

## GCSE Paper 2: Speaking

The test—you will have 8-12 minutes to take part in a conversation with the examiner on 3 topics. You choose the first topic (A5 notes allowed) and the examiner will choose the second and third topics.

To prepare the exam:

1. With your teacher's help, choose a topic you can talk about confidently at some length. (a passionate hobby? A memorable holiday?) Choose something in which you have a personal interest so that you can present the subject with enthusiasm and animation.
2. Once you've decided, work out what you want to include in your conversation. Write a brief introduction and practice it aloud. Try to "narrate" and not "recite": you want it to sound as natural as possible.
3. Write down your intro in bullet points to be taken into the exam. Try to learn it by heart and to have it word perfect without the notes.
4. Record your intro on Voicethread or [Lingtlanguage.com/hhayes](http://Lingtlanguage.com/hhayes) and listen to how you sound. Confidence and fluency create a good impression.
5. Don't saturate your introduction with factual information. Talk also about your experiences. To achieve good grade, you need to be able to express your feelings and opinions.
6. After the intro the examiner will ask you questions about your chosen topic. If you have expressed views on certain issues, be prepared to justify them. For example, if your chosen topic is about school and you have mentioned that you don't like school uniforms, you should have a ready answer to explain your dislikes.
7. Be familiar with the four areas of experience. The nightmare is having nothing to say or worse not understanding the question when the examiner asks, for example, "what do you think about global warming?" or "do you give money to charity?" Go through the subtopics for each area and think of the possible questions the examiner might ask. How would you answer them?
8. Revise with a friend and take turns to ask each other possible exam questions. You should be thinking of more and more challenging questions as you go along. Make good use of [Lingtlanguage.com](http://Lingtlanguage.com)
9. Expand your answer, justify your opinions. Talk about 'why' and use expressive words. Give interesting answers. Have a good sense of humour.