

Communicative Skills

Topic Phase

- Show understanding of the examiner by responding appropriately
- Communicate facts, ideas, opinions and attitudes about a chosen topic sustained across a series of extended turns
- Maintain coherence and cohesion throughout the phase by organising the discourse
- Highlight significant points
- Paraphrase where necessary in order to maintain the discourse
- Engage the examiner in discussion of the topic
- Handle interruptions without undue effort by recapping and recovering

In the Interactive phase

- Take control over the interaction
- Maintain the discourse by asking for information and expanding on the responses obtained
- Develop the discussion by encouraging comment and opinion from the examiner
- Take, keep, give up and offer turns when appropriate to do so
- Where appropriate to the individual task, include exponents of the language functions as listed opposite

In the 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, use paraphrasing and circumlocution

Phonology

- The correct pronunciation of vocabulary specific to the topic and subject areas
- Rising and falling intonation for keeping, giving up and offering turns
- Stress and rhythm to highlight and emphasise main points and ideas
- Intonation and pitch to convey attitude

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 abstract ideas
- Expressing regrets, wishes and hopes
- Expressing assumptions
- Paraphrasing
- Evaluating options
- Hypothesising
- Evaluating past actions or course of events

Lexis

- Vocabulary specific to the topic area
- Vocabulary specific to the subject areas
- Cohesive devices to recap and recover, eg as I was saying, anyway...
- Hesitation fillers, eg I mean, you know
- Stock phrases to gain time for thought and keep the turn, eg well, let me think...
- Phrases and expressions relating to the language functions listed above

Subject Areas

- Dreams and nightmares
- Crime and punishment
- Technology
- Habits and obsessions
- Global environmental issues
- Design

Grammar

- Mixed conditionals
- Verbs followed by gerund and/or infinitive, eg forget, stop, go on, remember
- More complex forms of the passive with modals
- Should/must/might/could + perfect infinitive
- Correct verb patterns after wish and hope

