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Preparing your students for the ECCE Speaking test

Stages 1-4



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**Preparing students for the
ECCE Speaking test**
stages 1-4

A presentation for teachers

ECCE



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2



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M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



MICHIGAN
LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT



Cambridge Assessment
English



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3



ECCE



Speaking

Format

A structured interaction between 1 test taker and 1 examiner

Duration: 10 -15 minutes

4 parts (stages)

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Introduction

How comfortable are your students with Speaking?



5



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Stage 1: Introduction

Stage 2: Gather information

Stage 3: Present and defend choice

Stage 4: Answer questions about the topic

Format

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■ **ECCE**

Skills elicited by the ECCE speaking task

- Ask and answer questions
- Provide suggestions or recommendations
- Present and support a decision
- Discuss a topic in detail



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ECCE

Overall communicative effectiveness

Language control and resources

Delivery / Intelligibility

Assessment

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Examiner asks:

Warm-up questions about interests, hobbies, school,
free time, future plans, etc.

Transition question

Duration: approx. 3 minutes

Test taker responds naturally

ECCE Speaking Stage 1



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Stage 1 objectives

- To make test takers feel comfortable with the exam
- To engage test takers in a natural conversation
- To introduce the role play of Stages 2 and 3



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Stage 2

Gather information

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12



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Examiner describes procedure

Test taker asks questions - **Examiner** gives information

Test taker listens carefully to the information

Duration: approx. 3 minutes

Test taker reads the questions, paraphrasing is not necessary, clarifications are given

ECCE Speaking Stage 2



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Stage 2 objectives

- To allow the test taker to gather information from the examiner on a particular situation
- To highlight the test taker's listening skills
- To provide the basis of support of a choice to be made in Stage 3



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Sample speaking prompt

Sample Prompt F

CD Contract

Situation

I am the manager of a music company and I would like to offer a contract to a singer for a new CD. I'm asking people to help me decide on the best candidate for this contract.

First

You should look at the pictures below and ask:

- What are the options?
- What are the advantages of each option?
- What are the disadvantages of each option?

Then

When you have all the information you need, explain which option you think is best and why. Be ready to explain why you didn't choose the other option. Remember to use information you learn from asking questions to explain your final choice.

Finally

After you have shared your decision, you will be asked more questions about the topic.

Option 1



Option 2





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Speaking examiner's information

	Option 1 (band)	Option 2 (solo artist)
What are the options?	We could offer the contract to a rock band.	We could offer the contract to a solo artist who sings pop.
What are the advantages of each option?	The advantages are that we are going to attract a lot of people who are over the age of 30 because rock music is very popular among these people.	As for the pop singer, he is a very popular singer among teenagers and his last CD was very successful.
What are the disadvantages of each option?	They frequently have fights and I'm not sure whether they'll be together for a long time.	He is not well-behaved during his concerts.

Option 1



Option 2





Stage 3

Present and defend choice

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17



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Stage 3 objectives

- The test taker is required to present and support a choice and explain why s/he rejected the other option
- Examiner information should be used for choice justification
- The focus is on the sound support and not the nature of the choice



Stage 4

Answer questions on the topic

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20



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Examiner:

asks all elaboration questions
asks questions without paraphrasing (follows manual)
simplifies language when necessary or when asked

Test taker:

Responds
Elaborates (provides details)
Gives example(s)

Duration: approx. 3 minutes

ECCE Speaking Stage 4



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Stage 4 objectives

- The test taker is required to respond to 3 set questions on the same topic
- The test taker needs to produce well-structured responses with supporting details
- Focus is placed more on the volume of the language produces rather than occasional errors made



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Stage 4 - Elaboration question example

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being famous?



The advantage is that you are rich
but the disadvantage is that you don't enjoy your private life.



Well, there are several advantages and also some disadvantages too. I'll start with the advantages and say that being famous means that you have a lot of fans, people who admire you and this is great, isn't it? Also, you don't need to wait in long queues because everyone knows you and helps you.

However, there are disadvantages to being famous too. You don't have your own privacy; people ask you to take a picture of you when you don't feel like it or stop you on the street and start hugging and kissing you when you might want to be alone. Maybe they want to be your friend just because you're famous and not because they truly like you.



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Overall communicative effectiveness

The test taker should be able to:

- ✓ Express ideas including details and complexities
- ✓ Sustain talk without interlocutor support
- ✓ Elaborate spontaneously and being an interactive participant



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Linguistic resources

The test taker should be able to:

- ✓ Use sufficient linguistic resources to convey ideas
- ✓ Show functional control of grammar
- ✓ Combine linguistic resources with cohesive devices to function as an interactive and independent participant



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Delivery and intelligibility

The test taker should be able to:

- ✓ Speak at a reasonable rate with infrequent pauses
- ✓ Use voice and intonation to contribute to intended meaning
- ✓ Communicate without misunderstandings despite evident features of L1



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Speaking tips

Use as much natural language as possible

Ask for clarification if anything is not understood

Maintain eye contact with the examiner

Participate as actively as possible: Think “Why is what I said true?”



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Speaking tips

Use examiner information to justify your choice and add your ideas

Say why you did not choose the other option
(use examiner information to explain why not and add your ideas)

If a certain word doesn't come to mind, paraphrase, use synonyms

Don't give 'dry' answers; use examples and try to personalize the
topic of discussion!

Relax! It's easy!



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Practice Examinations Book series

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31



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Any questions?





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Thank you



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