

10.1 Conversation and interview

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks**KEY WORDS** conversation 对话 • conversation and interview 对话与面试 • develop 展开

Objective

Build the skills for the **conversation and interview** 对话与面试 part of the speaking test — answering at the right length and keeping a conversation going.

You must be able to:

- extend an answer beyond one sentence without rambling
- use the language of opinion, comparison and hesitation naturally
- keep going when you do not know a word

1 Worked examples

■ The length problem

- **Too short:** “Do you enjoy sport?” — “Yes.” The examiner now has to do all the work.
- **Too long:** four minutes on your cousin’s football team, and the examiner cannot ask what they planned to.
- **Right:** answer, reason, and one extension.

“Yes, I do — I swim three times a week. It’s the only exercise I’ve found that I actually look forward to, probably because you can’t check your phone in a pool.”

■ The three-part habit

1. **Answer** the question directly.
2. **Give a reason** — *because, the main reason is, what I like about it is*
3. **Extend** — an example, a comparison, or a contrast with the past.

Practise this until it is automatic. It converts a one-word answer into a scoreable one.

■ Language worth having ready

- **Opinion:** *I’d say, personally, what I find is, in my experience*
- **Comparing:** *whereas, compared with, the difference is*
- **Hesitating naturally:** *Let me think... / That’s a good question... / I suppose the main thing is...*

- **Not knowing a word:** *I don't know the word in English, but it's the thing you use for...*

That last one matters. Stopping dead loses far more than a paraphrase does; describing the word you lack is itself a skill being assessed.

■ **What lowers the mark**

- One-word answers, or answers that stop as soon as the question is answered
- Repeating the examiner's words back instead of adding
- Long silences with no attempt to fill them
- A memorised speech that does not answer the question asked

2 Practice

2.1 Extend each answer using answer, reason, extension.

[3]

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

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

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

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]

3 Exam-style questions

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]
