

## TOP Scoring Rubric

Score Categories	4	3	2	1
<b>Phonetic &amp; Phonological Competence</b>	Accent not distracting. Pronunciation does not impede communication. Near-native pronunciation.	Accent slightly distracting. Pronunciation rarely or slightly impedes communication. Possible pronunciation errors, but not distracting.	Accent somewhat distracting. Pronunciation somewhat impedes communication. Persistent and frequent errors in pronunciation that distract listeners.	Pronunciation severely impedes communication.
<b>Lexical / Grammatical Competence</b>	Near-native word choice and/or oral grammar. If errors occur they are not very noticeable. Errors do not impede communication.	Some errors but rarely major. Somewhat distracting word choice and/or oral grammar. Appropriate use / range of vocabulary and grammar structure for situation, and errors slightly impede communication.	Grammar errors common in more complex constructions. Some errors in simple constructions. Major and severely distracting word choice and/or oral grammar. Lexical errors somewhat impede communication.	Major and severely distracting word choice and/or oral grammar. Lack of grammar/lexis severely impedes communication. May be satisfactory for very simple communication.
<b>Rhetorical Organization</b>	Excellent overall organization and use of transitions between sentences and topics; effective use of rhetorical questions. Successful macro and micro rhetorical organization. Clearly organized discourse positively contributes to communication.	Good overall organization and use of transitions between ideas/ sentences. Discourse is appropriately organized and structured. Ideas are logically connected to one another with appropriate cohesive devices. Organization does not significantly impede communication.	Minimal overall organization and/or incorrect use of transitions between ideas/ sentences. Discourse not well organized and difficulty articulating main topics and/or subtopics. Errors in use of cohesive devices and organization of ideas somewhat impede communication.	No overall organization and/or ineffective use of transitions between ideas/ sentences. Discourse is generally not organized or structured. Errors in use of cohesive devices and lack of organization of ideas severely impede communication.
<b>Question Handling</b>	Provides substantial and comprehensive responses when appropriate. Clearly restates questions to demonstrate understanding. Provides appropriate answers and develops responses that connect answers to the presentation, and does not diverge from the presentation. Uses appropriate methods to ensure that responses are understood and thus that questions are adequately answered.	Responds appropriately to questions. May ask for clarification. Consistently shows evidence of question comprehension.	Sometimes does not respond appropriately to questions, showing evidence of insufficient question comprehension. Often asks for clarification, even for fairly simple questions. Attempts to answer questions but may provide inappropriate or incomplete responses. Hedges questions.	Unable to understand questions and/ or to answer questions. Often responds inappropriately, offering answers that are not relevant to question. Needs clarification very often, even for basic things.