



English Speaking Board

**ESB Level 2 Certificate in ESOL
International All Modes - (C1)
500/3648/8**

C1 - 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 **three minutes** divided equally between both candidates. In the event of **three candidates**, allow **four 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) 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 sections 1, 2 and 3 below.

Restaurants

- **Tell me about your favourite restaurant.**
- **What is your opinion of foreign food?**
- **Why do people like to eat out?**

Relaxation

- **What activities can people do to relax?**
- **Tell me about how you like to relax.**
- **In what ways can you relax without spending any money?**

Transport

- **What is the most environmentally friendly way to travel?**
- **What are the major transport problems in your country?**
- **How would you improve public transport in your area?**

Thank you.

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 1: Travel & Tourism

Candidates discuss a series of options set out on the prompt. They can talk through the options and add ideas of their own. They should try to reach a consensus by the end of the discussion. **There is no penalty for failing to reach agreement.**

Part Two lasts for **five minutes**.

(Interlocutor) Now, I'd like you to discuss something together for about five minutes. The topic is 'Travel and Tourism'. *(Place the prompt in front of the candidates)*

Read the information on the sheet then discuss the suitability of each option. You should try to come to a joint decision on the best option by the end of your discussion, but it is not necessary for you to agree. You can also add your own ideas if you wish.

You only have five minutes so don't worry if I stop you. Please speak up so that we can hear you.

You may start when you are ready.

(After five minutes) Thank you.

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 1 – Travel & Tourism (C1)

Part 2

Candidates A and B:

- You are planning a holiday and you will be staying in a hotel. Discuss all the options and then decide which **two** features in the list below you consider to be the most important when choosing a hotel to stay in.

The location of the hotel

Reasonable cost

The hotel amenities

The hotel rating

The comfort of the hotel room

Reviews of the hotel

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 1: Travel & Tourism

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) We are now 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 'Travel & Tourism', the same as in Part Two of the test.

- How important is tourism to your country?
- Should your government invest more money in attracting tourists?
- Does tourism have any negative effects on a country?
- How do people benefit from travelling?
- How important is cultural awareness when travelling?

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Goodbye. *(Interlocutor and Assessor)*

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 2: Language Learning

Candidates discuss a series of options set out on the prompt. They can talk through the options and add ideas of their own. They should try to reach a consensus by the end of the discussion. **There is no penalty for failing to reach agreement.**

Part Two lasts for **five minutes**.

(Interlocutor) Now, I'd like you to discuss something together for about five minutes. The topic is 'Language Learning'. *(Place the prompt in front of the candidates)*

Read the information on the sheet then discuss the suitability of each option. You should try to come to a joint decision on the best option by the end of your discussion but it is not necessary for you to agree. You can also add your own ideas if you wish.

You only have five minutes so don't worry if I stop you. Please speak up so that we can hear you.

You may start when you are ready.

(After five minutes) Thank you.

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 2 – Language Learning

Part 2

Candidates A and B:

- You are giving a short talk on language learning. Discuss all the options and then decide which **two** from the list below are the best ways to learn a new language.

Joining a class

Chatting in the language online

Talking to native speakers

Studying using books

Watching films in the language

Studying using the internet

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 2: Language Learning

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) We are now 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 'Language Learning', the same as in Part Two of the test.

- Should foreign language learning be compulsory in school?
- What are the difficulties in learning another language?
- How does knowledge of a foreign language affect career opportunities?
- Which languages are the most globally important?
- How is your language different from English?

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. *(Interlocutor and Assessor)*

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 3: The Environment

Candidates discuss a series of options set out on the prompt. They can talk through the options and add ideas of their own. They should try to reach a consensus by the end of the discussion. **There is no penalty for failing to reach agreement.**

Part Two lasts for **five minutes**.

(Interlocutor) Now, I'd like you to discuss something together for about five minutes. The topic is 'The Environment'. *(Place the prompt in front of the candidates)*

Read the information on the sheet then discuss the suitability of each option. You should try to come to a joint decision on the best option by the end of your discussion but it is not necessary for you to agree. You can also add your own ideas if you wish.

You only have five minutes so don't worry if I stop you. Please speak up so that we can hear you.

You may start when you are ready.

(After five minutes) Thank you.

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts - TOPIC 3 – The Environment (C1)

Part 2

Candidates A and B:

- Your local council wants to make your area more environmentally friendly. Discuss all the options from the list below and then decide which **three** you would choose as being the best way to make your area greener.

Recycling bins in public places

Introduction of cycle paths

Solar panels on buildings & homes

Educational programmes on the environment

Energy- efficient appliances in homes

Tree-planting schemes

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 3: The Environment

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) **We are now 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 'The Environment', the same as in Part Two of the test.**

- **What do you consider to be the key environmental problems globally?**
- **Who is responsible for resolving environmental problems, individuals or governments?**
- **In what way does overpopulation contribute to environmental problems?**
- **What effects will climate change have on the planet?**
- **How is your country responding to environmental problems?**

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Goodbye. *(Interlocutor and Assessor)*

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 4: Professions

Candidates discuss a series of options set out on the prompt. They can talk through the options and add ideas of their own. They should try to reach a consensus by the end of the discussion. **There is no penalty for failing to reach agreement.**

Part Two lasts for **five minutes**.

(Interlocutor) Now, I'd like you to discuss something together for about five minutes. The topic is 'Professions'. *(Place the prompt in front of the candidates)*

Read the information on the sheet then discuss the suitability of each option. You should try to come to a joint decision on the best option by the end of your discussion but it is not necessary for you to agree. You can also add your own ideas if you wish.

You only have five minutes so don't worry if I stop you. Please speak up so that we can hear you.

You may start when you are ready.

(After five minutes) Thank you.

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts - TOPIC 4 – Professions (C1)

Part 2

Candidates A and B:

- The government is going to give an award to individuals from different professions who have contributed positively to your country. Consider the professional categories below and decide which **two** categories most deserve to receive an award.

Scientists

Sportsmen and women

Politicians

Doctors

Teachers

Business entrepreneurs

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 4: Professions

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) We are now 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 'Professions', the same as in Part Two of the test.

- Do you think education successfully prepares people for the world of work?
- What is the best way to prepare for a job interview?
- Are there jobs which are more suitable for men or more suitable for women?
- What is more important, high salary or job satisfaction?
- Is it necessary to be well-qualified to have a successful career

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Goodbye. *(Interlocutor and Assessor)*

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 5: Entertainment (Can be used with three candidates)

Candidates discuss a series of options set out on the prompt. They can talk through the options and add ideas of their own. They should try to reach a consensus by the end of the discussion. **There is no penalty for failing to reach agreement.**

Part Two lasts for **five minutes** and in the event of there being three candidates, this section should be **seven minutes** in length.

(Interlocutor) Now, I'd like you to discuss something together for about five (seven) minutes. The topic is 'Entertainment'. *(Place the prompt in front of the candidates)*

Read the information on the sheet then discuss the suitability of each option. You should try to come to a joint decision on the best option by the end of your discussion but it is not necessary for you to agree. You can also add your own ideas if you wish.

You only have five (seven) minutes so don't worry if I stop you. Please speak up so that we can hear you.

You may start when you are ready.

(After five (seven) minutes) **Thank you.**

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts - TOPIC 5 – Entertainment (C1)

Part 2

Candidates A and B (and C):

- Your local council has been allocated money to add one new entertainment facility to the community in your area. Consider all the options below and decide which **one** you would choose.

A multi-screen cinema complex

A children's playground

A swimming pool

A bowling alley

A park with a lake

A sports centre

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 5: Entertainment (Can be used with three candidates)

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** and in the event of there being three candidates, this section should be **eight minutes** in length.

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

- **What role do entertainment facilities play in a community?**
- **Is it necessary to spend money to be entertained?**
- **Which new forms of entertainment have emerged in recent years?**
- **Do different generations have the same entertainment preferences?**
- **How have popular forms of entertainment changed over the years?**
- **Is it important to preserve traditional forms of entertainment?**

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Goodbye. (*Interlocutor and Assessor*)

Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 6: Cities (Can be used with three candidates)

Candidates discuss a series of options set out on the prompt. They can talk through the options and add ideas of their own. They should try to reach a consensus by the end of the discussion. **There is no penalty for failing to reach agreement.**

Part Two lasts for **five minutes** and in the event of there being three candidates, this section should be **seven minutes** in length.

(Interlocutor) Now, I'd like you to discuss something together for about five (seven) minutes. The topic is 'Cities'. *(Place the prompt in front of the candidates)*

Read the information on the sheet then discuss the suitability of each option. You should try to come to a joint decision on the best option by the end of your discussion but it is not necessary for you to agree. You can also add your own ideas if you wish.

You only have five (seven) minutes so don't worry if I stop you. Please speak up so that we can hear you.

You may start when you are ready.

(After five (seven) minutes) Thank you.

(Retrieve prompt)

Copy of Candidate Prompts - TOPIC 6 – Cities (C1)

Part 2

Candidates A and B (and C):

- You have been asked to give a presentation in your English class on a famous city. Consider all the points below and decide which **two** you think are the most important ones to focus on in your presentation.

History of the city

Entertainment options in the city

Tourist attractions in the city

Famous citizens of the city

Climate of the city

Special events and festivals

Part 3 – Responding to Questions

TOPIC 6: Cities (Can be used with 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 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** and in the event of there being three candidates, this section should be **eight minutes** in length.

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

- Which age group benefits most from living in a city?
- What are the advantages and challenges of living in a city?
- Would you prefer to live in a historical city or a modern city?
- How do you think cities will change in the future?
- In what way is urban life different from life in the countryside?
- Is there any way in which your capital city could be improved?

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Goodbye. *(Interlocutor and Assessor)*

