



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

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- 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

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

### Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)

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

### Grammar

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

**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

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- 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

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- 1.) Where is a good place to meet people?
  
- 2.) Do you like your name? Would you change it if you could?
  
- 3.) What is your favorite T.V. series?
  
- 4.) How would you like to spend your ideal weekend?
  
- 5.) What does everyone do in their leisure time and why?
  
- 6.) Do you prefer to read the news on the newspaper or watch it on television?

## Answers

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1.) Where is a good place to meet people?

*"You can meet people in lots of different places. For example, you might meet people if you went to school or have enrolled in a course. Or you can meet people when you go to a bar or a club. You can meet people even on the internet. But for me, the best way is face to face. Like joining a club or doing some kind of sports activity or even at a party."*

### WORDS and PHRASES

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*course                      internet                      bar                      club                      activity                      school*

*but for me...                      some kind of...                      face to face                      even at/on...*

*enrolled in...                      joining a club                      sports activity*

2.) Do you like your name? Would you change it if you could?

*"No, I would not at all like to alter my name. It is my identity and reflective of my personality. It's what makes me unique. My parents lovingly named me and it would break their hearts if I changed the name they gave me."*

### WORDS and PHRASES

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*personality                      unique                      lovingly                      alter                      identity                      parent*

*alter*

*not at all                      what makes me...*

3.) What is your favorite T.V. series?

*"I love to watch the T.V. program, "Guinness Book of World Records". It shows the extra ordinary talent and feats of humans, from different places and countries of the world. It shows the greatest achievements performed by regular people. It consists of a wide variety of records, which are recommended by special judges. It's such a great, inspiring and entertaining program."*

WORDS and PHRASES

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*perform                    extra                    country                    great                    feats                    entertain*

*program    ordinary talent                    inspire                    recommend*

*wide variety of...                    different places                    regular people                    recommended by...*

*greatest achievement extra ordinary                    consists of...*

4.) How would you like to spend your ideal weekend?

*"Good question. There are so many things I'd like to do. Given if I had extra money, I would probably go shopping or hit the beach. I'd love to buy some stuff for my family. Maybe get my dad a new shirt, my mom a new purse or my brother a new pair of sneakers. If not shopping, then I would definitely go to the beach. I'd love to catch some sun and just relax on a hammock with a nice cold drink."*

WORDS and PHRASES

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*probably    new                    definitely*

*love to...    extra money                    hit the...                    like to do ...                    maybe get...*

*new pair of...catch some...                    given if...                    just relax on...                    with a...*

5.) What does everyone do in their leisure time and why?

*"Different people do a variety of activities in their leisure time. Some prefer their leisure time to be peaceful and quiet, like a time to think and reflect. To do this, some people go for a walk, relax and read on a couch, listen to some classical music, or play an instrument. Others would choose to do something strenuous such as playing an outdoor game or sport or go dancing. Another group of people prefers to socialize. For example, they could watch movies with their family or just meet up with friends."*

WORDS and PHRASES

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*variety      prefer      strenuous      sport      socialize*

*reflect      family      friends      dancing      activity*

*and the others...      listen to...      watch movie      play an instrument*

*time to think      choose to...      outdoor game      meet up*

6.) Do you prefer to read the news in the newspaper or watch it on television?

*"I like to read the newspaper while I'm having coffee in the mornings. I also watch the news on the television daily. It's different when we listen to the current events on the TV or radio. Although the news on T.V. is updated, it does not give all the details. In the paper, we get all the statistics about a particular situation. So, I like both the TV and the newspaper."*

WORDS and PHRASES

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*update      daily      details      although listen      statistics*

*in the paper      current events      in the mornings      particular situation*