

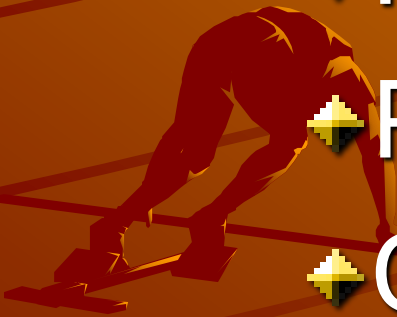
IELTS Speaking



English Language Centre
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Test Format and Tasks

- ◆ Format and Tasks
- ◆ Strategies and Examples
- ◆ Further Help
- ◆ References
- ◆ Questions



Test Format

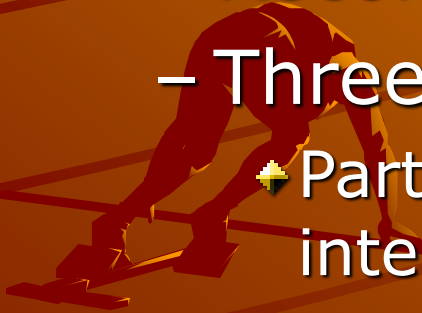
◆ Test Format

- 11 to 14 minutes
- One-to-one interview
- Recorded
- Three Parts

◆ Part I – 4 to 5 minutes (Introduction & interview)

◆ Part II – 1 to 2 minutes (Mini-presentation)

◆ Part III – 3 to 5 minutes (Discussion)



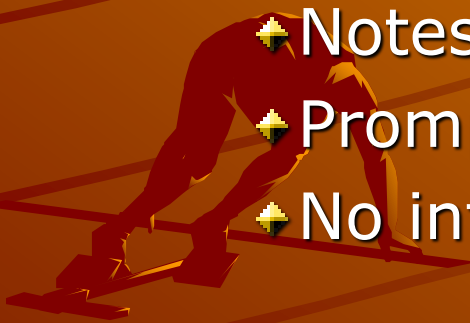
Test Format and Tasks

- ◆ Section One – Introduction & Interview
 - Basic Introduction about yourself and some familiar topics
 - ◆ Home
 - ◆ Hometown
 - ◆ Family
 - ◆ Job
 - ◆ Studies
 - ◆ Interests
 - ◆ Other similar topics



Test Format and Tasks – Part II

- ◆ Part II – Mini-presentation (3 – 4 mins.)
 - Talk for about one minute on a subject selected by the examiner
 - ◆ One minute to prepare the talk
 - ◆ Notes allowed while preparing
 - ◆ Prompts given to facilitate the content
 - ◆ No interruptions while delivering the talk



Test Format and Tasks – Part III

Part III – Discussion (3 – 5 minutes)

- Questions related to topic in Part II
- Giving opinions
- Extensive discussion on issues related to the topic
- Ability to express abstract ideas and support opinions appropriately



Test Format and Tasks: Assessment Criteria

◆ Effective communication

- Fluency and Coherence

 - ◆ Content - ideas

 - ◆ Delivery – pace

 - ◆ Organisation – structure

- Vocabulary – range & accuracy

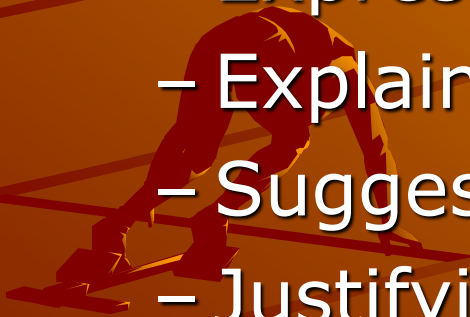
- Grammar – range & accuracy

- Pronunciation – comprehensiveness



Test Format and Tasks – Speech Functions

- ◆ Example of speech functions
 - Providing personal information
 - Providing non-personal information
 - Expressing opinions
 - Explaining
 - Suggesting
 - Justifying opinions
 - Speculating



Test Format and Tasks – Speech Functions

◆ Example of speech functions

- Expressing a preference
- Comparing
- Summarising
- Conversation repair
- Contrasting
- Narrating and paraphrasing
- Analysing

Example of Part I - Interview

Introduction and Interview - **speaking Task 1**

The examiner will introduce him or herself to you and ask you your name. You will then be asked to tell your interests, studies or working life.



Example of Task – Part II

Speaking Test – Individual Talk

You will be given a topic to talk about for 1-2 minutes.

Describe a teacher who has greatly influenced you in your education. You should say:

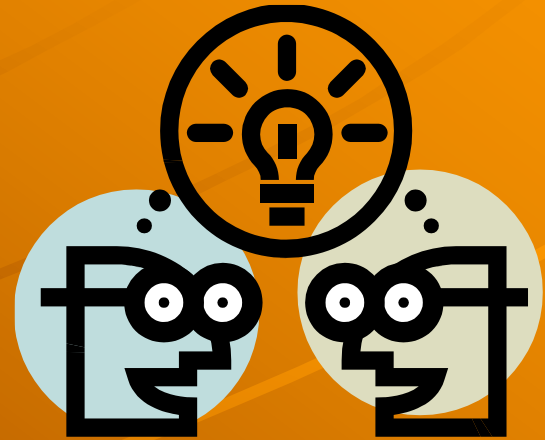
- Where you met them
- What subject they taught
- What was special about them and explain why this person influence you so much



Example of Task – Part III

Speaking Test – Two-way Discussion

- ✦ Modern society is often called “materialistic”. Why do you think this is?
- ✦ What are the advantages and disadvantages of commuting long distance to work?
- ✦ What is the role of advertising?
- ✦ How do you think the Internet will affect buying patterns in the future



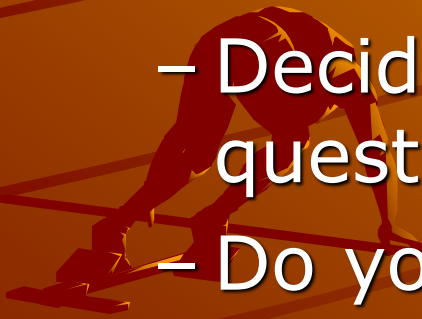
Strategies – Test Tips

- ◆ Be prepared to respond fully to questions asked by examiner
- ◆ Give rounded answers with appropriate linking words
- ◆ Don't waste time trying to write the whole talk
- ◆ Use time to jot some key ideas to prompt you while you are speaking
- ◆ Practise giving your talk with a clock for judging how you spend your time

Strategies – Test Tips for Discussion Session

◆ Producing a Reasoned Response

- Re-phrase the question in your own words
- Decide if any key words raise new questions
- Do you have clear view on the questions?
- Make sure you can give two sensible reasons to back your opinions



Further Help - SAP

- ◆ SAP – speaking Assistance Programme Core A 3/F
 - Small group help from an ELC teacher with your speaking skills
 - SAP teachers will give you suggestions for improving your speaking.
 - More information at <http://elc.polyu.edu.hk/sap/>



Further Help - CILL

- ◆ CILL – Centre for Independent Language Learning Core A 3/F
 - Help from an ELC teacher with your speaking, reading, speaking and listening
 - CILL teachers can give you suggestions for improving your speaking. They will not proof-read
 - More information at <http://elc.polyu.edu.hk/cill/ielts/>

References

You can find these books in CILL,
Room AG305:

- ◆ Cambridge Practice Tests for the IELTS, Books 1, 2 & 3 (with CD-ROM for listening tests)
- ◆ Insight into IELTS - an IELTS preparation course

Useful websites

- ◆ UGC Introductory site

<http://www.ugccepta.com>

- ◆ IELTS homepage

<http://www.ielts.org/index.htm>

- ◆ ELC homepage

<http://elc.polyu.edu.hk>

Questions

- ◆ Please do not ask us (or any ELC teacher) to predict what grade you will get, as this is forbidden by the IELTS organisation.

