

Parent's Briefing for English and Mother Tongue Oral Exam

Important dates to note

- Internal Oral Examinations:
- 6/4 (Thur) 4E/5NA/4NA EL Oral Exam D1
- 12/4 (Wed) 4E/5NA/4NA EL Oral Exam D2
- 19/4 (Wed) 4E/5NA/4NA MT Oral Exam D1
- 20/4 (Thur) 4E/5NA/4NA MT Oral Exam D2

Important dates to note

- National O Level MTL Oral Examination dates:
5 July to 17 July
- National N Level EL Oral Examination dates:
6 July to 13 July
- National O level HMTL Oral Examination dates:
24 July to 31 July
- National N level MTL Oral Examination dates:
1 Aug to 4 Aug
- National O Level EL Oral Examination dates:
14 Aug to 28 Aug

O/N level English Exam Syllabus

Paper	Sections	Marks	Weightage
Paper 1	Section A – Editing Section B – Situational Writing Section C – Continuous Writing	10 marks 30 marks 30 marks	35% (total 70 marks)
Paper 2	Section A – Visual Text Section B – Narrative Text Comprehension Section C – Expository Text Comprehension	5 marks 20 marks 25 marks	35% (total 50 marks)
Paper 3	Listening	30 marks	10%
Paper 4	Oral a) Reading Aloud b) Spoken Interaction	10 marks 20 marks	20% (total 30 marks)

NT Level English Exam Syllabus

Paper	Description	Marks	Weightage	
Paper 1	Writing Section: Functional and Guided Writing	60	30%	
Paper 2	Language Use and Comprehension	80	40%	
Paper 3	Listening	20	10%	
Paper 4	Oral Communication a) Reading Aloud b) Spoken Interaction	Total: 40 15 25	20%	

Paper 4 – Oral Examination

- The two parts in this paper are thematically linked.
- Candidates are given 10 minutes to prepare and the examination will be a total of about 20 minutes.
- Part 1: **Reading Aloud** - 10 mks (E/NA), 15 mks (NT)
- Candidates read aloud a short text.
- Part 2: **Spoken Interaction** - 20 mrks (E/NA), 25 mks (NT)
- Candidates engage in a discussion with the
- examiners on a topic based on a visual stimulus.

General Rubrics

- **Pronunciation and Articulation**
 - accuracy, clarity
- **Rhythm and Fluency**
 - appropriate pace, stress
- **Awareness of Purpose, Audience, Context**

Strategies for Reading Aloud

- Clarity – pronunciation, volume
- Fluency – well-paced
- Engagement and expression – intonation
- Important for students to pay attention to pronunciation of word beginnings and endings
- Important for students to read expressively and vary their tone – plan which words to emphasise on, how to use pauses

General Rubrics

- **Personal Response**
 - considered, developed, coherent response
- **Clarity of Expression**
 - appropriate range of vocabulary & structures, pronunciation
- **Engagement**
 - sustained discussion, introduction of new ideas

Strategies for Spoken Interaction

- Listen to the question carefully and remember the question
- Remember to make clear links to the question
- Share personal opinion and substantiate with examples from personal experience, relevant general knowledge and current affairs
- Explore different points of view

Strategies for Spoken Interaction

- Have three points in answering each question, use the **PEEL** method to structure their answer
- To provide more points for elaboration, consider the alternative view point but take care not to contradict yourself

Sample Paper (2015 Day 1)

Giving a speech/talk

PART 1 – Reading Aloud

As captain of the school senior basketball team, you have been asked to help with the training of the junior team. The team has lost most of its games recently. The basketball coach has asked you to talk to the team to give them some encouragement. This is what you say.

Hi, everyone. Let me introduce myself. I'm Alex and I've been playing basketball since I first came to this school. I'm here today because I want to help you to do better next season. I know the team hasn't been doing so well recently but you can turn that around. I've always really enjoyed playing basketball and I'm sure you will too if you start to win a little bit more often.

So, what can you do to improve? Well basically, you've just got to aim to be fitter, faster and, of course, more skilled than the opposition. And you can do it, but you do need to be committed and attend the regular training sessions to work on your skills.

It's a long time since I was in the junior team, I know, but I remember our team not doing brilliantly in the first couple of seasons. Here's what our coach told us when we were feeling down:

Quote

“Winning is a state of mind. All the best teams believe they can win. Individually, you may not be the best, strongest or fittest players, but wanting to win and believing you can do it – that's what makes the difference.’

While Reading, students should be aware of:

Purpose

Audience

Context

Culture

How can you help?

- When speaking to your child, observe the use of good spoken English as a role model
- Encourage your child to watch news – CNA, News on Channel 5
- As your child is watching / reading up on Mother Tongue news to prepare for MTL Oral, they can also use this knowledge for English
- Encourage them to do mindmaps on common oral topics and write down what they have watched/listened to, to help them increase general knowledge and see different perspectives. Useful for composition also.
- Encourage your child to watch TED talks - informative on common oral topics and interesting (10mins or so).

Thank you