



Test Format | Part 1 (*Introduction and Interview*)

- 4 to 5 minutes
- 'getting-to-know-you' questions to find out a little about you
- general questions such as family, your studies or work, where you come from or what your interests are

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.
 - Avoid giving short, uncommunicative replies.
for example:
NO: *"I am studying Engineering."*
YES: *"I am a college student. I hope to become a Civil Engineer one day."*
 - 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."
 - Do not just answer "yes" or "no" to closed questions. Give your answers in complete sentences and say why.

(CLOSED QUESTIONS: *Have you...* *Do you...* *Is it...*)

for example:
Do you think family is important?

"Yes, I think family is important. (Don't stop here! Add more details/information!) Family is usually the first people you run to when you need support or guidance. They are the first to understand and accept who you are."
 - 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.) On what occasions do you eat special meals?

- 2.) What do you eat for your breakfast?

- 3.) What location would you choose for your dream house?

- 4.) Who is your favorite person in the family?

- 5.) What was your most enjoyable trip?

- 6.) Why do people wear formal clothes?

Answers

1.) On what occasions do you eat special meals?

“Neither my family nor I like to cook, so we usually eat out. Like others, we eat special food when there are get-togethers such as birthdays, anniversaries and other holidays. Also, when there are achievements within our family, such as promotions, graduations, weddings and such we usually hold big celebrations. Lastly, I get to eat special meals when I eat out. Once in a while I treat myself when I have extra money or to celebrate an event.”

WORDS and PHRASES

anniversary achievement promotion within such

lastly treat celebrate triumph wedding

graduation birthday holiday

eat out special meal/food once in a while get-together like others

extra money eat out neither ... nor

2.) What do you eat for your breakfast?

“I typically have a big breakfast. I usually have some eggs, waffles, and bacon with orange juice.”

WORDS and PHRASES

waffles bacon typically usually eggs

big breakfast orange juice

3.) What location would you choose for your dream house?

"My ideal place for my future house would be near the sea. The cool breeze and the sound of the waves just adds to the perfect atmosphere."

WORDS and PHRASES

atmosphere

perfect

cool

ideal

would be...

ideal place

sound of...

adds to...

4.) Who is your favorite person in the family?

"It would be my Nana, my grandmother. She is the sweetest and the most understanding person in the world. Everyone loves and respects her. We all run to her when we have problems."

WORDS and PHRASES

respect

everyone

all

sweetest

grandmother

problem

run to...

most understanding...

in the world

5.) What was your most enjoyable trip?

"I remember when my parents and I went to Aruba. It was so fun! It was my first time to travel abroad, so you can imagine how naive I was. Anyway, it was my first time to ride a boat, go scuba diving, go snorkeling and try exotic foods. My parents had such a fun time laughing at all my bloopers."

WORDS and PHRASES

<i>laugh</i>	<i>abroad</i>	<i>exotic</i>	<i>ride</i>
<i>first time</i>	<i>travel abroad</i>	<i>can imagine how</i>	<i>exotic foods</i>
<i>remember when...</i>	<i>... and I</i>	<i>such a fun time</i>	

6.) Why do people wear formal clothes?

"Well, there are several occasions which require do formal attire. Businessmen have to wear a suit and tie because they represent the company. People also dress formally for some social events such as weddings, galas, balls, or award programs, during which people wear tuxedos and gowns."

WORDS and PHRASES

<i>occasion</i>	<i>businessmen</i>	<i>tuxedo</i>	<i>gala</i>	<i>gown</i>	<i>represent</i>
<i>several occasions</i>	<i>formal attire/wear/dress</i>		<i>social events</i>	<i>suit and tie</i>	