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A1

Annotated responses

This document can be used for exam preparation for Skills for English: SELT or Skills for English: Global at A1 level.

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Introduction

About Skills for English

In a Skills for English test, test takers can show their knowledge of the English language for a range of purposes, including working, studying, or living in an English-speaking country. The test is available in 6 levels, from A1 (Basic user) to C2 (Proficient user). The qualification is assured by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), an international leader in education and qualifications development, and powered by PSI, a global leader in workforce solutions with over 75 years' experience delivering testing programs to help people achieve success in their academic, personal, and work lives.

The one-session test is entirely computer based, and booking is simple with a choice of delivery channels and locations. Reading and Listening tests are automatically marked during the test session; Speaking and Writing tests are marked by trained and qualified examiners after test takers have finished the test.

What is the difference between Skills for English: SELT and Skills for English: Global?

Skills for English: SELT is a Secure English Language Test approved by the UK Home Office for UK visa purposes. Test takers take the level they need for their required visa. Skills for English: SELT is available to book in our network of test centres in over 130 countries.

Skills for English: Global is ideal for academic applications or professional development. Test takers can take the test in a test centre, or on their laptop or computer at home using our secure online proctoring.

About the A1 test

Tests at A1 level are made up of 2 separate tests: Speaking and Listening.

The result for the A1 test is simple: Pass or Fail for each test and overall. To achieve an overall result of Pass, test takers must pass both the Speaking and the Listening tests.

How to use this document

This document can be used to help test takers prepare for the Skills for English (SELT and Global) Speaking test at A1 level. It includes a sample of an A1 Speaking test with transcripts showing examples of test taker responses to each question. The test taker responses also have comments from senior examiners to explain how each test taker performed. You can see the kind of questions that test takers may be asked at A1 level, but please remember that in the actual test they may be asked about other topics. These sample questions are taken from Practice Test 2, which is available on our website as an online practice test and a downloadable pdf:

<https://skillsforenglish.com/test/selt/selt-practice-tests/>

The A1 Speaking test

There are 3 parts to the Speaking test.

In Part 1, test takers will answer questions about themselves (not assessed).

In Part 2, test takers will answer questions on 2 topics.

In Part 3, test takers will respond to prompts set around a specific scenario, such as buying food or making a booking.

There is no live interlocutor or examiner present; the computer delivers the questions as pre-recorded audio clips and the test taker's answers are recorded.

Examiners listen to the test takers' performance in both Parts 2 and 3 and allocate a mark based on their whole performance across both parts of the test.

Test takers are permitted to take notes during the Speaking test.

A1 Speaking sample test and performances

Overall comment about test takers' performances

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
In the responses below, test taker A did not attempt Part 3 of the test and does not provide sufficient evidence of A1 level of competence. See responses and comments from senior examiners for more information.	In the responses below, test taker B is an example of a good A1 test taker. See responses and comments from senior examiners for more information.

A1 Speaking: Part 1

In Part 1, there are 5 questions about the test taker. These 5 questions are the same for all levels (A1 to C2).

In Part 1, the test taker responses are recorded but not assessed. Part 1 transcripts are not included in this document.

The questions in Part 1 are as follows:

1. What is your name?
2. Can you spell your first name, please?
3. Where are you from?
4. What is your date of birth?
5. What do you do?

A1 Speaking: Part 2

In Part 2 there are questions about 2 topics. Test takers will answer 5 questions about each topic. They will have 15 seconds to answer each question. Test taker responses are recorded. Test takers will hear each question once, followed by a beep.

TEST TAKER TIP: Learn words and phrases needed to talk about your life, such as your family and friends, where you live, your hobbies, and your likes and dislikes.

Questions and responses: Your home

Note: the words in the blue boxes are recorded instructions the test taker hears.

Now I am going to ask you some questions about your home. Remember to answer the questions after each beep. You will hear each question once. You will have 15 seconds to answer each question.

1. Where do you live?

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
Where ... where live? I am from France.	I live in France.

2. Tell me about your home.

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
My 'ouse [house], swee [three] bedroom, one <i>piscine</i> [swimming pool], one kitchen.	My house is ... no small, no big, just in the middle.

3. Who do you live with?

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
<i>Je ne sais pas</i> [I don't know].	I don't understand.

4. What is your favourite room in your home? Why?

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
<i>Non</i> [No].	What is my favourite room? My kitchen is my favourite room.

5. Where would you like to live in the future? Why?

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
<i>J'ai pas compris la question</i> [I didn't understand the question].	In the future? Umm ... I hope to live in my house.

Questions and responses: Things you do in your free time

Now I am going to ask you about things you do in your free time. Remember to answer the questions after each beep. You will hear each question once. You will have 15 seconds to answer each question.

1. What time do you usually wake up?

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
What ... <i>quel temps?</i> [what time?]	Wake up? An hour?

2. What do you like eating for breakfast?

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
Breakfast? <i>C'est quoi?</i> [What is it?] I ... I am cheddar.	For the breakfast, I eat bread, coffee, marmalade. It's enough.

3. Tell me what you did yesterday evening.

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
Yesterday? Yesterday I live concer' [concert].	Yesterday evening I'm walked to ... I walked with my friends to the ... to see music ... musical people.

4. Who do you enjoy seeing in your free time? Why?

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
<i>Non</i> [No].	I don't know.

5. Where are you going to go this weekend?

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
<i>Je suis mal!</i> [I am so bad at this!]	Next weekend I go to visit my <i>maman</i> [mother].

Comments

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
<p>This test taker understands and can give short answers to some of the questions, for example: <i>My 'ouse [house], swee [three] bedroom...</i> They also know some basic words: <i>concer' [concert], bedroom, kitchen.</i></p> <p>However, they are often unable to understand questions and use their first language to answer: <i>Je ne sais pas</i> [I don't know], <i>Je suis mal!</i> [I am so bad at this!].</p> <p>Grammar is basic and usually incorrect when it is used: <i>I live concer',</i> and can cause confusion: <i>I am cheddar.</i> It is only used correctly in one phrase: <i>I am from France.</i></p> <p>There is no evidence of basic linking words, for example, <i>and, but, so.</i> Basic words are also often mispronounced making meaning unclear: <i>swee [three], concer' [concert].</i></p>	<p>The test taker answers most of the questions and occasionally adds extra information. For example, they say what they eat for breakfast, and add: <i>it's enough.</i> They also notice when they make a grammar mistake and correct this, for example: <i>Yesterday evening I'm walked to ... I walked with my friends ...</i></p> <p>They are able to use basic grammar correctly, for example: <i>My kitchen is my favorite room</i> (present simple), <i>I walked with my friends...</i>(past simple). This test taker also uses a more complex verb+verb structure to talk about the future: <i>I hope to live in...</i></p> <p>The test taker's answers generally relate to the question and they use basic but relevant vocabulary to talk about their home, food, and activities. They also use some less common vocabulary (e.g. <i>marmalade</i>). Even when they are not sure of the correct word, they can make the meaning clear (<i>musical people</i>).</p>

A1 Speaking: Part 3

In Part 3, the test taker will respond to prompts or questions set around a specific scenario. They can either limit their responses to the prompts or give further information.

They will have 35 seconds to answer each prompt or question on the role card. They will have 1 minute to look at the role card before they start speaking. Test taker responses are recorded.

TEST TAKER TIP: Learn words and phrases you would need in everyday situations in an English-speaking country, such as shopping, taking the bus, or ordering some food in a café.

Task

Role Card: Buying lunch in a café

1. Ask the waiter for the menu.
2. Say what you want to eat.
3. Say what drink you would like.
4. Ask for the price of your meal.
5. Tell the waiter why you like this café.

Responses

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
Je ne comprend pas – I no understand. Non.	1. Can I have menu, please? 2. I want sandwich ... sandwich chicken with French fries large, please. 3. Can I have a coffee with the milk? 4. How much cost the meal, please? 5. I like café because food is very delicious.

Comments

Test taker A:	Test taker B:
<p>This test taker could not respond to any prompts in Part 3. This is likely to result in a lower overall score for the Speaking test.</p>	<p>This test taker answers all the questions correctly. They sometimes add extra information, for example, <i>I want sandwich ... sandwich chicken with French fries large, please</i>. Sometimes the word order is not correct, but the meaning is still clear, for example, <i>How much cost the meal, please?</i> They know enough vocabulary to communicate clearly, and sometimes use less common words (<i>delicious</i>).</p>