EXAM SPOTLIGHT
PAPER 4, PART 1 General conversation

You will take the Speaking test with another candidate. In Part 1, the examiner will begin by asking each of you your name and where you are from, and will then ask questions on general topics, for example, likes and dislikes, family and friends, free time activities, work and learning. This part of the exam will last two minutes. The questions are likely to be familiar and will help you to relax.

1 Work in pairs. Ask and answer these questions from Part 1 of the Speaking test.

1 What's your name? Where are you from?
2 How do you like to spend your evenings? Why?
3 How much TV do you and your family watch a week? Would you prefer to watch more TV than that, or less?
4 What kinds of TV programmes do you like? Do you like the same TV programmes as the rest of your family?

2 Tell the class about the person you interviewed.

This is Marco and he’s from Mexico. He likes watching TV but he thinks that he watches too much. His favourite TV programme is …

READING family soap operas

EXAM SPOTLIGHT
PAPER 1, PART 7 Multiple matching

In Part 7 of the First Reading and Use of English paper, you read one text divided into short texts, or several short texts. Then you match each question to the correct text or paragraph.

3 Read the article about soap operas. For questions 1–10, choose from the soap operas (A–E) The soap operas may be chosen more than once.

Which soap opera
1 is about families living as neighbours? ______
2 includes a character that became richer? ______
3 has the name of its town as the title? ______
4 features a mother and three brothers? ______
5 is adapted from a soap in another country? ______
6 created arguments off-screen as well as on? ______
7 has a star who is starting a new job? ______
8 has actors from different ethnic backgrounds? ______
9 is about moving from one country to another? ______
10 is written in more than one language? ______

4 Complete the sentences with your opinion. Compare your sentences with a partner.

I'd like to see … because …
… is probably the worst because …
VOCABULARY family

Find words in the text to match these definitions.

1. husband or wife — spouse
2. our child or children —
3. a brother who shares just one parent with you —
4. the daughter of your father’s new wife —
5. opposite of nuclear family —
6. wives of your husband’s brothers —
7. your future husband —
8. all the members of your family including the ones who don’t live with you —
9. two children born at the same time to the same mother —
10. the sons and daughters of your parents’ brothers and sisters —
11. your husband or wife’s mother —
12. your brothers and sisters —

Work in pairs. Think of a family you know very well. Perhaps it’s a family on TV! How many of the words from exercise 5 can you use to describe them? Tell your partner.

There are five people in the family who live next door to me. There’s a mother and father, twin boys and a baby …

Soaps around the World

A POLAND
Zlotopolscy (The Golden Poles) is a soap based around the main members of the Zlotopolscy family. That’s Barbara, her sons Marek, Waldek and Kasper, plus their wives and children. But the family is divided. Some of the relatives live in a small town and the other half live in Warsaw. The Golden Poles forms an important part of the Polish soap industry, which is one of the biggest in the world. Poles have a particular love for Brazilian soaps and many people regularly listen to the second-longest running radio soap opera in the world called The Matysiak Family. It has been broadcast since 1956.

B SOUTH AFRICA
South Africa’s most popular soap opera is called Isidingo and is set in a gold mining town of the same name. It follows the lives of the local residents and has the usual storylines of car accidents and family arguments, but unlike some soaps, Isidingo has a multiracial cast and is often praised because it deals with real social issues. For viewers new to Isidingo, one of the most interesting – and perhaps confusing – aspects of the programme is that it is multilingual. Characters speak in a variety of languages to reflect the real cultural mix of modern South Africa.

C INDIA
Apart from the fact that Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi (Because Once a Mother Was a Daughter-in-Law) has a title which is longer than most soap operas, the basic ingredients of this Indian TV series are the same as those of every other soap opera – it’s about a family! It began over 1,250 episodes ago with the heroine, Tulsi, marrying into the wealthy Virani family. Tulsi, who was poor before she joined the family, is always arguing with her mother and sisters-in-law. Recently the serial jumped 20 years forward and introduced a new generation of siblings. The latest news from the series is the real-life news that Smriti Irani, who plays Tulsi, has recently started a career in politics.

D BRAZIL
In a country which loves its soap operas, the series América had won 64 per cent of Brazil’s TV audience every night by the time it finished. It tells the story of a tough but vulnerable girl called Sol, from Rio de Janeiro, who travels to Miami in search of ‘the American dream’. She leaves behind her parents as well as her fiancé, Tião, who rides bulls at the rodeo. As well as being popular, América was controversial. Many people criticised the show for presenting an idealised view of the USA and for encouraging illegal immigration.

E GERMANY
Germans have been watching Lindenstrasse (Linden Street), the country’s favourite soap opera, since it began over 1,000 episodes ago. Set in Munich, it isn’t so much about individual characters, but more about extended families living on top of, or next door to, each other. Another German soap, Verbotene Liebe (Forbidden Love), is a version of the Australian soap Sons and Daughters. In it, all sorts of people, including twins, cousins, half-brothers and step-sisters, spouses and their offspring, all fall in love with people they aren’t supposed to fall in love with!
KEY WORD  like

1 Match the answers (a–e) to the questions (1–5).
   1 What’s your brother like?  
   2 Does he look like you?  
   3 What does he like doing at the weekend?  
   4 Do you like him?  
   5 Do you think he would like to come out with us sometime?  
   a I like him a lot.
   b He’s quite serious and quiet when you first meet him but he relaxes when you get to know him.
   c Yes, I’m sure he would.
   d Yes, we’re both dark-haired with blue eyes.
   e He likes going to the cinema or sometimes eating out.

2 Work in pairs. Tell your partner the name of someone you know well. Take turns to ask and answer questions 1–5 from exercise 1.

My sister’s name is Alison.

Does she look like you?

Not at all. She has blue eyes and light brown hair. Does your sister look like you?

GRAMMAR  present tenses

3 Compare the use of the present simple and the present continuous in each pair of sentences, and answer the questions.

   1 a Some of the relatives live in a small town.
      b Some of the relatives are living in Warsaw for the next few months.
      1 Which sentence describes something true all the time?  
      2 Which sentence describes a temporary situation?  
   2 a Tulsi is always arguing with her mother and sisters-in-law.
      b Tulsi often argues with her mother and sisters-in-law.
      1 Which sentence describes something that is generally true?  
      2 Which sentence emphasises the repetition (of something negative)?  
   3 a Sol travels to Miami in search of the American dream.
      b Sol is travelling to Miami.
      1 Which sentence describes a story?  
      2 Which sentence describes something true at the moment of speaking?  

STATE AND DYNAMIC VERBS

Verbs such as be, like, believe, understand and know describe states. We rarely use state verbs in the continuous form.
I understand the lesson today. (X)
NOT I’m understanding the lesson today. (X)

Note this exception:
   a My uncle is annoying. (X)
   b My uncle is being annoying. (X)

Sentence a describes a permanent state. Sentence b describes something true at the moment of speaking.

4 Work in pairs. Tell your partner about the following.
   ● your daily routine during the week
   ● something you are always arguing about with members of your family or with close friends
   ● what you are currently studying or working on
   ● some of the current changes in your life or in your local area
   ● a book or film you have read or seen recently – describe what happens

5 Read this email from Rona to her friend Milan. Choose the correct verb forms to complete the email.

To: Milan Spasovski
From: Rona Kalodikis
Subject: My friend from Greece

Dear Milan,

Thanks for your email. It’s / ‘s being great to hear from you again and interesting to hear that your family (2) moves / is moving house. I (3) hope / ’m hoping they’ll like their new home. It’s also wonderful that you (4) start / ‘re starting University.

I (5) write / ’m writing to ask you a favour. A friend of mine from Greece is going to Britain in three weeks. It’ll be his first time and he (6) doesn’t understand / isn’t understanding much English. Would it be possible for you to meet him and let him stay at your flat for the night? He has a great sense of humour and he (7) looks / is looking rather like Brad Pitt!

Anyway, let me know if you (8) don’t have / aren’t having time.

Love,
Rona
6 Compare the verb forms in each group of sentences and answer the questions.

1 a The Indian soap began over 1,250 episodes ago.
   b The Indian soap has begun over 1,250 episodes ago.
   c Hurry up! The Indian soap has just begun.
   1 Which sentence is wrong? Why? _____
   2 Can you identify the tenses in sentences a and c?

2 a They've already watched 1,000 episodes of Lindenstrasse.
   b They've been watching Lindenstrasse since it began.
   1 Which sentence emphasises the duration of the activity? _____
   2 Which sentence emphasises a number or result? _____

3 a How long have you been watching América?
   b Have you ever watched América?
   1 Which question asks about an activity which started in the past and continues in the present? _____
   2 Which asks about an experience which happened sometime in the past? _____

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS

With some verbs (e.g. work, live) there is little or no difference in meaning between the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous.

I've lived there for three years. = I've been living there for three years.

If the action is quite recent or short in duration, the speaker is more likely to say I've been working here for a week rather than I've worked here for a week.

7 Read this conversation from Part 1 of the First Speaking test. Complete the conversation with the correct present form of the verbs.

A: First of all I'd like to know something about you, Dorota. Where (1) ________ (you / be) from?
B: Poland. I (2) ________ (live) in a small town called Nowy Targ.
A: And how long (3) ________ (you / live) there?
B: I (4) ________ (live) there all my life, though I (5) ________ (study) English in Torun at the moment.
A: (6) ________ (you / ever / study) any other languages?
B: Yes, I (7) ________ (learn) German for two years when I was at school.
A: OK. So what (8) ________ (you and your family / enjoy) doing at home?
B: We all (9) ________ (like) skiing. My family always (10) ________ (go) skiing each winter in a place called Zakopane which is near us.
A: And what's the most exciting thing you (11) ________ (ever / do)?
B: Oh, that's a difficult question. Erm … well, currently I (12) ________ (take) a course in paragliding.

SPEAKING asking and answering questions

8 Work in pairs.

Student A: you are the examiner. Ask the questions from exercise 7.
Student B: you are the candidate. Answer the questions in your own words.

First, I'd like to know something about you. Where are you from?

I'm from Italy, I live quite close to Rome.
USE OF ENGLISH  gossip

1 Work in pairs. Do you enjoy gossip and talking about other people? Have you heard any interesting gossip recently? Discuss with your partner.

2 Write down three pieces of news or recent gossip. Two items should be true and one should be untrue. Tell your partner your news. Your partner must guess which piece of news is untrue.

EXAM SPOTLIGHT

PAPER 1, PART 2  Open cloze

In Part 2 of the Reading and Use of English paper, you have to complete a text with eight missing single words.

- Read the whole text from beginning to end before you fill the gaps.
- Think about what part of speech is missing in each gap (a verb, an auxiliary verb, an article, a pronoun, etc.).
- Don’t leave any gap without a word. Even if you aren’t sure, then guess and write a word. It might be correct!

3 The table shows some of the types of words that are often tested in Paper 1, Part 2. Write the words from the box in the correct column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>article</th>
<th>auxiliary verb</th>
<th>preposition</th>
<th>pronoun</th>
<th>conjunction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>at</td>
<td>because</td>
<td>but</td>
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<td>can</td>
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<td>that</td>
<td>the</td>
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<tr>
<td>this</td>
<td>us</td>
<td>who</td>
<td>would</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXAM SPOTLIGHT

LISTENING  talking about people

PAPER 3, PART 1  Multiple choice

In Part 1 of the Listening test, you listen to eight short texts lasting about 30 seconds. You will hear each one twice. There is one question for each text. Before you listen, read the whole question and underline any key words.

Read question 1 and the audioscript extract.

The highlighted words give you clues to the answer. Notice that the exact words in the answer are not in the recording.

1 You hear two people talking at work. Who are they talking about?
   A a friend
   B a customer
   C a manager

Audioscript extract:

B: What's the problem?
A: I don't know how long I can put up with her.
B: She seems OK to me.
A: Do you think so?
B: Well, she's very friendly. The other staff get on with her. And she's got some good ideas. She wants to move the office around but that's fine. It doesn't work the way things are at present.
A: You don't think she's a bit bossy? I mean, all these changes. She's only been here a week!

Gossip is Good For You

We all love hearing gossip about people we know at work, or news about a friend or neighbour. Unfortunately, gossip often makes feel guilty because the stories might be untrue. But now a team of psychologists at University of Oklahoma believe we shouldn’t feel guilty. They think gossip is positive because it can build closer relationships between people.

In part of their research, the psychologists asked a group of people to listen a recorded conversation between two fictional characters called Brad and Melissa. Then they put each person someone they had never met before. Each pair of strangers discussed what they liked or disliked about the couple in the recording. Pairs who disliked the speakers in the conversation developed a more friendly relationship pairs that both liked the speakers. One researcher concluded from this that ‘shared, mild negative attitudes towards others can build stronger relationship’.

4 Work in pairs. Read the text quickly. Why is gossip good for you, according to the article?

5 Work in pairs. Discuss what type of word is missing for each gap in the article. Then think of the word that fits best and write it in.
**VOCABULARY** describing relationships

7 Read sentences 0–8. Replace the words in italics with the phrasal verbs from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>break up</th>
<th>fall out</th>
<th>get back together</th>
<th>get on with</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>let down</td>
<td>look after</td>
<td>put up with</td>
<td>ran into</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0 I don’t know how long I can tolerate her. **put up with**

1 All the staff **like her** and are friendly to her.

2 I **met Kim by chance** the other day.

3 She wants to **end the relationship** with him.

4 They **have arguments** over everything.

5 She always leaves him and then a week later they **start their relationship again**.

6 There was a mother and father on the show who **still take care of** their three grown-up children.

7 They never do anything around the house and **always disappoint** them by not doing what they **should do**.

8 She said she would **be loyal to** him whatever happened.

**KEEPING A VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK**

Phrasal verbs are used a lot in English, so keep a list of phrasal verbs and learn them regularly. Here are some ideas for ways of writing them to help you remember them.

**Write a synonym:** put up with = tolerate

**Write it in your own sentence:**

*I can put up with hard work if it's useful.*

**Show where the object goes:**

*I let down her.*

**Write vocabulary in groups:**

- **by topic**
  - relationships

- **by verb**
  - get on with
  - back (together)

- **by particle**
  - get on with (someone)

**8 Look up these phrasal verbs in a dictionary, and write them in your notebook following the suggestions above.**

| make up with | take after | go along with | look up to |
**EXAM SPOTLIGHT**

In Paper 2, the Writing paper, you have to answer two questions in 80 minutes. In Part 1 there is a compulsory essay question, so you must answer it.

In Part 2 you write an answer to one more question. There is a choice of three or four types of writing (from an article, an email/letter, a review or a report).

In the First for Schools exam the writing tasks in Part 2 might also include a story or an essay about the set book. They will not include a report.

1. **Read the Exam Spotlight box about Paper 2, Writing, and answer the questions.**
   1. How many parts are there in this exam?
   2. How many questions do you have to answer?
   3. Can you ignore the question in Part 1?
   4. What are the different types of writing that are tested in Part 2?

2. **Read the essay question from Part 1 of the Writing paper. Do you agree or disagree with the statement?**

   Nowadays, we have lots of different ways to communicate thanks to new technology.

   First of all, let’s consider email and texting. As far as I’m concerned these are useful for sending and receiving messages quickly. In comparison, my grandparents used to send letters. These were much slower, especially if you wanted to communicate with people in other countries.

   Next, modern mobile phones are excellent for talking but also for sending photos of the family to each other. According to my grandmother, in the old days, people only contacted each other or sent photos once or twice a year. I think this is sad!

   Finally, the younger members of my family communicate with social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. We can share our whole lives with each in a way our grandparents never dreamed of.

   In conclusion, communicating with family and friends has never been easier.

3. **Read the essay question again and decide if statements 1–8 are true (T) or false (F).**
   1. The essay question in Part 1 always appears in a context. T / F
   2. You have a statement to discuss. T / F
   3. You can write what you want. T / F
   4. You don’t have to include all the notes. T / F
   5. Your own ideas are the most important. T / F
   6. An informal, ‘chatty’ style is OK. T / F
   7. You can write as much as you want. T / F
   8. Spelling and grammar are important. T / F

4. **Read the model answer written by Lucia. Which paragraph(s):**
   a. introduce the topic of the essay?
   b. deal with the advantages of modern methods?
   c. give a conclusion?

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   First of all, let’s consider email and texting. As far as I’m concerned these are useful for sending and receiving messages quickly. In comparison, my grandparents used to send letters. These were much slower, especially if you wanted to communicate with people in other countries.

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   Finally, the younger members of my family communicate with social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. We can share our whole lives with each in a way our grandparents never dreamed of.

   In conclusion, communicating with family and friends has never been easier.

5. **Underline the different expressions that Lucia uses to introduce opinions.**

6. **Complete the expressions in these sentences with the correct preposition.**
   1. According _____ experts, most of us have only three or four close friends.
   2. _____ far _____ I’m concerned I’d never fall in love with someone I met on the Internet.
   3. First _____ all, we should never contact people who hide behind pseudonyms.
   4. _____ my opinion, the best way of meeting people is at school or work.
   5. _____ conclusion, we should think twice before giving personal details.
7. Read the sentences in exercise 6 again. What topic are they about?

SEQUENCING WORDS

Sequencing words are very important in an essay, but some of them can be easily confused. We use: 

- at first to talk about a first opinion, impression or action that is different from what comes later.
- firstly / first of all to introduce the first item in a list of reasons or arguments.
- afterwards / after that / next to introduce another action in a series.
- secondly to introduce a second reason or argument.
- finally / lastly to introduce a final opinion, reason or argument.
- at last to say that something happened after a long delay.
- in the end to talk about a final result, often after lot of other things have happened.

8. Read the information about sequencing words in the box, then choose the correct option to complete sentences 1–5.

1. Firstly / At first I spent a lot of time phoning people, but nowadays I chat to them on Facebook.
2. There are several reasons for being careful on social media sites. At first / First of all, anything we write immediately becomes public. Afterwards / Secondly, we can never delete what we have written. Finally / At last, it leaves us open to identity theft.
3. Danny and Morag looked everywhere for their tablet. At last / Lastly they found it behind a cushion on the sofa.
4. They tried to repair the computer, but at last / in the end they had to buy a new one.
5. We had a long conversation on Skype. Afterwards / Secondly I sent her our latest photographs.

9. Now read this exam question. Work in pairs or groups and discuss your ideas.

‘Thanks to the Internet there has never been a better way of making friends.’ Do you agree?

Notes

Things to write about:

1. meeting new people
2. finding people with similar interests
3. your own idea

10. Use Lucia’s answer as a model and write your answer, using the ideas you discussed in exercise 9. Check your work using the checklist.

AN ESSAY

After you write your essay, check your work.

- Does it cover the two points you are given? ☐
- Does it include your own idea? ☐
- Does it use a range of expressions for giving your opinion? ☐
- Is it between 140 and 190 words? ☐
- Have you checked your work for mistakes and punctuation? ☐
Video a match made in Africa

1 Look at this photograph of an elephant calf (baby elephant) and a sheep called Albert. Where do you think the photograph was taken? What is strange about it?

2 You are going to watch a documentary about the story of this unlikely friendship. While you watch, number the events a–h in the correct order 1–8.

a The calf begins to drink water.
b The elephant goes walking with Albert.
c No other elephant wants to take care of him.
d A baby elephant loses its mother.
e Albert the sheep arrives.
f The calf is rescued.
g They name the elephant Temla.
h The elephant starts to drink milk.

3 Read the glossary and watch the video again. While you are watching, decide if statements 1–8 are true (T) or false (F).

1 An elephant calf needs milk for six months. T / F
2 Elephants never adopt calves without mothers. T / F
3 There was a serious shortage of water. T / F
4 The team from Shamwari drugged the calf. T / F
5 At first, the calf was too unhappy to drink water. T / F
6 Albert and the calf became instant friends. T / F
7 The calf eventually started to drink ‘formula’ milk. T / F
8 Albert and the calf did everything together. T / F

4 How did Albert help to save the elephant calf’s life? Why do you think this was?
5 Match the expressions in italics in 1–5 to the definitions a–e.

1 The Shamwari team moves in for a rescue. _____
2 The staff was afraid that the calf would not make it through the rescue. _____
3 At first the elephant and Albert didn’t hit it off. _____
4 Baby elephants are emotional, if they aren’t happy everything shuts down. _____
5 The orphaned elephant was grieving in a big way. _____

a stop operating
b survive an illness or dangerous situation
c a lot / a great deal
d like each other as soon as you meet
e go closer

6 What close relationships do you have with family or friends? Can you think of a time in your life when a friendship started off in a difficult way?

PAPER 4, PART 1 General conversation

7 Read the Ideas generator and start making a mindmap about you, your life and your relationships to prepare for Part 1 of Paper 4. Choose the main topics and add some details.

IDEAS GENERATOR

MINDMAPPING A TOPIC

In Part 1 of the First Speaking test, you talk about different personal and general topics, such as your family and friends, pets and hobbies, where you live and your occupation. To prepare for this part of the exam, it’s useful to generate ideas by making a mindmap. Here’s a mindmap by a student. He begins by writing categories and then adds details. He can refer back to the mindmap and add more information later on. It will help him answer the examiner’s questions.

- a pet snake
- 19 years old
- student of business
- brother Joachim aged 11
- mother
- girlfriend, Hannah aged 19
- 150 friends on Facebook
- live near Munich Bavaria
- online gaming basketball
- pet snake
- Animal
- Family
- Me
- Friend
- Hobbies
- Home

8 Work in pairs. Take turns to be the interlocutor and the candidate. Ask these questions and answer them using the useful expressions in the box.

1 Where are you from?
2 Tell me about your home town or city.
3 What do you like doing in your free time?
4 Do you prefer to spend time on your own or with friends?
5 Do you spend more time with family or with friends?
6 Do you like animals? Tell me about your pets.
7 Do you spend much time on social media websites like Facebook? Are they a good way to make friends?

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF

I’m from / I come from …
I live in … / (It’s a beautiful place with …)
I like playing … / doing … / going …
I prefer having friends because … / I enjoy time on my own (to read a book …)
I think I probably spend more time (with friends at college / with my family at the weekend)
I love my pets. I have (a cat and a dog …)
I like meeting people online. (On Facebook I have about 200 friends.)
I don’t spend much time online because … (I prefer seeing my friends.)