

# Sprachpraxis English 2 – Oral Exam

*(This document has been compiled and agreed on by all the Sprachpraxis lecturers)*

## Exam format

You and one other student will be assessed by two Sprachpraxis examiners in KW5 Room 4048. You will not be able to choose your examiners, nor the other student to do the exam with. BA and Lehramt students will be examined differently.

### BA students – approximate time (35-40 minutes) plus feedback

- Introductions and general small talk.
- First student gives a 7-minute presentation in English on a topic of their choice.
- Discussion and questions based on the presentation involving all those present, including the other student.
- Switch. Second student gives a 7-minute presentation. Questions/discussion follow.
- Each student will be given individual words or phrases to read aloud. These phrases are designed to focus on specific aspects of English pronunciation.

Exam ends. You will be asked to wait outside briefly while the examiners confer, and then invited back in one at a time to receive your grade and feedback from the examiners.

**Practicalities (BA):** The topic of your presentation is up to you, but **it must not be a topic you have presented during any previous Sprachpraxis course**. The presentation should be well-structured, coherent, and of an appropriate register. No projector is available and you do not need to prepare a handout. You may bring notes, which you will be allowed to refer to during the exam, but you **should not write out a speech in full and you must not simply read from your notes**.

You will be asked to provide the topic of your presentation when you register for a time slot for the exam (see “registration” for more information).

### Lehramt students – approximate time (30 minutes) plus feedback

- Introductions and general small talk.
- First student speaks freely for 2 minutes about one topic chosen from a list of up to five topics provided by examiners. (See below for details of preparation time).
- Discussion about this topic (involving all those present, including other student).
- Switch. Second student speaks freely for 2 minutes about his/her chosen topic. Discussion follows.
- Each student reads aloud a previously unseen passage from an English text. The passage will be around half an A4 page in length.
- Each student will be given individual words or phrases to read aloud. These phrases are designed to focus on specific aspects of English pronunciation.

Exam ends. You will be asked to wait outside briefly while the examiners confer, and then invited back in one at a time to receive your grade and feedback from the examiners.

**Practicalities (Lehramt):** You will be required to report to Room 4048 **one hour before** your oral exam is due to begin. Stuck to the wall beside the door, you will find an envelope with your name on it containing up to five general discussion topics. You may choose **one topic** from this list for your two-minute monologue. Note that your fellow exam candidate will receive a different list of topics, so you need not be concerned about the possibility of both of you choosing the same one. You may then use the time to prepare in any way you wish. You are not required to remain outside the exam room during this time. You are welcome to bring dictionaries or reference works to use during your preparation time, but none will be provided. You may make notes, which you will be allowed to refer to during the exam, but you **should not write out a speech in full and you must not simply read from your notes.**

### Registration (all students)

All oral exams take place in the last week of the semester and sometimes on the Monday of the following week. Register for the exam on HISPOS as you would for any normal exam but **note that the closing date will be around ten days before the first exam date.** After registration has closed, you will be asked to sign up for an oral exam slot via a Doodle poll, the link for which will be sent to your Uni Kassel e-mail account. As stated above, BA students will be asked to indicate the topic of their presentation when they sign up for the time slots.

### Marking criteria

The grade given for the oral exam is a holistic one, meaning many different factors are taken into account to assess the performance as a whole. All students are examined according to a number of language criteria. In addition, students are assessed on the structure and coherence of their presentation/monologue.

#### Examples of the criteria:

- The accuracy and range of vocabulary and grammar
- The fluency and comprehensibility of speech
- The number of individual sound mistakes – pronunciation
- The use of natural features of connected speech
- The use of appropriate register for the situation (semi-formal spoken)