

**ENTRY LEVEL CERTIFICATE**

**English**

**R393**

Teacher Guidance and Exemplar Tasks: **Spoken language**

**INTERNAL ASSESSMENT TASK**

There is **one** Spoken language task: Discussion **or** Role play. The task is set by centres. These Specimen Assessment Materials contain guidance for setting the Spoken language assessment and examples of Spoken language tasks.

Learners should complete one task:

**EITHER**

**Discussion**

This could take a variety of forms such as a planning exercise, a discussion of an issue of local or national interest or of the particular interests of a group of learners, or it could derive from a literary text that learners have been studying. The discussion can take place between a group of two or more people, and can take place between the teacher and learner if that is felt to be most appropriate.

**OR**

**Role Play**

This could include a practical scenario such as a telephone conversation requesting or complaining about a service or arranging to visit a relative, or it could be based on an imaginary scenario such as interviewing a favourite celebrity. The role play can take place between the teacher and the learner if that is felt to be most appropriate.

For either task, learners will need to actively communicate with at least one other person.

These Specimen Assessment Materials give examples of the types of Spoken language task that centres might set. They can be contextualised to meet learners' specific needs.

### **Guidance for setting the Spoken language task**

Centres should set a Spoken language task which offers challenge appropriate to their individual learners. Appropriate tasks could be based on personal interests and contexts familiar to the learners. In general, the best examples of discussion or role play tasks are those based on issues that are close to the learners' hearts or about subjects in which they share a common expertise. The Spoken language task can be linked to vocational qualifications that learners may be taking and centres are encouraged to do this if appropriate.

A key element in a successful Spoken language task is preparation. Learners need to be comfortable with each other and have a clear understanding of what they are being asked to do.

Learners will be successful in the task if they can demonstrate the ability to listen carefully, respond relevantly to other speakers and even lead the task in new directions. Whilst the latter may well be largely the preserve of Level 3 learners, learners of all levels of ability are able to converse on a variety of matters on a daily basis, and it may be useful to start at this level of interaction and build confidence from there.

If a learner finds group work uncomfortable for whatever reason, it is possible for the discussion or role play task to take place between the teacher and learner.

## Discussion

### **Suggested topics**

Centres are free to decide on the topic focus for a discussion task. Centres should discuss the topic with learners in advance of the assessment so that learners are comfortable with the task and understand what they have to do.

Below is a list of suggested topics for a discussion task.

#### **General topics:**

- Discuss a recent sports event (what the event is, who takes part, when it takes place, memorable moments, whether or not the event was enjoyable)
- Discuss a favourite TV programme, film or book (the plot, favourite character/ scene, good or bad adaptations)
- Discuss a favourite celebrity (who they are, what they do, whether or not they are a good role model)
- Discuss a favourite hobby (what the hobby involves, why it's enjoyable)
- Discuss hopes for the future (particular interests, career or study plans)
- Discuss a favourite holiday destination (what there is to do there, why it is a good choice).

#### **Topics related to English Literature:**

- *Macbeth*: discuss Macbeth's first impression of 'the weird sisters'
- *An Inspector Calls*: discuss impressions of Sheila Birling
- *Badger On The Barge*: discuss Helen Fisher's initial opinion of Miss Brady
- Discuss what learners like and dislike about the characters in a text and discuss their reactions to what happens to them
- Discuss alternative endings to a story or play.

#### **Topics related to Media Studies:**

- Create a school newspaper: discuss headlines, pictures to use, reports and articles to include
- Talk about photos: what can be seen in the photo(s), what can be inferred, how the photo fits with the story (if the photo accompanies a newspaper/magazine article).

#### **Topics related to Vocational Qualifications:**

- Discuss recent work experience
- Discuss codes for health and safety in the classroom/school
- Take part in discussions with visitors at the centre, such as representatives of industry.

### **Specimen Discussion tasks**

The task should give learners the opportunity to contribute to a discussion on a topic of interest. They will need to show that they can listen carefully to others and respond appropriately with some detail.

#### **Task 1: Adopt an Animal**

Your group wants to adopt an animal at a zoo or safari park in the U.K. You have been asked to come up with ideas on how to do this.

Here are some things you could talk about:

- What does it mean to adopt an animal?
- What type of animal will you want to adopt?
- How much will it cost per animal?
- How would you arrange the adoption?
- Will you give the animal a name?
- How are you going to raise funds to enable you to adopt?
- How would you arrange to visit the animal?

You may add ideas of your own.

#### **Task 2: Let's Exercise**

Your school wants to encourage more students to walk or cycle to school. You meet to suggest ways to do this.

Here are some things you could talk about:

- Why is it a good idea to walk or cycle?
- What good will it do for the environment?
- How will you persuade more students to talk part?
- How will you notify parents?

You may add ideas of your own.

#### **Task 3: Summer School**

Your teachers have asked your group to help to organise a Summer School for children during the summer holidays.

Here are some things you could talk about:

- Why is the Summer School needed?
- When and where will it take place?
- What are the best activities to offer?
- Will refreshments be needed?
- How will you publicise it?
- Can you think of any possible problems?

You may add ideas of your own.

## Role play

### Suggested topics

Centres are free to decide on the topic and situation focus for a role play task. Centres should discuss this with learners in advance of the assessment so that learners are comfortable with the task and understand what they have to do.

Below is a list of suggested topics for a role play task.

#### **General topics:**

- Television chat show: interview a favourite celebrity for a television chat show (one learner could play the part of the chat show host)
- Lottery winner: you have won the lottery and are being interviewed by a local news station about how you will spend your millions (one learner could play the part of the journalist)
- Cancelling or changing an appointment: give reasons why the appointment needs to be changed and say when you are next available
- Shopping: ask for more information on a product or complain about a damaged product
- Travel: you arrive at your hotel to find that it is awful and you go to the manager to complain.

#### **Suggested topics related to English Literature:**

- Role play a talk between two characters from a novel, or conduct an interview with a character for radio or television.

#### **Suggested topics related to Media Studies:**

- Telephone a radio station to take part in a discussion or competition (one learner could play the part of the radio presenter)
- Telephone a newspaper to complain about an article or to place an advertisement.

#### **Suggested topics related to Vocational Qualifications:**

- Conduct a job interview (one learner could play the part of the interviewer)
- Deal with a specific customer enquiry or complaint.

### **Specimen Role play tasks**

The task should give learners the opportunity to contribute to a role play in a context which is either familiar or of interest to them. They will need to show that they can listen carefully to others and respond appropriately with some detail.

#### **Task 1: Hotel horror**

You have arrived on a tropical island ready to start your holiday. You get to the hotel to discover that it is terrible! You decide to complain to the manager.

Your partner will play the part of the hotel manager.

You will need to:

- Explain what is wrong with the hotel
- Describe the kind of hotel you were expecting
- Ask them what they can do to help

You may add ideas of your own.

#### **Task 2: Which phone?**

You are looking for a new phone to buy. You look online and one or two phones catch your eye.

You go into the phone shop to ask for more information.

Your partner will play the role of the shop assistant.

You will need to:

- Explain what type of phone you want more information on
- Tell them the highest price you can pay for the phone (and contract, e.g. £20 per month)
- Ask for more details on each phone
- Enquire as to what they feel are "extra selling points".

You may add ideas of your own.

**Task 3: That's Showbiz**

Imagine you are your favourite celebrity. You are appearing on a television chat show to discuss your life and achievements.

You take your place on the studio sofa.

Your partner will play the role of the interviewer and will ask you questions.

You will need to:

- Say who you are and why you are famous
- Tell them about your biggest achievement
- Say what the best thing is about being famous
- Say what the worst thing is about being famous
- Talk about your hopes for the future
- Say what you would like to do if you weren't a celebrity.

You may add ideas of your own.

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