



English Speaking Board

**ESB Level 1 Certificate in ESOL
International All Modes - (B2)
500/3647/6**

B2 Speaking Test

EXAMINER PROMPTS

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**Not to be distributed until immediately prior to
the oral assessments.
For the examiner's eyes only.**

To be used in conjunction with documents from standardisation.

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Part 1 – Introduction

Interview to elicit personal information

The interview consists of a number of short turns with candidates being invited to respond alternately. Candidates respond to the interlocutor and not to each other.

Part One lasts for **two minutes** divided equally between both candidates. In the event of **three candidates**, allow **three minutes** divided equally between all candidates.

Candidates are shown in by one or other of the examiners and invited to sit down.

(Interlocutor) **Good morning/afternoon/hello.** *(Make a note of the time at this point as this is the official start of the test)* **I am (interlocutor's name) and this is my colleague (assessor's name). S/He will just be listening.**

Assessor greets the candidates: **Good morning/afternoon/hello.**

(Interlocutor) **Can I have your mark sheets (and your ID) please?**

What's your name? *(to Candidate A)* **And what's your name?** *(to Candidate B)*
And what's your name? *(to Candidate C if necessary)*
Thank you.

First I'm going to ask you some questions about yourselves.

Interlocutor asks Candidates A and B (and C) a selection of questions from those below.

Where you live

- **Tell me about the place where you live.**
- **What do you like most about your home?**
- **Is there anything you would like to change in your home town?**

Free Time

- **What sports do you enjoy?**
- **How do you celebrate birthdays?**
- **What do you like doing when you go out with your friends?**

Out and About

- **Where do you go with your family?**
- **Where did you spend your last holiday?**
- **What is the best way to travel around your country?**

Thank you.

Part 2 - Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 1: Films

Candidates discuss a topic based on two prompts provided by the interlocutor. They exchange ideas and opinions and sustain a discussion for **four minutes**. The interlocutor does not take part in the discussion. If candidates start to address the interlocutor directly, hand or other gestures should be used to indicate that the candidates should speak to each other.

(Interlocutor) Now in this part of the test, I am going to give both of you two written statements based on the same topic. I would like you to talk together for four minutes using the statements to help you. You can add ideas of your own if you wish. I am just going to listen to you. You have only about four minutes so don't worry if I stop you and please speak so that we can both hear you.

(To both Candidate A and B) Here are your statements. *(Place the prompt in the middle of the pair)* The topic is 'Films'.

You may start when you are ready.

(After four minutes) Thank you.

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 1: Films (B2)

Part 2

Candidates A and B:

- People can learn a lot of interesting things by watching films.
- Many films contain too much violence and bad language.

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 1: Films

A three-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on the topic from Part Two of the test. The interlocutor leads the discussion by selecting from the questions below. It is not necessary to use all the questions. The interlocutor may ask for a specific response from one candidate or throw the discussion open to both candidates. The interlocutor should encourage candidates to elaborate on, or react to, their partner's response by verbal invitation (e.g. *What do you think?* *Do you agree?*) or non-verbal gesture. Candidates should be given equal opportunities to speak but the interlocutor may wish to give a candidate who has been rather reticent in earlier parts of the test a chance to redress the balance.

This part of the test lasts about **five minutes**.

(Interlocutor to both Candidates A and B) **We are going to talk together for about five minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'Films', the same as in Part Two of the test**

- Do you think old films are still interesting to watch?
- Which kind of films do you prefer?
- Which actor or actress do you admire most?
- Can watching films help you improve your English?
- Do you prefer watching a film at the cinema or at home?
- Do you like watching films more than reading books?

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. *(Interlocutor and Assessor)*

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 2: Communication

Candidates discuss a topic based on two prompts provided by the interlocutor. They exchange ideas and opinions and sustain a discussion for **four minutes**. The interlocutor does not take part in the discussion. If candidates start to address the interlocutor directly, hand or other gestures should be used to indicate that the candidates should speak to each other.

(Interlocutor) Now in this part of the test, I am going to give both of you two written statements based on the same topic. I would like you to talk together for four minutes using the statements to help you. You can add ideas of your own if you wish. I am just going to listen to you. You have only about four minutes so don't worry if I stop you and please speak so that we can both hear you.

(To both Candidates A and B) Here are your statements. *(Place the prompt in the middle of the pair)* The topic is 'Communication'.
You may start when you are ready.

(After four minutes) Thank you.

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 2: Communication (B2)

Part 2

Candidates A and B:

- Technology has made communication much easier and more efficient.
- It is difficult to make real friends on social networking sites.

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 2: Communication

A three-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on the topic from Part Two of the test. The interlocutor leads the discussion by selecting from the questions below. It is not necessary to use all the questions. The interlocutor may ask for a specific response from one candidate or throw the discussion open to both candidates. The interlocutor should encourage candidates to elaborate on, or react to, their partner's response by verbal invitation (e.g. *What do you think?* *Do you agree?*) or non-verbal gesture. Candidates should be given equal opportunities to speak but the interlocutor may wish to give a candidate who has been rather reticent in earlier parts of the test a chance to redress the balance. This part of the test lasts about **five minutes**.

(Interlocutor to both Candidates A and B) **We are going to talk together for about five minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'Communication', the same as in Part Two of the test.**

- **What are the disadvantages of mobile phones?**
- **Do you think that people will still send letters by post in the future?**
- **What is the best way to communicate with friends who live far away?**
- **What are the advantages of being able to speak different languages?**
- **How do you keep up-to-date with the news?**
- **Do you spend a lot of time with your family?**

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. *(Interlocutor and Assessor)*

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 3: Historical Places

Candidates discuss a topic based on two prompts provided by the interlocutor. They exchange ideas and opinions and sustain a discussion for **four minutes**. The interlocutor does not take part in the discussion. If candidates start to address the interlocutor directly, hand or other gestures should be used to indicate that the candidates should speak to each other.

(Interlocutor) Now in this part of the test, I am going to give both of you two written statements based on the same topic. I would like you to talk together for four minutes using the statements to help you. You can add ideas of your own if you wish. I am just going to listen to you. You have only about four minutes so don't worry if I stop you and please speak so that we can both hear you.

(To both Candidates A and B) Here are your statements. *(Place the prompt in the middle of the pair)* The topic is 'Historical Places'.

You may start when you are ready.

(After four minutes) Thank you.

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 3: Historical Places (B2)

Part 2

Candidates A and B:

- Historical places should be preserved and looked after even if this is expensive.
- Schools should take children to the major historical places in their country.

Part 3 – Responding to Questions.

TOPIC 3: Historical Places

A three-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on the topic from Part Two of the test. The interlocutor leads the discussion by selecting from the questions below. It is not necessary to use all the questions. The interlocutor may ask for a specific response from one candidate or throw the discussion open to both candidates. The interlocutor should encourage candidates to elaborate on, or react to, their partner's response by verbal invitation (*e.g. What do you think? Do you agree?*) or non-verbal gesture. Candidates should be given equal opportunities to speak but the interlocutor may wish to give a candidate who has been rather reticent in earlier parts of the test a chance to redress the balance. This part of the test lasts about **five minutes**.

(Interlocutor to both Candidates A and B) **We are going to talk together for about five minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'Historical Places', the same as in Part Two of the test.**

- **Is history a useful subject to study at school?**
- **Do you think films and television programmes can make history more interesting?**
- **Which historical places have you enjoyed visiting?**
- **Which historical places in your country are the most popular with tourists?**
- **Which historical place in another country would you most like to visit and why?**
- **Do you enjoy visiting museums?**

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. *(Interlocutor and Assessor)*

Part 2 - Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 4: Creativity

Candidates discuss a topic based on two prompts provided by the interlocutor. They exchange ideas and opinions and sustain a discussion for **four minutes**. The interlocutor does not take part in the discussion. If candidates start to address the interlocutor directly, hand or other gestures should be used to indicate that the candidates should speak to each other.

(Interlocutor) Now in this part of the test, I am going to give both of you two written statements based on the same topic. I would like you to talk together for four minutes using the statements to help you. You can add ideas of your own if you wish. I am just going to listen to you. You have only about four minutes so don't worry if I stop you and please speak so that we can both hear you.

(To both Candidates A and B) Here are your statements. *(Place the prompt in the middle of the pair)* The topic is 'Creativity'.

You may start when you are ready.

(After four minutes) Thank you.

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 4: Creativity (B2)

Part 2

Candidates A and B:

- There are many different types of creative hobbies which are fun as well as useful.
- Studying creative subjects, such as art or music, at school is beneficial for young people.

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 4: Creativity

A three-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on the topic from Part Two of the test. The interlocutor leads the discussion by selecting from the questions below. It is not necessary to use all the questions. The interlocutor may ask for a specific response from one candidate or throw the discussion open to both candidates. The interlocutor should encourage candidates to elaborate on, or react to, their partner's response by verbal invitation (e.g. *What do you think?* *Do you agree?*) or non-verbal gesture. Candidates should be given equal opportunities to speak but the interlocutor may wish to give a candidate who has been rather reticent in earlier parts of the test a chance to redress the balance. This part of the test lasts about **five minutes**.

(Interlocutor to both Candidates A and B) **We are going to talk together for about five minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'Creativity', the same as in Part Two of the test.**

- **Are you creative in any way?**
- **What kind of creative hobbies are popular with young people?**
- **Have you ever made something by yourself?**
- **Would you describe yourself as musical?**
- **What creative skill would you like to learn in the future?**
- **Are traditional arts and crafts still important in your country?**

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. *(Interlocutor and Assessor)*

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 5: Health (Can be used for three candidates)

Candidates discuss a topic based on two (*three*) prompts provided by the interlocutor. They exchange ideas and opinions and sustain a discussion for **four (*six*) minutes**. The interlocutor does not take part in the discussion. If candidates start to address the interlocutor directly, hand or other gestures should be used to indicate that the candidates should speak to each other.

(Interlocutor) Now in this part of the test, I am going to give both (*all*) of you two (*three*) written statements based on the same topic. I would like you to talk together for four (*six*) minutes using the statements to help you. You can add ideas of your own if you wish. I am just going to listen to you. You have only about four (*six*) minutes so don't worry if I stop you and please speak so that we can both hear you.

(To Candidates A and B (and C)) Here are your statements. *(Place the prompt in the middle of the pair/group)* The topic is 'Health'.

You may start when you are ready.

(After four (six) minutes) **Thank you.**

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 5: Health (B2)

Part 2

Candidates A and B (and C):

- The best way to stay healthy is to eat a balanced diet.
- Many people become sick because they never have enough time to relax.
- Everybody should have regular health checks with a doctor.

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 5: Health (Can be used for three candidates)

A three (*four*)-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on the topic from Part Two of the test. The interlocutor leads the discussion by selecting from the questions below. It is not necessary to use all the questions. The interlocutor may ask for a specific response from one candidate or throw the discussion open to both (*all*) candidates. The interlocutor should encourage candidates to elaborate on, or react to, their partner's(s') response by verbal invitation (*e.g. What do you think? Do you agree?*) or non-verbal gesture. Candidates should be given equal opportunities to speak but the interlocutor may wish to give a candidate who has been rather reticent in earlier parts of the test a chance to redress the balance. This part of the test lasts about **five (seven) minutes**.

(Interlocutor to Candidates A and B (and C)) **We are going to talk together for about five (seven) minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner(s) say(s). The topic we are discussing is 'Health', the same as in Part Two of the test.**

- **How do you keep fit and healthy?**
- **What kind of things make you feel tired?**
- **What do you think is the healthiest meal you could eat?**
- **Would you like to be a doctor or a nurse?**
- **What sporting activities are available where you live?**
- **How can the weather affect our health?**
- **What do you do when you feel stressed?**

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. (*Interlocutor and Assessor*)

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 6: Money (Can be used for three candidates)

Candidates discuss a topic based on two (*three*) prompts provided by the interlocutor. They exchange ideas and opinions and sustain a discussion for **four (*six*) minutes**. The interlocutor does not take part in the discussion. If candidates start to address the interlocutor directly, hand or other gestures should be used to indicate that the candidates should speak to each other.

(Interlocutor) Now in this part of the test, I am going to give both (*all*) of you two (*three*) written statements based on the same topic. I would like you to talk together for four (*six*) minutes using the statements to help you. You can add ideas of your own if you wish. I am just going to listen to you. You have only about four (*six*) minutes so don't worry if I stop you and please speak so that we can both hear you.

(To Candidates A and B (and C)) Here are your statements. *(Place the prompt in the middle of the pair/group)* The topic is 'Money'.

You may start when you are ready.

(After four (six) minutes) **Thank you.**

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 6: Money (B2)

Part 2

Candidates A and B (and C):

- People who are rich live a less stressful life.
- Money is not necessary for health and happiness.
- If you have money, you should help those people who are poor.

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 6: Money (Can be used for three candidates.)

A three (*four*)-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on the topic from Part Two of the test. The interlocutor leads the discussion by selecting from the questions below. It is not necessary to use all the questions. The interlocutor may ask for a specific response from one candidate or throw the discussion open to both (*all*) candidates. The interlocutor should encourage candidates to elaborate on, or react to, their partner's(s') response by verbal invitation (e.g. *What do you think? Do you agree?*) or non-verbal gesture. Candidates should be given equal opportunities to speak but the interlocutor may wish to give a candidate who has been rather reticent in earlier parts of the test a chance to redress the balance. This part of the test lasts about **five (seven) minutes**.

(Interlocutor to Candidates A and B (and C)) **We are going to talk together for about five (seven) minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner(s) say(s). The topic we are discussing is 'Money', the same as in Part Two of the test.**

- **Do you think children should help in the house to get spending money?**
- **What do young people spend their money on?**
- **What kind of present would you like to buy for your best friend?**
- **What type of shops do you prefer?**
- **Is it more expensive to live in a city or in a village in your country?**
- **What would you do if you found a large sum of money in the street?**
- **What would you buy if you had a lot of money?**

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. (*Interlocutor and Assessor*)

