Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge O Level English as a Second Language 1158

Example Candidate Responses – Transcript and moderator comments

Example candidate response – middle

Introduction

TEACHER/EXAMINER: First, we will start with a short warm-up where I will ask you some questions to find out more about you. This part is not assessed. After the warm-up there are three assessed parts to the test: an interview, a short talk and a discussion.

Moderator comment: Read as per script

Warm up

TEACHER/EXAMINER: What would you like to do when you finish school?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: I mm… pass back home and I have lunch normally. I love this part of the day because I can enjoy good food because my dad, my dad is work also as a chef when he was younger and so he is able to prepare a lot of dishes very good.

Moderator comment: The candidate misunderstood the question, however, he responded relevantly to the scenario he understood]

TEACHER/EXAMINER: What is your favourite food?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: Mm... I think pasta because er.. it's all, it's always very, very tasteful and can be eaten er.., using using a different er.., for example, a ragu, mm.. tomato sauce and I love it.

Moderator comment: The candidate responded relevantly to the question.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Can you tell me something about your best friend?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: My best friend live, lives in Castelnuovo because I was, I attended the primary school there and, er..., he played also in my same football team. So we have a strong relationship and erm.. we used to sleep at the house of the other during the, the summer. Nowadays we don't really we don't see very, very often because he attends a, another school near the Garda Lake so we are …

Moderator comment: The candidate responded relevantly, supporting his response with an anecdote.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Thank you

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner interrupted the candidate, presumably as the time was up.

Part 1 Interview

TEACHER/EXAMINER: The first assessed part of the test is an interview. I am going to ask you some questions about your local area. Try to say as much as you can for each question. Before you start, do you have any questions ?

Moderator comment: The teacher/xaminer changed the script slightly …'before **you** start…' instead of 'before **we** start'.

CANDIDATE: No.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Can you tell me about the shops where you live?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: I live in Vareggio and er... there, there's er... erm... a sort of cu..culture for the tortellini which is a typical er.. food, typical particular type of er.. pasta and there are a lot of er... shops that er... sell er... tortellini. Then erm..there are also a lot of library. I live near er.. the library of Vareggio which is a very good structure, is er... big and er... it is a it has a Romanic style so it has a big er..., erm.. a big wall and er.. it's very nice.

Moderator comment: The candidate responded relevantly, describing the shops in his local area. He possibly misused the word 'library'.)

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Can you tell me about a time when you did something interesting in your local area, and what happened?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: Ok, I attended the charista [*unclear audio*] in Vareggio and er... gives the you the opportunity to bind the new relationship with other er... people of your local, local area and so you can er... see the... them also. for example, in the free time and during the school and er.. it's er.. perfect to create the new relationship and then also the last year I attended this, the same charista(?) but as a tutor and it's a good way also to earn some money.

Moderator comment: This question invites a response in the past tense. The candidate missed this opportunity by only using the past tense twice 'attended'. The name of the event referred to is not clear; the candidate's response is relevant but a little vague. A response to a specific occasion would have given more scope.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Do you think people enjoy living in your area? Why? Why not?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: I think er…, I think so because it's er… a wonderful city, small city and near Viareggio there is Borghetto which is known er... in, in all the, the world because it's er… one of the best er... small city of the, the Italy. Near Viareggio there is also the hmm… the, the Mincio river and er... there's very good er... vegetation which is very different and er... it's also the, the climate zone is er... good.

Moderator comment: The candidate responded relevantly, expressing his opinion 'I think so' and giving reasons why people would enjoy living in the area.

Part 2 Short talk

TEACHER/EXAMINER: The second assessed part of the test is a short talk. I will give you a card and you will have one minute to read it and think about what you want to say. You should talk about the points on the card. You can't make any written notes, but you can ask me if there is anything you do not understand. You may keep the card until the end of the short talk. Here is your card.

Moderator comment: Read as per script

TEACHER/EXAMINER: You now have up to two minutes to talk about the topic on the card. I will stop you

after two minutes, but do not worry if you have not finished your talk. Would you like to start?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: Ok. The first option is er.. not an individual sport so it's a good way to interact with other people and er.. I er.. play this sport so it's the most , the most beautiful sports in the world and er.. it gives you the opportunity to face the other, also a lot of opponents and to compare your skill with er.. those of the other.

The second option is an individual sport so erm.. you have to show your own abilities and require a lot of er.. training because a marathon is a very longer.. race and so I would struggle with physical, physical abilities.

Personally I would choice the first one because, as I said, it's my foot.., sport and erm.. um.. you can practise it during the all, all seasons from the, the winter to the summer and it's a good sport because you can experience a lot of er... different conditions in interacting with other people and also erm.. facing other opponents.

And then I have a lot friends who play football with me and er... in summer usually I spend all my free time playing, playing football and to play this sport it is not necessary to have, for example, a place where to score the goals but you can create it yourself and it is also a good way, a way to have fun with the other people you are playing with ..

Moderator comment: The candidate describes each of the options. It can be inferred from his descriptions how enjoyable he would find each option. He expresses a preference, which he follows up with some extra information.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Thank you. Can I have the card back, please? Now let's move on to Part 3 of the test.

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner interrupted the candidate when the time was up rather than allowing him to finish his sentence.

Part 3 Discussion

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Now I am going to ask you a few questions related to the topic you have just talked

about. This part of the test will last approximately three minutes. Before we start, do

you have any questions?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: No

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Do you think that preparing for a singing competition is more challenging than training for a race? Why? Why not?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: I think so, because singing is erm... an intellectual race against you and you have, I think that you have to prepare your diaphragm which is an organ of the body which we don't use very, very much and so it's you have to practise in different things that you normally you don't use. Preparing for a race is easier for this reason. And, er.. yea, What is needed for a race is the physical, physical abilities and also mental ability that cannot be improved that cannot be training, trained, but it's only your own ability so people can have it or not.

Moderator comment: A reasonably competent response. The candidate expressed an opinion and supported his responses with reasons why, although a little confusing at times.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Sport should be played at school every day. What do you think?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: I think so, because the physical activity is very important in life of everyone and all the students have to have an hobby during their free time to spend their time and detaching their, their mind from the work at school and playing sport is, in my opinion, a good way to do this. And sport is also important to improve the behaviour of the individual and also for as I told you before for the interaction with other people.

Moderator comment: A competent response again supported by reasons why sport should be played at school.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Do you think that watching sports events encourages people to be more physically active?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: I think so as, for example, all the player of a football team follow a strict diet and to have that particular performances and this encourages also other people who watch them to take them as an idol, as idols and so to follow the same rules even if they are not in the same condition of the football player, so I think that it is a big encouragement for the spectators.

Moderator comment: Here, the candidate has focused more on sports people as role models so hasn't quite answered the question. But, again, it can be inferred from his response that he agrees with the question.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Some people think that football players earn too much money. What's your opinion?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: I think so, because sport, football is a sport like all the other and so a professional football player must be paid as a swimmer, for example, but I don't think that their wages are the same,and erm.., but the world of the footballer is very influenced also for the economy of the the nation, for example Brazil is their sport that help all the economy of the state because it is seen as a traditional sport and all the people have this, this passion in their hearts so and so is…

Moderator comment: The candidate's views were less clear in this response, although he has some good ideas regarding the influence of football on a nation, it is not really clear what his view is.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Thank you. That's the end of the test. End of recording.

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