

# The B2+ speaking test



## The test in a nutshell

The B2+ speaking test consists of the following two parts:

- a short talk about a given topic
- a dialogue with another candidate based on visual input (photos)

The test format includes two or three candidates and two examiners. One examiner conducts the test; the other one observes it.

Both examiners evaluate the test according to predefined criteria.

## How is the test structured?

The test consists of two parts and lasts about 20 minutes.

### **Introduction and short interview** (approx. 2 minutes for each candidate)

#### **What do you have to do?**

The examiners introduce themselves and then ask you some personal questions, e.g. regarding your studies, your plans and your interests.

This part is just a warm-up activity and won't be assessed.

## **Task 1: oral production – monologue (4 minutes for each candidate)**

### **What do you have to do?**

In this part, you are asked to give a short talk of about two minutes on a specific topic. The examiner gives you a task sheet with the topic and some key points. You will have to cover at least two key points in your talk.

You have one minute to prepare your talk, then two minutes to present it; at the end your partner will ask you one question.

### **What do you need to show you can do?**

You should develop your ideas in a logical and structured way and use an appropriate language register.

You should express yourself and complete the assigned task speaking in a clear, correct and fluent manner.

## **Task 2: interaction – dialogue (two or three candidates – approx. 5 minutes)**

### **What do you have to do?**

In this part, you have to discuss a specific topic with your partner(s). The examiner shows you three photos. You have one minute to decide which photo each one of you will choose. You then have 4 minutes to explain to each other why you have chosen a given photo instead of the other two.

### **What do you need to show you can do?**

You should express your own opinion and argue in favor and/or against possible options. You are required to complete the assigned task and speak in a correct, fluent and understandable manner.

## How is your test assessed?

The test is assessed according to different criteria. The main aspects are:

### 1. Have you completed the task?

- You have addressed the assigned topic
- You have connected your thoughts in a coherent way
- You have explained your arguments in a matter-of-fact way

### 2. How is your discourse organized?

- Your talk follows a logical line of reasoning and is clearly structured
- Your talk is coherent and well organized
- You participate actively in the dialogue

### 3. How do you choose your words?

- You use a wide and varied vocabulary
- You show that you are able to use synonyms or alternative expressions when a word doesn't come to your mind
- Your vocabulary is appropriate to both topic and situation

### 4. How accurate is your language?

- You use appropriate and grammatically correct sentences (word order, tenses, etc.)
- You rarely make mistakes and you are able to correct yourself
- Your talk is understandable and clear, even though you may make mistakes.

### 5. What is the overall impression of your listeners?

- Your talk and discussion contributions are clear and fluent
- Your language is accurate and appropriate for topic and situation
- Your pronunciation and intonation do not interfere with understanding