NOCN ESOL International Speaking
A1 Level Beginner
Mark Scheme and Guidance

Part 1 – Everyday life, work and education

A learner is awarded one mark for a short answer, for example: *I live in the countryside*. Grammar and pronunciation is not assessed in this part. One or two errors are permitted which could be self-corrected or do not impede comprehension.

Total marks for Part 1 is 9.

Question	Number of marks	Learner score
1.	3	
2.	1	
3.	3	
4.	1	
5.	1	
Total marks	9	/9

Part 2 - Responding to the situation / general use of English

The purpose is to demonstrate the use of simple words and phrases in everyday situations, to assess accuracy and grammar appropriate for Level A1 and assess learner's pronunciation.

Skills	3 marks	2 marks	1 mark	0 marks
Register	Confidently uses simple words and phrases in everyday situations.	Some hesitation when using simple words and phrases in everyday situations.	Limited use of simple words and phrases in everyday situations.	No demonstration of using simple words and phrases in everyday situations.
Accuracy	Simple present, present continuous tenses are used correctly and word order is applied. One or two errors are allowed which do not impede meaning.	Minor errors in present tenses and word order. Does not impede meaning.	Many errors in present tenses and word order. Some meaning impeded.	No demonstration of understanding grammatical structure. Impedes meaning.
Pronunciation	Clear stress, pronunciation and intonation is demonstrated.	Stress, pronunciation and intonation have less clarity but meaning is not impeded.	Stress, pronunciation and intonation are not always clear. Some meaning is impeded.	Meaning is impeded by lack of stress, pronunciation and intonation.
Effective communication	Demonstrates fluency and confidence in responses.	Some minor hesitation and pauses. Does not impede the flow of speech.	Regular hesitation and pauses. Some flow of speech is impeded.	Does not respond. Does not demonstrate understanding in order to communicate.

Part 3 - Discussion

The purpose of Part 3 is to demonstrate comprehension and fluency of speaking with an application of accurate grammar and pronunciation.

Skill	3 marks	2 marks	1 mark	0 mark
Use of vocabulary	A wide range of simple, everyday and work vocabulary is used.	A range of simple, everyday and work vocabulary is used.	A limited range of everyday and work vocabulary is used.	No demonstration of vocabulary used effective for communication.
Accuracy and grammar	Simple present, present continuous tenses are used correctly and word order is applied. One or two errors are allowed which do not impede meaning.	Minor errors in present tenses and word order. Does not impede meaning.	Many errors in present tenses and word order. Some meaning impeded.	No demonstration of understanding grammatical structure. Impedes meaning.
Pronunciation	Clear stress, pronunciation and intonation is demonstrated.	Stress, pronunciation and intonation have less clarity but meaning is not impeded.	Stress, pronunciation and intonation are not always clear. Some meaning is impeded.	Meaning is impeded by lack of stress, pronunciation and intonation.
Listening and responding	Fluency and interaction are maintained throughout the task.	Some fluency in speech. Evidence of some repetition.	Lack of fluency in speech. Much repetition.	Does not respond. Is unable to maintain a conversation.