

LanguageCert

Academic Test (Speaking)

Practice Paper 1

Interlocutor's instructions

CHECK THAT THE RECORDER IS RECORDING (VIDEO AND AUDIO)

Test time: about 14 minutes

I = Interlocutor

C = Candidate

Part 1 (3 minutes)

- I: Hello. My name's (give full name). And you are *(give candidate's full name)*, right?
- C: *(Confirms.)*
- I: Thank you. Can you spell your surname for me, please?
- C: *(Spells surname.)*
- I: Thank you. Where are you from?
- C: *(Responds.)*
- I: Thank you. Exam begins. LanguageCert Academic, *(give today's date)*. Now, Part One. I'm going to ask you some questions about yourself and your ideas. *(Choose **up to five** questions, one from each of the different topic areas, as time allows. Name the topic; e.g., 'Now, Teaching and learning.'*)

Topics

Teaching and learning

- Can you tell me about a time you tried to teach someone to do something?
- What qualities does/did your favourite teacher have?
- Do you think you can learn effectively online? (Why?/ Why not?)
- What methods do you use when you have to teach yourself how to do something?

Daily life

- Do you think you spend too much time looking at a screen each day? (Why?/ Why not?)
- How often do you go to restaurants to eat? (Why?)
- In the future do you think we will spend more or less time doing housework? (Why?)
- Is there an item of technology that you couldn't manage without? (Why?)

Learning languages

- What memories do you have of your first language lessons?
- Why are some people better language learners than others?
- How do you think future technology will influence language learning?
- Some people say that learning a foreign language is easier when you're a child. What's your opinion?

Reading

- Do you have much time to read for pleasure? (Why?/ Why not?)
- What kind of texts do you most commonly read? (Why?)
- If you start reading a book, do you always finish it? (Why?/ Why not?)
- How can young people nowadays be encouraged to read more?

(continued)

Hometown

- Which two words best describe your hometown? (Why?)
- If you could make one major change to your hometown, what would it be? (Why?)
- Do you plan to always live where you live now? (Why?/ Why not?)
- What does your hometown have to offer visitors?

C: *(Responds.)*

I: *(Interlocutor responds and/or comments **briefly**.)*

I: Thank you.

Part 2 (2 minutes)

I: Now, Part Two. We're going to role-play some situations. I want you to start or respond. First situation (*choose one situation from A*).

A

- We're classmates. I start:
You know they're looking for people to join the student council. Do you think I should apply?
- I'm a university accommodation officer. I start:
Are you hoping to get accommodation on the university campus or in the city?
- We're friends studying together in the library. I start:
I wouldn't bother reading that article if I were you.

C: (*Responds.*)

I: (*Role-play the situation with the candidate – approximately two turns each.*)

I: Second situation (*choose one situation from B*).

B

- We're flat mates. You think I play my music too loudly in the evening. You start.
- We're friends at college. You'd like me to join the student film club with you. You start.
- We're in the same weekly tutorial at university. You missed the last session. You start.

C: (*Initiates.*)

I: (*Role-play the situation with the candidate – approximately two turns each.*)

I: (*Role-play a third situation from A or B if time allows.*)

I: Thank you.

Part 3 (4 minutes)

I: Now, Part Three. You're going to read a short passage out loud. When you've finished, I'll ask you some questions about the topic of the passage.

(Share Candidate Task Sheet 1 on screen.)

You now have twenty seconds to look at the passage, then I'll ask you to read it out loud.

(Withdraw eye contact for twenty seconds. Don't stop the recording.)

OK. Please start.

- **Interlocutor Task Sheet 1**

This paper examines barriers to the pedestrianization of city centres in two contrasting settings, Brisbane in Australia and Kathmandu in Nepal. These cases are illuminating because Brisbane already contains a popular three-block pedestrian mall in its central business district, but proposals to expand it have not met with support, while Kathmandu's plans to pedestrianize its busy historic centre have so far failed. While the cultural and economic circumstances of the two cities vary significantly, there are similarities in the barriers to their pedestrianization. These include opposition from residents, motorists and local retailers, plus issues such as cost, the management of alternative transport and parking, enforcement, and lastly the lack of institutional and political support.

C: *(Talks.)*

I: Thank you. Now I'm going to ask you some questions.

(Ask one or more follow-up questions, as time allows.)

Follow-up questions:

- What do you think is the main message in this passage?
- Do you think making city centres pedestrian-only areas would be popular in your country?
- Why do you shop owners are often opposed to the pedestrianization of city centres?

I: Thank you. *(Stop sharing Candidate Task Sheet 1 on screen.)*

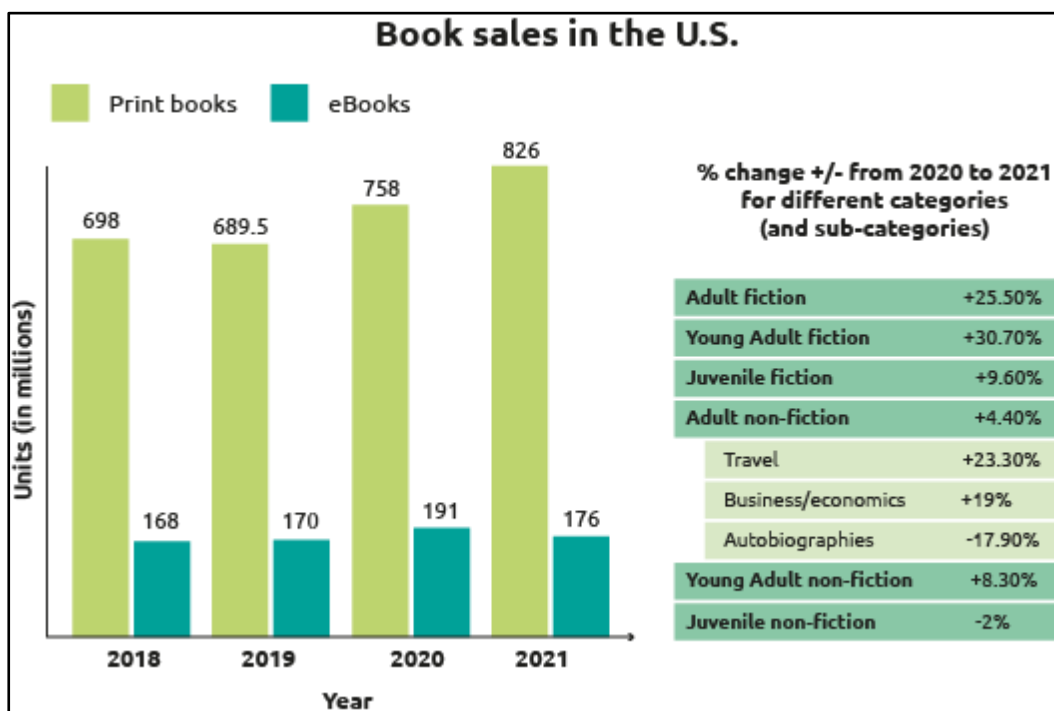
Part 4 (5 minutes)

I: In Part Four, you're going to talk on your own for about two minutes on the topic of book sales in the U.S. Here is some information about the topic.

(Share Candidate Task Sheet 2 on screen.)

You now have one minute to look at the information, then I'll ask you to talk about it. You can write some notes to help you.

• Interlocutor Task Sheet 2



I: *(Withdraw eye contact for one minute. Don't stop the recording.)*

OK, so now you have two minutes to talk about the topic. Please start.

C: *(Talks.)*

I: *(When candidate has talked for a maximum of two minutes, say: 'Thank you. Now I'm going to ask you some questions.' (Ask one or more follow-up questions as time allows.)*

Follow-up questions

- What is the major trend in print book sales in the U.S.?
- What do you think are the reasons that print books sell more than eBooks?
- Many physical bookshops have closed over the past couple of decades, why do you think that might be?

I: Thank you *(candidate's name)*. That is the end of the exam. *(Stop sharing Candidate Task Sheet 2 on screen.)*

Candidate Task Sheet 1

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Candidate Task Sheet 2

