

Заглавие документа: Taking the Oral English Examination: Tips for Students / А.О. Долгова // Личность – слово – социум: материалы 9-й Междунар. науч.-практич. конф., Минск, 29-30 апреля 2009 г.: в 2 ч. / Институт совр. знаний им. А.М. Широкова; редкол.: В.В. Фалалеев [и др.]. – Минск, 2009. – Ч. 2.: С. 126–128.

Авторы: Dolgova, Anna Olegovna

Тема: Методика преподавания иностранных языков, английский язык

Дата публикации: 30-Сен-2009

Аннотация: Даны советы студентам, сдающим устный экзамен по английскому языку. Показано, как подготовиться к экзамену, как вести себя до экзамена, на экзамене и после него.

Текст:

Dolgova Anna Olegovna

(Belorussian State University, Minsk, Belarus)

TAKING THE ORAL ENGLISH EXAMINATION: TIPS FOR STUDENTS

The best thing you can do to prepare for the oral English exam is to practice examination techniques. That doesn't mean that you think about the exam, but that you actually simulate the exam as often as possible.

Bear in mind that practicing exam techniques requires time. It is inefficient and nerve-racking to try to deal with a great amount of material at the last minute. It really pays if you distribute your revision time in such a way that study does not become a hectic rush. That means you must plan how much time you need to practice for the exam and you must organize things so that your goals can be achieved.

Practicing examination techniques:

The usual examination task is to read, translate and retell a text – a story or an article. Here is the possible approach for you to practice what the exam will require you to do.

Step 1. Look at the general meaning of the text. Try to find out what the story/article is about without reading the text line by line. Highlight important words or phrases in the text or write them out on a sheet of paper.

Step 2. Read the text carefully. Pay attention to numbers and dates, international words and proper names (they provide certain information). Make notes if necessary.

Step 3. If you're allowed to use a dictionary, check up unknown words in it. If not, try to figure out the meaning of unknown words from the context or on the basis of the meaning of the words which are familiar to you.

Step 4. With the help of your notes go over in your mind what you are going to say. Do not try to remember the whole text word by word, it's necessary to retell everything you've understood in the written text. Avoid dealing with a problem on a very abstract level; try to find concrete examples [1, p. 103-104].

Step 5. While rendering the text do not forget to use special constructions such as:

1. *The title of the text is ...*
2. *The author of the text is .../ The text is written by ...*
3. *The main topic of the text is... / The main idea of the paragraph is...*
4. *The text is about.../ The text is devoted to.../ The text deals with...*
5. *According to the text ...*
6. *The text is divided into 3 parts. The first part shows... The second part presents... The third part concentrates on ...*

7. *(Further) the text goes on to say that...*
8. *At the end of the text... / Finally.../ In conclusion...*
9. *The text is completed by figures and tables / The text contains figures and tables.*
10. *I found the text interesting (important, useful, of no value, too hard to understand) [2, p. 149].*

Some minutes before the examination:

Think positively. This can be achieved through various means, e.g. by remembering an event, in which you did very well – this could be an examination, a sports competition, or just a moment in which you were calm and could really feel all your potential and your abilities. Remembering such a positive situation and “putting yourself mentally into it again” helps you to get in contact with your resources.

Breathe deeply and slowly: this will bring more oxygen into your brain and helps you to concentrate and to remember better what you have learnt [4].

During the examination:

Speak clearly and at a natural speed.

Keep eye contact with the team of examiners.

When you are interrupted make sure you understand what you have been asked. If you are in doubt, ask the examiner to repeat the question or tell him/her what you do not understand about it:

1. *Pardon?*
2. *I beg your pardon?*
3. *I'm sorry I didn't hear...*
4. *I'm sorry. What did you say?*
5. *What was the first word?*
6. *Would you repeat what you said?*

7. *I'm sorry, would you mind repeating ..., please?*
8. *Will you (kindly) repeat your question?*
9. *(It's a pity) I don't understand your question. Please repeat it, etc.*

When an examiner gives a personal opinion, comment on this from your own personal point of view, even if your opinion differs from the examiner's one. You can use the following expressions [3, p. 287-290]:

Agreeing	Disagreeing	Saying you are sure	Saying you are not sure
<i>That's quite right.</i> <i>That's true.</i> <i>Yes, I agree...</i> <i>I absolutely agree.</i> <i>I can't help thinking the same.</i> <i>That's what I was thinking.</i> <i>Too true.</i> <i>Well, that's the thing.</i> <i>I agree entirely.</i> <i>I agree absolutely with...</i> <i>I'm of exactly the same opinion.</i> <i>My own opinion is exactly the same.</i>	<i>I don't agree.</i> <i>I'm not sure in fact.</i> <i>I don't know about it.</i> <i>I disagree, I'm afraid.</i> <i>That's wrong.</i> <i>I don't think that's right.</i> <i>I can't agree.</i> <i>That's not the way I see it.</i> <i>I'm afraid I entirely disagree with you.</i> <i>I can't say that I share your view.</i> <i>I see things rather differently.</i>	<i>I'm sure.</i> <i>I'm quite sure.</i> <i>I'm absolutely sure / certain.</i> <i>I'm fairly sure.</i> <i>I have no doubt.</i> <i>I'm a hundred per cent certain.</i> <i>There's very little doubt in my mind.</i> <i>There's no little doubt in my mind.</i> <i>I'm quite convinced.</i> <i>It's quite possible.</i> <i>It's probable.</i> <i>It looks possible.</i>	<i>Sorry, I'm not sure.</i> <i>I'm not really sure.</i> <i>I can't say for certain.</i> <i>There's some doubt in my mind.</i> <i>It's not at all certain.</i>

After the examination:

- Take time to relax before you start preparing for the next exam.
- Get some fresh air and food.
- Concentrate on the next exam and think how you might improve your exam technique.

- Always think positively and don't forget to smile! [5]

Literature

1. Настольная книга преподавателя иностранного языка: Справ. пособие / Е.А. Маслыко [и др.]. – Минск: Высш. шк., 1992. – 448 с.
2. Make your Way / R. Davis [et al.] – Wien: Paedagogischer Verlag GmbH, 1995. – 151 p.
3. Maslyko, E.A. (1990) Communicating while Teaching / Learning English / E.A. Maslyko. – Минск: Высш. шк., 1990. – 320 с.
4. Noriega, L. Some Advise on Examination Technique / L. Noriega [Electronic resource]. – 2004. – Mode of access: www.soc.staffs.ac.uk/lan1/exam.pdf. – Date of access: 05.02.2009.
5. Revision Tips [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <http://www.cambridgestudents.org.uk/examtime/revisiontips>. – Date of access: 05.02.2009.