

IELTS Life Skills

B1 Speaking and Listening

Sample Test B

🕒 This test should not exceed 22 minutes.

Please note: With the exception of the Task Sheets in Phases 2a and 2b, this sample test frame will be used only by the Examiner. It will not be shown to the candidates.

🕒 3 minutes

Phase 1a

Hello. My name is _____ (Examiner).

[Ask Candidate A and Candidate B in turn questions about name and nationality (see below).]

Name	What's your name? Can you spell it for me?
Nationality	Where do you come from? How long have you lived here?

Thank you. Could I have your marksheets? *[Collect marksheets.]*

Thank you.

Now you are going to ask each other some questions. I want you to find out from each other about the work you do now and the work you'd like to do in the future. You can talk about the work you do at college, at home or outside the home. You have two minutes to talk to each other.

[Withdraw eye contact to signal that candidates should start. Allow two minutes. Prompt candidates with questions from the box below, or others suitable for the level, if necessary (e.g. if interaction breaks down or if language remains below B1 level).]

Prompt questions:

Do you have a job at the moment? (Do you like it?) (Why?/Why not?)

Which do you think is more important – doing work you enjoy or earning a lot of money? (Why?)

Would you prefer a job working inside, for example in an office, or outside? (Why?)

What would be the perfect job for you? (Why?)

Thank you.

🕒 7 minutes

Phase 1b

In this part of the test, you are each going to talk for about one and a half minutes. While you are talking, your partner will listen to you. Your partner will then ask you three questions about what you have said.

_____ (Candidate A), you're going to tell _____ (Candidate B) about a good friend you've made and why he or she is such a good friend.

_____ (Candidate B), you're going to tell _____ (Candidate A) about what you like to do to relax and where you like to go.

You both have one minute to think about what you want to say. You can make notes if you want to. *[Indicate paper and pencil.]* If there's anything you don't understand, please ask me.

[Withdraw eye contact to signal start of preparation. Allow 1 minute for preparation.]

_____ (Candidate A), are you ready? Please tell _____ (Candidate B) about a good friend you've made and why he or she is such a good friend. _____ (Candidate B), listen, and ask three questions at the end. *[Allow 1½ minutes.]*

Thank you. _____ (Candidate B), please ask _____ (Candidate A) your questions now.

Thank you.

_____ (Candidate B), are you ready? Please tell _____ (Candidate A) about what you like to do to relax and where you like to go. _____ (Candidate A), listen, and ask three questions at the end. *[Allow 1½ minutes.]*

Thank you. _____ (Candidate A), please ask _____ (Candidate B) your questions now.

Thank you.

🕒 5 minutes

Phase 2a

In this part of the test, you are going to listen to two recordings and answer some questions. You can make notes [*indicate paper*] if you want to.

You hear two answerphone messages about events. [*Hand each candidate the booklet open at the correct page.*] What event is each message about? A day out, a party, or a concert?

Listen to the information. [*Play CD.*]

Listening script 1:

Hello. It's Daniela. I'm just ringing about next Friday. I was going to go, but I can't now because I'm going to the dentist. Would you be able to take Sally with you? She'll be good company for your daughter as they seem to get on really well, don't they? They certainly did at the celebration for Ben's birthday last week!

Do you know where you're going yet? I heard it was either the beach or the park. Sally hopes it's the park because she loves the little café near the swimming pool.

As the coach leaves the school at 9.00, I could drop Sally off at your house at, say, 8.30 if you want. Anyway, let me know what you think.

Listening script 2:

Hi. It's Tim. I'm calling about Thursday. I had to cancel my trip to London and queue for four hours to get the tickets. But the great thing is... I got front row seats. They were a bit more expensive, but at least we'll be able to see the band.

Anyway, it's at the Arena at 8.30. Let's go for a coffee first, say at 7.45. The theatre is quite big and there'll be lots of people outside, so I'll wait for you at the ticket office instead.

By the way, I'm bringing my brother Jack. He has all their CDs and is looking forward to seeing them live at last.

See you then.

_____ (*Candidate A*), in the **first** recording what event is the message about?
A day out, a party, or a concert?

Thank you.

_____ (*Candidate B*), in the **second** recording what event is the message about?
A day out, a party, or a concert?

Thank you. [*Retrieve booklets.*]

Now listen again, and answer these questions.

_____ (Candidate B), in the **first** recording, why can't Daniela go on the trip? [short pause] And why does Sally want to go to the park?

_____ (Candidate A), in the **second** recording, why are the tickets good? [short pause] And where does he want to meet?

[Play CD again: scripts as above. At the end of the recording ask each candidate in turn their two questions again. After **each** question, **wait** for the candidate's response.]

Thank you.

Key to Phase 2a

What event is each message about?

Script 1: a day out

Script 2: a concert

Candidate B:

Why can't Daniela go on the trip?

she's going to the dentist

Why does Sally want to go to the park?

she loves the café

Candidate A:

Why are the tickets good?

(they're) (on the) front row/(they) can see the band

Where does he want to meet?

at the ticket office

🕒 7 minutes overall

Phase 2b

🕒 3 minutes

Now you're going to plan something together.

I'd like you to imagine that a friend is visiting from another country and would like to spend the day with you. *[Hand out candidate booklet at correct page.]*

First, talk together about what you should do with your friend and choose the one you think would be best. *[Read out list while pointing at the first box.]*

Then plan and decide what to do about these things. *[Read out list while pointing at the second box.]*

You have two minutes to talk about this, so don't worry if I interrupt you.

*[Withdraw eye contact to signal that candidates should start. If candidates do not start within 10 seconds, ask: **Would you like to start now?**]*

What to do with your friend?	Plan and decide
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• go shopping• visit historical places• go to the countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• what transport to use• which places you will visit• what you will do there

Thank you.

[Retrieve candidate booklets.]

🕒 4 minutes

Phase 2b

Now we're going to talk together about free time activities. Find out from each other what you used to do in your free time when you were younger and what you do now.

[Repeat if necessary. Withdraw eye contact to signal start of activity.]

If necessary, prompt candidates with questions from the box below (e.g. if students are experiencing difficulty in continuing the interaction or if they stray from the topic). Adapt if necessary. Encourage candidate-candidate interaction by eliciting agreement or alternative opinions from candidates by asking questions such as "What do you think?", "Tell us what you think.", "And you?"]

Free time activities – prompt questions

What activities can you do here/in _____ (candidate's town/city) that are free?

Are there any new activities/hobbies you would like to start? Why?

Should free time activities be very different from your work/study? Why (not)?

Would you rather spend your free time alone, with friends or meeting new people? Why?

How do you feel about watching television or playing computer games in your free time?

Thank you. That is the end of the test.

[Ensure that the candidates DO NOT leave the room with the candidate booklet.]

B1, Phase 2a, Sample Test B

What event is each message about?

a day out

a party

a concert

B1, Phase 2b, Sample Test B

What to do with your friend?

- go shopping
- visit historical places
- go to the countryside

Plan and decide

- what transport to use
- which places you will visit
- what you will do there