

**CEFR & Certification** – for Study → Work :

Back to the Future

Looking back - forward

Peter Brown

Founder Chair, Eaquals

Director British School FVG

*Certification Conference*

*University of Udine, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016*

**Raising Standards** – Take home messages :

Theory without practice has  
no feet

Practice without theory has  
no head

Prof Enzo Tonti  
Università di Trieste

## **Certification** – what is it? :

- **Certification** refers to the **confirmation** of certain characteristics of an object, person, or organization. This confirmation is often, but not always, **provided by some form of external review**, education, assessment, or audit. **Accreditation** is a specific organization's process of certification.

## 5 QUESTIONS to Ask Your Doctor Before You Take Antibiotics

- 1 Do I really need antibiotics?** Antibiotics fight bacterial infections, like strep throat, whooping cough and symptomatic bladder infections. But they don't fight viruses—like common colds, flu, or most sore throats and sinus infections. Ask if you have a bacterial infection.
- 2 What are the risks?** Antibiotics can cause diarrhea, vomiting, and more. They can also lead to “antibiotic resistance”—if you use antibiotics when you don't need them, they may not work when you do need them.
- 3 Are there simpler, safer options?** Sometimes all you need is rest and plenty of liquid. You can also ask about antibiotic ointments and drops for conditions like pink eye or swimmer's ear.
- 4 How much do they cost?** Antibiotics are usually not expensive. But if you take them when you don't need them, they may not work for you in the future—and that may cost you a lot of time and money.
- 5 How do I safely take antibiotics?** If your doctor prescribes antibiotics, take them exactly as directed, even if you feel better.

Use these **5 questions** to talk to your doctor about when you need antibiotics—and when you don't.

Antibiotics can help prevent or treat some infections. But if you use them for the wrong reason, they may cause unnecessary harm.

Talk to your doctor to make sure you only use antibiotics for the right reasons—and at the right time.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Use your smartphone to access our complete Choosing Wisely report on antibiotics.



<http://ConsumerHealthChoices.org/antibiotics>



## Certification – criteria: who for, when, why? :

- ✓ Only if in the student's interests
- ✓ Only when needed
- ✓ Tests vs Exams
- ✓ Purposes, "exits and entrances", spendability
- ✓ Transitional | school → university → work
- ✗ Avoid conflicts of interest e.g. Targets | cf the banking scandal of Wells Fargo (US)
- ✗ Teaching to the test vs teaching language
- ✗ If in doubt, don't jump in | ask the experts

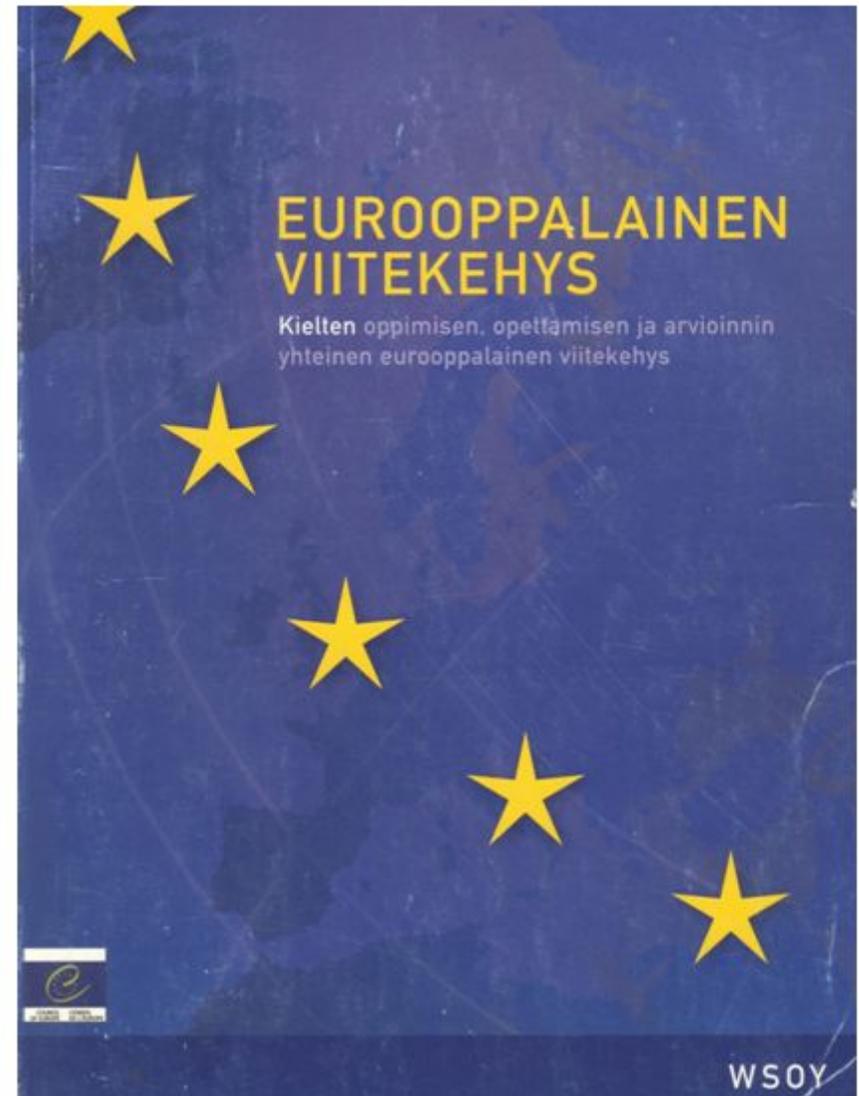
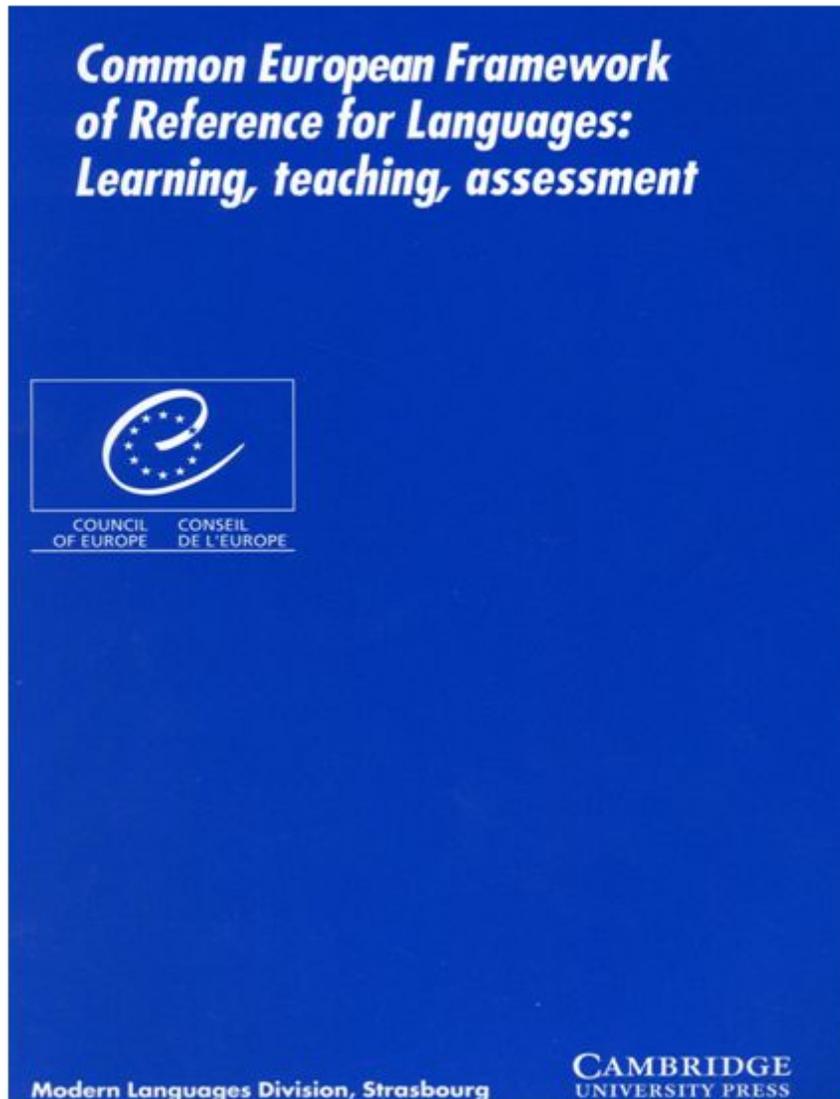
## **Certification** – always check :

- <https://www.britishcouncil.it/en>  
list of UK 'enti certificatori'
- <http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/licensing.asp>  
for Medicine: IELTS 7.5 requirement
- <http://www.aisli.it> ↗  
for the Italian quality association
- <http://www.Eaquals.org> ↗  
for the international quality accreditation system  
'Garante' - Ombudsman

## **Certification** – Recognised UK Exam Boards :

- All boards are recognised by OFQUAL (Office for Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) that regulates qualifications, exams and tests in England and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland.
- [Cambridge English Language Assessment](#) (formerly known as University of Cambridge ESOL) ↗
- [City and Guilds \(Pitman\)](#)
- [Pearson LCCI](#) ↗
- [Pearson Edexcel](#)
- [Pearson EDI](#)
- [ESB English Speaking Board](#)
- [IELTS](#)
- [TCL Trinity College London](#) ↗
- [AIM Awards](#)

# CEFR (2001) & its Finnish translation (2004)



**Very careful translation is needed, especially of the scales (level must remain the same; neither lower nor higher than the original level)**



# Review: what the CEFR scales are not



- A specification for a particular language (including structural features)
- A manifesto for communicative or task-based language teaching methodology
- A fully comprehensive and finite system of reference
- A sequential course of teaching items

## **CEFR** – wip | descriptors absent in original

- **x** Pre-A1 absent | A1 extremely limited
- **x** C2 descriptors extremely limited
- **x** 'plus' levels
- **x** Phonology
- **x** Mediation
- **x** Pluricultural
- **x** Plurilingual
- **x** Young Learners

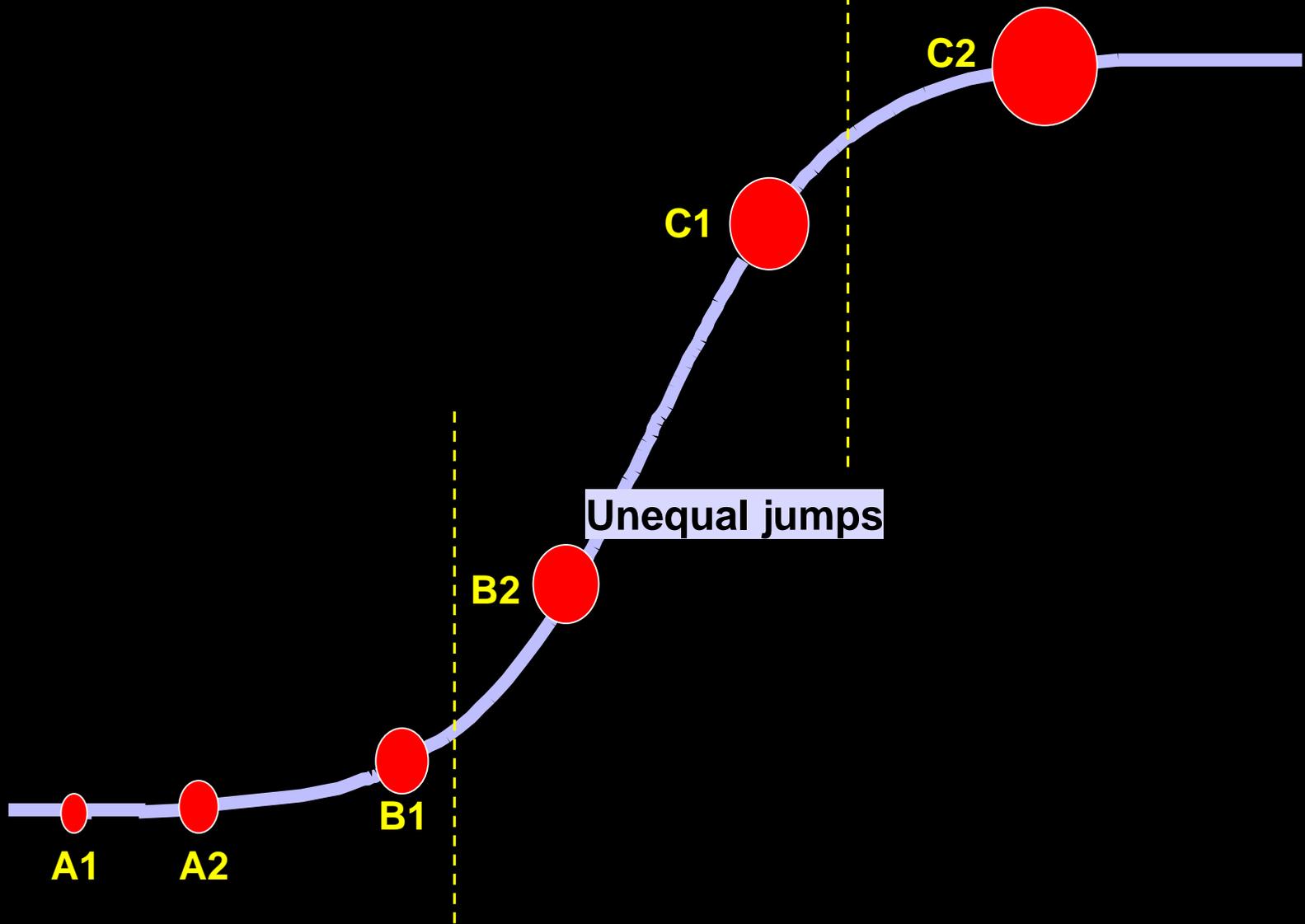


Beginner

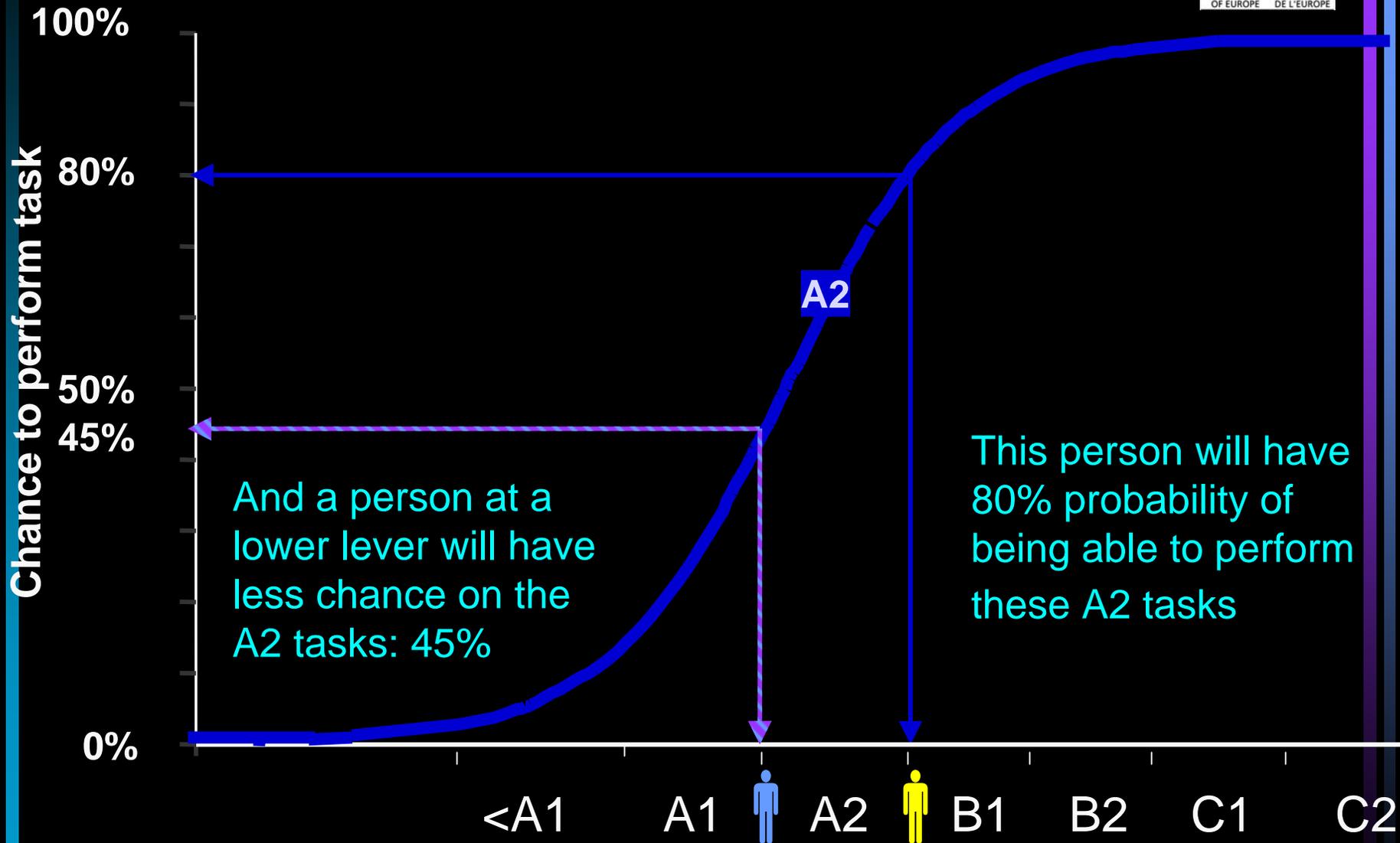
Intermediate

Advanced

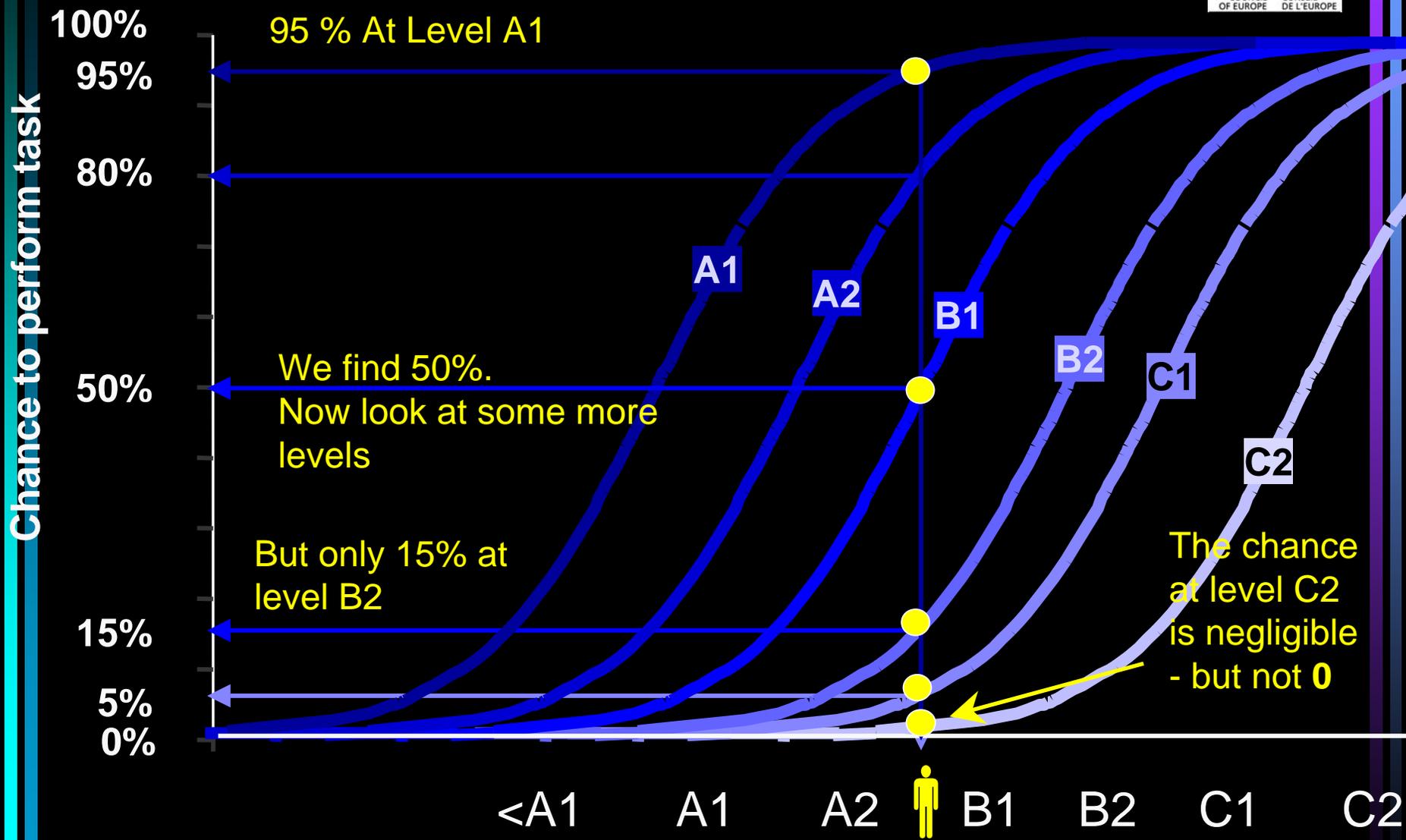
# Raising Standards – each CEFR level ‘doubled’:



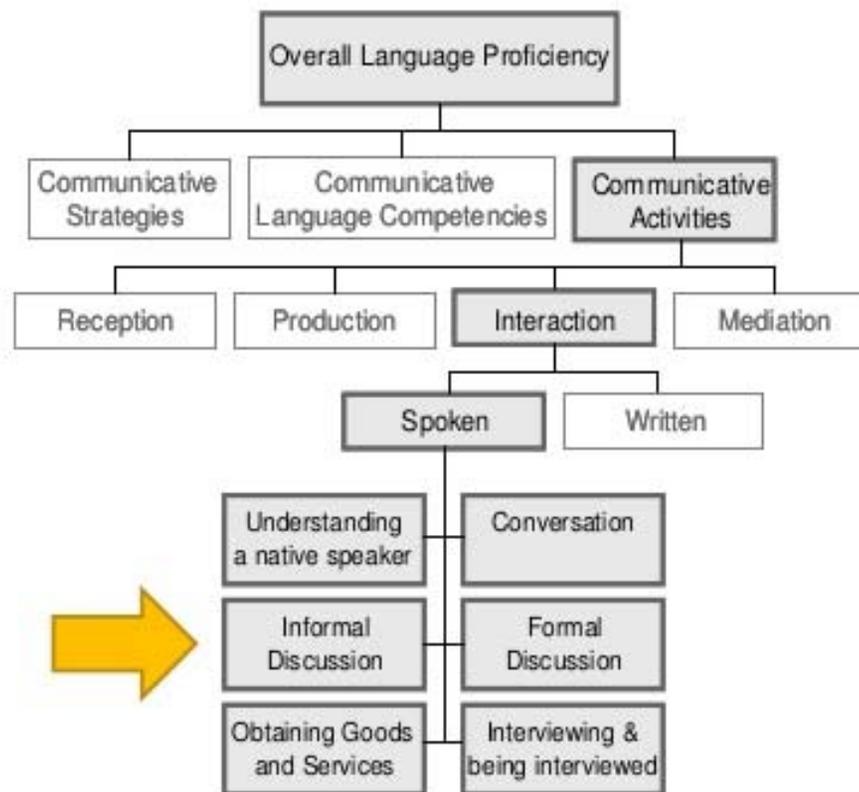
# CEFR scaled on IRT model



# CEFR scaled on IRT model



## Ch4: Descriptors: Activities

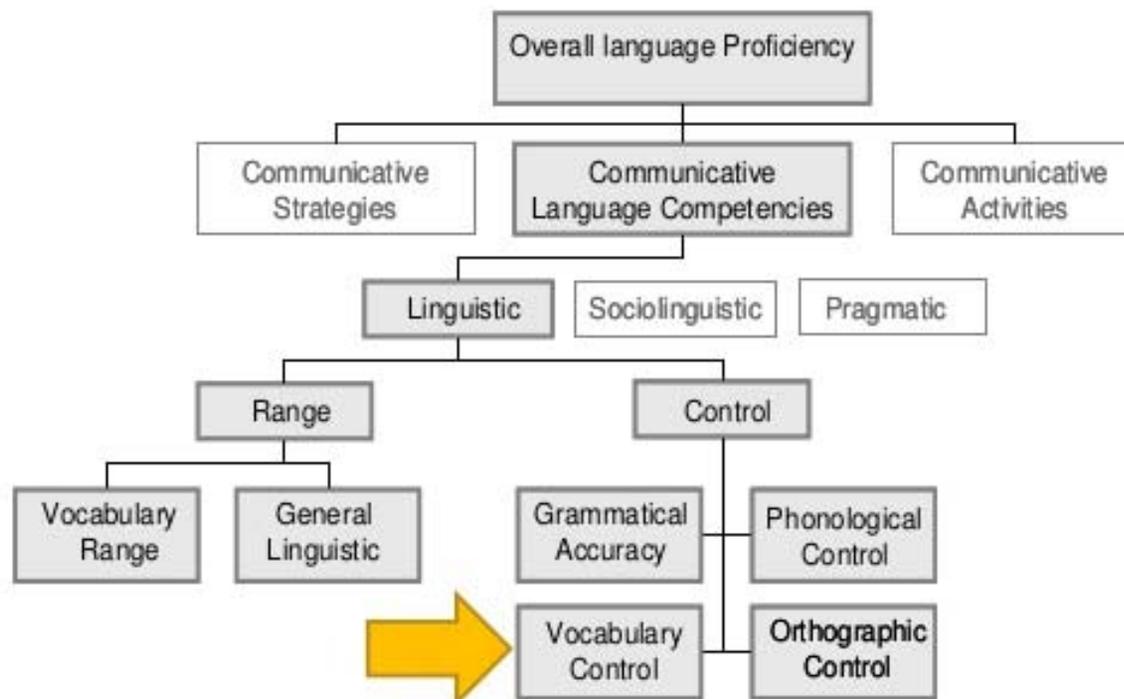


# QUANTITY refers to: the **number** of ...

domains	(school, work, home, etc.)
functions	(ask, command, inquire, etc.)
notions	(north, south, table, mother, cat, eat, drink, etc.)
situations	(meeting, e-mail, telephone, etc.)
locations	(market, school, police station, etc.)
topics	(weather, study, holidays, etc.)
roles	(listener in audience, participant in discussion, etc.)

... that a language user can deal with.

## Ch4: Descriptors: Quality



**QUALITY** refers to:  
the *degree* to which

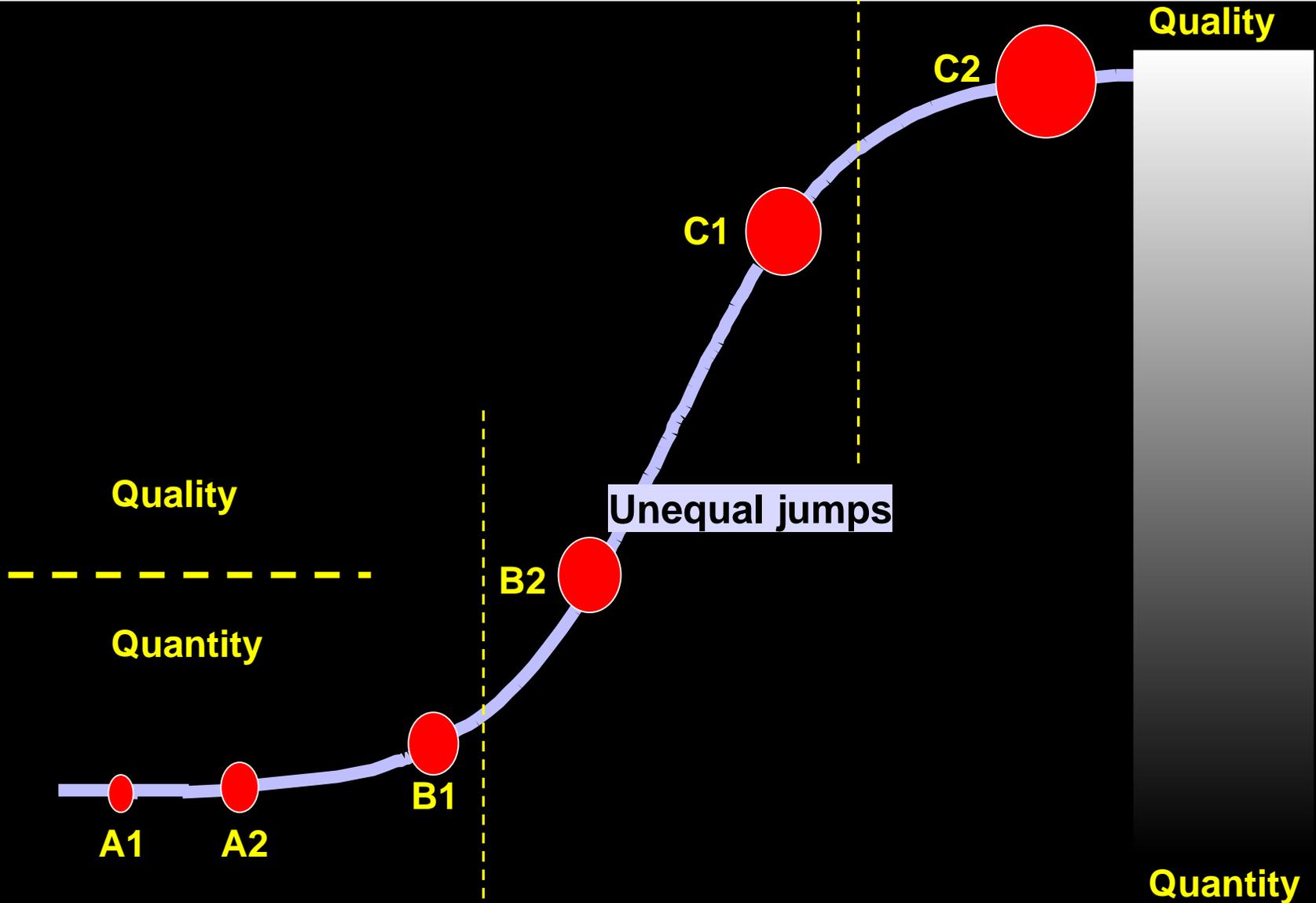
## Language use is effective

- ➔ leading to degree of precision
- 1) in understanding what is meant
  - 2) in expressing one's meaning

## Language use is efficient

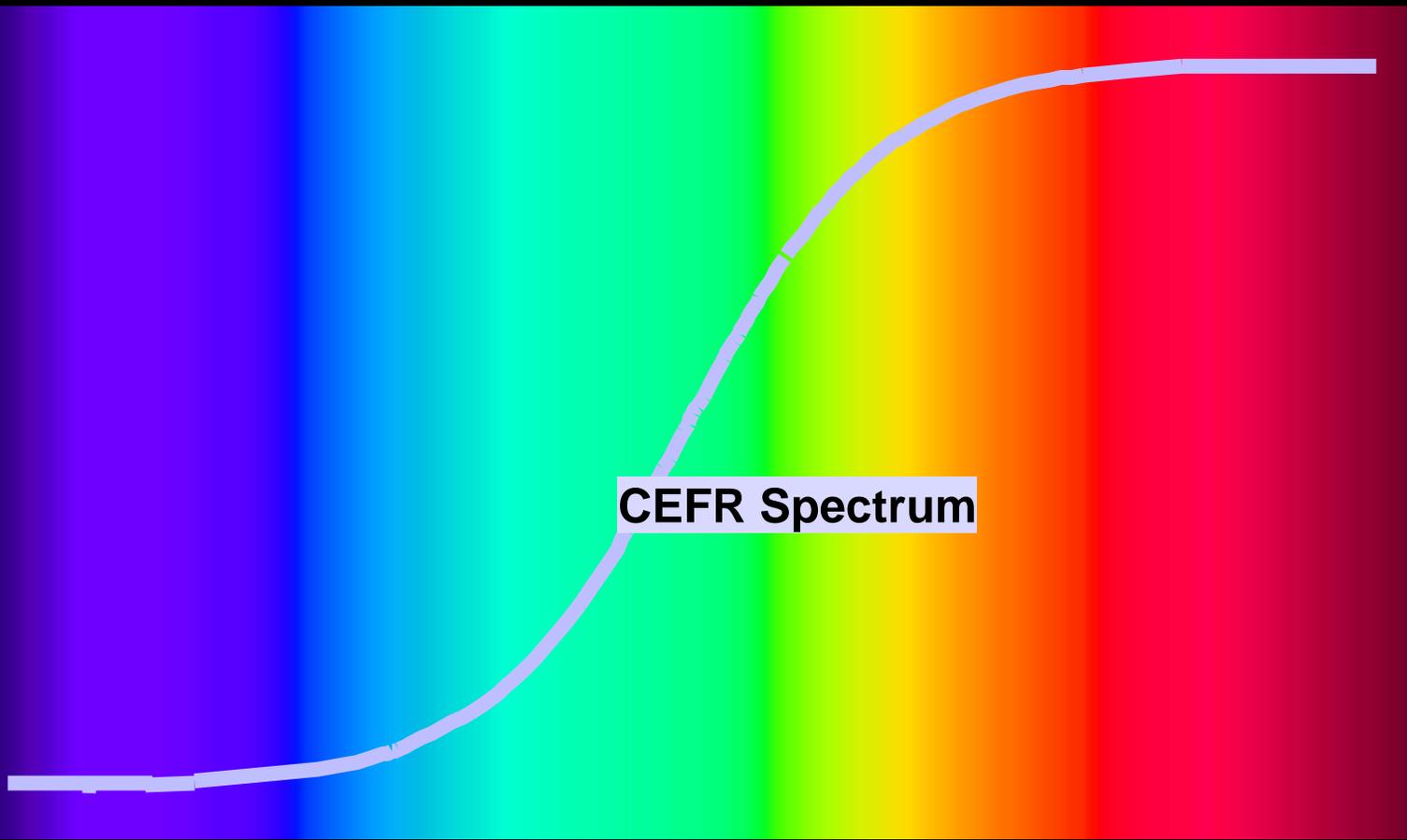
- ➔ leading to communication  
with the least possible effort

# Raising Standards – each CEFR level ‘doubled’:



# Certification – The CEFR Spectrum :

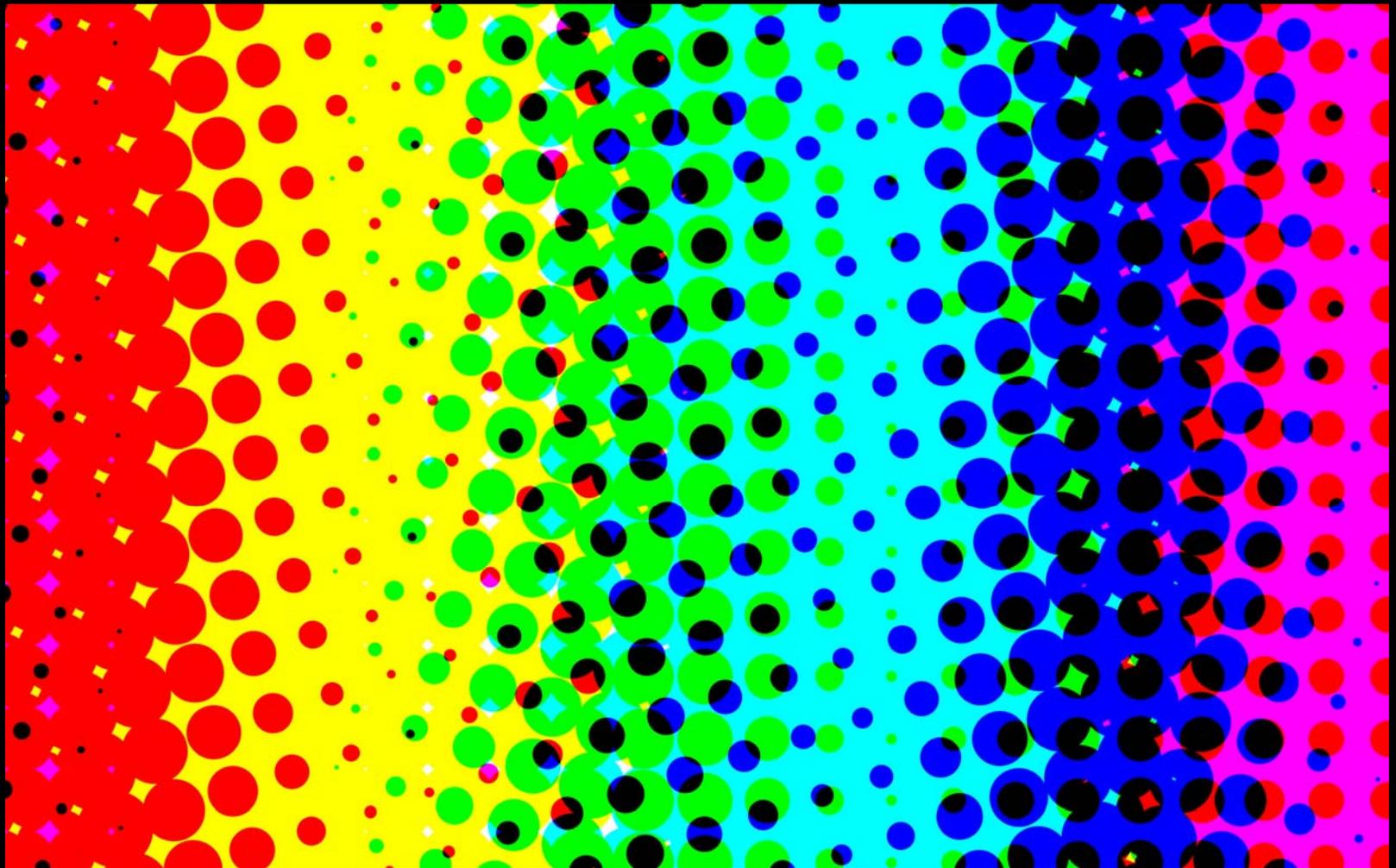
Quality



CEFR Spectrum

Quantity

# Certification – The CEFR Spectrum :



# Interpreting Results – is my B1 your B1? :

**Statement of Results**

Exam  
Mark (C/E)  
/24

Reference No. 14380004804	Candidate Name <b>MARÍA DEL MAR ESPINOLA HERRERO</b>
To be quoted on all correspondence	Place of Birth <b>MADRID</b>

Qualification <b>CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED ENGLISH</b>	Score <b>19/24</b>	Result <b>PASS AT GRADE C</b>
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Candidate Profile

Reception	Reading		
Scale	Writing	Listening	Speaking
Scale	Use of English	Listening	Speaking
Scale			

The Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) is a general proficiency examination at level C1 in the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, the CEFR, as defined in the CEFR National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

CEFR Level	NQF Level	Examination	Grade	Score
C2	8	Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)	Grade A	80 to 100
C1	7	Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)	Grade B	70 to 79
B2	6	First Certificate in English (FCE)	Grade C	60 to 69
B1	5	Preiminary English Test (PET)	Level B2	40 to 59
A2	4	Key English Test (KET)	Below Level B1	0 to 39
A1	3			

**Interpretation of results**

Grade C covers the range of ability from a borderline pass to good achievement at the level. Grade B also covers the range of good achievement up to Grade A, which demonstrates an ability of Council of Europe Level C1. Level B2 covers the range of ability between weak and borderline.

The total number of marks available in the examination is 200 (marks out of 24) are converted to a standardised score out of 100.

**THIS IS NOT A CERTIFICATE**

Cambridge English Language Assessment reserves the right to amend the information given before the issue of certificates to accommodate candidates.

Notes:  
 1 - If the candidate was absent from part of the examination  
 2 - If the candidate was absent from all parts of the examination  
 Pending - a result cannot be issued at present, but will follow in due course  
 Withdrawn - the candidate should contact their centre for information

**CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH**  
Language Assessment  
Part of the University of Cambridge

EG04/2014



## Certificate in Advanced English

### Statement of Results

Candidate Name

**AN Example**

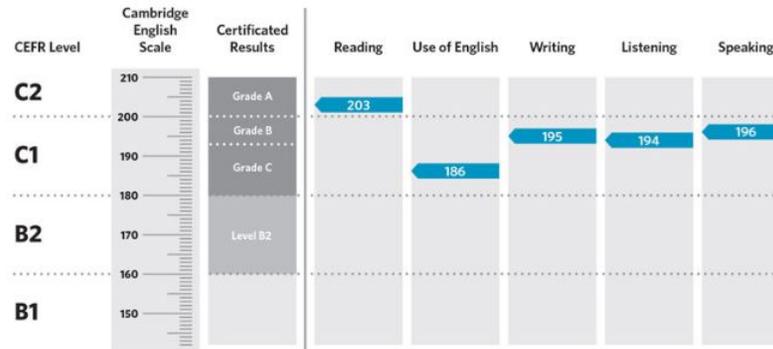
Session

November (CAE1)  
2015

Place of Entry

**Cambridge**

Result	Overall Score	CEFR Level
<b>Pass at Grade B</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>C1</b>



The Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) is an examination targeted at Level C1 in the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference.

Candidates achieving Grade A (between 200 and 210 on the Cambridge English Scale) receive the Certificate in Advanced English stating that they have demonstrated ability at Level C2. Candidates achieving Grade B or Grade C (between 180 and 199 on the Cambridge English Scale) receive the Certificate in Advanced English at Level C1.

Candidates whose performance is below Level C1, but falls within Level B2 (between 160 and 179 on the Cambridge English Scale), receive a Cambridge English certificate stating that they have demonstrated ability at Level B2.

Cambridge English Language Assessment examination results can be quickly and securely verified online at:  
[www.cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers)

#### THIS IS NOT A CERTIFICATE

Cambridge English Language Assessment reserves the right to amend the information given before the issue of certificates to successful candidates.

Results	Score
<b>Pass at Grade A</b>	200 – 210
<b>Pass at Grade B</b>	193 – 199
<b>Pass at Grade C</b>	180 – 192
<b>Level B2</b>	160 – 179

Candidates taking the Cambridge English Advanced scoring between 142 and 159 on the Cambridge English Scale do not receive a certificate.

Cambridge English Scale scores below 142 are not reported for the Cambridge English Advanced.

#### Other

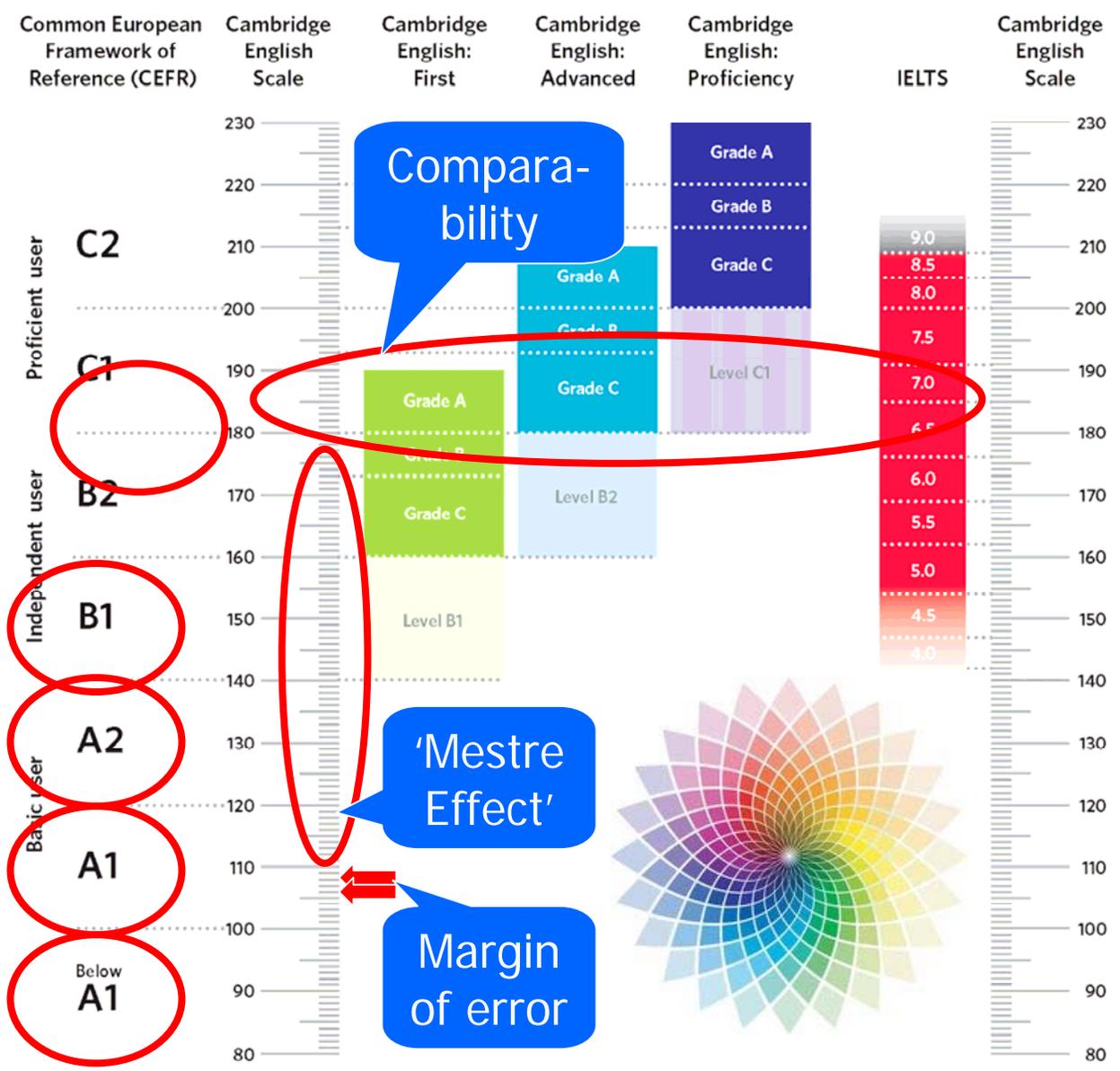
**X** - the candidate was absent from part of the examination

**Z** - the candidate was absent from all parts of the examination

**Pending** - a result cannot be issued at present, but will follow in due course

**Withheld** - the candidate should contact their centre for information

**Exempt** - the candidate was not required to sit this part of the examination



**Certification – Scales – uses & limitations :**

The background of the slide is a blue European Union flag with twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle. The flag is shown waving, creating a sense of movement. The text is overlaid on the flag.

# CEFR

Common European Framework  
of Reference for Languages

Learning, Teaching, Assessment



# CEFR Hierarchy of Scales



**Note:** this branch of the hierarchy is part of the **Quantity** dimension: **how much a language learner can do**

## **CEFR revision** – thematic areas | all calibrated

- ✓ Pre-A1 | A0
- ✓ C2 descriptors – much larger sample
- ✓ 'plus' levels | A2+ | B1+ | B2+
- ✓ Phonology
- ✓ Mediation
- ✓ Pluricultural
- ✓ Plurilingual
- ✓ Literature
- ✓ 22 new scales e.g. on-line conversation & discussion
- ✓ Young Learners: 7 – 10 | 11 - 15



## **CEFR revision** – the Italian contribution:

- 16 institutions participated from Italy
- 10 universities: Bologna, Bolzano, Calabria, Milano – Univ Catt., Padova, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Siena, Trieste
- 4 institutions: Alliance Française, Centro Ling. Carabinieri, Institut Français - Milan, Istituto Monti – Asti
- AISLi
- British School FVG
- + 56 experts reviewed initial findings



## Certification – Take Home Messages :

- ✓ Only if in the student's interests
- ✓ Only when needed
- ✓ Tests vs Exams
- ✓ Purposes, spendability
- ✓ Transitional | school → university → work
- ✗ Avoid conflicts of interest e.g. targets
- ✗ Teaching to the test vs teaching language
- ✗ If in doubt, don't | ask the experts

## CEFR – Take Home Messages :

- ✓ new validated descriptors coming 2017-2018
- ✓ Potential to transform – for the better – what we teach, how we teach it, what learners do, and how it can be assessed and certificated
- ✓ facilitating formative → summative assessment
- ✓ Mediation is a key (e.g. Translation, CLIL)
- ✓ for international co-operation
- ✓ Transitional | school → university → work
- ✓ Relevant, fit for purpose, spendable, worldwide

**CEFR = Learning, Teaching, Assessment :**



TEATRO  
NUOVO

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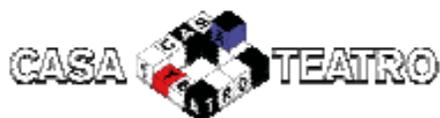
giovanni  
da udine

20° STAGIONE  
2016/2017

Con il patrocinio di



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI UDINE



Confronti in scena

## NATURA E POTERE NEL TEATRO DI SHAKESPEARE

dialogano

Giuseppe Bevilacqua, Direttore Artistico Prosa Teatro Nuovo  
e Peter Brown, Direttore British School FVG

>Teatro Nuovo Giovanni da Udine<

lunedì 10 ottobre 2016 – ore 17.30 ingresso libero

**Drammaturgia di pura invenzione (teatro e natura)**  
con alcuni esempi da *Come vi piace*

mercoledì 12 ottobre 2016 – ore 17.30 ingresso libero

**Drammaturgia a radici storiche (teatro e potere)**  
con alcuni esempi da *Giulio Cesare*

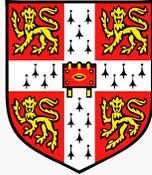
WWW.TEATROUDINE.IT



... **and** – a propos:

Not everything that  
counts can be counted

Albert Einstein



# CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH

## Language Assessment

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Authorised Centre

### *The British School FVG*

**Udine IT027 – vicolo Pulesi, 4 | 0432 50.71.71**

**Trieste IT015 – via Torrebianca, 18 | 040 369.369**

**Gorizia IT300 – corso Italia, 17 | 0481 33.300**

**Monfalcone IT666 – via Duca d'Aosta, 16 | 0481 411.868**

**Thank you!**



**Udine@British-FVG.net**



***The British School FVG*** – Trieste  
Via Torrebianca, 18  
Trieste – Italy



**++39 040 369.369**  
**Peter.Brown@British-FVG.net**