General

The speaking exam includes two parts: sustained monologue and oral interaction. Students take the exam in pairs, formed by the examiner at the moment of the exam on alphabetical basis. For each pair, Student A gives a presentation prepared in advance on a topic of his/her choice, producing some visual support. At the end of the presentation, Student B makes comments and/or asks questions on the content of A’s presentation and A replies. When the interaction is over, the students swap roles. The examiner can take part in the interaction as a moderator, as well as ask questions about the content (including pictures and headlines) and the language used in the article. Specific guidelines are provided below for second year.

SECOND YEAR - 12.5 minutes per students; 25 minutes per pair.

The exam tests students’ speaking competence with regard to the following activity types.

The examiner may choose to ask about one task or both tasks.

1. **Putting a case**: making a comparison or talking about the advantages and disadvantages of a topic.

   **Examples**
   - state schools vs private schools,
   - living in a city centre vs the outskirts or countryside.
   - what are the problems that children and teenagers have to deal with today compared to the past. (Think about social networks, cyberbullying etc.)
   - what makes a shop successful (think about service, staff etc.,)
   - a technological product or any product on the market (utility etc.,)
   - the influence of American culture on Italian society (pros and cons).

   Your presentation must be supported by visual aids and any relevant material which has been part of your research (bibliography, website links etc.).

2. **Book review**.

   Students present a book, providing both a description and an evaluation of it. This includes describing the book’s purpose, its structure, attempting to place it in a larger context by comparing it to other books of its kind. If the book is fictional, the review will focus on the book’s setting, plot, characters, use of language and voice. If the book is nonfiction, the review will focus on the major points (the argument) the author is putting forth and to the sources the author has drawn upon. Books must be brought to the oral exam along with any relevant research that was done on the author, story etc. (bibliography).

**The mark is out of 20 and is calculated taking into account:**

- Grammatical and syntactic accuracy – 4
- Fluency -4
- Lexical variety – 4
- Understanding and interaction - 4
- Pronunciation – 4