

1.3

EXAM FORMAT

Exam Success

The initial questions in this part of the test are usually the easiest to answer. However, candidates sometimes make mistakes because they are nervous so it's important to practise.

EXAM PRACTICE

Learning Tip

When you practise speaking, record yourself and listen to yourself afterwards. What did you do well? Did you make any mistakes? What can you improve?

Speaking Test: Part One

There are three parts to the Speaking Test. In this Exam spotlight you will look at Part One, which lasts for three minutes in total. The examiner will ask questions to both candidates during this time. The questions are quite general at first: about yourself, your studies or career, and about where you come from. Afterwards, he or she may also ask you questions about business topics.



1 Here are some responses by a candidate to the general questions in this part of the test. They each contain one mistake. Can you correct them?

0 My name^s Pierre.

A Yes, I am thinking English is very important for this kind of work because everyone uses English in business nowadays.

B Well, it's a business studies degree and I'm interesting in marketing.

C I from a small town in northern Switzerland.

D I'd like work in a marketing department so I've started applying for jobs with companies in Switzerland.

E Actually, I'm just finish my degree at the University of Zurich.

F Since about six years.

2 Complete the beginning of a Speaking Test with answers 0–F from exercise 1.

Examiner First of all, I'd like to know something about you. What's your name?

Candidate (1) _____

Examiner And where are you from?

Candidate (2) _____

Examiner Do you work or are you a student?

Candidate (3) _____

Examiner OK. So what do you like most about your studies?

Candidate (4) _____

Examiner What are your plans for the future?

Candidate (5) _____

Examiner Do you think English will be important to you in your career?

Candidate (6) _____

Examiner So how long have you been learning English?

Candidate (7) _____

3 Work in pairs. Practise a similar conversation between the examiner and the candidate using the questions in exercise 2.

Exam Success

- Listen very carefully to the questions.
- Answer the question the examiner asks you.
- Ask him / her to repeat the question if necessary.
- Give your opinion and give examples to explain what you mean.
- Try to give more than just the basic answer.
- You are being tested on your English, not your knowledge of business.

EXAM SELF-CHECK

4 After the general questions, the examiner will ask you about business topics. Here are some typical topics for the conversation.

- Business in your home town or country.
- The importance of English in business.
- The effect of technology on business.
- Present and future changes in working life.
- Training and development in the workplace.
- Ways of selling products or services.

5  **1.3** Listen to part of a Speaking Test. Which two topics in the list does the examiner ask about?

<http://jeisee.com/tten/text/download/sound/?id=1117&filename=03.mp3>

6  **1.3** Listen again. Complete the missing words in this part of the conversation.

<http://jeisee.com/tten/text/download/sound/?id=1117&filename=03.mp3>

Candidate Err, well, (1) _____ tourism is quite important to the area and there are many small farms of agriculture also. Zurich, where I study, is more famous of course for banking and financial services.

Examiner How is working life changing in your country?

Candidate Sorry, (2) _____ the question, please?

Examiner Yes, how is working life changing in your country?

Candidate (3) _____ more and more people are moving to the cities or they are commuting in every day. (4) _____, the biggest change has come from technology – but then that's probably true everywhere, not just in my country ...

7 Work in pairs. Prepare one question for each of the six topics in exercise 4. Next, change your partner. In your new pairs, take turns to be the candidate and the examiner. Ask each other your questions and answer them.

8 When you practise Part One of the Speaking Test, evaluate your own or each other's performance with this checklist.

Did you ...	• answer the question?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• give full answers (not just one or two words)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• express your opinion?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• sound interested?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Useful expressions for Speaking Part One

Answering personal questions

I'm a ... / I come from ... / I live in ...

I've lived / worked / studied there
for ... / since ...

At the moment, I'm studying /
working on ...

I'm interested in ... / I'd like to work
in ...

Expressing opinions and preferences

I think that ...

In my opinion ...

I think I'd prefer ...

I'd agree with that because ...

Speculating

I suppose that ...

I would think that ...

I don't know for certain but I'd
expect ...

Asking the examiner to repeat a question

Sorry, could you repeat the question,
please?

Sorry, can you say that again?