

## Speaking: Public Exam & SBA

*By Jennifer Shiu, Manager, Assessment Development,  
The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority*

### The Speaking Examination (10% of the total subject mark)

The speaking examination will consist of two parts: Part A, Group Interaction; and Part B, Individual Response.

**Part A:** A group of candidates have to discuss an assigned topic based on given prompts. These prompts may be in prose form or presented graphically in tables, graphs, pictures etc. In this Part, candidates interact with their peers and are completely responsible for the progress of the discussion.

**Part B:** Candidates need to answer the examiners' questions individually, without being given time to prepare or make notes.

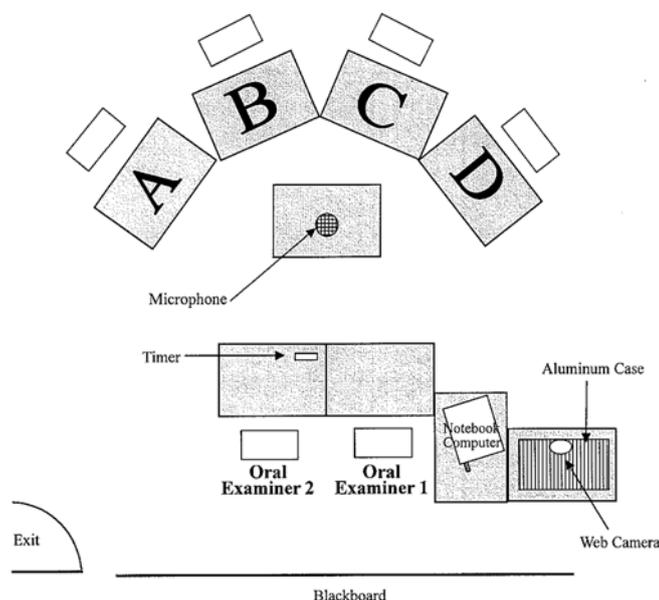
#### Preparation time: (10 minutes)

Candidates will be given a question paper and a notecard. They may use the notecards for making notes and are allowed to take with them into the exam room. They should bring their own pen or pencil, read the instructions and understand the group interaction topic carefully.

#### In the Examination Room

As the examination process will be video-recorded, candidates are required to sit in a semi-circle facing the examiners.

Candidates should interact naturally as if there were no camera in the room, i.e. facing other members of their group or the examiner during the individual response.



### **Part A: Group Interaction (8 minutes per group of 4 candidates)**

The emphasis in this part of the exam is on candidates' interactive skills. Credit will be given if candidates can demonstrate that they are able to use interactive expressions and strategies appropriately. During the group interaction, candidates are not allowed to take notes but may refer to their notecard and to the question paper. When the group interaction is over, Part B (individual response) begins.

### **Part B: Individual Response (1 minute per candidate)**

An examiner will ask each candidate at least one question related to the group interaction topic. There is no preparation time. They need to listen to and understand the questions asked and respond appropriately. Each candidate will be asked different questions and have up to one minute to respond. The examiner may ask one or more questions depending on the candidate's response within the time allowed and will only start the timer after asking the first question. Candidates can refer to their notecards if necessary.

### **Scoring**

Each candidate will be assessed independently by two examiners. The two parts will be assessed together and not separately weighted. Candidates will be assessed on the quantity, quality and organisation of their ideas; the clarity and accuracy of their pronunciation and delivery; the appropriacy and accuracy of their vocabulary and language patterns; and their ability to establish and maintain interaction in both parts of the speaking examination.

### **There will be 4 domains of assessment:**

- ◆ pronunciation and delivery,
- ◆ communication strategies,
- ◆ vocabulary and language patterns, and
- ◆ ideas and organisation

A candidate will be awarded a mark from 0 to 7 on each of the four domains. The maximum mark awarded by each of the two examiners is 28, resulting in a total of 56 marks.

### **School-based Assessment (15% of the total subject mark)**

The SBA component of the HKDSE consists of two parts.

**Part A:** Part A is a reading / viewing programme. In the programme, students read or view four texts ('texts' encompass print, non-print, fiction and non-fiction materials) over the course of three years, keep a logbook of comments or personal reflections, and then take part in a discussion with classmates or make an individual presentation on the books / videos / films that they have read or viewed, and respond to questions from their teacher, which will be derived from the student's written responses in their logbook.

The assessment will be conducted by the student's teacher instead of an external marker, and will be based on the student's oral performance. This means the reading / viewing / writing will only serve as the means to this end and the specific content of the texts (i.e. names and places, storylines, other factual information etc.) will not be directly assessed as such. Students need to take part in two assessments:

one in the second term of S5 and one in S6. One mark should be based on a group interaction and one on an individual presentation.

**Part B:** Part B consists of a group interaction or an individual presentation based on the modules in the Elective Part of the curriculum. It focuses on students' ability to reflect on, make use of and speak about the knowledge, skills and experience gained in the Elective Module(s). As in Part A, the assessment is based on the student's oral performance. It can be conducted in the second term of S5 or any time during S6.

### **Scoring**

The assessment is made in the same four domains as the Paper 4 Speaking Examination. A student will be awarded a mark from 0 to 6 on each of the four domains. The maximum mark awarded for each assessment is 24.