

Speaking Test

1

Part 1 Talking about general topics (3 minutes)

- What do people do in their free time where you live?
- Why do you think it is important to have free time?
- Is your weekend usually relaxing or busy?
- Do you enjoy being on your own? Why? What activities do you do?

Part 2 Monologue (4 minutes)

TRAVEL

How has road travel changed over the years?



Candidate A: Compare the photographs and say how road travel has changed over the years. (1 minute)

Candidate B: Which of these means of transport do you think has the most advantages? (20 seconds)

Useful language

Referring to the past and the present

- In the past people used to (*travel by horse-drawn carriage*), whereas now ...
- In old times (*there were few accidents on the roads*), but today ...

Contrasting Ideas

- On the one hand, (*cars are more costly to run*). On the other hand, ...
- However, ...
- The main difference seems to be ...
- Another striking contrast is that ...

KEY LANGUAGE

Positive Points

Negative Points

horse-drawn carriage

infrequent traffic, peaceful, relaxing, more environmentally friendly, leisurely pace of travel

slow, exposed to the weather, horses need to be cared for (food, grooming), hire a stablehand

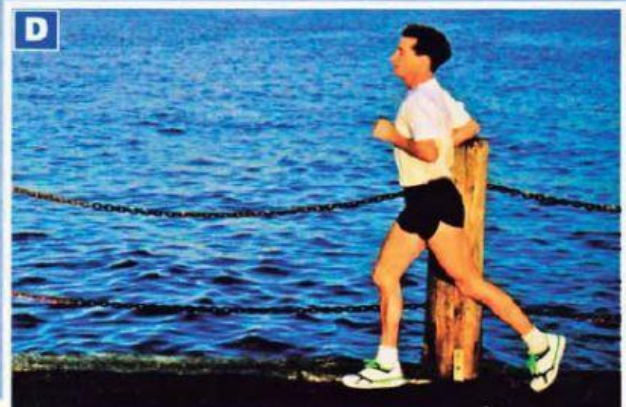
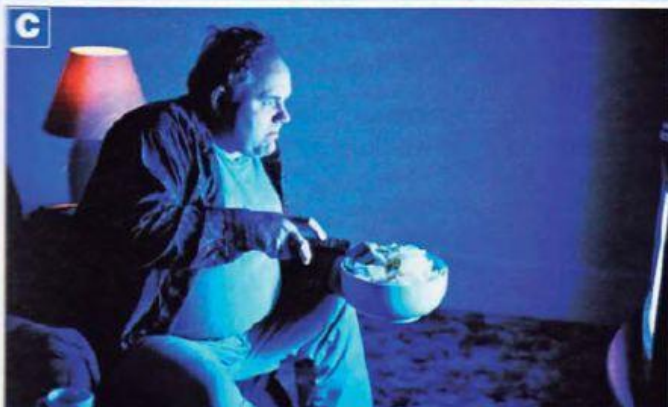
car

fast, higher level of comfort, protected from the weather, travel longer distances, convenient

busy motorway, noisy, more costly to run, higher risk of accidents, traffic congestion, pollution

HEALTH

Which person do you think takes their health more seriously?



Candidate B: Compare the photographs and say which person you think takes their health more seriously. (1 minute)

Candidate A: Which of these lifestyles do you feel is more common today? (20 seconds)

Useful language – Expressing reason/purpose

- The *(man in the first photo obviously doesn't worry about his health)* as/since/because ...
- The *(man needs to take up some kind of exercise)* in case ...
- The *(man goes jogging)* so (that) ...
- The *(jogger in the second photograph goes running)* so as (not) to ...

KEY LANGUAGE

watching TV

couch potato, TV addict, lack of exercise, overweight, bad eating habits, low in nutritional value, at risk of a heart attack, obesity connected to various health problems, lack of awareness about the need to stay healthy

jogging

keep fit, take regular exercise, be out in the fresh air, tone the muscles, exercise good for the heart, people becoming more aware of the importance of exercise and diet

Model Interview:

- Listen to two candidates doing the speaking task in Part 2. What reasons does each candidate give to support their answers?

Part 3 Decision making (pairwork) (3 minutes)

Your cousin Jane is celebrating her eighteenth birthday and you want to buy her a present so that she will remember the occasion. She prefers indoor to outdoor activities and is always interested in trying out new hobbies and pastimes. Here are some ideas for presents.

- What things might or might not make suitable presents?
- Which two things do you think would make the best presents?



Useful language

Making suggestions/Giving reasons

- Perhaps/Maybe we could (*get her a puppy*) since ...
- Why don't we (*buy her a camera*)? That would mean ...
- I think we should (*opt for chocolates*) as ...
- I (don't) think (*perfume*) would be a good idea because ...
- The best choice would be Then she could ...

Accepting suggestions

- That's not a bad idea.
- Yes, let's do that.
- Yes, I suppose we could do that.
- That would be perfect.

Rejecting suggestions

- I don't think so. It might not ...
- It's a nice idea, but ...
- Oh, it's far too (*expensive*). How about (*buying some CDs*) instead?
- I think (*trainers*) would be a bad choice because ...

BUYING A PRESENT

KEY LANGUAGE	Positive Points	Negative Points
watch	elegant, something you can keep as a reminder, practical	good quality can be expensive, might not need one
camera	useful, creative, can give a lot of pleasure, take lots of photos, better quality pictures than mobile phone camera	expensive to buy, might be more useful for outdoor types, might prefer mobile phone camera
box of chocolates	appropriate for celebrations, almost everyone likes chocolate	not a lasting reminder, fattening for dieters
puppy	adorable, good companion, lots of fun, gives you a sense of responsibility	needs lots of looking after, time-consuming, have to take it for walks
trainers	practical, always useful as an extra pair, fashionable	too ordinary for a present, too athletic, might not like the style
CDs	add to your music collection, useful at parties/in car	might not suit musical taste, might already have them, prefer to download music to MP3 player
perfume	feminine, luxurious, popular gift	matter of personal choice, not a lasting reminder

Model Interview:

 Listen to two candidates doing the speaking task in Part 3 and answer the questions.

- 1 Which items do the candidates feel would make suitable/unsuitable presents? Which two do they finally choose? What reasons do they give to support their decision?

Part 4 Discussing in pairs (4 minutes)

- What do you enjoy about giving presents?
- What's the best present you've ever received?
- What things do you keep in mind when buying a gift for someone?
- Should giving presents only be limited to special occasions?
- Do presents have to cost a lot to be appreciated?

Model Interview:

 Listen to two candidates doing the speaking task in Part 4 and answer the questions.

- 1 What do the candidates enjoy about giving presents?
- 2 Do the candidates think presents have to cost a lot to be appreciated? What reasons do they give to support their answers?

Speaking Test

2

Part 1 Talking about general topics (3 minutes)

- Do you come from a large or a small family?
- Who do you get on best with in your family? Why is that?
- What do you enjoy doing when you spend time with your family?
- Do you often have big family gatherings? Can you say something about them?

Part 2 Monologue (4 minutes)

Country life & City life

What might life be like in places like these?



Candidate A: Compare the photographs and say what life might be like in places like these. (1 minute)

Candidate B: Would living in either of these places appeal to you? (20 seconds)

Useful language

Speculating

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It may/might/could be ... • It would probably be ... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's likely/unlikely that ... • I'd say it would ... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perhaps ... |
|---|---|---|

KEY LANGUAGE

Country life

City life

Pros

nice houses, not close together, gardens, no traffic jams, less pollution, relaxing environment, close to nature, fresh air, slow pace of life, healthier lifestyle

Cons

isolated, limited public transport, fewer job opportunities, limited entertainment, isolated, boring, village gossip

Pros

everything close at hand, good public transport, better changes of employment, wide variety to choose from, better medical care, more educational opportunities, exciting nightlife, more luxurious lifestyle

Cons

ugly urban landscape, traffic congestion, heavy pollution/smog, work under pressure, temptation to spend more, cold & impersonal, fast pace of life, hustle and bustle, people keep themselves to themselves

SHOPPING

What are the advantages and disadvantages of shopping in places like these?



Candidate B: Compare the photographs and say what the advantages and disadvantages of shopping in places like these are. (1 minute)

Candidate A: Which of these kinds of shopping is more popular with young people? (20 seconds)

Useful language – Expressing advantages and disadvantages

listing advantages	• A good thing about ... • The best thing about ... • One obvious advantage is ... • An important factor is ...
adding advantages/disadvantages	• In addition, ... • Another point is ... • What's more, ... • As well as that, ...
listing disadvantages	• A bad thing about ... • The worst thing about ... • A major disadvantage is ... • A serious/slight drawback could be ...
contrasting advantages/disadvantages	• <i>(Street markets usually have a friendly atmosphere), but ...</i> • <i>(A shopping mall offers a wide range of facilities). However, ...</i> • <i>(There is no doubt street markets have fresher produce). On the other hand, ...</i>

KEY LANGUAGE

	Advantages	Disadvantages
street market	friendly atmosphere, chat to stallholders, reasonable prices, fresher produce, find bargains, great selection, in the open air	unpleasant in bad weather, don't always find what you want, end up buying more than planned, can be crowded
shopping mall	convenient, variety of goods under one roof, protected from the weather, comfortable and luxurious, wide range of facilities	tends to be pricey, impersonal atmosphere, crowded at peak shopping times, tempts you to overspend

Model Interview:

- Listen to two candidates doing the speaking task in Part 2. What reasons does each candidate give to support their answers?

Part 3 Decision making (pairwork) (3 minutes)

Your neighbours are planning their holidays and have asked for your opinion on where to stay. The father is a nature lover, the mother would like a holiday without housework, and the two children want to be near entertainment facilities. Here are some possible suggestions.

- How suitable would each type of holiday accommodation be for your neighbours?
- Which two places would be the best choices for them?



Useful language – Expressing/Asking for/Giving opinion

Expressing opinion	Asking for opinion	Giving opinion
• I (don't) think (that) ... • I believe (that) ... • In my opinion, ... • If you ask me, ... • From my point of view, ...	• Don't you agree? • What's your opinion? • Wouldn't you say so? • What do you think about ... ?	• That's true, (but) ... • That's a good point. (However, ...) • I quite agree. • I couldn't agree more. • I'm not so sure (about that).

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

KEY LANGUAGE	Positive Points	Negative Points
barge	quiet and relaxing, close to nature, economical	need to be self-catering, might be difficult to reach a town or village, lack of variety
castle	in a rural setting, surrounded by countryside, exclusive, uncrowded, quaint and unusual, accommodation with a difference	might not be much to do in the area, could be a bit pricey
campsite	offers entertainment and other facilities, economical, in a green area, possibility of walks, picnics outdoors	could be crowded and noisy, might need to prepare some meals, cramped accommodation, can be disorganised and messy
bed and breakfast	reasonably priced, comfortable, breakfast provided, evening meal often included	might not be near many entertainment facilities, boring, more basic facilities than a hotel
gypsy caravan	traditional, good way of seeing the countryside, on the move, life in the open air, economical	tiring, cramped sleeping space, need to keep caravan tidy and organised, have to cook your own meals sometimes, boring for children
luxury hotel with swimming pool	luxurious, wide range of facilities, all meals provided, opportunity to relax, caters for all ages and tastes, variety of entertainment	expensive, busy, not always close to nature, lack of contact with local people, can be isolated

Model Interview:



Listen to two candidates doing the speaking task in Part 3 and answer the questions.

- 1 How suitable do the candidates find each type of accommodation for the family? Which two places do they choose for them? What reasons do they give to support their decision?

Part 4 Discussing in pairs (4 minutes)

- What kinds of holiday accommodation are popular in your country?
- What things are important to you when you choose a place to stay?
- Why do some people choose to stay in five-star hotels?
- What kind of person do you think would enjoy travelling around in a traditional gypsy caravan?
- Is tourist accommodation in your country expensive?

Model Interview:



Listen to two candidates doing the speaking task in Part 4 and answer the questions.

- 1 What things are important to the candidates when they choose a place to stay?
- 2 Why do the candidates think some people choose to stay in five-star hotels. What reasons do they give to support their answers?