



## Test Format | Part 2 (Long Turn)

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- 3 to 4 minutes (including 1-minute preparation time)
- you will be given a task card: you will have 1 minute to write notes down and get ready, then you will have 2 minutes to speak about the subject without interruption
- the examiner will ask a follow up question or two after your talk

## 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 (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"> <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.
- Use the 1 minute of preparation time wisely. Write down all the important keywords and phrases. Organize your thoughts, make sure you have prepared your signposting so that you can move from one topic to another easily.
- Follow the flow of the questions. It will show how well you can change from one topic to another.
- You are given two uninterrupted minutes to talk about the topic. Try to consume the whole two minutes. It's better to go over the two minutes than below.
- If you are not sure how to do it:
  - ▶ once you have spoken about one topic, check the next topic to discuss
  - ▶ take a short pause, relax and think about what to say next
  - ▶ look up at the examiner, make eye contact
  - ▶ signpost so that the examiner knows you will be talking about a new topic
- 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."*
- 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.) Describe an important letter that you have received.

You should say:

- when you received the letter
- who it was from
- why it was important

2.) Describe a uniform you used to wear.

You should say:

- why people wear uniform
- what role the uniform plays in a person's life
- why it is important.

3.) Describe a place away from home where you stayed.

You should say:

- where it was
- how long you stayed there
- what you did there
- how you felt when you left it.

4.) Describe a dish that you frequently have.

You should say:

- what this dish is
- how it is prepared
- why you like it in particular.

## Answers

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1.) Describe an important letter that you have received.

You should say:

- when you received the letter
  - who it was from
  - why it was important
- 

Words and Phrases:

*going to*

*"Last week I received a letter from my bank. It was originally sent to my mother's house, at my home address in Mexico, and she forwarded it on to me here.*

*update*

*The letter was important because it explained a change in the password system for the*

*important*

*online banking portal associated with my bank account. The bank explained that they were*

*receive/got*

*going to change the method of accessing the virtual banking platform at the end of the*

*month and the purpose of the letter was to outline the new procedure bank clients will need to use in order to get access to the platform.*

*explained*

*Before the end of the month, I will have to access the website using my old password and*

*forward*

*then follow the instructions to update my access authorization so that I can continue to use the site in the future."*

*purpose*

*outline*

*originally*

*in order*

2.) Describe a uniform you used to wear.

You should say:

- why people wear uniform
- what role the uniform plays in a person's life
- why it is important.

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Words and Phrases:

*unity*

*"We have all seen people wearing uniform. People of different professions wear uniforms in order to distinguish themselves from other people and to show unity. You can easily observe that different organizations have different uniforms. I personally like the uniform of lawyers. Lawyers wear a black coat in my country which is quite nice. Apart from lawyers, there are also other people who wear uniforms. The most obvious ones are army men, doctors, students, police men and people of other law enforcement agencies.*

*promote equality*

*imperative*

*most obvious*

*vital role*

*effort*

*distinguish*

*apart from*

*contemplate*

*easily observe*

*I used to wear a uniform when I was in school. I used to wear a white shirt and black pants. I was totally not cool with it. I always thought that my school should have allowed all students to wear regular clothes. I never felt good after wearing the uniform and I just wanted to take it off. But now that I am an adult I realize how wise it was of the school to make us wear these clothes. Wearing a uniform just saves us from the effort to try so hard to choose our clothes. Now I contemplate the idea behind making the students wear uniform. In a school, there wealthier people and poor people, so the schools introduce a uniform to promote equality and brotherhood amongst them. The uniform plays a vital role in the life of a person. It promotes unity, discipline and integrity. I can easily say that the uniform has played an imperative role in my life."*

3.) Describe a place away from home where you stayed.

- where it was
- how long you stayed there
- what you did there
- how you felt when you left it.

Words and Phrases:

*moving on*

*"I'd like to tell you about an apartment I stayed in with a friend while we were on vacation. The apartment was located on the fourth floor of a building on the seafront in Acapulco. My friend made all the arrangements to rent it for a week. I think she found it on the internet and contacted the owner to discuss all the details and reserved it for the week we wanted to stay there.*

*supplied*

*heading out*

*contacted*

*while*

*extremely comfy*

*arrangement*

*equipped with*

*pack our things*

*reserve*

*rent*

*powerful*

*We visited Acapulco in the summer, so it was quite hot at the time. We stayed in the apartment for seven days before moving on to Cancun. The apartment was lovely; it had white walls and some really interesting pictures hanging in the main living room. The bathroom was well equipped with a really powerful shower, which was very refreshing, and the bed was extremely comfy. The apartment came supplied with linens and towels and everything else we needed. There was even a maid who came to clean it halfway through our stay there. She would come to clean the kitchen, bathroom and change the sheets on the beds. It was a nice surprise for us.*

*The apartment had a great view of the beach and the ocean and we used to sit out on the balcony during the evenings and watch the sun go down before heading out to get something to eat or just walk around town.*

*I have to admit, I was quite sad when we eventually had to pack our things and leave. It had been a wonderful vacation and such a nice apartment. It was much better than staying in a hotel."*

4.) Describe a dish that you frequently have.

You should say:

- what this dish is
- how it is prepared
- why you like it in particular.

Words and Phrases:

*generally*

*"Okay, so one of my favorite dishes is chicken fried rice. It's really simple, I know, but when it's cooked well, it's delicious. My mother taught me how to cook it when I was a young girl.*

*cool down*

*In fact, I think it was the first thing she showed me how to cook so I think that's one of the reasons I like it so much. You can also change it quite a lot and add some extra things to it*

*taste*

*or keep it very simple. Another reason I like it is because it's really easy, quick and cheap to make.*

*chop up*

*mixing*

*So we start with some chicken. I prefer to use chicken breast because it's tastier and generally better quality than other parts, though you can use any part of the chicken, really. I partly cook the chicken breast by boiling it. While cooking the chicken I also precook the*

*accordingly*

*rice. I use a rice cooker as it gets the best results, but you can just use a pan of water if you want. While the rice and chicken are cooking, I prepare the vegetables or anything else I*

*add*

*want to put in the dish. Sometimes I put some extra things like ham or mushrooms, but I normally just include a little onion, sliced up really thin, some green peas, and some*

*precook*

*tomatoes, again chopped up really fine with all the seeds removed.*

*best results*

*When everything is ready and the rice and chicken have cooled down, I start to prepare for frying the rice and mixing everything together. I add a little oil to a large frying pan along with some seasoning and beaten eggs, then add the rice, stir it up and then add the chicken. After cooking it for a little while, I add the vegetables and any other ingredients, constantly mixing. When I think it's ready, I taste it to see if there is enough seasoning and flavor, and that's all!*

*seasoning*

*removed*

*slice up*

*One of the other reasons I like it so much is because you can make it for one person or more, just by changing the amount of ingredients accordingly. Almost everyone I know loves it, so it's really easy to make something quick if anybody comes to visit and they're hungry. Sometimes it's better than going out and we can chat while I'm cooking it, so it's nice."*