



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 (<i>Vocabulary</i>)
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.) Do you think (*city, town, country*) is a good place to live in?

- 2.) What did you do last weekend?

- 3.) Do we need to teach the children to sing folk songs?

- 4.) Do you get along with your family? How/Why?

- 5.) Do you have any plans to travel or live abroad?

- 6.) What kind of books did you read as a child?

Answers

1.) Do you think (*city, town, country*) is a good place to live in?

"The advantage of this city is that if you're single and ambitious, then this city is a stepping stone for your career. Even though the disadvantage is that it is expensive to live here, there are many job opportunities. Also, this city isn't ideal for raising kids. There are not a lot of parks nor natural places to go to. Unfortunately, this city isn't very child friendly."

WORDS and PHRASES

natural

advantage

opportunity

raise

expensive

natural place cost of living

stepping stone

raise kids

2.) What did you do last weekend?

"I had a great weekend! I got to spend the whole time with my kids. On Saturday, I took my kids out shopping for new clothes, shoes and toys. On Sunday, I took my kids to the beach and spent the entire day there. They met up with some of their friends there. We all had a blast."

WORDS and PHRASES

spend the whole time...

had a blast

took ... out

meet up

shopping for...

3.) Do we need to teach the children to sing?

“Absolutely. Singing is important and one of the ways to pass on tradition and culture. It also creates a sense of identity. For example, singing together creates solidarity among groups of people. It is one of the few forms of art that can help people create a solid identity as a community.”

WORDS and PHRASES

absolutely create solidarity identity important tradition

culture community

one of the ways to pass on among groups forms of art solid identity

4.) Do you get along with your family? How/Why?

“Most of the time, yes, I do get along with my family. I mean, I don't think there are any families out there that don't have misunderstandings. My family is like an open book. When we have problems or have issues with each other, we try to talk it out, even though we might be really angry. My family understands the concept of spending time together and working things out when we have problems.”

WORDS and PHRASES

understanding problem issue angry concept

each other most of the time talk it out even though out there

working things out spend time an open book

5.) Do you have any plans to travel or live abroad?

"I love my homeland, so I'd rather just travel to other countries. I have no plans at all to work or study, much less live abroad. But I am presently saving up money to take a trip to Europe. I'd love to experience backpacking there."

WORDS and PHRASES

work presently study rather homeland experience backpacking

take a trip to... live abroad much less no plans at all saving up

6.) What kind of books did you read as a child?

"When I was in elementary school I used to really like adventure or mystery stories. I had the whole Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series. I loved it so much, I kept reading them again and again!"

WORDS and PHRASES

story mystery adventure keep again

used to... whole ... series