

LanguageCert

Academic Test (Speaking)

Practice Paper 1

Interlocutor's instructions

CHECK THAT THE SESSION IS RECORDING (VIDEO AND AUDIO)
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Test time: 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, **Study skills.**)*

Topics

Study skills

- Tell me where you go when you want to concentrate on your studies.
- When is studying in a group better than studying alone? (Why?)
- How have your teachers helped you to develop study skills?
- What study skills would you like to improve in the future?

Daily life

- Is it good to follow the same routine every day? (Why?/ Why not?)
- What time of day is best for studying, the morning or the evening? (Why?)
- Tell me about a free-time activity that helps you to relax.
- How important is it for students to have a good social life? (Why?)

Phones

- In what situations do you use your phone most?
- Tell me about the type of apps you use regularly.
- How important is it to have the latest type of phone? (Why?)
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of turning off your phone sometimes?

The news

- How important is it to keep up to date with the news? (Why?)
- Which is more interesting, local news or international news? (Why?)
- Tell me how you find out about what's happening in the world.
- Do you always believe everything you hear about in the news? (Why?/ Why not?)

(continued)

Towns and cities

- Tell me why you like the town or city where you live.
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a big city?
- Is it better to live in the city centre or on the edge of a city? (Why?)
- Why do people enjoy visiting new towns and cities on holiday?

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 both studying on the same course. I start.
Do you know where to find the reading list for this semester online? I've looked everywhere on the college website.
- I'm the tutor on a course that you're studying. I start.
So, you wanted to ask me about changing the topic for your project. Why's that?
- We're both members of a college sports team. I start.
This is my first practice session. Do people usually go for a coffee afterwards?

C: (*Responds.*)

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

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

B

- I'm your course tutor at college. You're asking for help because you can't find a book you need in the college library. You start.
- We're both students in self-catering accommodation. You'd like to save time and money by buying food and cooking together. You start.
- I'm a technician at the college residence where you live. You're having problems with the internet connection in your room. 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're 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's Task Sheet 1**

In the nineteenth century, the invention of man-made plastic was hailed as a breakthrough. The discovery of this cheap and versatile material allowed a seemingly endless supply of affordable everyday products to appear on the market. Since the 1950s, an estimated 9.1 billion tons has been produced. Today, however, attitudes towards plastic have changed dramatically. Most plastic is virtually indestructible and plastic waste is now a major source of pollution as it ends up either in landfill sites or in the oceans, where it will never decompose. Even recycled plastic will eventually add to this environmental disaster.

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 main point is the writer making in this passage?
- What can ordinary people do to help reduce the amount of plastic waste that's produced?
- Do you think there are any advantages to producing things in plastic today? (Why?/ Why not?)

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

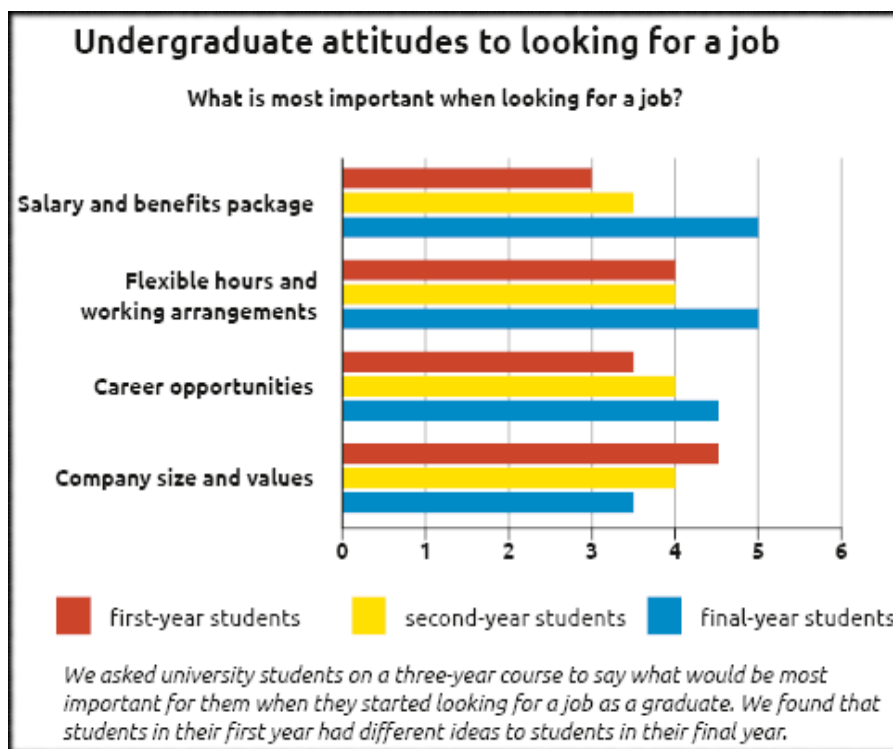
Part 4 (5 minutes)

I: In Part Four, you're going to talk for about two minutes on the topic of undergraduate attitudes to looking for a job. 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's 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:

- Do you think all students' ideas on this topic change during their three-year course?
- Do you think it's always an advantage to be able to work from home? (Why?/ Why not?)
- Which would be more important for you, having a good salary or being happy at work? (Why?)

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

Candidate's Task Sheet 1

In the nineteenth century, the invention of man-made plastic was hailed as a breakthrough. The discovery of this cheap and versatile material allowed a seemingly endless supply of affordable everyday products to appear on the market. Since the 1950s, an estimated 9.1 billion tons has been produced. Today, however, attitudes towards plastic have changed dramatically. Most plastic is virtually indestructible and plastic waste is now a major source of pollution as it ends up either in landfill sites or in the oceans, where it will never decompose. Even recycled plastic will eventually add to this environmental disaster.

Candidate's Task Sheet 2

