

2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

SPEAKING SESSION FOR ONLINE PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION

(30 pts.)

The speaking session of the online July Proficiency exam **has two parts, and it is 30 points** in total. It is expected to take about 15 minutes.

The students will have an online recorded video interview session with two interlocutors using Microsoft Teams. One student will be called for the speaking session at a time and asked one of the questions on the list randomly.

The responses will be graded according to *accuracy, pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary range, and content (variety of supporting details)*.

PART 1

Independent Speaking (15 pts.)

The interlocutors ask questions based on a topic, and the students have to express their opinions about this topic. In this part, the students will not see the questions; after hearing the questions, they will be given some time to prepare; they may take short notes to prepare their responses; however, their notes will not be graded. Students cannot request another question. **Each student will get a different question. The interlocutors will ask follow-up questions about what the students have said.**

SAMPLE

Main Prompt: While some people enjoy trying new things and taking risks, others are not adventurous; they are cautious and prefer to avoid danger. Which behaviour do you think is better? Why?

Follow-up prompts:

1. Are you a risk-taker? What is the most significant risk you've ever taken?
2. When do you take risks? Why?
3. Why do some people reject getting out of their comfort zones? Are you one of these people? In what ways?
4. If you were paid really well, would you work in a job full of risks?

PART 2

Integrated Speaking (15 pts.)

In this part, the interlocutors will show **ONE OF THE SHORT READING TEXTS** given in their list on the screen. They will be given 3 minutes maximum to read the text silently; they may take short notes to prepare; their notes will not be graded; however, they can't take a screenshot of the screen. **Each student will read a different text.** Students cannot request for another text. After the students read the text, the interlocutors will stop sharing the screen.

- Firstly, the students are supposed to summarise the text and give the main points in the text.
- Later on, the students will be asked personal questions related to the text. The students **will not see** the questions. **The interlocutors will ask follow-up questions about what the students have said.**

SAMPLE

TEXT I

A gap year is a period of time between high school and college when students take a break from their studies to pursue other activities, which could include travel, work, or volunteering. For many students, deciding whether to take a year out to work or travel can be difficult. On the one hand, a gap year is useful for students who can't decide which course they want to take at university. It not only gives them more time to consider their options, but the experience can also help them see things in different ways. It can give students the opportunity to make the most of their time away from home and take on responsibilities in their lives. Such a life experience can make them better prepared for university. It is also a chance to make some money and save up for the university years ahead. On the other hand, some individuals believe that delaying education seems like a waste of time and resources when they could be learning the skills necessary to get the career of their dreams. The students have to consider the fact that many of their close friends will already be well settled into university life by the time they get there.

1. Summarise the text briefly.
2. What can be other disadvantages of taking a gap year?
3. Which advantage(s) of taking a gap year are the most important to you? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.
4. Which option would you prefer? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.