

Communicative Skills

Topic Phase

- Show understanding of the examiner by responding appropriately
- Communicate facts, ideas, opinions and explain viewpoints about a chosen topic linked across a series of extended turns
- Maintain coherence and cohesion throughout the phase by organising discourse
- Engage the examiner in discussion of the topic
- Be prepared to ask and answer questions about the content of and examiner's views on the topic
- Handle interruptions by using recovery strategies
- Respond to the examiner's contributions and requests for further information, clarifications and explanations

Interactive Phase

- Take control over the interaction
- Maintain the discourse by asking for information and commenting on the responses obtained
- Help the discussion along by encouraging comment and opinion from the examiner
- Take, give up and offer turns when appropriate to do so
- Take the opportunity to use the language functions listed opposite, as appropriate to the individual task

Conversation Phase

- Show understanding of the examiner by responding appropriately
- Share responsibility for the maintenance of the interaction with the examiner
- Follow up on comments from the examiner in order to develop the conversation
- In case of a breakdown in communication, take steps to repair it

Phonology

- The correct pronunciation of vocabulary specific to the topic and subject areas
- Rising and falling intonation to indicate giving up and offering turns
- Stress, intonation and pitch relevant to the language functions listed above
- Stress and intonation to indicate emotion

Exam Phases

- Candidate-led discussion of a topic prepared by the candidate (up to 5 mins)
- Interactive phase (up to 4 minutes)
- Conversation on two subject areas selected by the examiner (up to 5 mins)

Language Functions

- Expressing feelings and emotions
- Expressing impossibility
- Reporting the conversation of others
- Speculating
- Persuading and discouraging

Lexis

- Vocabulary specific to the topic area
- Vocabulary specific to the subject areas
- Cohesive devices, eg so to continue, in other words, for example
- Reporting verbs, eg say, tell, ask, report, advise, promise
- Appropriate words and expressions to encourage further participation
- Phrases and expressions relating to the language functions listed above

Subject Areas

- Society and living standards
- Personal values and ideals
- The world of work
- Unexplained phenomena and events
- National environmental concerns
- Public figures past and present

Grammar

- Third conditional
- Present perfect continuous tense
- Past perfect tense
- Reported speech
- Linking expressions, eg even though, in spite of, although