanced-handbook.pdf>

- **Write & Improve**

<https://writeandimprove.com/>

- **Test and Train**

<https://testandtrain.com/>

## **Impact Study: C1 Advanced in Estonia (2023/24)**

**What have been the impacts (intended and unintended) of introducing the C1 Advanced as a school leaving exam for English in Estonia?**

- student motivation to learn English;
- teaching and learning practices inside and outside the classroom;
- achievement of students in terms of language proficiency;
- stakeholder perceptions (incl school managers);
- impact on candidates after they have left school.

These data will be collected via questionnaires, focus groups/interviews, classroom observations, exam results.

# CONTACT US

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