

Communication Skills

Qualification Specifications for
graded and certificate exams
from 2020

Grade 8 (individual & group) - Task 3 (individual) / Task 2 (group)

Requirements

The candidate(s) presents an overview of a contentious issue of their own choice from current affairs, social media or politics to discuss, and explains both sides of the argument to the examiner.

Guidance

The aim of this task is to assess the candidate's ability to:

- understand and convey arguments related to an issue in a balanced, concise and perceptive manner
- engage spontaneously in discussion
- deliver a response that shows the development of ideas
- respond to questions in a way that demonstrates an ability to listen and understand the issues involved.

Candidates should begin by introducing the overview, providing details of what is going to be discussed and argued. This could be for example:

Commuters on trains and buses should always be required to give up their seats to people in need

In this section candidates should include their rationale for presenting this topic. **Why is this an important issue to discuss? / Why has this become an issue?** *e.g. trains have become more crowded; more people are being encouraged to travel by public transport rather than driving to help combat global warming*

This would then be followed by the main body of the argument. For this, candidates should consider:

- **The arguments for and against the issue and implications** *e.g. it is difficult to tell when someone needs a seat; concerns about causing offence to someone who may not need a seat; suppose the person sitting down needs the seat just as much? - Who decides whose is the greater need?*
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- **Examples to support the argument**

- **The protagonists involved** – e.g. *Train companies; members of the public; government; transport police; commuters; disability organisations (including those with 'invisible' disabilities) etc.*

In preparation for the discussion with the examiner, the candidate should consider possible resolutions to the issue.

Ideas for topics

For ideas for topics, candidates could draw on:

- a subject that they are studying in class
- an area of concern related to an out-of-school organisation that they are a member of
- an area of concern from a sphere that the candidate may wish to move into

Some examples of other topics could be:

- Should hospital treatment be means tested?
- Is imprisonment the right form of punishment for some crimes?
- Do we need more legislation and censorship for children's online safety?