

Winning the DELF B2 speaking exam

French B2 (upper intermediate) · Lesson

Quick answer: In the DELF B2 oral, you present a document, defend a point of view in a structured monologue, then answer the examiner's objections. Use a clear plan, connectors such as certes... mais, and rebuttal phrases like Je ne partage pas votre analyse. Fillers such as Comment dire... help you keep speaking calmly.

Level: French B2 (CEFR upper intermediate) · **Standards:** CEFR B2, Spoken production

What happens in the DELF B2 speaking exam?

The oral exam has two linked parts. After roughly thirty minutes of preparation on a short document, you give a sustained monologue (monologue suivi): you present the document and defend a point of view. Then comes the debate (débat), in which the examiner challenges your ideas. The exchange lasts about twenty minutes.



L'oral dure environ 20 minutes après la préparation

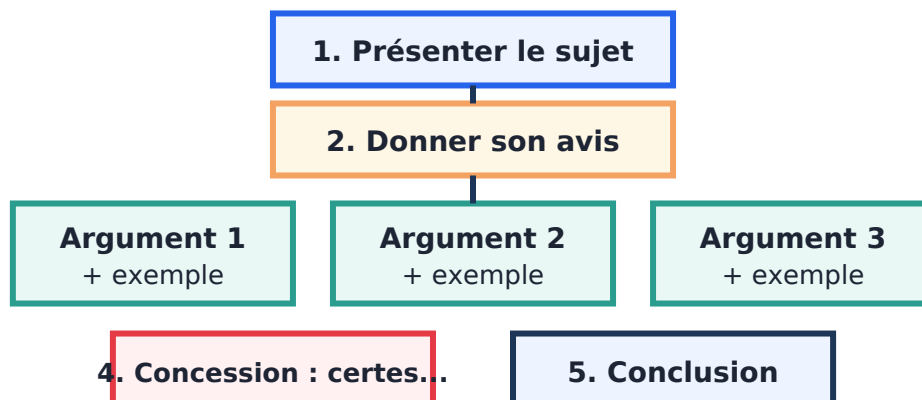
Order of the three phases of the oral exam.

How do you build a convincing monologue?

Step	Goal	Useful phrases
1	Present the topic	Le document traite de..., La question est de savoir si...
2	State your position	À mon avis, Je suis convaincu que
3	Give arguments	D'abord, En outre, Enfin
4	Concede a point	Certes..., mais..., Il est vrai que...
5	Conclude	En définitive, Pour conclure

Spend your preparation time on notes, not on full sentences. Write the question, your position, three keywords for each argument and one concrete example per argument, for instance a town,

a figure or a personal experience. Examples make an opinion credible, and they give you something to say if you lose your thread.



A monologue follows this skeleton.

Opinion and mood

After *Je pense que* or *Il me semble que*, use the indicative: *Je pense que c'est utile*. After a negative or a judgment, use the subjunctive: *Je ne pense pas que ce soit utile*, *Il est essentiel que chacun puisse s'exprimer*.

How do you answer an objection?

Never freeze when the examiner disagrees. The objection is an opportunity: acknowledge it, then bring a counter-argument.

Strategy	Phrase
Agree partly	<i>Vous n'avez pas tort, mais...</i>
Disagree politely	<i>Je ne partage pas tout à fait votre analyse, car...</i>
Ask for clarification	<i>Pourriez-vous préciser votre pensée ?</i>
Give a counter-example	<i>Prenons l'exemple de...</i>

What can you say when you hesitate?

A short phrase buys time and sounds natural. Use *Comment dire...*, *Disons que...*, *Laissez-moi y réfléchir un instant* or *Ce que je veux dire, c'est que...* instead of long silences or repeated sounds.

Common mistake

Actuellement means “currently”, not “actually”: say *en fait* for “actually”. *Éventuellement* means “possibly”. And “I agree” is *Je suis d'accord*, never *Je suis agréé*.

Culture note

French schools teach a classic structure for arguing: thèse, antithèse, synthèse. Examiners recognize this logic, so a clear plan with a fair concession makes a strong impression.

Zoé's tip

Prepare one sentence for each phase: an opening, a concession and a closing. If you panic during the debate, those three fixed sentences keep you afloat.

Key points to remember

- The speaking test has a preparation time, a sustained monologue and a debate with the examiner.
- A good monologue: introduction, position, three arguments with examples, a concession, a conclusion.
- Use the subjunctive after Je ne pense pas que and Il est essentiel que.
- Answer an objection by conceding first: Vous n'avez pas tort, mais...
- Hesitation phrases like Disons que... avoid long silences.

Winning the DELF B2 speaking exam: frequently asked questions

How is the DELF B2 speaking exam organized?

You prepare for about thirty minutes on a short document. Then you present it and defend a point of view in a monologue, followed by a debate with the examiner, for about twenty minutes in total.

How long should my monologue be?

Aim for a clear presentation of several minutes with an introduction, a position, two or three developed arguments, a concession and a conclusion. Rehearse with a timer so that you neither run out of ideas nor rush.

What should I do if I do not understand the examiner's question?

Ask politely: Pourriez-vous reformuler la question ? or Si je comprends bien, vous me demandez si.... Asking for clarification is a normal skill, not a failure.

Which connectors impress the examiner?

Use a variety of logical links: certes... mais, en revanche, d'ailleurs, par conséquent, en définitive. Avoid repeating et and alors all the time.

Do I have to give my real opinion?

No. The examiner assesses your ability to argue, not your beliefs. Choose the position you can

defend best with examples and keep to it consistently.