

Oral exam topics

1. Personal characteristics

- describing appearance
- describing character and personality
- the ideal man and woman
- fashion, trends
- beauty care, cosmetics

2. Friends and relationships

- friendship
- fellow students and colleagues
- partners

3. Family

- family models (only child, large family, single-parent families)
- division of tasks within the family
- generations living together

4. Man and society

- social benefits (pension, health insurance, unemployment benefit)
- social movements (NGOs, trade unions, clubs, associations)
- public safety, crime and criminal investigation
- unemployment

5. Place of living

- candidate's flat/house
- furnishings, pieces of furniture
- household chores and appliances
- flat-related costs, maintenance
- the ideal home

6. Housing

- living in the city or in the country
- living conditions (own property, rented accommodation, lodgings, hostel)
- flat or house
- neighbourhood

7. Holidays and celebrations

- family celebrations (birthdays, name days, anniversaries)
- Christmas, Easter
- public holidays
- customs and traditions

8. Reading; television, video, cinema

- reading (books, newspapers, libraries, Internet)
- TV, cinema, video
- reading vs TV
- TV vs cinema

9. Culture

- music (listening to music, concerts, opera, playing an instrument)
- theatre
- museums, exhibitions

10. Free time activities

- going out
- parties, balls, festivals
- hobbies
- other ways of recreation

11. Learning, education, the school system

- school system, school types in Hungary
- school system, school types in English-speaking countries
- candidate's school experiences
- tertiary education
- learning outside school: courses, etc
- student exchange programmes, student mobility

12. Learning foreign languages

- the role and importance of foreign languages
- language learning opportunities
- language learning experiences

13. Work and the individual

- working hours (part-time, casual work, shift work, several jobs)
- fashionable jobs / dream jobs
- ways of finding a job
- working abroad (advantages, disadvantages)
- career and/or family

14. Work and society

- job prestige
- unemployment, benefits
- telework
- graduates entering the labour market

15. Sports

- sports facilities
- candidate's sporting activities, favourite sports
- mass sports
- sports events, professionals
- extreme sports

16. Health

- characteristics of a healthy lifestyle
- healthy and unhealthy diet/dishes
- healthcare

17. Illnesses

- common illnesses
- addiction (alcohol, drugs, smoking)
- stress, psychic diseases

18. Services

- catering facilities
- banks
- repair and maintenance
- emergency services (ambulance, police, Automobile Association)

19. Shopping

- everyday shopping
- buying consumer durables
- shopping habits
- sales, discounts
- the role of advertisements
- consumer society

20. Transport

- everyday transport
- public transport in the city
- intercity transport
- individual transport (cars, motorbikes, bicycles)
- public transport problems
- individual transport problems

21. Travelling in Hungary and abroad

- preparations
- favourite destinations
- types of trips (holiday, official, business, study, conferences)
- package tour (advantages, disadvantages)

22. Weather, seasons, environment protection

- environmental problems
- environment protection
- home environment protection (selective waste collection, energy saving at home)
- weather, seasons

23. Telecommunications

- telephones
- computers
- e-mail
- Internet

24. Hungary

- major tourist attractions
- main places of interest
- tourism
- Hungary as a destination

25. English-speaking countries

- general information, personal experiences

Speaking

1. Exchanging personal information

In this part of the exam you will be asked questions which are related to a particular topic. Your answers should reflect your personal views and experiences.

You might be asked questions like these:

Learning languages

- How long have you been learning English?
What aspect of learning English do you enjoy most?
- How do you learn new words?
- Besides a language course, how have you improved your English?
- What is the most difficult part of language learning in your opinion?
Why?
- Have you ever had to use your English in a real-life situation?
(*If yes*) Tell us about it.
(*If not*) In what situations can you imagine using your English to help a foreign visitor in Hungary?
- Apart from English, what would be the most useful language for you to study?
Why?

2. Discussion on a topic stimulated by photographs

You will be given a set of photographs, which illustrates a certain topic. You should talk about the topic on your own for about four to five minutes. You should not describe the photographs in detail; you could develop your talk rather by comparing and contrasting them, commenting on them and raising problems related to them.

Remember that in your talk you have to speak from a general perspective and include the ideas represented by the photographs.

You might be given a set like this:

Sports and games



3. Situation

You are asked to act out a situation. You will be given a card which describes what you have to do. Study the card and begin the conversation.

Buying your first home

(expressing likes and wishes)

Candidate's copy

You have finally saved enough money to buy a flat but you have no time to search for one, so you go to a real estate agency.

Tell the agent (the examiner) what is important to you about the flat regarding its

- location
- size
- arrangement of rooms
- price

The agent starts the conversation.