



Assessment commentary and marks

Commentary on CAE Speaking test: Merixtell and Stefan

| | Merixtell | Stefan |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Grammatical Resource | 3 | 3 |
| Lexical Resource | 2 | 4 |
| Discourse Management | 3 | 4 |
| Pronunciation | 2 | 4 |
| Interactive Communication | 2 | 4 |
| Global Achievement | 2 | 4 |

NOTES

Merixtell

Grammatical Resource: 3

Shows a good degree of control of a range of simple and some complex grammatical forms.

- *I was studying, but I finished my degree in June, so now I'm here learning English.* (Part 1)
- *If you speak a lot of languages you can travel around the world* (Part 1)
- *I think the guy from the car must be really scared* (Part 2)
- *It's not usual to find a bear in the middle of the road* (Part 2)

There are occasional examples of a lesser degree of control, but these do not affect meaning.

- *Maybe English is the most important ones* (Part 1)
- *He can really go fast because he doesn't want trouble with the animal* (Part 2)
- *They use too much computer* (Part 4)
- *They have to enjoy their lives* (Part 4)

Lexical Resource: 2

Uses a range of appropriate vocabulary to give and exchange views on familiar and some unfamiliar topics

- *From a town near Barcelona, actually* (Part 1)
- *I think the guy from the car must be really scared* (Part 2)
- *Scuba diving, lucky* (Part 2)
- *I think it's crucial for the future* (Part 3)
- *They are spoiling everything* (Part 3)
- *Stress, pressure* (Part 4)

However, there are also examples of inappropriate use, and a lack of range

- *Impressed* (= shocked) (Part 2)
- *Achieve money* (= earn money) (Part 2)
- *He can go really fast* (= he should get away quickly...)(Part 2)
- *Inside the water* (= under the water) (Part 2)
- *Investigation* (= research) (Part 3)



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- We are experimenting something really different (= experiencing)(Part 4)

Discourse Management : 3

Extent

Merixtell produces extended stretches of language with very little hesitation.

Relevance

Her contributions are relevant and there is very little repetition. She organises her ideas clearly in her long turn in Part 2, where she discusses the reasons behind the meetings in the photos and in her contributions in Part 4, she provides detailed and relevant answers.

Cohesion

She uses a limited range of cohesive devices (conjunctions, determiners, pronouns, related lexis, etc.) and a range of discourse markers

- *Yeah, maybe, I think, really, it's true*
- *'I think that languages, yeah, because if you speak a lot of languages you can travel around the world, you can find a good job as well, so actually, maybe English is the most important one(s)...*

Pronunciation: 2

Intelligibility

Is intelligible.

Intonation

Is usually appropriate.

- *Evening, I think, when you arrive home, you are tired...(Part 1)*
- *.....it's really cheap, but it's not healthy (Part 3)*

Stress

Sentence stress is reasonably accurately placed but tends at times to be syllabic.

- *You can go to the supermarket at 4 o'clock in the morning and do your shopping (Part 3)*

Word stress is reasonably accurate

- *Read a little bit (Part 1)*



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- *Trouble with the animal, scuba diving, scared, remove* (Part 2)
- *Rubbish, disease, healthy, fast food, spoiling, crucial* (Part 3)
- *Allow, losing, gaining* (Part 4)

Individual sounds

Are mostly articulated clearly, but with some examples of less clear articulation

- *deener* (dinner) (Part 1)
- *ber* (bear) (Part 2)
- *paren* (parents) (Part 4)

Interactive Communication: 2

Initiating and Responding

Merixtell initiates and responds appropriately, taking some opportunities to link her contributions to those of her partner.

- *Yeah yeah yeah, because there are people who are trying to achieve something else, not just information, so they are spoiling everything, yeah...*(Part 3)

However, her responses to her partner's comments are often minimal

- *Yeah yeah, they have to work hard, a little more* (Part 3)
- *Yeah, no, it's the same in the shops now...* (Part 3)

Development

Merixtell maintains and develops the interaction but neither she nor her partner really negotiate towards an outcome in Part 3.

Global Achievement: 2

Merixtell can handle communication on a range of familiar and unfamiliar topics with very little hesitation. She can organise extended discourse but at times misses opportunities to respond at length to and build on her partner's ideas. She is generally coherent and accurate when expressing her ideas, but some inaccuracies and inappropriate usage occur.



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Stefan

Grammatical Resource: 3

Stefan shows a good degree of control of a range of simple and some complex grammatical forms.

- *I'd really like to speak Spanish, for example, because I think it's very vital to speak a lot of foreign languages and to speak them perfectly (Part 1)*
- *There are few people who are able to climb to the peak of a huge mountain...because you have to be in (a) good shape. (Part 2)*
- *I would choose the Renaissance, I think, because there was so much creative work (Part 4)*
- *I think it was quite an exciting time (Part 4)*

Although on occasion, there are inaccuracies when he tries to use more complex forms

- *you need a good taste to create flowers to use them in a fashionable way*

Lexical Resource: 4

Stefan uses a range of appropriate vocabulary to give and exchange views on familiar and some unfamiliar topics, with some evidence of a wider range when talking about familiar topics.

- *I think these are good opportunities to unwind (Part 1)*
- *You have to be in (a) good shape (Part 2)*
- *It provides us with truly educational stuff...there's a lot of dangerous stuff on the internet (Part)*
- *We here in this part, in Europe, we don't suffer from war (Part 4)*

Discourse Management : 4

Extent

Stefan produces extended stretches of language, mostly with ease and very little hesitation.

Relevance

His contributions are relevant and varied, with very little repetition.

- *In his long turn in Part 2, where he discusses ice sculptures and flower arrangement.*
- *In his contributions in Parts 3 and 4, he provides detailed and pertinent answers.*



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Cohesion

He uses a range of cohesive devices (conjunctions, determiners, pronouns, related lexis, etc) and a range of discourse markers;

- *afterwards, really, yeah* (Part 1)
- *yeah, I reckon, and (the result is)*(Part 2)
- *on the other hand, yeah but, no, but, on the other hand* (Part 3)
- *I think so, it's true, moreover, well* (Part 4)
- *Well, I think I can't speak for other people but, yeah, what is important, I think, no, people know what is important. I disagree with this statement.* (Part 4)

Pronunciation: 4

Intelligibility

Stefan is intelligible throughout, with some use of phonological features to enhance meaning.

Intonation

Is appropriate.

- *Now I'm here in Cambridge to improve my English skills* (Part 1)
- *I'd really like to speak Spanish* (Part 1)
- *We really should stop this* (Part 3)
- *No, but it's also fast* (Part 3)
- *I disagree with this statement!* (Part 4)

Stress

Sentence stress is accurately placed.

- *To speak them perfectly* (Part 1)
- *I would choose the Renaissance, I think, because there was so much creative work* (Part 4)
- *I think it was quite an exciting time* (Part 4)

Word stress is accurate

- *Afterwards, provides you with* (Part 1)
- *Beneficial effects* (Part 2, Part 3)
- *Educational, dangerous* (Part 3)
- *Renaissance* (Part 4)

Individual sounds

Are articulated clearly



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Interactive Communication: 4

Initiating and Responding

Stefan initiates and responds appropriately, taking many opportunities to link his contributions to those of his partner.

- *Yeah but I think they did a good job...* (Part 3)
- *Yeah but I think on the other hand it has beneficial effects* (Part 3)
- *No, but it's also fast* (Part 3)
- *Yeah I think so, and we should be lucky to live...* (Part 4)

Development

Stefan maintains and develops the interaction but neither he nor his partner really negotiate towards an outcome.

Global Achievement: 4

Stefan can handle communication on a range of familiar and unfamiliar topics with very little hesitation. He uses a range of linguistic resources to produce extended discourse that is mostly coherent throughout the test.