

ORAL EXAMINATIONS

1ST TERM

As far as these examinations are concerned, students will find some important information below, as well as several sentences and vocabulary to use while speaking.

The oral exam will be done **in pairs/threes** and it will consist of **two parts**:

1. **PART 1: Interview (2-3 minutes)**. Students will be asked one or two questions about their likes/dislikes, hobbies, interests, etc. Some sample questions are the following:

PHASE 1

- *A: Good morning / afternoon / evening.*
- *What's your name?*
- *B: Good morning / afternoon / evening.*
- *My name is Sophia.*
- *A: what's your surname? How do you spell it?*
- *B: My surname is Smith. S-M-I-T-H.*

PHASE 2

Questions are normally on these topics:

Your hobbies

Your work or education

Things you like and things you don't like

Friends and family

Holidays

Sports

Future plans

- Do you enjoy studying English? Why (not)?
- Do you think that English will be useful for you in the future?
- What do you do in your free time?
- Did you do anything in your last school holiday? What?
- What do you like doing when you're not at school?
- Would you like to travel to another country? Which one?
- What is your favourite film / sport / food? Why?
- What's your favourite part of the day?
- Which time of year is your favourite?
- Who are the most important people in your life?
- What do you enjoy doing with your friends?
- Tell me a little about your family.

TIPS:

1. You will be asked questions individually by the examiner. The questions will be about your life and you may be asked questions about the present, past and future. Focus on good pronunciation, and extending your answers just a little.
2. If you don't understand any question, politely ask the examiner to repeat it. Don't stress.
Please could you repeat that?
Could you say that again, please?

3. Use the Grammar of the Question in Your Answer

Here's a silly mistake:

Do you enjoy cooking?

Yes, I enjoy to cook.

Why not use the same grammar as the question in your answer?

Do you enjoy cooking?

Yes, I enjoy cooking.

Here's another example:

Are you going to go on holiday this year?

Yes, I'm going to go to Mexico. It's going to be my first time.

You don't always have to do this - English is quite flexible. But for now, this method will help you avoid mistakes.

4. You should definitely learn some nice phrases about hobbies. For example, the phrase 'to be keen on' means 'to like'.

What are your hobbies?

I'm keen on gardening.

5. How much should you say?

It's ok to give short answers here, but please, don't say 'yes' or 'no'. Your answer shouldn't be shorter than the question! Here are some GOOD examples:

'Where are you from, Victoria?'

'I'm from Germany, from the north coast of Germany.'

And:

"And Edward?"

"I'm from Peru. I live in the capital, Lima. It's near the coast."

6. Checklist:

Do I sound like a robot?

Were my answers too short, too long, or just right?

Did I use my keywords?

SAMPLE VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiWv7VtY6xs>

2. PART 2: Pictures (2 minutes). Depending on the level, the task will be based on:

A) Describing/speculating about what students can see in a colour photograph (B1 level).

B) Answering one/two questions which will be closely related to the situation in the picture (B2 level). Also, **contrasting two different pictures** can be found in this task.

WATCH OUT!

A) DESCRIBING A PICTURE:

- The pictures are just an excuse to talk about the topic.
- Describe what you can see. We don't want you to describe in detail, just give a general description.
- Use a wide variety of vocabulary and structures. Join your ideas using linkers.
- Talk about the topic explaining your point of view.
- Normally the pictures show different sides of the same issue. Say which one you would choose and why.

Useful language:

GIVE A GENERAL INTRODUCTION

- 'This picture shows ...'
- 'In this picture I can see...'
- 'This is a picture of ...'
- 'It looks like a... It could be a ...'

TALK ABOUT PLACES

- 'They're walking in the country/in a city/in the mountains'
- 'She's talking inside/outside a cafe' or 'I can see a street market/old building/square/street/restaurant/beach ...'

DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S AGE

- 'He's about 40 years old'
- 'They're in their eighties'
- 'She's a teenager/a young child/a middle-aged woman'

DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S CLOTHES

- 'She's wearing a pair of glasses and a blue T-shirt'
- 'They're wearing quite casual/smart clothes'
- 'He's wearing a school/work uniform'

DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S ACTIONS

- 'He's sitting at a desk/table'
- 'She's standing in a queue/line'
- 'They're having Breakfast/lunch/dinner'
- 'Some people are playing on the beach and others are sunbathing'

DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S ROLES IN A PICTURE

- 'He's probably a shop assistant and she's a customer'

'This person on the left seems to be a tourist guide - he's pointing to a building'

'The man serving the drinks is a waiter'

DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S FEELINGS IN A PICTURE

'You can tell they are enjoying themselves because they are smiling'

'He seems a bit frightened. Maybe this is the first time he's tried this'

'She looks very interested in this activity - she's concentrating very hard'

PARAPHRASE (use these phrases to describe words you don't know)

'It's something you fry food in' (frying pan)

'It's a kind of container for flowers' (a vase)

'It's a cupboard for keeping clothes in' (a wardrobe).

MAKE GUESSES

'It might be summer because some people are wearing sunglasses'

'It's probably in the country, because'

'This picture could be in Northern Europe because of the buildings'

DESCRIBE POSITION

'In the middle of the picture there is a family making a salad ...'

'In the background there are some white cupboards'

'There's a window next to the cupboards.'

TO DESCRIBE: WHERE?

At the top/bottom of the picture...

In the middle of the picture...

On the left/right of the picture....

Next to / In front of / behind /close to...

In the foreground/background you can see/there is/are...

On the left/right (side)...

SPECULATION:

It looks like a... It could be a ...

She/He could/might be...

Maybe/perhaps/probably it's a .../ I think they are...

GIVING YOUR OPINION:

I think/believe that...

From my point of view this is...

In my opinion.../I would say that...

Well, I must say...

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER!

1. *Talk in sentences - don't produce lists of items you can see (Present Continuous)*
2. *Organize your description - don't describe the same thing more than once*
3. *Start with a general idea of the subject of the picture before going into details*
4. *Give reasons (related to the picture) for your ideas*
5. *Talk about the situation as well as the physical things you can see in the picture*
6. *Give some personal reaction to the picture*
7. *Listen quietly when your partner describes his/her photo - don't give help or comment*

SAMPLE VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIqDBXEOCs4>

B) CONTRASTING 2 PICTURES / ANSWERING Qs:

- **CONTRASTING PICTURES:** *Holidays in the city or in the beach?*



In both photos we can see two very different holiday destinations: a big city and a solitary paradise beach.

The picture on the right was taken at the famous street of New York Times Square. This street is always crowded with tourists, and in this photo I think there are too many. They are carrying photo cameras, video cameras or taking photos with their mobile phones. They are wearing summer clothes because it might be July.

In the other photo, there is a beach with clean sand and clear calm water without waves. In the foreground we see five sunbeds and palms.

In my opinion, the perfect vacation is a mixture of both destinations, a few days in the city to visit museums and emblematic buildings, to see a musical or a theater, to do some sightseeing and to make all the activities that you can, and then, other days at a resort to relax and enjoy the sun, the beach, sleep and enjoy the food.

If you're looking forward to going to New York ,you need to save money because it is the most expensive city in which I have been, but it seems as if you are in a movie with all the famous places and you think " I know this and that".

SAMPLE VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AutMOJKhAYY>

- **SAMPLE QUESTIONS:**

- What kind of holidays would you enjoy the most?
- What kind of holidays would you choose to disconnect from stress and routine?

USEFUL PHRASES WHEN COMPARING PICTURES

ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION

Sorry, I'm not sure what you mean.

I don't (really) understand

Can you say that again, please? I'm not

(quite) sure what I have to do.

Can I ask a question?

Do you want me to....?

CORRECTING YOURSELF

What I mean is...

What I meant was...

What I'm trying to say is...

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

They both show/have/etc

They're both quite similar because they both show/have/etc

There are in both photographs

Both of them have got.... In them.

The top one looks more..... than the bottom one.

The one on the left is/shows/has but/WHEREAS the one on the right is

This one is not as.....as the other one.

It's quite difficult to compare them.

This picture reminds me of whereas the other one.....

EXPRESSING YOUR LIKES, DISLIKES, PREFERENCES

I (really) like/love/enjoy

I don't (really) like....

I'm not very keen on...

I much prefer...

I'd prefer...

I'd (much) rather...

The thing I like the best is

EXPRESSING YOUR OPINIONS/FEELINGS/REACTIONS

I don't think he's very happy / she's going to buy anything

I'm not sure whether enjoy it /people believe

I think it'd be better if they chose..../ we didn't go...

I think we should.... pay less / choose ...

It makes me angry/worried/smile/want to...

I find it really interesting/awful

It looks a bit strange/difficult