Cambridge English Qualifications

Overview of the B1 Preliminary Speaking test – Teacher's notes

Description

The overview lesson starts with a card matching exercise that gets learners to sort and match up different sections of the exam with their relevant features, then compare them with a projected overview before finally answering a questionnaire worksheet about the B1 Preliminary Speaking test.

Time required:	30 minutes
Materials required:	▪ B1 Preliminary Handbook for teachers digital copy or page 52 scanned to be projected ▪ Student handout 1 (cut into cards) ▪ Student handout 2 ▪ Speaking test video (optional)
Aims:	▪ to learn about the format and features of B1 Preliminary Speaking test.

Procedure

1. Cut up several copies of **Student handout 1** – one set of cards for each group of 3 or 4 students. Establish at this point that it's not really important 'to be right' but just to put the cards into a logical sequence or pattern. Learners discuss their ideas in groups and then explain to the whole class how they have organised the cards. Do not comment at this stage.
2. Project the overview of the Speaking test from the **Handbook** (page 52) or a worksheet copy of this if projection facilities are not available. Talk through the overview and learners discuss/reform their own cards to match the projection.
3. Projection is then switched off, collect the cards from each group.
4. In pairs, students answer questionnaire on **Handout 2** remembering information from steps 1 and 2.
5. Manage feedback on overview, eliciting peer correction: e.g. 'Maria and Elia think that Part 3 is an individual turn – are they right?', only correcting if necessary.
6. Hand out cards from step 1 again and tell groups they have to organise them in 'double quick time' (for example a minute or even 30 seconds for stronger learners) and that they should be accurate with their answers! At the end of the time the projection should be displayed and answers checked.
7. Randomly ask individual learners to answer selected questions from the questionnaire worksheet.
8. Watch a full B1 Preliminary Speaking test if there is time (optional).

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Suggested follow-up activity

Learners could be directed to the relevant **Cambridge Assessment website** in order to take notes about the Speaking test format. Students could also watch the B1 preliminary **Speaking test video online.**

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B1 Preliminary Speaking Overview
Student handout 1

Cut up the squares into cards and hand out to students, one set of cards for each group.

Part	**Timing**	**Interaction**	**Task type**	**What do candidates have to do?**
1	2-3 minutes	Interlocutor ↓ Candidate	Interlocutor asks questions to each candidate in turn	Respond to questions giving personal or factual information
2	3 minutes	Candidate extended turn	Extended turn	Candidate describes one colour photograph talking for about one minute
3	approx. 3 minutes	Candidate ↕ Candidate	Discussion task with pictures	Make and respond to suggestions, discuss alternatives and negotiate agreement.
4	3 minutes	Candidate ↕ Candidate	General conversation	Discuss likes, dislikes, experiences, opinions, habits, etc.

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B1 Preliminary Speaking Overview
Student handout 2

1. How many parts are there in the B1 Preliminary Speaking test?
2. How many parts of the B1 Preliminary Speaking test involve the candidate speaking alone to the examiner?
3. How many parts of the B1 Preliminary Speaking test involve speaking to the other candidate?
4. What do you do/say while your partner is doing Part 2?
5. In which part of the test do you have to describe a colour photograph, talking alone for about one minute?
6. In which part of the test do you have to respond to suggestions, agree and discuss alternatives?
7. In which part of the test do you give personal information?
8. In which part of the test do you give opinions, likes and dislikes?
9. How many parts of the test involve a picture or pictures?
10. How long does the whole test take?

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