

## Exam technique: What kind of speaker are you?

Ascertaining what kind of speaker you are will show you what to focus on during your revision. It will also help you maximise your performance in the exam.

- 1 Choose the answers that best describe you (be honest!). If possible, also ask a friend and a teacher if they agree with you.**
  - 1** When I speak English,
    - a** I want to be as accurate as possible.
    - b** I tend just to think about communicating my message – I love talking.
    - c** I am able to focus equally on accuracy and communicating my message.
  - 2** Thinking about grammar,
    - a** I always try to use the new grammar I have learnt, though I may not always be accurate.
    - b** I use only the grammar I know well because I prefer not to make mistakes.
    - c** I am confident with grammar – I know the basics and more complex grammar and can use it all accurately.
  - 3** Thinking about vocabulary,
    - a** I know which words are formal and informal, and use them correctly; I also try to use less common words and idioms to show I have a wide vocabulary; I realise that collocations are important and I try to use them.
    - b** I don't think I have a wide vocabulary – I often repeat words and I mainly use common words like *good, interesting, and like*.
    - c** I can talk comfortably and well on familiar topics like *family* and *hobbies*, but I find it difficult to talk on unfamiliar topics.
  - 4** When it comes to pronunciation,
    - a** I don't really think about it.
    - b** I think I have almost native-like pronunciation.
    - c** I wish my pronunciation was much better.
  - 5** Thinking especially about Part 2,
    - a** I can rarely talk for two minutes on a topic.
    - b** I can sometimes talk for two minutes but I think I repeat myself a bit.
    - c** I have no trouble talking for two minutes.

## **2 Now read the advice for the answers you chose.**

- 1 a** If you are so worried about accuracy that you speak slowly and hesitate often, this will impact every aspect of your performance in the exam. Practise speaking as much as possible to increase your confidence. It is good to work on your accuracy before the exam, but in the exam, do not worry about accuracy and try to speak freely.
- b** You may score well for fluency, but might score less well for grammatical accuracy and pronunciation. Record yourself and listen carefully to the mistakes you make, then re-record yourself trying to answer more accurately.
- c** You will probably score well for accuracy, pronunciation and fluency. Make sure you are aware of any faults you have so you know what to improve.