

INTERNATIONAL GCSE

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Speaking

Commentary on speaking performances

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English as a Second Language

This guide includes commentaries on exemplar student responses.

It is intended to provide some examples of how the mark scheme is applied to student responses and should be used in conjunction with the specimen paper and mark scheme for Speaking.

Student 1 (Ann): Photo Card B

Part 1 Photo Card

Communication - 7 marks

The speaker gives understandable replies to all questions and develops some answers. The speaker is able to give opinions and able to explain some of these. The speaker does not always take the opportunity to further develop replies and the teacher prompts when necessary with appropriate questions.

Knowledge and Use of Language - 4 marks

There is a good knowledge of the language and the speaker is able to manipulate the language successfully for the majority of the task. There are errors, but these do not affect the communication of the answers.

Total - 11 marks

Part 2 General Conversation.

The speaker has developed some responses and there are some extended sequences of speech. There are also times where questions are not responded to as confidently as others but generally detail is given within the responses. There are some opinions and a few of these are explained.

The language used is good and the candidate attempts to use more complex sentences. However, the speaker has little opportunity to make reference to past or future events, although there are questions about future plans. Where there was opportunity to do so in the future/ conditional tenses, this was often avoided using one-word answers lacking the use of verbs.

Pronunciation is generally understandable and appropriate intonation is generally sustained throughout the task.

There are times when the speaker reacts naturally to questions asked although there is also reliance on pre-learnt responses. There is some hesitation but there is generally a reasonable pace to the conversation.

Communication	6 marks
Knowledge and use of language	3 marks
Pronunciation and intonation	3 marks
Spontaneity and fluency	3 marks
Total	15 marks

Overall total – 26 marks

Student 2 (Peter): Photo Card D

Part 1 Photo Card

Communication - 6 marks

The speaker gives understandable replies to most questions and develops some answers. A few opinions are offered but the speaker does not always take the opportunity to explain the opinions given.

Knowledge and Use of Language - 3 marks

There is a reasonable knowledge and use of language. The candidate is able to communicate ideas and errors do not unduly affect the communication. There is some inconsistency with verb formation and sentence structure.

Total - 9 marks

Part 2 General Conversation

The speaker has developed some responses and there are some extended sequences of speech. He is able to offer opinions, and these are at times suitably explained.

The language used is good and there is the occasional use of more complex structures. The speaker has been able to make reference to future events with some success. There are errors but, generally, they do not impede communication.

Pronunciation is generally understandable with generally sustained intonation.

The speaker is able to engage in a good exchange with the teacher, and a natural interaction at times, reacting to the questions of the teacher. The delivery has a reasonable pace on the whole.

Communication	6 marks
Knowledge and use of language	3 marks
Pronunciation and intonation	3 marks
Spontaneity and fluency	3 marks
Total	15 marks

Overall total – 24 marks

Student 3 (Razvan): Photo Card A

Part 1 Photo Card

Communication - 4 marks

The speaker gives mainly short replies throughout the task. The speaker understands the questions, but responses are limited, and the teacher has to use prompts in order to elicit further information. The speaker fails to expand upon the limited answers to questions.

Knowledge and Use of Language - 2 marks

There is a limited knowledge and use of language. Sentences are mostly short with few opportunities taken to use subordination or offer opinions and reasons.

Total - 6 marks

Part 2 – General Conversation

The speaker has developed some responses, but does not always take the opportunity to produce more extended sequences of speech. Information is generally clear and there are some opinions, but these are not often explained.

The language used is reasonable, but the speaker only refers to future events, in addition to the present. Simple structures and vocabulary are used effectively and, although there are some errors, these do not affect communication

Pronunciation is understandable and there is, generally, an appropriate intonation throughout the task.

Although there is some hesitation, there is a little spontaneity and a flow to the conversation, which has a reasonable pace.

Communication	5 marks
Knowledge and use of language	2 marks
Pronunciation and intonation	3 marks
Spontaneity and fluency	3 marks
Total	13 marks

Overall total – 19 marks

Student 4 (Lonneysia): Photo Card C

Part 1 Photo Card

Communication - 4 marks

The speaker gives mainly short replies throughout the task. Responses are limited despite the speaker understanding the questions and the teacher has to use prompts in order to elicit further information. The speaker fails to offer opinions or expand upon the limited answers to questions.

Knowledge and Use of Language - 2 marks

There is a limited knowledge and use of language. The speaker speaks with some fluency. Sentences are mostly short with no opportunities taken to offer opinions and reasons.

Total - 6 marks

Part 2 – General Conversation

It should be noted that the task is short and only lasts about five minutes when it should last approximately six minutes.

The speaker is only able to give short responses and there are a number of occasions when answers are successful but other responses lack clarity, with few opinions.

The speaker uses simple language and there is a limited vocabulary used with little reference to past or future events. There are many errors in the language used especially when longer phrases are attempted.

Comprehension is delayed at times although pronunciation and intonation are usually understandable.

The speaker relies on the teacher prompts and responses do not show spontaneity. There is just enough flow for two marks despite some hesitation.

Communication	3 marks
Knowledge and use of language	2 marks
Pronunciation and intonation	2 marks
Spontaneity and fluency	2 marks
Total	9 marks

Overall total – 15 marks

Student 5 (Stefany): Photo Card D

Part 1 Photo Card

Communication - 3 marks

The speaker gives mainly short replies throughout the task. The questions are understood, but responses are limited, and the teacher has to use prompts in order to elicit further information. The speaker is quite hesitant and not confident in her replies

Knowledge and Use of Language - 2 marks

There is a limited knowledge and use of language. The speaker is hesitant and is not confident in her use of language. Sentences are mostly short with few opportunities taken to use conjunctions, subordination or offer opinions and reasons.

Total - 5 marks

Part 2 General Conversation

It should be noted that the task is short and only lasts four minutes when it should last approximately six minutes.

The speaker is only able to give limited information which consists of many short responses. She is only able to offer a few opinions, but these are not explained.

The speaker uses simple language and there is a limited vocabulary used with no reference to past or future events. There are many errors in the language used.

Pronunciation is usually understandable, but comprehension is sometimes delayed.

The speaker relies on the teacher prompts and responses do not show spontaneity. There are frequent pauses and the delivery is slow and lacking any flow.

Communication	2 marks
Knowledge and use of language	1 mark
Pronunciation and intonation	2 marks
Spontaneity and fluency	1 mark
Total	6 marks

Overall total – 11 marks

Student 6 (Ester): Photo Card B

Part 1 Photo Card

Communication - 2 marks

The speaker gives replies to some questions, but these were often very short and there was reliance on the teacher prompts to sustain the task. The speaker often tended to avoid the use of verbs in her responses and some of the responses were not clear due to this.

Knowledge and Use of Language - 1 mark

There is a poor knowledge and use of language. The speaker answers very briefly and often misses out a subject or verb, or both, within sentences that are quite clipped. This does affect the communication.

Total - 3 marks

Part 2 General Conversation

It should be noted that the task is short and lasts under four minutes 15 seconds when it should last approximately six minutes.

The speaker is only able to give limited information which consists of many short responses. She is also unable to respond to some questions and others are misunderstood despite the teacher's efforts in rephrasing questions.

The speaker uses simple language and there is a limited vocabulary used with no reference to past or future events. There are many errors in the language used especially when longer phrases are attempted.

Comprehension is difficult at times although there are times when pronunciation and intonation are understandable.

The candidate relies on the teacher prompts and responses do not show spontaneity. There are frequent pauses and the delivery is slow and lacking any flow.

Communication	1 mark
Knowledge and use of language	1 mark
Pronunciation and intonation	1 mark
Spontaneity and fluency	1 mark
Total	4 marks

Overall total – 7 marks

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