



## CAE Speaking Overview – teacher’s notes

### Description

Students familiarise themselves with how the Speaking test is organised by answering a set of True/False questions. A second activity explores the task types and language required in the different parts of the Speaking test in more detail.

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**Time required:** 30 minutes

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**Additional materials required:**

- CAE Handbook

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**Aims:**

- To familiarise students with the organisation of the Speaking test.
- To introduce students to the task types and format of the four parts of the Speaking Test.

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### Procedure

#### Overview activity 1

1. Give a copy of student’s worksheet to each student. Ask them to decide if each statement is true or false. Tell them to correct any false statements. Set a time limit (e.g. 8–10 minutes) for doing the task.
2. Ask them to discuss their answers in pairs or small groups.
3. When students have finished, go through the answers together and discuss any questions which arise.

#### Overview activity 2

1. Give a copy of student’s worksheet to each student.
2. Tell students to match the numbered information (1–4) under the table with the spaces (a–d) in the table. Set a time limit (e.g. 10–15 minutes).
3. Tell them to discuss and compare their answers in pairs or small groups.
4. Go through the completed table, explaining each part and answering any queries. Use the CAE handbook pages 83–90 for reference.

### Additional information

Refer to the CAE handbook pages 84–87 for a detailed description of the Speaking test.



## CAE Paper 5 Overview – answer keys

### Key to student's worksheet, exercise 1

1. False – there are normally two candidates but if there is an odd number at the end of the session, then a group of three candidates will be examined together.
2. False – there are always two examiners. The test cannot take place if there is only one examiner except in pre-arranged and exceptional circumstances.
3. False – only one examiner (the interlocutor) speaks to the candidates throughout the test. The other examiner (the assessor) says hello but then just listens and does not take part.
4. True – although one examiner concentrates only on assessing, the other examiner also gives a mark. However, the two examiners assess using different scales.
5. False – examiners cannot examine a candidate they know, whether it is socially or because they are or were their teacher. If you know the examiner, tell the supervisor or Local Secretary immediately and they will arrange for you to be examined by another examiner.
6. True
7. False – Part 1 is 3 minutes; the other parts are all 4 minutes.
8. False – the whole test takes approximately 15 minutes.
9. False – The candidates also speak to each other in Part 4 when they discuss the topics with each other and the interlocutor.
10. True – they are linked by the topic.



**Key to student's worksheet, exercise 2**

**Completed Table:**

<b>Part</b>	<b>Task Type</b>	<b>Task format</b>	<b>What type of language is suitable?</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>1</b>	A conversation between the interlocutor and each candidate	a) The interlocutor asks each candidate questions; candidates reply and listen to their partner.	General, social language	3 mins
<b>2</b>	b) Individual long turns with brief answers from second candidate	Each candidate in turn is given a different set of pictures. They comment on and react to the pictures. A prompt is given in the form of a direct question; this is written above the pictures. Each candidate talks for about one minute; the second candidate answers a question	Organising a longer piece of speaking  Comparing, describing, expressing opinions, speculating	4 mins
<b>3</b>	Two-way conversation between the candidates	The candidates are given spoken instructions with written and visual stimuli, which are used in a collaborative decision-making task.	c) Sustaining interaction, exchanging ideas, justifying opinions, agreeing/disagreeing, reaching a decision through negotiation	4 mins
<b>4</b>	d) A discussion on topics related to Part 3	The topic area from Part 3 is opened up by discussing wider issues.	Expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing/disagreeing.	4 mins



## CAE Paper 5 Overview – Student’s Worksheet

### Exercise 1

Decide if these statements are true or false. If false, correct the statement to make it true.

In the CAE Speaking test:

1. there are always three candidates.
2. there are usually two examiners but sometimes only one.
3. both examiners speak.
4. both examiners assess.
5. it doesn't matter if you know the examiner.
6. there are four parts.
7. the parts of the test are of equal length.
8. the whole test takes 14 minutes.
9. the candidates do not speak to each other, except in the collaborative task in Part 3.
10. Parts 3 and 4 are linked.



**Exercise 2**

The table below contains a general description of the CAE Speaking test and its parts. Some sections have been removed. These sections are jumbled up at the bottom of the page.

Look at the sample Speaking test on pages 88–90 of the CAE handbook and decide which numbered section should go where to complete the table. Write the correct number in the spaces with letters.

Part	Task Type	Task format	What type of language is suitable?	Time
1	A conversation between the interlocutor and each candidate	a)	General, social language	3 mins
2	b)	Each candidate in turn is given a different set of pictures. They comment on and react to the pictures. A prompt is given in the form of a direct question; this is written above the pictures. Each candidate talks for about one minute; the second candidate answers a question.	Organising a longer piece of speaking  Comparing, describing, expressing opinions, speculating	4 mins
3	Two-way conversation between the candidates	The candidates are given spoken instructions with written and visual stimuli, which are used in a collaborative decision-making task.	c)	4 mins
4	d)	The topic area from Part 3 is opened up by discussing wider issues.	Expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing/disagreeing	4 mins

- 1 A discussion on topics related to Part 3
- 2 Sustaining interaction, exchanging ideas, justifying opinions, agreeing/disagreeing, reaching a decision through negotiation
- 3 Individual long turns, with brief answers from second candidate
- 4 The interlocutor asks each candidate questions; candidates reply and listen to their partner.