



Cracking the code of the ECCE Speaking test

A webinar for teachers



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Speaking

Format

A structured face-to-face test of speaking ability with one examiner and one test taker on a topic introduced to the test taker

Duration

10 -15 minutes

4 stages

ECCE Speaking Q&A





Introduction

How comfortable are your students with Speaking?





Stage 1: Introduction

Stage 2: Gather information

Stage 3: Present and defend choice

Stage 4: Answer questions about the topic

Format

ECCE Speaking Q&A



■ 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

Skills

ECCE Speaking Q&A



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Overall communicative effectiveness

Language control and resources

Delivery / Intelligibility

Assessment

ECCE Speaking Q&A



Official Speaking Rating Scale



Overall
Communicative
effectiveness



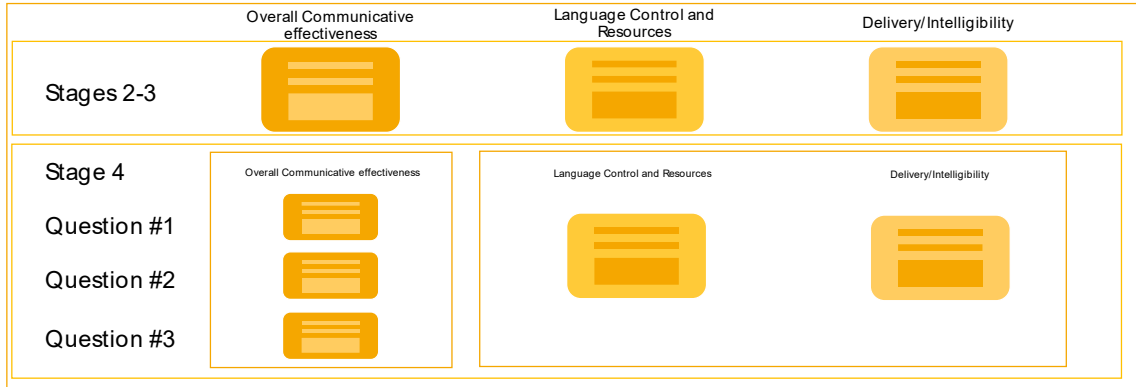
Language Control
and Resources



Delivery/Intelligibility



Official Speaking Rating Scale





Can I express my ideas clearly?

Are there any details in my response?

Can I understand what is said to me?

Am I an interactive participant?

Overall
Communicative
Effectiveness

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

ECCE Speaking Q&A



Is my grammar functional?

Is there sufficient use of vocabulary?

Is there a range in grammar and vocabulary?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Language Control
and Resources



Do I speak at a reasonable rate ?

Does my voice contribute to intended meaning ?

Do pauses in my speech cause strain to the listener ?

Delivery/
Intelligibility

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

ECCE Speaking Q&A





Level Bands

Band score	Scaled numeric score
Honors (H)	840-1000
Pass (P)	750-835
Low Pass (LP)	650-745
Borderline Fail (BF)	610-645





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Your Questions





Are all stages of the test marked?
*(Is the first part of the test marked?
Do all stages carry the same weight?)*





What type of vocabulary is expected?
(Is simple language acceptable or should candidates “show off”?)





Is it a sign of a weak performance when examiners ask for details?
(How many supporting ideas / examples should answers include?)





What are the most common reasons test takers lose marks?
(Short answers, vocabulary, grammar, irrelevant answers, L1 words—ranked)





How much do test takers need to talk when answering questions?
(Is there a minimum time allotted for each question?)





Are pauses in delivery or when searching for ideas critical?
(How much fluency is required to pass?)





What Impresses an Examiner Immediately?
(What do examiners value highly in test taker performances?)





Ways to involve students in practising speaking?
(For the teachers & school owners in the audience)





ECCE Speaking test_2025
Hellenic American Union Athens
6.20K subscribers

A speaking test video sample

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Url6xRfHkbM>





ECCE Speaking Test prompt A

Help Solve a Problem

Situation
I am your friend and I have a problem. Find out what my problem is and offer me some good advice.

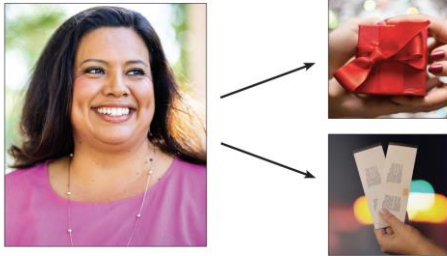
First
You should look at the pictures below and ask:

- What is the problem?
- What are the options?
- What are the advantages of each option?

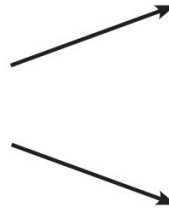
Then
When you have all the information you need, explain which option you think is best and why. Be ready to explain why you didn't choose the other option. Remember to use information you learn from asking questions to explain your final choice.

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

Speaking test sample







prompt **A**



Examiner Information		
What is the problem? My sister/niece/cousin wants to buy a birthday present for her friend. She has some ideas in mind but needs to decide on the best option.		
What are the options?	Option 1 <i>giving gifts</i>	Option 2 <i>tickets</i>
	The first option is that she could go shopping at a store and get her friend a gift, such as a necklace or book.	The second option is that she could go online and get her friend tickets for an event, like a concert or basketball game.
What are the advantages of each option?	The advantage of the first option is that she loves to go shopping. She will try to find something special that her friend could keep for a long time.	The advantage of the second option is that she could save some time by buying the tickets online. She could go to the event with her friend.

Elaboration Questions	
1. Tell me about a gift that you received. What did you like about it?	2. What are the most important factors to consider when trying to find a gift for someone?
3. Some people think it's better to give someone a gift they can experience, like art lessons or sports tickets, rather than a physical gift. To what extent do you agree?	

prompt **A**



Remember

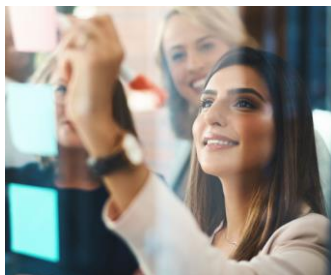
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