

Useful strategies for the Catalan PAU exam

1 Structure

The exam has three sections:

Bloque A

Listening comprehension (3 points: 0.375 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalised by deducting 0.125 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.)

- One long listening dialogue with 8 multiple-choice questions each with 4 options a–d.

Bloque B

Reading comprehension (3 points: 0.5 points for each correct answer. Up to 0.3 points might be deducted from the total mark for lack of intelligibility in the answers provided.)

- Six open questions including inference and paraphrasing questions.

Bloque C

Writing (4 points)

- Two essay prompts to write a composition. You choose ONE of the options. Your answer should be 125–150 words long. There is no specific penalty for exceeding 150 words nor will you receive more points for exceeding 150 words.

You have **90 minutes** to complete the exam.

2 General strategies

First, let's look at some general strategies which apply to all parts of the test:

- Always read the questions carefully: this will save you time and help avoid mistakes.
- In general, you should attempt to answer all parts of the test, but remember that incorrect answers will be penalised in the listening test. In the Writing section you must choose ONE of the two options.
- Check your answers carefully after completing each section. It can often save you lost marks.
- Make sure your handwriting is legible and your answers are clearly written or indicated.
- Watch the clock! Don't spend too much time on one section or else you may not complete the entire exam.