

Linguaskill Speaking

‘Technical’ advice for the candidate

During the test

- Make sure you keep the microphone the same distance from your mouth throughout the test.
- Try not to touch the microphone part of your headset because this can create noise/interference.
- Try to keep your voice at the same volume level throughout the test.

Test advice

Before the test

- Look at the [sample test](#) so that you are familiar with the types of questions in the test.
- If you are doing Business English, look at the [Linguaskill Business sample test](#)

All parts

- Wait until you hear the beep before you start talking.
- Try to speak for all the time available.
- The orange bar shows you how much thinking time you have before you answer.
- The green bar shows you how long you have left to speak.
- Make sure you use the preparation time to think about what you’re going to say.
- Use the pencil and paper to make notes on what you’re going to say.

Warm-up questions

- The first three questions on the test are not marked but are a chance for you to practice.
- The answers to these questions will not be recorded so don’t worry if you don’t fill the speaking time.

Advice for Part 1

- In part one, you’ll be asked to talk about a topic you have an opinion about and to justify that opinion.
- When justifying your opinion, it is important to think about different reasons and examples you can give.
- Make sure you use the thinking time to plan what you’re going to say following the prompts and instructions you see on screen.
- Try and speak for all the allocated time.
- It is important to keep to the topic you’ve been asked to talk about.
- Don’t worry if you get interrupted before the end of your answers – you won’t be penalised for this.

Advice for Part 2, section 1

- In the first section of part two, you will hear part of talk taken from a tutorial or meeting.
- You will then have to summarise the key points you hear for a classmate or colleague who was unable to attend.
- You should take notes as you listen and plan what you are going to say.
- You should make sure that what you say is delivered clearly and concisely within the available time.
- In this section, try to finish what you want to say before the time is up.

Advice for Part 2, section 2

- In the second section of part two, you will answer three questions on the same topic which you heard about in section one.
- You should use evaluative and speculative language when presenting your ideas and arguments (for example, comparative and conditional structures).
- During the preparation time, look at the topic and the bullet points.
- Think carefully about what questions you could be asked, and the vocabulary you will need to use.
- As each section is marked independently, your score in part two, section one will not impact your score in section two.

Advice for Part 3

- In part three you will be asked to read a text message from a friend or colleague who wants your advice to make a decision about something.
- You will then be shown some information which you should read and then use to justify your recommendation.
- When making your recommendation, look carefully at your friend's criteria from their text message. The visual information may not match their criteria exactly, so you will have to use speculative language when framing your response.
- Remember, you're not expected to use all the information on the screen, but instead select the information that you think is the most relevant and which supports your recommendation.

Advice for Part 4

- In part four you will be shown a statement on the screen which you will need to discuss.
- Use the thinking time to construct your arguments, and to consider examples you can use to illustrate and justify the points you make.
- Make sure you plan what you are going to say carefully, so that you give both sides of the argument as well as your conclusion within the available time.
- It's important to link your thoughts together so that they provide a sequence of clear arguments which lead into an appropriate conclusion.
- Be careful not to run out of time before you reach your conclusion.