



## 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"> <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

---

- 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."*



Answers

---

1.) When did you last go to a festival?

*"A week ago, I celebrated the Mitama Matsuri or Soul Festival held at Yasukuni Shrine. You'll see numerous lanterns lit all the way to the shrine at night. There'll also be various events and performances, such as traditional dances and mikoshi (portable shrines) carrying, which are scheduled in the precincts of the shrine daily over the duration of the festival."*

WORDS and PHRASES

---

<i>celebrate</i>	<i>dances</i>	<i>events</i>	<i>numerous</i>	<i>schedule</i>
<i>various</i>	<i>traditional</i>	<i>performance</i>	<i>daily</i>	
<i>held at</i>	<i>such as</i>	<i>all the way to</i>	<i>during the duration</i>	

2.) Can you cook?

*"Sadly no, which is bad for me because it's troublesome to depend on someone else to feed you. I did try cooking and grilling some very simple recipes several times, but I keep burning my food. I wish I could make a decent, edible meal."*

WORDS and PHRASES

---

<i>recipe</i>	<i>troublesome</i>	<i>grilling</i>	<i>edible</i>	<i>burning</i>	<i>feed</i>
<i>someone else</i>	<i>very simple</i>	<i>several times</i>	<i>decent meal</i>		
<i>which is bad for</i>	<i>depending on</i>				

3.) Where is your family from?

*"Even though we have moved around a lot, we are originally from Okinawa. After moving to three different places, we finally settled down in Kyoto."*

*"Currently they are living in Chiba. They have been there all their lives."*

---

WORDS and PHRASES

*after*

*finally*

*currently*

*originally from...*

*settle down*

*living in...*

*all their lives*

*even though*

*move around*

*moving to...*

4.) What do you like doing in your free time?

*"Since my job takes a lot out of me, I 'm completely exhausted by the end of the day. So during my free time, I just catch up on my sleep. Other than that, if I do have spare time and I am not that tired, I catch up on the news, grab a bite to eat or spend time playing with my cat."*

---

WORDS and PHRASES

*during*

*since*

*spare time*

*other than that*

*by the end*

*takes a lot out of...*

*catch up*

*spend time*

*grab a bite*

*completely exhausted*

5.) What job do you hope to be doing in ten years' time?

*"Well, I am studying medicine right now, so I hope I will become a well-known doctor someday. If all goes according to plan, I won't just be a doctor but more specifically will have a blossoming career as a plastic surgeon."*

*"I honestly am not sure what I will be doing in a decade. But I do hope that I will have a stable career by that time though."*

WORDS and PHRASES

---

hope      decade      someday      specifically      blossoming

well-known      not sure      by that time      right now      stable career

if all goes according to plan...

6.) What don't you like about your city?

*"Although I love my city, I think that just like everybody else, I hate the pollution and High crime rates. I don't mind the crowds or the noise, I can deal with the cost of living, but our city government really needs to put more effort in dealing with the air pollution. It's really the main cause why people are getting sick so easily."*

WORDS and PHRASES

---

noise      although      pollution      crowds

deal with...      put more effort on...      crime rate      do mind      really need to...

cost of living