



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."*
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Questions

- 1.) Talk about an old friend that you met after not having seen each other for a long time.

You should say:

- who your friend is
- describe your friendship with him/her
- how long it had been since you last saw him/her
- what you two talked about.

- 2.) Describe a class (or course) you studied.

You should say:

- what the subject (or course) was
- where you studied it
- how long the class / course was
- what the contents of the course /class were
- how you have benefited from that class (or course).

- 3.) Talk about a season or time of the year that you enjoy the most.

You should say:

- what you do during this season
- what the weather is like
- why you like it more than other seasons

- 4.) Describe something you do to help others.

You should say:

- what you do
- how often you do this
- whom you help
- why you do this.

Answers

1.) Talk about an old friend that you met after not having seen each other for a long time.

You should say:

- who your friend is
 - describe your friendship with him/her
 - how long it had been since you last saw him/her
 - what you two talked about.
-

Words and Phrases:

<i>just like old times</i>	<i>"I'd like to tell you about my friend Benny. We were <u>best friends</u> when we were at school and used to <u>spend a lot of time together</u>. We'd always be in each other's house or out someplace together doing something. We used to go shopping together, we'd go to parties together and we even went on vacation together. After we finished</i>
<i>since</i>	<i>school, we both did different things. Benny wanted to travel to see her uncle, who was living in London, and I wanted to start university immediately.</i>
<i>spend a lot of time</i>	
<i>last seen</i>	
<i>best/close</i>	<i>We <u>stayed in touch with each other though</u>, we called and texted each other and talked <u>a couple of times each week by video</u> so we always knew what each other was doing. She stayed in London for almost three years and had several jobs there. She</i>
<i>though</i>	<i>was a barista, she worked in a courier company and also as a waitress in a restaurant while she stayed with her uncle. Her English became very good while she was living</i>
<i>a couple of times</i>	<i>there, she could almost speak as well as an English person and <u>certainly understood everything people said to her</u>.</i>
<i>chat for hours</i>	
<i>certainly understood</i>	<i>Like I said, I went to university in Bucharest, and studied for three years to get my degree in business. After I graduated, I decided to go to London to see Benny in the summer before beginning my master's degree in international business at LSE, in</i>
<i>stay in touch</i>	<i>London.</i>
	<i>I met Benny in the summer, a couple of months before my course began. I visited her at her uncle's home and we <u>chatted for hours and hours</u>. We talked about everything that had happened <u>since we had last seen each other</u>, which was about three years. And we spent nearly every day together for a week, it was <u>just like old times</u> when we were at school together."</i>

2.) Describe a class (or course) you studied.

You should say:

- what the subject (or course) was
- where you studied it
- how long the class / course was
- what the contents of the course /class were
- how you have benefited from that class (or course).

Words and Phrases:

memorize

"I'll tell you now about my English studies. I first started studying English when I was a little girl. I was maybe 10 or 11 years old and my parents used to send me to an English class on Saturday mornings at one of the local language schools here.

advance

local ... schools

Then I studied English at university and it was quite different, much more formal and less fun, but it was still interesting. But the best English course I took was last summer when I went to an English summer school in New York. It was brilliant! There were students from all over the world and the classes were fun and interesting, almost like the ones I did when I was a girl. We did everything in English, everyday activities and practiced new grammar and vocabulary, but in a really authentic way, not like just learning from a book and memorizing rules. The course was three months-long and all of the students lived together in a local college, which gave us even more opportunity to practice our English.

course

practice

structure

authentic

focused

major benefits

technique

The neighborhood was very nice and we used to go to eat ice cream, have a beer or maybe watch a movie in the evenings. I made some good friends while I was there and we still keep in touch. I enrolled in an advanced English course, with an emphasis on academic writing. Most of the students there were similar to me, university students and doing some kind of academic research. The course was a mix of normal English and then specific classes which focused on techniques, language and structure of writing in an academic style. Those classes were more challenging and it took a lot of practice sometimes to learn how to use the language correctly.

I chose that particular course because I knew I wanted to present my thesis in English and eventually come to the USA to continue my research. Now, I'm glad I made the decision as one of the major benefits was learning how to write well in English and I think it has helped me in my application for the position I have now as a research assistant at a university."

3.) Talk about a season or time of the year that you enjoy the most.

You should say:

- what you do during this season
- what the weather is like
- why you like it more than other seasons

Words and Phrases:

<i>days seem longer</i>	<i>"Where I live there are only two marked seasons: summer and winter. <u>Personally, I prefer</u> summer. The <u>temperature</u> can get a little high sometimes, but I <u>prefer</u> that to the cold</i>
<i>rare</i>	<i>weather we have in the winter. During the summer we normally spend a lot of time at the beach and going out on boats. My family has a boat and it's a great way to spend a day: out</i>
<i>chill out</i>	<i>on the sea, swimming and relaxing. Sometimes we sail around the coast to another village and spend some time there, maybe have lunch and see something different.</i>
<i>personally</i>	<i>In the evenings you can usually see people having parties on the beach. It's quite common to</i>
<i>days seem longer</i>	<i>go with some friends, make a fire, cook something and <u>chill out</u>. I can even remember</i>
<i>prefer</i>	<i>sleeping on the beach a couple of times a few years ago.</i>
<i>during</i>	<i>As I said, the weather is usually around 30°-35°, so it's hot most of the day and nighttime</i>
<i>completely different</i>	<i><u>temperatures</u> are still very warm; sometimes too warm to sleep unless you use air conditioning in your home. There's <u>normally</u> no rain for about 7 months, but sometimes it</i>
<i>normally</i>	<i>does rain. Anyway, it's <u>rare</u> <u>during</u> the summer.</i>
<i>most days</i>	<i>It's my favorite season because I like to spend a lot of time outside doing activities such as</i>
<i>temperature</i>	<i>swimming, biking, hiking and sailing. The <u>days seem longer</u> and you don't need to wear lots</i>
<i>frequently</i>	<i>of clothes, just a t-shirt and a pair of shorts <u>most days</u>."</i>
	<i>In the winter it's <u>completely different</u>. It rains <u>frequently</u> and the <u>temperature</u> gets down to</i>
	<i>around 10°-15° for about 4 months of the year. I don't like the cold much, so that's why I</i>
	<i><u>prefer</u> the summertime."</i>

4.) Describe something you do to help others.

You should say:

- what you do
- how often you do this
- whom you help
- why you do this.

Words and Phrases:

<i>receive</i>	<i>"I'll tell you about my tutoring. It's something I do a couple of times a week. I help some of the children at the local elementary school who have <u>difficulty</u> with <u>certain</u> subjects. I</i>
<i>special</i>	<i>usually do Math and English, because I'm <u>good at</u> those subjects.</i>
<i>difficulty</i>	<i>I <u>normally</u> go on a Tuesday and a Thursday and maybe have three or four children in each group. The first group I aid is for Math. I <u>receive</u> information from their teacher about the</i>
<i>activities</i>	<i>lessons they have had in class and any particular problems the children have been experiencing and then we work together to try and help them <u>understand</u> the subject</i>
<i>tackle</i>	<i>better and <u>work through</u> some exercises or activities to practice what they have learned.</i>
<i>normally</i>	<i>After the Math group I have the English group. We practice the language they have learned in their <u>previous</u> lessons and try to <u>sort out</u> any problems they might have. I like to create</i>
<i>good at</i>	<i>different <u>activities</u> for them to practice so that they can have fun learning English. This is my favorite group because they find English interesting and really enjoy it when they can</i>
<i>understand</i>	<i>get it right.</i>
<i>work through</i>	<i>The <u>main reason</u> I tutor these two groups is because when I was at school I wasn't very interested in Math. I thought it was quite boring actually, so I wasn't very good at it.</i>
<i>sort out</i>	<i>However, I had a tutor, she was very <u>special</u>, and she made me understand how important Math really is. When I was a little girl I wanted to be a doctor, but I didn't realize that I</i>
<i>main reason</i>	<i>would need a good grade in Math in order to attend Medical School. My tutor helped me tackle Math in a different way and eventually I became very good at it. That's why I like helping these children, because my tutor helped me when I was about their age and it changed my life."</i>