



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

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.) What do you do?

- 2.) When you were a child, did you often visit your relatives?

- 3.) Is news important to you?

- 4.) What kinds of photographs do you keep?

- 5.) Do you like to change clothes immediately after work?

- 6.) What is the meaning of your name?

Answers

1.) What do you do?

"Presently, I'm working as a part time librarian. I'm trying to save money for college."

"I don't have a job. I am just studying English for now. If I pass the IELTS exam, I would really like to continue studying English in Toronto, Canada."

WORDS and PHRASES

job study continue presently

for now part time like to... working as...

2.) When you were a child, did you often visit your relatives?

"Oh yes, we used to visit my grandparents a lot. Since my relatives used to live nearby, my parents took us to our grandparents almost every weekend. There was barely a weekend when we didn't have time to see them. Sometimes, they would come by our house. Even now, I sometimes pay visits to my grandparents and my cousins."

WORDS and PHRASES

barely sometimes nearby weekendgrandparent cousin

come by use to... until now almost every... took us pay a visit

3.) Is news important to you?

“Definitely. I think it’s very important to be very aware of what’s going on locally and globally. I am always up-to-date with current events, especially politics. For me, knowing what’s presently happening is a top priority. Especially if there are big changes coming.”

WORDS and PHRASES

even globally definitely locally

going on current events for me very aware of... big change

top priority presently happening up-to-date

4.) What kinds of photographs do you keep?

“I have a whole collection of snapshots of my family: of the time when my siblings and I were kids, of places we travelled to, of birthdays, celebrations and all kinds of gatherings. My favorite pictures to take are landscapes. I have a lot of digital and printed pictures of gardens, lakes and sunsets.”

WORDS and PHRASES

digital printed picture place snapshot gathering

landscape celebration

whole collection of... all kinds of...

5.) Do you like to change clothes immediately after work?

"Usually, as soon as I get home from the office, I take off my uniform, take a shower and change to my pajamas. Only when I am too tired, I have dinner and watch a little bit of T.V. By that time, I will have finished all my assignments and can finally relax."

WORDS and PHRASES

office uniform home

change to... little bit of... by that time sleep in take off

as soon as... take a shower only when... work clothes

6.) What is the meaning of your name?

"I wish I knew. I never thought to do some research to find out the meaning behind my name."

"I did ask my father about the origin of my name and he told me that my name means musician in French. I also looked it up just to check if he was right. My name actually means talented musician."

WORDS and PHRASES

ask research origin

behind ... name find out check if... origin of... looked it up

never thought to... do some research actually means...