

**Cambridge**

English Qualifications

## **B1 Preliminary**

Sample Material for Special Arrangements Versions of Speaking Tests

*Examinations from 2020*



**Cambridge Assessment  
English**

## Introduction

### What happens?

For most examinations, blind candidates and candidates with visual difficulties may choose to take the speaking test **alone** or **with a partner**.

All tests have two examiners, the Assessor and the Interlocutor, even though the candidate is taking the test alone.

The partner may be:

- another candidate who is visually impaired
- a 'dummy partner' (a colleague or friend who is not taking the examination, has a similar level of English as the candidate, and is familiar with the format of the Speaking Test). The dummy partner can be either visually impaired or sighted.

### Who are Special Requirements versions for?

One the following pages are sample materials for both single and paired candidate formats, which include:

- Standard visual material
- Enlarged visual material
- Enlarged written prompts

Enlarged print versions with written prompts are for candidates with visual difficulties, and candidates who have a physical disability which makes it difficult for them to read normal-sized print or focus on pictures/photographs.

Brailled material will be supplied for blind candidates, or those with severe visual impairments who prefer to work from Braille. **Sample brailled material is not provided here, but note that brailled written prompts are the same as those used in enlarged material.**

### What material is used with candidates who are visually impaired?

Most Speaking Tests like *B1 Preliminary* use pictures, photographs or other visuals as a stimulus for interaction. For visually-impaired candidates, a special version of the Speaking Test is produced.

Candidates can opt to use standard or enlarged visuals, written prompts (enlarged) or written prompts which have been brailled.

The following is an example of how the visual input might be adapted as a written prompt for *B1 Preliminary Speaking*:

Visual input (as used in the original task):



Written prompt format for visually impaired and blind candidates (using Braille):

**What different activities could the man do to help him relax?**

**2. Cooking**

All printed text is enlarged to a uniform font size and type (Arial 18 point bold – see example above).

Candidates should use the written prompts as a starting point and say as much as they can about the situation described in the written prompts and the associated topic.

Examiners are given adapted scripts (called ‘interlocutor frames’) to use with the material. There are different interlocutor frames for candidates taking the test alone and for candidates taking the test with a partner. These interlocutor frames are designed to keep the test as close as possible to the standard *B1 Preliminary* Speaking Test in terms of structure and candidate experience.

## The single candidate format

Candidates can opt to take the test alone if preferred, or in circumstances where a partner may not be appropriate. In both cases, a single candidate version of the test can be provided using:

### Visual material

- Standard visual material
- Enlarged visual material

### Written prompts

- Enlarged written prompts
- Braille prompts

## What happens in the single candidate format test?

Special interlocutor frames are prepared. In some parts of the test, the interlocutor takes the part of the other candidate.

Interlocutors, while playing the role of the candidate's partner, will not dominate or monopolise the conversation and will always use vocabulary at CEFR B1 level. Interlocutors restrict themselves to minimal prompts and questions sufficient to keep the conversation going in a reasonable natural way and 'open' questions are used to encourage the candidate to continue speaking (e.g. *'What do you think about this?'*).

Additional questions are provided where appropriate in order to compensate for the shortened nature of the test.

There is no Part 2 in *B1 Preliminary Speaking Special Arrangements* papers.

## What about timing?

For both paired and single candidate format tests, interlocutors allow candidates additional time to process texts and questions before replying, or to read and think about written material. The amount of additional time is at the discretion of the examiner, but the candidates are always given sufficient time to read and process tasks. Approximate timings are shown in the following sample interlocutor frames.

For frequently asked questions, information, instructions and guides for running our exams, and updates, please see the support site: [support.cambridgeenglish.org](https://support.cambridgeenglish.org). You can also use it to contact our Helpdesk by submitting a query or instant messaging with a Helpdesk Analyst. You can also reach the Helpdesk at [helpdesk@cambridgeenglish.org](mailto:helpdesk@cambridgeenglish.org) or call **+44 1223 553997 (for urgent queries)**.

# **Single candidate format Visual material**

**For candidates using:**

- Standard visual material
- Enlarged visual material

**B1: Preliminary  
Speaking Test**

**Part 1 (2–3 minutes approx.)**

*Phase 1*

**Interlocutor**

Good morning/afternoon/evening.  
Can I have your mark sheet, please?

*Hand over the mark sheets to the Assessor.*

I'm ..... and this is .....  
He/She is just going to listen to us.

What's your name? Where do you live/come from?  
Thank you.

(Interlocutor asks the following questions)

Where do you work or are you a  
student?

What do you do/study?

Thank you.

**Back-up prompts**

Do you have a job?  
Do you study?

What job do you do?  
What subject do you study?

*Phase 2*

**Interlocutor**

*Select one or more questions from the list – see examples below – to ask the candidate.*

*Candidate's name is used throughout.*

**Back-up prompts**

How do you get to work/school/university every day?

Do you usually travel by car? (Why?/Why not?)

What did you do yesterday evening/last weekend?

Did you do anything yesterday evening/last weekend? What?

Do you think that English will be useful for you in the future? (Why?/Why not?)

Will you use English in the future? (Why?/Why not?)

Tell us about the people you live with.

Do you live with friends/your family?

Thank you.

In the next part, we are going to talk to each other.

**There is no Part 2 in Preliminary Speaking SA papers.**



**Speaking Test 1 (Work and Relaxation)**

**Parts 3 and 4 (6 minutes)**

**Interlocutor** I'm going to describe a situation to you. A young man works very hard and has only one free day a week. He wants to find an activity to help him relax.

Here are some activities to help him relax.


*Place **Part 3** booklet, open at **Task 1**, in front of the candidate. Allow candidate adequate time to read the task.*

**Now, we're going to talk together about the different activities he could do, and then I'd like you to decide which would be most interesting.**

All right? Now, we're going to talk together. Can you start?

**Candidate/  
Interlocutor**

.....

 *approx. 2  
minutes*

**Interlocutor**

Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?) *Retrieve **Part 3** booklet.*

**Part 4**

**Interlocutor**

*Use the following questions, as appropriate:*

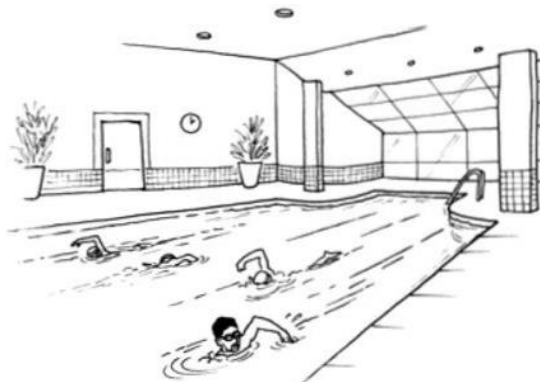
- **What do you do when you want to relax? (Why?)**
- **Do you prefer to relax with friends or alone? (Why?)**
- **Is it important to do exercise in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Is it useful to learn new skills in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Do you think people spend too much time working/studying these days? (Why?/Why not?)**

*Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:*

- **How/what about you?**
- **Do you agree?**
- **What do you think?**

Thank you. That is the end of the test.

# Activities to help the man relax



# Single candidate format

## Written prompts

For candidates using:

- Enlarged written prompts
- Braille prompts\*

**\*Braille prompts will have the same wording as the enlarged written prompts.**

**B1: Preliminary  
Speaking Test**

**Part 1 (2–3 minutes approx.)**

*Phase 1*

**Interlocutor**

Good morning/afternoon/evening.  
Can I have your mark sheet, please?

*Hand over the mark sheets to the Assessor.*

I'm ..... and this is .....  
He/She is just going to listen to us.

What's your name? Where do you live/come from?  
Thank you.

[Interlocutor asks the following questions]

Where do you work or are you a  
student?

What do you do/study?

Thank you.

**Back-up prompts**

Do you have a job?  
Do you study?

What job do you do?  
What subject do you study?

*Phase 2*

**Interlocutor**

*Select one or more questions from the list – see examples below – to ask the candidate.*

*Candidate's name is used throughout.*

**Back-up prompts**

How do you get to work/school/university every day?

Do you usually travel by car? (Why?/Why not?)

What did you do yesterday evening/last weekend?

Did you do anything yesterday evening/last weekend? What?

Do you think that English will be useful for you in the future? (Why?/Why not?)

Will you use English in the future? (Why?/Why not?)

Tell us about the people you live with.

Do you live with friends/your family?

Thank you.

In the next part, we are going to talk to each other.

**There is no Part 2 in Preliminary Speaking SA papers.**

**Speaking Test 1 (Work and Relaxation)**

**Parts 3 and 4 (6 minutes)**

**Interlocutor** I'm going to describe a situation to you. A young man works very hard and has only one free day a week. He wants to find an activity to help him relax.

Here are some activities to help him relax.

*Place **Part 3** booklet, open at **Task 1**, in front of the candidate. Allow candidate adequate time to read the task.*

**Now, we're going to talk together about the different activities he could do, and then I'd like you to decide which would be most interesting.**

All right? Now, we're going to talk together. Can you start?

**Candidate/  
Interlocutor**

.....

 *approx. 2  
minutes*

**Interlocutor**

Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?) *Retrieve **Part 3** booklet.*

**Part 4**

**Interlocutor**

*Use the following questions, as appropriate:*

- **What do you do when you want to relax? (Why?)**
- **Do you prefer to relax with friends or alone? (Why?)**
- **Is it important to do exercise in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Is it useful to learn new skills in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Do you think people spend too much time working/studying these days? (Why?/Why not?)**

*Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:*

- **How/what about you?**
- **Do you agree?**
- **What do you think?**

Thank you. That is the end of the test.

**PRELIMINARY  
Single format  
Written prompts**

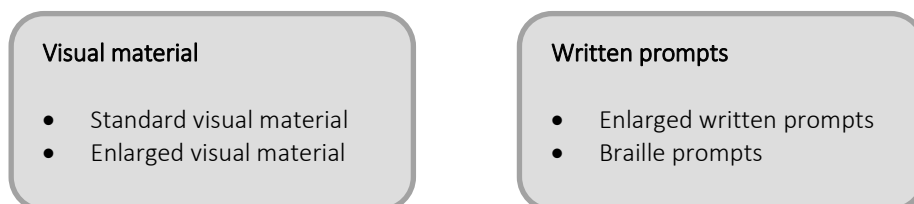
**What different activities could the man do to help him relax?**

- 1. Fishing**
- 2. Cooking**
- 3. Swimming**
- 4. Walking the dog**
- 5. Reading a book**
- 6. Painting a picture**
- 7. Dancing at a party**



## The paired candidate format

A paired version of the test materials can be provided using:



### What happens in the paired candidate format test?

Special interlocutor frames are prepared for blind and visually impaired candidates taking Speaking Tests with a partner.

Blind candidates can take the test with another candidate who is blind or with a 'dummy' (non-assessed) partner. Both partners must use written prompts (in Braille or print versions).

Visually impaired candidates can take the test with another candidate who is visually impaired or with a 'dummy' (non-assessed) partner. Both partners must use material in the same format.

As far as possible, the paired format for the Speaking Test procedure will be similar to that of the standard Speaking Test. Some further time is given for candidates to look at/read materials but the structure of the test is the same as in the standard test.

There is no Part 2 in *B1 Preliminary* Speaking Special Arrangements papers.

### What about timing?

For both paired and single candidate format tests, interlocutors allow candidates additional time to process texts and questions before replying, or to read and think about written material. The amount of additional time is at the discretion of the examiner, but the candidates are always given sufficient time to read and process tasks. Approximate timings are shown in the following sample interlocutor frames.

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# **Paired candidate format Visual material**

**For candidates using:**

- Standard visual material
- Enlarged visual material

**B1: Preliminary  
Speaking Test**

**Part 1 (2–3 minutes approx.)**

*Phase 1*

**Interlocutor**

*To both candidates*      Good morning/afternoon/evening.  
Can I have your mark sheets, please?

*Hand over the mark sheets to the Assessor.*

I'm ..... and this is .....

*To Candidate A*      What's your name? Where do you live/come from?  
Thank you.

*To Candidate B*      And what's your name? Where do you live/come from?  
Thank you.

(Interlocutor asks the following questions.)

**Back-up prompts**

**B**, do you work or are you a student?

Do you have a job?  
Do you study?

What do you do/study?

What job do you do?  
What subject do you study?

Thank you.

And **A**, do you work or are you a student?

Do you have a job?  
Do you study?

What do you do/study?

What job do you do?  
What subject do you study?

Thank you.

*Phase 2*

**Interlocutor**

*Select one or more questions from the list to ask each candidate.*

*Ask Candidate A first.*

How do you get to work/school/university every day?

What did you do yesterday evening/last weekend?

Do you think that English will be useful for you in the future? (Why?/Why not?)

Tell us about the people you live with.

Thank you.

**Back-up prompts**

Do you usually travel by car? (Why?/Why not?)

Did you do anything yesterday evening/last weekend? What?

Will you use English in the future? (Why?/Why not?)

Do you live with friends/your family?

**There is no Part 2 in Preliminary Speaking SA papers.**

**Speaking Test 1 (Work and Relaxation)**

**Parts 3 and 4 (6 minutes)**

**Interlocutor** I'm going to describe a situation to you. A young man works very hard and has only one free day a week. He wants to find an activity to help him relax.


Here are some activities to help him relax.

*Place **Part 3** booklet, open at **Task 1**, in front of the candidates. Allow candidates adequate time to read the task.*

**Now, talk to each other about the different activities he could do, and say which would be most relaxing.**

All right? Now, talk together.

**Candidates** .....

 *approx. 2 minutes*

**Interlocutor** Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?) *Retrieve **Part 3** booklet.*

**Part 4**

**Interlocutor** *Use the following questions, as appropriate:*

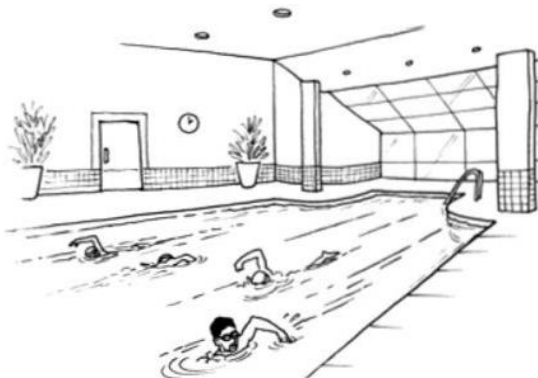
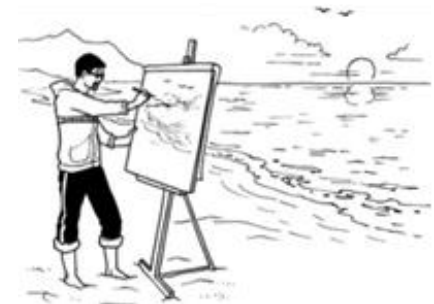
- **What do you do when you want to relax? (Why?)**
- **Do you prefer to relax with friends or alone? (Why?)**
- **Is it important to do exercise in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Is it useful to learn new skills in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Do you think people spend too much time working/studying these days? (Why?/Why not?)**

*Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:*

- **How/what about you?**
- **Do you agree?**
- **What do you think?**

Thank you. That is the end of the test.

# Activities to help the man relax



# Paired candidate format

## Written prompts

**For candidates using:**

- Enlarged written prompts
- Braille prompts\*

**\*Braille prompts will have the same wording as the enlarged written prompts.**



**B1: Preliminary  
Speaking Test**

**Part 1 (2–3 minutes approx.)**

*Phase 1*

**Interlocutor**

*To both candidates*      Good morning/afternoon/evening.  
Can I have your mark sheets, please?

*Hand over the mark sheets to the Assessor.*

I'm ..... and this is .....

*To Candidate A*      What's your name? Where do you live/come from?  
Thank you.

*To Candidate B*      And what's your name? Where do you live/come from?  
Thank you.

(Interlocutor asks the following questions.)

**Back-up prompts**

**B**, do you work or are you a student?

Do you have a job?  
Do you study?

What do you do/study?

What job do you do?  
What subject do you study?

Thank you.

And **A**, do you work or are you a student?

Do you have a job?  
Do you study?

What do you do/study?

What job do you do?  
What subject do you study?

Thank you.

*Phase 2*

**Interlocutor**

*Select one or more questions from the list to ask each candidate.*

*Ask Candidate A first.*

How do you get to work/school/university every day?

What did you do yesterday evening/last weekend?

Do you think that English will be useful for you in the future? (Why?/Why not?)

Tell us about the people you live with.

Thank you.

**Back-up prompts**

Do you usually travel by car? (Why?/Why not?)

Did you do anything yesterday evening/last weekend? What?

Will you use English in the future? (Why?/Why not?)

Do you live with friends/your family?

**There is no Part 2 in Preliminary Speaking SA papers.**

**Speaking Test 1 (Work and Relaxation)**

**Parts 3 and 4 (6 minutes)**

**Interlocutor** I'm going to describe a situation to you. A young man works very hard and has only one free day a week. He wants to find an activity to help him relax.


Here are some activities to help him relax.

*Place **Part 3** booklet, open at **Task 1**, in front of the candidates. Allow candidates adequate time to read the task.*

**Now, talk to each other about the different activities he could do, and say which would be most relaxing.**

All right? Now, talk together.

**Candidates** .....

 *approx. 2 minutes*

**Interlocutor** Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?) *Retrieve **Part 3** booklet.*

**Part 4**

**Interlocutor** *Use the following questions, as appropriate:*

- **What do you do when you want to relax? (Why?)**
- **Do you prefer to relax with friends or alone? (Why?)**
- **Is it important to do exercise in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Is it useful to learn new skills in your free time? (Why?/Why not?)**
- **Do you think people spend too much time working/studying these days? (Why?/Why not?)**

*Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:*

- **How/what about you?**
- **Do you agree?**
- **What do you think?**

Thank you. That is the end of the test.

**PRELIMINARY  
Paired format  
Written prompts**

**What different activities could the man do to help him relax?**

- 1. Fishing**
- 2. Cooking**
- 3. Swimming**
- 4. Walking the dog**
- 5. Reading a book**
- 6. Painting a picture**
- 7. Dancing at a party**