EXAMINER RUBRIC BREAKDOWN

CELPIP Examiner Rubric Decoded (Scoring Criteria)

Content, Coherence, Vocabulary, and Readability breakdown with penalty traps and self-evaluation checklists.

Examiner-Calibrated Scoring Criteria

Task Fulfillment • Content & Coherence • Vocabulary • Grammatical Accuracy

Scan to test your speaking & writing online

Four-Dimensional Assessment Matrix

Use these examiner guidelines to self-evaluate practice responses and eliminate scoring penalty traps.

Dimension 1: Task Fulfillment (Relevance, Completeness & Tone)

Evaluate immediately after reading the prompt

Core Strategy: Address All Bullet Points -> Maintain Consistent Tone -> Hit Word/Time Targets

CLB 9+ TARGET	You must perfectly match the register/tone to the audience. A survey response (Task 2) must be formal, while an email to a friend (Task 1) must be warm and informal.
PENALTY TRAP	Missing even one sub-question or bullet point from the prompt immediately caps your Task Fulfillment score, regardless of how good your English is.
EXAMINER CHECK	Highlight the 3 bullet points in the prompt. Label them A, B, and C. As you write/speak, explicitly tick them off.

Dimension 2: Content & Coherence (Meaning & Organization)

Plan during the 30-60s prep time (Speaking) or first 3 mins (Writing)

Core Strategy: Clear Introduction -> Logical Progression (Connectors) -> Solid Conclusion

CLB 9+ TARGET	Ideas must flow seamlessly using advanced transitions (e.g., 'Consequently', 'Nevertheless', 'Furthermore'), avoiding repetitive basic connectors like 'And', 'But', or 'So'.
PENALTY TRAP	Going off-topic, providing weak/circular arguments, or relying exclusively on 'Firstly', 'Secondly', 'Thirdly' as your only structural support.
EXAMINER CHECK	Can you map a clear 'Cause -> Effect -> Example' progression in your middle paragraphs/spoken points?

Dimension 3: Vocabulary (Word Choice & Lexical Range)

Inject during the drafting/speaking phase

Core Strategy: Precise Nouns & Verbs > Phrasal Verbs > Natural Collocations

CLB 9+ TARGET	Use precise vocabulary tailored to the context (e.g., 'alleviate the issue' instead of 'fix the problem') and demonstrate a natural command of idioms or collocations.
PENALTY TRAP	Malapropisms (forcing 'big words' incorrectly just to sound smart). Examiners prefer a simple word used perfectly over an advanced word used out of context.
EXAMINER CHECK	Count your adjectives. If you used 'good', 'bad', 'big', or 'small', replace them with 'beneficial', 'detrimental', 'substantial', or 'minor'.

Dimension 4A: Readability (Writing Only - Grammar, Formatting, Punctuation)

Reserve last 3 minutes for proofreading

Core Strategy: Varied Sentence Structures (Simple + Compound + Complex) + Accurate Punctuation

CLB 9+ TARGET	High accuracy in complex sentence structures, such as conditionals (If we implement this...), relative clauses (The manager, who is responsible for...), and passive voice.
PENALTY TRAP	Run-on sentences, comma splices, and inconsistent capitalization. Failing to use proper paragraph breaks will severely damage readability.
EXAMINER CHECK	Does every paragraph have at least one complex sentence? Are all proper nouns capitalized?

Dimension 4B: Listenability (Speaking Only - Pronunciation, Rhythm, Intonation)

Focus during delivery

Core Strategy: Clear Articulation + Natural Pausing + Intonation & Stress

CLB 9+ TARGET	Speech flows naturally with appropriate stress on key words. Pauses should happen naturally at punctuation points (commas, periods), not in the middle of phrases.
PENALTY TRAP	Monotone delivery (sounding like a robot), excessive 'umms' and 'ahhs', or speaking so fast that words blur together.
EXAMINER CHECK	Record yourself and look away. Can you clearly understand every single word without needing context? Are you breathing at the end of sentences?