

FORMAT OF THE B2 ORAL EXAMINATION IN BUSINESS ENGLISH

Students enter the exam one at a time.

The exam is administered by two examiners.

A student known to both examiners should not be examined by them unless absolutely unavoidable.

The examination lasts approximately 12 minutes.

The examination consists of two parts, preceded by an introduction:

Part 0 lasts approximately 1 - 1.5 minutes: introduction, warm-up, not to be assessed

The examiner asks the student to introduce himself/herself and briefly talks to him/her. The aim of this part of the examination is to familiarise the student with the new situation, to give the student an opportunity to become accustomed to the examiner's voice.

Part 1 lasts approx. 5 minutes: longer speech by the student based on a text

Student selects a text from a number of identical-looking pieces of paper.

Text (approx. 100 - 130 words) in the form of a press release, news item, excerpt from a text on a topic which allows the student to make a longer statement.

Exemple text:

Shopkeeper, Jackson Opati, has stopped selling packaged milk from his store and instead switched to using a vending machine dispensing milk. "This ATM is a more lucrative business," he explains.

He runs a small grocery store in the crowded settlement of Kibera in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. For the last year, or so, his shop has hosted a milk vending machine from US-Kenyan company Zaidi Technologies. It is one of nine such machines that Zaidi has operating in Kenya.

Using a small panel on the front of the machine, he keys in the amount of money that a customer wants to spend and seconds later the corresponding quantity of milk pours into a recycled plastic bottle or bag that the customer brings from home.

"Since I got the vending machine, the number of customers has sharply increased," he says.

(129 words)

The examiner gives an instruction in a foreign language: *Read the text silently, you have 1 minute to think about it, then refer to the text: express an opinion, comment on a topic raised in the text.*

The examiner does not take away the sheet with the text, the student can use it throughout the exam.

As far as possible, the examiner will not interfere with the student's speech during this part, however, in order to support the student's speech, the examiner may ask supporting questions such as:

Justify your opinion

What do you mean by this?

Say it in other words ...

Explain in more detail ...

Can you give an example?

Say more about

Part 2 lasts approximately 4 - 5 minutes: it is a continuation of Part 1 with a wider scope

It is a negotiation-type task, a conversation between the examiner and the student referring to the text. The conversation takes place in a foreign language.

In the text you have read, Jackson Opati is running his own business. Your interlocutor wonders whether it is worth starting his/her own bakery. Persuade him/her to take such a step using an argument in which you refer to the economic aspects of the undertaken initiative.

Criteria for the assessment of oral expression:

- communicative and interactional effectiveness
- fluency of speech
- grammatical accuracy
- pronunciation
- use of appropriate vocabulary, including specialised vocabulary