



Cambridge English: First (FCE) Assessment commentary and marks: Florine and Maria

Video can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tqeI9t4x9E>

	Florine	Maria
Grammar and Vocabulary	5	3
Discourse Management	5	3
Pronunciation	5	3
Interactive Communication	5	4
Global Achievement	5	3

Florine

Grammar and Vocabulary Mark: 5

Control and range of grammar

Florine shows a good degree of control of a range of simple and some complex grammatical forms:

I think it must be a tourist because there's a map in the photo 2.50 Part 2

I don't think it will attract a lot of tourists because of one club 8.36 Part 3

Yes, maybe the parks are a better idea to provide because they're really nice to have a walk in 9.12 Part 3

There are also occasional lapses in control:

I actually have seen it last night 0.54 Part 1

There isn't a lot time for holidays 12.01 Part 4

Range and appropriacy of vocabulary

Florine uses a range of appropriate vocabulary to express her views on a wide range of familiar topics

Actually happened, Love relationship, main characters 1.00 - 07 Part 1

Soccer player, hurt 2.40 - 2.43 Part 2

In pain 3.14 Part 2

Get injuries 3.19 Part 2

Serve the people 3.37 Part 2

Shopaholics 7.37 Part 3

Putting up security cameras 7.58 Part 3

A combination of several things 8.42 Part 3

Fancy hotel 10.18 Part 4

Discourse Management Mark: 5

Extent

Florine produces extended stretches of language with very little hesitation. She speaks for a full minute when describing her picture in Part 2; however, her response to the question after her partner has described her picture is a little short, lasting only about 15 seconds, half the time available. Otherwise however, her contributions are of an appropriate length



I watch kind of different things; I watch the regular news and also just lazy entertainment programmes and also I watch a lot of movies 0.34 Part 1

Occasionally there is a little hesitation e.g.

... because I think you can also have a good time ... 10.02 Part 4

but generally this does not interfere with her extended contributions

Relevance, coherence and cohesion

Florine's contributions are relevant and ideas are clearly organized, using a range of cohesive devices and discourse markers

In the first picture ... in the second photo...it's really important to help people in these situations because ...
2.39ff Part 2

... because you have to have space for the tourists to live in, so if there's no space there probably won't be a lot of tourists 9.40 Part 3

If you're in school like I am you've got a lot of long breaks, especially the summer break ... but I think when you're done with school and you have to start your professional life, then there ... 11.45 Part 4

Pronunciation Mark: 5

Intelligibility

Florine is always intelligible

Intonation

Her intonation is generally appropriate, e.g.

Actually quite a lot. My mum doesn't always like it 1.28 Part 2

I actually don't really think that there are a lot of advantages 12.49 Part 4

Stress

Sentence and word stress is accurately placed

I really like the movie Titanic 0.51 Part 1

I think it's her own garden 5.32 Part 2

Individual sounds

Individual sounds are articulated clearly, with occasional exceptions, such as final /s/ in

Characters Part 1

officers Part 2

Interactive Communication Mark: 5

Initiating and responding

Florine initiates and responds appropriately, linking contributions to what her partner has said. She initiates the discussion in Part 3 and shows that she has listened to Maria's before adding her ideas.

Well I think all the ideas on the booklet are quite good actually ... 6.38 Part 3

Yes I think we can have a lot of fun in parks 7.13 Part 3

Yes definitely, but ... 8.34 Part 3

Development

Florine maintains and develops the interaction. She frequently invites Maria's responses:

What do you think about that? 6.55 Part 3

Why do you think that? 7.04 & 9.04 Part 3

She also negotiates towards an outcome.

So what do you think is the best idea? 8.53 Part 3



Global Achievement Mark: 5

Florine handles communication on the topics in the test with very little hesitation. She produces extended discourse which is coherent and uses mostly accurate and appropriate linguistic resources to express her ideas.

Maria

Grammar and Vocabulary Mark: 3

Control and range of grammar

Maria shows a good degree of control of a range of simple grammatical forms:

I'm going with my best friends to the cinema to see a comedy film 1.15 Part 1

The girl is planting a nice plant 5.01 Part 2

Or maybe the tourists like to spend more time in parks than go shopping 7.40 Part 3

There are also some lapses in control:

To listen music 1.56 Part 1

A woman ... maybe his house 4.28 Part 2

I can see in a beautiful park 4.37 Part 2

Both are enjoying a lot this homes 5.08 Part 2

With the cameras are good idea 8.06 Part 3

The world is increasing, so the people likes to travel 11.11 Part 4

Some people works not a lot so maybe can take more holidays 12.10 Part 4

So crowd 13.00 Part 4

Range and appropriacy of vocabulary

Maria uses a range of appropriate vocabulary to express her views on a range of familiar topics

Providing parks 7.02 Part 3

An island 10.36 Part 4

A campsite 10.40 Part 4

Occasionally she uses vocabulary which is not appropriate for what she means

The world is increasing 11.11 Part 4

Discourse Management Mark: 3

Extent

When she is describing her own picture in Part 2, she produces extended language despite some hesitation, but her talk is about 10 seconds shorter than the minute which is the length required.

I can see in the first picture (pause) a woman doing gardening (pause) in maybe his house (pause) 4.24 Part 2

In Part 3, some of her contributions are quite short, e.g.

Well I agree with you, but maybe providing parks is much better 6.58 Part 3

I think building holiday flats maybe 8.58 Part 3

She could extend what she says more, e.g. by offering reasons for her suggestions, rather than waiting for her partner to ask her why, which is what happened in the two examples above which then elicited the following support:

Because to spend time in parks are good with the family 7.07 Part 3

Because all the tourists like to have flats to stay 9.05 Part 3

The consequence of her frequent hesitation and shorter responses is that the amount of language she produces throughout the test is far less than it could be.



Relevance, coherence and cohesion

Maria's contributions are relevant and there is very little repetition; she uses a range of cohesive devices

It depends what problem I have, because sometimes when you are in different places, you are shy so you don't ask to help 3.47ff Part 2

I can see in the first picture a woman doing gardening ... in the second one I can see ... I think both are enjoying ... 4.24ff Part 2

Pronunciation Mark: 3

Intelligibility

Maria is intelligible

Intonation

Her intonation is generally appropriate

Stress

Word stress is generally accurately placed; she places stress on almost all words in her speech, rather than on content words, so there are very few weak sounds.

Not often but some Sundays I switch on the radio to listen music 1.54 Part 1

Well in Argentina if you like to do some nature activities you can go to..... 14.07 Part 4

Individual sounds

Although Maria does not use weak sounds or schwa, individual sounds are generally articulated clearly; with a few exceptions:

Island /s/ pronounced 10.38 Part 4

It's /is/ 12.32 Part 4

Spend /espend/ 12.34 Part 4

Sports /esports/ 14.21 Part 4

Interactive Communication Mark: 4

Initiating and responding

Maria initiates and responds appropriately, listening to Florine's ideas and responding with her own:

Well, I agree with you, but maybe providing parks is much better 6.57 Part 3

Yes, or maybe the tourists like to spend 7.39 Part 3

Although she responds to Florine's contributions and adds her own ideas, she could extend her answers more. She also does not invite Florine's responses enough. The only times she does this are below.

Spend more time in parks than go shopping, no? 7.45 Part 3

It depends the age of the tourists, no? 8.29 Part 3

Maria's addition to Florine's response to the question about the advantage of living in a place where there are a lot of tourists is appropriate.

She begins 'No', but actually she means that she agrees:

No, because maybe the city or the town is going to be so crowd, so you can't do a lot of activities because all the places are full 12.54 Part 4

Development

Maria maintains and develops the interaction with very little support.

Yes, with the cameras are good idea because the people are more safe than without cameras 8.05 Part 3

Yes, so if you like, providing parks is a good idea 9.27 Part 3



Global Achievement Mark: 3

Maria handles communication on the topics in the test, but with some hesitation. She produces some extended discourse which is mostly coherent, though there are a few instances which lack coherence. There are also some inaccuracies and inappropriate usage.