

## Cambridge O Level English as a Second Language 1158

### Example Candidate Responses – Transcript and moderator comments

#### Example candidate response – low

##### 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. So, are you ready? Fantastic., So, tell me...

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script with own additions.

##### Warm up

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** How much time do you spend with your friends?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** Mmm ... I spend sometimes during the holiday with them to play football. And for le ...leisure time I'm reading the newspapers with my mum and also, also I'm, I'm visiting my best friends during the holiday.

**Moderator comment:** A competent response

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** Ok, thank you. What kind of music do you listen to?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** I would like to say I like hip hop too much because that music was a kind of youngest people relaxed noise too much.

**Moderator comment:** The candidate answers the question; however, her reasons why are unclear.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** Ok. What is your favourite sport?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** Mmm ... my favourite sports? I'd like to play basketball, but I, I, I got, I got like disease from that I'm really sorry I cannot play the basketball, so is very sad for me.

**Moderator comment:** The candidate answers the question with a slightly unclear explanation.

##### Part 1 Interview

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** ... so let's move on. The very first assessed part of this test is an interview. I am going to ask you some questions about **animals**. Try to say as much as you can for each question. Before we start, do you have any questions?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** You can start.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** So, what animals do you find interesting, and why?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** Mmm ... Basically, I like zebra too much because for its skin they have too, too much difference and is black and white so I like doing the investigation for them during my leisure time and I, I, I like to ask a lot of questions about zebra from my Biology teacher I want, because I want to, I want to major the biological ... biological subjects in my university.

**Moderator comment:** A competent response, the errors do not impede understanding.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** Can you tell me about a time when you saw some animals, and what happened?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** Last years, during my summer holiday, I saw a bird had broken her leg and er I, I know that the, that's the reason, that's the reason for the nature so , I, I didn't touch that bird I just hiding somewhere to see what happened, that bird, that bird was going on then after 20 minutes I saw a dog went to that bird and er hurt his, his like just ate it and I didn't do anything I know that's the nature I cannot touch inside so I was, I was crying, I was crying that time because I know I cannot do anything.

**Moderator comment:** A competent response, the errors do not impede understanding.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** Ok I see. Do you think that animals can help people in their daily lives? Why? Why not?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** Yes, I do. Basic ...basically some, some small animals we like mosquitos, spider, even dog, dogs, cats er so sometimes the, the spider will help people to eat some bad, bad worms, for example like caterpillar or mos ... mosquito because mos ...mosquito bite people too much and the people will get malaria or some bad disease is not, is not healthy for our body

**Moderator comment:** The candidate responds relevantly here; the errors do not impede understanding.

## Part 2 Short talk

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** OK, thank you very much. Let's move on. 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 DON'T understand. You may keep the card until the end of the short talk. Here is your card. Can you read the card for me, that's Card no. H. Can you read it loudly please?

*[Card read out loud by the candidate.]*

**Moderator comment:** The teacher/examiner asked the candidate to read the card out loud before the test. Although this is not suggested in the teacher/examiner script, it may be helpful for weaker candidates.

**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, I can start. Mmm ...In my opinion I would like to say working with others on a school project because when we working with others in the, in a school we can improving our, our knowledge and teacher can teaching us face to face then, then is easy, is easy to, to, to, to get, er... sorry, is, is easy to get higher, higher marks and er..., and er... knowledge, yes.

And the, the advantages of studying online from home Is, is not, is no, is no more stress than school, but even we, we can do some sports in school that can reduce our pressure and let us to be the, to be relaxed, yes and then if we are in a school we can ask teacher nicely about the question that I don't know how to answer, even we can do the investigation in the school with, with our teachers to practise to, to concentrate what we are going to major in our university is the best way to, to focus on, focus on them and study, st.., studying online from home I think is not, not wonderful for us because...

**Moderator comment:** The candidate expresses a preference for working with others on a school project and stated some advantages. She did not extend her response by talking about the disadvantages of this option and ran out of time before talking about the advantages and disadvantages of studying online from home.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** Ok, so sorry, I need to stop you now. Thank you. Can I have the card back, please? Now let's move on to Part 3 which is a discussion.

**Moderator comment:** The teacher/examiner interrupted and stopped the candidate as she had used the full two minutes.

## 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:** We can start.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** Some people say that students should not be given any homework. What is your opinion?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** Basically, in my personal experience the student must have the homework to practise, practise the teacher was teaching them because we can, because if erm... they, they was, they doing the homework at the weekends see the improvement they learn or not so they must have the homework at, at home and then but, but the teacher cannot give the student a lot of homework they, they can be the str.. stress and then just hurt his, himself and the just no light in, in life, yes.

**Moderator comment:** The candidate attempts to answer this question and the gist of the response can be understood. However, the level of error impedes understanding.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** Do you think that being a teacher is one of the hardest jobs to do? Why? Why not?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** Basically, is not, for in my opinion, I think I'm when I'm going to be a teacher that's will be very captivating because I was, I was, I was, I was discuss, discussing with my student and er... making fun with them maybe we sometimes we can get some jokes. Makes, makes both happy makes both pleasure or something else.

**Moderator comment:** The candidate has related the question to herself, and the gist of her response is that she would make it a fun job. The level of error again impedes understanding to a certain extent.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** All young people should spend some time studying in another country. What do you think?

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script

**CANDIDATE:** In my expense, experience, I think study in other country is better for us because we can learn, we can learning more cultural and historical in the other country and er... know the and er... we can go in to know the traditional culture from that country and then even when we growing up we can make more business in the other country. And then going to be a businessman or something.

**Moderator comment:** This is a relevant response; the level of error does not really impede understanding.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** And the last question for you. What motivates people to learn and develop their skills?

**CANDIDATE:** What would you mean, sorry?

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** What motivates people to learn and develop their skills?

**CANDIDATE:** ... what do you mean?

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** The question is about motivation. What motivates people to learn and get their new skills?

**CANDIDATE:** Maybe they learn some biological things and er... information, mm... communication tech knowledge in the school. Maybe they're doing the technology, no they're designing technology and er... they will measure in those, those, those projects in the university.

**Moderator comment:** The candidate would have benefitted from the rephrasing of the question by the teacher/examiner. The candidate did not really understand the question but did respond with the idea that skills learned at school could carry through to the university.

**TEACHER/EXAMINER:** Ok, unfortunately is the time now to stop. Thank you very much. This is the end of the test and the end of the recording.

**Moderator comment:** Read as per script