**Mark Scheme for British Sign Language (Intermediate): Productive and Conversational Skills Test**

The Productive and Conversational elements of the test are each worth 50% of the total mark for the test. Both the Productive and Conversational elements will be marked out of 100 and then divided by 2. The two marks will then be added together to produce a total mark out of 100 for the test.

**Productive Mark**

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| **GRADE** | **CONTENT & ORGANISATION** | **/ 20** | **VOCABULARY & PRODUCTION** | **/ 40** | **GRAMMAR** | **/ 40** |
| 90+ (High 1st) | Outstanding response to the task and communicates extremely clearly and without ambiguity. Fully coherent and detailed. No need for repetition. | 18-20 | Outstanding range and choice of vocabulary and expressions, well above the requirements of the level; fully accurate and appropriate use. Outstanding production for a non-native signer. | 36-40 | Outstanding use of different tenses and structures, well above the requirements of the level. Highly fluent and virtually error-free. | 36-40 |
| 80-89 (Good 1st) | Excellent response to the task and communicates extremely clearly and without ambiguity. Uses relevant information to convey facts and narrate events. Minimal or no need for repetition. | 16-17 | Excellent range of choice of vocabulary and expressions, above the requirements of the level; fully accurate and appropriate use. Excellent production for a non-native signer although there may be a few minor errors. | 32-35 | Excellent use of different tenses and structures, above the requirements of the level. Very fluent, coherent and consistent – instances of minor errors, usually in the most ambitious language. | 32-35 |
| 70-79 (Low 1st) | Very good response to the task and communicates clearly. Uses some information to convey facts and narrate events. Ideas clearly organised and easy to follow. Little or no need for repetition. | 14-15 | Very good range and choice or vocabulary, with good attempts to use idiomatic expressions. Vocabulary used is appropriate to the topic. Very good production for a non-native signer with some minor slips. | 28-31 | Very good use of different tenses and structures. Uses more complex language features, with only occasionally mistakes. Fluent most of the time and overall in control of the material. | 28-31 |
| 60-69 (2,1) | Content good and relevant to the context; few gaps and/or repetitions. Ideas well organised and illustrated. Occasional need for repetition. | 12-13 | Good range and choice of vocabulary, and expressions are generally used appropriately. Good production with few errors. | 24-27 | Good range of structures, which include different tenses or time frames. The message is generally accurate, clear and coherent. | 24-27 |
| 50-59 (2,2) | Generally communicates the essential information of the task, though with occasional gaps and/or repetitions. Connection between ideas is generally clear. Some need for repetition. | 10-11 | Adequate range of vocabulary, though choice occasionally inappropriate; errors leading to occasional misunderstanding. Production is generally accurate although there may be some instances of unclear or inaccurate hand shapes. | 20-23 | Awareness of verbs and time frames, but less consistent overall. Sufficiently accurate for the basis of the message to be clear. | 20-23 |

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| 40-49 (3rd) | Content is general, with some gaps and/or repetitions. Limited organisation and cohesion. Signing often contains hesitations and pauses, limited ability to link ideas/sentences. Needs repetition. | 8-9 | Limited range and choice of vocabulary, errors leading to more frequent misunderstanding. Production may be inconsistent but still some instances of accurate production. | 16-19 | Some grammatical inaccuracies; control of patterns imperfect, sometimes affecting communication. Everyday messages are sufficiently accurate to be comprehensible. | 16-19 |
| 25-39 (Fail) | Content lacks any detail / unrelated to the question / very short/ little or no organisation evident / lacks coherence. Signing very slow and uneven with frequent halts and need for repetition. | 5-7 | Vocabulary very limited for the purpose / simple and repetitive; frequent errors and excessive repetitions often leading to misunderstanding. Frequent and serious errors of production leading to misunderstanding. | 10-15 | Frequent and major grammatical inaccuracies leading to misunderstanding. Very simple sentence structure. | 10-15 |
| 0-24 (Low Fail) | Failure to complete task / too short to assign a mark which reflects its quality. Totally disorganised. Candidate cannot sign at a sufficient speed to be comprehensible. | 0-4 | Vocabulary used not a level of module. Production too poor to be comprehensible. | 0-9 | Nothing coherent or accurate enough to be comprehensible. Grammar totally insufficient for level. | 0-9 |

**Conversation Mark**

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| **GRADE** | **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 verb structures and tenses. Uses 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 |