



B2 SKILLS PACK

2019-2020

SPEAKING

PART 1- Typical questions:

Leisure time and entertainment

Do you spend most of your free time on your own or with your friends? (What do you usually do?)

Do you prefer to be outside or inside when you have free time? (Why?)

Are you an active person in your free time? (What sort of things do you do?)

What sort of films do you prefer to watch? (Why?)

Tell us about the last time you went shopping.

What's the most interesting thing you do in your free time? (Why?)

Do you spend a lot of time using a computer? (Why?/Why not?)

Likes and dislikes

What is your favorite part of the day? (Why?)

Do you enjoy shopping? (What sort of things do you not enjoy buying?)

What kind of music do you listen to?

Do you enjoy watching films? (Tell us about a film you've enjoyed recently.)

Which is your favorite month of the year? (Why?)

Do you like to plan your holidays a long time in advance? (Why?/ Why not?)

Science and technology

How much do you use the internet (What do you use it for?)

Do you enjoy playing computer games? (Why?/ Why not?)

Media

How much TV do you watch? (What kind of programmes do you not enjoy?)

Do you buy magazines or newspapers regularly? (Why?/Why not?)

Do you like magazines? (Which ones?)

Do you use the internet to find out about the news? (Why?/Why not?)

Travel and holidays

What is your favorite place for a holiday? (Why?)

Which country would you most like to visit? (Why?)

Do you prefer going on holiday in a small group or in a large group? (Why?)

How do you prefer to travel? (Why?)

What's the most exciting place you have visited? (Why?)

Which place(s) have you been to that were disappointing for you? (Why?)

Do a lot of tourists visit the place where you live/your country? (Why?/ Why not?)

Future life

Do you think your life will change much in the future? (Why?/Why not?)

Do you plan to use English in the future? (How?)

Music

Do you like listening to the same music as your parents? (Why?/ Why not?)

Is there a musical instrument you would really like to play? (Why?/ Why not?)

SPEAKING

PART 1- Typical Questions continued:

Personal experience

What is your favorite time of the year? (Why?)

Do you think you will always have the same friends?

Do you enjoy buying presents for people? (Is it ever difficult to buy for someone?)

What was the best present you received recently? (Who gave it to you?)

Tell us about the last meal you really enjoyed.

What do you like most about your family? (Why?)

Describe the home or homes you have lived in during your life.

What do you like most and least about the town/village/area where you live at the moment?

Do you think you will continue to live in the same place for a long time? (Why?/ Why not?)

Work and education

Is there anything you would really like to study in the future? (Why?)

Would you prefer to work inside or outside? (Why?)

What kind of job would you like to have in the future?

How easy/difficult will it be for you to get that job?(Why?)

What kind of jobs and careers do young people in your country want to have?

Which jobs do you think are particularly easy to do and which are very difficult? (Why?)

Daily life

Is your weekday routine different from your weekend routine? (In what ways?)

What do you look forward to doing at the end of the day?

Do you have enough free time? (Why?/Why not?)

Do you watch television every day? (How much television do you watch?)

What happens on a typical day for you?

What do you usually do/eat at mealtimes?

Do you have any habits that annoy other people? (What?)

Games and sports

Do you prefer to exercise with other people or on your own? (Why?)

Are any of your friends very good at sports? (Which ones?)

Which indoor games are common in your country?

Do you take part in any outdoor sports regularly? (Which?)

Do you like watching outdoor sports, live or on TV? (Which?)

Which game(s) or sport(s) do you like? (Why?)

Reading

How much time do you spend reading?

What kind of books do you like reading? Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction? (Why?)

Describe a book that you particularly enjoyed. What was book about it?

SPEAKING

PART 1- Typical Questions continued:

Fashion

Do you like to wear fashionable clothes? (Why?/ Why not?)

What are the current fashions in clothes in your country?

What kind of music is fashionable among young people in your country?

Do you think that young people pay too much attention to fashion in general? (Why?/ Why not?)

Which fashion(s) do you think is/are particularly bad for young people? (Why?)

Your country

What is the weather usually like in your country?

What kind of things do people talk about in your country?

What is the difference between life in cities and life in the countryside in your country?

Would you prefer to live in your own country or in another country? (Why?)

FCE FOR SCHOOLS

Everyday life

What do you most enjoy about school? (Why?)

What do you like doing after school? (Why?)

How much time do you spend with your family? (What do you do together?)

How much homework do you do in the evenings? (Do you think this is too much?) (Why?/Why not?)

What do you enjoy about school? (Why?)

Likes and dislikes

Do you have a hobby you really enjoy? (Why do you enjoy it?)

What sports do you play at school? (Do you like it/them?) (Why?/Why not?)

When's your next birthday? (What would you like to do to celebrate?) (Why?)

Free time

Which TV programme do you really enjoy? (Why do you like it?)

Do you play a musical instrument? (Do you like playing it?/ Would you like to learn one?)

Do you like shopping? (What sort of things do you like to buy?)(Why?)

Have you seen a good film recently? (Why was it good?)

What are you going to do this weekend? (Why?)

Sport and exercise

Do you ever go for walks with your family? (Where do you go?)

If you could choose a sport, which sport would you like to try? (Why?)

Do you like playing team games? (Which game do you like best?) (Why?)

Holidays

What do you like doing at weekends? (Why?)

Where would you like to go for your next holiday? (Why?)

SPEAKING

PART 1- USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:

To start off an answer:

Well,
That's an interesting/difficult question
To be honest
Actually
I'd say that
I'm not quite sure
I've never thought about that before
let me think for a second

Expressions of frequency:

rarely
normally
hardly ever
once in a while
occasionally
a few times a week

To extend an answer:

so
because/since/as
another thing is that
the main reason is that
however/although
apart from that

Expressions to talk about interests:

I'm used to
I'm into
I'm Interested in
I can't stand
I'm keen on

SPEAKING

PART 2- PHOTOS

STEPS: (TO DO IN 1 MINUTE)

1. Say what's the same
2. Say what's different
3. Answer the question

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:

Expressions to compare:

both photos show
the main similarity / difference is
both photos are similar in that
in the same way
in both we can clearly see
in the first one... and the second one...

Expressions to contrast:

while
in contrast
however
whereas
although

Expressions to speculate:

It seems like
I imagine / suppose / guess
... could / may / might (have)
must (have)
can't (have)
perhaps / maybe

SPEAKING

PARTS 3 and 4 DIAGRAM AND QUESTIONS

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:

Expressions to discuss:

let's
why don't we
we could
I think we should
how / what about
shall we

Expressions to give your opinion:

as far as I'm concerned
speaking for myself
in my experience
it seems to me that
personally, I'd say that
I tend to think that

Expressions to agree & disagree:

I agree to a large / certain extent
I partly agree
I'm not sure about that
I totally (dis)agree
I couldn't (dis)agree more
I see what you mean (but)

Expressions to give balanced answers:

on balance, I'd say that
Although I think... I'd also
on the whole, I believe that
In general, I have to say that
on the one hand... on the other hand
Taking everything into account, I'd say

WRITING

PART 1 and 2 USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:

Expressions to link:

contrast	addition
but, whereas, while, on the other hand, unlike, although, though, despite (the fact that), however, nevertheless, in spite of (the fact that), instead of	what's more, in addition, additionally, furthermore, moreover, not only...but also, as well as, besides
time	example
first, next, eventually, suddenly, before long, when, while, meanwhile, as soon as	for example, for instance, to illustrate
cause and effect	condition
because, since, therefore, as a result, consequently, due to, thus, so that, in order to	if, unless, only if, even if, even though, otherwise (negative condition)
emphasis	conclusion
in fact, as a matter of fact, that means, actually	in conclusion, to conclude, in summary, to summarize, as we have seen

WRITING

PART 1 ESSAY OUTLINE:

Title

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Opening sentence: paraphrase the exam task

Mention the different arguments you're going to talk about

Paragraph 2-4: Body

First body paragraph - 1st bullet point

include a topic sentence

Second body paragraph - 2nd bullet point

include a topic sentence

Third body paragraph - your own idea

include a topic sentence

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

Summarize your essay in one sentence

Add some general thoughts

Expressing general opinions

Some people think/claim/believe that...

It is often/sometimes said that...

It could be argued that...

Think about...

- What linkers will you use?
- What grammar can you include?
- What B2 expressions, collocations and phrasal verbs can you use?

Essay Checklist:

1. Title (optional, recommended)
2. Write 5 paragraphs
3. Introduce the topic giving the background
4. Expand on the 2 bullet points given in the task AND your own idea (not your opinion)
5. Ensure points are well-developed: positives, negatives, backed up with reasons.
6. Conclusion must include your final answer to the question (this should only be in the conclusion)
7. 4-5 different grammar points (present perfect, conditionals, modal perfect, passive, etc)
8. 4-5 different linkers, linking expressions between clauses, sentences and paragraphs
9. A variety of phrasal verbs, collocations, extreme adjectives, adverbs

WRITING

PART 2 INFORMAL LETTER

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:

BEGINNINGS	GIVING NEWS
Hi! How are things? How are you? How's it going? Thanks for your (recent/last) letter. It was good/nice to hear from you recently. I'm sorry I haven't been in touch for such a long time.	Oh, and another thing I wanted to let you know that I thought you might be interested to hear about By the way, have you heard about/did you know that
REFERRING TO THEIR NEWS	REQUEST
That's great news about I'm glad to hear that I'm sorry to hear about	I was wondering if you could help me with/do me a favour I hope you don't mind asking but could you I'd be very grateful if you could
INVITATIONS	MAKING SUGGESTIONS
would you like to I hope you'll be able to come I was wondering if you'd like to/could thanks for inviting me to	why don't you I'm sure you'll enjoy Don't forget to visit You can't leave without seeing
ENDINGS	SIGNING OFF
hope to hear from you soon keep in touch see you soon	Love, Best wishes Cheers!

Informal Letter Checklist:

1. Use informal punctuation- ! ?
2. Use a mix of short and long sentences
3. Use an informal greeting and sign off
4. Mention some key information given in the letter to which you are replying to
5. Use 3-4 paragraphs- introduction, body paragraphs answering the questions, conclusion
6. Use fixed expressions for an informal letter: Thanks for your letter, I'm looking forward to, etc.
7. Use 4-5 different grammar points
(present perfect, conditionals, modal perfect, gerunds/infinitives, etc.)
8. 4-5 different linkers, linking expressions between clauses, sentences and paragraphs
9. A variety of phrasal verbs and collocations

WRITING

PART 2 ARTICLES

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:

TITLE	RHETORICAL QUESTIONS
Freezing! (dramatic) Rescue from the rapids (a summary) What's the big idea? (a question) Seven banks a day are robbed in LA (surprising)	Did you know ...? What would you do if ...? Do you find...?
CONCLUSION	
So, whatever you... So, next time you're...	

Article Checklist:

1. Include a short title
2. Introduce the topic and include a rhetorical question
3. Use a personal or more neutral/informal style
4. Use informal punctuation- ! ?
5. Use a mix of short and long sentences
6. Have clear 4-5 paragraphs
7. Use linkers and linking expressions between clauses, sentences and paragraphs
8. Make your article interesting by using
 - Involve the reader and address them directly
 - Descriptive language
 - Humour
 - Examples
 - Extreme adjectives
 - Adverbs
9. Finish in an interesting way - give your opinion and summarize what you've said

WRITING

PART 2 REVIEWS:

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

GIVING BACKGROUND INFORMATION	DESCRIBING OR NARRATING
I recently had the opportunity to read/see One of my favourite films/books has to be The last book/film that lived up to my expectations was I decided to check out ... to see if it was any good.	What happened was It was about It tells the story of The main character is There's a twist at the end
MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS	GIVING AN OPINION
Don't bother reading/going to see It is/isn't definitely worth your time/money I'd certainly (not) recommend it to anyone looking for Make sure you don't miss it! Give it a go, you won't regret it!	What I loved/hated about it was What I found frustrating/interesting about it was The best/worst part was I was (not) impressed by If you ask me

Review Checklist:

1. Include a title
2. Use 4-5 paragraphs
3. Use a personal or more neutral/informal style
4. Say what you are reviewing in the introduction and give relevant information
5. Say **briefly** what happened in the book, film, etc.
6. Explain why you liked/disliked it so much and give examples to support your opinion when possible
7. Give a recommendation and a reason for your opinion in the conclusion

WRITING

PART 2 REPORTS:

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:

INTRODUCTION	USEFUL PHRASES
The aim/purpose of this report is to...	In relation to ... In contrast with ... As far as ... is concerned ... In spite of ...
PRESENT IDEAS	CONCLUSION OR RECOMMEND
A survey was carried out which showed that A key challenge for this project is the limited time/money It is clear that there are both advantages and disadvantages to	Having considered the options, ... I would strongly recommend that... It would be a good idea to/if... It would be advisable to...

Report Checklist (non-for schools only):

1. Include a title
2. Use 4-5 paragraphs
3. Use formal language (punctuation, linkers, and expressions)
4. Use headings for each paragraph
5. Start your introduction by saying the aim of the report
6. Express your opinion impersonally
7. Give a recommendation in your conclusion