

Cambridge English Preliminary

Assessment commentary and marks

Commentary on Cambridge English: Preliminary Speaking test: Leticia and Manuel

Video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE7saDZrYOW>

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NOTES

Leticia

Grammar and Vocabulary: 4

Leticia has a good degree of control of a range of simple grammatical forms. *'I am from Spain', 'I need to sleep' and 'I love sunny weather' (Part 1), 'I started university four years ago and maybe the next course...will be my last' 'they are students, like me' 'Right now I am living alone' (Part 4)*. However, she has occasional problems with subject/verb and pronoun agreement *'The city look like Cambridge', 'I have a lot of clothes, and I need some space to keep it', 'It's nice people (Part 4)'*. When she attempts more complex forms, she tends to lose control and her meaning can sometimes be lost *'especially he thought to pay in the airport for you overweight' (Part 2)*.

She uses a range of appropriate vocabulary when talking about familiar topics *'pharmacy', 'warm weather', 'spend money', 'spend time', 'good idea', 'look like', 'sit in front of a computer', 'overweight', and 'roommate'*. However, she confuses *'learning/teaching'*. When being ambitious with her description she uses *'antique'* instead of *'ancient'* to describe the city.

Discourse management: 5

Leticia's answers in Part 1 are quite well extended; she gives reasons and additional information (e.g. about needing to sleep *'because I am very tired'* or favourite time of year *'because I love sunny and warm weather'*). She manages her long turn in Part 3 generally well to include description and opinion, despite some hesitation and repetition in places. In Part 4 she explains why she needs space and she provides coherent reasons why she likes Salamanca. However, she occasionally lacks coherence and is difficult to understand when longer utterances break down (e.g. in Part 2 when suggesting why books are a good idea and when discussing problems at the airport). On the whole, what she says is relevant to the tasks and she uses a range of cohesive devices (*and, because, but, maybe, and that is better than*) to produce extended responses.

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Pronunciation: 4

Leticia's pronunciation is mostly intelligible, although there are times when it is not so easy to understand her 'The ...?... (scene?) is like a big room, I think' (P3). Her intonation patterns are generally appropriate, despite a rather flat delivery, and her word stress '*niversity*, *remember*, *computer*' and sentence stress '*I have a lot of clothes*' (Part 4) are generally accurately placed. She doesn't always use contractions (e.g. initial answers in Part 1). Most sounds are accurate although she has problems with individual sounds on a few occasions (e.g. Part 3 '*pace*' for piece and '*ligh*' for light and Part 4 '*pint*' for paint).

Interactive communication: 5

Leticia responds appropriately and extends her answers. In part 1 she provides extra information when interacting with the interlocutor. In part 2, although her partner speaks more and tends to generate the ideas, she listens carefully and is able to respond in a meaningful way (e.g. when suggesting books, when adding a reminder about spending money, when warning about overweight luggage). She picks up on her partner's ideas effectively and attempts to negotiate an outcome: '*Finally, what do you decide?*' She shows she can initiate too and add her opinion in order to develop the interaction (Part 2: '*Your friend is very lucky*', '*I love to go shopping*', Part 4: '*Me too*', '*I love to live there*', '*Where do you live?*', '*Do you live with your parents?*') The two candidates require very little prompting and are quick to extend their discussion when offered the opportunity (Interlocutor: '*Talk about the rooms in your home*').

Global: 4

Leticia can handle communication on familiar topics with ease despite some hesitation. She is able to extend her utterances and attempt more complex ideas, especially in Parts 2 and 4. However, at times she loses control of what she wants to say, particularly when talking about complex ideas and at times she lacks coherence, which can make her a little hard to follow.

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Manuel

Grammar and Vocabulary: 4

Manuel is not always accurate in his use and productive control of structures though he does produce a good range of language. There is some attempt to self-correct but this is not always successful. He has problems with word order (e.g. Part 1 *'is very famous Rio de Janeiro'*, Part 3 *'where is the orange juice'* and with questions in Part 4 *'There is something you don't like?'*). There are inaccuracies with nouns (e.g. *'he have a hair'* and *'a beautiful clothes'*) and verbs (e.g. Part 2 *'he come back'*, *'he don't have...'* and in Part 3 *'this girl like'*, *'she reading a book'*). He attempts more complex language, for example when attempting a first conditional to speculate about the hair cut in Part 2. However, he makes a confident and accurate start to his long turn using the passive: (*'this photo was taken inside'*). On the whole the errors made do not impede understanding.

He attempts a range of vocabulary (*'buy some magazines'*, *'some luggage'*, *'beautiful picture'*, *'smell of candles'*, *'peaceful'*, and though not pronounced accurately, *'disturb'*). Occasionally, his lexical resources are repetitive (e.g. *'basketball clothes'*, *'good/bad persons'* and he uses 'travel' as a noun instead of 'journey'). However, he makes the most of his resources and does not allow unknown items to block what he wants to say; the lexis used in his description in Part 3 makes for a successful long turn.

Discourse management: 5

Manuel's first few responses in Part 1 are limited to one or two words (*'yes'*, *'erm Brazil'*) but he supplies natural responses (*'from Spain too'*) to balance these. He provides plenty of examples of being able to extend and explain (e.g. *'because is famous'*, *'because I love the basketball'*), in Part 3 (*'because it's a good day'*) and in Part 4 when describing his room (*'it's a small room but I like it'*). In Part 2 he gives reasons for his suggestions (*'it's a good idea to buy some magazines because the travel may be very long'*) and he interprets the situation in his picture (*'she was tired so she go there to relax'*). He can express opinion and preference in Part 4 (*'I prefer a small room because I don't have a lot of things'*). On the whole his ideas are coherent and well organised and his long turn is completed with little hesitation or repetition, although he does over-use the connector *'and'*. In other parts he does use a range of cohesive devices (*but, because, if, so, while, where*).

Pronunciation: 4

Manuel's word stress is not always accurate, although this does not impede understanding and he is generally intelligible. There are occasional instances where word stress is misplaced (e.g. *sun glasses*, *magazines* and *com-fort-a-ble*), but others where it is used correctly (*luggage, handsome, photograph*). Some sounds are mispronounced (*'coot'* for cut, and *'yong'* for young). However, he can use sentence stress effectively for meaning as in Part 4 (*'my room is small, but I like it'*) and appropriate rising intonation for questions and there is little strain on the listener.

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Interactive communication: 5

Manuel responds and interacts appropriately and effectively throughout the test and is able to develop the discussion topics with very little support. In Part 2 he keeps the discussion going and introduces new ideas without dominating the interaction. He is sensitive to turn-taking, reacts naturally and invites his partner to comment by pausing or using eye contact. He is quick to pick up the prompt about the haircut from the interlocutor and responds to his partner's negotiation of an outcome with a suggestion ('*clothes?*'). In Part 4 he offers questions to bring in his partner and exchange information ('*what about you?*' '*there are some things you don't like?*' '*you live alone?*')

Global: 5

Manuel handles communication on familiar topics well, with little hesitation and a flowing style. He is generally able to organise extended discourse. Despite occasionally becoming a little difficult to follow, mainly because of the number of inaccuracies in both grammar and vocabulary and occasional pronunciation problems, he manages to express a range of ideas using a variety of appropriate language.

