



**English Speaking Board**

**ESB Level 3 Certificate in ESOL  
International All modes - (C2)  
500/3655/5**

## **C2 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 **five 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, B (and C) a selection of questions from Sections 1, 2 and 3 below.*

### Free Time

- **How do people spend their free time in your town or city?**
- **How has the way you spend your free time changed since you were a child?**
- **How do you like to relax?**

### Communication

- **How do you keep in touch with friends and family?**
- **Do you find it easy to talk to people you don't know?**
- **How has modern technology changed the way we communicate?**

### Study

- **What do/did you like about being a student?**
- **What gadgets do you use to help you study?**
- **Where and when do you concentrate best?**

**Thank you.**

## Part 2 – Interactive Discussion

Each candidate talks individually about the topic on the prompt for **two minutes**. Then, the other candidate(s) respond(s) and join(s) in a discussion which lasts for **three minutes**. The situation is then repeated with the second (*third*) candidate(s). Part Two lasts for **ten minutes**. In the event of three candidates, this section lasts for **fifteen minutes**.

*(Interlocutor)* In this part of the test, I am going to ask each of you to talk on your own for about two minutes. You will need to listen carefully while your partner is talking as you will be asked to comment and take part in a discussion afterwards.

*(To Candidate A)*

*(Candidate A)*, here is your page with a statement on it. *(Place prompt A in front of Candidate A.)* Please give us your views on this. There are also some ideas on the sheet which you may wish to include. You have about two minutes to talk before your partner joins in.

All right? You may start when you are ready.

*(After two minutes)* Thank you.

*(Interlocutor invites both candidates to exchange views)*

Would you like to talk together about what *(Candidate A)* has just said and any other points you would like to share with us? You have about three minutes for discussion.

*(After three minutes.)* Thank you. *(Retrieve prompt)*

*(To Candidate B)*

*(Candidate B)*, here is your page with a statement on it. *(Place prompt B in front of Candidate B)* Please give us your views on this. There are also some ideas on the sheet you may wish to include. You have about two minutes to talk before your partner joins in.

All right? You may start when you are ready.

*(After two minutes)* Thank you.

Would you like to talk together about what *(Candidate B)* has just said and any other points you would like to share with us? You have about three minutes for discussion.

*(After three minutes)* Thank you. *(Retrieve prompt)*

*(Repeat the process for Candidate C, if necessary)*

Thank you. We will now move onto the last part of the test.

**Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 1 – FAME (C2)**

**Part 2**

**Candidate A:**

**“Being famous is more a burden than a blessing.”**

- Loss of privacy
- People’s expectations
- Pressure to perform

**Candidate B:**

**“Actors and sports stars should not be paid such high salaries.”**

- Entertainment does not save lives
- People as commodities
- Caring professions should be paid more

**Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 2 – LUCK (C2)**

**Part 2**

**Candidate A:**

**“Lotteries encourage gambling and should be banned.”**

- Lotteries target poorer people
- Risks of gambling
- Real winners are the lottery organisers

**Candidate B:**

**“There is no such thing as good luck. We are ultimately responsible for what happens to us.”**

- Making the right choices
- Taking opportunities
- An optimistic outlook

**Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 3 – ANIMALS (C2)**

**Part 2**

**Candidate A:**

**“Zoos play an important role in today’s society.”**

- Education and enjoyment
- Help protect endangered species
- Develop scientific knowledge

**Candidate B:**

**“Governments need to do more to protect endangered species.”**

- Some species lost forever
- The importance of bio-diversity
- Stricter laws

<b>Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 4 – LANGUAGES (C2)</b>
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**Part 2**

**Candidate A:**

**“School children should learn other foreign languages besides English.”**

- Linguistic diversity
- Languages of the future
- Employment prospects

**Candidate B:**

**“To learn a language well you have to live in a country where it is spoken.”**

- Being surrounded by the language
- Opportunities to interact
- Culture and language

<b>Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 5 – THE NATURAL WORLD (C2)</b> <b>(Can be used with three candidates)</b>
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**Part 2**

**Candidate A:**

**“Areas of outstanding natural beauty should not be privately owned.”**

- Nature belongs to everyone
- Unfair for only a few to benefit
- Upkeep and maintenance

**Candidate B:**

**“Many beautiful areas have been ruined by tourist developments.”**

- Hotel complexes are often ugly
- Destruction of natural habitat
- Traditional ways of life destroyed

**Candidate C (if required):**

**“Living in the country is much better than living in a city.”**

- Peace and quiet
- Amenities in the countryside
- Contact with nature

<p><b>Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 6 – SHOPPING (C2)</b> <b>(Can be used with three candidates)</b></p>
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**Part 2**

**Candidate A:**

**“Quality is more important than price.”**

- Cheap items may not last long
- Well-known brands
- Reliability

**Candidate B:**

**“Free plastic carrier bags in supermarkets should be banned.”**

- Environmental hazard
- Encourages waste
- Alternatives e.g. surcharges, reusable bags

**Candidate C (if required):**

**“Discount stores have more disadvantages than advantages.”**

- Poor quality
- Limited choice
- Poor customer service

### Part 3 – Responding to Questions

#### TOPIC 1 – FAME (C2)

A three-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on a new topic. 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 (*What do you think? Do you agree?*) or by 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 **three minutes**.

*(Interlocutor)* **We are now going to talk together for about three minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'FAME'. (Make sure that the topic is different from the topic used in Part Two)**

- **Do you think everyone is able to achieve fame?**
- **If you could interview a famous living person, who would you interview and what questions would you ask?**
- **Do you think it inevitable that famous people give up their right to a private life?**
- **What would you most like to be famous for? Why?**
- **In what way do you think people change when they become rich and famous?**
- **Do you think celebrities and sports stars are paid too much?**

*(After three minutes)*

**Thank you.**

**That is the end of the test.**

**Good bye. (Interlocutor and Assessor)**



## Part 3 – Responding to Questions

### TOPIC 2 – LUCK (C2)

A three-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on a **new topic**. 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 (*What do you think? Do you agree?*) or by 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 **three minutes**.

*(Interlocutor)* **We are now going to talk together for about three minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'LUCK'. (Make sure that the topic is different from the topic used in Part Two)**

- **Do you consider yourself to be generally lucky or unlucky? Why?**
- **What are the advantages and disadvantages of lotteries?**
- **Are you superstitious in any way?**
- **What do you think about star signs and horoscopes?**
- **Do you think that some people are born lucky?**
- **Do you believe that dreams can come true?**

*(After three minutes)*

**Thank you.**

**That is the end of the test.**

**Good bye. (Interlocutor and Assessor)**

### Part 3 – Responding to Questions

#### TOPIC 3 – ANIMALS (C2)

A three-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on a **new topic**. 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 (*What do you think? Do you agree?*) or by 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 **three minutes**.

*(Interlocutor)* **We are now going to talk together for about three minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'ANIMALS'. (Make sure that the topic is different from the topic used in Part Two)**

- **To what extent do you consider yourself to be a lover of animals?**
- **Should animals be used in the testing of drugs or cosmetics?**
- **What can be done to solve the problem of stray animals in towns and cities?**
- **Would you be happy to receive an animal as a present? Why? Why not?**
- **Do you think animals should have the same rights as human beings?**
- **What is your opinion of vegetarianism?**

*(After three minutes)*

**Thank you.**

**That is the end of the test.**

**Good bye. (Interlocutor and Assessor)**

### Part 3 – Responding to Questions

#### TOPIC 4 – LANGUAGES (C2)

A three-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on a **new topic**. 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 (*What do you think? Do you agree?*) or by 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 **three minutes**.

*(Interlocutor)* **We are now going to talk together for about three minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'LANGUAGES'. (Make sure that the topic is different from the topic used in Part Two)**

- **Why do you think some people find learning a foreign language easy while others struggle?**
- **Which language would you most like to learn apart from English?**
- **What do you think are the benefits of knowing many languages?**
- **Do you think certain languages are destined to become extinct? Why?**
- **Dialects and local and regional variants of languages should be encouraged. Do you agree?**
- **What advice would you give someone who is about to start learning a foreign language?**

*(After three minutes)*

**Thank you.**

**That is the end of the test.**

**Good bye. (Interlocutor and Assessor)**

### Part 3 – Responding to Questions

#### TOPIC 5 – THE NATURAL WORLD (C2) (Can be used with three candidates)

A three (*four*)-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on a **new topic**. 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 (*What do you think? Do you agree?*) or by 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 **three minutes**. In the event of three candidates, this part of the test lasts for **five minutes**.

*(Interlocutor)* **We are now going to talk together for about three (*five*) minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'THE NATURAL WORLD'. (*Make sure that the topic is different from the topic used in Part Two*)**

- **Would you prefer to live in a busy city or a quiet village? Why?**
- **What do you think the government can do to preserve areas of natural beauty in your country?**
- **Which is more important to you; protecting the natural environment or improving people's standard of living?**
- **Do you consider global warming to be a major threat to the environment?**
- **Which do you prefer: the mountains, the countryside or the coast?**
- **What can ordinary people do to protect the countryside?**
- **There is a saying that 'Mother Nature is cruel'. Do you agree?**

*(After three (*five*) minutes)*

**Thank you.**

**That is the end of the test.**

**Good bye. (*Interlocutor and Assessor*)**

### Part 3 – Responding to Questions

#### TOPIC 6 – SHOPPING (C2) (Can be used with three candidates)

A three (*four*)-way discussion between interlocutor and candidates based on a **new topic**. 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 (*What do you think? Do you agree?*) or by 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 **three minutes**. In the event of three candidates, this part of the test lasts for **five minutes**.

*(Interlocutor)* **We are now going to talk together for about three (*five*) minutes. I would like you to respond to my questions and to what your partner says. The topic we are discussing is 'SHOPPING. (*Make sure that the topic is different from the topic used in Part Two*)**

- Do you think that online shopping will ever completely replace traditional shopping?
- How can small retailers survive in the face of competition from large chain stores?
- Some people believe that shopping is therapeutic. What do you think?
- To what extent do credit cards and store cards encourage people to get into debt?
- Is shoplifting from big stores a victimless crime?
- It is said that most of the things people buy today are unnecessary. Do you agree?
- Would you ever consider a career in retailing? Why/ why not?

*(After three (*five*) minutes)*

**Thank you.**

**That is the end of the test.**

**Good bye. (*Interlocutor and Assessor*)**





