



## CARD 1

### CANDIDATE A

Preparation time for both tasks: **4 minutes**

#### **TOPIC: EDUCATION** **Online education**

You read the following text in a news article:

There are excellent online programs and lousy online programs, and it is difficult to paint all virtual learning with a single brush, just like it is to do for brick-and-mortar schools. Some kids are comfortable with being online or will learn quickly and have teachers who know how to translate classroom activities into virtual ones. Some students won't be comfortable. Some teachers just aren't tech-savvy.

When comparing the effects of online education with in-person schooling, research shows a negative effect on outcomes, but it depends on the population of students, and online education, relative to bricks-and-mortar, is still young.

Adapted from:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/03/30/five-concerns-about-mass-rush-online-learning-that-shouldnt-be-ignored/>

During a conversation with Candidate B at a seminar about education that you are both attending, you decide to inform them about the article you have read and explain your opinion about it.

**Speaking time for task 1: 2 minutes max.**

#### **TASK 1: MEDIATION** ...../12,5 points

Talk about the following points:

- Explain in your own words what you have just read.
- Identify the main idea of the article.

**Speaking time for task 2: 2 minutes max.**

#### **TASK 2: PRODUCTION** ...../12,5 points

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss the challenges that distance learning faces at present.
- Make predictions and speculate about what the situation may be like in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.



## CARD 1

### CANDIDATE B

Preparation time for both tasks: **4 minutes**

#### **TOPIC: LANGUAGE LEARNING** **Studying abroad**

You read the following text in a news article:

The general consensus among language acquisition researchers is that studying abroad does not automatically make you better at a foreign language. Results can vary greatly from student to student, confirming once again that there is not a successful one-size-fits-all approach to language learning, even in an immersive environment.

One study comparing a group of American college students learning French in France to students learning French in intensive domestic language programs found that the students who went to France returned with a lower level of fluency than students who studied French in an intensive environment at their home institutions.

*Adapted from <https://www.brainscape.com/academy/learn-language-study-abroad>*

During a conversation with Candidate A at a seminar about language acquisition, that you are both attending, you decide to inform them about the article you have read and explain your opinion about it.

**Speaking time for task 1: 2 minutes max.**

#### **TASK 1: MEDIATION** ...../12,5 points

Talk about the following points:

- Explain in your own words what you have just read.
- Identify the main idea of the article.

**Speaking time for task 2: 2 minutes max.**

#### **TASK 2: PRODUCTION** ...../12,5 points

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss the effectiveness of studying a language abroad in comparison with studying in your own country.
- Make predictions and speculate about the future of language education.

Support your opinions with arguments.



## CARD 1

### TASK 3: INTERACTION

#### CANDIDATE A

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **4 minutes max.**

#### TOPIC: EDUCATION

You and Candidate B are attending a conference on the topic of **the present and future of our education system** in which you have heard the three statements in the box below.

- Talk to each other about how these statements represent different aspects to consider when designing a new school curriculum.
- Then decide together which of the statements best reflects the most important aspect to consider in order to update the current education system.

- At school you are rewarded for doing what you are told. Such industrial age values were important for factory workers, whose success depended on following instructions and doing what they were told, but the modern world values people who are creative, who can communicate their ideas and collaborate with others. Children cannot develop those skills in a system based on industrial values.
- Most of the learning that happens in school today is not authentic because it is based on memorization and rote learning. The system defines a generic set of knowledge that all children must know. Then every few months we administer exams to measure how much has been retained. This learning is not authentic because most of it is gone the day after the exam.
- Each of us is different in how we learn and how much time we take to learn something and what tools and resources work best for us. But the system has no room for such differences. So, if you are a bit slow in learning something, you are considered a failure. When all you need is a bit more time to catch up.

Remember you must talk about all three texts.

You needn't come to an agreement, but you should support your opinions with arguments.



## CARD 1

### TASK 3: INTERACTION

#### CANDIDATE B

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **4 minutes max.**

#### TOPIC: EDUCATION

You and Candidate B are attending a conference on the topic of **the present and future of our education system** in which you have heard the three statements in the box below.

- Talk to each other about how these statements represent different aspects to consider when designing a new school curriculum.
- Then decide together which of the statements best reflects the most important aspect to consider in order to update and improve the current education system.

- At school you are rewarded for doing what you are told. Such industrial age values were important for factory workers, whose success depended on following instructions and doing what they were told, but the modern world values people who are creative, who can communicate their ideas and collaborate with others. Children cannot develop those skills in a system based on industrial values.
- Most of the learning that happens in school today is not authentic because it is based on memorization and rote learning. The system defines a generic set of knowledge that all children must know. Then every few months we administer exams to measure how much has been retained. This learning is not authentic because most of it is gone the day after the exam.
- Each of us is different in how we learn and how much time we take to learn something and what tools and resources work best for us. But the system has no room for such differences. So, if you are a bit slow in learning something, you are considered a failure. When all you need is a bit more time to catch up.

Remember you must talk about all three texts.

You needn't come to an agreement, but you should support your opinions with arguments.



## INSTRUCTIONS

### EXAMINER'S CARD 1. TASKS 1 & 2. ORAL PRODUCTION AND MEDIATION

- You are going to read a short text on the topic indicated in the heading of your card. Each one of you has got a different topic.
- You will have to talk individually for a maximum of 4 minutes about this topic, dealing with all the aspects indicated in the points in your card.
- You will have 4 minutes to prepare your talk.
- You can take notes or write an outline on the piece of paper I have given you, and you can use it to help you when you are talking.
- After the 4 minutes of preparation, **candidate A will start**. When candidate A has finished, it will be candidate B's turn.
- Now you have four minutes to prepare.

### EXAMINER'S CARD 1. TASK 3. INTERACTION

- You both are going to read the same short texts on the topic of **the present and future of our education system**.
- You have two minutes to read the texts.
- After this preparation time, you will talk to each other about how these three texts represent different *aspects to consider when designing a new school curriculum*.
- You will then have to decide together which statement best reflects the most important challenge on travelling on a budget, but you may agree or not.
- Remember that you have to talk about all three texts.
- During the preparation you can take some notes to help you in your discussion later on.
- You have 4 minutes in which to complete the task.
- **Candidate B** will start talking this time.
- Now you have two minutes to prepare.

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **4 minutes max.**