

Oral Exams

What do you think is being tested at a C1 level?

Remember: the key to this skill is EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION so you are being tested to see if you can do this. You are not supposed to transform yourself into a native speaker!

A) Discourse Management:

- a. Can you keep talking without **hesitating** too much?
- b. Do you **extend** your ideas?
- c. Is what you say **relevant**?

B) Vocabulary:

- a. Can you use a wider **range** of vocabulary?
- b. Is the vocabulary you use **appropriate**?
- c. Are the items you use **correct**? (This means using words together: so the correct collocations, lexical grammar etc.)

C) Grammar:

- a. Can you use a wider **range** of grammar?
- b. Is the grammar you use **appropriate**?
- c. Are the structures you use **correct**?

D) Pronunciation:

1. Can you pronounce the **single sounds** in words correctly?

(Do you pronounce the correct sound and do you put the stress in the correct place?) The key is still effective communication. The problem comes when a sound blocks communication like pronouncing the /k/ sound in “know” which is usually silent.

2. Can you use **weak forms and strong forms** when producing sentences?

Using stress to highlight carriers of meaning is a sign of an expert language user.

3. Is your **Intonation** appropriate?

E) Interactive Communication

1. Do you respect the norms of **turn -taking**?

(Don't dominate the conversation and if you're shy try to overcome this shyness and speak as much as you can, even if this is only asking questions you feel confident with and then giving your own ideas.)

2. Do you **develop** the conversation? (Remember to listen to what the other person says, and comment and build on those ideas.)

TOPICS IN THE TEST

- 1) **A warm up phase.** (This is for you to overcome your nerves and start talking to each other naturally. Exams are always anxiety ridden but remember to breathe as deeply as you can. Remember that when you relax and think about WHAT you are saying rather than HOW BAD your English is, you will communicate much more naturally and effectively. 😊)

- 2) A **Discussion task** of some kind. This will be a discussion of an abstract topic (rather than the familiar everyday discussions which are more typical of B2) You can show that **you know how to express your ideas and opinions**.

Two Examples

1. “Do you think that having a good imagination is important in life?”

- Personal happiness
- Personal well-being
- Personal achievement

Do you think that people can learn to be creative? How?

Do you think that technology limits imagination?

Some people say that reading fiction is a waste of time. How far do you agree?

2. “How far do you think the results of medical research should be applied?”

- Looking after your own health
- Growing older
- Alternative medicines

Do you think life should be extended when there is less quality to that life? Or should quality also be ensured?

Do you think it is important to prevent disease as far as possible?

How important is the physical activity intellectual activity balance?