

Part 3: Open-ended Discussion (Flooding in Thailand)

The test taker expresses herself well enough to be followed without difficulty most of the time. However, frequent pauses, repetition of words and use of fillers such as **aha** and **urr** throughout her performance indicate that she is continuously searching for both language and ways to express her responses. At the beginning for example she says:

This is the flood in....twenty... twen in last two years aha that cause many problem for all.... urr people who live in Bangkok aha so and myself aha the flood went around my house also aha.

On the whole she produces short simple sentences with only a very limited range of basic connectors including **so**, **and**, **also**, and **because** which are not always used correctly. There are some attempts to use simple clauses

Just like I have seen in the television that .. the .. the .. they have to close their business

She has sufficient vocabulary to express herself but the range is limited, leading to repetition of familiar structures such as **have to**. At times she produces more sophisticated vocabulary items such as **evacuate**. There are, however, some lexical gaps. For example, the examiner is expected to guess the meaning of the Thai word *godang* from context.

The test taker's pronunciation is intelligible even if a foreign accent is quite evident. For example, she does not always pronounce the final consonants of words. She also mispronounces certain words e.g. **swamp** and **business**. In terms of grammatical accuracy, although she is describing the impact of the flood in 2011, the test taker uses both present and past tenses. For example, referring to factory owners she says

Some .. some have to live on the rooftop.

They have to evacuate from their home .. aha.

but she also says

They lost many amount of money.

While she generally is able to control more basic vocabulary, lexical errors are evident. For example, she says **the rain is falling down** instead of just falling and confuses **effect** (noun) and **affect** (verb).

To sum up, the test taker is able to keep going reasonably comprehensibly using a very basic vocabulary although grammatical inaccuracies are evident throughout. For this reason she is awarded a B1 overall.

