



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 (Vocabulary)	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.) Who is your favorite teacher?

- 2.) Why do people use the internet?

- 3.) What kind of clothes do you want to wear?

- 4.) What games are popular in your country? Why?

- 5.) For you what is more important, your name or your surname?

- 6.) What are your strong points? What is your weakness?

Answers

1.) Who is your favorite teacher?

"Mrs. Belinga, my language teacher. She was so creative in motivating us to work harder and simplifying extremely difficult concepts. She was exceptional because she really knew how to adjust to all levels of pupils."

WORDS and PHRASES

motivate creative simplify concept adjust exceptional

pupil

extremely difficult work harder all levels ... teacher

2.) Why do people use the internet?

"The internet has almost everything. You can find information, shop, do networking to meet people and even do bank transactions. The internet is the most convenient source of where you can search and do almost everything and anything."

WORDS and PHRASES

shop source networking anything transactions

meet search even

find information almost everything most convenient meet people

do bank transactions

3.) What kind of clothes do you want to wear?

"I like to dress casually. You can wear casual clothing almost anywhere and everywhere. Jeans and a white t-shirt is my favorite attire. I mean, it can go with almost anything. For instance, you can never go wrong with jeans, nice pumps and a lovely blouse."

WORDS and PHRASES

anything everywhere blouse casual attire dress casually

clothing pump lovely jeans

go with almost... for instance... almost anywhere never go wrong with...

4.) What games are popular in your country? Why?

"Video games and mobile games have become very "in" in my country, especially with kids. It's because there are so many kinds of games fit for all kinds of people. For example, there are multiplayer games where you can play with others, even from people all around the world. Also, there are games where it simulates things in real life like running your own business or restaurant. There are even games where you can be a soldier or spy killing bad guys or zombies. This generation is a whole new era of open possibilities where the impossible can be turned into a game."

WORDS and PHRASES

whole simulate generation possibility

fit for... very "in" kinds of games multiplayer/mobile/video game open possibility

new era of... all around the world play with others be turned into...

5.) For you what is more important, your name or your surname?

"For me, my first name and my surname hold equal significance. I feel that my name is important for my identity, but my last name is as important, because it is the identity of my family. The two names help others identify or recognize someone's individuality."

WORDS and PHRASES

identity recognize significance individuality identify

hold equal... I feel that ... last name for me...

6.) What are your strong points? What is your weakness?

"Hmm, well, I can honestly say that the good thing about me is that I am a real go-getter, or determined. Once I set my mind into doing something I always try to make sure it is done or achieved. I am not the type of person who leaves things half baked. I see things through. As for my weakness, I am a bit of a fickle. I am very particular with what I eat and how I clean. Like, I only eat organic food, I choose the right type of exercise that fits for my body and when I clean my house, I don't just vacuum and throw out the garbage, I disinfect every nook and cranny of every room. It's really time consuming and tedious, but I can't help it."

WORDS and PHRASES

achieve weakness determine tedious

good thing honestly say type of person real go-getter set my mind

half baked make sure very particular bit of a... right type of...

into doing something see things through as for... fits for... time consuming