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

1

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

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.

4

Questions

Topic: CAMERA

1.) Is it really necessary to have a camera in your mobile phone? Why?

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

2.) Is it better to look at your photos on a screen or in albums?

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

3.) Is it a better idea to have a camera separately? Why?

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

5

engoo English Session

(STUDENT'S COPY)

Topic: TRANSPORT

6

1.)   How do most people travel long distances in your country?

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

2.)   Have the types of transport people use changed much over the last few decades?

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

3.)   What kinds of improvement have there been in transportation in your country in recent years?

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

Answers

Topic: CAMERA

1.) Is it really necessary to have a camera in your mobile phone? Why?

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

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON)   *"Yes,* certainly*, I think it is* nowadays*. It has become a* must have *for not only taking pictures,* but also to be used as *a* means of communication*. There are so many* apps *and* platforms *which you can use to* video chat *with your friends*

.

(EXAMPLE / REASON)   He is another example*. If you are involved in a traffic accident, you can* take photos *of the* scene *to* show *the authorities* what happened*. Because so many people are* using *their* smartphones *to* access the internet*, having a camera* as part of *your phone* makes sense*."*

WORDS and PHRASES

instantly	*especially*	*useful*	*capture*	*scene*
certainly	*using*	*platform*	*show*	*app*
nowadays	*smartphone*			
means of communication		*take photos*	*access the internet*	*as well as...*
must have...		*or another example*	*what happened*	*as part of...*
video chat		*long distance*	*makes sense*	

2.)   Is it better to look at your photos on a screen or in albums?

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

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON)   *"I'd say that it's* about the same*. If you want to* show other people *who are with you*
some photos, you have to pass *them the* album *or your phone so they can* check out
the photos. There really isn't any difference in this respect.

(EXAMPLE)   Moreover*, the* big advantage *of a camera phone is that you can* post *your photos to your*
Facebook or Twitter accounts *and* share *them with* everybody easily*.* Thus*, they*
don't need to be beside *you to see your photos."*

WORDS and PHRASES

show	*moreover*	*everybody*	*account*	*pass*
album	*post*	*easily*	*share*	*thus*
beside				
check out	*about the same*	*big advantage*	*other people*	*I'd say...*

8

3.)   Is it a better idea to have a camera separately? Why?

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

EAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON)   *"No,* I don't think so*,* unless *you are a* serious photographer*. It's just* something else
to carry around *with you, and you can* lose it *if you're not* careful*. It's* much more convenient
to have a camera in your phone.

(EXAMPLE   *If you have* photography *as a* hobby, *then it* makes sense *to have a* professional camera
/ COMPARISON)   *because the* quality of the photos *is* better, *but if you just want to take photos*
of your friends and other casual things, *then a camera phone is* usually good enough*."*

WORDS and PHRASES

unless	*careful*	*quality*	*usually*
somewhere	*photography*	*hobby*	*better*
I don't think so	*leave it*	*much more...*	*good enough*
serious photographer	*something else*	*carry around*	*lose it*
makes sense	*professional camera*	*do more things*	*casual things*

9

Topic: TRANSPORT

1.)   How do most people travel long distances in your country?

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

EXAMPLE:

(EXAMPLE / OPINION)   *"I'd say that the main means of transport are cars, buses and trains. If someone has a car, I think this is their because it is the most convenient.*

(COMPARISON)   *Also, trans can often have big delays and this can be a real pain. The buses are a bit cheaper but I don't think that is such a comfortable way to travel. There is the option to travel by plane, of course, but most of the budget airlines go abroad, you can't really travel that cheaply by plane within the country.*

(OPINION / REASON)   *So then, cars are really the best option and, of course, they give you the most freedom when you are travelling."*

WORDS and PHRASES

preference	car/bus/train	also	often	such
delay	option	abroad	cheaply	
end up with...	real pain	long journey	much cheaper	
main means	comfortable way bit cheaper		by plane	
to be honest	best option	so then...	of course	
within the country	most freedom	by plane	as well	
most of...	of course	budget airlines		

10

engoo English Session

2.) **Have the types of transport people use changed much over the last few decades?**

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

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON)   *"I don't think they have. We've had the means of transport I mentioned before for many decades now, and it is much the same today.*

(EXAMPLE / EFFECT)   *Of course cars have become much more popular as people's incomes have risen, which accounts for the problems we see on the roads today such as congestion, traffic accidents and pollution.*

(EXAMPLE)   *Cities have now introduced environmentally friendly forms of transport such as trams and guided buses that don't run on gas and mean that people can travel without using their car.*

(REASON)   *There has also been an increase in air travel but, like I said, this is quite expensive so most people cannot afford it."*

WORDS and PHRASES

accounts	introduce	accident	pollution	congestion
income	tram	rise	increase	use
gas	mean	without	afford	
... mentioned before	of course	much more ...	lead to...	
but like I said...	air travel	run on...	quite expensive	
environmentally friendly	many decades	some changes	within ...	
much the same today	forms of transport	guided buses		

11

3.)   What kinds of improvement have there been in transportation in your country in recent years?

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

EXAMPLE:

(EXAMPLE / EFFECT)   *"There are several ways in which transport has progressed. More major roads have been built, which means it is easier to travel long distances, though of course some would argue that more roads are not an improvement. They can be an eyesore in the countryside and they have encouraged more people to drive, which may mean these improvements ultimately don't work because there are more cars using the roads.*

(REASON / EFFECT)   *As I mentioned before, there has been the introduction of mass transit in many cities, such as trams and trains. In our capital city, they have also extended the underground system, so it now links many more areas of the city. This has helped many people as commuting times are horrendous if you have to travel on the roads."*

WORDS and PHRASES

---

countryside	argue	improvement	eyesore	encourage
progress	travel	ultimately	road	horrendous
build	extend	train	easier	tram
use	link	help		
capital city	several ways	underground system	more areas	
major roads	long distance	commuting times	mass transit	
though of course	as ... mentioned before	main improvement	introduction	