

SPEAKING TEST – C1.2**PART 1 (1 minute each candidate)**

WARMER: TOPICS and SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Candidates are asked questions regarding personal information.

- **Work:** Have you ever had a weekend job? Tell me about it.
- **Diet & cooking:** What's your opinion of fast food?

This part is not assessed.

PART 2 (5-6 minutes)

CONVERSATION: SAMPLE TOPIC and KEY WORDS

Candidates are given the same card with a topic and three key words, and asked to have a conversation, exchanging opinions and experiences.

You have one minute to think of ideas relating to the topic below. You may wish to use one or more of the prompts provided.

EDUCATION 2.0

- **Distance learning**
- **Technological tools**
- **Role of teachers**

You should now talk about your topic and your partner's topic for about five minutes.

PART 3 (5-6 minutes each candidate)

SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE:

Candidates are each given a pair of (different) texts before the speaking test. They have 25 minutes to read the texts and take notes in order to give a sustained monologue on the subject relating it to their own experience.

TOPIC: ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES**TEXT 1. Benefits of using electronic cigarettes**

Thanks to the recent development of e-cigarettes, smokers are no longer restricted by the constraints of traditional cigarettes and can enjoy benefits tobacco smoking doesn't offer.

Freedom to smoke: E-cigarette users have the freedom to smoke in more places than traditional smokers. A major differentiating feature of e-cigs is that they emit a vapour instead of tar, ash and smoke, allowing you to use them in more public places where traditional cigarettes are not permitted. Also, you can save as much as 50% by switching to e-cigs!

More flavour options: With traditional cigarettes, your flavours are limited to tobacco and menthol, whereas with e-cigs you can choose amongst a variety of flavours like piña colada, peach schnapps, cherry and more. Better yet, you have the option to choose how much nicotine you get with your flavour cartridges.

No nasty smell: Traditional cigarettes create smoke that leaves an offensive odour, while e-cig users exhale water vapour which leaves you with the satisfaction a traditional cigarette provides, but without the offensive smell.

Convenience: Electronic cigarettes are easy to find, as most stores, grocers, gas stations, smoke shops and other retailers carry the most popular brands, like "Blue Cigs". You can easily pick up a rechargeable kit or refill cartridges, just like you would a pack of traditional cigarettes. With the Blue Cigs charger, you can even charge your e-cigs on the way out for the night.

TEXT 2. Watch out, e-cigarette smokers – you're inhaling the unknown

Electronic cigarettes sound fantastic. Rather than fill your lungs with tar, they deliver a vapour of nicotine to satisfy your craving, without the nasty side effects. They are popularly perceived as the safe alternative to cigarettes, a harmless way to get a nicotine hit. No wonder 700,000 people were using e-cigarettes in the UK last year, with that figure set to rise to over a million by the end of 2013.

Doctors are desperate to drive down the £5bn a year that smoking-related illness costs the NHS. Anything that could help smokers quit would be welcomed. But e-cigarettes aren't a medicine. There's a reason you buy them from a newsagent rather than get them on prescription. E-cigarettes may look legitimate, but they haven't been through the same stringent safety checks as medicated nicotine replacement therapies.

The US Food and Drug Administration analysed the components of e-cigarette cartridges in 2009. They identified trace levels of tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNAs) – cancer-causing compounds commonly found in traditional cigarettes, albeit at a much lower concentration.

In March 2013, researchers from the University of California examined in detail the aerosol contents of e-cigarettes. They found particles of silver, iron, aluminium and silicate, and nanoparticles of tin, chromium and nickel. The researchers noted that concentrations of these elements "were higher than or equal to the corresponding concentrations in conventional cigarette smoke", and that "many of the elements identified in [e-cigarette] aerosol are known to cause respiratory distress and disease".