

1. Description of Test

The EL EPT comprises two test papers: the Speaking Test and the Writing Test.

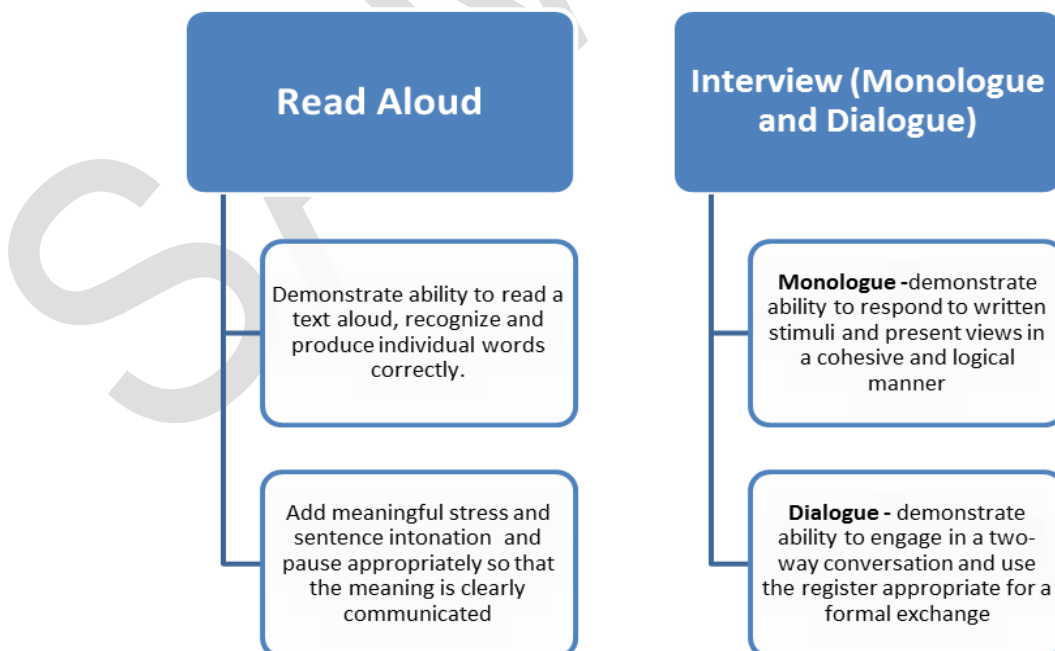
Speaking Test (20 minutes)

The Speaking Test is a test of oral proficiency.

It requires candidates to read a passage aloud and deliver a short monologue (with notes) on a related topic. The examiner will then ask the candidate to answer questions and discuss issues extending the topic.

Candidates will be given a few minutes to preview the reading passage and to prepare for the talk before their Speaking Test.

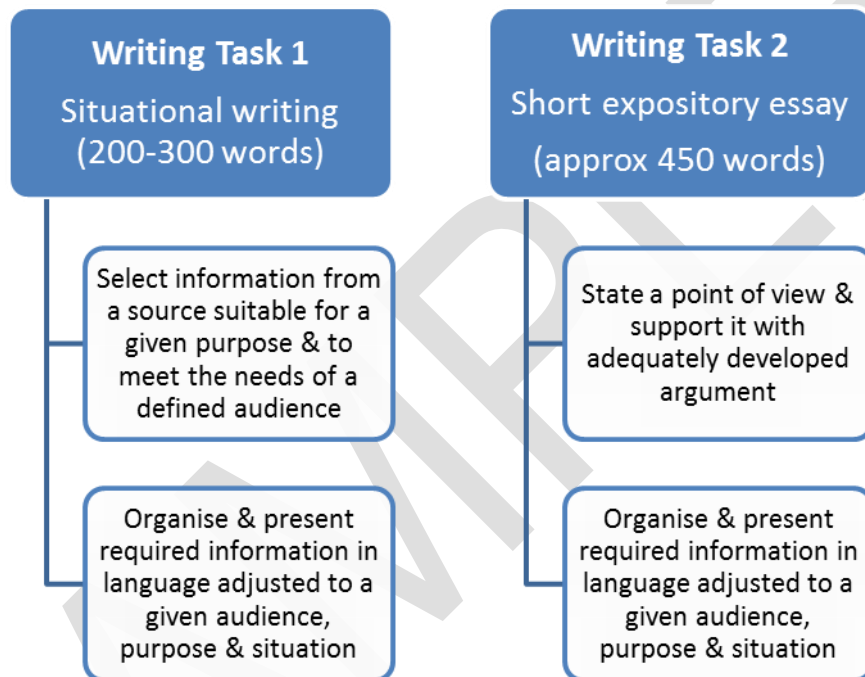
The diagram below shows the structure and requirements of the Speaking Test.



Writing Test (1hr 40 minutes)

The Writing Test comprises two tasks. The tasks test the candidate's ability to select information from a source suitable for a given purpose, and to organise and present information in language appropriate for a defined audience, purpose and situation.

The diagram below shows the structure and requirements of the Writing Test.



2. Assessment Criteria

Speaking Test

The candidates' performance on the two speaking tasks – *Reading Aloud* and *Interview* – will be assessed according to:

- their ability to respond appropriately to the requirements of each of the two tasks
- interaction with the text (during *Reading Aloud*) and with interviewer (during the *Interview- Monologue + Dialogue*)
- their effective use and range of lexical items and grammatical structures
- their use of appropriate pronunciation, rhythm and intonation, and word/sentence-level stress

Writing Test

Candidates' answers to Tasks 1 and 2 will be assessed according to:

- how closely the responses fulfil the requirements of the task
- how adequately ideas are developed and how appropriately organised to meet the purpose of the writing
- the ability to create coherent, logical connections between ideas at the levels of sentence, paragraph and the text as a whole text
- the use of appropriate words and expressions for the purpose, audience and context of the writing task
- the appropriate use and accuracy of a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures

3. Sample Papers

Speaking Test

Preparation Card

Instructions to the candidate

You have 5 minutes to read this to yourself and prepare the monologue topic before you enter the exam room. You may make some notes if you wish. After 5 minutes you will return this card.

You may take your notes to the exam room but will hand them in when you have finished speaking.

When you enter the exam room, the examiner will give you a new copy of this card and ask you to read the passage aloud and present the monologue.

Read Aloud Passage

A man accused of failing to return more than 700 children's books to a local library was released from jail yesterday after a book publisher agreed to post his bond of \$1,000. The publisher said, "There's a story here. This is a man who loves books. He just can't let go of them. He hasn't stolen a single book. So what's the crime? We think that Mr. Tan has a story to tell. We plan to publish his story."

When asked why he didn't return the books, Mr. Tan said, "Well, how could I? They became family to me. I was afraid to return them, because I knew that kids or dogs would get hold of these books and chew them up, throw them around, rip the pages, spill drinks on them, get food on them, and generally neglect them."

He continued, "Books are people, too! They talk to you, they take care of you, and they enrich you with wisdom and humour and love. A book is my guest in my home. How could I kick it out? I repaired torn pages. I dusted them with a soft clean cloth. I turned their pages so they could breathe and get some fresh air.

"Every week I reorganized them on their shelves so they could meet new friends. My books were HAPPY books. You could tell just by looking at them. Now they're all back in the library, on the lower shelves, on the floors, at the mercy of all those runny-nosed kids. I can hear them calling me! I need to rescue them. Excuse me. I have to go now."

(278 words)

Monologue (This topic is related to the reading passage)

Discuss a book that you have enjoyed reading.

You should say:

- *what it was about*
- *what effect it had on you*
- *why you enjoyed it*

Interview – Sample questions

Candidates do not see these questions in advance. They extend the discussion of the topic

Reading and children

- *How important is it for parents to read to children?*
- *What are some ways to get children to read?*

Reading at different ages

- *What types of reading do you enjoy now?*
- *How do reading habits change as people get older?*

Reading and technology

- *How has technology affected people's reading habits?*
- *Do you think books will become obsolete in the future? Explain your answer.*

Writing Test

Time: 1 hour 40 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper contains two (2) tasks and comprises three (3) pages.
2. Answer all questions.
3. You are advised to divide your time suitably between the two tasks. You are also advised to plan carefully and write a draft before writing your final answer. Use the blank pages of the answer book for planning notes and first drafts if you need to.

Task 1

Study the situation described below. Then write the required response by selecting and re-organising information from the box. You may also need to add ideas of your own if they are relevant to the situation.

Situation

You write articles for your neighbourhood newsletter. The editor has asked you to write an article for the newsletter to explain the concept of an Advance Medical Directive (AMD) to people living in the neighbourhood. She feels that residents in the community need some clarification about the AMD as many of them think they have to make an AMD.

Your article will be 200-300 words long. Select information from the text in the box below and re-write it to serve your purpose, but do not copy sentences or parts of sentences from the given text.

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Advance Medical Directive

What is it?

An Advance Medical Directive (AMD) is a legal document that you sign in advance to inform the doctor treating you (in the event you become terminally ill and unconscious) that you do not want any extraordinary life-sustaining treatment to be used to prolong your life. Signing the AMD gives us the power to determine, when we are well and of sound mind, what treatment should be given to us if and when we can no longer decide for ourselves.

Why is it important?

Some terminally ill patients:

- May want to die at home spending the last moments with friends and relatives
- May not want to be hooked on to machines in an intensive care unit in hospital
- May be unable to express their wishes at that time and may want to be spared further suffering and be allowed to die naturally, in peace and with dignity.

The law in Singapore allows Singaporeans who wish to make an advance medical directive to do so. The AMD Act was passed in Parliament in May 1996.

Do I have to make an AMD?

Making an AMD is a voluntary decision. It is entirely up to you whether you wish to make one. In fact, it is a criminal offence for any person to force you to make one against your will.

Task 2

Imagine you are a student who has been asked to write a response to the question below. Your response (about 450 words) may be selected for publication in the school newsletter.

Some education experts believe that assigning daily homework to primary school students may do more harm than good. Do you agree or disagree?

Present your opinion with support which shows you have considered at least one opposing view on the issue.