



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 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 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 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 your 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

Topic: RESTAURANTS

- 1.) Some people say that food in an expensive restaurant is always better than food in a cheap restaurant. Would you agree?

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

- 2.) Why do you think people go to restaurants when they want to celebrate something?

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

- 3.) Which are more popular in your country: fast food restaurants or traditional restaurants?

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

Topic: ADVERTISING

1.) Is advertising really necessary in modern society?

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

2.) Do you think advertising influences what people buy?

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

3.) Do advertisements give correct information, or do they encourage people to buy things that they may not need?

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

Answers

Topic: RESTAURANTS

1.) Some people say that food in an expensive restaurant is always better than food in a cheap Restaurant. Would you agree?

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

EXAMPLE:

(EXPERIENCE) "In my experience, it's not that simple. I've has some amazingly good food in cheap restaurants and some disgustingly bad food in a supposedly classy and expensive place.

(OPINION) I think that's why 'word of mouth' advertising is so important in the restaurant business.

(REASON) You simply can't guarantee that a place that looks expensive and charges a lot of money will indeed offer a better dining experience than a cheaper restaurant with fewer frills. The service can be just the same and the quality of food the same too – it might only be the surroundings that are more upmarket in reality."

WORDS and PHRASES

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>guarantee</i> | <i>simple</i> | <i>advertising</i> | <i>important</i> | <i>indeed</i> |
| <i>disgustingly</i> | <i>better</i> | <i>service</i> | <i>charges</i> | <i>surrounding</i> |
| <i>offer</i> | <i>upmarket</i> | <i>classy</i> | <i>frill</i> | |
| <i>amazingly good</i> | <i>word of mouth</i> | <i>in reality...</i> | <i>supposedly classy</i> | |
| <i>in my experience... fewer frills</i> | | <i>dining experience</i> | | |

2.) Why do you think people go to restaurants when they want to celebrate something?

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

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON) *"I guess everyone has their own reasons, but probably because it's not something they do every day, so it seems more special.*

(REASON / EXAMPLE) *The other big benefit is that nobody has to do the cooking or clearing up afterwards, so everyone can simply enjoy the celebration or event. Nobody has to do anything. It's always nice to be waited on, so I think that's why most people prefer it."*

WORDS and PHRASES

- especially* *nobody* *celebration* *afterwards* *everyone*
- something* *whichever* *cooking* *prefer* *anything*
- seems* *event* *why*
- probably because...* *important occasion* *big benefit* *more special*
- be waited on...* *always nice* *clear up* *own reason*
- simply enjoy* *most people*

3.) Which are more popular in your country: fast food restaurants or traditional restaurants?

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

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON) *"They're both popular, but in different ways and for different reasons. I think fast food restaurants are popular for grabbing a quick bite or snack, as they are 'fast' and you can usually find one nearby.*

(EXAMPLE / COMPARISON) *Traditional restaurants are more popular for special occasions or for going out during the weekend, when people have more time to sit and enjoy the food and the ambience of the place.*

(OPINION / REASON) *I don't think anyone would consider going to a fast food place for a special occasion, unless it was a kid's birthday party or something similar, in which case it makes a lot of sense, as some of these places cater specially for such events. "*

WORDS and PHRASES

- ambience* *consider* *breakfast/lunch/dinner*
- nearby* *atmosphere* *enjoy* *place* *often*
- both* *cater* *unless* *snack* *cost*
- specially* *weekend* *party*
- different ways/reasons* *more time* *usually find...* *go out for...*
- grab a quick bite* *in which case...* *make a lot of sense* *something similar*
- special occasion* *such events* *cost more* *sit and enjoy*

Topic: ADVERTISING

1.) Is advertising really necessary in modern society?

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

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION) *"It could be seen to be necessary in terms of the fact that there are so many choices available that we need someone to guide us in what to buy or to give us some extra information about products.*

(OPINION / REASON) *Without ads, it would be difficult to know where to start. However, I'm not sure that I would regard it as 'necessary', because overall I think it may do more harm than good. As we just discussed, advertising encourages people to buy things they do not need. We live in a consumer society and many people are in debt because we are encouraged to keep buying;*

(OPINION) *Without advertising, we could just do our own research and decide what we really need. So no, I would not say that advertising is necessary in modern society.*

WORDS and PHRASES

- product* *difficult* *however* *necessary* *advertise*
- plays* *encourage* *without* *research* *start*
- about* *need* *decide* *sure* *choice*
- of the fact* *just discuss* *guide ... in* *without this...*
- regard it as...* *consumer society* *major role* *in debt*
- that said* *modern society* *it could be seen* *possibly do not need*
- more harm than good* *some extra information*

2.) Do you think advertising influences what people buy?

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

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON) *"Yes, definitely. If there were no advertising and you went to a shop, then you would just buy what you wanted based on what others have told you, what the product looks like, or, depending on the product, what it says on the label.*

(REASON) *Advertising builds up a brand and people then trust a certain thing because they have seen it on the television or elsewhere. Also, there is so much advertising around, it must influence us, even if we don't realize it.*

(EXAMPLE) *You can't escape it, as it is fed to us constantly in our daily lives not only in magazines, radio and television, but on billboards, on TVs installed on trains and platforms, even in schools and universities. So yes, advertising influences what we purchase."*

WORDS and PHRASES

- | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>product</i> | <i>elsewhere</i> | <i>trust</i> | <i>brand</i> | <i>television</i> | <i>billboard</i> |
| <i>around</i> | <i>install</i> | <i>train</i> | <i>radio</i> | <i>constantly</i> | <i>magazine</i> |
| <i>escape</i> | <i>schools</i> | <i>platform label</i> | <i>purchase</i> | | |
| <i>fed to...</i> | <i>certain thing</i> | <i>daily lives</i> | <i>look like...</i> | <i>based on...</i> | |
| <i>builds up</i> | <i>so much</i> | | | | |

3.) Do advertisements give correct information, or do they encourage people to buy things that they may not need?

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

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION) *"I think some do and some don't, but it's difficult to know which are giving us the correct information.*

(EXAMPLE / EFFECT) *Take for example the skin whitening products. I do not believe that these work, but we see them everywhere in Asian countries, and we are encouraged to buy them even though they are not actually necessary. The adverts, though, tell us they are necessary as they will improve our lives and we will become more accepted and successful. This is an example of advertising encouraging people to buy something they do not need.*

(OPINION) *I do think there are checks in most countries these days to make sure that adverts are giving the correct information and not lying to people, but I think it is still easy for advertisers to exaggerate without infringing on the regulations. "*

WORDS and PHRASES

- everywhere believe encourage necessary which*
- work improve exaggerate adverts checks*
- become without infringe regulation successful*
- need lying*
- actually necessary more accepted an example of... these days make sure*
- correct information even though... still easy this then...*