

Part 1

1.1 In Part 1 of the Speaking test, you will be asked a series of questions about yourself. Look at these questions and think about how you would answer them.

- 1 How often do you go to the cinema?
- 2 How do you usually spend your weekends?
- 3 What did you do last weekend?
- 4 Are you planning to visit anywhere special soon?
- 5 What job would you like to do in the future?

1.2 In the Speaking test, the score is based on four areas: fluency and cohesion (how well ideas are linked together), lexical resource (vocabulary and phrases), grammar and pronunciation. Read the summary of what a candidate should achieve in 'fluency and cohesion' and 'lexical resource' to achieve the following Band Scores.

6	7	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is willing to speak at length, though may lose coherence at times due to occasional repetition, self-correction or hesitation • uses a range of connectives and discourse markers but not always appropriately • has a wide enough vocabulary to discuss topics at length and make meaning clear in spite of inappropriacies • generally paraphrases successfully • uses a range of pronunciation features with mixed control • can generally be understood throughout, though mispronunciation of individual words or sounds reduces clarity at times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may demonstrate language-related hesitation at times, or some repetition and/or self-correction • uses a range of connectives and discourse markers with some flexibility • uses lexical resource flexibly to discuss a variety of topics • uses some less common and idiomatic vocabulary and shows some awareness of style and collocation, with some inappropriate choices • uses paraphrase effectively • shows all the positive features of Band Score 6 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band Score 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaks fluently with only occasional repetition or self-correction; hesitation is usually content-related and only rarely to search for language • uses a wide vocabulary resource readily and flexibly to convey precise meaning • uses less common and idiomatic vocabulary skilfully, with occasional inaccuracies • uses paraphrase effectively • produces a majority of error-free sentences with only very occasional inappropriacies or errors • uses a wide range of pronunciation features • is easy to understand throughout



Test tip

When you enter the test room, remember to smile and act confidently. Like all interviews, the first impression you make is extremely important. First, the examiner will ask for details about your identity for security reasons. The test starts when the examiner says: 'Now in this first part, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself'.

1.3 Which band do you think describes the following extracts? Which extract would be below band 6? Why? NB Pronunciation and grammar will also be taken into consideration for a final Band Score.

1 I usually go to shopping and I see my family and I see my friends and I go to work.

2 Erm, let me see, yes, actually, I'm planning on visiting my uncle and his family in Canada. I haven't seen them for about three years now, so I'm really looking forward to do it. He's working in a, as a, well, a type of accountant, in a large multinational accountancy firm. I'm not really sure how to explain it in English, but he's a very important man for his company. He's quite high up and my family is very proud of his achievements.

3 Well, on Saturdays I would normally get up quite early and doing some exercise, because I'm a bit of a fitness fanatic. Then, after that, I just try to relax as much as I can. I think it's important to relax because relaxing is good for the body and it also helps me studying better during the week.

1.4 Which band do you think describes your level? What about the level you would like to be? Correct any mistakes you can find in the three extracts in 1.3 and think about what you need to do to improve answers 1, 2 and 3.

2.1 PRONUNCIATION The phonemic chart can help you practise difficult sounds. Look at the chart and make a note of the vowel sounds that don't exist in your own language. These are the ones you will need to practise the most.

ɪ: READ	ɪ SIT	ʊ BOOK	u: TOO	ɪə HERE	eɪ DAY	i FORTY
e MEN	ə AMERICA	ɜ: WORD	ɔ: SORT	ʊə TOUR	ɔɪ BOY	əʊ GO
æ CAT	ʌ BUT	ɑ: PART	ɒ NOT	eə WEAR	aɪ MY	aʊ HOW

Study tip

Use the recording scripts and recordings to help you improve your intonation, stress and pronunciation. Play the recording at a low volume but loud enough for you to hear. Try to keep pace with the recording as you read the script out loud and copy the stress patterns and intonation as much as possible.

2.2 PRONUNCIATION Write the words in the box under the correct symbol in the chart below, according to the way the underlined vowels are pronounced.

happy stop explode love year soil third deny shoe pair can't paint heal you're
butcher found women succeed talk health hand

ɪ:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ	i
e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ
æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ

Part 2

- 3.1** In Part 2 of the Speaking test, you will be asked to talk about a topic for about two minutes. You are given time to make notes beforehand. Look at the following question and then write notes in the correct parts of the mind map.

Describe a person who has greatly influenced you in your life.

You should say:

- how you know them
- where or how you first met them
- what is special about them and explain how this person has influenced you so much.

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish.



- 3.2** The way that you link your ideas is as important in the Speaking test as it is in the Writing test. Look at the following answer to the question in 3.1 and complete it with the words and phrases in the box.

What I mean is But in spite of all of that So, I would say that's
Because of that That's because When it comes to On top of that that's the reason

When I think about a person who has influenced me a great deal in my life, the first person who comes to mind is my grandfather. ¹ _____, when he was young, he had a really hard life. His family had to work very hard and they didn't have a lot of money. So they couldn't afford for him to go to school, and when he was only 14, he had to go to work in the family business. ² _____, his own father became very ill so he and his mother had to work extremely hard to make enough money to keep his family together. ³ _____, whenever I think of my grandfather, I think of a man who is always happy and smiling. I think ⁴ _____ what makes him special – his outlook on life is always so positive. ⁵ _____ the way that he's influenced me, I think he's made me a calmer person. ⁶ _____, he helped me to see that you can achieve a lot just by persevering and getting on with whatever task needs to be done. You see, my grandfather used to look after me when I was very small and he would build things with me. But I was very impatient and if we didn't get it finished quickly, I would become very angry. But my grandfather taught me to relax and enjoy the work and to not always be in a hurry to get it finished. ⁷ _____, I learned to slow down. And I'm sure ⁸ _____ why I enjoy my work and my studies now. ⁹ _____ he has been a very big influence in my life so far.

- 3.3** Look at some of the following ways of keeping talking. Then, if possible, record yourself giving your talk to answer the question in 3.1. Try to use some of the words in your notes and in the box above.

Hmm, I'm not really sure about ...,
but I think ...

Well, I suppose if I had to choose
one thing, it would be ...

Well, I haven't really thought about this
very much, but ...

Part 3

- 4.1 In Part 3, the final part of the Speaking test, you will have more opportunities to show your higher-level vocabulary and especially to show that you can use your 'lexical resource flexibly to discuss a variety of topics'. Look at the following beginnings of answers and match each one with the most appropriate question below.

A

Well, I think you only have to look at the mountains of rubbish we throw away each day and each year to see the biggest problem.

B

That may be true to a certain extent, but I don't think it's true for everybody.

D

I'm not so sure about that, maybe the reverse will be true. What I mean is, if the population is ageing, and our cities become too crowded, maybe people will start to move out of the cities instead of into them.

F

Well, I think they used to be, but nowadays there are so many other sources that are more immediate that it's difficult to say.

H

I don't think they exist any more, do they? Actually, no, that's not true, my last neighbour was extremely friendly and helpful.



Test tip

Part 3 is designed to show how well you can answer less personal questions. Avoid talking about yourself. It is better to use examples that are currently in the news or compare what happens in your country to what happens in other countries or regions. A well-structured answer with causes, results, reasons, examples and opinions will help you speak for longer and make a much better impression on the examiner.

C

That's true, I suppose. I mean, just look at how popular gossip columns are.

E

Well, I think it depends on what you mean by progress. Do you mean technological progress or progress in terms of the way we live?

G

Hmm, that's an interesting question. I think many of the things we've achieved are positive, for example, the medical advances we've made. But on the other hand ...

- 1 In what way do you think advances in our scientific knowledge will change our lives in the future?
- 2 In your opinion, what makes a good neighbour?
- 3 Some people think we are too influenced by celebrities these days. What's your opinion?
- 4 Are newspapers the best source of news?
- 5 Some people believe that in the future, everyone will live in cities. Do you agree?
- 6 What negative effects does our consumer society have on our life?
- 7 Is progress always a good thing?
- 8 Do you agree that workers would like the retirement age to be lowered?

- 4.2 Now try to answer the questions. Give as long and full an answer as you can. If possible, record your answers and then listen to them carefully. Can you improve your answers?