

Advanced Level Certificate in English (ALCE)
Speaking Section Scoring Rubrics: Descriptors of Salient Features

| | Range of Language | Accuracy | Fluency | Interaction |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| FOCUS | Complexity of: • grammar • syntax • vocabulary | Accuracy of: • grammar • syntax • vocabulary | Length of utterances Hesitations Flow of speech | Contribution Understanding |
| 5 HIGH PASS <i>Highly Effective Speaker</i> | Consistently shows great flexibility in formulating ideas by using a wide range of linguistic forms effectively. Consistently uses a broad range of syntactical structures appropriately, and displays a wide lexical range. | Consistently maintains a high degree of grammatical and syntactical accuracy, even in complex structures. Consistently chooses vocabulary appropriate for the topic and style. Minor errors may occur. | Consistently expresses him/herself effectively on complex topics at length. Hesitations are rare. Only a conceptually challenging topic can hinder a natural, smooth flow of language. | Consistently contributes to the development of complex topics easily and effectively. Consistently understands the interlocutor. |
| 4 PASS <i>Effective Speaker</i> | Mostly uses a variety of grammatical and syntactical structures, and mostly displays sufficient lexical range to accomplish the tasks effectively. | Mostly maintains a fairly high degree of grammatical and syntactical accuracy. Mostly chooses vocabulary appropriate for the topic and style. Errors may occasionally occur in more complex structures, but do not impede communication. | Mostly expresses him/herself with ease using both short and longer utterances spontaneously. Some hesitations may occasionally occur, particularly when the topic is conceptually challenging. | Mostly contributes to the development of complex topics effectively. Mostly understands the interlocutor, though may seek very occasional clarification. |
| 3 LOW PASS <i>Satisfactory Speaker</i> | Often uses some variety of grammatical and syntactical structures, and often displays sufficient lexical range to accomplish the tasks satisfactorily. | Often maintains a satisfactory degree of grammatical and syntactical accuracy. Often chooses vocabulary appropriate for the topic and style. Errors may sometimes occur in more complex structures, but do not impede communication. | Often expresses him/herself with ease using both short and longer utterances spontaneously. Some hesitations may occur. Conceptually challenging topics may sometimes hinder a natural, smooth flow of language. | Often contributes to the development of complex topics satisfactorily. Mostly understands the interlocutor, though may seek occasional clarification. |
| 2 NARROW FAIL <i>Limited Speaker</i> | Often uses a limited variety of complex grammatical and syntactical forms, and often displays a lack of lexical range in attempting to accomplish the tasks. | Errors may occur in both simple and complex structures, which may sometimes impede communication. Some vocabulary may be inappropriate for the topic and style. | Often produces both short and longer utterances on familiar topics, but encounters difficulty when dealing with complex topics. Hesitations are frequent enough to disrupt the flow of speech noticeably. | Often contributes to the development of familiar topics, but has difficulty developing complex topics. Can often follow speech on familiar topics, but has difficulty following the interlocutor on complex topics. |
| 1 FAIL <i>Highly Limited Speaker</i> | Mostly uses a very limited variety of grammatical and syntactical forms, and mostly displays a lack of lexical range in attempting to accomplish the tasks. | Errors may occur in both simple and complex structures, which frequently impede communication. Vocabulary may frequently be inappropriate for the topic and style. | Produces short and occasionally longer utterances on familiar topics, but mostly encounters difficulty when dealing with complex topics. Hesitations are frequent enough to disrupt the flow of speech very noticeably. | Contributes to the development of familiar topics, but has great difficulty developing complex topics. Can follow speech on familiar topics, but has great difficulty following the interlocutor on complex topics. |