

INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Speaking Paper

June 2026

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 would you like to live when you are older?
- What are the advantages of living in the countryside?

[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:

- Where do you think the woman is?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of a woman standing by her house in the countryside before asking the next question: Where would you like to live when you are older?

Prompt:

- Tell me about where you want to live in the future.

Ask the third question: What are the advantages of living in the countryside?

Prompt:

- How can living in the countryside be preferable to living in the town?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- How could the area where you live be improved?
- What is there to do for young people in the area where you live?
- Tell me about a visit you have made to a place near where you live.
- Which would you prefer, a house in the city or a house in the countryside?
- What would you recommend a visitor to your region to visit?
- Which is the most important, farmland or industry?
- Why is it important to have areas of natural beauty?
- What are the most popular activities where you live?

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?
- Which subject are you best at, and why?
- What are the benefits of getting good grades?

[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 lesson do you think they are studying?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of students in a science class before asking the next question: Which subject are you best at, and why?

Prompt:

- What is your favourite subject?

Ask the third question: What are the benefits of getting good grades?

Prompt:

- Why is it important to get good grades?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- Why is it important to study science subjects?
- What are the qualities of a good student?
- What are the advantages of homework?
- Tell me about a lesson you have had recently.
- How can your lessons be improved in your opinion?
- Which do you prefer studying, languages or maths?
- Which should you choose, a subject that you are good at or a subject your friends are studying?
- Which is the most important, a teacher you like, or a teacher who inspires you?

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 **Relationships with friends and people I know**.



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 friends?
- What are the benefits of having good friends?

[15 marks]

CARD C Teacher's notes

Strictly Confidential

Theme 1: Identity and culture**Topic: Relationships with friends and people I know**

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 the people are?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of friends eating lunch together before asking the next question: What do you like to do with your friends?

Prompt:

- Where do you like to go with your friends?

Ask the third question: What are the benefits of having good friends?

Prompt:

- What is a good friend in your opinion?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- Which do you prefer, going out with your friends or your family?
- How has a friend influenced what you do?
- Tell me about a friend you admire.
- How often do you go out with your friends?
- What are the benefits of having a close friend?
- How do you like to celebrate special occasions with friends?
- Which is the most important, a friend you can trust or a friend you really like?
- Tell me about a day out you have spent with a friend.

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?
- Where would you like to work in the future?
- What are the benefits of 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:

- Where do you think the man is?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of a man looking at a computer at work before asking the next question: Where would you like to work in the future?

Prompt:

- Would you like to work near where you live or elsewhere?

Ask the third question: What are the benefits of a good job?

Prompt:

- What do you look for in a good job?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- What are the qualities of a good employer?
- How can parents affect your choice of career?
- What are the advantages of working with supportive colleagues?
- Tell me about the career you want to follow.
- Why is it important to have a good work-life balance?
- Which would you prefer, being in the workplace or working from home?
- Which is the most important, job satisfaction or a high salary?
- What are the advantages of flexible working hours?

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 **Sport**.



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 go if you want to play or watch sport?
- Why is it important to take part in sporting activities?

[15 marks]

CARD E Teacher's notes**Strictly Confidential****Theme 1: Identity and Culture****Topic: Sport**

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 sport are the girls playing?

Make sure that the candidate understands that the photo is of girls practising their football skills before asking the next question: Where do you go if you want to play or watch sport?

Prompt:

- When do you like watching or playing sport?

Ask the third question: Why is it important to take part in sporting activities?

Prompt:

- What are the benefits of taking part in exercise?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- How can sport improve your mental health?
- What facilities for sport are there in the area where you live?
- Tell me about a time you have played or watched sport recently.
- Which do you prefer, team sports or individual sports?
- Tell me about a sports person that you admire.
- If you had the choice, what new sport would you like to try?
- Which do you prefer, watching sport or playing sport?
- What are the benefits of team sports?

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 **Travel and tourism**.



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 on holiday?
- What are the benefits of going on holiday?

[15 marks]

CARD F Teacher's notes**Strictly Confidential****Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest****Topic: Travel and tourism**

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 family packing their car to go on holiday before asking the next question: Where do you like to go on holiday?

Prompt:

- Why do you like to go there?

Ask the third question: What are the benefits of going on holiday?

Prompt:

- What are the advantages of taking holidays?

Additional questions – choose two questions to ask the candidate:

- How do you prefer to travel when going on holiday?
- What are the benefits of travelling abroad on holiday?
- Which would you prefer, going on holiday with your family or friends?
- Tell me about a holiday or visit that you have been on.
- Why is it important to go on holiday?
- Which would you prefer, a holiday by the sea or a holiday in a city?
- Why is it important to experience the local culture while on holiday?
- How can holidays improve your mental health?

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 climate change?
- 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	E	2 & 3
2	A	1 & 3
3	D	1 & 2
4	F	1 & 3
5	B	1 & 2
6	C	2 & 3
7	B	1 & 2
8	E	2 & 3
9	F	1 & 3
10	A	1 & 3
11	D	1 & 2
12	C	2 & 3
13	F	1 & 3
14	C	2 & 3
15	B	1 & 2
16	E	2 & 3
17	D	1 & 2
18	A	1 & 3

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