

More about Speaking

1. How is the book structured?

The book consists of four main parts and fourteen appendices.

Part One

An introduction that serves as a background to the assessment of speaking ability:

- Modern speaking examinations,
- CEF scales,
- Standard setting in assessing speaking,
- Description of the speaking skills,
- What may influence the test taker's oral performance.

Part Two

- Designing oral examination tasks in the individual and/or paired mode
 - The Interview
 - The Individual Long Turn
 - Discussion
 - Role-play

Part Three

- gives a step-by-step description of interlocutor and assessor training procedures by means of the following:
 - guidelines for interlocutor behaviour (DOs and DON'Ts)
 - sample tasks for training interlocutors (observing standard and non-standard interlocutor behaviour, role-playing difficult examination situations, evaluating alternative approaches to oral assessment)
 - guidelines for assessors
 - sample tasks for training assessors (a range of performance samples is offered for practising assessing skills)
 - benchmarked sample performances (assessed) with detailed justifications for the marks

Part Four (Recommendations for Good Practice)

- Classroom assessment
- General guidelines for designing speaking tasks
- Differences between testing and teaching tasks
- Washback
- Measures of ongoing quality control

Appendices

- Self-Assessment Statements for Speaking
- Speaking Assessment Scales for A2/B1 and B2
- Benchmarks and Justifications for sample performances on the DVD
- Examples of candidate language for interpreting the Speaking Assessment Scale
- List of reference books and recommended readings

Contents of DVD