

C1 ORAL EXAM — ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Prep Classes · Advanced Level
Total Marks: 60 | 6 Criteria × 10 Points Each

Candidate Information

Candidate Name: _____	Class / Group: _____	Examiner: _____	Date: _____
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Overview

This rubric is designed for C1-level oral proficiency assessment in preparation class contexts. It evaluates candidates across six equally weighted criteria, each scored from 0 to 10, for a maximum total of 60 marks. Descriptors are aligned with CEFR C1 benchmarks and Cambridge / IELTS oral band conventions.

Scoring Principles:

- Score holistically within each band — do not average individual features.
- A score of 7–8 (Good) represents solid C1 performance; 9–10 (Excellent) is reserved for outstanding candidates.
- A score of 5–6 (Adequate) indicates B2+ performance — the candidate is approaching C1 but has not yet reached it.
- Use the follow-up question to probe depth; if the candidate improves markedly, this may raise the score for Critical Thinking and Interactive Competence.
- Scores should reflect performance over the entire interaction, not a single moment.

Scoring Rubric

Each criterion is scored on a 0–10 scale. Select the band that best matches overall performance for that criterion.

Criterion	0–1 Insufficient	2–4 Developing	5–6 Adequate	7–8 Good	9–10 Excellent
1. Fluency & Delivery	Frequent, disruptive pauses; very slow pace; speech often breaks down.	Some hesitation and repetition; pace irregular; occasional breakdowns.	Generally flows; some noticeable pausing but does not impede meaning.	Largely fluent with natural rhythm; minor hesitation under difficulty.	Consistently fluent, confident delivery; pauses are natural and purposeful.
2. Lexical Range & Accuracy	Severely limited vocabulary; frequent lexical errors causing misunderstanding.	Basic vocabulary; some C1 items attempted but errors	Adequate range for the task; some imprecision; occasional	Good range including idiomatic and less common	Wide, precise vocabulary; uses collocations,

Criterion	0–1 Insufficient	2–4 Developing	5–6 Adequate	7–8 Good	9–10 Excellent
		frequent; circumlocution.	paraphrase needed.	items; errors are minor.	idioms, and register flexibly.
3. Grammatical Range & Accuracy	Very limited structures; persistent errors impede communication.	Simple structures dominate; attempts complex forms but with frequent errors.	Uses a range of structures; errors occur but rarely affect comprehension.	Mostly accurate with varied, complex grammar; errors are occasional.	Consistently accurate; confidently uses complex and nuanced structures.
4. Coherence & Cohesion	Ideas disconnected; no clear structure; listener must guess connections.	Some linking but logical flow is inconsistent; discourse poorly organised.	Clear main ideas with basic cohesive devices; some lapses in organisation.	Well-organised; uses a variety of cohesive devices effectively.	Seamlessly structured; sophisticated use of referencing, ellipsis, and discourse markers.
5. Critical Thinking & Argumentation	No real argument presented; largely lists or describes without analysis.	Simple opinions stated; limited reasoning; no counter-argument considered.	Opinions supported with reasons; some development; argument is predictable.	Clear argument with supporting evidence; acknowledges complexity.	Nuanced, well-reasoned argument; anticipates and addresses counter-views persuasively.
6. Interactive & Pragmatic Competence	Rarely responds to prompts; does not initiate; communication breaks down.	Responds to direct questions only; limited ability to elaborate or negotiate meaning.	Engages with prompts; some ability to seek clarification and expand ideas.	Interacts naturally; manages turns, rephrases, and follows up appropriately.	Skilled interlocutor; uses discourse strategies, registers naturally, and sustains dialogue.

Examiner Scoring Sheet

Record the score for each criterion, add any brief notes, then calculate the total out of 60.

Criterion	Score /10	× Weight	Examiner Notes
1. Fluency & Delivery	/10	× 1	
2. Lexical Range & Accuracy	/10	× 1	
3. Grammatical Range & Accuracy	/10	× 1	
4. Coherence & Cohesion	/10	× 1	

Criterion	Score /10	× Weight	Examiner Notes
5. Critical Thinking & Argumentation	/10	× 1	
6. Interactive & Pragmatic Competence	/10	× 1	
TOTAL	/60		Overall Grade: _____ CEFR Level: _____

Score Conversion & Grade Boundaries

Use the table below to convert the raw total (/60) to a percentage, CEFR band, and overall grade.

Total /60	% Score	CEFR Band	Grade	Descriptor	Decision
54–60	90–100%	C1+	A	Outstanding	PASS with Distinction
48–53	80–89%	C1	B+	Very Good	PASS with Merit
42–47	70–79%	C1	B	Good	PASS
36–41	60–69%	B2+	C	Adequate	BORDERLINE — review
30–35	50–59%	B2	D	Developing	REFER — retake recommended
0–29	0–49%	B1–B2	F	Insufficient	FAIL

General Examiner Notes

Borderline cases: Where a candidate falls between two bands on one criterion, consider whether their overall communicative effectiveness tips the score up or down.

Follow-up question impact: If a candidate's response to the follow-up demonstrates a significant leap in depth or accuracy, this should positively influence scores on Criteria 5 and 6.

Accent vs. intelligibility: A non-native accent should never be penalised unless it genuinely impedes intelligibility. Criterion 1 (Fluency & Delivery) concerns rhythm and pace, not accent.

Code-switching / L1 use: Any use of the L1 to compensate for a gap in L2 should be noted. If it becomes a primary strategy, scores on Criteria 2 and 3 should reflect this.

Rewarding risk-taking: Candidates who attempt complex structures or advanced vocabulary and partially succeed should be scored higher than those who consistently play it safe with simple language.

Candidate Feedback Summary

Strengths:

Areas for Development:

Recommended Action:

Examiner Signature: _____ Date: _____