

Communicative Skills

Formal topic presentation phase

- Present a complex topic with a high degree of linguistic formality to the examiner, who will probably be unfamiliar with the subject matter
- Present a clear argument with an effective logical structure which helps the examiner to notice and remember significant points
- Bring the presentation to a logical conclusion by inviting questions and comments from the examiner

In the Topic discussion phase

- Initiate the discussion and actively seek ways in which to engage the examiner in a meaningful exchange of ideas and opinions
- w Take full responsibility for the maintenance of the discussion
- w Be able to deal effectively with the examiner's input by responding to a variety of conversational gambits and handling in-depth questioning

In the Interactive phase

- Control and sustain the discussion at all times
- Actively encourage the examiner's collaboration in the task
- Direct the interaction towards a successful conclusion

In the Listening phase

- Understand texts on abstract and complex topics which may be of a specialist nature beyond his or her own field
- Understand virtually everything heard when delivered at natural native speaker speed
- Identify implicit meaning

In the Conversation phase

- Take full responsibility for the maintenance of the conversation
- Hold a discussion unconstrained by linguistic limitations, without showing signs of having to restrict what he or she wants to say
- Introduce his or her contribution into the joint discourse with natural turn-taking and referencing
- Demonstrate the ability to make an unobtrusive substitution for a word or expression he or she is unable to recall

Phonology

- Produce individual sounds so as to be fully understood by the examiner, with only a rare sound that deviates from an internationally intelligible model
- Stress and intonation patterns which are recognisably specific to English without any lapses in intelligibility

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

- Asserting
- Denying
- Softening and downplaying propositions
- Contradicting
- Implying
- Affirming

Lexis

- A good command of a very broad lexical repertoire
- A wide range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms
- Phrases and expressions relating to the language functions listed above

Subject Areas

- There are no specific subject areas for Grade 12.
- Candidates should be able to make use of a wide range of vocabulary items relating to subject areas of all previous grades as well as other subjects of general or topical interest.
- At this grade, candidates are expected to be able to enter into discussion on any subject that the examiner deems appropriate for the individual candidate.

Grammar

- A comprehensive and reliable mastery of a very wide range of language to formulate thoughts precisely, give emphasis and eliminate ambiguity
- Differing linguistic forms to reformulate ideas and convey finer shades of meaning
- Complete and consistent grammatical control of highly complex language at all times