PET SPEAKING EXAM

PART 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION (2-3 minutes)

In PART 1 you have to: Give personal information. Ask and answer questions about your family, studies, home town, free time, job. Spell a word.

SOME USEFUL LANGUAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where are you from?</td>
<td>I’m from Pinerolo, a small town about 20 kilometres from Turin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you do?</td>
<td>I’m studying architecture/engineering at Turin Polytechnic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you got any brothers or sisters?</td>
<td>No, I’m an only child. / Yes, I’ve got an older brother. He works for RAI in Rome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you do in your free time?</td>
<td>I enjoy reading and listening to music. I also like swimming. I usually go once a week.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOW TO SHOW INTEREST

USE EXPRESSIONS LIKE:
- Oh, that’s interesting. / I see. / Mm – hmmm

ASK FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS LIKE:
- Architecture. Is it very difficult? /
- What kind of books do you like reading?

REMEMBER!
- Ask your partner questions and answer the questions fully
- Listen to your partner and show interest in what s/he says
- Avoid long, prepared speeches

NOTES
PART 2 : SIMULATED SITUATION (2-3 minutes)

In PART 2 you have to: Talk about a situation which is illustrated on a sheet of paper. Make suggestions and discuss alternatives.

SOME USEFUL LANGUAGE

HOW TO:

ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS
- What shall we do tonight?
- Where shall we go tonight?

MAKE SUGGESTIONS
- How about going to the cinema?
- Why don’t we have a meal in that new restaurant?
- We could stay in and watch a video.
- Let’s invite some friends round for dinner.

RESPOND TO SUGGESTIONS
- Yeah, that’s a great idea.
- Yes, that sounds good.
- Well, I think I’d prefer to go to a disco.
- Yes, OK
- All right, I agree.

DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES
- Which do you think is best?
- Yes, that’s possible.
- It’s difficult to decide but ……
- I think this is more useful because …
- It would be better to go to the cinema because ….

ASK FOR OPINIONS
- What do you think about that?
- Do you agree?
- How do you feel about that?

GIVE YOUR OPINION
- I think/I don’t think that’s a good idea because…
- Personally, I think that’s a terrible idea because …
- In my opinion it would be better to stay in a hotel because ….

AGREE AND DISAGREE
- That’s what I think too
- I agree.
- I’m not sure I agree with you.
- Yes, you’re right.
- Well, that’s true but …. 
- I’m sorry but I don’t agree with you.

EXPRESS PREFERENCES
- I’d rather go to a campsite
- I’d like to stay in a youth hostel
- I’d prefer to go to a hotel

REMEMBER!
- Listen carefully to the examiner’s instructions and focus on the picture in the middle, which gives the key to the situation
- Use the pictures round the outside as ideas for your discussion. Don’t describe them
- Think about the type of situation – is it directly about you or a third person? If it’s about a third person, use he or she consistently
- Start the discussion immediately, DON’T waste time by giving the background to the situation
- Give reasons for your opinions/ideas
- Make sure you give your partner an opportunity to participate equally in the discussion. Don’t dominate
In PART 3 you have to: Talk about a colour photo.

### SOME USEFUL LANGUAGE

#### GIVE A GENERAL INTRODUCTION
- This picture shows ….  
- In this picture I can see  
- This is a picture of ….

#### TALK ABOUT PLACES
- They’re driving in the country/in a city/in the mountains  
- She’s sitting inside/outside a café  
- I can see a street market/old building/square/street/restaurant/beach ….

#### DESCRIBE PEOPLE’S AGE
- He’s about 50 years old.  
- They’re in their twenties  
- She’s a teenager/a young child/a middle-aged woman

#### DESCRIBE PEOPLE’S CLOTHES
- She’s wearing a pair of shorts and a red T-shirt  
- They’re wearing quite casual/smart clothes  
- He’s wearing a uniform

#### DESCRIBE PEOPLE’S ACTIONS
- He’s sitting at a desk  
- She’s standing in a queue  
- They’re having a meal  
- Some people are sunbathing and others are swimming in the sea

#### DESCRIBE PEOPLE’S ROLES IN A PICTURE
- He’s probably a shop assistant and she’s a customer  
- This person on the left seems to be a tourist guide – he’s pointing to a building  
- The man serving the drinks is a waiter

#### DESCRIBE PEOPLE’S FEELINGS IN A PICTURE
- You can tell they are enjoying themselves because they are smiling  
- He seems a bit frightened. Maybe this is the first time he’s tried this  
- She looks very interested in this activity – she’s concentrating very hard

#### PARAPHRASE (use these phrases to describe words you don’t know)
- It’s something you fry food in (frying pan)  
- It’s a kind of container for flowers (a vase)  
- It’s a cupboard for keeping clothes in (a wardrobe)

#### MAKE GUESSES
- It might be summer because some people are wearing sunglasses  
- It’s probably in the country, because …  
- This picture could be in Northern Europe because of the buildings

#### DESCRIBE POSITION
- In the middle of the picture there is a group of people, probably tourists because …  
- In the background there is a church …  
- There’s a bookshelf next to/near/behind/in front of the door

### REMEMBER!
- Talk in sentences – don’t produce lists of items you can see  
- Organise your description – don’t describe the same thing more than once  
- Start with a general idea of the subject of the picture before going into details  
- Give reasons (related to the picture) for your ideas  
- Talk about the situation as well as the physical things you can see in the picture.  
- Give some personal reaction to the picture  
- Listen quietly when your partner describes his/her photo – don’t give help or comment
PART 4: DISCUSSION (3 minutes)

In PART 4 you have to: Talk with the other candidate about a topic related to part 3. You give your opinion about something and explain what you prefer.

SOME USEFUL LANGUAGE

HOW TO:

TALK ABOUT PERSONAL LIKES / DISLIKES

- I love/quite like/really enjoy/don’t like/hate camping because …
- I find (don’t find) visiting museums quite boring/exciting/expensive/relaxing …

- I’m (I’m not) very interested in / quite keen on sport ….

ASK FOR OPINIONS

- What do you think of Italian TV?
- What’s your opinion?
- How do you feel about going on a cruise?

EXPRESS PREFERENCES

- I’d (wouldn’t) like to live in a big house because …
- I’d rather/prefer to live in the country because …

REMEMBER!

- Listen carefully to the instructions given by the examiner. Usually there are two things to talk about. Remember to talk about both of them with the other candidate and give reasons and examples for your opinions.
- Often the instructions from the examiner will use the verb like. Listen carefully to decide if you should use would like + to + infinitive OR like + the gerund in your answers.
- Respond to what the other candidate says (show that you are listening and interested, ask follow-up questions) and then give your own answer.

NOTES