



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.) Do you have to work with other people?

- 2.) What kind of people do you come across in your daily life?

- 3.) What is your lifestyle like?

- 4.) What is the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you?

- 5.) Describe your family. (*What does your father do? What does your mother do?*)

- 6.) Can you swim?

Answers

1.) Do you have to work with other people?

"Oh yes, all the time. I am a civil engineer so we all have to work as a team if we want to achieve results. I have colleagues I need to liaise with such as the other engineers, architects and I also have construction workers who work under me. And of course I also have to work alongside the representatives of the companies that we provide services for."

WORDS and PHRASES

*result**colleague**alongside**provide**achieve**liaise with...**all the time**work under...**and of course**work as a team*

2.) What kind of people do you come across in your daily life?

"I am a tour guide. Due to the nature of my work, I have come across all sorts of people in my life. I meet people of different age groups and backgrounds. I encounter students, housewives and even businessmen. I also meet educated as well as uneducated people. It is a different experience with each of them. I love my job because I get to meet all these interesting and diverse people."

WORDS and PHRASES

*encounter**different interesting**experience**educated**meet**diverse**all sorts of**come across**nature of work**age groups**due to*

3.) What is your lifestyle like?

"My lifestyle is very simple. I come from a middle class family. We all work every day to make ends meet. We don't have parties like the upper class families. Instead, we'd rather stay at home together whenever we get the time. Sometimes we call our family and friends to come by our home or we go to their place. We do go out to watch movies or go on trips. We also like to eat out on weekends or holidays. Overall, it is a very simple life."

WORDS and PHRASES

<i>rather</i>	<i>family</i>	<i>instead</i>	<i>overall</i>
<i>make ends meet</i>	<i>come from...</i>	<i>middle class</i>	<i>stay at home</i>
<i>very simple</i>	<i>upper class family</i>	<i>simple life</i>	<i>whenever ... get the time</i>

4.) What is the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you?

"I'll never forget when I tripped in the mall. It was really humiliating because there were so many people watching! What happened was, I was going to step on the escalator. I was texting and I wasn't watching my step. Long story short, I stepped on too late and tripped on the rising step. I fell and scraped my knee. It hurt a lot, but I barely noticed the pain until I got home because the people riding on the escalator were staring at me."

WORDS and PHRASES

<i>humiliating</i>	<i>staring</i>		
<i>what happened was...</i>	<i>long story short</i>	<i>too late</i>	<i>never forget when</i>
<i>really humiliating</i>	<i>barely noticed</i>		

5.) Describe your family. (*What does your father do? What does your mother do?*)

"We are only four members in my family: my father, my mother, my older sister and me. My father is an architect and has his own business. My mother was a chef for a five star restaurant but is now a housewife. My older sister's occupation is very interesting: she is a dentist and she has her own clinic."

WORDS and PHRASES

member business housewife occupation study

father mother business

has ... own

6.) Can you swim?

"I'm not that good at it. I can do the deadman's float and doggy paddle. I can manage to swim to the deep end of the pool or lake, but I'm scared of the huge waves at the beach so I don't go to too far from the shore."

WORDS and PHRASES

pool lake manage huge beach wave

scared of... not that good too far from... doggy paddle a little

deep end deadman's float