IELTS SPEAKING

How to help students perform at the best in this module?

LSPOC Training Workshop for Student Tutors

26 May 2021

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2. Assessment Criterion

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1. The Basic Info: One-to-One Interview

1. How much time does this speaking test last for?

- 11-14 minutes

2. How many parts does the test have?

- 3 parts

3. What will each part of the test ask candidates to do?

- Part 1: Checking ID & Answering 2 sets of general questions on familiar topics (4-5 min)

- Part 2: Giving a long-turn speech on a specific topic and answering follow-up questions (3-4 min)

- Part 3: Answering more general and abstract questions related to Part 2 topic (4-5 min)

4. What topics will be asked about during the test?

- Familiar topics which can have many sub-topics: family, society, education, technology, health, transport, commerce, communication, media, employment, environment, architecture, etc.

1. The Format: Process & Essential Tips

1

A short introductory conversation

- Answer questions on 2 simple topics that are often related to personal information and experiences

- Tip: Don't give very short answers (e.g. only saying yes/no) though a long answer is not expected.

2

A long-turn speech

- 1 minute to prepare and take notes
- Speak for 2 minutes
- Answer 1-2 round-off questions

- Tip: Speak for sufficient time.

3

A discussion of issues related to the theme of the task in Part 2

- Answer more general and abstract questions on 2-3 sub-topics related to the theme

- Tip: Longer answers are expected. Don't only talk about "you" and "your personal experience".

1. What language functions are required in the test?

The following language functions are covered in the 3 parts of the IELTS Speaking test, so candidates must understand each of these language functions:

- Providing personal and non-personal information

- Expressing preferences, likes and dislikes

- Giving reasons, explanations, and examples

- Speculating and predicting

- Comparing and contrasting

- Describing people, places, objects, events

- Expressing opinions

- Expressing conditions

- Making suggestions

2. Assessment Criteria

Candidates will be expected <u>to answer short questions</u>, <u>speak fluently and clearly</u> on a chosen topic, and to <u>interact with the examiner</u>. The examiner will assess a candidate's English speaking proficiency using the 4 criteria listed below:

1. Fluency and Coherence

2. Lexical Resource

3. Grammatical range and accuracy

4. Pronunciation

Question:

What factors will affect the examiner's judgement of a candidate's performance in the 4 domains?

IELTS Speaking Public Descriptors

2. Criteria: Fluency and Coherence & Lexical Resource

1. Fluency and Coherence

1) **Speech rate:** how fast a speaker is

2) **Continuity:** keeping going with/without effort (e.g. hesitations, pauses, false-starters, repetition, self-corrections)

3) **Coherence:** how effective ideas and language are linked and organized by using conjunctions, pronouns, and connectors to ensure a logical sequence of ideas

2. Lexical Resource

1) **Accuracy:** whether a speaker can choose precise words (and word forms) to express meaning and attitude/style naturally

2) **Range:** whether a speaker can use different words (in particular less common words and idiomatic language) flexibly to talk about a range of topics with little repetition by paraphrases and circumlocution (when candidates are not sure of the exact word)

2. Criteria: Grammatical Range and Accuracy & Pronunciation

3. Grammatical Range and Accuracy

1) **Accuracy:** how frequent mistakes occur in speaking and whether those mistakes affect understanding, such as different tenses, subject/verb agreement, singular/plural forms, articles, preposition, etc.

2) **Range:** the length and complexity of sentences and how flexible a speaker is when using different structures, such as the use of subordinate clauses and the range of sentence structures.

4. Pronunciation

1) **Use of positive pronunciation features:** whether a speaker can use a range of positive features naturally to help express meaning and attitude, such as chunking, stress, intonation, linking, etc.

2) **Pronunciation accuracy and clarity:** whether a speaker can say words/sounds accurately and clearly and how much strain inaccuracies may cause for listeners to process the meaning

3. Part 1 & Part 3 Example: Feedback on Students' Performance

✓ Watch the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdSK1_tzt8I from 0:07 to 4:47 (Part 1) and from 7:30 to the end (Part 3). **Give some comments to the candidate on the 2 domains by referring to the public descriptors:**

✓ **How can she improve her performance?**

1. Fluency and Coherence

1) **Speech rate:** how fast a speaker is

2) **Continuity:** keeping going with/without effort (e.g. hesitations, pauses, false-starters, repetition, self-corrections, fillers.)

3) **Coherence:** how effective ideas and language are linked and organized by using conjunctions, pronouns, and connectors to ensure a logical sequence of ideas

2. Lexical Resource

1) **Accuracy:** whether a speaker can choose precise words (and word forms) to express meaning and attitude/style naturally

2) **Range:** whether a speaker can use different words (in particular less common words and idiomatic language) flexibly to talk about a range of topics with little repetition by paraphrases and circumlocution (when candidates are not sure of the exact word)

3. Part 2 & Part 3 Example: Feedback on Students' Performance

Watch the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yzmu5Z9KZ48 from 4:59 to 7:24 (Part 2) and from 7:25 to the end (Part 3). **<u>Give some comments to the candidate on the 2 domains by referring to the public descriptors:</u>**

How can he improve his performance?

1. Fluency and Coherence

1) **Speech rate:** how fast a speaker is

2) **Continuity:** keeping going with/without effort (e.g. hesitations, pauses, false-starters, repetition, self-corrections, fillers.)

3) **Coherence:** how effective ideas and language are linked and organized by using conjunctions, pronouns, and connectors to ensure a logical sequence of ideas

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1) **Accuracy:** whether a speaker can choose precise words (and word forms) to express meaning and attitude/style naturally

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4. How can students improve through our LSPOC?

1. **Vocabulary and ideas inputs:**

   - To provide students exposure to a variety of topics (in particular less familiar topics) that are often assessed in IELTS
   - To acquire useful vocabulary related to the topics
   - To learn how to use the topical vocabulary in a given context from the course tutors
   - To use the newly acquired vocabulary and ideas through speaking practices

2. **IELTS Speaking and Writing test-taking and preparation strategies:**

   - To help students develop a understanding of how to meet the requirements and expectations

3. **Speaking practices:**

   - to help students familiarize themselves with the test format through exercises modelled on IELTS (Speaking Part 2 and 3)
   - to motivate students to speak more so as to improve general language proficiency in speaking, in particular in the area of fluency and vocabulary
   - to improve confidence in English speaking

4. **Feedback and learning resources:**

   - to help students understand their strengths and weaknesses in speaking and learn how to improve their skills

Any questions about IELTS Speaking?