

Interactive phase Intermediate

The Interactive phase provides the opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their ability to initiate and take control over the interaction. In addition to general functions such as requesting information, the language functions listed for the particular grade should arise naturally from each task prompt. In this phase, the emphasis is placed upon the candidate's ability to use functional language rather than upon the accurate use of the grammatical structures listed for the grade

This is the major change to the Stage but **please make sure you consult the syllabus fully for all requirements of the Intermediate Stage.** Below are some **SAMPLE Interactive Prompts for Intermediate Stage.** Note these are samples and will **NOT** be used in an actual examination.

Grade 7 - Interactive prompts

The examiner will introduce this phase by saying:

"For the next part, I'll tell you something. Then, you have to ask me questions to find out more information. You need to keep the conversation going. After about four minutes, I'll end the conversation. Are you ready?"

1. Though I'd really like to feel healthier, I don't know the best way to start. (Eliciting further information, giving advice, expressing possibility)
2. It's my niece's/nephew's birthday soon and though I'd like to give her/him a pet, I'm not sure about it. (Making suggestions, eliciting further information)
3. A friend of mine always says that she used to spend her childhood in a very unusual way. (Describing past habits, eliciting information)
4. I haven't heard for ages from a friend of mine who lives in Australia and I'm beginning to get a bit worried. (Giving advice, expressing possibility and uncertainty, eliciting further information)
5. I think I'll have to buy a new car soon but there are so many different types available. (Giving advice, making suggestions, eliciting further information and expansion of ideas and opinions)
6. I love my job, though there are times when I think I'd like to do something completely different. (Eliciting further information and expansion of ideas and opinions, making suggestions)
7. I want to explore this area at the weekend but I don't know where to go exactly and which is the best way to travel. (Giving advice, making suggestions)
8. My taste in books has changed a lot - I used to read completely different things to what I read nowadays. (Describing past habits, eliciting further information and expansion of opinions)
9. Someone's told me I can choose something very expensive for my next special birthday and I really ought to think carefully about this. (Eliciting further information and expansion of ideas and opinions, giving advice, expressing possibility and uncertainty)
10. I saw something very surprising on the TV news last night. You never used to see anything like that on television. (Describing past habits, eliciting further information and expansion of ideas and opinions)

Grade 8 - Interactive prompts

The examiner will introduce this phase by saying:

"For the next part, I'll tell you something. Then, you have to ask me questions to find out more information. You need to keep the conversation going. After about four minutes, I'll end the conversation. Are you ready?"

1. My friend wants to enter a competition but says she needs my help. Even though there's a major prize to be won, I'm not sure about getting involved. (Expressing feelings, reporting, speculating, persuading/discouraging)
2. I've seen a new flat advertised in the newspaper and have been thinking of moving to a new area. (Expressing feelings, speculating, persuading/discouraging)

3. I have to fly a lot in my job and recently I've been getting more and more worried about it. (Speculating, expressing feelings and emotions, persuading/discouraging)
4. My family and I have a big decision to make and, in spite of talking for hours, we can't come to a decision. (Reporting the conversation of others, expressing feelings and emotions, persuading/discouraging)
5. I organised a meeting last week in the village where I live to discuss the possible plans to extend the nearby airport. (Reporting the conversation of others, expressing feelings and emotions, speculating, persuading/discouraging)
6. When I came back from holiday, my neighbour told me about some strange things that had happened in the street while I was away. (Reporting the conversation of others, expressing feelings and emotions)
7. My friend went to New York for a holiday last year and he said he loved it. He wants me to go with him this year but I'm not sure if I want to go there. (Reporting the conversation of others, expressing feelings and emotions, speculating, persuading and discouraging)
8. One of my old school-friends has been organising a party to meet up with all the people who were in our class at school. I'm not sure if I want to go. (Expressing feelings and emotions, speculating, persuading/discouraging)
9. I moved to live in a new area a few months ago and I'm beginning to wonder if I really fit in with the neighbours. (Expressing feelings and emotions, speculating)
10. I nearly had a serious accident yesterday but I really don't think it was my fault. (Expressing feelings and emotions, reporting the conversation of others, speculating)

Grade 9 - Interactive prompts

The examiner will introduce this phase by saying:

"For the next part, I'll tell you something. Then, you have to ask me questions to find out more information. You need to keep the conversation going. After about four minutes, I'll end the conversation. Are you ready?"

1. Every year, at some point, like lots of other people, I look back and remember what went well and what didn't and try to make plans for the coming year. I've just had my annual review. (Expressing regrets, wishes and hopes, evaluating past actions or course of events)
2. My family and I usually prefer independent holidays which we organise ourselves. Last year we tried something different. (Evaluating past actions or course of events, expressing regrets and wishes)
3. My friend and I both witnessed the same road accident a few weeks ago and remembered what had happened very clearly but we gave the police two very different versions of events. (Expressing assumptions, paraphrasing, hypothesising, evaluating past course of events)
4. My uncle's bought an old house and has told me all about how he's re-designed houses in the past. He's asked me to help him with this one but I can imagine some problems. (Evaluating options, hypothesising)
5. My cousin's been offered a new job. He says he was given a very strange interview so doesn't know whether to take the job or not. (Expressing wishes, evaluating options, hypothesising)
6. For the past few years, I've been sent a Valentine's card on 14 February/a birthday card with a romantic message, but I've no idea who might have sent them. It was funny at first but now I'm getting concerned. (Expressing assumptions, hypothesising, evaluating options)
7. I complained to my boss the other week about my salary and now I'm beginning to wish I hadn't said anything. (Expressing assumptions, expressing regrets, evaluating past actions)
8. When my/my sister's family got a new pet last year, many changes had to be made to family life. Some members of the family weren't as happy as others. (Hypothesising, evaluating past course of events, expressing assumptions)
9. When I was on holiday recently, I bought a typical souvenir of the region which I loved at the time but when I got it home, I had second thoughts about it. (Expressing regrets, evaluating past actions)
10. If I'd taken music more seriously when I was younger, I think I might have been quite a good musician/singer. (Expressing regrets, evaluating past actions)

Sample exchange in the Interactive phase at Grade 7

Examiner: This is the first time I've ever been to this area and I have a free weekend.

Candidate: What are you interested in?

Examiner: Well, I like visiting museums but I don't like noisy or crowded places.

Candidate: Oh, yes. I feel the same. There are three very good museums in the town.

Do you like modern art?

Examiner: Not really, I prefer history.

Candidate: Well, I think you should definitely go to the Archaeological Museum. It's an old castle which was converted into a museum last year. There are many Roman remains in this part of the country and the museum displays these very well.

Examiner: What's a good time to go?

Candidate: The best time to go is probably Sunday morning - it's usually quite empty then.

Examiner: Right. Actually, I went to an archaeological museum in England not long ago.

Candidate: Did you? Where in England was that?

Examiner: Have you heard of Cambridge?

Candidate: Yes, it's very famous, isn't it? Was the museum very good?

Examiner: Yes, they've done a lot of work to the museum to make the displays more interesting for visitors - and there's also a wonderful cafeteria there.

Candidate: Unfortunately, there's nowhere to eat or drink inside the museum here. It isn't so common in this country

Conversation continues