

ADVANCED SPEAKING EXAM GUIDE

PART 1 : PERSONAL INFORMATION (3 minutes)

The assessor will begin by asking you each one or two personal questions:

Where do you live?

How long have you been studying English?

What countries have you visited?

He/she will then ask each of you one or two further questions:

How important do you think English is in Spain?

How would you feel about going to live abroad permanently?

What interesting events have happened in your life recently?

Who do you think has had the greatest influence on your life so far? (Why?)

What are your earliest memories of school?

REMEMBER!

DO use complete sentences and elaborate on your answers whenever you can. No one-word or super short answers! Be sure to always say WHY.

DO listen to your partner and show interest in what he/she says.

DO use a variety of tenses, language and structures at the beginning to give yourself confidence.

DON'T give answers that you have learned ahead of time – they don't sound natural!

PART 2 : LONG TURN (3 minutes)

The interlocutor gives Speaker 1 a set of three photographs and asks Speaker 1 to talk about TWO of the photographs for one minute. Then the interlocutor asks Speaker 2 about the photographs and Speaker 2 responds for 30 seconds.

Then the process switches - The interlocutor gives Speaker 2 a set of three photographs and asks Speaker 2 to talk about TWO of the photographs for one minute. Then the interlocutor asks Speaker 1 about the photographs and Speaker 1 responds for 30 seconds.

Listen for the interlocutor's questions to help you with the structure of your talk. Listen for three aspects: the first is always "describe" or "compare and contrast", the second is introduced by the word "saying" and the third by the word "and." ****Be sure to answer ALL three aspects!** (Hint: The questions will be at the top of the page)

Ex: "I'd like you to **compare and contrast** two or three of these pictures, **saying** what the people might be thinking about, **and** how difficult it might be for them to do these jobs."

A) Start with a general summary of the topic:

'These two photographs show people involved in a sport.'

B) Then move on to a comparison of the two pictures, using words to help explain the comparison:

Both photographs were taken outside and **each of** the people are concentrating hard on what they're doing. *'The top photo shows a woman rock climbing whilst the bottom photo is of a young skating ... It looks like the woman is out in the natural world whereas the boy is in a man-made skating park etc.'*

C) Finally give your opinion with examples, again using signposting words and expressions to help the examiner follow your argument.

'In my opinion, sport is important for people in lots of ways. **For example**, it's a way to keep fit of course, **but** we **also** meet new people **and** can get a lot of enjoyment from a sport ... etc.'

<p>To Compare:</p> <p><i>Both, same, also, like, similar to, similarly, alike, whereas, each, likewise, just as, in the same way, as well as, on a similar note</i></p>	<p>To Contrast:</p> <p><i>Different from, although, however, one difference is, on one hand...on the other hand, in comparison to, by comparison, instead of, in contrast to, unlike, even though, on the contrary, yet, differs from</i></p>
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<p>To Agree:</p> <p><i>Of course. You're absolutely right. I think so too. That's a good point. Exactly./ Absolutely. I don't think so either./ Me neither. So do I./ Neither do I. That's true. I agree with you entirely. That's just what I was thinking. I couldn't agree more. I agree with you 100 percent. You're absolutely right. That's exactly how I feel. No doubt about it. (weak) I suppose so./I guess so. You have a point there. I was just going to say that!</i></p>	<p>To Disagree:</p> <p><i>I don't agree with you. However... That's not entirely true. On the contrary... Yes, but don't you think... That's not the same thing at all. I'm afraid I have to disagree. I'm not so sure about that. I don't think so. (strong) No way. I'm afraid I disagree. (strong) I totally disagree. I beg to differ. (strong) I'd say the exact opposite. Not necessarily. That's not always true. That's not always the case. No, I'm not so sure about that.</i></p>
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REMEMBER!

DON'T waste time telling the interlocutor which two photos you are going to talk about. Simply start speaking about them.
DO use high level vocabulary words for comparing and contrasting.
DO organize your thoughts.
DO remember that the second question is printed above the pictures (in case you forget it!)
DO keep speaking until the interlocutor tells you to stop. Practice speaking for one minute in English to see what it feels like.

PART 3: COLLABORATIVE TASK (4 minutes)

In this part of the test you and your partner will talk together. The interlocutor will place a new set of pictures on the table between you for you to discuss together.

1. Be prepared to ask your partner for his or her opinion rather than simply stating your own. For example:

'What do you think?'

'How about you?'

'Do you think ...?'

2. Listen carefully to what your partner says and respond to comments he or she makes to help the discussion flow. For example:

'Do/Have/Are you?'

'Don't/Haven't/Aren't you?'

'Do you think so?'

'Really?'

3. If you disagree try expressing this politely. For example:

'I see what you mean but ...'

'I can see your point but ...'

'But don't you think ...'

4. Use expressions to allow yourself time to think. For example:

'That's a good question.'

'Well, let me think ...'

'It's difficult to say ...'

5. You'll possibly find you don't understand something your partner has said. If this happens, take control with simple questions like those below to help you deal positively with the situation. This will also give you the chance to impress the examiner with your communication skills.

A) If you didn't quite understand a word or phrase just say something like:

"Sorry but could you explain what you mean by " or

"I haven't come across that word/expression before. Could you explain what you mean?"

B) If you didn't hear or didn't understand something your partner has said, ask them to repeat it:

"Sorry, I didn't catch that. Could you say that again?"

"Excuse me. Could you repeat that?"

C) Alternatively, you might want to confirm what you think your partner said so you could say something like:

"Do you mean"

"When you say, are you asking/do you mean"?

REMEMBER!

DO discuss each of the prompts in detail. It doesn't matter if you don't talk about all of them.
DO listen to your partner and respond to what he/she has to say before adding your own ideas.
DO invite your partner to respond and/or contribute – remember, it should be a conversation between the two of you!

DON'T worry if you don't come to an agreement with your partner. The important part is discussing and sharing your opinion!

DON'T dominate the conversation – be sure your partner gets a chance to speak as well.

PART 4: DISCUSSION (4 minutes)

In this final part, the interlocutor will ask you some further questions related to the photographs you discussed in Part 3. You will be giving your opinion and commenting on your partner's opinion.

Useful language:

To talk about personal likes/dislikes:

I love/quite like/ really like, don't like/ hate camping because...

I find (don't find) visiting museums quite boring/exciting/expensive, relaxing because...

I'm (I'm not) very interested in/quite keen on sport...

To ask for opinions:

What do you think of Latin TV?

What's your opinion on ice skating?

How do you feel about going on a cruise?

To express preferences:

I'd (I wouldn't) like to...

I'd rather/prefer to live

Remember: Would like + to + infinitive OR like + gerund

REMEMBER!

DO use filler words/phrases when you need time to think so there aren't long pauses:

- *That's an interesting question...*
- *Well, that's something I've never thought about before, but I would say that...*

DO answer both aspects of the question if the question has two parts. Give reasons and examples for your opinion on both!

For an example video of two students taking the Advanced, visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nGESyDgmdw>