



ZUEB SSC A- English Language

Paper 3: Speaking Exam

Total 20 Marks

Duration: 20 Minutes

Candidate's information

Full name: _____

Candidate number: _____

Centre number: _____

Date: _____

Examiner's Instructions

The following assessment is a strict rubric that cannot be changed. Sentences or vocabulary items must not be reformulated while attempting to communicate activities and concepts to candidates.

Examiners are advised to use a variety of non-verbal and naturally occurring communication prompts such as pointing, nodding, smiling, pausing/allowing enough time for candidates to produce sufficient responses.

Examiners must stay within the rubric and facilitate candidates through using the support prompts in the rubric.

Examiners must assess ability in line with the Mark Scheme.

Section 1 – Introduction/Personal Questions

(About 2 minutes in total)

Examiner:

Good morning / afternoon.

My name is.... and today we're going to talk for about 8 minutes all in all.

1. What's your name?
2. Which city in Pakistan are you from?
3. Do you like living in your city?
4. What do / don't* you like about living there? *depending on the answer to question 3

If time allows, ask one of the following:

5. If a friend from another country visited Pakistan, which place would you recommend?
Why?
6. What is your favorite Pakistani festival or celebration?

That is the end of section one.

Section 2: Independent Long Speaking Task

(About 4 minutes in total)

Examiner:

In section two, I'm going to ask you to talk about a topic for about 90 seconds.

Here is your topic.

Examiner shows candidate the Speaking Section 2 instructions

The examiner gives the candidate about 30 seconds to read the instructions

Examiner:

You have 1 minute to think about this. You can make notes if you wish. Your notes will not be marked.

1 minute pause

Examiner:

I will stop you after 2 minutes. Now please begin.

Candidate speaks

Examiner:

Thank you.

What Pakistani food would you recommend to someone who has never tried it before?

Candidate speaks

Thank you. That is the end of section two.

Section 3: Extended Discussion

(About 4 minutes in total)

Examiner:

Let's talk about education in Pakistan. How important do you think learning English is for young people in Pakistan? Why?

What are the biggest challenges facing students in Pakistan today?

The examiner then asks some of the following additional questions within the time permitted. There is no penalty if the candidate does not have time to answer all questions:

Examiner:

Do you think Pakistani schools should focus more on traditional subjects or modern technology skills?

How can Pakistan improve educational opportunities for students in rural areas?

What role should parents play in their children's education?

Do you think studying abroad is important for Pakistani students?

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

Speaking Section 2: Independent Long Speaking Task

Instructions to Candidate

You should talk about the following topic for about 2 minutes.

Talk about a traditional Pakistani custom or celebration that is important to your family.

Your talk should include:

- What the custom or celebration is
- When and how your family observes it
- Who participates in this tradition
- And you should say why this custom or celebration is meaningful to you

You have 1 minute to think about this. You can make notes if you wish. Your notes will not be marked.

Assessment Framework (20 Marks Total)

Mark Scheme:

Fluency and Coherence (5 marks)

- Clear speech with natural rhythm and flow
- Logical organization of ideas
- Appropriate use of linking words

Lexical Resource (5 marks)

- Range of vocabulary appropriate to topics
- Accurate use of common and some complex words
- Ability to paraphrase when needed

Grammatical Range and Accuracy (5 marks)

- Mix of simple and complex sentence structures
- Generally accurate grammar with minor errors
- Good control of tenses and word order

Pronunciation and Intonation (5 marks)

- Clear articulation of individual sounds
- Appropriate word and sentence stress
- Natural intonation patterns
- Intelligible pronunciation throughout
- Effective use of pronunciation features to convey meaning

Examiner Notes:

- Allow natural pauses and encourage the candidate with non-verbal cues
- Focus on communication rather than perfect accuracy
- Pakistani cultural references should be accepted and valued
- Code-switching (Urdu/English) is acceptable if brief and natural
- Assess overall communicative competence across all three sections

Detailed Mark Descriptors:

Fluency and Coherence:

- **5 marks:** Speaks fluently with only rare repetition or self-correction; develops topics coherently and appropriately
- **4 marks:** Speaks at length without noticeable effort; may demonstrate language-related hesitation
- **3 marks:** Maintains flow of speech but uses repetition and/or self-correction; may lose coherence at times
- **2 marks:** Cannot respond without noticeable pauses; may speak slowly with frequent repetition

- **1 mark:** Pauses lengthily before most words; speech is often unintelligible

Lexical Resource:

- **5 marks:** Uses vocabulary with full flexibility and precise usage; uses idiomatic language naturally
- **4 marks:** Uses vocabulary resource flexibly to discuss variety of topics; some idiomatic awareness
- **3 marks:** Uses vocabulary resource adequately to discuss familiar and unfamiliar topics
- **2 marks:** Uses vocabulary resource adequately for familiar topics only; limited flexibility
- **1 mark:** Uses basic vocabulary only; often inappropriate choices

Grammatical Range and Accuracy:

- **5 marks:** Uses wide range of structures naturally and appropriately; rare minor errors
- **4 marks:** Uses mix of simple and complex structures; makes few errors
- **3 marks:** Uses mix of simple and complex structures with some errors that rarely reduce communication
- **2 marks:** Uses limited range of structures; errors may reduce communication at times
- **1 mark:** Uses very basic structures; errors frequently reduce communication

Pronunciation and Intonation:

- **5 marks:** Easy to understand; L1 accent has minimal effect on intelligibility
- **4 marks:** Generally easy to understand; L1 accent may affect intelligibility occasionally
- **3 marks:** Usually intelligible; L1 accent may require concentrated listening at times
- **2 marks:** Difficult to understand at times; L1 accent may require significant effort to understand
- **1 mark:** Difficult to understand most of the time; L1 accent severely affects intelligibility