

Speaking Skills

IGCSE English ■ Topic 10

IGCSE English



What we will cover

- 1 Take part fully
- 2 Interact well
- 3 Develop your ideas
- 4 Speak clearly





Take part fully

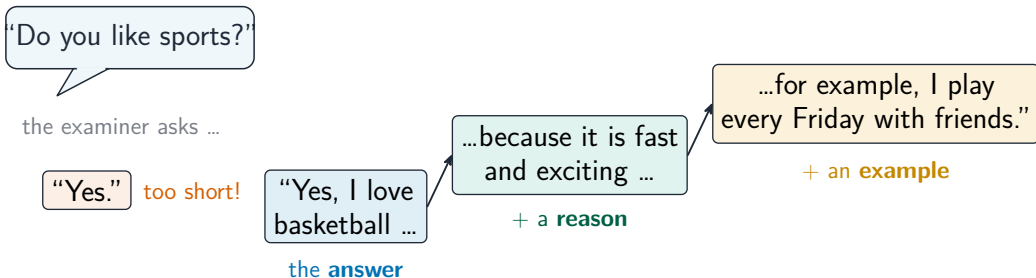
- answer the question
- add a reason
- give an example

The test is a friendly **conversation** .
A one-word answer is too short – **develop** every answer.



Develop every answer

Answer, then add more



Answer, then add more: a reason and an example make a full turn

Interact well

respond

listen & react to the examiner; ask "could you repeat that?" if unsure

take turns

as in a real conversation
– natural give and take

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.

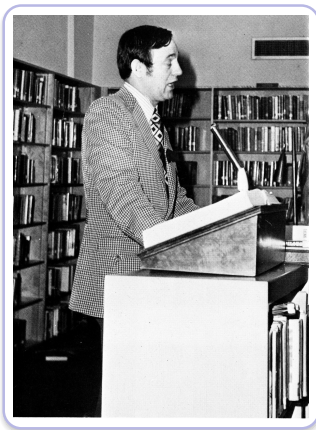
The mark is for *interaction*, not for being right. Responding to what was actually said is what earns it.

Giving a short talk

You may be asked to talk about a topic for a short time.

Speak clearly

- clearly, not fast – good **pronunciation** & natural **intonation**
- **paraphrase** : if you forget a word, say it another way
- use “for example” & “that is why” to extend answers



*A short talk: clear points, natural speech,
ready answers*

Speaking well in the exam

do not rush

it is better to speak **clearly than quickly** – the examiner must hear every word

pause on purpose

a short “*Let me think...*” sounds far better than silence: it shows **control, not panic**

answer, then add

never stop at one sentence – give the answer, then a reason or an example

interact

ask the examiner a question back where it is natural; a conversation scores higher than a monologue

correct yourself

“*sorry, I mean...*” costs nothing and shows you are monitoring your own English

The mark is for **communication**, not perfection. A clear, developed answer with one grammatical slip beats a short flawless one.

Useful language

They keep you talking when your mind goes blank.

- **To give an opinion:** *In my opinion... / I'd say... / For me,...*
- **To add detail:** *for example... / that's why... / what I mean is...*
- **To buy thinking time:** *That's a good question... / Well, let me think... / I suppose...*
- **To agree or disagree politely :** *That's true, but... / I see what you mean, though...*

Phrases for a spoken answer

to give an opinion

In my opinion.../ I would say that.../ Personally, I think...

to develop it

For example.../ That's because.../ What I mean is...

to compare

Whereas at school.../ Unlike.../ It depends on...

to buy time

Let me think.../ That's an interesting question...

to hand back

What do you think? / Do you agree?

“In my opinion, home is better for some subjects. For example, I **revise** maths better alone.”
Opinion, then example – the whole pattern in two sentences.

A model turn

See how one student turns a plain question into a full, natural answer.

Examiner: Do you enjoy studying at home?

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.



Worked example – developing your answer

Examiner: “Do you enjoy sport?” Student: “Yes.” Improve the answer.

- “Yes” ends the conversation and shows the examiner no English at all.
- Use reason + example + hand it back.
- “Yes, I love basketball – I play every Saturday with friends. It clears my head after a week of exams. Do you play anything?”
- Two or three sentences is the target: long enough to show range, short enough to stay a conversation.

Never answer with one word, and never recite a speech. Reason + example turns any answer into a real one – and a question back keeps it natural.

Topic 10 – key takeaways

1

Take part

answer, then add reasons & examples

2

Interact

respond & take turns naturally

3

Develop

extend with “for example”, “that is why”

4

Clearly

good pronunciation; paraphrase if stuck

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