

Exam focus

Paper 5 Speaking (Parts 1–4)

About the exam: Paper 5 takes 15 minutes for a pair of candidates. There are two examiners, but only one (the interlocutor) speaks to the candidates. The assessor just listens.

You are assessed on:

- the accuracy and range of grammar and vocabulary that you use
- discourse management, e.g. the way you organise your ideas and whether they are relevant to the task you are doing
- pronunciation
- your ability to interact with your partner and with the interlocutor.

There is also a general mark given for your overall performance in the whole of the test. Although it is important that you interact with your partner, you will only be assessed on your own performance and you will not be compared with your partner.

There are four parts to the test:

Part 1 The interlocutor asks you questions about yourself and your opinions.

Part 2 You each speak for one minute alone and without interruption. You are each given a set of three photographs and asked to comment on two of them. You are also asked a brief question after your partner has spoken about their photographs.

Part 3 You work with your partner to complete a task based on pictures.

Part 4 You answer questions from the interlocutor connected with the topic of the Part 3 task.

Suggested procedure

- 1 Listen carefully to the instructions the interlocutor gives you for each part of the test.
- 2 Be positive. Speak clearly and answer questions fully, although remember that you only have to give a brief answer to the question following your partner's photographs.
- 3 If there is anything you don't understand, ask the interlocutor.
- 4 Try to use a range of language when completing the different tasks, and don't worry if you make a mistake. Accuracy is only part of the assessment criteria.

- 5 In Part 3, remember that one of the skills in discussion is turn-taking; co-operate with your partner and ask them for their opinion. This is a shared task!
- 6 Don't worry if the interlocutor stops you before you have finished speaking – that just means that you have run out of time!