

# The C1 speaking test



## The test in a nutshell

The C1 speaking test consists of two parts in which you are asked to express yourself first in informal, and then in formal language.

- A rather informal context at the university, for example at the Unibar, where you have to discuss a specific issue with your partner and defend your opinion with arguments.
- An academic context, for example attending a seminar at the university where you have to give a short speech in front of an audience.

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

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. 1 minute for each candidate)

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

The examiners introduce themselves, 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: interaction – dialogue (two or three candidates – approx. 4 minutes)**

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

In this part, you have to discuss a specific topic with your partner(s). Imagine you are at the Unibar and use informal language. Both of you get the same task sheet with the topic of your discussion. You then have to express your point of view on the topic and involve your partner in the discussion. If both of you share the same opinion, try to develop new arguments and show other points of view on the topic. On the task sheet, you will also find some helpful points.

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

You should express your own opinion and argue in favor and/or against possible options. Use an informal language register that is appropriate for the situation and the topic. You are required to complete the assigned task speaking in a correct, fluent and understandable manner.

## **Task 2: oral production – monologue (5 minutes for each candidate)**

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

In this part you are asked to give a short talk of about three minutes on a specific subject in front of an academic audience, for example in a seminar. The examiner gives you a task sheet with the topic and some key points, which may be helpful to you.

Imagine that you have to give a presentation at a seminar. You have one minute to prepare your talk, then three minutes to present it; at the end your partner will ask you one question.

It is up to you if you prefer to stand in front of the examiners while giving your presentation. This may help you imagine a real life presentation in front of an audience.

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

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

You should express yourself and complete the assigned task using clear, correct and fluent language.

## 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
- The parts of your talk are structured and connected appropriately, with an introduction, a conclusion as well as different transitional phrases.

### 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 pronunciation and intonation do not interfere with understanding
- You are able to vary intonation to express nuances in meaning