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## NOTES ON CONDUCTING AND RECORDING THE TESTS

**Please note**

1. The warm-up section may give the examiner an indication of the best card to select **but the examiner must not allow the candidate to lead the choice of topic**.
2. The speaking assessment cards **must not be opened** until one working day before the test.
3. All tests must be recorded **in full throughout**. The recording must not be paused or stopped at any point during the test.

**GENERAL**

1. The speaking tests take place in the period before the main examination series, as notified on the timetable. Each Centre decides on a convenient period within these dates for its speaking tests. It is recommended that the tests are conducted within one week to allow sufficient time for a single examiner to conduct all of the tests. See Section 4 below.
2. Centres must ensure well in advance of the tests that a suitably quiet room is available and that recording equipment is in good order.
3. Centres must adhere to dates for completion of the speaking tests and for the receipt of mark sheets and recordings at Cambridge to allow sufficient time for external moderation. It is vital that material does not arrive late.
4. For Centres with 30 or fewer candidates, there should normally be just one examiner. Each Centre will select its own examiner. This is normally a teacher within the English Language Department, but could be someone local from outside the Centre. A group of neighbouring Centres might choose the same teacher to conduct all their tests; in such a case each Centre is still responsible for submitting properly completed forms and samples. Cambridge is not responsible for any fees agreed.

Centres with more than 30 candidates may use more than one examiner (applying the ratio of an additional examiner for each 30 candidates). If using more than one examiner, internal moderation must be carried out by the Centre so that a common standard is applied to all candidates.

5. Centres receive a set of speaking assessment cards accompanying this set of examiner's notes. These cards **must not be opened** until one working day before the test. These materials must remain confidential and must be kept in a secure place by the Centre until the end of the examination period.
6. Each Centre must send to Cambridge the following: (a) a recorded sample on CD; (b) completed MS1 forms (or printout of marks submitted electronically); (c) completed Speaking Examination Summary Form(s).

**(a) Recorded sample**

Each Centre must provide a sample of speaking tests, to be recorded on CD. The size of the sample required is given in the instructions on the back of the Speaking Examination Summary Form.

Please ensure that you do not send the recordings of all the candidates (unless there are 10 or fewer). Ideally the sample should be transferred to one or two CDs. You should keep a copy of each speaking test in case of loss or damage to the original. If the sample sent to Cambridge is inaudible or faulty in any way, you may be asked to provide a replacement.

The teacher responsible for internal moderation at the Centre must ensure that the sample covers the whole mark range of the candidates at the Centre, with marks spaced as evenly as possible from the top mark to the lowest mark. Where there is more than one teacher involved, the sample must include, in equal number, candidates tested by all teachers.

For instructions on recording the tests, see Section 14 below. CDs must be sent to Cambridge together with completed documents. CDs must be clearly labelled with details of the candidates whose speaking tests have been submitted.

### **(b) Form MS1**

The computer-printed school-based assessment mark sheet (Form MS1) has three parts:

- The top sheet must be sent to Cambridge in the separate envelope provided.
- The middle sheet (which is for the external moderator's use) must be sent separately to Cambridge, together with the sample recording and Speaking Examination Summary Form(s).
- The bottom sheet must be retained by the Centre in case of postal loss or subsequent enquiries, until after the issue of results.

Form MS1 is to be completed by transferring the mark for each candidate from the 'total mark' column, or the 'internally moderated mark' column if a process of internal moderation has taken place, onto the Speaking Examination Summary Form.

Centres submitting marks electronically must include a printout of the internal marks report, together with the recorded sample and Speaking Examination Summary Form.

### **(c) Speaking Examination Summary Form**

This is a document on which marks for each candidate are to be entered in detail. Instructions for its completion are found on the reverse of the form. The form must be submitted together with the recorded sample and the middle MS1 copy (or printout of marks submitted electronically).

Please be careful to check all mark additions. The Speaking Examination Summary Form must show the breakdown of marks for all the candidates, not just those selected for the sample. Please put an asterisk (\*) against the names of candidates whose speaking tests have been submitted on the CD. The candidates' names should appear in the same order on both the summary form and the MS1.

7. The sample CD(s), along with completed MS1 (or printout of marks submitted electronically) and Speaking Examination Summary Form, should be returned to Cambridge as soon as the tests have been completed at the Centre. Please do not wait until the end of the assessment period before sending them.

## CONDUCTING THE SPEAKING TESTS

8. The speaking tests should proceed as follows:

**Part A** Start the recording. Give the candidate's name and number. Welcome the candidate and explain briefly what is going to happen in the test, using the examiner script on the relevant assessment card page in these notes.

**Part B** Warm-up section. The purpose of this section is to give the candidate time to get used to the examination situation, and put the candidate at ease by conducting a short conversation (2–3 minutes) on general topics and the candidate's hobbies and interests.

**Part C** Give the speaking assessment card to the candidate. This must take place AFTER the warm-up. Any necessary explanation is given at this point, followed by a short preparation period (about 2–3 minutes), when the candidate may ask questions. The candidate cannot make notes during this period.

Please note: the preparation period must be recorded.

**Part D** Main part of the test. Conversation based on the speaking assessment card. Either the examiner or the candidate may start the conversation. All prompts must be used, in the order they appear on the card. Do not allow candidates to deliver speeches or monologues at any point during the test. The main part of the test should last approximately 6–9 minutes.

**The total duration of the speaking test, from the beginning of (A) to the end of (D), should be approximately 10–15 minutes and recorded in full.**

**Note that only (D) is to be assessed.**

**The speaking test must be conducted in English throughout.**

9. Examination conditions must prevail in the area where the speaking tests take place. Adequate supervision must be provided to ensure that candidates leaving the examination room do not communicate with those waiting to enter.
10. No other person should be present during the speaking test, with the exception of another teacher/examiner, moderator or representative of Cambridge.
11. Candidates cannot bring any notes into the examination room. They are not allowed to consult dictionaries.
12. A range of speaking assessment cards is provided, and the examiner (not the candidate) chooses the card to be used for each candidate. As wide a variety as possible of the cards should be used during the speaking tests at the centre. In order that candidates are given every chance to do themselves justice, the speaking assessment card should be selected with care. The warm-up may give the examiner an indication of the best card to select **but the examiner must not allow the candidate to lead the choice of topic.**
13. The examiner should be positioned so that he or she is facing the candidate, with a table or desk in between, and not allow candidates to see notes made on Speaking Examination Summary Forms or similar paperwork.

## RECORDING THE TESTS

14. Before the start of the speaking test session, Centres must make sure their recording equipment is in good working order by testing the equipment in the room where the speaking tests will take place. Check audibility levels to avoid adjusting the volume during the speaking test and ensure there is no extraneous noise in the examination room. Checks for audibility should continue throughout the speaking test session.

**Once the speaking test has begun, the recording must run without interruption.**

Each CD should begin with a clear statement by the examiner as follows:

Centre number:	[e.g.]	AZ 999
Centre name:	[e.g.]	Abcxyz Academy
Examination:	0511	English as a Second Language
Examiner name:	[e.g.]	Ms Z. Abced
Date:	[e.g.]	1 October 2017

Each candidate should be clearly indicated by the examiner as follows:

Candidate number:	[e.g.]	0021
Candidate name:	[e.g.]	Abdi Zachariah

At the end of the recording, the examiner should state clearly 'end of recording'.

Before the CD is despatched, spot checks must be made to ensure that every candidate is clearly audible. The contents of each CD must be clearly labelled. Each track on the CD should be renamed, giving the candidate name and number, rather than 'track 1', 'track 2', etc.

## GENERAL ADVICE

15. Please bear the following in mind when marking:

**Be objective.** Do not allow any knowledge of a candidate's personality and attributes to influence objective assessment. For example, knowledge that a candidate is very conscientious in his or her homework is irrelevant in assessing his or her speaking test. If the candidate's performance is affected because he or she faces difficult circumstances or personal problems at the time of the test, this is a matter to be dealt with via special considerations procedures, for which exams officers at Centres complete separate documentation. Examiners must not make any separate allowance themselves.

**Be realistic.** Remember that it is not necessary for a candidate to be of native speaker standard to be given maximum marks within any single category. But knowledge of a candidate's first language must not lead an examiner to ignore particular habitual errors and overlook inaccuracy.

**Be consistent.** It is important that the marking criteria are applied in the same way for all the candidates at the Centre, so that a reliable rank order for the Centre is obtained.

**Be positive.** Marking the test should be seen as giving credit for what candidates can do, not penalising them for what they cannot do. This does not mean that matters of inaccuracy in, for example, grammar and pronunciation are to be overlooked, but is a reminder that a speaking test is intended to credit positive achievement.

**16.** To conduct speaking tests effectively:

- try to put candidates at their ease from the outset (smiling as they enter the room, indicating where they should sit), while maintaining a clear sense that the speaking test is being conducted in a formal examination situation
- show interest, even in mundane matters
- use 'open' questions which allow candidates to respond at length, not 'closed' questions which prompt yes/no answers.

Please avoid:

- walking about or distracting candidates
- interrupting with your own views or correcting mistakes
- showing undue surprise or impatience
- giving the impression that there are 'right' answers to questions or that the test is a test of knowledge
- making written notes during the test
- indicating how well the candidate has performed during or after the test.





## MARKING CRITERIA

Give a mark out of 10 for each category (structure, vocabulary, development and fluency), and then add these marks to give an overall total out of 30.

Mark	Structure	Vocabulary	Development and Fluency
9–10	The candidate uses a range of structures accurately and consistently, and is confidently in control of the structures used.	The candidate uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to respond with precision. Shades of meaning are achieved and some sophisticated ideas are communicated.	The candidate shows sustained ability to maintain a conversation (and contribute) at some length. The candidate responds to a change of direction in the conversation, demonstrating the ability to expand and develop the topic and contribute original ideas.  Pronunciation and intonation are clear.
7–8	The candidate uses a range of structures that are generally accurate (and used) with some confidence. Errors will occur when attempting to use more complex sentences.	The candidate uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to convey information and ideas with competence and some confidence.	The candidate maintains a competent conversation, responding relevantly and at length, using some original ideas. Frequent prompting is unnecessary.  Pronunciation and intonation are generally clear.
5–6	The candidate uses simple structures securely, but has difficulty venturing beyond them.	The candidate uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to convey simple ideas and information clearly, but not entirely successfully.	The candidate makes an attempt to respond to questions and prompts. Effort is needed to develop the conversation which will not be entirely successful.  Pronunciation and intonation are not always clear, but the candidate can be understood.
3–4	The candidate uses very simple, limited structures with errors which restrict communication.	The candidate uses a restricted range of vocabulary and has difficulty in conveying simple ideas. There is likely to be hesitation, repetition and searching for words.	The candidate has to be encouraged to go beyond responses which are brief and widely spaced. The candidate struggles to develop a conversation.  Pronunciation and intonation cause some communication difficulty.
1–2	The candidate attempts a response, but rarely achieves communication.	The candidate has insufficient vocabulary to convey even simple ideas.	The candidate's responses are so brief that little is communicated.  Pronunciation and intonation patterns cause difficulty for even the most sympathetic listener.
0	No response.	No response.	No response.

**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

**When you have started the recording, given the candidate's name and number and welcomed the candidate, please read the following explanation to the candidate.**

First we will have a 2–3 minute general discussion about your interests and life outside school. This part isn't assessed.

Then I will give you an assessment card which has the topic we will discuss in the last part of the test. You will have 2–3 minutes to read the five prompts on the card to prepare for this part. You can't make any written notes but you can ask me to explain anything you don't understand.

Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**A Drawing and painting****Candidate's Card**

Being able to draw and paint pictures is a skill that many people would like to have.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- a time when you drew or painted a picture, and how you felt about it
- whether you enjoy looking at other people's drawings and paintings, and why
- ways in which drawing and painting can be useful in real life
- the idea that children can express themselves more easily through drawing and painting
- the suggestion that modern artists cannot draw or paint.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.

**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

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Then I will give you an assessment card which has the topic we will discuss in the last part of the test. You will have 2–3 minutes to read the five prompts on the card to prepare for this part. You can't make any written notes but you can ask me to explain anything you don't understand.

Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**B Leaving home****Candidate's Card**

Many young people around the world leave home, for example, to go to university or to work in another city.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- whether you, or someone you know, have plans to leave home
- things people enjoy most after leaving home
- the advantages of staying at home for young people
- the view that all young adults should experience living on their own
- globalisation is forcing more families to live apart in different countries.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.

**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

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Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**C Thinking****Candidate's Card**

Ideas, opinions and images are produced when we think.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- the kinds of things you think about, and why
- times when you find it difficult to think clearly
- whether we should spend a long time thinking before we make an important decision
- the view that organisations prefer employees who don't think independently
- all of the world's problems would be solved if we developed our thinking skills.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.

**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

**When you have started the recording, given the candidate's name and number and welcomed the candidate, please read the following explanation to the candidate.**

First we will have a 2–3 minute general discussion about your interests and life outside school. This part isn't assessed.

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Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**D Language skills****Candidate's Card**

Some students think that writing is the most challenging of the language skills to learn.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- whether you find it easy to do a piece of writing, and why
- ways that your teachers help you to learn to write
- why people might prefer speaking to writing
- the view that it's important to have good language skills in life
- the suggestion that technology affects everyone's language skills.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.

**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

**When you have started the recording, given the candidate's name and number and welcomed the candidate, please read the following explanation to the candidate.**

First we will have a 2–3 minute general discussion about your interests and life outside school. This part isn't assessed.

Then I will give you an assessment card which has the topic we will discuss in the last part of the test. You will have 2–3 minutes to read the five prompts on the card to prepare for this part. You can't make any written notes but you can ask me to explain anything you don't understand.

Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**E Cars and bicycles****Candidate's Card**

Some people prefer to travel by car, while others prefer to ride bicycles.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- whether you prefer to travel by car or bicycle, and why
- an interesting journey you took by car or bicycle
- reasons why people should stop using cars and ride bicycles instead
- the sport of car racing is more exciting to watch than cycling
- the suggestion that we judge people by the car or bicycle that they own.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.

**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

**When you have started the recording, given the candidate's name and number and welcomed the candidate, please read the following explanation to the candidate.**

First we will have a 2–3 minute general discussion about your interests and life outside school. This part isn't assessed.

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Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**F Freedom****Candidate's Card**

Many people think that everyone has the right to say, or do, exactly what they want.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- some things you're allowed or not allowed to do at home, and why
- whether you like being told what to do
- the view that if you have a lot of personal freedom, you have to be more careful
- the opinion that every person can be free to think what they want
- when governments limit freedom of speech, they do this for the benefit of the people.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.

**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

**When you have started the recording, given the candidate's name and number and welcomed the candidate, please read the following explanation to the candidate.**

First we will have a 2–3 minute general discussion about your interests and life outside school. This part isn't assessed.

Then I will give you an assessment card which has the topic we will discuss in the last part of the test. You will have 2–3 minutes to read the five prompts on the card to prepare for this part. You can't make any written notes but you can ask me to explain anything you don't understand.

Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**G Practical jobs****Candidate's Card**

Many people enjoy practical jobs, where they work with their hands, such as being a chef or fixing computers.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- a time when you built something or made something
- whether you would like to do a practical job, and why
- how schools and colleges can encourage more students to do practical jobs
- what would happen to society if no one wanted to do practical jobs
- the suggestion that in the future, only robots will do practical jobs.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.



**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

**When you have started the recording, given the candidate's name and number and welcomed the candidate, please read the following explanation to the candidate.**

First we will have a 2–3 minute general discussion about your interests and life outside school. This part isn't assessed.

Then I will give you an assessment card which has the topic we will discuss in the last part of the test. You will have 2–3 minutes to read the five prompts on the card to prepare for this part. You can't make any written notes but you can ask me to explain anything you don't understand.

Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**H Living in peace****Candidate's Card**

People should try to live without fighting and arguing.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- whether you always get on with your friends and family
- reasons why people sometimes don't get on
- the benefits of living in peace
- the view that leaders who want to live peacefully are not respected
- the suggestion that it's impossible to achieve world peace.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.

**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

**When you have started the recording, given the candidate's name and number and welcomed the candidate, please read the following explanation to the candidate.**

First we will have a 2–3 minute general discussion about your interests and life outside school. This part isn't assessed.

Then I will give you an assessment card which has the topic we will discuss in the last part of the test. You will have 2–3 minutes to read the five prompts on the card to prepare for this part. You can't make any written notes but you can ask me to explain anything you don't understand.

Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**I Crime dramas****Candidate's Card**

Watching dramas in which crimes are solved can be a very exciting experience.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- whether you enjoy watching crime dramas, and why
- a crime drama you have watched, and what you found interesting about it
- the idea that watching crime dramas can encourage people to join the police force
- whether real-life crimes should be made into dramas to entertain people
- the view that watching crime dramas can increase people's fear of crime in real life.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.

**Instructions to the teacher/examiner**

**When you have started the recording, given the candidate's name and number and welcomed the candidate, please read the following explanation to the candidate.**

First we will have a 2–3 minute general discussion about your interests and life outside school. This part isn't assessed.

Then I will give you an assessment card which has the topic we will discuss in the last part of the test. You will have 2–3 minutes to read the five prompts on the card to prepare for this part. You can't make any written notes but you can ask me to explain anything you don't understand.

Finally, we will have a discussion based on the five prompts on the card and any ideas of your own on the topic. This part lasts 6–9 minutes and is the only part that is assessed.

Do you have any questions?

**Then start the test.**

**J Living in the wild****Candidate's Card**

Some people live in parts of the world that are very far away from towns and cities.

Discuss this topic with the examiner.

***Use the following prompts, in the order given below, to develop the conversation:***

- whether you would enjoy living in the wild, and why
- special skills that people need to live in the wild
- whether people who choose to live in the wild still need a lot of money
- the idea that it is better for nature if humans only live in cities
- the suggestion that people limit their life opportunities if they live in the wild.

You may introduce **related** ideas of your own to expand on these prompts.

Remember, you are not allowed to make any written notes.

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