



## 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.) Describe a concert you recently attended.
  
- 2.) Is there any food you used to like as a child but do not like now?
  
- 3.) Which magazines and newspapers do you read? Why?
  
- 4.) What are the different means of transport in your country?
  
- 5.) Who is your best friend?
  
- 6.) Do you prefer to spend your free time alone or with other people?

Answers

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1.) Describe a concert you recently attended.

*"A couple of weeks ago, I went to see my two favorite bands play: Green Day and Weezer. There were also some other artists present, but I didn't know them. Anyway, it was crazy fun! It was overcrowded and people were screaming. When they started playing everyone just started singing at the top of their lungs and jumping up and down. It was an awesome night."*

WORDS and PHRASES

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*play      artist      everyone      sing      start      overcrowded      awesome*

*some other      crazy fun      started playing      top of ... lungs      went to see...*

*couple of ... ago      favorite band*

2.) Is there any food you used to like as a child but do not like now?

*"Before, I used to love all kinds of sweets, in particular lollipops chocolates. But now, no, not so much anymore. I prefer to eat white meat and vegetables. I'm happy that I have changed my preferences."*

WORDS and PHRASES

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*sweets      anymorevegetable      meat      change*

*all kinds of...      in particular      used to...      prefer to...      but now*

3.) Which magazines and newspapers do you read? Why?

*I only read magazines and newspapers if they're in a waiting area. I prefer to get my news from the internet, it's faster. As for magazines, I had a couple of subscriptions like Time and National Geographic in the past, but not anymore. It's just so much more convenient to find the information online nowadays.*

WORDS and PHRASES

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*faster                      subscription                      convenient                      information                      online*

*internet                      anymore                      nowadays*

*get ... news                      couple of                      much more                      as for ...                      prefer to...*

*in the past                      to find*

4.) What are the different means of transport in your country?

*"My country has a wide variety of means of transportation. Although more and more people now have their own private vehicles, most people still use public transportation: we usually go around by taxis, buses and trains. We also have boats and ferries to travel by water. We also have an airport in the capital."*

WORDS and PHRASES

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*ferry                      water                      airport*

*public transportation   private vehicle                      have ... own                      more and more*

*wide variety of...                      most people                      people now                      still use...*

*go around                      travel by...*

5.) Who is your best friend?

*"Jessica has been my best friend since childhood. We grew up together. She knows everything about me, my likes and dislikes, my different moods, secrets, etc. She understands me very well, and vice versa. I completely trust her. I know that when people grow up, relationships grow apart, but not Jessica and I. Even though we are both busy with work and family, we still are very close."*

WORDS and PHRASES

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likes      busy      secret      completely      everything      understand

childhood      relationship

very well      vice versa      grow up      different moods      grow up together

since childhood      grow apart      even though      very close

6.) Do you prefer to spend your free time alone or with other people?

*"It depends on my mood. I think sometimes people need time for themselves. Sometimes my work is quite stressful and I spend a lot of time with others, so it's good to just go home and relax by reading a book or something. But I get bored if I am alone too much so I go out to meet friends for a movie or go dancing."*

WORDS and PHRASES

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bored      mood      good      sometimes      something

quite stressful      go out to...      meet ...      depends on...

need time for...      too much      spend a lot of time...