

**THE NEW ECPE SPEAKING TEST starting June 2009 General Information
For 10 More Practice Final Examinations**

- Consists of 5 stages.
- **GRADED ON A SCALE OF A to E- A, B and C being Passing Grades**
- Lasts anywhere between 25-35 min. for the paired format (2 candidates, 2 examiners)
- 1 examiner for stages 1-3 - another examiner for stages 4-5
- Examiners participate most actively in Stages 1 and 5.

Stage 1: Warm up stage

- Introductions and small talk (general topics: friends, hobbies, hometown, family, profession, etc.).
- Lasts 3-5 minutes.
- Goal is to establish rapport between candidates through introductions and friendly conversation.
- Here Examiner 1 participates.

Stage 2: Summarizing and Recommending

- Each candidate given information sheet with descriptions of 2 options (4 options between the two candidates).
- Candidates keep the information sheet and may even make notes.
- Given 2-3 minutes to read and understand information
- Then, take turns summarizing the descriptions of their options to the other candidate **not read it to him/her.**
- The summarizations must be listened to carefully because the candidates will make a recommendation to their partner of the best option from the two presented, by the partner. Candidates may take notes as the partner is summarizing.
- Then each candidate chooses one of his own options and thinks of reasons why the chosen option is best. **(All answers and options are correct. There are no right or wrong options).**
- **The goal of stage 2**
 - = learn what the options are
 - = make a recommendation
 - = choose one of their own options silently
- Lasts 5-7 minutes.

Stage 3: Consensus Reaching

- 5-7 minutes duration
- Candidates report to their partner the option they chose.
- They compare and contrast the options and discuss advantages and disadvantages of each.
- Still can't see partner's information sheet.
- **The goal of stage 3 is to come to an agreement on one single option for both of them.**

Stage 4: Presenting and Convincing

- 5-7 minutes duration
- Candidates present option they have chosen to Examiner 2 who has the role of a person of high status related to the options. (For example, he might be the boss of the company who wants to hire an employee).
- Candidates have 2-3 minutes to plan a short presentation. Now they may look at each other's information sheets.
- Each candidate presents **2 reasons** for choosing his particular option and explains why the reasons are important.
- **The goal of stage 4 is to convince Examiner 2 that their option is the best one.**

Stage 5: Justifying and Defending

- Duration 5-7 minutes
- Examiner 2 questions the decision of the candidates.
- **The goal of stage 5 is to address the examiner's challenges and justify their decision.**

Topic: There are four companies with which you have interviewed for the job of executive secretary. You have been accepted in all of them and you must decide which one you want, by next week. Discuss your options with a friend and decide which company you would like to work for. **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 information sheet

Big Multi-national Corporation

- faceless in such a company
- contact with staff only
- pays quite well
- 9-5 shift
- plush offices
- one hour drive
- pay for gas

City Hall

- civil servant
- short hours
- average salary
- central location
- take the subway
- permanent position
- lots of security
- not very interesting work

Candidate 2 information sheet

Small Prosperous Private clothing business

- discount on clothes you buy
- interesting work in fashion
- contact with many people
- average salary
- centrally located
- long hours

A 2-lawyer law firm

- pays very well
- lawyers are young and single
- late hours
- responsibilities vary
- very interesting cases
- not too much security
- very close to home

Topic: You are working for a multinational company whose headquarters are in the U.S. Some American colleagues are visiting your country for the first time. You are in charge of taking them out to dinner to sample good local food. Discuss the options with a friend and decide where you should take them. **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 information sheet

5 star Hotel Restaurant

- very gourmet
- very fancy and expensive
- serves international cuisine
- not really local food
- can get this type of food anywhere in the world
- the whole atmosphere is very impersonal

Seaside Restaurant

- serves fresh fish
- all types of delicious seafood
- very small – only 6 tables
- cozy and romantic by the sea
- appeals to couples
- the woman who owns it is very rude
- may not be able to find a table

Candidate 2 information sheet

Local Taverna

- home made food
- family run for three generations
- cheap
- not very clean
- in your neighborhood
- used by locals
- real Greek food
- can get noisy

Your House

- very personal
- your mother is a great cook
- you honor them by bringing them to your house
- they may think you are trying to save money
- a lot of work for you and your family

Topic: You and your best friend want to take up some sort of physical exercise to get into shape. You must decide on the best way for you to keep fit. Discuss the options and decide which would be most beneficial. **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 information sheet

Tennis

- need to buy rackets
- must get some lessons
- join a tennis club
- must be able to go together – one can't play alone
- tennis club far from your home

Dance lessons

- don't need any equipment
- have to pay monthly fee
- get exercise & learn to dance
- fun
- men and women together
- make new friends
- have weakly parties

Candidate 2 information sheet

Exercise class

- prices vary greatly
- choose an inexpensive one
- can go alone if one of us can't make it
- meet people and make new friends
- urge each other on
- improve and tone your body

Karate class

- exercise and defense in one
- learn to be more tolerant
- not cheap
- need uniform
- makes you stronger

Topic: In order to make money to finance your school excursion, the students in the last grade of your school have decided to rent a movie and show it in the school auditorium, for a small charge. Decide which of these much talked about old movies would draw the biggest crowd. **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 Information sheet

The DaVinci Code

- the book was better
- might offend someone very religious
- acting not bad
- interesting plot
- the whole concept very imaginative

Casablanca

- all time classic
- excellent cast of actors
- actors unknown to younger generations
- romantic drama
- includes a little history
- has won Academy Awards
- appeals to an older crowd

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Happy Feet

- very lively
- quite a recent film
- good music
- appeals to a younger crowd
- expresses a social problem
- funny and sad at the same time
- quite entertaining
- got an Academy Award

Troy

- starring Brad Pitt – the girls will love him
- got an Academy Award
- very violent
- distorts history
- multi-million dollar production
- panoramic views
- exciting music

Topic: Your secretary is getting married and moving to another city. You have to hire someone else right away so that she can get some training before your old secretary leaves in a week. You and your business partner should discuss the options and decide which candidate is best suited as a secretary for a publishing company. **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Janice Davies

- has a degree in economics
- speaks 3 languages
- has worked in publishing for 7 years
- very attractive woman
- doesn't get along well with other women
- last one to leave at night

Jack Downs

- excellent secretarial skills
- has worked as an executive secretary for 5 years
- his English is weak
- has very good connections in the publishing business
- wants a high salary
- likes to gamble

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Holly Berry

- has never worked before
- is recently divorced
- in desperate need of a job
- willing to work all hours
- speaks 4 languages
- has written 3 children's books
- handles a computer well

Dick Starter

- is a computer analyst
- comes very highly recommended
- likes to drink on the job
- a chain smoker
- gets along well with everyone
- isn't very demanding as far as salary is concerned

Topic: In order to encourage reading, your class is hosting a book exchange day. Each student must buy a book and exchange it with another student. You and a friend should discuss the options to decide which book would prove more beneficial. **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Martha Stewart's "Healthy Meals" cookbook

- everyone needs to be able to cook
- very useful
- something you may use throughout your life
- on sale
- both for boys and girls

A best-seller "DaVinci Code"

- entertaining
- everyone has read it
- something to talk about
- quite cheap
- not very educational
- after reading it you can pass it on

Candidate 2 Information sheet

A coffee-table book on art

- very educational
- shows culture
- appeals to only a certain type of person
- has excellent pictures
- very expensive

"The History of the World Wars"

- very educational
- very historical
- may not be of interest to girls
- appeals only to history buffs
- not for fun reading
- might verge on the boring side for most people

Topic: Summer is just around the corner and you and your friends are trying to decide on what to do and where to go on your vacation this year. Discuss the options and decide what you would rather do. **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Camp on a beach

- need to buy equipment
- won't be too expensive
- cook own meals
- plenty of sun and sea
- chance to wind-surf
- campfires at night
- very romantic
- not too comfortable

Backpack through Portugal

- don't need too much money
- must be at least 3 people
- great way to see the country
- may be a little hard and rugged
- may be dangerous
- need at least a month
- meet lots of people

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Rent a mountain cabin

- restful and peaceful
- chance to catch up on reading
- cook own meals
- won't cost much
- build campfires
- very romantic
- can only do this with very close friends

Take a bus-tour through France

- quite comfortable
- expensive – sleep in hotels
- see lots of sights
- very educational
- quite restful
- practice the language
- get some culture
- make new friends

Topic: Your father is hosting an important business dinner at your house. The guests are bringing their children aged 12 – 15 along. You are in charge of entertaining them. You and a friend should discuss the options and decide which would be most enjoyable. **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Play cards

- may have to teach them a couple of games
- parents may not like this
- could play towards a prize
- could play for money – cents
- kids like playing for money

Watch a DVD

- “Four Christmases” is a good comedy
- should be an enjoyable 2 hours without anything for babysitter to do
- Vince Vaughn is an upcoming actor
- subject matter of the film appeals to all ages
- no x-rated scenes

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Play scrabble

- very educational
- play for a prize
- fun and competitive
- could play in teams
- some kids may not be good at spelling
- needs a good vocabulary

Listen to parents’ “oldies but goodies” selection

- old Doors album
- Santana / Jimmy Hendrix
- can also dance
- may lead to discussion
- may be very cultural
- will keep parents happy
- music is good for the soul

Topic: You are on the food committee which is organizing your high school graduation dance. The dance is being held at a local hotel and can offer you the following alternatives: **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 information sheet

Sit down dinner

- 4 course meal
- good healthy food
- served by waiters/waitresses
- cost at \$25.00 per person
- needs 1 ½ hours to serve
- very elegant
- very restful for guests

Wine and cheese

- tables set up all over the dance floor, all night
- guests can dance and eat
- cheap – only \$10.00 a head
- not very nourishing
- some people don't drink wine
- guests may not have eaten beforehand

Candidate 2 information sheet

Buffet Dinner

- large assortment of food
- nourishing food
- self – service
- buffets move quickly
- no waiters or waitresses
- costs \$25.00 per person
- can eat as much as you want

Fast Food

- wide variety of pizzas
- mini hamburgers and cheeseburgers
- finger food
- can dance and eat
- young people like this type of food
- not very fancy
- \$12.00 per head
- not very nourishing

Topic: You will be graduating from university this June and your parents have promised you a car as a graduation gift. You and a friend who knows all about cars should discuss the options and decide which one would suit you most. **Read the options.**

Candidate 1 information sheet

Peugeot 307

- aerodynamic design
- only available in blue shade
- GPS comes standard
- 6 airbags
- CD player with Digital Sound Processor and Bluetooth Kit to connect mobile phone
- Triptronic System Porsche Gear
- 110 or 141 horsepower
- plenty of space
- environmental friendly

VW Golf

- modern design
- 1400 or 2000 cc / 16V
- ABS and ESP
- 7 airbags
- CD player with RCD 310
- 80 – 160 horsepower
- plenty of space
- minimum cost 15,000 Euros
- leather steering wheel
- excellent technology
- very durable

Candidate 2 information sheet

Opel Corsa

- 1000 or 1600 cc / 16V
- available in sport edition
- ABS and Brake Assist, ESP
- automatic light variation sensor
- price from 11,000 Euros
- excellent sound system

Mazda MX-5

- 126 – 160 horsepower
- can be dangerous in the wrong hands because of speed it can go
- excellent brakes
- bluetooth kit
- plenty of optional accessories to choose from
- all leather inside
- very expensive – from 25,000 Euros