



Test Format | Part 2 (Long Turn)

- 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

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"> + 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.
- 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

- 1.) Describe the thing that you cannot live without (except phone and internet).

You should say:

- what it is
- why you can't manage without it
- how long you have had it for
- how you felt when you were without it.

- 2.) Describe a city that you have visited.

You should say:

- where the city is (and its name)
- when you went there
- what you liked most about the city
- why this city left an impression on you.

- 3.) Describe your first day at work or at the place where you study.

You should say:

- what kind of building it was located in
- why it was important for you to work/study there
- how you felt at the end of the first day
- if you were pleased or disappointed with the experience.

- 4.) Describe your first mobile phone.

You should say:

- how old you were when you got it
- when and why you bought it
- how you felt when you first got it
- why it was special to you.

Answers

1.) Describe the thing that you cannot live without (except phone and internet).

You should say:

- what it is
 - why you can't manage without it
 - how long you have had it for
 - how you felt when you were without it.
-

Words and Phrases:

<i>daily activity</i>	<i>"I would have to say my car. Public transport in Japan is not so <u>convenient</u>, so using a car is the <u>preferred choice</u> for getting around, especially if you have to travel to <u>various places</u>. I</i>
<i>can't imagine</i>	<i>use my car mainly to go from my home to university and back. But at the moment I'm also</i>
<i>preferred choice</i>	<i>working as a part-time intern at a local business, so I have to go there three afternoons a</i>
<i>got used to...</i>	<i>week as well. Trying to do all that by using public transport would be <u>almost impossible</u> and</i>
<i>almost impossible</i>	<i>would take a lot more time.</i>
<i>economical</i>	<i>I've had my car for about four years now. It's a Toyota Prius and I love it. It's very</i>
<i>convenient</i>	<i>comfortable and <u>well-equipped</u> and it's also easy to park and <u>economical</u> to run. I <u>can't</u></i>
<i>gradually</i>	<i><u>imagine</u> having to do all the things I do normally without having my car.</i>
<i>various place</i>	<i>But a few months ago there was a problem with it. I noticed a strange noise coming from the</i>
<i>well-equipped</i>	<i>front. At first I ignored it, but then it <u>gradually</u> became worse and worse. I told my brother</i>
	<i>about it and he arranged for the car to be inspected by a mechanic. I'm not a very technical</i>
	<i>person, but apparently there was a problem with the suspension and they had to replace a</i>
	<i>part. That is the only problem I've ever had with it. The bad news is that they had to order</i>
	<i>the part specially and I was without my car for about ten days in total. It made my <u>daily</u></i>
	<i><u>activities</u> very difficult, and I didn't really like using the public transport at all. I wasted so</i>
	<i>much time.</i>
	<i>I was surprised how quickly I had <u>gotten used to</u> having my car and just how <u>convenient</u> it</i>
	<i>is. I hope that in the future I don't have any more problems with it. It really is an essential</i>
	<i>part of my life and I don't want to be without it again."</i>

2.) Describe a city that you have visited.

You should say:

- where the city is (and its name)
- when you went there
- what you liked most about the city
- why this city left an impression on you.

Words and Phrases:

particularly like

"I'll talk about Sydney, which I visited last month. I went with some friends and we spent the weekend there. It's the capital, not of Australia, but of New South Wales, and it is the most populated city in the country. It's located on the south-east coast of the country next to the Tasman Sea.

along the side of...

population

I think the population is around four and a half million people. It's such a famous city and everyone recommended that we go visit it. We arrived early on Saturday morning and started by taking a stroll around the harbor. It's very interesting and there are lots of ships to see and along the side of the harbor there are lots of restaurants and cafes.

main ... attractions

variety of...

located on...

well-kept

tour

recommend

go with...

Then we went on an open-top bus tour that took us around the city. We saw all the main Sydney attractions such as Darling Harbour, Circular Quay, The Rocks, the Opera House, Hyde Park, Kings Cross and the Royal Botanic Gardens. We did another bus tour on Sunday, but that one took us more out of the city to Bondi Beach and some other places. I particularly like the variety of things to see and do in and around the city, and during our stay the weather was just perfect, so we could really enjoy everything.

I think what impressed me the most was how clean and well-kept all the different areas were, and like I said, the variety of activities and attractions. You can find sport, adventure, culture and lots more, and oh yes, the people we met that weekend were very friendly to us."

3.) Describe your first day at work or the place where you study.

You should say:

- what kind of building it was located in
- why it was important for you to work/study there
- how you felt at the end of the first day
- if you were pleased or disappointed with the experience.

Words and Phrases:

<i>structure</i>	<i>"Okay, so I'd like to talk about my first day at university, which was a year ago. It's the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. It was founded back in 1951, so the building is not new. It's quite big though, and has many <u>different parts</u> .</i>
<i>reputation</i>	
<i>main building</i>	<i>The campus has a nickname ("Hui Garden") and there is a <u>main building</u> which is called Boxue at the northwest of the campus. There is another teaching building on the southeast side called Ningyuan. In the <u>middle</u> of the campus there is a <u>structure</u> we call Chengxin. The <u>newest part</u> of the campus is the library, which opened in 2008. There is also an area designated for sports and the grounds are <u>landscaped</u>. Some people here call it the "Switzerland of Universities in China" because it is quite small but very has <u>high quality</u>.</i>
<i>high quality</i>	
<i>different part</i>	
<i>obtain</i>	<i>I wanted to study there because it has a very <u>good reputation</u> and there are a lot of foreign students who come to study there. It has a very good <u>academic reputation</u> and many of the students who graduate from the university <u>obtain</u> positions in the Ministry of Commerce and work for the government.</i>
<i>newest part</i>	
<i>apprehensive</i>	
<i>middle</i>	<i>I had never been to university before, so when I arrived on the first day, everything was strange and new for me. I didn't know anyone there as most of my friends from school chose to study at different places. I can remember feeling confused and a little <u>apprehensive</u> on the first day, but that soon passed when I met another girl who lives quite close to me and we have become good friends. I can remember that when I arrived home after the first day at university I had a headache and felt very tired, but it was still a good day."</i>
<i>landscaped</i>	
<i>good reputation</i>	

4.) Describe your first mobile phone.

You should say:

- how old you were when you got it
- when and why you bought it
- how you felt when you first got it
- why it was special to you.

Words and Phrases:

essential

"I was about 16 when I got my first cell phone. It was a Motorola flip-phone. That was quite some time ago. Mobile phones were much more basic then and very different from the smartphones we have nowadays. Actually, I didn't buy it. It was a gift from my parents when I finished my exams at school. They bought it for me when I graduated.

platform

cell phone

whereas

feature

latest model

smartphone

differently

some time ago

replace

keep ... it for around

I remember it very well because some of my friends had mobile phones, but not all of them. That was when mobile phones were beginning to become really popular, essential really, but people used them differently. We used to make more calls or send SMS text messages to each other, whereas now I mostly send texts or emails through various platforms and rarely actually call someone using my mobile. When my parents gave it to me I felt very happy and proud because it was the latest model at that time, so it had some new features which my friends' phones didn't have.

I think I kept it for around three years before I replaced it with an iPhone. But it was still special because it was my first mobile so it was kind of important for me."