

KET SPEAKING TEST

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycc2G4Ryn3Y>

Sharissa and Yannis

Introduction

The Speaking test has **two parts** and lasts **8 to 10 minutes**, involving two examiners and a pair of candidates. One examiner is the **interlocutor** while the other, who takes no part in interaction, is an **assessor**.

Task 1

In **Part 1**, candidates are asked simple questions about themselves. Listen to the two candidates (**0:21-5:12**) and decide if they are a *pass* or a *fail* in relation to **Grammar and Vocabulary**.

At this level (A2) candidates are expected to “*show sufficient control of simple grammar forms and to use appropriate vocabulary to talk about everyday situation*”.

Now check our comments below.

Comment

Both candidates are a **safe pass** in this part of the test. For instance, in reply to the question “What subjects do you study?” Yannis and Sharissa produce a list of roughly 6 subjects each.

The mistakes they make (Biogoly for Biology/ Chemie for Chemistry) would be considered minor at this level. In terms of structures, they’re also fine. “Sports is my favourite subject (because) I can move... / (I like the breaks at school) because you can meet your friends and so on. I like ball sports. / Sometimes I make a big chocolate cake and eat it. /

At this level, candidates may require a little prompting e.g. Why (do you like sports)? This is perfectly OK at level A2.

Task 2

When asked to tell something about a television programme he likes (**4:11-4:44**), Yannis replies with a very impressive description of “How I Met Your Mother” and “The Big Bang Theory”. What does that teach us about the type of preparation our students will require for Part 1 of the test?

Now check our comments below.

Comment

We have the impression that Yannis may have answered this question many times beforehand. In other words, he was well-prepared for the test. This is possible because of the *predictable nature of the questions* that candidates are asked and the possibility of helping them with *simple role plays* in which students ask and answer simple questions many times.

Task 3

Sharissa is then expected to tell me something about what she does at the weekends (4:45-5:12). Notice that, once again, the interlocutor starts with **Tell me....** in order to check if the candidate is able to produce a string of sentences as opposed to just a single one.

What would you say about Sharissa's reply in relation to Yannis's? Are they equally good? Is she better than him?

Now check our comments below.

Comment

Yannis answered the question with a wider range of vocabulary and structure than Sharissa, but it is important to notice that at KET level they are both fine. The fact, for instance, that she starts her sentence with a mistake (At Saturday morning...) is minor at level A2 and she is not penalised for that.

Task 4

Go back to the beginning of the snippet and now focus on **Pronunciation**. At level A2 candidates are expected to sound "intelligible, despite limited control of phonological features".

How do you rate their pronunciation, overall?

Now check our comments below.

Comment

Both candidates sound intelligible. In spite of their German accent, they do not put a strain on the listener. They also seem to have some control of phonological features at both utterance and word levels.

Task 5

Part 2 of the test takes 3 to 4 minutes. In this part, the two candidates interact with each other. This involves asking and answering questions about factual information of a non-personal kind. Prompt cards are used to stimulate questions and answers which will be related to daily life, leisure activities and social life. These will include references to places, times, services, where to go, how to get there, what to eat, etc.)

As you watch this segment (**5:15-7:50**), consider if the candidates are able to “maintain simple exchanges, despite some difficulties or if they require prompting and support”.

Now check our comments below.

Comment

Both candidates are able to perform the task without requiring any help or support from the interlocutor. The mistakes they make, mostly when asking questions (What colour the computer game? / Where I can buy it the computer game? / On which website I can find it? / What does it cost?) are considered minor mistakes at this level.

Task 6

Look at the assessment scales below. Without worrying to much about the specifics, decide on a band (1 to 5) for each candidate.

PAPER 3: SPEAKING | ASSESSMENT

Cambridge English: Key Speaking Examiners use a more detailed version of the following assessment scales, extracted from the overall Speaking scales on page 35.

A2	Grammar and Vocabulary	Pronunciation	Interactive Communication
5	Shows a good degree of control of simple grammatical forms. Uses a range of appropriate vocabulary when talking about everyday situations.	Is mostly intelligible, and has some control of phonological features at both utterance and word levels.	Maintains simple exchanges. Requires very little prompting and support.
4	<i>Performance shares features of Bands 3 and 5.</i>		
3	Shows sufficient control of simple grammatical forms. Uses appropriate vocabulary to talk about everyday situations.	Is mostly intelligible, despite limited control of phonological features.	Maintains simple exchanges, despite some difficulty. Requires prompting and support.
2	<i>Performance shares features of Bands 1 and 3.</i>		
1	Shows only limited control of a few grammatical forms. Uses a vocabulary of isolated words and phrases.	Has very limited control of phonological features and is often unintelligible.	Has considerable difficulty maintaining simple exchanges. Requires additional prompting and support.
0	<i>Performance below Band 1.</i>		

Now check our comments below.

Comment

Both candidates are strong candidates and deserve a 4-5 on the three different categories.

Task 7

Look at the **Global Achievement bands** and do the same thing. Where do you think the candidates stand?

A2	Global Achievement
5	Handles communication in everyday situations, despite hesitation. Constructs longer utterances but is not able to use complex language except in well-rehearsed utterances.
4	<i>Performance shares features of Bands 3 and 5.</i>
3	Conveys basic meaning in very familiar everyday situations. Produces utterances which tend to be very short – words or phrases – with frequent hesitation and pauses.
2	<i>Performance shares features of Bands 1 and 3.</i>
1	Has difficulty conveying basic meaning even in very familiar everyday situations. Responses are limited to short phrases or isolated words with frequent hesitation and pauses.
0	<i>Performance below Band 1.</i>

Now check our comments below.

Comment

Both candidates are strong candidates. Yannis is probably a 5 while Sharissa is probably a 4.