

Spoken English for Work (SEW)

Performance descriptors

These performance descriptors are used for the assessment of all tasks of the exams at all levels. While, of necessity, the descriptors have to be generic in nature, it is important to note that examiners use them with reference to the requirements of the particular task and take into account the SEW level at which the candidate is being assessed.

Band	Task fulfilment
A	<p>The candidate's contributions are very effective, clearly comprehensible, highly appropriate and obviously fulfil all requirements of the task. Where required, the candidate achieves a comprehensive and concise outcome to all components of the task. There is comprehensive coverage of the communicative skills, functions and language items of the level. These items are used with consistency and with a high level of accuracy and appropriacy. Any inaccuracies which occur rarely impede the overall communication of meaning. The interaction proceeds smoothly, with the candidate contributing promptly and fluently.</p>
B	<p>The candidate's contributions are generally effective, comprehensible, appropriate and adequately fulfil all requirements of the task. Where required, the candidate achieves a generally clear and reasonably comprehensive outcome to all components of the task. There is good coverage of the communicative skills, functions and language items of the level. There is evidence of a good level of accuracy and appropriacy in the use of the language items although this may not be maintained throughout the task. Inaccuracies do occur and at times they may affect the communication of meaning. The interaction generally progresses well but the flow may be affected by some hesitancy.</p>
C	<p>The candidate's contributions are moderately effective, comprehensible and appropriate and partially fulfil the task. Where required, the candidate achieves a satisfactory outcome to the task, although not all components may be addressed. There is coverage of the communicative skills, functions and language items of the level though this may be characterised by the provision of only isolated samples. There is some control over the accuracy and appropriacy of the use of the language items of the level. Inaccuracies can affect the communication of meaning and require remedial action. The flow of the interaction may be halted by hesitancy, requests for repetition or pauses while searching for language. The candidate may need some support.</p>
D	<p>The candidate's contributions are very limited, lack comprehensibility and appropriacy and, although there is some attempt at the task, this is not fulfilled even with support. Where an outcome is required, the candidate partially addresses some components of the task but these contributions are unclear and vague. There is very little evidence of coverage of the communicative skills, functions and language items of the level. Inaccuracies and inappropriacies are highly evident and cause communication breakdown. Lack of understanding and severe hesitation impede communication and prevent the interaction from proceeding as required.</p>