



Candidate Guide to Speaking Exams B1-C2



- ❖ The Gatehouse Awards IESOL Speaking exam consists of 3 Tasks.
- ❖ The person running your exam is called the Interlocutor.
- ❖ The Interlocutor will check your ID.
- ❖ The Interlocutor will make sure your exam is recorded.
- ❖ You can ask the Interlocutor any questions about the exam. In the exam, if you don't hear something, you can always ask for it to be repeated. This will not affect your marks.

- ❖ You can practice the speaking exam with a friend by using the Sample papers available at:

<https://gatehouseawards.org/qualifications/classic-iesol/>

Select and download the 'Sample Exam Materials' set for your level. (B1 – C2). Then, open the document called 'Interlocutor Booklet'.

Task 1 – Communicating Personal Information

In this task, the interlocutor will ask you and the other candidate a number of questions, which you will need to answer in a few sentences.

DO:

- Answer each question in **at least** 2 or 3 sentences.
- Extend your answer and give reasons and examples where possible.
- Try to relax and just be yourself.
- If appropriate, try to talk about the past and the future, not just about now.
- Use a wide range of vocabulary.

DON'T:

- Talk to the other candidate during this task.
- Write anything down or look away from your screen (for online exams only).
- Give one-word answers or very short answers.



RED HOT TIP



Good answers are longer, with lots of information, and they answer the question clearly and appropriately.

Task 2 – Presentation

In this task, you will need to talk about your chosen topic and then answer some questions about your presentation.

The other Candidate will also give a presentation. You will need to ask the other candidate some questions about their presentation.

DO:

- Select a topic from the list and prepare your presentation BEFORE your exam. You can find the list of topics here:
<https://gatehouseawards.org/qualifications/classic-iesol>
Scroll down to the Useful Information section, then click on Information and Guidance for Candidates.
Your centre should provide you with the list of topics before your exam.
- Make sure your presentation is long enough (approximately 1.5 minutes for B1 and B2, and approximately 3 minutes for C1 and C2)
- Respond to all the questions from the interlocutor and the other candidate.
- Prepare 2 questions for the other candidate. You can use the Candidate Materials sheet or a blank piece of paper (online exams only) to make notes during the other candidate's presentation.
- Look at the camera while you are presenting (for online exams only).

DON'T

- Forget to listen to the other candidate while they are speaking.
- Write anything down for your presentation – the Candidate Materials sheet is only for questions to the other candidate.
- Interrupt the other candidate while they are presenting.
- Try to read out your presentation – the Interlocutor will stop you.



RED HOT TIP



Try to practice your presentation with a friend or someone you know before the exam.

Task 3 – Discussion

In this task, you will be given a question along with a set of pictures to help you with some of the ideas. Remember, the question doesn't have a right or wrong answer, we just want to hear you talk and exchange ideas and opinions. You need to discuss the question with the other candidate and decide whether you agree or disagree with each other and why.

DO:

- Use the pictures in your discussion and try to think of your own ideas.
- Interact with the other candidate and ask them questions.
- Share your ideas and opinions on the topic and ask about the other candidate's opinions too.
- Listen to the other candidate when they are speaking and then respond to what he or she has said.

DON'T:

- Simply describe the pictures – they are there to give you some ideas to discuss.
- Just present your own ideas without letting the other candidate speak.
- Interact with the interlocutor instead of the other candidate – this should be a discussion between you and the other candidate, not the interlocutor.
- Be afraid to ask the interlocutor to repeat the question.



RED HOT TIP



Talking to the other candidate is the most important thing in this task. The more questions you ask and the more opinions you share, the longer your interaction will be and the better your mark will be as well.