



Group
Speaking

ESB Level 1 Award in Group Speaking



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Introduction

ESB promotes and assesses spoken English in a wide range of educational centres: primary and secondary schools, further and higher educational establishments, universities, prisons, adult learning centres and in the training sectors of industry and business.

ESB offers a full range of progressive qualifications, recognised and mapped to the relevant common curriculum requirements.

ESB is a charitable organisation which was founded in 1953 to pioneer the practice and assessment of oral communication and to recognise its fundamental importance to education.

ESB has grown into an international organisation assessing extensively in the UK, Europe, the Far East and West Indies.



Qualification Profile

Unit Aim - The overall aim of the qualification is to promote clear, effective, confident oral communication and responses within a participating group of at least 6 children. Graded Assessments are mapped to the statutory requirements for Spoken Language in the National Curriculum.

Qualification Level 1 Award in Group Speaking	
Assessment method	External Assessment
Grading	Pass, Good Pass, Merit, Merit Plus, Distinction- all endorsed
Accreditation Information	Ofqual Start Date: 1 st April 2016 Number: 601/8483/8
Total Group Time	20 Minutes
Credit value	2
Guided learning hours (GLH)	15-18
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	25
Age range	10-14
Target Group	Indicative age is 9-14, Years 5 -9, but this is not prescriptive; the assessment may be taken by younger or older candidates
Quality Assurance	To ensure quality assurance throughout the assessment process, ESB carries out moderation and standardisation activities with its assessment team.
Prior knowledge, skills and understanding	This qualification is standalone. There is no prior learning , other qualification or units a learner must have completed prior to enrolling on ESB Level 1 Award in Group Speaking.

Group Speaking Level 1 – All tasks take place as a participating group with a minimum of six candidates. All sections are compulsory by the Group.

Group Speaking Level 1 20 Minutes	Section 1: Speaking from memory (not self composition) Time: 8-9 Minutes Own choice. Speak from memory a poem chosen by the group. Say the title and the poet's name first and give a detailed reason for the choice.	Section 2: Telling a story Time: 8-9 Minutes Own choice of prose from memory. Say the title and author's name first and explain what makes the story interesting.	Section 3: Listening and Responding Time: 3 Minutes At the end of the presentation be prepared to answer brief questions from the assessor on one of the group's choices.
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Glossary	
Level	Level is an indication of the demand of the learning experience, the depth and/or complexity of achievement and independence in achieving the learning outcomes. There are 9 levels of achievement within the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).
Credit value	This is the number of credits awarded upon successful achievement of all unit outcomes. Credit is a numerical value that represents a means of recognising, measuring, valuing and comparing achievement.
Guided learning hours (GLH)	GLH is an estimate of the time allocated to teach, instruct, assess and support learners throughout a unit. Learner-initiated private study, preparation and marking of formative assessment is not taken into account.
Total qualification time (TQT)	TQT is an estimate of the number of hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation and study and assessment time which is directed by the teacher but not supervised.
Learning outcomes	The learning outcomes are the most important component of the unit. They set out what is expected in terms of knowledge, understanding and practical ability as a result of the learning process. Learning outcomes are the results of learning.
Assessment criteria	Assessment criteria set out what is required, in terms of achievement, to meet a learning outcome. The assessment criteria and learning outcomes are the components that inform the learning and assessment that should take place.
Indicative content	Provides guidance and advice on the key words.

Qualification Progression

ESB Entry Level Award in Group Speaking (Entry 2)

- Usually taken in Year Groups 1 -3
- Indicative Ages 6 - 8

ESB Entry Level Award in Group Speaking (Entry 3)

- Usually taken in Year Groups 2 - 5
- Indicative Ages 7- 10

ESB Level 1 Award in Group Speaking

- Usually taken in Year Group 5 - 9
- Indicative Ages 10 - 14

Assessment Guidance

The ESB Group Speaking Grades have been created for a number of learners and are designed to encourage an imaginative and enjoyable exploration of verse and prose in a group setting. Although there is a minimum requirement of six learners there is no upper limit and ESB encourages whole group entries of different ages and abilities. These grades are a good introduction to ESB's Graded Speaking Examinations and help to build confidence and team work as well as enabling progression to our other Junior and Senior Grades.

The qualification is externally assessed and quality assured by ESB. The assessment is based on each individual meeting the learning outcomes and assessment criteria. The assessment process and outcome is independent but the tutor is encouraged to sit in as part of the audience.

The assessor assesses each group in turn, in the presence of the other groups, as appropriate. The assessor provides general oral feedback to the group at assessment. The ESB assessor also provides a specific written report for each group on each aspect of the assessment, with guidance, where needed, for future progress. These reports are returned to the centre following assessment.

Qualification Criteria

Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>		Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>
1	Introduce and recite a poem (not a self composition) from memory	1.1 Make an appropriate choice and theme for the group 1.2 Introduce the poem with detailed reasons for the choice 1.3 Commit the words to memory 1.4 Use vocal and facial expression 1.5 Share the mood and spirit of the poem harmoniously and imaginatively 1.6 Interact with the whole group
2	Introduce and share a story or piece of prose from memory	2.1 Make a challenging and appropriate choice of prose and theme for the group 2.2 Introduce the story detailing what makes it interesting for the group 2.3 Commit the words to memory 2.4 Use vocal and facial expression 2.5 Share with the audience imaginatively using appropriate staging
3	Speak clearly and with projection	3.1 Speak using variation of pitch 3.2 Speak using variation of pace 3.3 Speak using variation of pause 3.4 Speak using variation of tone and colour 3.5 Speak using variation of volume 3.6 Speak using good projection 3.7 Share voices harmoniously
4	Be able to answer questions about both of the choices in detail	4.1 Give detailed answers 4.2 Give lively answers 4.3 Share own thoughts and opinions 4.4 Behave positively and courteously as a group throughout

Guidance for Teachers

1. Choose a consistent theme

When preparing for the assessment, we recommend discussing different themes with the group and encouraging them to choose a theme they are really interested in. There are no restrictions in terms of choosing a theme, but examples you may like consider include: *The Senses; The Elements; Past, Present and Future; Around the World; Earth, Wind and Fire; Faraway Places; Morning, Noon and Night; Planes, Trains and Automobiles; Town and Country; The Ancient World; and Money.*

2. The group will be able to introduce and recite a poem from memory related to the chosen theme

Help the group choose a poem that they will enjoy performing (not a self-composition). This poem (narrative, lyrical, dramatic or humorous) should be flexible enough to incorporate many different voices. We recommend reading the poem a few times before they practise it, so they have a good understanding of its flow.

When the group practises the poem, place pupils in smaller groups, so that you can create an orchestra of different voices! Play with the use of repetition and include changes of pace, pitch, pause and volume. In addition, encourage gesture and movement where appropriate. However, try not to create unnecessary groups. As a rule of thumb, we suggest that one small grouping of pupils would speak a direct and indirect speech in a line. Using the example of Little Red Riding Hood, a pupil/smaller group would continuously say: ““ I’ll huff and I’ll puff and I’ll blow your house down” said the wolf”.

Take care not to interpret ‘Group Speaking’ to mean ‘Unison Speaking’ as the effect of a whole class speaking a whole poem together can feel monotonous. Subsequently, look for the natural divisions within the poem. Is it: A question and answer style?

A narrative with a refrain?

An obvious division with a number of different characters?

A sequential story which will require a sequence of groups to tell it, one after the other?

A poem that requires an accumulation of voices to match the cumulative effect of the poem?

In effect, the divisions in the poem should shape the arrangement of the pupils into smaller groupings. Returning to the orchestra analogy, don't be afraid to use your hands to 'conduct' the group to indicate the natural flow of the words, in order to avoid an over labouring of the metre.

Finally, don't forget the introduction to the poem! Encourage the group to say why they like it, and what makes interesting to them. This will help the group give an enthusiastic introduction, which captures the attention of listeners. **Please provide a copy of the poem for the assessor.**

3. The group will be able to introduce and retell a story from memory related to the chosen theme

Help the group choose a piece of prose that is interesting to the listener and at a key point in the story. We suggest a piece of prose that contains a wide variety of characters and different voices that the group can bring to life, as well as the narration. Examples of prose could include a retelling of one of Grimm's Fairy Tales, tales from The Arabian Nights, Canterbury Tales or Shakespeare.

Allow the group to use improvisation to help them devise their own interpretation of the story. Look at the possibility of using props, subtle costumes (hats, canes and scarves), percussion instruments and movement to bring the piece to life. However, avoid using masks as this limits vocal projection and hinders facial expression/audience contact.

4. Speak clearly and loudly

Ask the group to project their voices firmly and confidently to a point at the back of the room. In particular, we encourage the group to breathe from the diaphragm as good breath control will help the voice to carry. The aim is for the group to speak clearly and with enthusiasm, varying the pitch, pace, tone and volume as a way to make the delivery interesting. But, don't be tempted to increase the pace or include a sudden burst of volume if it's not related to the piece.

Remember to include use of pause for effects (such as suspense) and pick out key phrases to emphasise. However, don't promote over-emphasis for effect. Allow the thought and feeling to be conveyed over whole phrases, not isolated words.

5. Use of facial expression

Play some games to encourage facial expression. A particularly good game is to choose an emotion (such as excited, nervous or grumpy) and ask the group to express these emotions through facial expression on a scale from 1-10. You can then ask the group to use these facial expressions to the poetry/prose speaking to help convey the mood and meaning to the audience.

6. Encourage the group to work as a team

Divide the group up into smaller groups (say 3 or 4) to discuss their chosen theme, poetry, and piece of prose. Hold a Q&A session on what makes this a good theme/poem/prose and encourage pupils to ask open-ended questions. This will help prepare the group for questions from the assessor and help them give natural and enthusiastic responses.

Reasonable Adjustments

Assessment should be a fair test of learners' skills and knowledge; for some learners the usual format of assessment may not be suitable or accessible. Learners with specific needs can apply for reasonable adjustments to be made to the examination. In order to make an application for a reasonable adjustment, centres should email customer@esbuk.org as soon as they book an examination. For further information about our policy in relation to access arrangements, please visit: <https://esbuk.org/web/app/uploads/2019/12/ESB-POL-10-Reasonable-Adjustments-and-Special-Considerations-Policy-v4.pdf>

Grading Criteria

Each assessment section (e.g. the *Section 1 Speaking from Memory*) contains a set of grading criteria that are mapped to the learning outcomes and assessment criteria. Each criterion has a numerical weighting that is determined by the worth of the assessment section (e.g. *Section 1 Speaking from Memory* is worth 42% of the assessment, *Section 2 Telling a Story* is worth 42% and *Listening and Responding* is worth 16%). As part of the development process, subject specialists agreed on the relative weightings of criteria and sections.

During an assessment, an ESB assessor will review a learner's performance in all three sections. The assessor will apply the grading criterion that most accurately matches the learner's performance in that section. For instance, the assessor will examine the learner's performance in relation to each criterion (e.g. *Voice/Delivery* in the *Section 1 Speaking from Memory*) and allocate one of the following grades:

- Unsuccessful
- Pass
- Good Pass
- Merit
- Merit Plus
- Distinction.

In all three sections, each criterion is equally weighted. For example, in *Section 1*, the criterion for *Interpretation in Merit* contains an equal weighting to the criterion for *Group Collaboration in Merit*. When a learner has finished the assessment, an ESB assessor will complete a report form which will use the weightings to calculate an overall grade. Candidates can attain one of the following overall grades:

- Unsuccessful
- Pass
- Good Pass
- Merit
- Merit Plus
- Distinction

Our assessments aim to promote clear, effective and confident oral communication amongst all learners. The assessment model is compensatory. If a learner is *Unsuccessful* in a specific criteria or a number of criterion, they can receive an overall *Pass* if they achieve a higher grade in a different criterion or group of criteria.

Section 1 Time: 8-9 Minutes	Pass	Good Pass	Merit	Merit Plus	Distinction
Choice of Material and Introduction	The group gives title and poet. Appropriate choice.	The group gives title and poet with brief reasons for choice or theme. A good choice of poem and theme with some opportunity for effective grouping and allocation of voices.	The group gives title and poet with fuller reasons for choice and theme and some reference to the text. A thoughtful choice with good opportunity for effective grouping and allocation of voices.	The group gives title and poet with detailed reasons for choice and theme with clear reference to the text. A challenging choice with excellent opportunity for effective grouping and allocation of voices.	The group gives title and poet with detailed reasons for choice and theme with enthusiasm and clear reference to the text. An imaginative choice allowing for an excellent opportunity for effective grouping, allocation of voices and inclusivity.
Memory	The group remembers lines with several prompts.	The group remembers lines with one prompt.	The group remembers lines securely. No prompts required, but some hesitation.	The group remembers lines securely with clear concentration.	The group remembers lines with total security and fluid delivery.
Voice/Delivery	The group is beginning to use a range of vocal dynamics.	The group uses a range of vocal dynamics some of the time.	The group uses a range of vocal dynamics with either some technical or artistic control some of the time.	The group uses a range of vocal dynamics with some technical and artistic control and some appropriate facial expression most of the time.	The group uses a range of vocal dynamics with appropriate technical and artistic control and appropriate facial expression throughout.
Interpretation	The group concentrates on metre or structure.	The group is beginning to convey mood of the piece.	The group conveys the mood of the piece with understanding.	The mood of the piece is conveyed with understanding and enthusiasm by the group.	The mood of the piece is conveyed with understanding, enthusiasm and an imaginative delivery by the entire group.

Section 1 Time: 8-9 Minutes	Pass	<i>Good Pass</i>	Merit	<i>Merit Plus</i>	Distinction
Communication	The group shows some audience awareness.	The group is mostly audience aware.	The group is audience aware.	The group is audience aware and makes good eye contact.	The whole group is sensitive to the audience and engages them throughout.
Group Collaboration	The group is beginning to focus.	The group works with focus some of the time.	The group works with focus most of the time.	The group works with focus all of the time.	The whole group works with total focus throughout and shows excellent team effort.

Section 2 Time: 8-9 Minutes	Pass	Good Pass	Merit	Merit Plus	Distinction
Choice of Material and Introduction	The group gives the title and author. Appropriate choice.	The group gives the title and author with brief explanation of choice and theme. A good choice of prose and theme with some opportunity for effective grouping and allocation of voices.	The group gives the title and author with fuller explanation of choice and links between themes and sets story in context. A thoughtful choice with good opportunity for effective grouping and allocation of voices.	The group gives the title and author with detailed explanation and reference to choice and theme as well as setting story in clear context. A challenging choice with excellent opportunity for effective grouping and allocation of voices.	The group gives the title and author with detailed explanations of choice and theme as well as setting the story in context enthusiastically. An imaginative choice allowing for an excellent opportunity for effective grouping, allocation of voices and inclusivity.
Memory	The group remembers words with several prompts.	The group remembers words with one prompt.	The group remembers words securely. No prompts required, but some hesitation.	The group remembers words securely with clear concentration.	The group remembers words with total security and fluid delivery.
Voice/Delivery	Audible voices with clarity of diction.	Audible voices with clarity of diction and projection.	Audible voices with clarity of diction, projection together with variation of pace, pitch, tone and colour.	Audible voices with clarity of diction, good projection together with variation of pace, pitch, tone and colour and facial expression.	Audible and lively voices harmoniously blended throughout the performance using a variety of vocal range and appropriate facial expression.
Interpretation	Meaning and mood are conveyed by the group appropriately.	Meaning and mood are conveyed by the group with some special effects to enhance the piece appropriately.	Meaning and mood are conveyed by the group effectively with special effects and good staging.	The whole group retells the story enthusiastically bringing it to life, with effective staging and some interesting special effects.	The whole group retells the story enthusiastically bringing it to life, with effective staging, interesting special effects and imaginative allocation of parts.
Communication	The group shows some audience awareness.	The group is mostly audience aware.	The group is audience aware.	The group is audience aware and makes good eye contact.	The whole group is sensitive to the audience and engages them consistently throughout.
Group Collaboration	The group demonstrates a collaborative approach.	The group has begun to collaborate together.	The group works with collaboration most of the time.	The group works with good collaboration, timing and with sensitivity.	The whole group works with total collaboration and cohesion throughout and shows excellent team work.

Section 3 Time: 3 Minutes	Pass	<i>Good Pass</i>	Merit	<i>Merit Plus</i>	Distinction
Listening Skills	Some of the group listen and understand most questions asked.	Most of the group listen and understand most questions asked.	The group listens and understands all questions asked.	The group listens with concentration and understands all questions.	The group listens with full concentration and understands all questions fully.
Responding to questions	Only a few members of the group respond to questions asked with brief responses.	Several members of the group respond to questions with good answers.	Most of the group are keen to respond with thoughtful answers.	The group is responsive to questions asked with full answers.	The group is keen to answer questions asked with enthusiasm and full detailed answers.
Taking part in the group	Some of the group participate.	Most of the group participate.	All of the group participates.	The group participates with enthusiasm.	The group participates with enthusiasm and sensitivity to other group members.

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