

# PET SPEAKING EXAM

## PART 1 : PERSONAL INFORMATION (2-3 minutes)

**In PART 1 you have to:** Give personal information. Ask and answer questions about your family, studies, home town, free time, job. Spell a word.

### SOME USEFUL LANGUAGE

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Where are you from?                   | I'm from Pinerolo, a small town about 20 kilometres from Turin.                         |
| What do you do ?                      | I'm studying architecture/engineering at Turin Polytechnic.                             |
| Have you got any brothers or sisters? | No, I'm an only child. / Yes, I've got an older brother. He works for RAI in Rome.      |
| What do you do in your free time?     | I enjoy reading and listening to music. I also like swimming. I usually go once a week. |

### HOW TO SHOW INTEREST

**USE EXPRESSIONS LIKE :** Oh, that's interesting. / I see. / Mm – hmmm

**ASK FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS LIKE :** Architecture. Is it very difficult? /  
What kind of books do you like reading?

#### REMEMBER!

- Ask your partner questions and answer the questions fully
- Listen to your partner and show interest in what s/he says
- Avoid long, prepared speeches

### NOTES

**PART 2 : SIMULATED SITUATION (2-3 minutes)**

**In PART 2 you have to:** Talk about a situation which is illustrated on a sheet of paper. Make suggestions and discuss alternatives.

**SOME USEFUL LANGUAGE**

**HOW TO :**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS</b>                                       |   |
| • What <i>shall</i> we <i>do</i> tonight?                        | • Where <i>shall</i> we <i>go</i> tonight?                                |
| <b>MAKE SUGGESTIONS</b>  |   |
| • <i>How about going</i> to the cinema?                          | • We <i>could</i> stay in and watch a video.                              |
| • <i>Why don't we</i> have a meal in that new restaurant?        | • <i>Let's</i> invite some friends round for dinner.                      |
| <b>RESPOND TO SUGGESTIONS</b>                                    |   |
| • Yeah, that's a great idea.                                     | • Yes, OK   |
| • Yes, that sounds good.   | • All right, I agree.   |
| • Well, I think <i>I'd prefer to go</i> to a disco.              |   |
| <b>DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES</b>                                      |   |
| • Which do you think is <i>best</i> ?                            | • I think this is <i>more useful</i> because ...                          |
| • Yes, that's possible.  | • <i>It would be better to go</i> to the cinema because ...               |
| • <i>It's difficult to decide but</i> .....                      |   |
| <b>ASK FOR OPINIONS</b>  |   |
| • <i>What do you think about</i> that?                           | • <i>How do you feel about</i> that?                                      |
| • <i>Do</i> you agree?   |   |
| <b>GIVE YOUR OPINION</b>   |   |
| • <i>I think/I don't think</i> that's a good idea because...     | • <i>In my opinion</i> it would be better to stay in a hotel because .... |
| • <i>Personally</i> , I think that's a terrible idea because ... |   |
| <b>AGREE AND DISAGREE</b>  |   |
| • That's what I think too  | • Yes, you're right.  |
| • I agree.   | • Well, that's true but ....  |
| • I'm not sure I agree with you.                                 | • I'm sorry but I don't agree with you.                                   |
| <b>EXPRESS PREFERENCES</b>                                       |   |
| • <i>I'd rather go</i> to a campsite                             | • <i>I'd prefer to go</i> to a hotel                                      |
| • <i>I'd like to stay</i> in a youth hostel                      |   |

**REMEMBER!**

- Listen carefully to the examiner's instructions and focus on the picture in the middle, which gives the **key** to the situation
- Use the pictures round the outside as **ideas** for your discussion. Don't describe them
- Think about the type of situation – is it directly about **you** or a **third person**? If it's about a third person, use **he** or **she** *consistently*
- Start the discussion immediately, **DON'T** waste time by giving the background to the situation
- Give reasons for your opinions/ideas
- Make sure you give your partner an opportunity to participate equally in the discussion. Don't dominate

**PART 3 : DESCRIBING A PHOTO ( 1 – 1 ½ minutes per candidate)**

In PART 3 you have to: Talk about a colour photo.

**SOME USEFUL LANGUAGE**

**HOW TO:**

**GIVE A GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

- This picture shows ....
- In this picture I can see
- This is a picture of .....

**TALK ABOUT PLACES**

- They're driving *in* the country/in a city/in the mountains
- She's sitting *inside/outside* a café
- I can see a *street market/old building/square/ street/restaurant/beach* ....

**DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S AGE**

- *He's about 50* years old.
- *They're in their twenties*
- *She's a teenager/a young child/a middle-aged woman*

**DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S CLOTHES**

- *She's wearing* a pair of shorts and a red T-shirt
- *They're wearing* quite casual/smart clothes
- *He's wearing* a uniform

**DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S ACTIONS**

- He's *sitting* at a desk
- She's *standing* in a queue
- They're *having* a meal
- Some people *are sunbathing* and others *are swimming* in the sea

**DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S ROLES IN A PICTURE**

- *He's probably a* shop assistant and *she's a customer*
- This person on the left *seems to be a tourist guide* – he's pointing to a building
- The man serving the drinks is *a waiter*

**DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S FEELINGS IN A PICTURE**

- *You can tell* they are enjoying themselves because they are smiling
- He *seems* a bit frightened. Maybe this is the first time he's tried this
- She *looks* very interested in this activity – she's concentrating very hard

**PARAPHRASE (use these phrases to describe words you don't know)**

- *It's something* you fry food in (frying pan)
- *It's a kind of* container for flowers (a vase)
- *It's a cupboard for* keeping clothes in (a wardrobe)

**MAKE GUESSES**

- *It might be* summer because some people are wearing sunglasses
- *It's probably* in the country, because ...
- *This picture could be* in Northern Europe because of the buildings

**DESCRIBE POSITION**

- *In the middle* of the picture there is a group of people, probably tourists because ...
- *In the background* there is a church ...
- There's a bookshelf *next to/near/behind/ in front of* the door

**REMEMBER!**

- Talk in sentences – don't produce lists of items you can see
- Organise your description – don't describe the same thing more than once
- Start with a general idea of the subject of the picture before going into details
- Give reasons (related to the picture) for your ideas
- Talk about the situation as well as the physical things you can see in the picture.
- Give some personal reaction to the picture
- Listen quietly when your partner describes his/her photo – don't give help or comment

## PART 4 : DISCUSSION (3 minutes)

In **PART 4** you have to: Talk with the other candidate about a topic related to part 3. You give your opinion about something and explain what you prefer.

### SOME USEFUL LANGUAGE

#### HOW TO:

##### TALK ABOUT PERSONAL LIKES /DISLIKES

- *I love/quite like/really enjoy/don't like/hate camping* because ...
- *I find (don't find) visiting museums quite boring/exciting/expensive/relaxing ...*
- *I'm (I'm not) very interested in / quite keen on* sport .....

##### ASK FOR OPINIONS

- *What do you think of Italian TV?*
- *What's your opinion?*
- *How do you feel about going* on a cruise?

##### EXPRESS PREFERENCES

- *I'd (wouldn't) like to* live in a big house because ...
- *I'd rather/prefer to* live in the country because ...

#### REMEMBER!

- Listen carefully to the instructions given by the examiner. Usually there are **two** things to talk about. Remember to talk about **both** of them with the other candidate and give reasons and examples for your opinions
- **Often** the instructions from the examiner will use the verb *like*. Listen carefully to decide if you should use **would like + to + infinitive** OR **like + the gerund** in your answers
- Respond to what the other candidate says (show that you are listening and interested, ask follow-up questions) and then give your own answer

#### NOTES