

0.1 – Video: What do you have to do at the exam?

Hello, I'm Barry, and I'm happy to tell you a bit about some of the things this book is about. First of all, let's talk about this **oral Matura exam in English. What is it, and what do you have to do there?**

Well, it's **quite simple**, really. The exam consists of **two parts**. In the first part, you have to **speak alone for about four or five minutes**. This is called the **“individual long turn”**. And then, in the second part, you have a **conversation with another person** – this could be your teacher or possibly another student. This second part is called **“interaction”** and is typically **eight to ten minutes long**. It might be less than that if you are so good that everyone already knows this is clearly a grade one!

Most people think that the first part is more challenging, the one where you talk alone. Well, it's true that filling four minutes with good, meaningful language isn't always easy. But **that's where this book comes in**. It was made specifically to help you do it. You'll find lots of advice in it, trust me.

Now maybe you're not sure **what you should talk about**. Well, it's like this: Every school has a **list of topics** for all the exams. They are different from school to school, depending on the specific focus of your school. Some schools have a lot of technical topics, others focus on business, or art, or healthcare, for example. Usually in **November**, those **exam topics are posted** somewhere in your school for everyone to see, on an **official bulletin board**. You can look at them and you will probably know most of them already from your English lessons. By April or May, you should be familiar with all of the topics. And at the exam, you will **draw two topics from the entire pool**. You can have a look at them and then **choose one of them**. Then your teacher will give you a **task sheet** related to that topic. With your task sheet, you will go to a separate room and prepare for your individual long turn and the dialogue.

Preparation time should be **at least 20 to 30 minutes**, sometimes more. And then you are ready to shine.

Maybe you're wondering, “What exactly should I do during my preparation time?” Well, don't worry, we'll talk about that later. What's important now is to remember that **you can do this!** But let me give you one piece of advice – possibly the most important one of all. **Read. That. Task. Sheet!** Every word of it. Make sure you understand what your role is and what you have to do. If you do that, you're already halfway there.

