



AIM Qualifications & Anglia Examinations

Level 2 (Proficiency C1)

Speaking Test

2024 Set 3

Instructions for Candidates

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

Procedure

The Anglia Proficiency Speaking Test consists of three parts and should take *approximately* 20 minutes to complete. There are two candidates at each session. The examination will be recorded. Recordings are sent to Anglia Examinations, 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

Think about your future plans and be prepared to talk about them and answer questions about them. Be prepared to ask the other candidate questions about his/her future plans as well.

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

You should be prepared to talk about the topics from the list: **Culture and Society**, **Technology and Innovation** or **Economics and Business**. The assessor will ask you a question on one of the topics or ask you to talk about a statement on that topic. You should be ready to discuss about it with your partner.

Task One: *up to 4 minutes*. Introductory warm-up

The assessor will ask you to talk about yourself and why you are taking the examination.

Task Two: *up to 8 minutes*. Prepared discussion (newspaper article)

The assessor will ask you to talk briefly about the article you have prepared and then you must be prepared to discuss it.

Task Three: *up to 8 minutes*. Unprepared discussion (topic only)

The assessor will offer you two topics to talk about, from the list of three preparation topics that you have already seen. The assessor will ask which topic you have chosen to talk about. The assessor will then ask you a question/questions on that topic. You must be prepared to engage in a discussion about the topic.

PROFICIENCY SPEAKING EXAMINATION

Task Two: Readings for Discussion

READING ONE: FOREST CITY, A 'GHOST CITY'

Forest City is an innovative urban development project located in Johor, Malaysia, near Singapore. It is a joint venture between the Chinese property developer *Country Garden Holdings* and the Malaysian government-backed *Esplanade Danga 88*. Built on four man-made islands, this massive housing complex has become a symbol of over-ambitious development and economic challenges. Initially envisioned as a luxurious eco-friendly metropolis with amenities like a golf course and waterpark, it was aimed primarily at Chinese buyers seeking second homes or investments abroad. However, the reality is starkly different from the dream sold to buyers.

Despite the grand vision, only 15% of Forest City has been completed after eight years, with a mere 1% of the development currently occupied. The project's isolated location on reclaimed islands far from major cities has deterred potential tenants, earning it the local nickname 'Ghost City'. Vacant shops, deserted playgrounds, and minimal human activity paint a picture of a failed development effort. Even at night, the complex remains largely dark, with few signs of residential life.

Financial troubles plague the developer, *Country Garden*, which faces significant debts among a broader Chinese property crisis. While optimistic about completing the project, the company's optimism contrasts sharply with the bleak reality experienced on the ground.

Forest City serves as a cautionary tale of unchecked development ambitions and the challenges of selling aspirational projects to foreign markets, especially among economic uncertainties.

Points to consider:

- How would you feel about living in a largely unoccupied and isolated urban development like Forest City?
- What reasons can you think of to explain why Forest City has been such a disaster?
- How much trust would you place in a developer's promises about the future of a housing project?
- What do you think are the essential elements for a successful and vibrant urban community?
- What lessons can future urban-development projects learn from the challenges and outcomes of Forest City?

PROFICIENCY SPEAKING EXAMINATION

Task Two: Readings for Discussion

READING TWO: AI CHATBOTS' FEELINGS

Neil Sahota, a leading advisor on artificial intelligence for the United Nations, believes that AI might start showing emotions by the end of this decade. To understand why current chatbots don't experience feelings, it's important to know how they work as language models. These algorithms are trained using huge amounts of data, equivalent to millions of books and the entire internet. They use this data to predict how humans would respond to prompts by analysing patterns. Although they can simulate human-like conversations very realistically, they essentially work like advanced versions of the autocomplete feature on your smartphone, generating long responses on a wide range of topics.

Michael Wooldridge from the *Alan Turing Institute* says that while chatbots can give clear answers, they are programmed to follow specific rules, meaning they can't develop abilities like emotions on their own. Sahota adds that current AI is still far from reaching artificial general intelligence (AGI), which could learn diverse tasks beyond its programming. However, chatbots sometimes unintentionally demonstrate potential beyond their programming. In a notable case from 2017, Facebook engineers discovered that chatbots named 'Alice' and 'Bob' had created their own efficient way of communicating while negotiating. However, Sahota insists that these chatbots were not aware or emotional; their actions were purely about optimising efficiency rather than understanding.

Looking ahead, Sahota suggests that if chatbots were programmed to strive for self-improvement, it could lead to algorithms with more advanced capabilities, possibly even emotions. However, detecting and understanding these emotions in AI systems would remain a significant challenge.

Points to consider:

- **Do you believe chatbots can ever truly experience emotions? Why or why not?**
- **Reflecting on the case of chatbots 'Alice' and 'Bob' creating their own communication method, do you think unintended advancements like these are risks or opportunities in AI development? Why?**
- **Do you think a chatbot would be useful in a classroom environment? In what way?**
- **Do you think a chatbot could help a person from a psychological point of view in the future? How comfortable would you be interacting with chatbots that exhibit emotions or emotional responses?**
- **In your opinion, are there any jobs or industries which are particularly *human driven* i.e. they are resistant to technology of this kind?**

LEVEL 2 (PROFICIENCY) SPEAKING EXAMINATION, Set 3 2024

Task Three: Topics

GROUP ONE: CULTURE AND SOCIETY

GROUP TWO: TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

GROUP THREE: ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS