

Exercise walk-through

10.1

Conversation and interview

IGCSE English

Keeping a conversation going

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing shows you understood: “So you’re saying that...” – and it buys a moment to think.

Interrupting politely

Nobody **interrupts** rudely in an exam. Use “Can I just add...” or “Sorry, could I come in there?” and the interruption becomes participation.

Asking back

Return the question – “What do you think?” – so the exchange stays two-way rather than a monologue.

Developing

Answer, then add a reason or an example. A one-word answer ends the conversation and the mark with it.

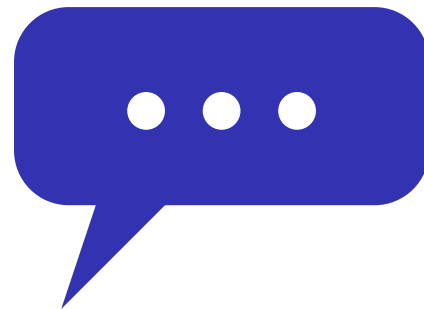
The mark is for *interaction*, not for being right. Responding to what was actually said is what earns it.

Exam tips

- The warm-up chat is not marked. Use it to relax and start talking, not to recite prepared lines.
- Never say memorised speeches. The examiner stops them, and real conversation earns more.
- Grow every answer: point, reason, example. “I like... because... for example...” fills a minute well.
- If you miss a question, ask: “Could you say that again, please?” That is good English, not a fault.
- Take each prompt on the card in order; every prompt can become a small topic of its own.

Check yourself

- 1 Why is a one-word answer too short?
- 2 What can you say if you do not understand?
- 3 What matters more: speaking fast or clearly?
- 4 What do you do if you forget a word?



Answers 1. it doesn't show your English 2. "could you repeat that?" 3. clearly
4. paraphrase it

Exercise 2.1 (a)

2.1 Extend each answer using answer, reason, extension.

[3]

(a) “Do you like where you live?” – “Yes.”

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[3]

(a) “Do you like where you live?” – “Yes.”

(a)

- answer + reason + extension
- e.g. “Yes, more than I expected to. It’s quiet, and I can walk to school in ten minutes – when we lived in the city that same journey took forty.”

Exercise 2.1 (b)

2.1 Extend each answer using answer, reason, extension.

[3]

(b) “Is homework useful?” – “Sometimes.”

Exercise 2.1 (b)

2.1 Extend each answer using answer, reason, extension.

[3]

(b) “Is homework useful?” – “Sometimes.”

(b)

- answer + reason + extension
- e.g. “Sometimes – it helps when I have to think, but copying from the board for an hour does not teach me anything I will still know next week.”

Exercise 2.1 (c)

2.1 Extend each answer using answer, reason, extension.

[3]

(c) “Would you like to travel?” – “Yes, a lot.”

Exercise 2.1 (c)

2.1 Extend each answer using answer, reason, extension.

[3]

(c) “Would you like to travel?” – “Yes, a lot.”

(c)

- answer + reason + extension
- e.g. “Yes, a lot. I want to see a city that is nothing like mine, and I would start with somewhere I have only ever seen in films.”

Exercises 2.2-2.3

2.2 Write a natural way to fill a pause while you think.

[1]

2.3 You need the word “screwdriver” and cannot remember it. Write what you would say instead.

[1]

Exercises 2.2·2.3

2.2 Write a natural way to fill a pause while you think. [1]

2.2

- any natural filler
- e.g. **“That’s a good question – let me think for a second.”**

2.3 You need the word “screwdriver” and cannot remember it. Write what you would say instead. [1]

2.3

- any workable paraphrase
- e.g. **“I don’t know the English word, but it’s the small tool you use to turn a screw.”**

Exercises 3.1-3.3

3.1 A student answers every question with one sentence and then stops. Explain **two** effects this has on the mark. [2]

3.2 Write a full three-part answer to: “What is the best thing about your school?” [3]

3.3 Write a full three-part answer to: “How has the way people spend their free time changed since your parents were young?” [3]

Exercises 3.1-3.3

3.1 A student answers every question with one sentence and then stops. Explain **two** effects this has on the mark. [2]

3.1

- any **two**: the examiner cannot assess a **range** from one short sentence; the conversation does not develop; the examiner has to ask more questions, leaving less time

3.2 Write a full three-part answer to: “What is the best thing about your school?” [3]

3.2

- one mark each for **answer, reason and extension**

3.3 Write a full three-part answer to: “How has the way people spend their free time changed since your parents were young?” [3]

3.3

- one mark each for **answer, reason and extension**
- a strong answer uses a comparison: “whereas my parents...”, “compared with...”