

## **SPEAKING TEST**

The oral exam is conducted by two examiners (an Interlocutor and an Assessor) with pairs of candidates. The Assessor takes no part in the interaction. It takes 10 to 12 minutes for each pair of candidates.

The test is divided into five parts.

The first three parts focus on exchange of basic factual personal information. The skills/functions involved are socialising, interacting, giving and obtaining personal information.

In Part One candidates interact with the Interlocutor answering simple personal questions, name, hometown, job.

In Part Two, once again, the candidates interact only with the Interlocutor, who asks them two questions on aspects of their daily life. Candidates talk about, for example, their hometown, school, occupation, family, interests, etc.

In Part Three, candidates interact both with the Interlocutor and with each other, choosing one of three topics given by the Interlocutor.

In Part Four the focus is on responding to a visual stimulus (colour photograph). The skills/functions involved are giving information, describing, structuring discourse, paraphrasing. In this part, each candidate in turn is given a colour photograph to talk about. If necessary, the Interlocutor will use prompts to encourage the candidate to talk about the setting, people and activities.

In Part Five, the theme of the photographs in Part Four (for example, holiday activities) is used as a starting point for a general conversation about the candidates' likes and dislikes, experiences and habits. The Interlocutor initiates a discussion in which the candidates should aim to do most of the talking between themselves. They should be able to talk about their interests, feelings and reasons for liking or not liking something.