Test Format | Part 3 (The Discussion)

- between 4 to 5 minutes

- the examiner will ask further questions which are connected to the topics in part 2

- this part is the opportunity to talk about more abstract issues and ideas

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 <u>EQUALLY</u> and are <u>judged throughout all 3 parts</u> 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

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Improving Band Score

Fluency and Coherence

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
+ speaking naturally *(try copying the speed of your examiner)* but ONLY if the pronunciation is good **+** expanding answers with relevant information/details and using correct tenses and connectors **+** answering the questions directly	**-** long, awkward pauses **-** not answering the question completely/correctly

Lexical Resource *(Vocabulary)*

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
+ using a wide range of vocabulary **+** using appropriate words **+** correct usage of collocations and phrasal verbs	**-** using unfamiliar vocabulary words or using words incorrectly **-** always using common and simple vocabulary

Grammar

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
+ knowing how to use the basic verb tenses well **+** making complex sentences, using <u>conjunctions</u> and <u>connectors</u> **+** making complex structures	**-** inconsistent tenses **-** always using simple sentences **-** constructing complex sentences incorrectly

2

Pronunciation

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
+ easy to understand pronunciation	**-** repeatedly mispronounced words
+ speaking CLEARLY so that every word can be understood	**-** very fast or very long answers *(poor pronunciation or no coherence)*
+ proper intonation to emphasize a certain meaning or idea	
+ basic word pronunciation	
+ linked sounds and connected speech *(not pronounced sound for sound)*	

NO NEED FOR "American" OR "British" ACCENT

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REMINDERS

- There are no 'right' answers to the questions asked; concentrate on how you give your answer.

  - Practice answering the questions, but do not learn or memorize the answers.
    Examiners can tell if you   have memorized your answers.

  - Always try to explain what you mean, even if you can't find the specific word. Paraphrase.

  - Always give Reasons, Effects, Comparisons, Supporting Examples, Experiences.

  - Avoid always giving personal information and examples, this should be an abstract discussion.

  - If the examiner asks a question that you don't understand, take control of the situation.
    Responding like this will show evidence of your communication skills.

    ▶ If the examiner uses a word or phrase that you don't understand:
      "Sorry but could you explain what you mean by ..."
      "I'm not familiar with that word/expression. Could you please explain what you mean?"

    ▶ If you didn't hear a part of the question:
      "Excuse me, I didn't quite catch that. Could you say that again?"
      "I'm sorry, but would you mind repeating that?"

    ▶ If you want to clarify what the examiner asked:
      "Do you mean ...."
      "When you say ...., do you mean/are you asking ....?"

  - Make sure you <u>elaborate</u> and give the <u>necessary details</u>.
    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 <u>offer examples</u> to help your <u>explain a statement</u>.
    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

Topic: TOURISM

1.)   Should there be any restrictions on the tourism industry?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

2.)   Should there be any restrictions on business travel?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

3.)   Should there be any restrictions on the travel industry?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

Topic: CHALLENGES and DIFFICULTIES

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1.)   Which do you think is better: to face difficulties and challenges alone or to seek the help
        of others?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

2.)   Do you think people need to be challenged?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

3.)   Do different types of people face the same (or similar) difficulties and challenges?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

Answers

Topic: TOURISM

1.)   Should there be any restrictions on the tourism industry?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION)   *"If we consider the impact of travel and accommodating a large number of*
                   people visiting a particular area for tourism purposes, then yes, there probably
                   should be some form of restriction.

(EXAMPLE / EFFECT) *When a certain location becomes extremely popular with tourists, it can change*
                   the local culture and impact the life of natives. It can affect prices, transport and other
                   aspects of life. There's also the question of construction of new hotels and other tourist
                   facilities, which can impact on the local landscape.

(REASON)   *This should be controlled so that the development of tourism in an area is*
                   carried out in a positive manner, with no negative consequences for the local people."

WORDS and PHRASES

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construction	consider	transport	development
controlled	restriction	impact	congestion
negative	consequences	accommodating	consequences
extremely popular	… purposes	some form of	a large number of
impact of	particular area	native	affect prices
local culture	in a positive way	tourist accommodation	new …
local landscape	carried out	certain location	local people

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2.)   Should there be any restrictions on business travel?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON)   *"I think it would be* difficult *to* justify restricting *business travel.* After all, *if it wasn't* necessary, most companies *wouldn't do it.*

(EXAMPLE)   Corporations *are* always looking *to* cut costs, *so* unnecessary *business travel would probably be* one of the first things *they would* target. *Apart from that, business travel also means* supporting a whole range of commercial activities *as* part of the process: *hotels, restaurants,* car rental, *taxis and other* service providers, *all* benefit *from business travelers."*

WORDS and PHRASES

restricting	*benefit*	*justify*	*necessary*	*target*
supporting	*difficult*			
most ...	*commercial activities*	*one of the first things*		*always looking*
cut their costs	*car rental*	*service provider*		*after all*
part of the process	*a whole range of...*			

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3.)   Should there be any restrictions on the travel industry?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON)   *"I'm not sure what* kinds of restrictions *you are* referring *to, but* obviously
eco-tourism *has become a* hot topic *because it* ensures *that the* environment
isn't damaged *by traditional tourism.*

(OPINION / REASON)   *Any* restrictions, such as *those necessary to* protect *the* natural environment
and wildlife *from the* impact of *large numbers of tourists coming to an* area, *are a* good idea
and should be encouraged*."*

WORDS and PHRASES

obviously	*environment*	*damage*	*protect*	*refer*	*eco-tourism*
restrictions	*wildlife*	*ensures*	*encourage*	*area*	
kinds of...	*good idea*	*impact of...*		*such as*	*natural environment*
hot topic					

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Topic: CHALLENGES and DIFFICULTIES

1.) Which do you think is better: to face difficulties and challenges alone or to seek the help of others?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION) *"It's probably true that in most challenging or difficult situations it's normal to ask advice from someone whether it's family, friends or even strangers.*

(REASON / EFEECT) *There is the old saying, 'two heads are better than one'. Even though you may have to do something difficult or challenging by yourself, talking to other people before you have to do it can make you feel more confident and prepared. Sometimes we don't like to involve other people too much, but in some situations it can help. It really depends on the type of problem or difficult situation you are facing."*

WORDS and PHRASES

challenging difficult	whether	online	sure	stranger	problem
prepare	depend	involve	advice	facing	confident	normal
type of...	even though	old saying	probably true	even other
most challenging	make ... feel	do something	at other times	difficult situation

2.)   Do you think people need to be challenged?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION)   *"It might not be necessary. I'm sure a lot of people would be very happy just to go about their lives without ever having to face a challenge or deal with a difficult situation. It sounds ideal.*

(REASON / EXAMPLE)   *We would certainly be more relaxed and less stressed; but challenges are a way of life for humans. Our progress is based on meeting challenges and finding solutions. We wouldn't have the world we live in today if people in the past had never faced a challenge or solved a difficult problem. It might not be a necessity, but it seems to be something we do all the time because life is full of challenges."*

WORDS and PHRASES

happy	live	certainly	sounds	ideal	humans
very	progress	solve	meeting	necessity	deal
world	might				

difficult situation	a lot of people	more relaxed	finding solutions
going about	a way of life	less stressed	in the past
face a challenge	based on...	without ever	difficult problem
life is full of challenges	all the time		

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3.)   Do different types of people face the same (or similar) difficulties and challenges?

Give your opinion: add reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON)   *"Maybe they don't* face different challenges *or difficulties, but they might* deal with *them in a* different way*.*

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(EXAMPLE)   *As an example, a* young person *who is trying* to decide which career to study for before attending *university. For some people it's easy, while* for others *it's a difficult* decision*. Some people are* very focused *and* sure of *what they want,* while others *need help to* make up their minds*.*

(OPINION   Thinking about it, *I guess that people who are very* outgoing *and* extrovert *might* / COMPARISON)   face different challenges *than people who aren't. They might do* all kinds of activities*, maybe some* extreme sports *and* other challenging things*, but there are* some people *who* never *try to do such activities, so they* never *have to* face the challenges involved*."*

WORDS and PHRASES

attending	which	others	decision	before	while
easier	involve	never	extrovert	might	outgoing
activity					
thinking about it	extreme sports		all kinds of...	some people	
career to study for...	things like that	very focused		for others	
sure of...	deal with...	individual person	to decide		
depending on...	young person	make up ... minds		face ... challenges	
more difficult	make it	different way			