A2 Key for Schools Speaking test

Watch the video of Wensley and Janson doing a Speaking test and read the examiner comments.

The video is in the Speaking test section of the A2 Key for Schools preparation webpage.

Information about the format is here: A2 Key for Schools exam format.

Part 1

Wensley

Wensley gives quick and relevant answers. However, they are very short, such as when he answers the questions about what his favourite instrument is and where he likes listening to music with ‘piano’ and ‘in my house’. One longer sentence that he produces in this part of the test is, ‘I buy things that involves mechanisms and electronic items’ in response to the examiner’s question, ‘Please tell me something about presents you buy for your friends’.

Short answers mean fewer errors, however, it also means that it’s difficult to demonstrate grammatical knowledge

His pronunciation with words is generally clear, although when he is referring to where he lives and where he likes to go shopping it is harder to understand him if you don’t know the local area. Short answers make it difficult to judge his pronunciation at sentence level.

Janson

Janson gives full answers without moving away from the topic. (‘I like pop music the most’; ‘My favourite singer is Justin Bieber’). Although none of his responses extend beyond the sentence level, they are all prompt and has a good range of structures and vocabulary so he can answer all the questions without any difficulty.

Grammatical structures are accurate too; although there is no evidence of a wide variety of different structures.

His pronunciation of individual sounds is clear.
Part 2

Wensley

Wensley interacts well with both the interlocutor and Janson, starting by asking Janson a question. He then agrees with Janson before replying with his own ideas. His replies in this part of the test are much fuller than before and most of them are coherent, relevant, and extended, such as when he responds to Janson’s explanation of why he would like to go to Japan with a different reason of his own: ‘I would also like to visit Japan because they’re famous for a lot of things.’ His pronunciation is generally clear, although one or two final consonants are not pronounced.

Janson

Janson responds to Wensley’s question about camping with an explanation: ‘Because I might get bitten by mosquitoes’ and then asks a question of his own. He produces some extended contributions, but with some errors – shown in brackets – for example, ‘I like going to [the] mountain[s] and skiing the best because I get to play [in the] snow and ski.’. However, he interacts well with both Wensley and the interlocutor and does produce some good answers, such as his own response to being asked which country he would like to visit: ‘I would like to visit Japan because I can try out their food.’ His pronunciation continues to be mostly intelligible.

Scores

Wensley

Grammar and Vocabulary: 4.5
Pronunciation: 4.5
Interactive Communication: 5
Global Achievement: 4.5

Janson

Grammar and Vocabulary: 4.5
Pronunciation: 4.5
Interactive Communication: 5
Global Achievement: 4.5
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