**Mark Scheme for British Sign Language Conversational Skills Test: Beginners**

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| **GRADE** | **COMMUNICATIVE INTERACTION & PRODUCTION** | **/ 40** | **RANGE AND ACCURACY OF LANGUAGE** | **/ 40** | **CONTENT** | **/ 20** |
| 90+  (High 1st) | Interacts effortlessly and very effectively for level. Outstanding production for a non-native signer. No need for repetition. | 36-40 | Outstanding use of a wide variety of clause types, vocabulary and structures, including verb structures and tenses. Very fluent, coherent and consistent, with only one or two instances of minor errors, usually in the most ambitious language. | 36-40 | Content outstanding for level. Outstanding response to all questions, including open-ended ones. Uses relevant information to develop and justify individual ideas and points of view. | 18-20 |
| 80-89  (Good 1st) | Excellent fluency, interacts smoothly and effectively for level. Excellent production for a non-native signer although there may be a few minor slips. Minimal or no need for repetition. | 32-35 | Excellent use of a wide variety of clause types, vocabulary and structures, including very structures and tenses. Uses more complex language features with only occasional minor errors. Excellent fluency and control of the material. | 32-35 | Content excellent for level. Excellent response to questions, including open-ended ones. Routinely expresses opinions and provides justifications and can develop and explain ideas. | 16-17 |
| 70-79  (Low 1st) | Signing very confident for level; hardly any hesitations; fully coherent. Very good production for a non-native signer with some minor slips. Little or no need for repetition. | 28-31 | Very good use of a wide variety of clause types, vocabulary and structures, including verb structures and tenses. Uses more complex language features, but makes some mistakes. Very good fluency and control of the material. | 28-31 | Content relevant and fully appropriate to the context; very good response to questions, including open-ended ones. Expresses more than straightforward points of view, sometimes with justifications. | 14-15 |
| 60-69  (2,1) | Signing confident for level, generally coherent; only occasional hesitation. Good production with few errors; occasional need for repetition. | 24-27 | A good range of structures and vocabulary, including verb structures and tenses. Uses some complex language features, but makes some mistakes. Good fluency most of the time and overall in control of the material. | 24-27 | Content relevant and adequate to the context; good adaptability to the situation. Readily expresses points of view. Can deal with some unpredictable questions. | 12-13 |
| 50-59  (2,2) | Signing contains some hesitations and pauses, but sentences/ideas well linked together. Production is generally accurate although there may be some instances of unclear or inaccurate hand shapes. Some need for repetition. | 20-23 | Uses a range of straightforward structures and vocabulary, which include different tenses or time frames. The response is sufficiently accurate for the basis of the message to be clear and reasonably coherent. | 20-23 | Generally communicates essential information, though with occasional gaps and/or repetitions. Expresses some opinions. Response for the most part relevant to the context. | 10-11 |
| 40-49  (3rd) | Signing often contains hesitations and pauses, limited ability to link ideas/sentences. Production may be inconsistent but still some instances of accurate hand shapes and non-manual features. Needs repetition. | 16-19 | Some awareness of verbs and timeframes, but inconsistent at times. Straightforward vocabulary and structures. Everyday messages are sufficiently accurate to be comprehensible. | 16-19 | Communicates only basic information in response to straightforward questions. Occasionally gives opinions. Attempts to link straightforward ideas/ Response may only be partly relevant to the context. | 8-9 |
| 25-39  (Fail) | Signing very slow and uneven with frequent halts; lack of coherence. Frequent and serious errors of hand shapes and non-manual features leading to misunderstanding and need for repetition. | 10-15 | Only a few phrases or short sentences are accurate enough to be recognisable. Very simple sentence structure. | 10-15 | Content lacks any detail; response of very limited relevance to the context. | 5-7 |
| 0-24  (Low Fail) | The candidate cannot understand the language signed at normal speed. Production is so poor that communication is made almost impossible. | 0-9 | Nothing coherent or accurate enough to be comprehensible. | 0-9 | Nothing coherent enough to be comprehensible. | 0-4 |