



Anglia Examination Syndicate Limited



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INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE / BUSINESS EXAMS FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Masters Level

Guidelines for teachers / Instructions for examiners

Procedure

The AES Masters Level Speaking Test consists of four core tasks. The test should take approximately 12 minutes to complete. It is conducted by you, the external examiner, with procedural help from an usher, when needed. The examination is recorded onto a cassette tape. The tape is sent to Chichester College for moderation.

The Speaking test comprises 25% of the total score for the entire examination.

Before the candidate enters the room, record the following details clearly onto the tape:

- name of AES Exam Centre
- number of AES Exam Centre
- candidate's full name and number.

Participants

candidate; examiner; usher, if desired.

Materials needed

A. List of ten Masters level topics for the candidate to develop and discuss.

B. A set of authentic visual stimuli on which the task is based. The literature made available will be authentic brochures, forms, advertisements, etc. These must be kept simple and relatively short to avoid the test becoming one of reading comprehension. This documentation must be carefully chosen and allow room for discussion, while not offering any one obvious choice

C. A list of suitable topics that will allow the candidate to describe, with minimal preparation, a well-known object; a system or an everyday procedure.

Conducting the test

Core Task 1 – 4 minutes

Part A – 2 minutes

The object here is to give the candidate the opportunity to feel more comfortable and to be able to warm up by asking the candidate to introduce him/herself and state the reason why he/she is taking this examination. At an appropriate point the examiner may stop the candidate and start prompting him/herself.

Part B – 2 minutes

The object here is for the candidate to talk about his/ her future plans. You may use the following questions to stimulate discussion (other questions are admissible):

- What do you hope to be able to achieve with this examination?
- Why are you studying English?
- Are you going to continue your studies?
- What are your expectations about your working life?
- What would you like to achieve in the next ten years?

Core Task 2 - 3 minutes

The examiner asks the candidate to choose a number between 1 and 10. After the candidate has picked a number, the examiner shows him/her the list of topics for Masters Level and gives him/her 30/45 seconds to think about the chosen topic. Then the examiner invites the candidate to speak.

The object of this part is to let the candidate speak uninterrupted for 2 minutes, after which the examiner will stimulate debate with the candidate. This should take no more than 1 minute.

Core Task 3 – 3 minutes

The candidate is given a set of visual stimuli. The task usually involves taking information from written documents and reaching a decision or consensus about certain questions through a discussion in pairs with the examiner. Since it is the discussion rather than the final decision that is the important feature, there is usually no single correct answer.

The candidate is told beforehand that the assessment will be based on the way they express and justify their opinions, and evaluate that of the examiner.

Some examples of the type of tasks that can be set are:

- Choosing a suitable educational course for a person with specified interests.
- Choosing a suitable holiday for a particular person or family from brochures.
- Choosing the best bid for a contract from a number of bids.
- Choosing the best candidate for a job from among a number of applicants.
- Discussing a proposal for a company (real or imaginary) to launch a new product or enter a new field of operation.

Core Task 4 – 2 minutes

The candidate is asked to describe, at some length, a well-known object, a system or an everyday procedure. The description is factual and the object being described either widely known or easily comprehensible. Normally the candidate is given a list of between 3 and 4 topics to choose from and 30 seconds' preparation time. Some examples of suitable topics are:

- How to make ...
- Describe a...
- Describe how to prepare ...
- Give instructions for using ...
- Explain how you would advise someone who ...
- Describe how people in your country celebrate ...
- How does the ... system work in your country?

When the test is over, thank the candidate and say "goodbye".