

**SPEAKING TEST – B2.1****PART 1 (1-2 minutes per candidate)****PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Candidates are asked questions regarding personal information.

- **Holidays & travel:** Do you like travelling? What do you consider was one of your best holidays?
- **Languages:** Is travelling a good way to learn languages? Why/ why not?

**PART 2 (2-3 minutes per candidate)****MONOLOGUE: SUMMARY of a TEXT.**

Candidates are asked to summarise a text, which they have read before the speaking test, and relate it to their own experience. Candidates are given 15 minutes to read the text and take notes, if necessary.

**SPEAKING TEST****B2.1 SAMPLE TEXT CANDIDATE A**

**Reading time:** 15 minutes. You can take notes to refer to during the test.

**Speaking test:** Summarise the text highlighting its main ideas and discuss the topic with your partner. You can relate it to your own experience.

**TOPIC: TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY****How mobile 'addiction' led us to lose our manners**

They have become the must-have gadgets of the decade, revolutionising how we access information while out of the house.

But smartphones have turned Britain into a nation of mobile addicts, research shows. Regulator Ofcom found that 60 per cent of teenagers and more than a third of adults are 'highly addicted' to using their mobile phones.

And our addiction is affecting our manners. A quarter of adults and a third of teenagers said they used mobiles during meal times. Around a fifth of teenagers and adults said they use their phones where they have been told not to, such as in libraries. Even the bathroom and toilet are no longer off limits, with 22 per cent of adults and half the teenagers polled admitting they use their phones there.

Half of those now sold were smartphones, such as iPhones, BlackBerries or Androids. These devices allow consumers to make calls, text, access their emails and use social networking sites and the internet on the move. They can also be used to take, store and share pictures and videos and to download music and video clips.

Office workers have long dubbed such phones 'crackberries', after the BlackBerry smartphone, because of the addictive pull of checking emails at all hours. James Thickett, Ofcom director of market research, said the phones were 'changing social etiquette'. He said: 'Technology is now driving our values. 'It is not just children answering the phone in

theatres or libraries. It is adults as well.

'People are looking at smartphones as something that provides for their every technological need. The boundaries between work and home are becoming unclear.'

Source: [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk)

Date: August 2011

**SPEAKING TEST****B2.1 SAMPLE TEXT CANDIDATE B**

**Reading time:** 15 minutes. You can take notes to refer to during the test.

**Speaking test:** Summarise the text highlighting its main ideas and discuss about the topic with your partner. You can relate it to your own experience.

**TOPIC: TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY****What Are the Benefits of Smartphone Technology?**

After only about a decade, smartphone technology is so successful that businesses and their employees have trouble imagining a day without them. Besides making phone calls, nearly all smartphones today can provide directions through GPS, take pictures, play music and keep track of appointments and contacts. Through the installation of apps, the list of possible smartphone uses grows longer everyday.

At first, Web browsing tended to occur at a desk in an office, where a wire could reach a PC. Wireless access and laptops moved the Web to pretty much anywhere in the house or office, but smartphone technology, including broadband wireless, has sent the Web onto the subway, into cars and to the park -- wherever there is cellular coverage. What's more, the latest smartphones can display nearly as much of the Internet as PCs, including games and streaming high definition videos.

Once, you probably needed an entire bag to carry around all the devices needed for daily business activities. You would need your cell phone and your PDA. You might also need an MP3 player, an e-book reader, a camera and a GPS device. However, a smartphone puts all of this functionality into your pocket.

The late twentieth-century saw an explosion of computer applications. The early twenty-first century brings hundreds of thousands of smartphone apps. The sensors built into the smartphone as well as its portability and programmability have made it a device with almost limitless applications. Health and fitness apps track the miles you've run, the calories you've consumed and even your current heart rate or apps that let you paint, modify photos or create music tap into your creativity.

Source: <http://www.chron.com>

Date: October 2014

**PART 3 (about 3 minutes per candidate)**

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**INTERACTION**

Candidates are asked to have a conversation on the topic of the texts in part 2. They express and exchange opinions on the subject and relate it to their own experience.

Candidates might be asked to answer follow-up questions related to the topic if necessary.

**TOPIC: TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY****Follow-up Questions:**

- When and where do you use your mobile?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a mobile?
- In what situations do you think mobiles should not be used?
- At what age should children have a mobile phone? Why?