



AIM Awards & Anglia Examinations

Level 3 (Masters C2)

Speaking Test

Early Summer 2015

Instructions for Students

- The test will take 20 minutes.
- You will take the test with another student.

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Procedure

The Anglia Masters Speaking Test consists of three tasks and should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. There are two candidates at each session. The examination will be recorded. The recording is sent to Chichester College for moderation.

AFTER the examination, you must not return to the area where candidates yet to take the test are still waiting.

Preparation

Two articles to read and think about. You should be prepared to talk briefly on one of them before discussing it.

Task One: up to 4 minutes

The examiner will ask you to talk about who you are, why you are taking the examination and so on.

Task Two: up to 8 minutes

The examiner will ask you to talk briefly about the article you have chosen to prepare, and then you must be prepared to discuss the issues arising from it.

Task Three: up to 8 minutes

The examiner will ask you to choose a statement card. He / She will then indicate to you which of the statements on your chosen card you should talk about. You can talk alone for a moment and then you must be prepared to engage in discussion about the proposition in the statement.

LEVEL 3 (MASTERS) SPEAKING EXAMINATION, Early Summer 2015

Task Two: Readings for Discussion

READING ONE

DOWNTIME? IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU SICK!

The condition of developing symptoms of sickness at the weekend or while on holiday, also known as leisure sickness, was first identified by Dutch psychologists Ad Vingerhoets and Maaïke Van Huijgevoort. They have been fielding calls about the theory since 2001, when their team of researchers reported on their survey of 1,893 Dutch people in which about 3 percent of respondents indicated that they seldom felt ill on work days but developed a variety of symptoms during downtime.

Typical symptoms included headache, fatigue, nausea, sore or aching muscles, depression or anxiety, while others just felt generally unwell. Whatever the case, the symptoms dissipated once the person returns to work.

The underlying cause of the problem, according to Vingerhoets, is to do with stress. Whether psychological or physiological, stress causes the adrenal glands to release adrenaline, which gives us energy and boosts immunity. However, this in turn makes the body release cortisol, which diminishes our immunity. Once work slows down and stress lessens, the adrenaline stops pumping, leading to a surplus of cortisol, which weakens the immune system. This leaves a person susceptible to illness.

READING TWO

DEGREE SCORN

'Mickey Mouse' is a pejorative term used to describe degree courses regarded as less intellectually rigorous and less worthwhile than traditional academic subjects. The term took off in the late 1990s. Since then educational snobbery has increased, many stating that 'Mickey Mouse' degrees should be abolished, with academics debating the removal of certain creative subjects from the GCSE curriculum. A 2012 report from the Taxpayers' Alliance claims that these degrees cost taxpayers over £40 million a year and are more common than ever. The head of research said, 'They lend the respectability of scholarly qualifications to non-academic subjects, but courses are lightweight and intellectually threadbare.'

However, a spokesman from Universities UK rejected the criticisms. 'This is a misunderstanding of what is happening in higher education and the labour market. These degrees are based on demand from employers and developed in association with them. The skills developed on these courses are essential to the success of the economy. The Prime Minister too has attacked the 'snobbery' of those who denigrate vocational qualifications, adding that courses such as golf course management and marketing could lead to decent jobs. Without the option to study these degrees, aspiring creative undergraduates would be left without a solid educational route.'