



Classroom Handout 1

Activity 1

Look at these questions about the Cambridge First Speaking test (Paper 4). See if you can answer them by selecting the correct answer.

1. How long does the Speaking test usually last?
a) 12 minutes b) 14 minutes c) 15 minutes d) it varies
2. How many candidates usually take the test together?
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4
3. Can candidates choose how many partners they'll have?
a) Yes b) No
4. How many examiners are there?
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4
5. Do both examiners assess the students?
a) Yes b) No
6. Do both examiners speak during the test?
a) Yes b) No
7. How many parts are there?
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4
8. Do the candidates speak to each other as well as to the examiner?
a) Yes b) No
9. Are all the tasks on the same topic or theme?
a) Yes b) No
10. Are all the parts assessed?
a) Yes b) No



Classroom Handout 2

The standard format is two examiners (interlocutor and assessor) and two candidates. Both examiners assess the candidates, but only the interlocutor speaks. In cases where there is an uneven number of candidates at a centre, the last Speaking test of the session will be taken by three candidates together instead of two. When three candidates are tested together, the test format, test material and procedure will remain unchanged, but the timing will be longer: 20 minutes instead of 14.

At the end of the Speaking test, candidates are not given their mark.

PART 1 – INTERVIEW

This part tests the candidates' ability to use social and interactional language.

The candidates are not actively invited to talk to each other in this part of the test, though they may if they wish. This short social exchange is a natural way to begin an interaction, and it gives candidates time to settle before dealing with the more specific tasks in Parts 2, 3 and 4.

PART 2 – LONG TURN

This part tests the candidates' ability to produce an extended piece of discourse.

Candidates are expected to point out the similarities and differences between the photographs and then move on to deal with the question. Candidates have the opportunity to show their ability to organise their thoughts and ideas, and express themselves coherently with appropriate language.

PART 3 – COLLABORATIVE TASK

This part tests the candidates' ability to engage in a discussion and to work towards a negotiated outcome of the task set.

The candidates are given written stimuli, with a question and some ideas for answering this question. Candidates are given 15 seconds to look at the stimuli. They are expected to discuss the ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, evaluating and speculating for two minutes. Then they are asked to reach a decision

and are assessed on their ability to use the language of negotiation and collaboration while doing this. The task gives candidates the opportunity to show their range of language and their ability to invite the opinions and ideas of their partner. Candidates are expected to share the interaction in this way and to initiate and respond appropriately.

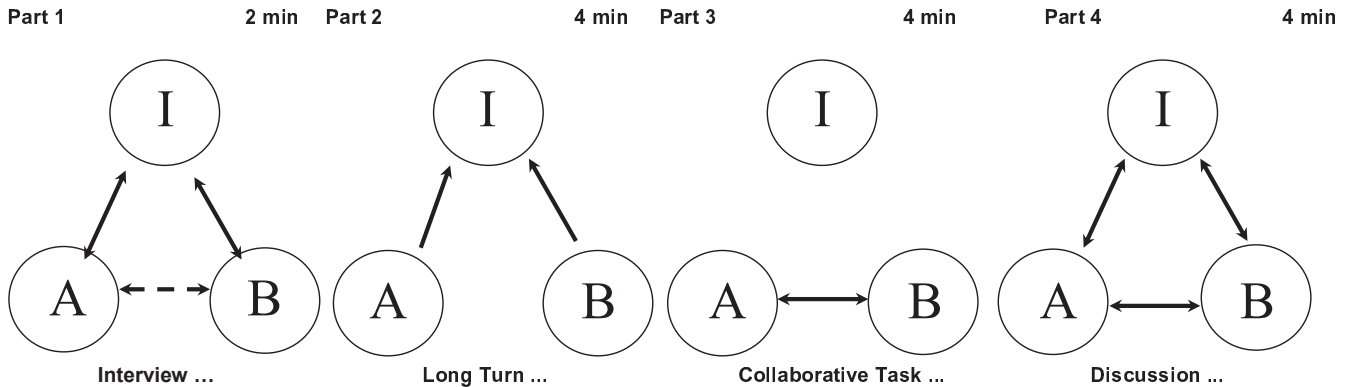
PART 4 – DISCUSSION

This part tests the candidates' ability to engage in a discussion based on the topic of the collaborative task in Part 3

The questions differ from Part 1 in that they ask primarily for an evaluation rather than for information. This part of the test gives candidates an opportunity to show that they are capable of discussing issues in more depth than in the earlier parts of the test.

Classroom Handout 3

Match the descriptions of the each section of the Speaking test to the interaction diagrams below.
Key: I = Interlocutor A = Candidate A B = Candidate B ↔ = Interaction



a) The interlocutor directs the interaction by asking questions which encourage the candidates to broaden and discuss further the topics from the previous section. This part of the test gives candidates an opportunity to show they are capable of discussing issues in more depth.

b) The task gives candidates the opportunity to show their range of language and their ability to invite the opinions and ideas of their partner. Candidates are expected to collaborate and negotiate with each other, sharing the interaction.

c) The candidates are not actively invited to talk to each other in this part of the test, though they may if they wish. This short social exchange with the interlocutor is a natural way to begin an interaction.

d) Candidates have the opportunity to show their ability to organise their thoughts and ideas, and express themselves coherently with appropriate language. The listening candidate should not speak during their partner's long turn.