

B2 ORAL EXAM PROCEDURE

Business English Exam

- 1) Students enter the exam room in pairs.
- 2) The exam is conducted by two examiners. A student known to both examiners should not be examined by them unless this is unavoidable.
- 3) The exam lasts about 17 minutes.
- 4) The exam consists of two parts, preceded by an introduction.

Part 0 lasts approx. 2 minutes: INTRODUCTION, WARM-UP, not assessed

Procedure:

⇒ The examiner asks each student to identify themselves and provide their first and last name.

Aim: to familiarize the students with the new examination situation.

Part 1 lasts approx. 5 minutes: CONVERSATION IN PAIRS

Procedure:

⇒ Each student draws a card with two key prompts and selects one of them to talk about with their partner. The examiner asks the students to ask each other questions based on the prompt they have selected. (Interactional skills, in particular the ability to initiate and maintain a conversation are the focus of this part of the assessment.)

⇒ Instructions from the examiner (in the foreign language):

“Draw a card and talk briefly with your partner about one of the two topics you have drawn.”

Aim: to familiarize students with their exam partner.

Sample prompts:

PROFESSIONAL PLANS (What do you plan to do after graduation?)

MOTIVATION TO STUDY (Why did you choose this field of study?)

FREE TIME (How do you spend your free time?)

FAVOURITE BOOKS (What books do you like to read?)

Examiner asks students in the foreign language to: Draw a card and talk briefly with your partner about one of the two topics you have drawn.

Part 2 lasts approx. 10 minutes: MONOLOGUE BASED ON TEXT

Procedure:

⇒ Each student is given a short text and a task by the examiner and told that they have 2 minutes to prepare a presentation on the topic expressing the opinion suggested in the task.

⇒ Each student presents their opinion for about 2 minutes, while the other student listens, optionally noting down the most important elements of their partner's presentation.

⇒ The students conduct a short discussion (stage 2)

⇒ Stage 2 of the task lasts about 3-4 minutes

⇒ The discussion is started by the candidate who presented a negative opinion to the given topic

⇒ the examiner's instruction includes:

- the aims of the interaction

- a defined role for Student I
- a defined role for Student II
- the need to refer to the content of the source text.

⇒ Instruction from the examiner (in the foreign language):

“Read the text you have been given and your task as described. Then present the opinion assigned to you by the task, referring to the main ideas of the text you have read and your own experiences. You have 2 minutes to prepare, and your presentation should last approx. 2 minutes. Next, listen carefully to your partner’s presentation (you can take notes while listening), because in the second part of this task you will be asked to discuss the opinions expressed earlier - without directly repeating the information expressed during stage 1”.

Aims: to assess students’ interactional, mediation and argumentation skills.

Text (approx. 100-130 words) press release, press clipping, etc. on a social topic with a cultural element, presenting a given issue as objectively as possible.

Sample text:

Shopkeeper's Shift to Milk Vending Machines Boosts Business in Kenya

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 been 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.

Sample instructions:

Stage 1

Student A

You are considering operating a flower vending machine. You are convinced that it is a good idea. Present this opinion to your partner, referring to the text you have read and your own experience.

Student B

Your partner is considering operating a flower vending machine. You are convinced that this is a bad idea. Present this opinion, referring to the text you have read and your own experience.

Stage 2

Student A and student B

Together with your partner, discuss the opinions presented earlier and decide whether it is worth operating a flower vending machine, taking into account economic aspects of this business venture.

Part 2 concludes the exam