



Test Format | Part 1 (*Introduction and Interview*)

- 4 to 5 minutes
- 'getting-to-know-you' questions to find out a little about you
- general questions such as family, your studies or work, where you come from or what your interests are

Criteria

Each of the four criteria counts equally. Around the beginning of Part 1, the examiner will write down a band score for each of the four criteria (*it means that the examiner already has an idea of what your band score more or less is*).

Then those numbers will be marked up or down during the test.

All the criteria count EQUALLY and are judged throughout all 3 parts of the speaking test.

The examiner then uses well defined criteria to assess your ability in the following areas:

Fluency and Coherence

Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Pronunciation

At the end of the test, the interviewer calculates the average of the four scores and that number will represent your final speaking band score.

example:

Grammatical Range and Accuracy	7	
Lexical Resource (<i>Vocabulary</i>)	7	
Pronunciation	6	= 24, which divided by 4 equals 6
Fluency and Coherence	4	Band Score 6

Improving Band Score

Fluency and Coherence

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + speaking naturally <i>(try copying the speed of your examiner)</i> but ONLY if the pronunciation is good + expanding answers with relevant information/details and using correct tenses and connectors + answering the questions directly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long, awkward pauses - not answering the question completely/correctly

Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + using a wide range of vocabulary + using appropriate words + correct usage of collocations and phrasal verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using unfamiliar vocabulary words or using words incorrectly - always using common and simple vocabulary

Grammar

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + knowing how to use the basic verb tenses well + making complex sentences, using <u>conjunctions</u> and <u>connectors</u> + making complex structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inconsistent tenses - always using simple sentences - constructing complex sentences incorrectly

Pronunciation

Mark Up for...

- + easy to understand pronunciation
- + speaking CLEARLY so that every word can be understood
- + proper intonation to emphasize a certain meaning or idea
- + basic word pronunciation
- + linked sounds and connected speech
(not pronounced sound for sound)

Mark Down for...

- repeatedly mispronounced words
- very fast or very long answers
(poor pronunciation or no coherence)

NO NEED FOR "American" OR "British" ACCENT

REMINDERS

- There are no 'right' answers to the questions asked, concentrate on how you deliver your answer.
- Practice answering the questions, but do not learn or memorize the answers. Examiners can tell if you have memorized your answers.

- Avoid giving short, uncommunicative replies.

for example:

NO: *"I am studying Engineering."*

YES: *"I am a college student. I hope to become a Civil Engineer one day."*

- Make sure you elaborate and give the necessary details.

for example:

"One of my many hobbies is taking pictures. (Don't stop here! Add more details/information!)"

I find taking pictures fun and challenging. It is also a great way of keeping precious memories."

- Do not just answer "yes" or "no" to closed questions. Give your answers in complete sentences and say why.

(CLOSED QUESTIONS: *Have you...* *Do you...* *Is it...*)

for example:

Do you think family is important?

"Yes, I think family is important. (Don't stop here! Add more details/information!)"

Family is usually the first people you run to when you need support or guidance. They are the first to understand and accept who you are."

- ALWAYS offer examples to help you explain a statement.

for example:

"I need it for my studies. (Don't stop here! Add more details/information!) I've been offered

a place at a university in New York to continue my studies on Business Management, but I need to prove my level of English is good enough."

Questions

- 1.) Does the weather affect your mood?

- 2.) Tell me about your favorite wild animal.

- 3.) Did you enjoy English at school?

- 4.) Would you like to have a large family?

- 5.) Do you live near here?

- 6.) What kind of food do you like?

Answers

1.) Does the weather affect your mood?

"Yes, it definitely does. I feel like a different person every time the seasons change. For example, if it's hot I am a bit irritable because of the heat. Especially if it's humid and sticky. Or if it's cold outside, I am sluggish and lazy. On the other hand, it depends if the rain or shine bothers to you."

WORDS and PHRASES

sluggish humid season sticky definitely irritable

hot outside bother change

different person a bit on the other hand rain or shine

2.) Tell me about your favorite wild animal.

"Well, I find dolphins absolutely enchanting. There's really nothing like them, I think. Some of the characteristics that make them different are that they are intelligent, sociable and so charming! For me, they are like the humans of the sea. I have read stories about these unique creatures saving other animals and people. It certainly goes to show how dolphins stand out."

WORDS and PHRASES

characteristic creature unique intelligent absolutely enchanting

sociable charming certainly

nothing like stand out

3.) Did you enjoy English at school?

"English was a such challenging subject for me. We don't use the language much outside class so it was difficult applying it. Nevertheless, I knew that English was a practical language to acquire and it was fun learning it."

WORDS and PHRASES

challenging subject difficult applying nevertheless practical

language acquire fun learning

use the ... much outside class

4.) Would you like to have a large family?

"Well, I don't know. I'm an only child, so it's kind of hard for me to relate to having a big family. But it would be nice to always be surrounded by a lot of family members. I mean, although you wouldn't have much privacy, you will never be alone. I think I can probably handle having three or four kids. I think that's more than enough."

WORDS and PHRASES

surround although privacy alone handle

more than enough only child kind of hard relate to

would be nice to... big family I mean...

5.) Do you live near here?

"Actually, I live in an apartment a couple blocks from here. It's approximately a 15 minute walk."

"Oh no. My house is about 3 hours away by train or 6 hours by car. I live very far."

WORDS and PHRASES

about approximately apartment house

walk far blocks about

by train/car/foot an/(2+) hour(s) away an/(2+) hour(s) by

6.) What kind of food do you like?

"I am a meat and dessert person! Any recipe that has meat is my favorite. Especially beef! A meal of beef and some veggies would make such a great dish! Also, I have a sweet tooth, so I crave all kinds of sweets: Cakes, ice cream, chocolates, you name it!"

WORDS and PHRASES

beefdessert meal recipe veggies sweets

make such a... a meal of... sweet tooth you name it all kinds of...