



Ascentis Anglia Language Examinations
Ascentis Level 3 Certificate in ESOL
International (Ofqual Accreditation No. 500/4063/7)
Masters Level (C2)
Speaking Test
Winter 2011/12
Instructions for Students

- The test will take 20 minutes.
- You will take the test with another student.

Procedure

The Anglia Masters Speaking Test consists of three tasks and should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. There are two candidates at each session. The examination will be recorded. The tape is sent to Chichester College for moderation.

AFTER the examination, you must not return to the area where candidates yet to take the test are still waiting.

Preparation

Two articles to read and think about. You should be prepared to talk briefly on one of them before discussing it.

Choose one of the cards, A or B, and be prepared to talk about any of the four statements on the card for about three minutes and then be prepared to engage in discussion on that topic.

Task One: up to 4 minutes

The examiner will ask you to talk about who you are, why you are taking the examination and so on.

Task Two: up to 8 minutes

The examiner will ask you to talk briefly about the article you have chosen to prepare, and then you must be prepared to discuss the issues arising from it.

Task Three: up to 8 minutes

The examiner will indicate to you which of the statements on your chosen card you should talk about. You will be given your three minutes to talk alone and then you must be prepared to engage in discussion about the proposition in the statement.

MASTERS SPEAKING EXAMINATION, Winter 2011/12

Task Two: Readings for Discussion

READING ONE

THE VALUE OF LIBRARIES

What are libraries for? To the generations that have grown up with free access to local public libraries, this may seem like a stupid question. The recent library closures in the UK and USA have generated heated debate on both sides of the Atlantic. Should we forget about libraries now that we have the iPad and Amazon Kindle? Should we force our children to look things up in printed encyclopaedias when it's so much easier to search for things on the Internet? Should we continue to pay for a building full of books?

According to author and motivational speaker Seth Godin, libraries were initially just 'warehouses for books worth sharing'. This at a time when books cost 'about as much as a small house'. We've come a long way from that. Books have been accessibly priced, widely available and part of our everyday lives for centuries. Many of us have grown up using libraries.

Some people, however, argue that libraries are becoming obsolete. The argument about library closures always seems to boil down to whether paper books themselves are becoming obsolete. It *is* possible for people to own a computer, an e-reader and paper books. It's possible for us to own and use a TV *and* a radio. Video didn't entirely kill the radio star, after all. Although many authors have voiced concern over library closures, one set of voices curiously absent from the discussion are book publishers. Why should publishers be concerned about library closures? People who love to read are likely to enjoy their reading material in many formats. When Neil Gaiman famously gave some of his books and short stories away online, his reasoning was that it is entirely sensible to do so because it is a good way for people to discover new authors. The discovery of a new author usually leads to purchases.

Surely a good library is worth saving and a bad one is worth improving because when libraries work, they offer us much more than books on paper. Good libraries have good librarians. Librarians are information professionals. Can we really do without them in this age of Google information overload? Good libraries offer help for job seekers, group sessions for new parents and their children, access to valuable market research data for would-be entrepreneurs and all manner of things that don't always seem at the forefront of discussions on the value of the library.

There are many things wrong with libraries as they are today. They need better equipment, faster internet connections, better staffing budgets and many other things besides. Some libraries are glowing beacons of civilisation, while others feel dreadful and musty. Libraries have sometimes been accused of being 'too middle-class'. It could be argued that this attitude contains the suggestion that knowledge itself is a bit too fancy, and a state of unsullied ignorance is in some way superior.

The trend for library closures isn't global. South Korea is one of the most technologically trend-aware nations in the world. Yet instead of closing libraries, its government has just approved a programme for spending 552 billion won (\$493 million) on opening 66 public libraries and 114 small libraries.

We need to save the concept of the public library. However, the library itself needs help to evolve. There is no point in hysterically holding on to a model that will never quite hold the same position in our society as it did before. Once we accept this we can find a better way for libraries to continue to exist, entertain us, and light the way for future generations.

Adapted from article: <http://blogcritics.org/books/article/are-public-libraries-obsolete-the-shelf/page-4/#ixzz1VCWGD4m7>

MASTERS SPEAKING EXAMINATION, Winter 2011/12

Task Two: Readings for Discussion

READING TWO

THROWAWAY SOCIETY

These days it seems as if our food culture is as faddish as the fashion industry: a new superfruit or rediscovered heritage vegetable here today, gone tomorrow. For years we've bandied around the same buzz words – *fairtrade*, *food miles*, *organic* and *sustainable*, to name a few. We want traceability and seasonality, but also new cookbooks and glossy restaurants to feed our appetite for novelty. And, yes, our concerns about depleted fish stocks, battery chickens and animal welfare have grown. But the piles of black plastic bin bags keep growing, too.

The amount of food thrown away in Europe and the United States could feed the world three times over, and British households alone discard enough edible food to fill Wembley Stadium to the brim eight times a year. More than a quarter of it is still in its original packaging: that's 5,500 chickens, 1.2m sausages, 4.4m apples and 5m potatoes each and every day. Oh, and 328,000 tonnes of perfectly edible bread a year.

We're told that one in every three bags of food we lug back from the supermarket ends up in the bin and that it's costing each one of us between £15,000 to £24,000 in a lifetime, but the issue of waste is the poor relation in food debates. Despite all the warnings about food price rises driven by an expanding population and climate variability, and that about 1 billion people suffer from hunger (that's about 15% of the world's population), our domestic food waste keeps on growing. It only really seems to matter when the garbage bag breaks on its way out the door, disgorging its slimy detritus over the new slate tiles. As long as multipack offers on fresh fruit, vegetables and meat continue to seduce us into throwing too much into the supermarket trolley, we are likely to continue overbuying and needlessly discarding, forgetting that the freezer, the juicer and a little bit more kitchen savvy could have come to the rescue. Marinades buy time for meat hovering on the brink of its use-by date. Puddings, cakes and smoothies use up wrinkly fruit, and all those vegetables softly languishing in the fridge drawer can be transformed into deliciously sticky roasted treats for salads, risottos, pasta and more.

Still we prefer to send most of it to landfill, where, airless in plastic bags and compressed by the weight bearing down on it, rotting food does not behave as it would in a garden compost bin. Instead it produces methane – a greenhouse gas 23 times more powerful at trapping heat than carbon dioxide – and a poisonous black gunge that seeps into our watercourses. More and more councils across Britain are offering, or considering the introduction of, separate food-waste collections, and there's no doubt that seeing how much you chuck out each week can be so alarming that a little more thought might go into the weekly shop. After all, it is estimated that by reducing food waste, we could also reduce Britain's carbon-

dioxide equivalent emissions by at least 18m tonnes a year – the same as taking one in five cars off the road. That's a lot more than we could ever achieve by reducing food packaging, eliminating plastic bags or swapping the gas-guzzler for a Toyota Prius.

Ash-grounded aeroplanes, low interest rates on savings, rising taxes and those ever-increasing shopping bills may yet make more of us stop and think. What you do with the money you save is up to you.

Adapted from article May 2010 www.timesonline.co.uk



MASTERS SPEAKING EXAMINATION, Winter 2011/12

TASK THREE

STATEMENT 1

Too many people now attend university and degree qualifications have lost their value.

STATEMENT 2

Everyone should go to university before embarking on a career.

STATEMENT 3

The use of CCTV (closed circuit television) in public places such as in hospitals or on motorways is an invasion of privacy.

STATEMENT 4

CCTV (closed circuit television) should be installed everywhere, in an attempt to improve crime rates.



MASTERS SPEAKING EXAMINATION, Winter 2011/12

TASK THREE

STATEMENT 1

There are no better people to look after a baby than its own parents. At least one of the parents should stay at home with the child until he/she is old enough to attend school.

STATEMENT 2

When a child is young it is more beneficial for the parents to return to work, thereby giving the child the opportunity to develop socially at play groups as well as providing the financial security for the future of the child.

STATEMENT 3

National lottery competitions provide people with hope to better their lives. They also provide a great deal of funds for the community and participation should be encouraged.

STATEMENT 4

National lotteries are a form of gambling. They are often the first step on the path to major addiction and should be banned.

B