

GCSE SPEAKING TEST MATERIAL

SUGGESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

AND

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

These suggestions refers to the following specifications:

French 3651/3657
German 3661/3677
Spanish 3691/3697
Italian 3631
Bengali 3636
Panjabi 3681
Urdu 3646

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SUGGESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

Role Plays

Foundation Tier

- Prepare only what is required
- Always wait for your teacher to start the role play

Higher Tier

- Always read the English introduction very carefully, as it will contain important information.
- Think carefully about what the short foreign language prompts mean, particularly the number of details you are being asked to give.
- If there is a ? at the end of a prompt, you need to ask a question.
- Prepare only what is necessary to give the required responses.
- Put yourself in the situation and think about what could be needed at the ! point in the role play. If there is time, prepare possible responses. In the test, listen carefully to your teacher's questions.
- Keep to the order of the tasks on the card and do one task at a time.
- Always wait for your teacher to start the role play.

Presentation & Discussion

- Prepare a Presentation about something you are interested in.
- Practise it out loud and time yourself.
- Prepare a cue card.
- For your Presentation, make sure you take up as near to 1½ minutes as possible but **NO MORE**.
- Try to use past, present and future tenses.
- Learn it, practise it, put it on tape and listen to it.
- In the Test don't rush your Presentation.
- In the Discussion, say as much as you can in answer to each question.
- Think about the possible questions you may be asked in the Discussion and practise them.
- Don't leave long silences – you will get nervous.

General Conversation

- Learn answers to typical questions.
- Practise them, put them on tape and listen to them.
- Always learn questions and answers together.
- Say as much as you can for each answer, but do make sure it's relevant.
- Do not wander off the point.
- Do not leave long silences. Admit you do not know or do not understand, so your teacher can move on.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

GENERAL CONVERSATION

- Check letter in Combinations for Role-Plays/Conversation Topics
- End the discussion and introduce the Conversation by saying in the target language "*Thank you, now the conversation..*"
- Cover some of the sub-topics from at least two of the three topics given
- If candidate has covered one topic in the course of the Presentation, focus on the remaining two
- Be clear about what each topic covers and the scope of the sub-topics - check your Specification
- Short Course topics are different from Full Course
- Have ready some questions appropriate to topic and to candidate's interests and level of ability
- Observe the timings
 - 4-6 minutes at Foundation
 - 6-8 minutes at Higher

THINGS TO AVOID

The following will depend on the ability level of the candidate.

- Asking lots of questions requiring yes/no as the answer.
- Asking questions requiring only names – pop groups, songs, TV programmes, film titles – as the answer.
- Leaving long silences, waiting for a candidate to formulate an answer.
- Turning the test into a lesson by correcting/seeking corrections of a candidates grammar
- Interrupting the candidate who is giving an extended answer.
- Building up questions slowly – you are taking up the candidate's time.
- Insist on trying to elicit all 3 time frames from candidates who will clearly not benefit from this.