

Communicative Skills

Formal topic presentation phase

- Give a formal presentation, discursive in nature, on a chosen subject, with an identifiable structure and sequence, using discourse connectors and cohesive devices
- Introduce the presentation, develop particular points, give supporting reasons and examples
- Conclude the presentation by inviting questions and comments from the examiner

In the Topic discussion phase

- Initiate and engage the examiner in a discussion of some of the points made
- Share the responsibility with the examiner for the maintenance of the discussion
- Respond to the examiner's requests for clarification or elaboration
- Be prepared to defend a point of view and develop an argument further

In the Interactive phase

- Take responsibility for the direction and maintenance of the interaction
- Utilise turn-taking conventions to ensure that the interaction flows and develops naturally
- Relate his or her own contributions closely to those of the examiner

In the Listening phase

- Understand a range of spoken texts and recognise implicit meaning
- Use contextual, grammatical and lexical cues to identify attitude, mood and intentions and anticipate what follows
- Use knowledge of grammar, lexis and register to identify context and participants from a piece of discourse

In the Conversation phase

- Share the responsibility with the examiner for the maintenance of the conversation
- Offer new contributions to influence the direction of the conversation
- Participate without much obvious searching for expressions

Phonology

- The correct pronunciation of topic and subject-area specific vocabulary
- Sounds with minimal interference from the first language
- A range of stress and intonation patterns, pitch and volume to:
 - engage and maintain the examiner's interest
 - signal the provision of new information
 - indicate discourse structure

Exam Phases

- Formal presentation of a topic prepared by the candidate (up to 5 mins)
- A candidate-led discussion of the topic presentation with the examiner (up to 5 minutes)
- Interactive phase (up to 5 minutes)
- Listening phase (up to 3 minutes)
- Conversation on two subject areas selected by the examiner (up to 6 minutes).

Language Functions

- Developing an argument
- Defending a point of view
- Expressing beliefs
- Expressing opinions tentatively
- Summarising information, ideas and arguments
- Deducing

Lexis

- Vocabulary specific to the topic and subject areas
- A range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms
- Modifying words, eg basically, quite, certainly
- Intensifiers, eg absolutely, completely, totally
- Tentative expressions, eg I may be wrong but..., don't you think it might be...
- Signposting words, eg firstly, finally
- Phrases and expressions relating to the language functions listed above

Subject Areas

LIST A

Roles in the family
Communication
The school curriculum
Youth behaviour
Use of the internet
Designer goods

LIST B

International events
Equal opportunities
Social issues
The future of the planet
Scientific developments
Stress management

Grammar

- A broad range of complex structures to express thoughts clearly
- A high degree of grammatical accuracy, although minor errors may occur when attempting to use a combination of structures across sentence boundaries