

IELTS™ Life Skills

IELTS Life Skills

A1 Speaking and Listening Sample Test A

⌚ This test should not exceed 18 minutes.

Please note: With the exception of the Task Sheet in Phase 2a, this sample test frame will be used only by the Examiner. It will not be shown to the candidates.

⌚ 4 – 5 minutes

Phase 1a

[The Examiner will select questions from those provided in the test pack, in a variety of areas such as name, nationality, work/study, where candidates live, and free time activities.]

⌚ 5 minutes

Phase 1b

Now I'd like you to ask each other [signal] some questions.

_____ (Candidate A), I'd like you to ask _____ (Candidate B) about his/her neighbours.

_____ (Candidate B), I'd like you to ask _____ (Candidate A) about his/her favourite time of year.

Now think about the questions you want to ask. You have one and a half minutes. You can write down your questions if you want to. [Indicate paper and pencil.]

If you don't understand, please ask me.

[Withdraw eye contact to signal start of preparation. Allow 1½ minutes for preparation.]

_____ (Candidate A), are you ready? Please ask _____ (Candidate B) your questions. *[Allow up to 2 minutes.]*

Thank you.

_____ (Candidate B), are you ready? Please ask _____ (Candidate A) your questions. *[Allow up to 2 minutes.]*

Thank you.

⌚ 4 minutes

Phase 2a

In this part of the test, you are going to listen to two recordings and answer some questions. You can make notes [indicate paper] if you want to.

You hear two people talking about their plans for the weekend. [Hand each candidate the booklet open at the correct page.] Where do they want to go at the weekend? To a town, to the mountains, or to the park?

Where do they want to go at the weekend?



to a town



to the mountains



to the park

Listen to the information. [Play CD.]

Listening script 1:

I want to go to Littlegate this weekend. My cousin lives there and there are shops, a cinema and great restaurants. It's easy to get there. A return ticket by train only costs £7. There's a brilliant market too and we want to go there to buy some jeans.

Listening script 2:

I want to spend the weekend there with my friends. We usually go there in winter to ski, but this time we want to climb to the top – it takes about 4 hours, but then you can look down on the sea. I just hope my new boots are comfortable!

(Candidate A), in the first recording, where does the woman want to go at the weekend? To a town, to the mountains, or to the park?

Thank you.

(Candidate B), in the second recording, where does the man want to go at the weekend? To a town, to the mountains, or to the park?

Thank you. [Take back booklets.]

Now listen again, and answer these questions.

(Candidate B), in the first recording, who can the woman see in Littlegate? [short pause] And how much is a return ticket?

(Candidate A), in the second recording, how many hours does it take to climb the mountain? [short pause] And what is the man worried about?

[Play CD again: scripts as above. At the end of the recording ask each candidate in turn their two questions again. After each question, wait for the candidate's response.]

Thank you.

IELTS™ Life Skills

⌚ 3 – 4 minutes

Phase 2b

Now you're going to talk together about places you like to go to at the weekend. Talk to each other about places that you like to go to, and what you like to do there.

[Repeat if necessary. Withdraw eye contact to signal start of activity.]

If necessary, prompt candidates with questions from the box below (e.g. if students are experiencing difficulty in continuing the interaction or if they stray from the topic). Adapt if necessary. Encourage candidate-candidate interaction by eliciting agreement or alternative opinions from candidates by asking questions such as “What do you think?”, “Tell us what you think.”, “And you?”]

Weekend plans – prompt questions

Who do you like to go out with at the weekend? (What do you do?)

Do you like going to new places? (Why?/Why not?)

Which places are good for children to go to?

What do people in your country like to do in their free time?

Thank you. That is the end of the test.

[Ensure candidates DO NOT leave the room with the candidate booklet.]

Key to Phase 2a

Where do they want to go at the weekend?

Script 1: to a town

Script 2: to the mountains

Candidate B:

Who can the woman see in Littlegate? (her) cousin

How much is a return ticket? £7

Candidate A:

How many hours does it take to climb the mountain? (about) 4 (hours)

What is the man worried about? (his) (new) boots/he hopes that his boots are comfortable

Where do they want to go at the weekend?



to a town



to the mountains



to the park