

STAGE 1: (1-2 min.)

Tell me your name, please?

How are you?

Would you tell me something about yourself/your hobbies/future plans/family/...? (**Choose one of the topics for the student to speak about.**)

STAGE 2: Monologue + discussion (5-6 min.)

Now, I would like you to choose a card. (All 6 cards are placed face down.)

Read the text and prepare to speak about it. Use the questions below to help you plan your monologue. Summarise the text and express your opinion on the topic. Do not retell the story in detail.

The 100+ Club

More and more people are hitting the 100 mark these days - there are about 6,000 in the UK.

The growth in centenarianism reflects the huge leaps in life expectancy made in the West during the past century. In Roman times, the average life span was just 22 (mainly because of the appalling rate of infant mortality), by 1800, it was 40 years, by 1900, around the late 40s, and today, it hovers around the mid-to-late 70s.

The term supercentenarians applies to anyone older than 110 and, according to the US Gerontology Research Group, there are 68 supercentenarians in the world today.

Yet scientists believe 120 or so remains a stubborn limit beyond which the human body cannot live without some serious - and so far unknown - genetic intervention. At the moment, genetics accounts for about 15% of what determines life span.

Jonathan Duffy. <http://news.bbc.co.uk> September 2, 2005

- centenarian – someone who is 100 years old or older
 1. What is the text about (the topic and the source)?
 2. What is the message of the text? What is the author trying to say?
 3. What is your point of view?

After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. Do you know any very old people? Tell me something about them.
2. What do you think helps people to live longer?
3. What are the advantages of old age?
4. How does the state support senior citizens?
5. What would you change in our society to improve the quality of life of the elderly?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student's cue card

Your interviewer is your granny/grandpa who has just retired.

Ask the interviewer about

pension paid

number of years she/he has worked

last working day

new everyday routines

new hobbies

bright sides of retirement

At the end of the talk, summarise the best sides of retirement.

Interviewer's cue card

1. 3,000 EEK.
2. 42 years as a teacher
3. My last day at work coincided with the school-leaving party of my class. Students and colleagues brought flowers and a painting as a present.
4. Now I sleep longer, take long walks, visit friends and read a lot.
5. I have joined a choir and a gymnastics group.
6. I can plan my time as I like and I can help to look after my grandchildren. I can just enjoy life.

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Coughing Cats May Be Allergic to People, Vets Say

Furry house pets – especially felines – have long been blamed for allergies and breathing problems in people. But now researchers at an animal hospital in Scotland say the discomfort can also work the other way around: Humans can trigger asthma attacks in cats.

Cigarette smoke, human dandruff, household dust, and certain types of litter create inflammation in cats' airways and worsen asthma, the veterinarians say. Feline asthma is a common disease, with about 1 in 200 cats suffering from the condition. Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, and shortness of breath. Cats between the ages of one and five are most likely to develop asthma. Asian breeds, like Siamese cats, are also more prone to the disease. Nicki Reed, a veterinarian at the University of Edinburgh's Hospital for Small Animals, says the overall incident rate of asthma is increasing because more cats are being kept solely indoors.

Maryann Mott. National Geographic News. October 25, 2005

- feline – a cat or other member of the cat family
 1. What is the text about (the topic and the source)?
 2. What is the message of the text? What is the author trying to say?
 3. What is your point of view?

After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. Have you ever had a pet? If yes, tell me something about it. If not, explain why not.
2. What are the most common pets people have in Estonia?
3. Why have many pet-owners joined clubs?
4. Where and how can dogs be trained?
5. If money were not a problem, what pet would you like to have? Why?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student's cue card

You want to have a child-friendly dog. Your interviewer is selling puppies.

Ask the interviewer about

breed

age

expected size and weight

character

vaccinations done

price

At the end of the talk, decide if you would like to buy one of the puppies.

Interviewer's cue card

1. Landseer.
2. 2 months.
3. Grown-up males are bigger than females with the height of 80 cm and up to 80 kg.
4. Friendly, they are used to save drowning people.
5. First vaccinations are done and all documents are in perfect order.
6. 1,000 EUR.

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"Mini Ice Age" May Be Coming Soon, Sea Study Warns

Chilling new evidence from the Atlantic Ocean is raising fears that Western Europe could soon be gripped by a mini ice age. Global warming is slowing down the ocean current that carries warm waters from the tropics to the North Atlantic.

British scientists say their new findings indicate that the threat looks all too real for northern Europe and marine animals. For one thing, there appears to be a 50 percent reduction in the amount of cold, deep water flowing from the North Atlantic to the tropics, the team says. Also, the researchers found a 50 percent increase in currents circulating within subtropical seas without reaching higher latitudes. More warm waters, that is, are staying put in the tropics. The study supports computer model predictions suggesting that global warming will switch off the North Atlantic current in the next 50 to 100 years.

If the current does stop, it would have devastating effects on northwest Europe. The freezing conditions would affect everything from agriculture to energy demand.

James Owen. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com>. November 30, 2005

- stay put – to remain in one place or position
 1. What is the text about (the topic and the source)?
 2. What is the message of the text? What is the author trying to say?
 3. What is your point of view?

After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. What kind of climate do you enjoy most?
2. Have you observed any changes in the Estonian climate recently? Give examples.
3. Apart from global warming, what are the other major global problems?
4. How do global problems influence our lives?
5. What could be done to preserve our world for the coming generations?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student's cue card

You are a student from England who is interested in the weather in Estonia. Your interviewer is a meteorologist.

Ask the interviewer about

average annual temperature

coldest and warmest months

highest and lowest recorded temperatures

rainiest period

snowy months

best time to have a holiday

At the end of the talk, decide when you would like to visit Estonia.

Interviewer's cue card

1. The average annual temperature is +5.4 C.
2. The coldest month is February, with the average of -5.2 C, and the warmest month is July, +16.5 C.
3. The highest recorded temperature, +35.6 C, was measured in 1992, while the coldest on record, -43.5 C, dates back to 1940.
4. Rainfall is heaviest at the end of summer and the least in spring.
5. Apart from the coast and the Western Islands, the snow cover lasts for approximately 100 days: from the beginning of January to the end of March.
6. It depends on what you like, but I would suggest visiting Estonia around Midsummer's Day in June when days are more than 18 hours long.

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Slang Creeps into English Exams

English examiners have complained about the use of slang expressions such as ‘gonna’, ‘ain’t’ and ‘shouda’ in GCSEs this year. Markers for the exam board Edexcel said “almost unforgivable” basic errors were made by apparently bright pupils.

In its annual report on its English GCSE papers, Edexcel said there were “many concerns about elementary errors in the work of apparently able pupils”. Another complaint was the failure to use a capital letter for ‘I’.

The verb forms “shouda”, “gonna”, “ain’t” and “wanna”, appeared with surprising regularity, the examiners said. Candidates should not use street language or the style used in text messages, they said.

Examiners had more praise for the standard of A-level English Literature. But they were concerned at the inability of some candidates to spell Shakespeare, in a paper called “Shakespeare in Context”.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>. September 16, 2005

1. What is the text about (the topic and the source)?
2. What is the message of the text? What is the author trying to say?
3. What is your point of view?

After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. What foreign languages have you learned?
2. What would you say about the language learning opportunities at Estonian schools?
3. What is the role of TV in developing language skills?
4. Have you ever thought about the foreign language skills you may need in your future job? Explain.
5. If you could learn one more foreign language in the country where it is spoken, what would you like to learn and where?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student’s cue card

You want to take the Cambridge First Certificate (FCE) examination at the British Council office in Tallinn.

Your interviewer works there.

Ask the interviewer about

examination time

registration

parts of the exam

duration of the exam

assessment

fee

At the end of the talk, decide when you would like to take the examination.

Interviewer’s cue card

1. The exam takes place three times a year, in March, June and December.
2. You can download the registration form at our website or fill it in at our office.
3. The examination consists of five papers: reading, writing, use of English, listening and speaking.
4. About 4 hours 40 minutes, plus speaking – 14 minutes.
5. Each of the written papers is returned to Cambridge for marking and assessment. The Speaking Test is conducted by two locally based examiners who examine you face to face.
6. 1750 EEK.

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Class of 84

An octogenarian Kenyan has become the oldest man in the world to attend primary school.

Kimani Maruge, aged about 84 (he's only just learning to count, so isn't sure), wasn't able to go to school as a boy because he had to tend his family's cattle. But after the Kenyan government abolished school fees in 2003, the penniless illiterate queued with more than 100 six-year-olds to be registered at Kapkenduiywo primary and so impressed the headmistress that she agreed to let him in.

The great-grandfather is now an A-grade pupil – he came top of the class in his first year – and always wears the school uniform, complete with shorts and grey, knee-length socks.

Reports say, however, that some parents aren't terribly keen on him. "He's a smart Alec," one is quoted as saying, while others supposedly think he's disruptive and a "teacher's pet".

Reader's Digest. May 2005

- octogenarian – someone who is between 80 and 89 years old
 - smart Alec – someone who behaves in an annoying way by trying to show how clever they are
 - disruptive – causing difficulties that interrupt something or prevent it from continuing
1. What is the text about (the topic and the source)?
 2. What is the message of the text? What is the author trying to say?
 3. What is your point of view?

After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. When do Estonian children usually start school?
2. What do you think is the role of compulsory education?
3. What is the meaning of education for an individual person?
4. Why has the role of life-long learning become so important in Estonia?
5. What kind of education would you offer to reduce unemployment?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student's cue card

Your interviewer is your friend who has recently taken exams to obtain a driving licence.

Ask the interviewer about

exams he/she took

courses taken before the exams

written test

his/her feelings

total amount paid

result

At the end of the talk, congratulate your friend on his/her success.

Interviewer's cue card

1. The exam consisted of 2 parts, written test and driving test.
2. I took 20 theory lessons, which included studying traffic rules and a first aid course. I also had 40 driving lessons.
3. It was a multiple-choice test of 60 questions.
4. I tried to concentrate, but I was a bit nervous.
5. Over 5,000 EEK.
6. I am really happy that my attempt was successful.

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Comeback for New Christie Play

Agatha Christie is making a comeback in London's West End, with a new version of the stage play *And Then There Were None* at the Gielgud Theatre.

In truth, Christie never went away. Her books, it is claimed, have been outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare, while *The Mousetrap* is now in its 53rd year.

And Then There Were None launches the new-look Christie with rumours of Tarantino-style gore and a twist in the tale. The new play sticks closely to the original book, which unlike Christie's own stage adaptation, does not have a happy ending.

Christie specified in the book that events took place on the weekend of 8-11 August 1938, which happened to be the weekend that Hitler mobilised. Her view on war was that it was a no-win business, so it is curious that, on the eve of war, she should write a story where there are no winners.

Victoria Lindrea. <http://news.bbc.co.uk>. October 12, 2005

- gore – blood from an injured person that is thick because it is partly dried
- 1. What is the text about (the topic and the source)?
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- 3. What is your point of view?

After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. How often do you visit the theatre?
2. What is your favourite theatre and genre? Why?
3. Who are your favourite actors and actresses? Why?
4. How does the theatre enrich people's lives?
5. What would make people visit the theatre more often?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student's cue card

You want to buy tickets to the Puppet Theatre as a birthday present for your cousin. Your interviewer is a box-office clerk.

Ask the interviewer about

performances next weekend

time

duration

intervals

ticket prices

place to buy tickets

At the end of the talk, decide what tickets you will buy for your cousin.

Interviewer's cue card

1. This Saturday we perform *Brave Kephir* in Oval Hall and *Old Mother Kunks* in the main Hall. On Sunday there are *Johnny's Seven Friends* in the main Hall and *Troll-Boy* in the Rocca-al-Mare open-air museum.
2. All performances start at 12 pm, apart from *Brave Kephir*, which starts at 11 am.
3. The performances last from 40 to 55 minutes.
4. There are no intervals as the performances are so short.
5. Tickets to *Brave Kephir* and *Johnny's Seven Friends* cost 45 EEK, *Old Mother Kunks* 60 EEK and *Troll-Boy* 65 EEK.
6. You can buy tickets at our box office. Tickets are also sold at the box offices of Piletilevi throughout Estonia and through the Internet.