Pre-Faculty
Speaking CAT Guidelines

1. Introduction

The exit level speaking CAT aims to assess students' speaking skills in real life situations through different task types, asking and answering questions, speaking about a particular subject and discussing an issue with a partner.

2. General Information

- Each student will be given an appointment for the exam day.
- Students should ensure that they are on time for the exam and have their ID cards ready.
- Late comers will be sent to the Test Center.
- Two instructors will administer the exam.
- The exam will take about 10-12 minutes.
- The exam will be videotaped and/or recorded on audiotape.
- Each student will sit the exam with another student.
- The exam is divided into three main sections: (i) warm-up (general questions and answers), (ii) individual long turn, (iii) paired activity and follow-up questions.
- The exam outline is given in the table below.

3. The Speaking CAT

Part 1: Warm-up: General Questions and Answers (2 minutes)
In the first part of the exam you will answer general questions about everyday life.
- The interaction is between the instructor and you.
- You are expected to give answers of about 15 seconds. One word answers are not acceptable.

Sample Questions
- Tell me about your high school.
- Tell me about a place you would like to visit.
- Tell me what you’d like to be doing in 10 years time.

Part 2: Individual Long Turn (4-5 minutes total for both students)
In the second part of the exam, you will be asked to speak on your own and ask a question to your partner or respond to what s/he has said. The same process will apply to your partner.

- At the beginning of Part 2, you will be given a choice of two topics.
- You will choose one of the topics and have one minute to prepare brief notes before you speak.
- You will have one minute to talk about your chosen topic.
- After you speak, your partner will ask you a question or respond to what you have said.
- When you finish answering your partner's question or responding to what s/he has said, your partner will speak for about one minute about his/her chosen topic.
- When s/he finishes speaking, you will ask a question or respond to what s/he has said.
- This part of the exam finishes after both of you have had a long turn and responded to each other.
- In this section, instructors are not permitted to reword or explain questions or words.
Sample Questions
• Should animals be kept in zoos?
• Footballer’s salaries are too high.
• How has the Internet changed daily life?

Tips to Keep in Mind
• Use short notes to organise your thoughts. Don’t write out full sentences. Although notes are for your use only, they will be collected at the end of the test.
• The instructor will stop you if you go over time during your long turn. You will not be penalised for this.
• You are expected to answer a question asked by your partner. If your partner gives a response that is not in the form of a question for example, s/he simply agrees or disagrees with you, you may respond but your answer should be brief.
• Turn over your notes and listen to your partner during his/her long turn so that you can respond appropriately. This is not the time to think about your long turn.
• The question you ask your partner should be one short question or a response of approximately 15 seconds.

Part 3: Paired Activity (3–4 minutes)
In this part of the interview, you will discuss a problem-solving task with your partner without instructor involvement. You will have 20 seconds to read the task and think about it. Do not discuss anything with your partner at this stage. Then you will answer questions asked by the instructor.

• In this section, instructors are not permitted to reword or explain questions or words.
• Please see the problem solving task sample question below to familiarise yourself with the task.

Sample Question - Problem Solving Task
You have received a large amount of money. You want to spend it for a good cause (to help others). Look at the suggestions below and discuss them and come to an agreement as to which one of the solutions is best. Give reasons for your decision.

Solution 1
• help feed hungry/starving people in another country

Solution 2
• help university students who are in need

Solution 3
• build a new sports centre in Ankara.

Solution 4
• send school and medical supplies to poor parts of the country

Tips to Keep in Mind
• The aim of this activity is to discuss each choice and try to agree on the best one.
• Make sure there is a discussion between you and your partner.
• Speak loudly enough for the instructors to hear you.

Part 3: Follow up Questions (1 minute)
After you complete the Paired Activity the instructor may ask you or your partner questions about the prompt.

Sample Questions
• If you had a large amount of money to spend what would you do with it?
• Should students be made to volunteer and help others as part of their university education?
• Do you give money to beggars? Why or why not?
**Tips to Keep in Mind**

- If you are asked a question, try to expand on your response as much as possible.
- Answers of approximately 15 seconds are appropriate.

**General Information**

1. Latecomers will be sent to the Test Center.
2. Students are not allowed to bring cellular phones.
3. Have your Student ID ready.
4. You are evaluated on your language and communicative ability, therefore expand your answers according to the limits given.
5. Be sensitive to your partner. Don’t dominate.
6. Do not give memorised answers. Such answers will be penalised.
7. Speak loudly and clearly.
8. Don’t use Turkish.
9. Don’t ask the instructor questions about the task.
10. Don’t ask the instructor how you performed on the test.

**Marking**

Your exam will be marked according to five different areas: grammar, vocabulary, organization of speech, pronunciation and fluency, and interactive communication.

**Grammar:** ability to use exit level grammar structures effectively.

**Vocabulary:** ability to use exit level vocabulary accurately and effectively.

**Organization of Speech:** ability to give relevant, coherent, and expanded answers.

**Pronunciation and Fluency:** ability to speak clearly and fluently.

**Interaction:** ability to contribute to the interaction by beginning the interaction, responding to your partner, asking your partner questions and maintaining the flow of the interaction.