



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.) How did you study when you were a child?

- 2.) Do you like to plant?

- 3.) Do you love rain?

- 4.) Is your job interesting and challenging?

- 5.) Why do advertisements add music?

- 6.) How many languages do you speak?

Answers

1.) How did you study when you were a child?

"Honestly, I was very lazy when I was young. I hated studying because I struggled with concentrating on my assignments. So you can imagine how much of a hard time I was having to learn all of my subjects; so my mother helped me out. She made time for me to study after school. She even prepared practice tests."

WORDS and PHRASES

assignment

homework

concentrate

focus

struggle

subject

prepare

test

hard time

how much of...

to pass

help ... out

2.) Do you like to plant?

"Yes, I definitely do. I may not have the green thumb, but it didn't stop me from trying. I have always been interested in growing my own flowers. It does take a lot of patience but it pays off eventually. Actually, I am growing my own garden now. I have all kinds of flowers."

WORDS and PHRASES

patience

garden

interest

grow

actually

flowers

eventually

green thumb all kinds of

take a lot of

stop ... from trying

pay off

3.) Do you love rain?

"Rain is so relaxing! I especially love listening to the raindrops falling on the roof. If you're all cooped up at home, it the perfect time to unwind. Even if I have to go out, I don't mind the rain. I know that it's an inconvenience and troublesome to bring an umbrella, wear a raincoat and boots, but I love the smell of the air when it rains."

WORDS and PHRASES

unwind troublesome smell convenience relax

cooped up even if don't mind perfect time

4.) Is your job interesting and challenging?

"Currently, I am working hard as an accountant. It's a fairly routine job. Although it can get really stressful and challenging at times, because you are dealing or handling other people's money, you become sharper and more accurate with numbers."

WORDS and PHRASES

challenges currently deal stressful handle although

work hard slack off fairly routine at times more accurate

5.) Why do advertisements add music?

“Commercials use music to catch people’s attention. It adds more emphasis to whatever is being advertised. The effect of adding catchy tunes on advertisements helps the audience remember the product. So adding music and drama are effective in highlighting the important parts of the commercial.”

WORDS and PHRASES

product highlight emphasis remember effect

catch/grab (someone/people) attention adds more important parts catchy tune

6.) How many languages do you speak?

“Well, I can speak a bit of Mandarin and German. They are really hard to learn. Although I am not really fluent, I do know the basics pretty well. I actually can pick up on what some of the native speakers are saying. So I guess I know how to converse in two languages aside from Nihongo and English.”

WORDS and PHRASES

native conversation conversebasics fluent

hard easy

aside from pick up on a bit of pretty well native speaker