

## Communicative Skills

### Formal topic presentation phase

- Give a formal presentation, discursive in nature, on a chosen subject, with an identifiable structure, using discourse connectors and cohesive devices and showing controlled use of organisational patterns
- Introduce the presentation, develop particular points, expand and support points of view at some length with subsidiary points, and integrate sub-themes fluently
- Bring the presentation to an appropriate conclusion by inviting questions and comments from the examiner

### In the Topic discussion phase

- Initiate the discussion and encourage the examiner to comment and give his or her opinion on the ideas provided in the presentation
- Take responsibility for the maintenance of the discussion
- Be prepared to justify the ideas and opinions given in the presentation
- Respond to challenges made by the examiner spontaneously and appropriately

### In the Interactive phase

- Take full responsibility for maintaining the flow of conversation by changing its direction when a particular line of questioning dries up
- Negotiate towards a logical conclusion to the interaction

### In the Listening phase

- Understand inferences and pick up on phonological clues
- Demonstrate the ability to recognise a range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms

### In the Conversation phase

- Take responsibility for the maintenance of the conversation
- Anticipate the direction of the conversation and cope with topic shifts
- Demonstrate the ability to infer and extract meaning from vague or imprecise language
- Evaluate and challenge statements and arguments made by the examiner

## Phonology

- The correct pronunciation of topic and subject-area specific vocabulary
- Various features of pronunciation which only occasionally deviate from an internationally intelligible model
- A range of stress and intonation patterns, pitch and volume to convey subtle shifts in meaning and attitude

## 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

- Justifying an argument
- Inferring
- Expressing caution
- Expressing empathy and sympathy
- Challenging arguments and opinions
- Evaluating different standpoints
- Expressing reservations

## Lexis

- Vocabulary specific to the topic and subject areas
- A good range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms
- Signposting expressions, eg I'd like to begin with..., conversely..., to conclude...
- Vague and imprecise language, eg a bit more, a hundred people or so
- Phrases and expressions relating to the language functions listed above

## Subject Areas

### LIST A

Independence  
Ambitions  
Stereotypes  
Role models  
Competitiveness  
Young people's rights

### LIST B

The media  
Advertising  
Lifestyles  
The arts  
The rights of the individual  
Economic issues

## Grammar

- A broad range of complex structures, used flexibly and effectively in combination and contrast
- A high degree of grammatical accuracy; errors are rare and difficult to identify