

FCE Sample Test

Speaking

Part 1

You tell the examiner about yourself. The examiner may ask you questions such as: “Where are you from? How do you usually spend your free time? What are your plans for the future?” Your partner does the same.

Part 2

The examiner gives you two pictures to look at and asks you to talk about them for about a minute. Your partner does the same with two different pictures.

Part 3

The examiner gives you a photograph or drawing to look at with your partner. You are asked to solve a problem or come to a decision about something in the picture. For example, you might be asked to decide the best way to use some rooms in a language school. You discuss the problem together.

Part 4

You are asked more questions connected with your discussion in Part 3. For example, you might be asked to talk about the best ways of studying.

Framework for a teacher

Part 1

Introduce yourself and the assessor. Encourage each candidate in turn to give personal information using questions such as: Where / What part of... are you from? How long have you lived here/there? Tell us what it's like living here/there...

Part 2

Tell the candidates what is going to happen: Now I'd like each of you to talk on your own for about a minute. Say something like: I'm going to give each of you two different pictures and I'd like you to talk about them and say whether you'd like to study in this sort of place. (Candidate A), here are your two pictures. Please let (Candidate B) see them. They show different places where you might study. I'd like you to compare and contrast these pictures, saying how you'd feel about studying in such places. Remember, you have only about a minute for this, so don't worry if I interrupt you. All right? Candidate A speaks for approximately one minute. Thank Candidate A, retrieve the pictures and invite Candidate B to speak: Could you tell us which of those places you would prefer to study in? Candidate B speaks for approximately 20 seconds. Thank you. Now, (Candidate B), here are your pictures. Please let (Candidate A) see them. They show some other places to study. (Candidate B), I'd like you to compare and contrast these study environments and say whether you prefer one of them. Do you ever study in places like these? Remember, you have only about a minute for this, so don't worry if I interrupt you. All right? Candidate B speaks for approximately one minute. Thank Candidate B. Retrieve the pictures and say something like: (Candidate A), could you tell us which of those places you'd prefer to study in? Candidate A speaks for approximately 20 seconds.

Part 3

Say: Now, I'd like you to do something together. Indicate the town plan to both candidates. Ask them to consider which of the three locations A, B, or C would be the best site for a new hospital. Say: Here is a plan of part of a town. You can see three areas marked A, B and C. The town is going to have a new hospital. I'd like you to talk together and decide which of the areas marked would be best and why. It is not necessary to agree with each other. All right? You have only about three minutes for this, so, once again, don't worry if I stop you and please speak so that we can hear you.

If candidates are having difficulty keeping the conversation going, it may be necessary to support them with an extra question or remark, but it is important to avoid stepping in too soon. After about three minutes thank the candidates and move on to Part 4.

Part 4

Encourage the candidates to develop topics raised by their discussion in Part 3. Depending on the way their discussion went, possible questions might be: Are cities too noisy? What can be done to reduce noise pollution in cities? How important is it that there should be good public transport? Do people use private cars too much? Why? Do you think the traffic in cities should be controlled more strictly? How? It is important for local people to be involved in planning decisions? Why? Are local people sufficiently involved in planning decisions on the whole? If not, why not? What could be done to improve this?

