

SPEAKING EXAM GUIDELINES

General

The speaking exam includes two parts: sustained monologue and oral interaction. Students take the exam in pairs, formed by the examiner at the moment of the exam on alphabetical basis. For each pair, Student A gives a presentation prepared in advance on a topic of his/her choice, producing some visual support. At the end of the presentation, Student B makes comments and/or asks questions on the content of A's presentation and A replies. When the interaction is over, the students swap roles. **The examiner can take part in the interaction as a moderator, as well as ask questions about the content (including pictures and headlines) and the language used in the article.** Specific guidelines are provided below for each year.

FIRST YEAR - Speaking – 10 mins per student; 20 mins per pair

Phase 1: brief oral interaction (1 minute) in which students A and B outline their topic and provide their supporting material;

Phase 2: Student A presents a topic regarding a particular aspect of ONE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRY.

The presentation should focus on descriptions and features of the topic, reasons for choosing it, as well as why it is of particular significance to the individual country chosen.

Students should select ONE topic from the following list:

- a significant historical event OR historical overview of indigenous peoples
- a significant geographical OR environmental feature
- an important city, educational establishment OR institution
- an important contribution to culture, art OR communication (including literature, theatre, cinema, media, etc.)
- characteristic traditions, celebrations OR superstitions
- food, fashion OR sport.

The presentation should last approximately 5 minutes and be supported by visuals from at least 3 different sources of English language websites or publications. A copy of these visuals, plus their sources, should be left with the examiner.

Phase 3: student B asks questions/makes comment (5 minutes)

Phase 4/5: student B delivers his/her presentation and student A makes comments and/or asks questions (10 mins total)

The mark is out of 20 and is calculated taking into account:

- Grammatical and syntactic accuracy – 4
- Lexical variety – 4
- Pronunciation – 4
- Fluency – 4
- Understanding and interaction – 4