



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 (<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.
 - 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.) Describe something naughty you did when you were a child.

You should say:

- what you did
- why you did it
- what happened after that

2.) Talk about a historical building in your country or city.

You should say:

- what and where it is
- when it was built
- what it is known for

3.) Describe a comic actor who is popular in your country.

You should say:

- who the actor is
- which of his movies you have watched
- what kind of person he/she is
- why he/she is popular in your country

4.) Describe a nation (not your own) that you know well.

You should say:

- which nation it is
- what and how you learned about it
- why you are interested in it
- what you like most about it.

Answers

1.) Describe something naughty you did when you were a child.

You should say:

- what you did
 - why you did it
 - what happened after that
-

Words and Phrases:

punish

"I can remember one situation in which another boy got into trouble because of what I did.

bad temper

We were playing soccer in the street one afternoon, I kicked the ball with lots of power and it broke a window in one of the nearby houses. It was an accident, but the old man who lived in the house was bad tempered and didn't like children playing near his home.

at the moment

I was scared he would come out and see who had broken his window so we all ran away and hid. I thought that he hadn't seen what happened, but the next day when I was walking

looking back now

home he came out of his house and walked up to me and asked me if I knew anything about

walked up to

is broken window. I lied to him and told him it was another boy. I just wanted him to go away. I didn't think it was bad thing to do at the moment, but unfortunately the old man

apologize

went to see the other boy's parents and got very angry with them.

shock

Of course, eventually he found out that I had lied to him and then he came to see my parents and told them what I had done. My parents were shocked that I had lied and

unfortunately

punished me, so I couldn't see my friends or play soccer for two weeks. I had to go straight home from school and study all the time. My parents also made me apologize to the old man.

get into trouble

Looking back now I can laugh about it, but I remember it well because it was the first time

walk up to

my parents got really angry with me.

2.) Talk about a historical building in your country or city.

You should say:

- what and where it is
- when it was built
- what it is known for

Words and Phrases:

structure

"I'd like to talk about a building located near where I grew up as a child. It's called Assen's Fortress. It's about two kilometers away from Assenovgrad, where I spent a lot of my childhood. The fortress is located on a very steep ridge which overlooks the Assenitsa River. It was named Assen's fortress by the local people following the national liberation of 1878.

near

site

during

incredible

facade

chamber

overlooks

impressive

architecture

There is a church building within the fortress, called Sveta Bogoroditsa Petrichk,a and it was constructed in the 12th century. It's now on the world heritage list of historical buildings because of its cultural and national importance. The original fortress was built by the Thracians as a stronghold some time during the 5th - 4th centuries B.C. and it was a very busy and important site during the Roman and Byzantine eras. When they excavated the site, they managed to uncover the walls of the fortress, the feudal lord's castle and some water reservoirs.

The church though was the only building on the site which was really well preserved. It has two levels, a large dome with a cross on top and a wide antechamber. It's a very impressive structure.

This church is famous in Bulgaria because of its incredible architecture, the decoration of the south façade and also because of the remains of some unique 14th century murals. I like the building because when I used to visit it I could imagine what it was like hundreds of years ago when people used to live there. It is truly an impressive building.

3.) Describe a comic actor who is popular in your country.

You should say:

- who the actor is
- which of his movies you have watched
- what kind of person he/she is
- why he/she is popular in your country

Words and Phrases:

facial gestures

"I'd like to tell you about a well-known actor called Rowan Atkinson. He's probably best known worldwide for his funny character, Mr. Bean.

style of comedy

I first saw him in a movie and I thought he was really hilarious. Later I discovered some other old DVDs of TV shows he had done in the past. I think I've watched nearly all of the shows he's done until now. In fact, I watched a movie of his just a couple of weeks ago with a friend. It was a spoof spy movie in which the main character was completely useless. It was extremely funny.

based on

appeal

worldwide

dialogue

clever

silly situation/event

wide audience

watched

body movements

smart/witty

Mr. Bean is funny because he is so ridiculous and yet loveable at the same time. He always seems to have the best intentions but he always gets himself into terrible problems and funny situations. The things he does are very simple, and I think it's so funny because most of his comedy is based on everyday situations that lots of people can relate to it.

His style of comedy is very clever. He's popular not only in my country but all around the world. Another thing that's different from many other comic actors is that he doesn't normally speak a lot: he's funny because of his facial gestures and body movements.

The comedy doesn't rely on smart or witty dialogue, just on the silly situation or events that he's involved in. That's something that makes him appealing to a very wide audience."

4.) Describe a nation (not your own) that you know well.

You should say:

- which nation it is
- what and how you learned about it
- why you are interested in it
- what you like most about it.

Words and Phrases:

immigration

"I'd like to talk about the UK. It's truly a fascinating country. I can remember learning about it first when I was in school. What amazed me most about it was that it was so small, but in the days of the British Empire, it dominated the world trade. It also has a lot of cultural diversity and rich traditions.

change with the times

development

multicultural society

Many UK residents come from countries that were once colonized by Britain in the past. I visited London about 3 years ago and travelled around some parts of the UK to learn more about it. I'd like to go and study there in the future and maybe live and work there for some years before coming back home. It's a country that has shown how it is possible to change with the times and transition from being a country built on one race of people to a truly multicultural society.

transition

diversity

innovation

important contribution

There are a lot of lessons that other countries could learn from this. The USA is similar, but it was founded upon immigration, whereas the UK was not. It's not just the history of the country which is interesting, but the important contributions the country has made to global development.

dominate

race

The UK was responsible for much of the innovation during the industrial revolution and has been home to many important inventors, scientists and academics over the years. Even now, as a small independent country, it continues to be an important actor on the world stage."