

THE NEW ECPE SPEAKING TEST starting June 2009

- Consists of 5 stages.
- Lasts anywhere between 25-30 min. for the paired format (2 candidates, 2 examiners)
- 1 examiner for stages 1-3 - another examiner for stages 4-5

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 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
- 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: A major Hollywood director wants to turn a current bestseller into an award-winning movie. Below are 4 possible options, 2 for each candidate, for leading actors.

Each candidate has a description of two possible leading actors. The two candidates decide which actor should be used to draw the greatest number of movie fans and to win an Academy award.

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Leading Actor

Here is a list of information on **John Fredrick** according to his colleagues

- a dashing new actor
- popular with the young crowds
- previous movie was a flop
- has only had small parts
- is expected to be very hot
- can be gotten cheap
- eager to prove himself
- drinks a lot
- has great potential

Here is a list of information on **Brad Pitt** according to his colleagues

- caters to the female audience
- has never played such a role
- is very expensive
- men are jealous of him
- is hard to work with
- has starred in many movies
- is popular with younger audiences
- hasn't worked in 18 months

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Leading Actor

Here is a list of information on **Henry Martin** according to his colleagues

- long time unknown
- won an Academy award last year for supporting role
- a little on the old side
- has the sex appeal of an Errol Flynn and Rock Hudson in one
- sometimes difficult to work with
- reasonable demands
- wants a second Academy award

Here is a list of information on **George Clooney** according to his colleagues

- strong appeal to women
- good actor
- has starred in many films
- maybe too old for the part
- very friendly on the set
- may want to sleep in in the morning
- is currently working on a movie

Possible reasoning of candidate 1

- Brad Pitt is very hot but expensive and hard to work with
- though he has the experience maybe it's time for someone new

- John Frederick may be our new Brad Pitt
- has potential and he's cheap
- he may be a star in the making – this could prove profitable
- have to solve his drinking problem

- I'll choose Frederick
- maybe a long shot but I feel it will work out

Possible reasoning of candidate 2

- Clooney is very friendly despite his fame
- will be paid more than Martin
- only problem is that he's currently working

- Martin is eager to be seen again
- don't like the fact that he's difficult despite the fact that he's not famous
- what will happen once he becomes famous?

- I'll choose Clooney because he's been tested and more importantly he's nice. We'll just have to delay filming till his other job's done

Possible reasoning of 2 candidates

Frederick vs. Clooney

- Frederick much cheaper
- Right age for the job
- Clooney very popular
- Why not give a new actor a chance

Final choice

- Frederick
 - cheap
 - young
 - great potential
 - a new discovery

Note: There is no correct answer. You may choose another option. The point is that you and your partner must support the choice you make, whatever it may be.

Topic: You and your schoolmates have collected a sum of money that you want to contribute to a worthy cause. Below are 4 possible options, 2 for each candidate to think about and choose from. The two candidates then decide which cause should be supported.

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Adopt a child from Africa

- \$600 per year
- must be done every year
- large responsibility
- will sponsor a child from age 4 to 18- till finishes school
- literally saves one human being

Drug Addiction Center

- helps people of all ages
- partly government subsidized
- helps pay for professionals
- teaches these people a skill
- finds outside jobs for the patients
- learn to live without drugs

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Paralympics

- helps the disabled to train
- gives hope to many people
- may bring glory to the country
- partly government subsidized
- gives the disabled a chance to do something

Home for battered women

- helps women of all ages
- may save a life
- women do all the housework
- teaches them to stand on their feet
- teaches them a skill
- helps them to find a job
- helps them learn independence
- can support their children

Possible reasoning of candidate 1

- Africa sponsorship must be renewed each year
- only helps one person
- what happens if the original sponsors leave – will others continue the project?

- drug center helps many people
- it's partly subsidized so maybe it doesn't need the money so desperately as Africa does
- supplies patients with skills to become self-sufficient

I'll choose the drug center mainly because it helps many people

Possible reasoning of candidate 2

- provides hope for people with serious problems
- a chance to prove themselves

- battered women shelter may save a life
- gives them life saving skills to fend for themselves and their children

I'll choose the shelter for battered women because it not only may save a woman's life but also a child's

Possible reasoning of 2 candidates

Drug center vs. home for battered women

- both may save lives
- both involve serious dangers
- both teach job skills
- women's shelter has no other funding
- both help many people

Final choice

- women's home
- helps them and saves their children

Topic: You and your best friend have decided you want to take up an extra curricular activity but you don't know what to choose. Each one of you has 2 possible options that you are interested in. decide which option would suit you both.

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Choosing an Extra Curricular Activity

Piano Lessons

- can entertain your friends
- center of attention at gatherings
- requires lots of practice
- can be expensive for lessons
- pianos cost a lot
- music is soothing
- contributes to your education
- don't get out of the house

Tennis lessons

- good exercise
- get out of the house
- meet new people
- not an expensive hobby
- a sport for young and old
- can take part in tournaments
- win prizes
- become famous

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Choosing an Extra Curricular Activity

Learning a Foreign language

- beneficial for late life
- doesn't sound like fun
- very educational
- meet people
- can travel to the country where language is spoken
- can be expensive
- looks good on a resume

Kung Fu lessons

- good way to keep fit
- learn self defense
- get out of the house
- make new friends
- no too expensive
- may take part in tournaments
- become famous
- win awards

Topic: The Board of Directors of the largest National Television Station wants to hire a talk show host for the 6:00 slot. Decide which candidate should be offered the job.

Candidate 1 Information sheet

A top model

- very beautiful
- loves to talk
- has a high school education
- doesn't like to read
- has good rapport with men
- women are jealous of her
- wants the job so financial demands are limited

An old talk show host

- is 60 years old
- very experienced
- a little arrogant
- isn't very expensive
- knows his stuff
- can draw people out and make them reveal things
- is not handsome

Candidate 2 Information sheet

A female psychiatrist

- excellent rapport with teenagers
- well known
- can become too clinical
- will analyze a topic to death
- loves to gossip
- not too expensive

A male newscaster

- is comfortable behind the camera
- likes to show off
- is very good looking
- very well read
- demands high salary
- knows how to make a guest comfortable

Topic: You are trying to find the perfect English tutor to give you private lessons to help you attain your Michigan Proficiency Certificate. Below are 4 possible options, 2 for each candidate. Choose the best one based on the characteristics as described by other students and parents.

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Choosing the perfect English tutor

George Hilton

- very good looking
- he's not very friendly
- comes to lessons late
- very creative lesson plans
- loves teaching
- is a recent graduate
- his students have a 100% success rate

Sophie Williams

- finished her Master's degree with honors
- very shy with students
- all her private students got into good English colleges
- not very creative
- assigns a lot of homework
- has lost her students' papers
- loves her job

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Choosing the perfect English tutor

Mary Mills

- 50 years old
- has worked as an oral examiner for 20 years
- works her students to the ground
- very motherly
- good reputation with students and parents
- can be boring

Bill Blast

- very energetic teacher
- has 5 kids of his own
- may forget to use deodorant
- doesn't like weak students
- knows how to get an idea across
- expects excellence
- used to be an oral examiner

Topic: You and your parents are trying to decide on the best secondary school for your younger sibling to attend. Below are 4 possible options. Think about and choose the best possible choice.

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Wickham's Private School

- better facilities
- wake up early
- take a bus to school
- very famous school
- make good connections
- expensive
- get excellent education
- won't have many friends in your neighborhood

Public Secondary School

- 200 kilometers away
- best public secondary school in the country
- accepts only top students
- must live in
- excellent opportunities
- almost 100% entrance rate to local universities
- might get homesick
- lots of studying
- free

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Local Secondary School

- will be close to home
- classmates all in the same area
- walk to school
- free education
- not the best but not bad
- has good teachers

Overseas Exchange Program

- excellent opportunity to learn in a foreign country
- learn another language well
- far from home
- get homesick
- become independent
- free education
- excellent opportunity

Topic: You and your future spouse are trying to decide where to have your wedding reception. Since this is a very special day in your lives, you want to make the right choice. Below are 4 possible options. Think about and choose the best possible option.

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Local Community Center

- has a 300 meter reception hall
- minimal charge
- cater the food
- not very luxurious
- parents object
- very close to home
- you have grown up in this community center

On the Beach

- appeals to all you friends
- very informal
- parents furious
- have a Hawaiian theme barbeque
- very cheap
- hire chefs
- quite original

Candidate 2 Information sheet

5 Star Hotel

- very posh
- very expensive
- parents willing to pay
- appeal to the older generation
- way for parents to show off
- will be a super wedding

In your own back yard

- have 2 acres of back yard
- cater everything
- romantic in your own home
- parents don't mind
- have wedding specialist do everything
- won't cost too too much

Topic: You and your class want to choose a fairytale to put on a theatrical production for a charity function. You have 4 options to choose from. Decide which fairytale would work out best.

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Snow-white and the 7 Dwarfs

- many students can take part
- needs lots of props
- has a moral
- very popular fairytale

The Three Little Pigs

- not too many parts
- very cheap props
- very short play
- easy to perform
- is didactic

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Little Red Riding Hood

- might be too violent for younger children
- very few actors needed
- doesn't need expensive props
- a well known tale

Jack and the Beanstalk

- need expensive props
- not too many actors
- not very well-known
- Jack gets away with stealing
- May set bad example for children

Topic: The owner of a woman's clothing store needs a shop assistant. Decide which person would be most suitable for the position.

Candidate 1 Information sheet

Hiring a Shop Assistant

Maggie Smith

- is 20 kilos overweight
- very bright
- hard working
- married with 2 children
- has a good eye for fashion
- very trustworthy

Brad Sloane

- is a workaholic
- is very fashion conscious
- doesn't like women much
- gets involved into people's private affairs
- a fanatic about cleanliness
- is an excellent salesman
- catches colds easily

Candidate 2 Information sheet

Hiring a Shop Assistant

Elliot Wisp

- very much a lady's man
- is often up late at night
- dresses terribly
- likes interior design
- is good at selling
- is very patient

Martha Vineyard

- very neat and tidy
- is a loner
- ran the clothes department of a large department store for 10 years
- can't be trusted with the cash register
- dedicated to what he does
- willing to work long hours and holidays