

Oral exam topics

1. Personal characteristics

- features, personality traits
- the typical man and woman
- the ideal man and woman
- fashion, trends, cosmetics
- beauty care, cosmetic surgery

2. Friends and relationships

- friendship
- fellow students and colleagues
- partners
- alienation

3. Family

- family models
- alternative forms of cohabitation
- demographic trends
- division of tasks within the family
- bringing up children
- generations living together
- old people

4. Man and society

- social allowances: pension, health insurance, unemployment benefit
- social movements
- political system
- multicultural society

5. Social problems

- privileged vs. disadvantaged social groups
- the rich and the poor
- living on the periphery
- role and prestige of the intelligentsia
- unemployment
- aging population
- conformists and deviants
- public safety
- crime and criminal investigation
- migration

6. Place of living, neighborhoods

- interior design, furnishings
- flat-related costs, maintenance
- living in the city or in the country
- the ideal home

7. The housing situation

- living conditions (property, rented accommodation, lodgings, hostel)
- finding a place to live (building, buying, social flats)
- the housing situation in Hungary today
- trends

8. Holidays and celebrations

- family holidays
- public holidays
- religious holidays
- weekdays and holidays
- customs and traditions

9. Free time 1

- free time activities
- trends
- spending free time in a useful way
- free time “industry”
- social life, friends
- man and nature

10. Free time 2

- getting information, being informed
- culture without reading
- media and society
- man and music
- dance as a way of communication
- visual arts

11. Learning, education, the school system

- school system, school types in Hungary
- tertiary education
- language learning experiences, role of foreign languages
- student exchange programmes, student mobility
- equal chances in education
- lifelong learning

12. Work and the individual

- working hours (part-time, occasional jobs, shifts, several jobs, telework)
- ways of finding a job
- working abroad (advantages, disadvantages)
- career and/or family

13. Work and society

- job prestige, fashionable jobs
- unemployment, benefits
- the challenge of our age — self-employed vs. employee
- graduates entering the labour market
- globalisation

14. Sports

- sports facilities, sporting activities
- mass sports/sportsmen
- extreme sports
- dangers of sports
- the role of the state

15. Health

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

16. Illnesses

- common illnesses and their prevention
- addictions (alcohol, drugs, smoking, shopping, computer, TV)
- stress, psychic diseases
- alternative treatments
- the challenged, the disabled
- the role of the state

17. Services

- catering facilities
- banks
- repair of consumer durables
- emergency services

18. Shopping

- buying consumer durables
- where to do the shopping
- shopping habits
- role of advertisements
- consumer society

19. Transport

- public transport in the city
- intercity transport
- individual transport
- public transport problems
- individual transport problems
- transport of the future

20. Travelling in Hungary and abroad

- favourite destinations
- holiday activities
- trends
- travelling in Hungary
- types of trips (holiday, official, business, study, conferences)
- package holidays (advantages, disadvantages)
- language skills and travelling

21. Weather, climate

- change in the climate and its consequences
- natural disasters (prevention, catastrophe management)
- sensitivity to weather

22. Environment protection

- environmental problems
- alternative energy sources
- welfare society and the environment
- responsible individuals

23. Telecommunications

- telephones
- computers
- e-mail
- Internet

24. Science

- scientific developments
- technical developments
- medical treatments and alternative medicine
- gene technology
- space research

25. Hungary

- Hungary as a destination
- major tourist attractions, main places of interest
- tourism as a factor in the economy
- perspectives

26. 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:

Crime

1. Do you think that most people who break the law are criminals?
2. What makes a criminal? What is your idea of justice?
3. Do you agree with the newspaper headline saying, 'Wrongdoing is linked to poverty'?
4. What methods of crime prevention could be effective in combating juvenile crime?
5. Are you for or against capital punishment?

2. Discussion on a topic stimulated by photographs

You are going to be given a set of photographs, which relates to a certain topic. Below the pictures you can find five points. You should choose three of the five points to incorporate in your talk about the topic. The pictures should help you to generate some ideas. Be prepared to speak on your own for about five minutes.

You might be given a set like the one on the facing page.

Science



Discussion on a Topic Stimulated by Photos

Science

Examiner`s copy

Supplementary questions

1. Why do certain countries refuse to introduce GMO-s?
2. Is genetic surgery going to play an important role in medical treatment? In what ways?
3. What are some of the arguments for or against using nuclear energy?
4. Mention some new developments in the car industry.

Candidate`s copy

- GMO-free regions
- gene technology aiding medical treatment
- feasible sources of energy to meet human needs
- world famous Hungarian scientists
- the car of the future

3. Situation

In this part of the examination you will have to play a part in a particular situation. You can have a few minutes to prepare.

Changes at school/work

Candidate's copy

You are a member of the student's union or trade union. Recommend to your Director/Manager (Examiner) several changes to your school/company, and try to persuade him/her about the necessity of the changes. Use the following prompts:

- problems with the building
- studying/working conditions
- free time activities (team-building)
- forums for expressing members' opinion

Examiner

Director/Manager

Possible reactions

- financial constraints
- agree with the reasonable suggestions
- express your concern about discipline problems
- be open to new forums

Functions:

- giving advice
- expressing opinion
- defending arguments
- persuading