

# Cambridge ESOL Certificates in Skills for Life

## Speaking and Listening Mode

### Level 1 Sample Tasks

*Please note:* With the exception of the task cards in Phases 1b and 2b, this sample test frame will be used only by the interlocutor. It will not be shown to the candidates.

#### **Phase 1a** (🕒 3 mins overall)

**Hello.** My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (*interlocutor*), and this is my colleague \_\_\_\_\_ (*assessor*). **And what are your names?** [*Look at both candidates in turn.*]

**Thank you. Could I have your mark sheets?** [*Collect mark sheets and hand to assessor.*] **Thank you.**

The first part of the test will be about television and radio, and you will each give a ***formal*** presentation, but first I'd like you to talk together to share your ideas on the subject.

Find out from each other about what you like about watching television or listening to the radio, and which you think is best. You have about two minutes to ask each other about this, so don't worry if I interrupt you.

*[Withdraw eye contact to signal that candidates should start. If necessary, prompt candidates with questions from the box below (e.g. if students are experiencing difficulty in continuing the interaction, if they stray from the topic or if the language produced is clearly below L1 level). Adapt if necessary. Encourage candidate-candidate interaction by eliciting agreement or alternative opinions from candidates by asking questions such as "What do you think?", "Tell us what you think.", "And you?"]*

#### **Television and radio - prompts**

Talk about:

- whether you prefer watching TV or listening to the radio, and why.
- when, if ever, it is better to listen to the radio.
- the types of programmes you like to watch or listen to.
- why people find watching television or listening to the radio a good way to relax.
- how you think TV and radio will change in the future.

**Thank you.**

**Phase 1b** (🕒 9 mins overall)

Now you are each going to give a **formal** presentation for about two minutes on the topic of watching television. While you are talking, we will listen to you. Your partner and the assessor [*Indicate assessor.*] will then comment or ask you questions about what you have said.

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate A*), [*Hand Candidate A a candidate booklet - open at correct page - and point at task.*] **you are going to talk about whether you think watching television is the best way to find out what is happening in the world.**

**“Watching television is the best way to find out what is happening in the world.”**

What do you think?

For example, think about:

- what we can learn from television.
- news or events which are not covered by television.
- other ways for us to learn about what is happening in the world.

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate B*), [*Hand Candidate B a candidate booklet - open at correct page - and point at task.*] **you are going to talk about whether you think watching television is bad for children.**

**“Watching television is bad for children.”**

What do you think?

For example, think about the effect of television on children’s:

- health.
- education.
- relationships with other people.

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(🕒 1 min)

**You both have one minute to think about what you want to say. You can make notes if you want to.** [*Indicate paper and pencil.*] **If there’s anything you don’t understand, please ask me.**

[*Withdraw eye contact to signal start of preparation.*]

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(🕒 2 mins)

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate A*), **are you ready? Please tell us all** [*Indicate using hand gesture.*] **about whether you think watching television is the best way to find out what is happening in the world.** \_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate B*), **please listen, and then comment or ask questions at the end. All right?**

[*Allow two minutes.*]

**Thank you.**

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(🕒 1 ½ mins)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Candidate B), please comment or ask \_\_\_\_\_ (Candidate A) any questions that you have.

**Thank you.** \_\_\_\_\_ (Assessor), do you have any comments or questions? [Wait for end of interaction.]

Assessor: **Thank you.**

[Retrieve Candidate A's booklet.]

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(🕒 2 mins)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Candidate B), are you ready, or would you like to look at your notes again? [Allow up to 15 seconds.] **All right? Please tell us all [Indicate using hand gesture.] about whether you think watching television is bad for children.** \_\_\_\_\_ (Candidate A), please listen, and then comment or ask questions at the end. **All right?**

[Allow two minutes.]

**Thank you.**

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(🕒 1 ½ mins)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Candidate A), please comment or ask \_\_\_\_\_ (Candidate B) any questions that you have.

**Thank you.** \_\_\_\_\_ (Assessor), do you have any comments or questions? [Wait for end of interaction.]

Assessor: **Thank you.**

[Retrieve Candidate B's booklet.]

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**Phase 2a** (🕒 5 mins overall)

In this part of the test, you are going to listen to two recordings [*Indicate CD player.*] and answer some questions. All right?

You are listening to a radio programme which gives people advice about different types of shopping. On this week's programme, they are discussing two things; buying things at car-boot sales and buying things on the internet.

Listen to the first part of the programme, about buying things at car-boot sales, and answer these questions. You can make notes [*Indicate paper.*] if you want to.

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate A*), according to the speaker, how many people in Britain go to car-boot sales each week? [*Short pause*] And where does he say you can find out if there's one near you?

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate B*), according to the speaker, what should you do to get the best bargains at car-boot sales? [*Short pause*] And what two things does he say you should **not** buy at a car-boot sale?

[*Pause for up to 10 seconds to allow time for notes.*]

Listen to the programme. [*Indicate CD player and play CD.*]

**Track 1**

[fade in] ' ... Of course, you could go to a car-boot sale. There, ordinary people sell things they don't need or like any more, and if you're lucky, you can pick up fantastic bargains. Over a million people in Britain go to car-boot sales every week, so they must be good.

To find out where your nearest one is - and it's probably in a car park or a field somewhere - try the local newspaper, which should have a list of all of them, big and small.

A word of advice though. To get the best bargains, you need to be there early in the morning. Professional dealers go to boot sales to find things to sell in their shops, and you've got to beat them to it. And don't buy things like music CDs or DVDs - they're often cheap, illegal copies. No...the best things to go for are second-hand clothes and books - especially if the people selling them look like they genuinely don't want them anymore.

So that brings us to ... ' [fade]

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate A*), according to the speaker, how many people in Britain go to car-boot sales each week? [*Wait for response.*] And where does he say you can find out if there's one near you?

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate B*), according to the speaker, what should you do to get the best bargains at car-boot sales? [*Wait for response.*] And what two things does he say you should **not** buy at a car-boot sale?

Thank you.

Now listen to the second part of the programme, about buying things on the internet, and answer these questions. Again, you can make notes [*Indicate paper.*] if you want to.

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate B*), what does the speaker enjoy doing at the supermarket? [*Short pause*] And what two things did she like about the internet service which she tried?

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Candidate A*), why did the speaker decide to try internet shopping? [*Short pause*] And what two things would she **not** buy on the internet?

[Pause for up to 10 seconds to allow time for notes.]

Listen to the programme. [Indicate CD player and play CD.]

## Track 2

'I've never really understood why some people do their shopping on the internet. For me, shopping is a social thing - I get out and meet my friends for a coffee in the supermarket. I'd certainly never buy vegetables on the internet because I want to be sure that I get the freshest, and that's even more important with meat.

I did buy *some* food on the internet last week, but that was only because I was at home with the flu. I thought I'd give it a try, so I logged on to my son's computer and had all my groceries delivered. I have to say the service was quick and the delivery man was very helpful, but I definitely spent more money than I do when I go to the shop myself. Perhaps as I get better at using the website, I'll learn how to find more of the bargains and special offers! So yes, I might use the service again, but maybe just for tinned food and drinks which are heavy to carry.'

\_\_\_\_\_ (Candidate B), what does the speaker enjoy doing at the supermarket? [Wait for response.] And what two things did she like about the internet service which she tried?

\_\_\_\_\_ (Candidate A), why did the speaker decide to try internet shopping? [Wait for response.] And what two things would she not buy on the internet?

Thank you.

## Key to Phase 2a

### Track 1:

#### **Candidate A:**

How many people in Britain go to car-boot sales each week?

**(over/more than/about) one/a million**

Where does he say you can find out if there's one near you?

**(in the/a)(local) (news)paper(s)**

#### **Candidate B:**

What should you do to get the best bargains at car-boot sales?

**\*go early (in the morning) / beat/arrive before the (professional) dealers**  
(only one needed for correct answer)

What two things does he say you should not buy at a car-boot sale?

**(music) CDs; DVDs**  
(both needed for correct answer)

### Track 2:

#### **Candidate B:**

What does the speaker enjoy doing at the supermarket?

**\*meeting friends / going for a coffee**  
(only one needed for correct answer)

What two things did she like about the internet service which she tried?

**(it was) quick; (the delivery man was) helpful**  
(both needed for correct answer)

#### **Candidate A:**

Why did the speaker decide to try internet shopping?

**\*(she) was at home with the flu / was ill**

What two things would she not buy on the internet?

**meat; vegetables**  
(both needed for correct answer)

\* accept paraphrasing

**Phase 2b** (🕒 7 mins overall)

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(🕒 approx. 3 mins)

Now you're going to talk together about the most important things to consider when going shopping. Look at this list [*Hand out candidate booklets open at correct page.*] and discuss whether you think these things are important and why. [*Read out list whilst pointing at task in candidate booklets.*]

<b>Task 1</b>			
	<b>range of goods available</b>	<b>value for money</b>	<b>after-sales service</b>
	<b>information about products</b>	<b>shop location</b>	<b>delivery arrangements</b>

You have two minutes to talk to each other about this, so don't worry if I interrupt you.

[*Withdraw eye contact to signal that candidates should start. If candidates do not start within 10 seconds, ask: **Would you like to start now?***]

[*If necessary, prompt candidates with questions from the box below (e.g. if students are experiencing difficulty in continuing the interaction, if they stray from the topic or if the language produced is clearly below L1 level). Adapt if necessary. Encourage candidate-candidate interaction by eliciting agreement or alternative opinions from candidates by asking questions such as "What do you think?", "Tell us what you think.", "And you?"*]

<b>Shopping - prompts</b>	
Talk about:	
-	whether large shops or small shops are best for most products.
-	how you can be sure you're getting the right product for your needs.
-	what you need to know about products before you buy them.
-	Whether more expensive products are always better than cheaper ones.

**Thank you.**

[*Retrieve candidate booklets.*]

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(🕒 approx. 4 mins)

Now we're going to talk together about mail order shopping – buying things from a magazine or catalogue, not from a shop. Would you ever consider doing this? Why (not)?

*[Using the prompts below, and adapting where necessary to respond naturally to contributions, engage in three-way discussion.]*

**Mail order shopping – extension questions**

Talk about:

- the kind of things you would or wouldn't buy from a magazine or catalogue.
- what you think are the advantages and disadvantages of buying things by mail order.
- how you think people will shop in the future.

*[Ask further questions as necessary.]*

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