Top Tips before exam day
Top Tips

1. Be confident and exam ready by looking at the **practice papers**, listening to the **audio samples** and our **webinars for candidates**. Find out exactly what you need to do in each part of the exam.

2. To prepare for part 4b, ask a friend to listen to you while you talk about a typical topic from the practice papers. Can you talk about your topic for the required time?

3. Ask your friend to be the interlocutor and record your conversation on your phone to practise timings for each part of the test. Try to keep going.

4. Ask your friend to read out some instructions from a practice paper and then you say what you heard - did you miss anything?

5. Practise talking on your own about a topic to prepare for part 4b: before you start, make some brief notes and decide what you want to say and in which order.

6. For part 1 when you give personal information, think of typical questions about the example topics in the practice papers, then try answering them with a friend. When you have time, do more practice with other everyday topics for your level (A1 A2 or B1) in our Speaking and Listening Qualification Handbook.

7. Record yourself answering questions about personal information on your phone - ask a friend to listen back and tell you about the language you used – did you speak clearly? Did you give full answers?

8. In part 2 when you do the roleplays with the interlocutor, remember you should give full answers, 2 turns at least. Why not try a situation from the practice papers with your friend, in timed conditions - use your phone alarm or watch to help you keep going?
Get to know the listening tasks by looking at the examples in the practice papers. Note the different things you need to do in each part.

Read instructions and questions for reading tasks very carefully and focus on key words to help you find what you are looking for in the texts.

Practise the text types you will find in the writing tasks and be aware of key features required.

Do some timed practice for the reading and writing parts of the exam to see what you may need to focus on first, on exam day.

In the reading and listening sections if you can’t decide your answer, then try to eliminate the answers that seem irrelevant.

In the speaking exam try to avoid hesitations and pauses. Use fillers while you are thinking about what to say, e.g. ‘Well…’, ‘Let me think…’, ‘I mean …’

Read instructions for the reading tasks very carefully so, for example, if you are asked to complete gaps with a certain number of words, try to do this - stick to the word limit.

When you read a text try to focus on the general meaning to start with.

When you are doing listening and reading sections don’t worry about unknown words - try to guess meaning from the context.

When you are speaking or writing in the exams try to use a range of words, so not just very common general ones like ‘good’ (or ‘bad’, ‘big’ etc) but use a range of more specific and descriptive words like ‘interesting’, ‘amazing’ etc instead of ‘good’ for example.