

INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Speaking Paper

June 2025

Teacher's Booklet

Strictly Confidential

To be conducted by the teacher–examiner.

Time allowed: 10 minutes (+ supervised preparation time of 10 minutes)

The test will consist of two parts:

Part 1 Photo card (15 marks)
Approximately 3–4 minutes

Part 2 General conversation (25 marks)
Approximately 6–7 minutes

Instructions

- During the preparation time candidates are required to prepare **one** Photo card.
- Candidates should be given one Photo card according to the sequence at the back of this booklet.
- Candidates may make notes during the preparation time for use during the test. They must hand these notes to you before the General conversation.
- Candidates should hand the Photo card to you before the General conversation.
- **Photo cards must not be shared more widely.**

Information

- The test will last a maximum of 10 minutes and will consist of a Photo card followed by a General conversation. The Photo card is based on one of the three themes and the General conversation is based on the two themes not tested by the Photo card.
- Candidates must **not** use a dictionary at any time during this test. This includes the preparation time.

Part 1 PHOTO CARDS

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CARD A Candidate's Photo card

- Look at the photo during the preparation period.
- Make any notes you wish to on an additional answer sheet.
- Your teacher will then ask you questions about the photo and about topics related to **Home, town, neighbourhood and region.**



Your teacher will ask you the following **three** questions and then **two more questions** which you have not prepared.

- What can you see in the photo?
- Where do you like to go in the town or city where you live?
- What are the benefits of living in a large city?

[15 marks]

CARD A Teacher's notes

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Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest**Topic: Home, town, neighbourhood and region**

The maximum time for this part of the test is **4 minutes** but may well be less than that for some candidates.

Candidates may use any notes they have made during the preparation time.

You begin the conversation by asking the candidate the first question. After each question, there is a prompt which you could use depending on the response to the question. These prompts are designed to aid the teacher; they are **not** a compulsory part of the test.

You must also ask **two further questions**, which the candidate has not prepared, from **the eight additional questions** listed below. **You should choose the questions at random to ensure that candidates attempting the same Photo card are asked different questions.**

You may paraphrase any of the questions provided the same meaning is maintained, and you may repeat or paraphrase a question that the candidate does not understand. You should allow the candidate to develop their responses as well as they are able.

Do not go over the maximum time of **4 minutes** for the questions and answers on the Photo card.

Begin the conversation by directing the candidate to look at the photo and asking the first question: Can you tell me what you can see in this photo?

Prompt:

- What are the people doing?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of a street in a city before asking the next question: Where do you like to go in the town or city where you live?

Prompt:

- Why do you like to go there?

Ask the third question: What are the benefits of living in a large city?

Prompt:

- Which would you prefer, living in a city or living in the countryside?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- What facilities are there for young people in the area where you live?
- What are the advantages of living in a house rather than an apartment?
- Tell me about a visit you have made to another town near to where you live.
- How could the local government improve the area where you live?
- How is it best to travel in the area where you live?
- Which is the most important in towns, green spaces or more houses?
- Where can young people go at the weekend where you live?
- What extra activities would you like to see where you live?

Turn over ►

CARD B Candidate's Photo card**Strictly Confidential**

- Look at the photo during the preparation period.
- Make any notes you wish to on an additional answer sheet.
- Your teacher will then ask you questions about the photo and about topics related to **My studies**.



Your teacher will ask you the following **three** questions and then **two more questions** which you have not prepared.

- What can you see in the photo?
- What is your favourite subject and why?
- Why is it important to have a good education?

[15 marks]

CARD B Teacher's notes**Strictly Confidential****Theme 3: Current and future study and employment****Topic: My studies**

The maximum time for this part of the test is **4 minutes** but may well be less than that for some candidates.

Candidates may use any notes they have made during the preparation time.

You begin the conversation by asking the candidate the first question. After each question, there is a prompt which you could use depending on the response to the question. These prompts are designed to aid the teacher; they are **not** a compulsory part of the test.

You must also ask **two further questions**, which the candidate has not prepared, from **the eight additional questions** listed below. **You should choose the questions at random to ensure that candidates attempting the same Photo card are asked different questions.**

You may paraphrase any of the questions provided the same meaning is maintained, and you may repeat or paraphrase a question that the candidate does not understand. You should allow the candidate to develop their responses as well as they are able.

Do not go over the maximum time of **4 minutes** for the questions and answers on the Photo card.

Begin the conversation by directing the candidate to look at the photo and asking the first question: Can you tell me what you can see in this photo?

Prompt:

- What is the woman doing?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of a teacher in a classroom before asking the next question: What is your favourite subject and why?

Prompt:

- Tell me about your favourite subject.

Ask the third question: Why is it important to have a good education?

Prompt:

- What subjects do you hope to study next year?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- What new subjects would you like to see offered in your school?
- Why do you think it is important to study other languages?
- Why are some subjects more important than others?
- Tell me about a lesson you have had recently.
- Which is the most important, to study a subject you like, or a subject you are good at?
- What are the benefits of studying a range of subjects?
- Why is it important to be given homework?
- Which do you prefer, online learning or learning at school?

Turn over ►

CARD C Candidate's Photo card**Strictly Confidential**

- Look at the photo during the preparation period.
- Make any notes you wish to on an additional answer sheet.
- Your teacher will then ask you questions about the photo and about topics related to **Customs and festivals**.



Your teacher will ask you the following **three** questions and then **two more questions** which you have not prepared.

- What can you see in the photo?
- What celebration have you been to recently?
- Why is it important to celebrate family occasions?

[15 marks]

CARD C Teacher's notes**Strictly Confidential****Theme 1: Identity and culture****Topic: Customs and festivals**

The maximum time for this part of the test is **4 minutes** but may well be less than that for some candidates.

Candidates may use any notes they have made during the preparation time.

You begin the conversation by asking the candidate the first question. After each question, there is a prompt which you could use depending on the response to the question. These prompts are designed to aid the teacher; they are **not** a compulsory part of the test.

You must also ask **two further questions**, which the candidate has not prepared, from **the eight additional questions** listed below. **You should choose the questions at random to ensure that candidates attempting the same Photo card are asked different questions.**

You may paraphrase any of the questions provided the same meaning is maintained, and you may repeat or paraphrase a question that the candidate does not understand. You should allow the candidate to develop their responses as well as they are able.

Do not go over the maximum time of **4 minutes** for the questions and answers on the Photo card.

Begin the conversation by directing the candidate to look at the photo and asking the first question: Can you tell me what you can see in this photo?

Prompt:

- What do you think has taken place?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of a wedding couple before asking the next question: What celebration have you been to recently?

Prompt:

- What is the best way to celebrate with your friends or family?

Ask the third question: Why is it important to celebrate family occasions?

Prompt:

- What event have you celebrated together?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- Tell me about a celebration you have been to.
- Which would you prefer, to celebrate your birthday with your family, or with your friends?
- Why is it important to learn about other countries' customs or traditions?
- What do you do to celebrate your birthday?
- What event or festival would you like to attend in the future?
- When are the most important festivals where you live?
- Why is it important to celebrate national festivals?
- How do you celebrate your national festivals?

Turn over ►

CARD D Candidate's Photo card**Strictly Confidential**

- Look at the photo during the preparation period.
- Make any notes you wish to on an additional answer sheet.
- Your teacher will then ask you questions about the photo and about topics related to **Jobs, career choices and ambitions**.



Your teacher will ask you the following **three** questions and then **two more questions** which you have not prepared.

- What can you see in the photo?
- What type of work do you hope to do in the future?
- Why is it important to have a good job?

[15 marks]

CARD D Teacher's notes**Strictly Confidential****Theme 3: Current and future study and employment****Topic: Jobs, career choices and ambitions**

The maximum time for this part of the test is **4 minutes** but may well be less than that for some candidates.

Candidates may use any notes they have made during the preparation time.

You begin the conversation by asking the candidate the first question. After each question, there is a prompt which you could use depending on the response to the question. These prompts are designed to aid the teacher; they are **not** a compulsory part of the test.

You must also ask **two further questions**, which the candidate has not prepared, from **the eight additional questions** listed below. **You should choose the questions at random to ensure that candidates attempting the same Photo card are asked different questions.**

You may paraphrase any of the questions provided the same meaning is maintained, and you may repeat or paraphrase a question that the candidate does not understand. You should allow the candidate to develop their responses as well as they are able.

Do not go over the maximum time of **4 minutes** for the questions and answers on the Photo card.

Begin the conversation by directing the candidate to look at the photo and asking the first question: Can you tell me what you can see in this photo?

Prompt:

- What are the people doing?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of a woman giving a presentation to colleagues before asking the next question: What type of work do you hope to do in the future?

Prompt:

- Tell me why you have chosen this type of work.

Ask the third question: Why is it important to have a good job?

Prompt:

- Would you consider working in another country? Why (not)?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- Where would you like to work in the future?
- Which is the most important, a job you like or a well-paid job?
- How can a good job affect your life?
- Which is the most important, to work with people you like or people who work well?
- Why is it important to have a supportive employer?
- What are the benefits of working from home?
- What qualities would you bring to a job?
- Which is the most important, to have fixed working hours in a job, or flexible working hours?

Turn over ►

CARD E Candidate's Photo card**Strictly Confidential**

- Look at the photo during the preparation period.
- Make any notes you wish to on an additional answer sheet.
- Your teacher will then ask you questions about the photo and about topics related to **Relationships with family**.



Your teacher will ask you the following **three** questions and then **two more questions** which you have not prepared.

- What can you see in the photo?
- What do you like to do with your family?
- Why is it important to have good relationships with other people?

[15 marks]

CARD E Teacher's notes**Strictly Confidential****Theme 1: Identity and culture**
Topic: Relationships with family

The maximum time for this part of the test is **4 minutes** but may well be less than that for some candidates.

Candidates may use any notes they have made during the preparation time.

You begin the conversation by asking the candidate the first question. After each question, there is a prompt which you could use depending on the response to the question. These prompts are designed to aid the teacher; they are **not** a compulsory part of the test.

You must also ask **two further questions**, which the candidate has not prepared, from **the eight additional questions** listed below. **You should choose the questions at random to ensure that candidates attempting the same Photo card are asked different questions.**

You may paraphrase any of the questions provided the same meaning is maintained, and you may repeat or paraphrase a question that the candidate does not understand. You should allow the candidate to develop their responses as well as they are able.

Do not go over the maximum time of **4 minutes** for the questions and answers on the Photo card.

Begin the conversation by directing the candidate to look at the photo and asking the first question: Can you tell me what you can see in this photo?

Prompt:

- What activity are the people doing?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of a family playing together in the snow before asking the next question: What do you like to do with your family?

Prompt:

- Tell me about an activity you have enjoyed with your family.

Ask the third question: Why is it important to have good relationships with other people?

Prompt:

- Why is it important to have good role models in your life?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- How often do you go out with your family?
- Tell me about someone you admire in your family.
- How can family members best support others in the family?
- Where would you like to visit with your family in the future?
- Which is the most important, earning money by doing jobs around the home or being given an allowance?
- How do you like to celebrate special family occasions together?
- How have your parents influenced your life so far?
- What are the benefits of close relationships within a family?

Turn over ►

CARD F Candidate's Photo card**Strictly Confidential**

- Look at the photo during the preparation period.
- Make any notes you wish to on an additional answer sheet.
- Your teacher will then ask you questions about the photo and about topics related to **Healthy / Unhealthy living**.



Your teacher will ask you the following **three** questions and then **two more questions** which you have not prepared.

- What can you see in the photo?
- What healthy foods do you enjoy eating?
- Why is it important to follow a good diet?

[15 marks]

CARD F Teacher's notes**Strictly Confidential****Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest****Topic: Healthy / Unhealthy living**

The maximum time for this part of the test is **4 minutes** but may well be less than that for some candidates.

Candidates may use any notes they have made during the preparation time.

You begin the conversation by asking the candidate the first question. After each question, there is a prompt which you could use depending on the response to the question. These prompts are designed to aid the teacher; they are **not** a compulsory part of the test.

You must also ask **two further questions**, which the candidate has not prepared, from **the eight additional questions** listed below. **You should choose the questions at random to ensure that candidates attempting the same Photo card are asked different questions.**

You may paraphrase any of the questions provided the same meaning is maintained, and you may repeat or paraphrase a question that the candidate does not understand. You should allow the candidate to develop their responses as well as they are able.

Do not go over the maximum time of **4 minutes** for the questions and answers on the Photo card.

Begin the conversation by directing the candidate to look at the photo and asking the first question: Can you tell me what you can see in this photo?

Prompt:

- Where do you think they are?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of a woman and her daughter in their kitchen at home before asking the next question: What healthy foods do you enjoy eating?

Prompt:

- Tell me why you like these foods.

Ask the third question: Why is it important to follow a good diet?

Prompt:

- How can a poor diet cause health problems?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- What are the benefits of avoiding unhealthy foods?
- Which is the most important, eating healthily or enjoying fast food?
- How can an unhealthy diet affect your health?
- What are the benefits of fast food?
- How can governments help people choose healthy food?
- Why is it important to exercise regularly?
- What exercise do you like to do to keep fit and healthy?
- Which is the most important, a healthy diet or regular exercise?

Turn over ►

Part 2 – SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR GENERAL CONVERSATION

The questions on the Photo card are followed by a General conversation. The General conversation for each candidate is based on two out of the three themes (ie the remaining two themes which have not been covered in the Photo card). You must have a conversation with each candidate on a topic or topics from the two themes.

NB You must cover both of the themes not tested in the Photo card during the General conversation.

The total time of the General conversation should be approximately **6 minutes** and a similar amount of time should be spent on each of the two themes.

The following questions are examples of the type of questions you may ask candidates. Whilst these questions are examples of the type of questions you may ask, they are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Within the specified themes, you should choose topics which reflect the individual candidate's interests. When asking questions on a particular theme, some candidates may be able to hold an excellent conversation on just one topic or even sub-topics within that theme, showing development of ideas in a specific area. Other candidates may not have such an in-depth knowledge and/or linguistic expertise to be able to concentrate on such a specific area, and so will take part in a conversation on a wider range of topics or sub-topics within each of the two themes.

Suggested questions for General conversation

Theme 1 – Identity and culture

- Who are the members of your family?
- What do you like doing with your family?
- What have you done with your family recently?
- How do you use social media to keep in contact with your friends?
- What are the best uses for mobile technology?
- How does music enrich the lives of people?
- What is the best film you have seen at the cinema? Why?
- Why do you think so many people like to play sport?
- How do you celebrate your birthday?
- Why is it important to continue local customs?

Theme 2 – Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- What is there for young people to do in the area where you live?
- How have you helped a neighbour in the past?
- Which charity do you think most deserves support? Why?
- What are the best ways to keep fit and healthy?
- Why is it important that people eat healthily?
- What are the main problems faced by homeless people?
- What are the effects of global warming?
- Why do you think so many people like to visit other countries?
- Where have you been on holiday?
- What is your ideal holiday? Why?

Theme 3 – Current and future study and employment

- Which subject do you most enjoy studying? Why?
- Tell me about something you have enjoyed at school.
- Explain why it is important to learn other languages.
- What could be done to improve your life in school/college?
- In your opinion, what makes a good teacher?
- What do you plan to study next year?
- What could be the advantages of going to university?
- Would you like to work in England? Why/why not?
- Why is it important to have a good job?
- Describe your ideal job.

END OF TEST

Speaking test sequence chart

In the grid below, 'Candidate order' refers to the sequence in which the candidates are tested by each teacher, not for the school/college as a whole. The candidate must be allocated the Photo card as indicated in the grid below.

After a break in testing, eg for lunch or overnight, the sequence should be restarted at the next number in column 1, 'Candidate order'. For example, if there is a break after candidate 4, the next candidate will be candidate 5. If there are more candidates than this table allows for, you should start again at number 1.

Candidate order	Photo card	Conversation themes
1	C	2 & 3
2	A	1 & 3
3	B	1 & 2
4	E	2 & 3
5	D	1 & 2
6	F	1 & 3
7	A	1 & 3
8	C	2 & 3
9	B	1 & 2
10	D	1 & 2
11	E	2 & 3
12	F	1 & 3
13	A	1 & 3
14	B	1 & 2
15	C	2 & 3
16	E	2 & 3
17	D	1 & 2
18	F	1 & 3

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