B1 Preliminary

Sample Material for Special Arrangements Versions of Speaking Tests

Examinations from 2020
Introduction

What happens?

For most examinations, blind candidates and candidates with visual difficulties may choose to take the speaking test alone or with a partner.

All tests have two examiners, the Assessor and the Interlocutor, even though the candidate is taking the test alone.

The partner may be:

- another candidate who is visually impaired
- a ‘dummy partner’ (a colleague or friend who is not taking the examination, has a similar level of English as the candidate, and is familiar with the format of the Speaking Test). The dummy partner can be either visually impaired or sighted.

Who are Special Requirements versions for?

One the following pages are sample materials for both single and paired candidate formats, which include:

- Standard visual material
- Enlarged visual material
- Enlarged written prompts

Enlarged print versions with written prompts are for candidates with visual difficulties, and candidates who have a physical disability which makes it difficult for them to read normal-sized print or focus on pictures/photographs.

Brailled material will be supplied for blind candidates, or those with severe visual impairments who prefer to work from Braille. Sample brailled material is not provided here, but note that brailled written prompts are the same as those used in enlarged material.

What material is used with candidates who are visually impaired?

Most Speaking Tests like B1 Preliminary use pictures, photographs or other visuals as a stimulus for interaction. For visually-impaired candidates, a special version of the Speaking Test is produced.

Candidates can opt to use standard or enlarged visuals, written prompts (enlarged) or written prompts which have been brailled.

The following is an example of how the visual input might be adapted as a written prompt for B1 Preliminary Speaking:
What different activities could the man do to help him relax?

2. Cooking

Examiners are given adapted scripts (called ‘interlocutor frames’) to use with the material. There are different interlocutor frames for candidates taking the test alone and for candidates taking the test with a partner. These interlocutor frames are designed to keep the test as close as possible to the standard B1 Preliminary Speaking Test in terms of structure and candidate experience.
The single candidate format

Candidates can opt to take the test alone if preferred, or in circumstances where a partner may not be appropriate. In both cases, a single candidate version of the test can be provided using:

- Visual material
  - Standard visual material
  - Enlarged visual material

- Written prompts
  - Enlarged written prompts
  - Braille prompts

What happens in the single candidate format test?

Special interlocutor frames are prepared. In some parts of the test, the interlocutor takes the part of the other candidate.

Interlocutors, while playing the role of the candidate’s partner, will not dominate or monopolise the conversation and will always use vocabulary at CEFR B1 level. Interlocutors restrict themselves to minimal prompts and questions sufficient to keep the conversation going in a reasonable natural way and ‘open’ questions are used to encourage the candidate to continue speaking (e.g. ‘What do you think about this?’).

Additional questions are provided where appropriate in order to compensate for the shortened nature of the test.

There is no Part 2 in B1 Preliminary Speaking Special Arrangements papers.

What about timing?

For both paired and single candidate format tests, interlocutors allow candidates additional time to process texts and questions before replying, or to read and think about written material. The amount of additional time is at the discretion of the examiner, but the candidates are always given sufficient time to read and process tasks. Approximate timings are shown in the following sample interlocutor frames.

For frequently asked questions, information, instructions and guides for running our exams, and updates, please see the support site: support.cambridgeenglish.org. You can also use it to contact our Helpdesk by submitting a query or instant messaging with a Helpdesk Analyst. You can also reach the Helpdesk at helpdesk@cambridgeenglish.org or call +44 1223 553997 (for urgent queries).
Single candidate format
Visual material

For candidates using:

• Standard visual material
• Enlarged visual material
Part 1 (2–3 minutes approx.)

**Phase 1**

**Interlocutor**

Good morning/afternoon/evening.
Can I have your mark sheet, please?

*Hand over the mark sheets to the Assessor.*

I’m ………… and this is …………. 
He/She is just going to listen to us.

What’s your name? Where do you live/come from?
Thank you.

*(Interlocutor asks the following questions)*

**Back-up prompts**

Where do you work or are you a student?
Do you have a job?
Do you study?

What do you do/study?
What job do you do?
What subject do you study?

Thank you.
### Phase 2

**Interlocutor**

Select one or more questions from the list – see examples below – to ask the candidate. Candidate’s name is used throughout.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Back-up prompts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Will you use English in the future? (Why?/Why not?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell us about the people you live with.</td>
<td>Do you live with friends/your family?</td>
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<td>Thank you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the next part, we are going to talk to each other.</td>
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There is no Part 2 in Preliminary Speaking SA papers.
I'm going to describe a situation to you. A young man works very hard and has only one free day a week. He wants to find an activity to help him relax.

Here are some activities to help him relax.

Place Part 3 booklet, open at Task 1, in front of the candidate. Allow candidate adequate time to read the task.

Now, we’re going to talk together about the different activities he could do, and then I’d like you to decide which would be most interesting.

All right? Now, we’re going to talk together. Can you start?

………………………………………………………………

Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?) Retrieve Part 3 booklet.

Use the following questions, as appropriate:

- What do you do when you want to relax? (Why?)
- Do you prefer to relax with friends or alone? (Why?)
- Is it important to do exercise in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)
- Is it useful to learn new skills in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)
- Do you think people spend too much time working/studying these days? (Why?/Why not?)

Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:

- How/what about you?
- Do you agree?
- What do you think?

Thank you. That is the end of the test.
Activities to help the man relax
Single candidate format
Written prompts

For candidates using:

• Enlarged written prompts
  • Braille prompts*

*Braille prompts will have the same wording as the enlarged written prompts.
Phase 1

Interlocutor

Good morning/afternoon/evening.
Can I have your mark sheet, please?

Hand over the mark sheets to the Assessor.

I’m ............. and this is ............ .
He/She is just going to listen to us.

What’s your name? Where do you live/come from?
Thank you.

[Interlocutor asks the following questions]

Where do you work or are you a student?
Do you have a job?
Do you study?

What do you do/study?
What job do you do?
What subject do you study?

Thank you.
**Phase 2**

**Interlocutor**

Select one or more questions from the list – see examples below – to ask the candidate. Candidate’s name is used throughout.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell us about the people you live with.</td>
<td>Do you live with friends/your family?</td>
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Thank you.

In the next part, we are going to talk to each other.
There is no Part 2 in Preliminary Speaking SA papers.
I'm going to describe a situation to you. A young man works very hard and has only one free day a week. He wants to find an activity to help him relax.

Here are some activities to help him relax.

Place Part 3 booklet, open at Task 1, in front of the candidate. Allow candidate adequate time to read the task.

Now, we're going to talk together about the different activities he could do, and then I'd like you to decide which would be most interesting.

All right? Now, we're going to talk together. Can you start?

Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?) Retrieve Part 3 booklet.

Use the following questions, as appropriate:

- What do you do when you want to relax? (Why?)
- Do you prefer to relax with friends or alone? (Why?)
- Is it important to do exercise in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)
- Is it useful to learn new skills in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)
- Do you think people spend too much time working/studying these days? (Why?/Why not?)

Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:

- How/what about you?
- Do you agree?
- What do you think?

Thank you. That is the end of the test.
What different activities could the man do to help him relax?

1. Fishing
2. Cooking
3. Swimming
4. Walking the dog
5. Reading a book
6. Painting a picture
7. Dancing at a party
The paired candidate format

A paired version of the test materials can be provided using:

- **Visual material**
  - Standard visual material
  - Enlarged visual material

- **Written prompts**
  - Enlarged written prompts
  - Braille prompts

What happens in the paired candidate format test?

Special interlocutor frames are prepared for blind and visually impaired candidates taking Speaking Tests with a partner.

Blind candidates can take the test with another candidate who is blind or with a ‘dummy’ (non-assessed) partner. Both partners must use written prompts (in Braille or print versions).

Visually impaired candidates can take the test with another candidate who is visually impaired or with a ‘dummy’ (non-assessed) partner. Both partners must use material in the same format.

As far as possible, the paired format for the Speaking Test procedure will be similar to that of the standard Speaking Test. Some further time is given for candidates to look at/read materials but the structure of the test is the same as in the standard test.

There is no Part 2 in B1 Preliminary Speaking Special Arrangements papers.

What about timing?

For both paired and single candidate format tests, interlocutors allow candidates additional time to process texts and questions before replying, or to read and think about written material. The amount of additional time is at the discretion of the examiner, but the candidates are always given sufficient time to read and process tasks. Approximate timings are shown in the following sample interlocutor frames.

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You can also reach the Helpdesk at helpdesk@cambridgeenglish.org or call +44 1223 553997 (for urgent queries).
Paired candidate format
Visual material

For candidates using:

• Standard visual material
• Enlarged visual material
Part 1 (2–3 minutes approx.)

**Phase 1**

**Interlocutor**

*To both candidates*  
Good morning/afternoon/evening.  
Can I have your mark sheets, please?  
*Hand over the mark sheets to the Assessor.*  
I’m ………… and this is ………… .

*To Candidate A*  
What’s your name? Where do you live/come from?  
Thank you.

*To Candidate B*  
And what’s your name? Where do you live/come from?  
Thank you.

(Interlocutor asks the following questions.)

**Back-up prompts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B, do you work or are you a student?</th>
<th>Do you have a job?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do you study?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you do/study?</td>
<td>What job do you do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What subject do you study?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>And A, do you work or are you a student?</th>
<th>Do you have a job?</th>
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<td>Thank you.</td>
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**Phase 2**

**Interlocutor**

Select one or more questions from the list to ask each candidate. Ask Candidate A first.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>How do you get to work/school/university every day?</td>
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There is no Part 2 in Preliminary Speaking SA papers.
Speaking Test 1 (Work and Relaxation)

Parts 3 and 4 (6 minutes)

Interlocutor

I’m going to describe a situation to you. A young man works very hard and has only one free day a week. He wants to find an activity to help him relax.

Here are some activities to help him relax.

Place Part 3 booklet, open at Task 1, in front of the candidates. Allow candidates adequate time to read the task.

Now, talk to each other about the different activities he could do, and say which would be most relaxing.

All right? Now, talk together.

Candidates

……………………………………………………………………

Interlocutor

Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?) Retrieve Part 3 booklet.

Part 4

Interlocutor

Use the following questions, as appropriate:

- What do you do when you want to relax? (Why?)
- Do you prefer to relax with friends or alone? (Why?)
- Is it important to do exercise in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)
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- Do you think people spend too much time working/studying these days? (Why?/Why not?)

Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:

- How/what about you?
- Do you agree?
- What do you think?

Thank you. That is the end of the test.
Activities to help the man relax
Paired candidate format
Written prompts

For candidates using:

• Enlarged written prompts
  • Braille prompts*

*Braille prompts will have the same wording as the enlarged written prompts.
Phase 1

Interlocutor

To both candidates

Good morning/afternoon/evening. Can I have your mark sheets, please?

*Hand over the mark sheets to the Assessor.*

I’m ………… and this is …………

To Candidate A

What’s your name? Where do you live/come from?
Thank you.

To Candidate B

And what’s your name? Where do you live/come from?
Thank you.

(Interlocutor asks the following questions.)

**Back-up prompts**

B, do you work or are you a student?

Do you have a job?
Do you study?

What do you do/study?
What job do you do?
What subject do you study?

Thank you.

And A, do you work or are you a student?

Do you have a job?
Do you study?

What do you do/study?
What job do you do?
What subject do you study?

Thank you.
### Phase 2

**Interlocutor**

*Select one or more questions from the list to ask each candidate. Ask Candidate A first.*

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Here are some activities to help him relax.

Place Part 3 booklet, open at Task 1, in front of the candidates. Allow candidates adequate time to read the task.

Now, talk to each other about the different activities he could do, and say which would be most relaxing.

All right? Now, talk together.

………………………………………………………..

Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?) Retrieve Part 3 booklet.

Use the following questions, as appropriate:

- What do you do when you want to relax? (Why?)
- Do you prefer to relax with friends or alone? (Why?)
- Is it important to do exercise in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)
- Is it useful to learn new skills in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)
- Do you think people spend too much time working/studying these days? (Why?/Why not?)

Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:

- How/what about you?
- Do you agree?
- What do you think?

Thank you. That is the end of the test.
What different activities could the man do to help him relax?

1. Fishing
2. Cooking
3. Swimming
4. Walking the dog
5. Reading a book
6. Painting a picture
7. Dancing at a party