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SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY



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O'QUV QO'LLANMA

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**O‘ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI OLIY VA
O‘RTA MAXSUS TA‘LIM VAZIRLIGI
JIZZAX DAVLAT PEDAGOGIKA
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**JIZZAX DAVLAT PEDAGOGIKA INSTITUTI MAKTABGACHA VA
BOSHLANG‘ICH TA‘LIMDA XORIJIY TIL YO‘NALISHI**

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O‘QUVQO‘LLANMA

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INTRODUCTION

Language teachers in Uzbekistan often utilize the Grammar Translation Methods(GTM) when they teach the skill of speaking. To master speaking skills has meant to memorize form/structure and meaning/semantics. As such, students are expected to follow linguistic rules and dictionary meanings (i.e., denotation) while speaking about any topic. Teaching speaking within a GTM conceptualization has often caused some problems that carry over into real (and substantial) human communication. With the introduction of Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) in Uzbekistan in 2012, the focus has shifted from learning form and semantics to studying language in use. We don't argue that the GTM is invaluable, and we respect what this methodology brings to the area of language teaching and learning. Within use, however, language learners are expected to consider the intended meaning of an utterance (I.e., pragmatic competence), and/or take into consideration values, beliefs, and shared knowledge (I.e., meaning-in-use). A question arises regarding how to teach not only form/semantics, but also use in EFL classes in Uzbekistan via speaking activities. This brief section presents one activity you can utilize which focuses on pragmatic competence for the speaking course.

SPEECH EVALUATION GUIDELINES

DELIVERY	ABOVE EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
INTRODUCTION	Grabs audience attention and interest, clear thesis statement	General and adequate introduction, introduces topic to audience	Unclear introduction and doesn't introduce topic, doesn't grab attention
GESTURES	Good use of gestures; normal, spontaneous and natural	Hand and body movements appropriate for content	Minimal use of gestures
CONVEYS TONE/MOOD	Enhanced use of dramatic voice and tone; pulls audience	Uses voice to convey mood	Monotone voice no mood conveyed
SMOOTHNESS/FLOW	Fluid delivery uses pauses effectively	Smooth transitions, appropriate pace and pauses	Choppy, with some pauses or rushed
ARTICULATION	Excellent articulation – enunciates complex words clearly	Words generally pronounced clearly and correctly ; inflection appropriate	Occasional mispronounced words.
APPROPRIATE LENGTH	Not too short, but not exceeding 10 minutes	At least 5 minutes	Shorter than 5 minutes
GETS THE POINT	Clear thesis	Information	Some rambling

ACROSS	emphasized and highlighted throughout speech	presented in an effective manner. Clear conveyance of speech thesis	or filler or squeezing in too much info or lacking information
PROPER USE OF NOTES	Minimal use of notes	Refers to notes for quotes, facts and transitions	Relies on notes to carry the speech
CONCLUSION	Prepared audience for ending; clear concluding statement	Simple concluding statement	No concluding statement
APPROPRIATE FOR AGE	Challenges presenter, well executed	Well suited to age and experience of speaker	Somewhat suited to speaker's age
APPROPRIATE UNDERSTANDING OF TOPIC & INTERESTING	Presentation engages audience and maintains interest throughout. Excellent knowledge of topic	Clear evidence of understanding and engages the audience	Vague understanding of topic doesn't engage audience
CONTENT	Main points clear, well supported; sources cited, logical presentation of points	Main points clear, appropriate use of facts to support topic	Main points vague, facts don't support thesis
APPEARANCE	Neat, clean, appropriate attire for formal	Some aspects of appearance	Inappropriate dress for a formal speech

	public speaking	could be improved. (i.e. hair, shoes, etc.)	
EYE CONTACT	Established eye contact with audience	Establishes eye contact or gazes over the audience	None or occasional eye contact
POSTURE	Stands erect; uses podium only for notes	Stands straight, remains behind the podium	Leans on the podium or moves back and forth

THE SPEAKING TEST

The speaking test is scored on a band system from 0~9. A score of 0 is someone who cannot speak any English at all. A score of 9 is someone who can speak English in the exactly the same way as an educated native speaker of English. So the higher scores 6, 7 and 8 are quite near to “native – speaker style English”. This is where our next problem occurs.

When we speak a second language most people are heavily influenced by their first language .(Regardless of what these languages are.)

SPEAKING SYSTEMS

Different languages can be easily distinguished by the amount of words that native speakers produce in normal speech.

Ask the following question in your first language; try to answer in a natural style:
“What food do you like eating?”

Now think about you (or your parents) answer. Try to repeat the answer exactly as it was given. How many actual words did the answer contain?

Hopefully the result should be quite clear.

THE MARKING SYSTEM

The IELTS speaking test is marked according to a carefully designed marking system. All speaking examiners use exactly the same marking system and use it in the same way.

The marking system is divided into four sections:

- Fluency and Coherence;
- Lexical Resource (Vocabulary);
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy;
- Pronunciation;

1. Fluency and Coherence

In general terms, the score for “Fluency and Coherence” refers to the way that the candidate speaks.

The features described in the marking system for this section include;

- Ability to produce long responses
- How easily the candidate can produce long responses

- The amount of hesitation
- The speed of speech
- Use of discourse markers/ linking phrases/connectives
- The amount of self-correction

Summary of Fluency and Coherence

Many people believe that the “Fluency” score is based on the speed and flow of speech. From the marking system descriptions it can be seen that these aspects are only a small part of the actual score.

The most important aspect of your “Fluency and Coherence ”score is length of your response and your use of cohesive features such as linking words ,discourse markers, connectives and redundant phrases.

Problems with Fluency and Coherence

The most common problem in this section of the marking system is that they focus too heavily on answering the question. In other words, their answers contain ”information content” but lack the language to link these ideas together.

Look at the following example:

“What do you like about hometown?”

“My hometown is Samarkand. Samarkand is very modern so I like the buildings. All over the city there are lots of new interesting buildings being built. When I was younger most of the buildings looked the same so it wasn’t as attractive as it nowadays .”

The answer above is not a bad answer. In fact the grammar is fairly complex and accurate; It is not too short. The problem with this answer is that it lacks cohesive features.

Now compare the following answer:

“Well you know, my hometown is Samarkand and you might not know this but Samarkand is very modern, so I suppose I would have to say I like the buildings. Actually, all over the city there are lots of new interesting buildings being built. In fact, it’s quite interesting to consider that when I was younger most of the buildings looked the same ,so you know it wasn’t as attractive as it is nowadays .”

The content in the answer above the same as the first answer. The difference is this second answer is that the information is linked using native-speaker style cohesive

features. The answer above would most likely be typical of a Fluency and Coherence 7 or 8.

2.Lexical Resource (Scored 1-9)

Many people (even examiners) call this section as the “vocabulary” score.

There are some common misunderstandings about how this score is awarded .

I have often been asked the following question :”How many words do I need to know to get a vocabulary score of??”

This question is almost impossible to answer because the marking system does not base the “Vocabulary” score on how many words you know.

The “vocabulary” section of the marking system is based on the type of words you use and how you use them.

The language points featured in this section of the marking system include:

- Ability to use less common words
- Use of idiomatic language
- Paraphrasing (explaining words that you don’t know)
- Ability to talk about unfamiliar topics
- Ability to convey precise meaning

Problem with Lexical Resource

Generally speaking , the most common problem in this section is the overuse of common words:”Beijing is a big city.” In this example the word “big” is an example of very basic vocabulary.

The candidate could have chosen any word to describe Beijing but chose to produce an example of a very basic adjective.

In contrast , “sprawling, cosmopolitan, politically important, fast-developing, colossal” are examples of uncommon vocabulary and would have a positive effect on the candidate’s “Vocabulary” score.

Candidates often neglect this area because they focus too much on the answer to the question.

There is a second later in this book on vocabulary building.

3. Grammatical Range

There are two aspects of this score – “range” and “accuracy”. This is often misunderstood because many people believe that a high score is awarded if the candidate doesn’t make any grammar mistakes. The score in this section is based on number of different factors including:

- Sentence formation
- Use of clauses(subordinate)
- Use of complex structures
- Range of tense use
- Error density (the amount of the errors in each sentence)
- The level of errors (whether the errors occur in basic or complex structures)

Problems with Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Grammar is very important part of the English language. In spoken English, basic grammar. Many IELTS candidates focus on “communicating” the answer to the question and as a result they produce basic grammar.

Another problem is the lack of perfect and continuous tenses. Native speakers of English produce quite a lot of these tenses when they speak. In general, speakers of English neglect these important tenses.

The next problem is the actual sentence type. Many candidates produce too many basic sentences. eg:

“I come from Chongqing. Chongqing is a mountain city. It is located in on the Chang Jiang River .

“I come from Chongqing which is mountain city located on the Chang jiag River.”

To score 7 in this section the majority of sentences should be complex sentences .

There is section later in this book which gives advice and activities on tenses and sentence structures.

4. Pronunciation

With effect from August 1st 2008, the marking scale for pronunciation will change in all IELTS speaking tests worldwide. Examiners will now be able to award band scores 1~9 instead of the older system of 2-4-6-8.

Candidates` pronunciation will be marked in the same way, but for the higher scores (7-8-9) there are one or two areas that have become more emphasized in the marking criteria; these are discussed bellow.

The most common myth about the “Pronunciation” section is that many people place too much importance on accent. The pronunciation score is influenced by accent but there are other important factors which influence the score.

“Pronunciation” covers the following language aspects:

- How easily the examiner understands what is being said.
- Word stress.
- Sentence stress.
- Intonation.
- Evidence of first language accent.

A SUMMARY OF THE MARKING SYSTEM

In the section we have looked in detail at the way that the speaking test is marked. It should now be quite clear that in order to achieve a higher score, the candidate must produce the features specifically described in the marking system under that score.

One very important point to emphasize here is that the marking system does not include references to the following points:

- ❖ Interesting or original content
- ❖ Amusing or funny answer
- ❖ Polite or well-mannered attitudes
- ❖ Body language
- ❖ Eye content
- ❖ Intelligent answers
- ❖ The truth
- ❖ Correct answers
- ❖ Opinions or ideas
- ❖ Appearance or dress code

So in fact it can be concluded that your speaking score is awarded purely on the basis of your spoken language. In theory it could be possible for a candidate to arrive at the interview in dirty old clothes, be impolite, invent answers, tell lies and hold unreasonable or controversial opinions atill achieve a high score if he or she demonstrated the features described in the marking system –i.e. native speaker style spoken English. I can add an example from my own experience here. Many years

ago in an IELTS speaking test, I interviewed a young lady who was arrogant, impolite, impatient and quite rude –I awarded this candidate a score of 8 because her spoken English matched the descriptions in the marking system for band score 8.

THE SPEAKING TEST FORMAT

All IELTS speaking tests follow a rigid structure. Wherever in the world you take your speaking test, you can expect your interview to follow the same pattern. Examiners are regularly monitored to ensure that they deliver the speaking interviews in the correct way as set by UCLES (the test designers).

As far as you know, IELTS candidates will have only 11-14 minutes for IELTS Speaking and it comprises of part 1, part2, part3.

The interview is divided into three clearly defined sections and each section focuses on different speaking skills and linguistic abilities. The criteria described in the marking system is the same for all 3 parts of the test and the score is awarded according to the candidates average performance across all three parts. This means that all three sections are generally “equal” in value. In theory it is possible for a candidate to achieve a reasonably acceptable score (5~6) even if he or she underperforms in one particular section as long as the other sections produced a decent performance.

To achieve a higher score (7+) a candidate must demonstrate the features as described in the marking system in all three parts.

Part One of the Speaking Test

Part One of the speaking test lasts for 4~5 minutes.

Many people wrongfully call Part One the “self-introduction” part of the test. This is an inaccurate description because although this section does ask some questions about your personal background, it also covers many other question and topics. A more accurate description of Part One would be:

“Basic questions on familiar topics including your background, hobbies, interests, routines, lifestyle and habits.”

“After this first “personal” topic, the examiner will select two more topics based on hobbies, interests, routines, lifestyle and habits.

The number of questions asked in Part One varies for each candidate. The maximum number of question for each topics is usually four or five and the minimum is two

.This means that the maximum number of questions in Part One is between twelve and fifteen and the minimum is around six.

Question Type 1: “Basic Description” Questions

Looked the example question : “Tel me about your hometown”

This seems like a simple question. Candidates must remember that the examiner is Not asking this question because he or she wants to know something about your hometown.

Remember: The examiner is not interested in you, your life or anything you say. The examiner is doing a job. The job is to award a score for your spoken English in relation to the marking system.

So again we can see that content becomes irrelevant. The examiner is actually asking the following questions: “Show me your ability to describe something (a place) and give me some town or city vocabulary.”

Look at the example answer:

“I come from Beijing, I am native of this city. Beijing is capital of China. In Beijing there are many historical buildings. Beijing Duck is very famous – I always eat it with my friends.”

The problem with the response is that it “answers” the question but it doesn’t offer the examiner any evidence of your ability to describe something. A description needs to offer detailed and precise information and the points need to be developed in some way.

If we consider the marking system we can also add that the answer does not contain any features of native-speaker style spoken English.

- The answer is short / direct.
- It does not contain any linking words or phrases.
- It does not contain any redundant language.
- There are no example of uncommon vocabulary.
- There is no idiomatic language.
- The grammar is correct but it is very basic grammar.
- There are no complex sentence structures.
- The tense use is limited.

This answer is therefore typical of a lower score (4~5).

Now consider the following answer:

“Well as you probably guess I come from Beijing and I have lived here all my life, although at the moment I’m studying in another city-Tianjin. I suppose if I had to describe Beijing, the first thing I would say is that it’s absolutely enormous, maybe even one of the biggest cities in Asia I guess. It’s so big in fact that even the locals have problems finding their way around. Another significant characteristic is that it offers examples of both classical and contemporary architecture. Actually some of the China’s most renowned landmarks are “slapbang” in the middle of Beijing.”

The response is much better in quality than the first answer for the following reasons:

- It is long but doesn’t move away from the topic / question.
- It contains redundant language.
- It contains phrases.
- It contains one idiom.
- It contains some uncommon vocabulary.
- The vocabulary is topic – specific.
- It contains examples of complex sentence structures.
- It contains a mix of tenses.
- The grammar is correct (even in the longer structures).

Because this answer meets many of the marking system descriptions required to achieve a higher score it would be typical of a score of 7+.

Summary of ‘Description’ Question

Most candidates will probably be asked at least one description question. This question is often one of the first questions in Part One. By producing style of answer we have just seen, the candidates is focusing on the marking system criteria and “not answering” the question. We have not looked at any vocabulary for any of the individual topics or questions- this can be found in the section on topic – specific vocabulary later in this book.

Question Type 2:”Linking”

A very common type of questions in part one is the “linking” questions. For example :”Do you like animals?”

As an examiner I have asked this style question hundreds of times. A common response might be something like : “Yes ,I like animals. I like cats and dogs because they are very lovely.”

If you have read and understood what has been written so far in this book, you should be stering to see the problems with this answer. This answer lacks all the features common in native-speaker style English .The answer focuses 100% on content .

Expressing likes and dislikes is actually quite a large area of the English language and as a result there is a wide range of language available to express these functions .When the examiner asks, “Do you like animals?” ,your answer should display some ability to express these functions using a range of appropriate language.

“I like” and “I don’t like” do not display any ability to skillfully or flexibly express these functions. In most cases, the examiner probably used “like” or “don’t like” in the question, so candidates who use these words are simply recycling the question words in the form a statement .

For these question, the first step is to find some alternative language for “liking”. The following expressions can be used for all general topics:

- ✓ I’m fairly / pretty keen on ...
- ✓ I’m really into ...
- ✓ I’m quite a big fan of...
- ✓ I simply adore ...
- ✓ I generally prefer ...(use only when compering)

Question Type 3:”Disliking “ Questions

“Disliking” questions are quite common in Part One of the speaking test. The answer can be very similar to the “liking” questions but with “disliking” vocabulary.

The following language can be used to express “dislikes’.

- ✓ I’m not so keen on...
- ✓ I’m not much of a fan of...
- ✓ I’m not really that fond of...

And for very strong “dislikes’ use the following:

- ✓ I totally detest ...
- ✓ I absolutely loathe...
- ✓ I really can’t stand...

In your answer, try to use a “dislike” and a “strong dislike” phrase. Use the same style a of structure as the “liking” answer but change the linking phrases.

Summary of “Linking / Dislike” Questions

The most important thing is to avoid the simple vocabulary (like, dislike, enjoy, love, hate) and replace these with the expressions given in this chapter.

Many candidates put “likes” and “dislikes” in the same answer (usually the “liking” question). This is not wrong, but as we have seen, the answers to these questions can be quite long, so it is better to split them into two separate answers.

- Remember: Give a developed answer to every question: In the past I have heard answers like these .
- Do you like animals? - No, I don't like animals.
- Do you like reading? - No, I like watching TV instead.
- Is there anything you don't like about your hometown? - No, I like my city.

As a rule, if the examiner asks you if you like something, give a positive answer (Yes) even if that answer is not true. In the same way , if the question is: “Is there anything you don't like about ...?”, you should also give a positive answer (Yes) .

Speaking positively is much easier than speaking negatively and it is easier to give reasons and examples to say “why” rather than “why not”.

Remember: Base your answer on language not on fact or truth. You do not get any marks telling the truth !

Question Type 4: “Types of” Questions

Another common type of questions in Part One is “types of” questions.

For example:

“Tell me about the different types of public transport in your city.”

The most common problem with these questions is shown in the following answer :

“In my city there are many types of public transport, for example, buses, taxis, motorcycle taxis, trains, planes, ferries and many – buses .”

In this answer, the candidate lists seven types of public transport. However, the answer is 100% content and there is no evidence of native – speaker style language. Some candidates may believe that get one mark for every type of transport that they list but this is not true.

A good answer to these questions should be structured and developed in the following way.

Begin with an opening phrase:

- ✓ Well actually ...
- ✓ Sure , obviously ...
- ✓ Ok, certainly ...
- ✓ Of course, you know...
- ✓ Of course , it goes without saying...

Then use one of following:

... there's quite a might variety of...

... there's quite a wide range of ...

... there's fairly broad range of ...

... there's quite an extensive diversity of ...

... there's quite a diverse mixture of ...

So the opening line might be:

“Of course , it goes without saying that there's quite a mixed variety of public transport in my city”.

Now use the following structure to introduce the first type:

But I guess the most + adjwould probably be...

However , I suppose the most + adj. ...could possibly be ...

Though I think the most adj ...Would potentially be ...

Yet I imagine the most + adj ...may well be ...

Still, I suspect that the most + adj. ...could perhaps be ...

Now use a linking phrase to introduce a second type.

Besides (buses), ...

As well as (buses), ...

In addition to (buses), ...

Another kind of (public transport) would be ...

Another form of(public transport) worth mentioning could be...

A second variety of (public transport) would be something like ...

A subsequent category would be something like ...

Now you to add a vague end line:

And of course there's the usual things like ...

And obviously you can also find things like ...

Likewise, as might be expected, there are things like...

And naturally, there are things like...

Summary of “Types of” Questions

Don't repeat the adjective used in the question. Example: “What kinds of restaurants are popular in your country?”

In your answer, don't use “popular”, Example: “Yet I imagine the most widespread may well be...”

Something candidates struggle to find content for these questions, because they generalize their answer too much. Example: “What kinds of restaurants are popular in your country?”

If you say “Uzbek restaurants”, this is far too general and it is difficult to introduce other types of restaurants.

See the individual topic sections later in the book for vocabulary ideas on types and kinds of particular topics.

Question Type 5: “Wh / How Often” Questions

This question type is very common in Part One.

Look at the following examples:

How often do you go to the cinema?

Where do you usually buy your clothes?

When do you listen to music?

At what time of day do you usually read?

Who do you spend your weekends with?

The problem with these questions is that many candidates give very direct “information – focused” responses. It is quite common for candidates to respond to these questions in the following way:

Maybe once a week .

In New World Department store .

At weekends and in the evenings .

In the evenings before I sleep.

My parents or my friends.

The key to the answer is the structure “it depends”. If you use this, you can produce a “situational contrast” which allows you use contrast language (linking words).

The first step is to select an opening phrase:

- ✓ Well to be honest...
- ✓ Actually to be fair...
- ✓ In actual fact ...
- ✓ Well in truth...
- ✓ Well in all fairness...
- ✓ In fact, in all honesty ...

Now select a “depends” phrase:

- ... I think I would have to say that it really depends.
- ... I suppose I would have to maintain that it can depend really.
- ...I imagine that it would depend on the situation.
- ... I guess my answer would be determined by different conditions.

Now select a linking phrase:

- ✓ Like for instance...
- ✓ Like more specifically...
- ✓ You know like, to be expected...
- ✓ More precisely like...
- ✓ Like, to be more direct...

Summary of “Wh-/How often “ Questions

If you follow the example structure, make sure that you choose two situations that are very different .It is easier to contrast two clearly different situations.

Make sure that you use “If” and “will” for both situations. That is a fairly complex grammar structure but it is easy to construct accurately. This type of answer directly influences the “Grammar” score and the “Fluency” score in your speaking test.

Question Type 6: “Yes/No” Questions

In Part One , the examiner might ask you questions which appear to be direct ‘Yes/No’ questions.

Look at the following examples:

Do people wear special clothes at weddings in your country?

Is watching TV a popular activity in your country?

Do you think it is important to play sports/do physical exercise ?

Is fast food popular in your country?

Is healthy eating important?

Can you play a musical instrument?

Do you think it’s important for children to learn to play a musical instrument?

Is food expensive in your country?

Is education free in your country?

Do you think you are an ambitious person?

Look at the list of questions at the beginning of this section and decide which ones you would be able to answer with this structure.

The structure can be built in this way. First, use an opening phrase:

- ✓ Well in actual fact, if I think about it, I guess that in many ways...
- ✓ Ok, well in reality, I suppose that to some extent...
- ✓ Alright, I guess that on the one hand...
- ✓ Well certainly in some ways...

Now make your first statement (eg,It’s fairly important...). Develop the first statement using a linking structure:

...especially when you consider that ...

... particularly if you think about the point that...

...especially with regard to the point that...

...and this is definitely the case with...

Try using this structure to give a “Yes” answer for the following questions:

Is crime a problem in your country?

Do people in your country often keep pets?

Is it always good to be ambitious?

Now you need to introduce your “No” answer. First use a linking phrase:

- ✓ But you also have to understand that...
- ✓ Even so, you could also say that...
- ✓ At the same time you could say that...

After describing your “No” answer, you can “round-off” the answer with one of the following phrases:

Summary of “Yes/No” Questions

The most important thing is to avoid repeating the question structure with a “Yes” or “No”. Example:

“Is fast food popular in your country?”

“Yes, fast food is very popular in my country, especially...”

As we have seen before, repeating the question structure does not have any significant influence on your score, so if you want a high score – DON’T DO IT !

Will these questions you need to think quite quickly, especially if you want to give a “Yes and No” style answer. You don’t need to have wonderful ideas for your “Yes and No” answer, just something that gives you the chance to use the structure. Remember – the examiner is not marking your ideas.

Question Type 7: “Would” Questions

Look at the following questions:

Would you like to move to another city in the future ?

Would you like to change your job?

Would you like to live near the sea?

Would you like to learn another foreign language?

Would you like to be in a film?

Would you like to change about your city?

Would you like to change about your school(school in the past)?

Would you like to change your name?

The grammar aspect of these questions is very important. As a basic rule, if the question uses “would”, then you need to include at least one example of “would” (or might/ could) in your answer.

For most of these questions, you should use the second conditional tense in your answer. In fact the examiner is expecting you to produce an example of this verb tense.

The form of the second conditional is quite simple:

If +past simple, would / could / might / + infinitive verb.

Eg: If I lived near the sea, I would be able to eat fresh seafood.

If I had the time, I would go for traveling.

The second conditional is used to tell about a present or future time, to describe an event that is unlikely (hypothetical).

Eg: If I worked in a factory, I would be tired every day!(But I don't work in factory and it's unlikely that I will work in a factory in the future.)

Summary of Part One Question Types

In Part One of the speaking test, most of the questions asked will be one of the seven types described on this sector. There may be one or two questions that are not covered, but most candidates will find that all of their part one questions are covered by these seven types.

If the examiner asks a question that is not covered by these seven types just remember the following rule:

Long response - Linking phrases - Complex sentence – Redundant language.

One obvious question that has not been described in this section is the “Why” question. These questions are common in Part Two but they occasionally appear in Part One. See the part the questions types later in this book for ideas on how to answer these questions.

In this section each Part One topic is presented with possible questions and example uncommon vocabulary and idiomatic language relevant to that topic. (Remember - one of the most important aspect of the marking system is uncommon and idiomatic vocabulary.)

You should use this topic pages as a learning tool. Select one or two topics per day and use a good dictionary to translate the words yourself; In this way you will be actively learning the new vocabulary. You will find it easier to remember the words if you have translated them yourself.

PART TWO OF THE SPEAKING TEST

After completing Part One (usually after 5 minutes) the examiner will move onto Part Two of speaking test.

In Part Two the examiner gives the candidate topic card and the candidate has one minute to prepare and make notes. After the one minute preparation time the candidate required to talk about the topic for between one and two minutes (as a rule you are expected to speak for at least 1 minute 30 seconds - anything less than this and your “Fluency” score may be reduced).

Candidates do not need to worry about “timing” in Part Two because the examiner will stop the candidate when the clock hits two minutes.

The best strategy in Part Two is to keep talking until the examiner says stop. Candidates are naturally nervous in this part of the test so it is not good to try guess the time.

IELTS Myth: most people believe that in the speaking test, Part One is the easiest, Part Two is more difficult and Part Three is the most difficult section. With regard to performance, this is not usually the case. Most candidates perform quite well in Parts One Three but the Part Two performance is usually the worst part of the interview (i.e. the language quality is lower than other parts).

A good Part Two is Not focused on “telling the examiner something”.

In the same way as Part One, during Part Two you should be focused on the following features of language.

- **Fluency**

During a 2-minute talk it is essential to use linking words, linking phrases and fillers (redundant language).

- **Vocabulary**

Uncommon words and idioms will significantly increase your “Vocabulary” score. In Part Two try to find words that are directly related to your topic area (most of the Part One vocabulary from the previous chapter can be used in Part Two). Don’t forget to paraphrase.

- **Grammar**

Whatever you are saying in Part Two, say it with complex sentences and if necessary use a variety of tenses (see the detailed section on tenses in Part Two).

Part Two does NOT need to be:

- **Interesting**

Some of the best Part Two performances are actually quite boring! Here you must remember that the examiner has probably heard 1000’s of Part Two responses. Even if your content is genuinely interesting (eg, you played football with the Chinese National Team), it will not influence your score in any way.

- **Original**

It does not matter if you the same movie that everyone else has described – the examiner is only listening to how you describe it. In some ways describing the same thing as other candidates can be work to your advantages – if you are focused on language, your 2-minute talk will be noticeably better than other candidates.

- **Familiar**

It does not matter if the examiner is not familiar with the thing that you are describing. In fact, if you describe something unusual or unfamiliar, then you will probably need to explain or paraphrase. Paraphrasing directly increases your score!

- **True**

Some of the best Part Two performances are lies! Even if the examiner knows you are lying, this cannot affect your score. Obviously you should avoid outrageous lies, such as, “Last year I went to the moon with my classmates.”

The Topic Card

The topic cards are printed in the same way. The basic topic is presented and there are some guidelines or prompts on the card .

Describe interesting trip you have been on

You should say :

Where / when you went

What you did there

Why it was interesting

Whether you should like to go on a similar trip again.

One of the most important things to remember is that the card is slightly misleading!

On the topic card, it says “You should say ...”. This is not actually true ; the guidelines on the card are simply there to help you ! If you want to talk about those aspects , then that is Ok; however if you don’t want to follow the guidelines, that is also Ok .

The prompt on the card are not compulsory questions - you are not required to provide answers.

As long as you are describing some aspects of the main topic “an interesting trip you have been on”, there is no problem.

For most of the top cards it is a good idea to use the guidelines because it means you have to think less about content and can therefore concentrate more on language, but if there is a guideline prompt that you don’t like or you think is a little difficult, e.g., “Weather you would like to go on a similar trip again” ,fell free to ignore it and just talk about some other aspect of your trip.

The Three – step Preparation Method

Step 1:Selection

Selection the “right thing” to talk about is quite important if you want to produce a good quality Part Two .

As we have already discussed , the examiner doesn’t care what you talk about but here we are not talking about the examiner – we are talking about you.

If you choose the wrong thing to talk about you might have problems talking for two minutes on that topic. If you have problems finding content, the quality of your language will suffer.

The important first step is to select something that is easy to talk about. Once you have something easy to talk about, you can concentrate on language features and ways to increase your score.

Easy topics should:

(A) Have lots of features

The more features your topic has, the easier it is to keep talking or developing your Part Two. This is not always possible for every topic but generally it is easier to talk about “bigger” things than “smaller” specific things.

(B) Be expandable

This is similar to the point above, but you should choose something that is expandable, i.e. You can keep adding points on to the end of your speech (maybe by telling a story).

(C) Include some “invented” aspects (i.e. lies)

The easiest things to describe are not always the true things. It might not be possible to cover all the three points above but if the topic seems particularly difficult it is probably best to invent your content.

Ignore the adjective

Many people get distracted by the adjectives which often appear in the topic description, eg, look at the following Part Two topic cards: “An interesting building in your city ... “

Don’t try to think of a building that is particularly interesting. You don’t lose marks if your building is not very interesting and you don’t get more marks if your building seems very interesting. Just choose “Any building” that fits the topic loosely.

Don’t go with the first idea

Usually the first idea in your head is the worst idea. It is usually a good idea to ignore the first idea in your head and go with the second or even third idea that you come up with.

Step 2 : Vocabulary

The next step in the one – minute preparation is to write down as many examples of uncommon vocabulary as possible. The vocabulary must be directly related to the topic.

A good method is to ask the following question : “Can this word be used for many other topics?” If the answer is “Yes” then that word is Not directly related to the topic.

Step 3 : Grammar point

This is one of the most important considerations for your Part Two talk. Most candidates completely ignore this aspect. Different Part Two topic cards require different grammar. Look at the following topics and think about the required grammar content for each.

Describe an object you use every day.

Describe a vehicle that you would like to own.

Describe a happy event in your life.

Preparation Summary

Remember you only have one minute to prepare so you really don’t have time to write sentences or phrases . The most important thing to write on your paper is probably a few vocabulary items and grammar reminder

V Producing a Good Quality Part Two Talk

The fluency- based Strategy

This strategy focuses on the fluency aspect of the marking system. Earlier in this book we concluded that linking words and linking phrases can increase your ‘Fluency’ score – this strategy is based on producing good quality linking structures in your two – minute talk and combines these with complex sentence structures.

First look the following topic card:

Describe a sport that you like playing or watching.

You should say:

What the sport is

How often you play / watch it

Why you like it

Whether it is popular in your country.

The first thing to notice is that all topic cards have one thing common.

Look carefully at the 4 prompts on any topic card and you should notice that they all share the same grammar feature.

- ✓ What the sport is
- ✓ How often you play / watch it
- ✓ Why you like it
- ✓ Whether it is popular in your country

Most people think these are 4 questions. Look carefully – they are not questions; they are in fact a single clause or part of a sentence (statement). This fact is true for every Part Two topic card.

Now look at the next topic card with a complete structure with content.

Describe a famous person you would like to meet.

You should say:

Who the person is

Why he / she is famous

Why you would like to meet this celebrity

○ **Analysis**

“I guess I could begin by saying something about who this person is , and I think I would have to choose the superstar Jackie Chan from Hong Kong.”

(The first point is quite simple, but for most Part Two topics the first point is usually just a simple factual introduction.)

Fluency: the sentence begins with a linking phrase and contains redundant language.

Vocabulary: one topic – related word – “ superstar”

Grammar: complex structure and use of complex tense – “ I would have to choose...”

Language for the “Fluency – based Strategy”

As mentioned earlier in this section the four linking structures and four topic card prompts work for EVERY Part Two topic .You will need to create your own 4 linking phrase structures.

The examples below can be combined in any order and they will all work with every prompt on every topic card.

When you choose your four structures , try to select sentences that don't the same vocabulary (eg: “point”, “subject” etc.).

Don't waste time and energy learning and memorizing every possible linking phrase given below. Choose one from each section and learn those 4 so that you can produce them perfectly and naturally. Practice using those 4 for as many Part Two topics as you can.

Most of the following language can also be used in Part One and Part Three; so if you have time to spare it will be useful to get used to this way of marking sentences.

A. Opening phrase + the first prompt from card

Before you add your content sentence , you need to add another linking phrase:

...and I think I Would have to choose...

...and I'd probably select...

...and the one I'd pick is...

B. The second point + the second prompt from card

Before you explain this point you need to add a second linking phrase (similar to your first point).

...and what I'd like to add here is that...

...and what I need to emphasize here is that...

...and what I ought to stress here is that...

...and the thing that needs to be highlighted here is that ...

...and what I have to mention here is that...

C. The third point + the third prompt from card

Now add your second linking phrase:

- ✓ I would like to explain that...
- ✓ You really have to understand that...
- ✓ I suppose I should underline the fact that...

D. The fourth point + fourth prompt from card

If you give fairly long responses for the other points, you might not have time to cover the last point. This is not a problem, as long as you have produced all of the linking structures in the 3 points – your Part Two talk will be fine.

The last linking phrase:

- ✓ Finally then, if there's time, I could deal with the last question of...
- ✓ To end with, if I still have time, I could take care of the final question of...
- ✓ As a final point, if time permits, I'd like to bring in the point of
- ✓ To cut a long story short, as my very last point, with reference to the question of...

Strategy Summary

The reason why this strategy is called the “fluency – based strategy” can be illustrated below.

1. Linking phrase + prompt + linking phrase + details + connective...
2. Linking phrase + prompt + linking phrase + details + connective...
3. Linking phrase + prompt + linking phrase + details + connective...
4. Linking phrase + prompt + linking phrase + details + connective...

VI Part Two Topic Analyses

The following pages offer most of the Part Two topic cards with suggested ideas for selection, uncommon vocabulary and some grammar tips.

The topics are arranged into basic groups, eg, people, places, events etc.

Remember you do not need to memorise or learn the language on the topic cards because you will be able to look at the card throughout your Part Two talk.

It is important to try to learn and remember uncommon vocabulary for each of the topic areas.

The most important thing to remember is that you can use the same content or vocabulary and grammar for many different topics (eg, a teacher, an old person).

Part Three of the speaking Test

I The Format

You know when Part Three has started because you will hear the examiner say;

“Ok we have just been talking about (public transport) and now I would like to ask you one or two general questions related to this topic. So first off all let’s talk about....

Part Three should take 4-5 minutes. This includes the time it takes for the examiner to introduce topics and ask questions.

It is important to realize that in Part Three the focus of questions and topics changes.

As we have already seen, in Part One and Part Two the focus of the topics and questions is “ you” or “your life”.

Part One

- Do you like.....
- How often do YOU....
- Tell me about X in YOUR city

Part Two

- Describe YOUR favorite...
- Describe something YOU like doing...
- Describe something that is popular in YOUR country.

In Part Three, there is a definite change in the focus. The questions are no longer about you or your life. The general focus of Part Three is “ other people” or “society in general”. The questions in Part Three may be based on things in your country, things in general (no particular place) or they may be about global issues.

There is a direct relationship between your Part Two topic and your Part Three topics. However, it is important to realize that your Part Three topics will not be exactly the same as your Part Two topic.

For example, in Part Two your topic was;

Describe an interesting trip you have been on.

(You described a trip to Hong Kong)

In Part Three, your examiner might ask you questions about;

Different types of trips and holidays

Travelling abroad / travelling in your own country

The importance of tourism

The examiner will NOT ask about;

Travelling to Hong Kong

Your favorite ways of travelling

Why you like travelling

This aspect of Part Three is important to understand because the content of your answers must be based on “general ideas” and not your “personal information”.

It is important to remember that your ideas are not being tested- the examiner is only testing your ability to express your ideas in spoken English.

Part Three will lose marks.

Part Three questions and strategies are given later in this chapter.

II Part Three and Second Adjustment

It is quite obvious that Part Three is the most demanding section of the speaking test. This is because the questions and topics are more complex than Part One and Part Two.

There is specific reason for the increased difficulty in Part Three. An experienced examiner can accurately award a speaking score midway through Part Two. At the end of Part Two, if your examiner has decided that you are a speaking 6, he or she will then use Part Three to push you to your language limit – eg, push you “linguistically” to see if you can actually get 7.

Part Three seems difficult because the examiner is pushing you to your “linguistic limit”.

Generally speaking, most people’s score stay the same after Part Three. In other words, the examiner decided that you were a 6 after Part Two, and your performance in Part Three didn’t make him change his or her mind.

In some circumstances, the score may be reduced in Part Three. This usually happens with candidates who have recited a lot of Part One and Part Two content, they usually find that it is not possible to use recited content in Part Three.

More importantly, it is possible to use Part Three to increase your score. If you fully understand the functions of Part Three questions, you can produce language that should increase your score.

In this chapter we will focus on one particular strategy for dealing with Part Three questions.

It is also important to remember that your actual opinion is not being marked in Part Three.

Many people like to call Part Three a “discussion”. I would rather not use this word because it gives us the idea that content is important. As with all parts of the speaking test, you are being marked on your linguistic ability – NOT your ideas or content.

III Part Three Question Types

Part Three actually contains a wide number of different topics and questions. It would be almost impossible to memorize answers in Part Three.

The strategy for Part Three is to ignore the actual topic and question and focus on the “language function” of Part Three questions.

These language functions require specific grammar aspects, so for this reason, most of our Part Three responses will be based on grammar.

Summary of Part Three Question Types

There are some questions in a Part Three that have not been conveyed in this section. However, the 7 types that have been explained are definitely the most common.

If you are asked a question that does not fit any of these structures, you can try to adapt the language to fit that question.

Remember the basic rule should always be: begin with linking phrase, introduce an idea then develop it with a linking structure. Do not list ideas. Separate your ideas with linking phrases. Most Part Three questions only need 3 ideas.

As I have stated before, to score 7 in speaking you do not need to produce great answers to every question – you just need to produce some great language in response to some of the questions.

Speaking Script 1

Describe a famous person.

Celine Dion is my idol. She was born and raised in Quebec, Canada. She started her singing career at the age of 12.

At the beginning, Celine was only singing in her family's restaurant, but very soon, her tape was sent to a music manager Rene Angelil who later on became her husband. Rene was so impressed and was moved to tears by Celine's voice, so he decided to help Celine with her career. Therefore, Celine Dion became a rising star in Canada.

Before 1990, Celine couldn't speak English properly, so all of her albums were in French. But as a fast learner, Celine started to sing in English in 1990 and penetrated the US market very quickly. So far practically the majority of her songs became big hits and so many of them won awards for her. Nearly all her French and English albums have been really well-liked worldwide.

I like Celine Dion so much because she is talented and has a good sense of humor. In 2010 I went to Las Vegas to see her live show, and it was really a marvelous experience! Celine performed five nights a week in Las Vegas at that time, which truly amazed me. As a successful singer, she has been hardworking all her life. Whenever she releases a new album, I am always the first person to purchase it, so apparently, I am her huge fan.

Celine learned English as a second language very well, which also encourages me to learn English well. She is a real role model for me. I am also interested in music because that's my passion, too. I hope I can also have some success in this industry in the future.

Speaking Script 2

Describe a foreign culture that you are interested in.

I'm planning on visiting the United States. Now I'd like to share some thoughts about the American culture with you

Let me start off by talking about why I like the American culture. The biggest characteristic of the US culture is the fact that the United States is a melting pot of so many different cultures. By that I mean we can see and experience a multitude of cultures from all over the world in one country. Of course, the mainstream culture in the United States is western culture, because it's a western country geographically, politically and spiritually.

As for sightseeing trips, I reckon the United States is surely a perfect place because cities like New York and Los Angeles are full of gorgeous architecture.

Also, the United States is the birthplace of so many great minds, such as Jack Canfield and Mark Twain. I absolutely love their books!

And ... Almost all of my favorite bands are American, such as Eagles, Guns N' Roses and Green Day. And what else? Backstreet Boys and Carpenters ... So many musically-talented people there!

Oh, I also must point out that there are a host of world-class universities in the United States, like Harvard and Yale. I really hope one day I can study in America as well.

Speaking of personality, Americans are very relaxed and laid-back. I haven't met an American that I can't get along with yet, so I'm sure if I live in America, I will feel at home.

American food also excites me. I have heard a lot about American seafood, so I really want to try that as well.

At the moment, most of the information that I have learned about the American culture has come from the Internet. Honestly, I seriously hope that one day I will go to the United States and have some first-hand experiences there.

Speaking Script 3

Describe a party.

I went to an Old Hollywood party last month. It was a theme party called "Love the Journey".

At the grand entrance, cocktails and champagne were served. Because everybody was dressed up like a movie star in the 30s, people were busy taking pictures at the entrance too.

The music at the party was also very old-school. The songs were mainly jazz music from decades ago, and I really enjoy the ambience created by beautiful music like that. People started to dance to the music very quickly, and it felt so romantic and elegant.

Later on, there was a karaoke session, so many songs were presented by participants. My favourite songs were "What a Wonderful World", "Moon River" and "As Time Goes By". I also sang a song in front of the audience. The song is called "Loving You". I did pretty well and hit the high notes perfectly. So I guess others were quite

impressed by that. Anyway, I'm crazy about music and singing, so that's really my thing.

The most exciting part of the party was the game called "Truth or Dare". All of us gathered in a circle and took turns to play the game. When it was my turn, I chose "Truth". Fortunately, the question wasn't too embarrassing, so I did okay.

That was really a wonderful night. What a memorable experience! I enjoyed every minute of that party. Although I'm not a party animal, I am into theme parties like this.

Speaking Script 4

Describe your favorite TV show.

My favorite TV show is Sex and the City which is an American romantic comedy produced by HBO. It was on TV from 1998 to 2004, and it's still available now on the Internet. The show is about four charming women in New York City. They are close friends. Carrie is a sex columnist who writes for a newspaper; Samantha is a public relations agent; Charlotte is a gallery owner; Miranda is an ambitious lawyer. They have very different personalities.

Each episode is about twenty minutes long, so it never gets boring. The conversations in this show are hilarious. That's why I really like the show. Oh, the soundtrack is also fantastic.

Sex and the City won so many awards because it was extremely sensational. Many people like this show because these four women always wear stylish clothes and trendy high heels, which is surely a feast for the eyes.

I like this show very much because Carrie Bradshaw is my idol. One day I want to become a columnist and write for a newspaper or a magazine. I always love writing and I'm working hard to become a writer just like Carrie. Also, writing for the media is a great idea because that's like doing content marketing while getting paid. That means I can promote myself or my own business, and at the same time the magazine or newspaper pays me money. I really want to live a fabulous life like that in the future, so I'm going to have a plan and work towards my goal.

Speaking Script 5

Describe your favourite website.

My favourite website is YouTube. I'm pretty sure everyone has heard a lot about it because it's currently the second biggest search engine in the world.

I really like YouTube mainly because it's so entertaining and educational. It provides a wealth of information such as self-help content, music and news. Besides, I can easily subscribe to any channel that I like so that I wouldn't miss any new videos that I enjoy. The layout of YouTube is very well-organised and user-friendly.

I absolutely adore YouTube because it allows me to download any video that I would like to save on my computer or mobile phone. In this way, I can easily watch those videos whenever I want without Internet access.

YouTube belongs to Google, the biggest online company in the world. That's why I can use YouTube as long as I have a Google account, which is very handy.

Right now I'm learning how to make videos by myself, so I will launch my own YouTube channel next month. I'm quite confident because my YouTube videos will focus on my music. I will play the piano while singing pop songs in my videos, so hopefully I can have a large following pretty soon. My confidence is backed up by my competence, as I have been learning how to play the piano since 2001. Music is my passion and I've realized that YouTube is the perfect platform for me to create my own fans who will follow me in my future career in this industry.

I'm really hooked on YouTube. It's so incredibly powerful.

Speaking Script 6

Describe a city you would like to visit.

As far as I'm concerned, all people, regardless of their background, have heard something about Los Angeles, not just because of its Disneyland, but also because of its Hollywood.

Obviously, Los Angeles is one of the biggest cities in the United States. It's the most well-known city in California. Los Angeles means "the angels" in Spanish. That probably means Spanish people like this city very much. Indeed, nearly 50% of its population are from South America where Spanish is spoken.

Los Angeles is renowned for its cultural diversity. People of all races live in this city. What fascinates me most is the American modernity. Certainly, the United States is a young country, and Los Angeles promotes its modern lifestyle extremely well.

The city of Los Angeles is the hub of California's financial world. It's also a major transport centre and a port. Los Angeles has the busiest airport in California.

I am eager to visit Los Angeles because I really want to meet those Hollywood movie stars. In Los Angeles, many people see celebrities in the street because there are just so

many of them! So I hope that one day I will have the opportunity to go to Los Angeles and experience this world-class city first-hand.

Some of my friends like going shopping in Los Angeles because it's a mecca for fashion lovers. Of course, almost every famous brand can be found in Los Angeles, like Gucci, Chanel, Dior... you name it. Los Angeles is the best city in the world, hands down.

Speaking Script 7

Describe a library that you have visited.

I have visited the library in the city that I live in. It's a public library located at the city centre. It's my favourite place in the city because there are so many things to do here.

The library has a huge glass curtain wall, so the exterior is gorgeous. In fact, its interior is neat too. The entrance hall has a self-service desk where I can borrow and return books easily scan my library card to complete those tasks very quickly. Of course, there is still a circulation desk with a staff member to help visitors who don't want to use the self-service desk.

There are many reading rooms in this library. I often study in one of these reading rooms because the ambience there is perfect. Sometimes I even book a group study room for my friends so that we can discuss our group projects together.

The photocopy room in the library is pretty cool as well. I can print or photocopy documents at a low price, and scanning documents is a free service. Everything is so handy there.

Because the library has such a refreshing and relaxing atmosphere, I visit this library at least once a week. It is a really a fount of wisdom which provides a wealth of books.

In my opinion, this library is mecca for knowledge-craving people like me. My Number One value is knowledge and growth, so I really enjoy reading. Borrowing books from library saves me a lot of money- that is why I'm a regular there.

Speaking Script 8

Describe the apartment or house you live in.

I live in an apartment in the city. It's quite average, without anything too fancy. But its location is seriously perfect because it's in the centre of the city where everything is so accessible.

Apart from its convenient location, I also like my apartment because it's small and cozy. In fact, I'm not a fan of big houses, for I don't like cleaning a big house which simply wastes a lot of space. Apparently, I dislike doing housework, so a small apartment doesn't require too much time when it comes to doing weekly housework.

My apartment has a sitting room, a kitchen, a bedroom and a bathroom. With all functionalities that I need, this apartment affords me a satisfying lifestyle that I really enjoy every day.

Also, my bedroom has a beautiful view over the city, because I live on the 12th floor. Indeed, I like high-rise buildings like this and I love the way of life in the city.

My apartment has a lot of decorations. For example, there is a vision board in my sitting room. On this vision board, there are a range of photos and meaningful words which represent what I want to achieve in the future. So I can see my goals and plans on a daily basis. The vision board also includes my identity statement and daily rituals that I must complete. I just like keeping myself inspired all the time. I made the vision board all by myself, so I'm very proud of that.

Also, my bedroom has many paintings on the wall. I love art so much that I have bought a lot of paintings when I was travelling overseas. Living in this apartment all by myself is incredibly relaxing and enjoyable.

Speaking Script 9

Describe something that made you laugh.

I'm so into The Ellen Show because Ellen DeGeneres is the funniest woman in the world. Her talk show features interviews with celebrities and politicians, pranks as well as surprises.

It's a well-known TV show because it's not only popular in the United States, but also in other countries. Thanks to Ellen's great sense of humor, this funny show has millions of viewers all over the world.

I still remember when Tylor Swift was on The Ellen Show, Ellen DeGeneres had a camera in the ladies' toilet and Ellen was hiding behind the toilet door. So when Tylor Swift went to the toilet, Ellen suddenly scared her. Tylor Swift was so scared that she literally fell on the floor. That was such a classic prank!

Ellen did loads of pranks like this in most episodes of her show. In one episode, she sent someone to hide in a garbage bag and the hidden person suddenly started to dance on the floor when someone was walking towards them. Of course, that prank was quite successful.

Sometimes when Ellen's celebrity guest was sitting on the couch and talking to her, she sent someone to hide in the plant behind the guest who would be really scared by the person in the plant, which made the show very fun and engaging.

However, Ellen never scared politicians such as President Obama, because if that happened, Ellen must be in serious trouble.

Also, Ellen dances a lot on her show, and her dance moves are hilarious as well! The majority of Ellen's fans are women because her talk show is a day-time TV show which attracts housewives who stay at home. Ellen is probably the most famous lesbian in America, and some straight women like her so much that they actually said they would turn lesbian just to be with Ellen, which is quite amusing.

Speaking Script 1o

Describe something that you are good at.

I'm very good at writing. In fact, I've been a freelance writer since two years ago. Therefore, I have written for many websites who were looking for contributors.

Most of the articles written by me are about business, career success, productivity and finances. Recently, I have started to write articles about dating advice and relationships, as I'm interested in exploring different areas.

I also have my own blog and I write one blog post per week. Now I'm building my own online audience who are eager to read my blog article every Sunday. Yes, they look forward to reading my blog post every weekend, which makes me really excited – they hold me accountable, too!

I think the reason why I'm good at writing is because I like reading. I always enjoy reading good books such as fictions and non-fiction books. As a fast reader, I usually read a book a week, and I take a wealth of notes. I organize my notes very well by storing all useful information in one notebook. I like making notes while reading. That's how I learn.

Therefore, whenever I need to write something, I simply take out my notes and come up with great ideas very quickly.

Since writing is mental work which can also be physically exhausting, I take breaks throughout the day. Yes, I have a break every 50 minutes, so that I don't have to sit in front of my computer all day long. I think managing my time like this is so key.

Sometimes I get carried away while writing a long piece, so I have to remind myself to have a rest. In this way, I can keep my energy high and I also become more creative as a result.

Speaking Script 11

Describe something you hope to learn.

I hope to learn painting. I've always wanted to learn this skill since many years ago.

When I was very young, I did lots of portraits and self-portraits by myself. Nobody was teaching me painting, but I just loved doing it. It's my natural inclination, my real passion.

So now I plan to learn painting soon. Once I have made enough money to hire a teacher, I will start to learn painting in my spare time. I would like to learn oil painting. I'm interested in landscape painting and still life painting. I often imagine that one day I will have my own studio and gallery. I hope I can make a living by working as an artist, because if my job is my passion and real hobby, then every day will be a holiday – I won't need to work for a day anymore in my life. That's just so glamorous.

Sometimes I visit a few galleries near my place to look for inspirations. One gallery features abstract paintings, whereas the other gallery presents representational paintings. Both types inspire me so much.

The most famous painting in the world is Mona Lisa which is a halflength painting. Although it dates back to the Italian Renaissance, today in the Louvre, it still attracts numerous admirers from all over the world. Mona Lisa is special because of her enigmatic smile. In the future, I'm going to see this painting in the Louvre and I'm sure I'll adore this masterpiece.

Leonardo Da Vinci is my hero because he produced Mona Lisa, the best masterpiece. I really hope that I can become an excellent artist like him.

Speaking Script 12

Describe your personality.

In general, I'm an outgoing and gregarious person with very good social skills. I believe that having social skills is of vital importance in this day and age, as nobody can afford to be an island anymore in the 21st century.

I wouldn't say I'm a party animal, but I do go to parties quite frequently. Usually I arrive at the party very early so that I can meet people who are already there, especially the organisers of the party – these people are very important. Then when others arrive at the party gradually, I invite them to join our conversation. That's how I make new friends by going to events alone.

I believe that my network is my net worth, so I try my best to build a powerful network that can help me with my career success. Who I know is just as important as what I do, because people around me can easily become the gateway to opportunities.

So I learn new communication skills all the time by reading a lot of books about charisma, human dynamics and psychology. I think this has helped me to improve my interaction with people on different occasions.

Having many friends also boosts my confidence, as I feel that I am someone who is needed by people. I guess that means I'm a valuable person. Certainly, I also help my friends in many ways because I love adding value too.

Well, everyone is multidimensional. I also enjoy spending time by myself. For example, I like staying at home and watching TV on Friday nights.

But most of the time, I prefer going out to socialize with others. Meeting new people excites me; making new friends gives me a great sense of satisfaction.

Speaking Script 13

Describe your favourite advertisement.

My favourite advertisement is a chocolate commercial on TV.

A woman is waiting for her lover to pick her up from her apartment. She has waited for a very long time, so she looks at her watch every five seconds. Then she receives a bunch of flowers from the delivery boy and there is a box and a card as well.

She opens the box and finds beautiful chocolates inside the box, so she bites a piece and the chocolate melts in her mouth like silk when the jazz music starts in the background.

She looks at the card which says, "Life is sweeter when Hershey's Kisses are added to it."

All of a sudden, her lover arrives and they are so in love.

I think this commercial is very cool because it focuses on how we feel. When I was watching this TV commercial, I could feel how that woman feels completely. It seems

that what I saw visually could become something that I could smell and taste. I reckon that was because of the background music. I love jazz, as I find it really romantic and relaxing.

The person who created this commercial must be a genius who totally understands psychology and marketing. Consumers are influenced by emotions rather than logic. When a powerful commercial like that can change how we feel, it can change how we perceive the product. That's why we buy this product.

Apart from that, I really like the slogan in this commercial. It's very wellwritten and so creative that it's written on the card. In this way, I could hear the slogan and see it at the same time. In other words, this is a multisensory experience! And I absolutely love it.

Speaking Script 14

Describe a wedding you have attended.

My sister got married last year. I went to her wedding which was held at the beach at 11 o'clock on a Saturday morning. The ceremony was simple but chic, as it was a western-style ceremony.

The music was chosen by my sister, so it was very modern and solemn – typical western music. After the officiant made some opening remarks, the groom, my sister's husband, made his way to the altar. I still remember his black tuxedo which was a very classic formal outfit. The best man was my friend Joe who was waiting at the altar.

About ten minutes later, the Wedding March started to be played in the background. Then the maid of honour and the flower girls entered the ceremony. They were my colleague and her twin daughters. My sister, the bride, entered in a breathtaking wedding gown, escorted by our dad. Her wedding dress was a present from my mum – it was a family heirloom – the colour was champagne rather than white. That's my favourite colour.

My sister believes in western tradition, so on her wedding day she had to wear something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue. That's considered to be good luck in western culture. Like I said, her wedding dress was something old, and her shoes were something new. Also, she borrowed a bracelet from me, so that was something borrowed. Then she was wearing a blue flower in her hair, which was something blue.

When my sister was walking down the aisle, everyone was so moved. My mum was literally moved to tears because finally she witnessed her oldest daughter's wedding. Then my dad left the bride at the altar with the groom and the officiant.

The couple exchanged wedding rings as well as wedding vows at the altar, and then they kissed each other and were pronounced husband and wife by the officiant. After that, my sister and my brother-in-law were showered with golden confetti.

Later on the wedding banquet was held at Hilton Hotel near the beach. The hall had a magnificent view. I really enjoyed the whole experience.

Speaking Script 15

Describe a radio program.

Well, my favourite radio program is called Love Life on iHeartRadio which is an Internet radio platform owned by an American company with its headquarters in New York. Apart from the United States, it's also popular in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. This radio show is really funny because the host is a British dating coach called Matthew Hussey. Matthew Hussey is a love guru who knows everything about dating and relationships. Initially, he was a confidence coach who helped thousands of men, but since 2008, he has been giving dating advice for women.

On this radio show called Love Life, each episode features one woman's telephone conversation with Matthew Hussey. She asks one question, and Matthew answers her question in detail. Every episode is about fifteen minutes long, so I can listen to the show during breakfast time in the morning. That's a very interesting way to start my day, because Matthew Hussey's advice is actually beyond dating advice. He often talks about how to apply what he teaches us in other areas of life, such as work and social life in general.

Occasionally, no woman calls the studio. Instead, Matthew Hussey gives some very powerful content regarding personal development on the show. Sometimes, he talks about time management; sometimes he talks about productivity. In fact, I like his other content more than his dating advice because dating advice tends to be corny after listening to it repeatedly. Generally speaking, this radio program has helped me to understand psychology and human dynamics better. I highly recommend this radio show.

Speaking Script 16

Describe a wealthy person.

The rich person that I'd like to talk about is Gary Vaynerchuk. Gary Vaynerchuk is an entrepreneur in the United States. When he was only three years old, he moved to America from Soviet Union. As an immigrant, life was hard when he was young. His family were living in a studio apartment – pretty difficult for eight family members. He couldn't speak English at that time, so he was bullied by his classmates at school.

When he was in middle school, he started to sell baseball cards in a shopping mall every weekend. So he was making about three thousand dollars each week. At that time, he was an F student at school because he couldn't pass any subject at all. His teacher told him that he was a loser, unfortunately, and nobody knew he was making a lot of money.

In his early twenties he took over his father's wine business, and he grew the business from 3 million dollars to 50 million dollars a year by 2005. In 2006, Gary realised that YouTube is the best place to do marketing, so he started Wine Library TV channel on YouTube, which helped his wine business a lot.

Gary works very hard. He works from 6am to 11pm every day and rarely has a holiday. He says he is the ultimate workaholic and he hates holidays. Somehow I think he is awesome because he knows what he wants and he is a real hustler who works with high energy and determination.

Gary founded Vayner Media with his brother AJ Vaynerchuk in 2009. It's a social media-focused digital agency, because Gary invested in many social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. Gary has published four best-selling books which are all about business and entrepreneurship. This is probably the most popular topic in contemporary society.

Speaking Script 17

Describe your ideal job.

My ideal job is to be a freelance writer. I always wanted to write professionally when I was young, so now I'm working hard to improve my writing skills and techniques so that I can make my dream come true one day.

I think in order to be an outstanding writer, I must cultivate my creativity and expand my outlook. I'd like to focus on creative writing such as poems. Also, I'm interested in writing blog articles which are very popular on the Internet. Because I have an inquiring mind, I have read a wealth of books regarding self-help, personal development, literature, and so on. Therefore, I would say I'm a knowledgeable and well-read person who has the potential to write remarkable pieces. I'm quite capable

and efficient when it comes to computing skills, and I type really fast. Consequently, I'm sure I have the right skills to be an excellent writer in the 21st century.

Being a freelance writer means having freedom in life, which is something that I have always wanted. Because of modern technology, I can easily work from home and build my home-based freelance writing business. My plan is to set up an account at Upwork.com which helps me to find clients who are looking for longer articles, and then set up an account at Fiverr.com which has more clients looking for shorter articles. With these two platforms, I'll be able to work at home with so much flexibility every day.

Being a freelance writer also means being a self-employed entrepreneur. I don't like to be told what to do and I'd like to plan my own schedule, so I reckon running my own business is the best way to live my life on my terms. I am working hard in order to fulfil my potential because I've already found my calling.

Speaking Script 18

Describe your favourite book.

My favourite book is The Happiness Trap written by Dr Russ Harris. This book is about how to improve our mental health which is a frequent topic of discussion in this day and age. Whenever I feel stressed out, I always turn to this book for help.

The main idea of this book is mindfulness. That means an individual should live in the moment right now and be an observer. When we are able to observe what's going on, we are less likely to be mentally chaotic. That's how we alleviate our pain and stress.

Another very enlightening message in this book is values. There is a values test in the book. After doing the test, I realised that my Top 3 values are knowledge, experience and connection. So the author's suggestion is I should be mindful on a daily basis, especially when difficult situations arise, and then take actions according to my values. For instance, if I feel nervous while preparing for an exam, I can take a deep breath and simply observe how I feel rather than struggle with my feelings. Then I look at my values: knowledge, experience and connection. Based on my values, I can learn something new, experience something exciting or talk to someone I care about. These kind of activities make me truly happy.

Dr Russ Harris is a physician and therapist in Australia, although he was born in the United Kingdom. He is a leading expert on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy which is a very important concept in modern psychology.

In fact, I find Acceptance and Commitment Therapy very similar to Buddhism, because they share similar wisdom and practice such as being okay with things that are out of our control and meditation exercise.

Now if you ask me how I am able to cope with issues that I can't change in my life, my answer is, "The trick is not minding." Because I'm mindful and I'm observing what's going on in my life, I feel less attached to my problems and that's why not minding the pain is the key.

Speaking Script 19

Describe a trip you took recently.

Recently I went to Florida, the United States. So far it was the best trip I've ever had in my life. As the flight was international long haul, I purchased business class fare. Virgin Australia is the best airline in the Southern Hemisphere, so I had a bed on the plane. In fact, there was a desk, a TV and a bed – and that was my seat! I didn't enjoy watching TV because I'm not a fan of any TV shows on the plane, but I certainly enjoyed reading books in bed. The food served by Virgin Australia was scrumptious and the wine was seriously perfect as well. When I was flying from Los Angeles to Fort Lauderdale, the flight was upgraded to first class, so it was even more refreshing with better service.

Fort Lauderdale is a city in Florida, and it's famous for its beautiful beach, sunshine and parties. I was partying very hard with a few celebrities there, so I really had a blast. I went to a beach party, a tropical cocktail party, a pool party and an Old Hollywood party. My trip was very well planned, hence I really had a good time.

The only problem I had was the annoying jet-lag, because Florida is 13 hours and 30 minutes behind Adelaide, Australia. That was a bit tiring, but overall the experience was invigorating because I was so excited! There are so many tourist attractions in Florida and the scenery was spectacular and breathtaking. I also met many new people and they have become my new friends.

The beach in Florida is the best I've ever seen in my life. I really enjoyed the tranquil and serene ocean early in the morning with a breeze sweeping across the ocean waves – it was so peaceful and soothing. In general, I think the trip was rewarding because I rejuvenated myself in the process.

Speaking Script 20

Describe a picnic in a park.

Last weekend my friends and I had a picnic in a park near my place. It was a breezy, shiny Saturday morning, so we decided to have brunch in the park.

My friend Caroline brought fish and chips; Tiffany brought a salad; I brought a chocolate cake. The food was scrumptious and balanced.

The weather was very nice and warm, so we were eating and chatting for a few hours. The grass in the park was neatly-mowed, and some other people were also there. Interestingly, two boys were also having a meal in the park near us, and I realised that they were my neighbors. So we invited them to join us. As we forgot to bring any drinks, they offered to share their drinks with us. Then we had some lemonade and coke together.

Tiffany is very health-conscious, so she decided to drink water instead and went to a shop near the park to buy a bottle of spring water. Maybe I should learn from her, because I really like sweet food and I reckon eating more wholesome food is probably better for me.

Nowadays most people prefer talking online, so they chat on Facebook. But my friends and I like catching up with each other more – maybe we are a bit old-fashioned, but we just like face-to-face communication which is still very important nowadays.

Compared with eating in a fancy restaurant, I like having a picnic in the park more, as it reminds me of my childhood. Also, it's so much cheaper. When I was young, I used to go out with my classmates and had a lot of fun outside the house. We were playing in the nature. So I believe I should still spend more time outside my home and enjoy more fresh air and sunshine.

Speaking Script 21

Describe a piece of interesting news.

Yesterday I saw a piece of very interesting news on TV. The news was about how some online dating websites are inundated with money worshipping concepts and ideas.

Brandon Wade, a Chinese American businessman, runs three online dating sites which are really unusual. One of his websites, seekingarrangement.com, is best characterized by sugar babies looking for sugar daddies, which means it is a website for young and attractive women to find rich and generous men so that they can build mutually beneficial relationships. Another website of his is whatsyourprice.com, which is helping successful and wealthy men to find sexy, single women who charge fees when they go out with men. His third website is misstravel.com which helps women to find

affluent men that are happy to pay women who would like to accompany them while travelling.

Because his websites are all doing very well internationally, his business has attracted the attention from the media. As a result, a TV show criticizes this phenomenon, saying the theme of his dating websites is morally wrong. Yet many netizens claim that Brandon Wade is contributing to the society because traditional relationships are full of stress and drama, whereas Brandon Wade provides people with the opportunity to find balanced relationships in a relatively easy and efficient way.

The fact that Brandon Wade's websites are so popular means individuals in modern-day society are highly stressed. Consequently, people want to alleviate their stress by finding something straight-forward without playing any games. Instead of criticizing Brandon Wade himself, we should question why his business is so successful.

Bonus Scripts for Part 1 and Part 3 of the

Speaking Test

Part 1 Speaking Scripts:

- ❖ Learning English is an arduous process, but it's also very rewarding.
- ❖ My aspiration is to get better academic qualifications and find a cushy job.
- ❖ My hometown is a prosperous city, so the cost of living is sky-high.
- ❖ As a movie buff, I'm into thought-provoking movies.
- ❖ Because reading expands my outlook and thoughts, I read bestsellers, including motivational books and literary classics.
- ❖ Speaking of clothing, my favourite style is a trendy and youthful look, as I believe people like youthful individuals rather than young individuals.
- ❖ I feel comfortable when the weather is mild, and I can't stand the humidity in the monsoon season in some countries.
- ❖ Relaxing music calms my nerves and restores my soul.
- ❖ My family are loving and strict at the same time.
- ❖ Most of my friends are trustworthy, amusing and genuine, because friends are the family that I choose to have.
- ❖ I'd like to try some extreme sports in the future, since I'm an adventurous person.
- ❖ I used to like name-brand stuff, but recently I have decided to invest in my education instead.
- ❖ In order to improve my emotional health, I have a dog as my constant companion.

Part 3 Speaking Scripts:

- ❖ It seems to me that in the past, people were unwilling to shop online; in contrast, most people are happy to browse websites such as eBay and Amazon these days.
- ❖ To the best of my knowledge, the causes of cyber bullying are complex. The chief contributing factor is many youngsters are not mature enough to use Facebook and Twitter. A secondary reason may be lack of parental guidance.
- ❖ In my view, the most sensible way to confront this would be to educate the general public.
- ❖ Ideally, every university student should know how to use a computer. But in reality, some university students don't have enough computing skills.
- ❖ Apparently, the advantages include better physical health and mental health.
- ❖ The main problems associated with this trend are lack of patience and prevalent anxiety.
- ❖ It stands to reason that a student who is bullied at school will grow up without self-confidence.
- ❖ The concerns that being overweight is a potential long-term problem in western countries are well-justified.
- ❖ It is an inescapable fact that public schools don't have enough funds to support every single student. That's why issues in public education is unavoidable in western countries

Ideas for IELTS Topics

Common IELTS Topics

1. Advertising
2. Animal Rights: testing on animals, vegetarianism, zoos
3. Cities: urbanization, problems of city life
4. Crime: police, punishments/prisons, rehabilitation, capital punishment
5. Education: studying abroad, technology in education, education in developing countries, higher education, home-schooling, bad Behaviour, corporal punishment, single sex education, streaming (grouping children according to ability)
6. Environment: global warming, impact of humans on the environment, solutions to environment problems, waste/rubbish, litter, recycling, nuclear power
7. Family: family size, working parents, negative effects on children, divorce, care for old people
8. Gender: gender and education, gender and work, women's and men's role in the family.

9. Genetic Engineering: positives, negatives, genetically modified foods
10. Global Issues: problems in developing countries, how to help developing countries, immigration, multi-cultural societies, globalization
11. Government and Society: what governments can do, public services, censorship, video cameras in public places
12. Guns and Weapons: gun ownership and possession, police and guns, nuclear weapons, armed forces
13. Health: diet, exercise, state health systems, private healthcare, alternative medicine, stress
14. Housing and Architecture: state housing, old buildings, modern/green buildings
15. International Language: English as an international language
16. Money: money and society, consumerism
17. Personal Development: happiness, success, nature or nurture
18. Sport and Leisure: professional/competitive sport, sport salaries, sport and politics
19. Tourism: positives, negative effects on environment, future of tourism
20. Traditions and Modern Life: losing traditional skills, traditional customs
21. Transport: traffic problems and solutions, public transport, road safety
22. Television, Internet and Mobile Phones: positives and negatives, Internet compared to newspapers and books
23. Water: importance of clean water, water supply, water should be free, bottled water
24. Work: same job for life, self-employment, unemployment, work/life balance, technology and work, childlabour

Source: <http://ielts-simon.com/ielts-help-and-english-pr/2011/02/ieltsadvice-you-need-ideas-and-opinions.html>

1. Advertising

Positives of Advertising

Advertising is a key part of modern business Companies need to tell customers about their products Advertisements inform us about the choices we have Advertising is a creative industry that employs many people

Without advertising we would have less choice

Without advertising there would be higher unemployment

Advertising is a form of modern art

People enjoy adverts

Negatives of Advertising

Advertising manipulates people

It aims to persuade people that buying a product will make them happier

Advertisers focus on selling a brand image

They use glamorous, successful people We now live in a consumer culture

We are persuaded to follow the latest trend

We are encouraged to associate certain brands with a higher status Advertisers often aim their marketing at children

Children can easily be influenced by advertisements.

Children put pressure on parents to buy them things

opinions about Advertising

Advertising should be regulated

Advertising aimed at children should be controlled or even banned Unhealthy foods should not be marketed in a way that attracts children Products that can be risk to healthy should display warnings

In some countries it is illegal to advertise cigarettes on television Warnings must be displayed on cigarette packets

However, advertising is necessary in free market economies It creates demand for products Governments should only censor false information or products that are harmful.

2. Animal rights

Arguments for Animal Testing

Animals are used in important scientific research It is necessary to do medical tests on new drugs

Animal testing helps to advance medical and scientific knowledge Many important medical discoveries involved experimentation on animals

Researchers aim to minimize the suffering that animals experience Testing for the cosmetics industry is now banned in many countries

Arguments against Animal Testing

The benefits of research using animals do not justify the suffering caused There are alternative methods of research

The lives of animals should be respected

Humans have no moral right to do experiments on animals

Arguments for Vegetarianism

Vegetarians do not eat foods that are produced by killing animals Many people choose a vegetarian diet for moral or health reasons A healthy diet is possible without eating meat

It is unnecessary to kill animal for food

A vegetarian diet may reduce the risk of disease like cancer Many people question the treatment of animals in factory farms

Arguments against Vegetarianism

Vegetarians do not eat a balanced diet

In many cultures, meat is the main ingredient in traditional meals Meat eaters argue that animals are below humans in the food chain It is completely natural for us to kill them for food our aim should be improve farming method Farms should produce organic food

Positives of Zoos

Zoos play an important role in wildlife conservation They can help to protect endangered species

Zoos allow scientists to study animals and their behaviour Zoos are educational, interesting and fun

Children, in particular, enjoy learning about animal Zoos provide job opportunities.

Negatives of Zoos

Zoo animals are kept in artificial environments

They are kept in cages or have limited space Zoo animals rely on humans

They lose the freedom to hunt for food

The best way to save endangered species is by protecting natural habitats. Some people believe that zoos are unethical

Zoos exhibit animals with the aim of making money
We have no right to use animals for entertainment and profit.

3. Cities

Reasons for Urbanization

People move to cities in search of job opportunities
Cities offer greater employment possibilities and a higher standard of living
People migrate to cities from the countryside
Traditional activities like farming need fewer workers nowadays

Negatives of City Life

Life in cities has its drawbacks
The cost of living is higher than in rural areas
Some people don't manage to find work
Housing is usually much more expensive
Homelessness and poverty are common in cities
There is a gap between rich and poor
Life in cities can be extremely stressful
There are problems like traffic congestion and crime
Cities lack a sense of community
People do not even know their neighbor
Cities are sometimes described as "concrete jungles".

Pedestrian Areas

Pedestrian zones in city centre can improve the local environment
Banning cars encourages people to walk or cycle
Many European cities have built bicycle lanes
Dependence on cars is linked to health problems like obesity
People who walk or cycle regularly are generally healthier
Pedestrian areas are safer and more attractive for both residents and tourists

4. Crime

Police and Crime Prevention

The job of the police is to catch criminals

They must also prevent crime and make communities safer

There should be an increase in the number of police officers on the streets Police officers should be seen as part of the community

They should be involved with education and prevention .The police should be in close contact with schools

They should focus on young people who have dropped out of school. These teenagers may become involved with gangs

Punishments/Prisons

Fines are used as punishment for minor crimes

If the crime is more serious, prison is the most common punishment Some criminals pose a threat to society

They are put in prison to ensure the safety of other citizens

Negatives of Prisons

Criminals are put together

They make friends with other offenders

Many prisoners reoffend when they are released A criminal record makes finding a job more difficult

Rehabilitation

Another aim of prisons is rehabilitation

Prisoners receive education or vocational training Prisoners should learn personal skills and specific job skills Punishment could make prisoners' behavior worse Rehabilitation aims to make them better citizens Rehabilitated prisoners are less likely to reoffend

Capital punishment

Supporters say that capital punishment deters crime

Fear of the death penalty stops people from committing offences The death penalty shows that crime is not tolerated

It is a form of revenge

The cost of imprisonment is avoided

The offender cannot pose a threat to others

Against Capital Punishment

Innocent people could be wrongly convicted and executed Crime rates are not necessarily reduced

Many criminals do not think they will be caught

Capital punishment is not a good deterrent

Executing prisoners creates a violent culture and encourages revenge We have no right to take another human life

Community service

Community service is a way to reform offenders It could be a solution to prison overcrowding

It avoids the cost of imprisonment

It makes offenders useful in their local communities They are required to clean streets or talk to school groups offenders repay their community

They avoid the negative influence that prison can have

Against community service

Community service is not a sufficient punishment Criminals should be locked up, away from their victims

Crime in the Media

Crime is one of the main subjects of most news programs. The mass media focus on violent and sensational crimes This lead to fear of crime among the public

Sensational stories attract more viewers or readers

The media report crime stories in order to increase their audience

5. Education

Benefits of education

Education gives people knowledge and skills

People with qualification are more likely to find work They can earn a higher salary

They can contribute positively to society

Schools aim to teach young people moral values such as tolerance and sharing Schools prepare children to be members of a society

Benefits of Studying Abroad

Foreign institutions may offer better courses

Many students want to attend a prestigious university

The best universities employ teachers who are experts in their fields

Qualifications gained abroad can open the door to better job opportunities Living abroad can broaden students' horizons

overseas students are exposed to different cultures and customs. They become more independent

They are responsible for cooking, cleaning and paying bills They will learn a foreign language

Drawback of studying abroad

Living and studying abroad can be difficult

Students have problems with paperwork such as visa applications The language barrier can be a problem

Students have to find accommodation and pay bills
Studying in a foreign language is challenging
Living alone in an unfamiliar culture can cause homesickness

Technology in Education: Advantages

Technology is a powerful tool to engage students Technology can make lessons much more interesting
Students can do research using online resources Students can study at their own place
Adults can take distance learning courses
Students can study whenever and wherever they want Students also learn skills which are useful for their future jobs For example, they learn to write reports using a word processor

Technology in Education: Disadvantages

People rely too much on computers
Young learners do not become proficient in some basic skills They use word processors and spelling may suffer
People should be able to write a letter by hand
Technology is no substitute for a real teacher
Learners need a structured course
An experienced teacher knows what materials to choose
Computers are expensive to maintain and can be unreliable

Technology in Education: opinion

Institutions should supplement traditional teaching with the use of technology
Technology is part of everyday life
It can enhance a teacher's lessons
Students can use online resources to help with homework
Students must still learn to write by hand
They should still use traditional sources of information such as books

Education in Developing countries: Problems

Children often have to work from an early age There are no schools in many areas

Families do not have access to books or computers Literacy rates are often low

People in developing countries need knowledge and skills Education is the key to improving the economy of these countries

Education in developing countries: solutions

Developed countries could help developing nations by providing money They could invest in schools and technology

They could supply the funds to build schools and pay for teachers Children need to have access to free schooling

Computer equipment could be donated

The Internet can expose students to a world of knowledge and information

Governments should make education compulsory for all children They should encourage parents to send their children to school

Governments of developed and developing countries must work together

Higher education: Advantages (also see “benefits of education”)

There are many benefits to going to university

A degree can open the door to better employment prospects

Economies are becoming increasingly knowledge-based Most jobs require specific knowledge and skills

Skilled workers are needed for sectors such as information technology and engineering Repetitive manual jobs are now done by machine

Many factories have moved to developing countries

Higher education: Disadvantages

A healthy economy needs a wide range of workers Some manual workers will always be needed

A university degree is not necessary for many service professions Practical training is more important in some industries

In the UK, for example, there is currently a shortage of plumbers Their

services are therefore becoming more and more expensive

Advantage of Home-schooling

Some parents decide to educate their children at home Some families live in isolated areas with poor transport other parents are not satisfied with local schools

Parents can respond to what their children need and how they learn best one-to-one lessons allow much faster progress

The child can work at his or her own pace Discipline problems are avoided by home-schooling

Disadvantages of home-schooling

Most parents do not have the time to educate their children at home one parent would need to give up work

School subjects are normally taught by up to ten different teachers Most parents do not have the necessary knowledge or resources Private tutors are expensive Children will miss out on the social experience that school offers At school, children learn how to get on with each other

Home-schooled children may lack social skills Schools offer a better overall educational experience

Bad behaviour in schools: causes

Bad behaviour is due to a lack of structure and discipline There are too many children in some classes

Large classes are difficult to manage

May disruptive students come from an unstable family background other parents are too lenient and spoil their children

Some children are used to getting whatever they want Schools can do very little if they are not supported by parents

Bad behaviour in schools: solutions

Schools need a clear code of conduct
Schools need a clear set of rules about behaviour They need
to create a positive working atmosphere
Teachers must have the power to punish disruptive students
Schools should remove difficult children from lessons Schools need to
work closely with parents
Discipline could be lacking at home Parents
must support the school rules
They should take responsibility for their children's behaviour

Corporal Punishment: opinion

Corporal Punishment is not a good idea
Physical punishment is a way of controlling children using fear This
does not promote trust between adults and children
Children who are punished physically may become shy or resentful
Corporal punishment creates an atmosphere of fear and anger

Single Sex Education: Advantages

Some people believe that male and female students should go to separate
schools This is often for religious or cultural reasons
Discipline problems might be avoided by separating boys and girls Boys and
girls may learn in different ways and have different needs Student at single sex schools
often get better exam grades.

Single-sex Education: Disadvantages

Separating boys and girls is unnecessary
It is unhealthy in terms of children's social development Many
coeducational schools are extremely successful
A mixed-sex environment is more representative of real life
Coeducational schools provide children with better social skills for adult life

Advantages of Streaming (grouping children according to ability)

Some schools separate students according to their academic ability
Teachers can work at the right speed for their students
Teachers can plan more suitable lessons
High-level groups may progress faster
Lower level groups can benefit from a slower pace
Some teachers and parents support streaming for these reasons

Disadvantages of Streaming

Grouping by ability may have a negative impact on students
Children do not want to be seen as less intelligent than others Streaming could damage students' self esteem
They may lose motivation
Students from wealthier families tend to be better prepared Children from poorer families may receive less support from parents Mixed ability classes encourage everyone to achieve their potential.

6. Environment Global warming

Gases such as carbon dioxide trap heat from the sun This causes global temperatures to rise
This process is known as the greenhouse effect
Human activity is a major factor in the rise of the greenhouse gases Factories and vehicles produce emissions and exhaust fumes Many developing countries are becoming industrialized The number of cars on our streets is growing
Cheap air travel is allowing more people to fly

Effects of Global Warming

Global warming will have a significant impact on our planet Rising temperature will cause melting of the polar ice caps Sea levels will rise
We can expect more extreme weather conditions Flooding and droughts may

become more common

Impacts of humans on the environment

The increasing world population is putting pressure on natural resources Fossil fuels like oil and gas are running out

We are destroying wildlife habitats

We have cut down enormous areas of rainforest

This has led to the extinction of many species of animals and plants

Solutions to environment problems

Governments could introduce laws to limit emissions from factories They should invest in renewable energy from solar, wind or water power They could impose “green taxes” on drivers and airlines companies

Government campaigns should promote recycling Natural areas and wild animals should be protected Individuals should also try to be greener

We should take fewer flights abroad for holidays We should take public transport rather than driving We should choose products with less packaging

We should recycle as much as possible

Waste/rubbish

The amount of waste we produce has increased This problem is a result of our consumer culture Products are not made to last

If something breaks, we throw it away and buy a new one Advertisers encourage us to buy the newest fashions Packaging is an important part of selling

Most foods are sold in non-biodegradable plastics packaging The amount of household waste is growing

This waste ends up in landfill sites

Litter

People do not think about the consequences of dropping rubbish They assume that somebody is paid to clean the streets

Plastic packaging does not break down easily

Most of the litter seen on streets is fast food packaging

Recycling and other solutions

Companies should make goods that last longer They

should not use so much packaging

Governments should be stricter, about waster produced by companies They

should put legal limits on packaging

Consumers should avoid buying over-packaged products We

should recycle and reuse useful materials.

There are collection banks for glass, paper and plastic bottles

Households can use several rubbish bins to separate waste

Recycling saves energy and raw materials.

Nuclear Power: Positives

There are several benefits to build more nuclear power stations Fossil fuel like oil and gas are running out

Nuclear power is a sustainable energy source

It can be used to produce electricity without wasting natural resources It could

be replace the use of natural resources like coal, oil or gas Nuclear power

stations are cleaner than fossil fuel power stations

They could help to reduce carbon emissions that cause global warming The

risks of accidents are being reduced

Nuclear Power: negatives

opponents of nuclear power worry about the safety of power stations The

building of new nuclear power stations is unpopular

Nobody wants to live near one

Nuclear waste disposal is a significant problem

There is currently no way to decontaminate radioactive material People worry

that terrorists could steal radioactive materials

It is safer to produce energy from solar, wind or water power.

7. Family

Family size

Families in many countries are not as large as they used to be We tend to live in small nuclear families rather than large extended families Parents tend to have fewer children

Young children are no longer expected to work

Nowadays both parents often work

It costs so much to bring children up

It is more difficult to raise a large family

Working parents (also see “gender” topic)

Children and their parents seem to be less close nowadays Parents spend less time with their children

Women traditionally stayed at home to cook, clean and look after children

Nowadays both parents often work full time

Children may be left alone, or with nannies or baby sitters Busy parents have less contact with their children

Many families no longer eat meals together

Children spend more time with friends or surfing the Internet

Negative effects on Children

The lack of closeness in families can have a negative effect on children Many parents have no idea how their children spend their time

Friends, television and the Internet become the main influence on children’s behavior Teenagers are influenced by peer pressure

Some of them join gangs

Juvenile delinquency is on the increase

Parents should be more involved with their children’s up bringing Young people need positive role models

Divorce

In the past, divorce was unacceptable

It was considered to be embarrassing for a family People stayed together for religious or family reasons Divorce is more

socially acceptable nowadays

It has become much more common Divorce can be extremely stressful

Lone parents may face financial difficulties

Many single parents have to rely on benefits paid by the state

Divorce can have a negative effect on children

Children from single-parent families are more likely to get lower grades or drop out of school. The rise in divorce rates may be connected to some social problems.

Care for old people

Caring for elderly people was traditionally the responsibility of families .Adults had to look after their elderly parents .A woman's job was to stay at home taking care of her family Nowadays, fewer

elderly people are looked after by their relatives Residential homes provide care for large number of elderly people Some families are unable to look after elderly relatives .Families tend to be smaller these days, and women often have full-time jobs Cares homes provide a professional service for senior citizens .Nurses are better trained than family members

Care f or old people

opinion the best form of care for the elderly depends on the family situation It depends on whether family members have the time resources .We all have a responsibility towards the older people in our society Governments should invest money in facilities and training for care workers.

8. Gender

Gender and education

Men and women should have access to the same educational opportunities .Males and females should be accepted onto courses according to their abilities It is wrong to discriminate against students because of their gender Student's

achievements should depend on hard work and individual merit In the UK, there are similar numbers of male and female students in higher education .

Gender and work

Men and women should have access to the same professional opportunities both man and women should be able to pursue a career .They should earn equal salaries

They should be employed according to their abilities, qualifications and experience Traditionally women have been restricted to certain roles .They were often employed as secretaries or receptionists .

Nowadays, a range of occupations is available to both sexes .Career success depends on individual merit

Women's and Men's roles in the Family

Some people argue that a mother should not work She should stay at home and bring up her children. The father should be the breadwinner of the family others believe that both parents should share these responsibilities Workingwomen can take maternity leave during and after pregnancy Many mothers continue to work after this period .

Many fathers and mothers share their parenting and domestic responsibilities. They contribute equally to childcare, cooking and cleaning

Some women many have better career prospects than their husbands. Paternity leave and “househusbands” are becoming more common Traditional gender roles and gradually changing.

Families can divide roles and responsibilities in the most convenient way.

9. Genetic Engineering

Positives of genetic engineering

Genetic engineering is the practice of manipulating the genes of an organism It is used to produce crops that are more resistant to insects and diseases Some genetically modified crops grow more quickly ,Some drugs and vaccines are produced by genetic engineering .It may become possible to change human's genetic characteristics. Scientists may use genetic engineering to cure diseases. Inherited illnesses would no longer exist Genes could be changed before a baby is born It could also be possible to clone human organs We could all have replacement body part Humans could live longer, healthier lives

Negatives of genetic engineering.

There are ethical concerns about human genetic engineering Parents might want to choose their children's characteristics This would be unnatural It would be unacceptable in most religions soldiers could be cloned from the genes of the strongest people clones might be used like robots to do certain jobs .

Clones might even be developed just for organ replacements Society and human evolution would change completely Currently, human genetic engineering is prohibited.

Genetically-Modified (GM) foods: Advantages

Farmers can produce crops that grow bigger and faster Some GM crops are more resistant to disease or insects .This could be important for food production in developing countries Faster growing cereals, fruit and vegetables will mean more profit GM foods can be modified to look perfect. They may be more attractive to customers

Genetically-Modified (GM) Foods: Disadvantages

There may be risks involved in the genetic engineering of foods.GM crops might change whole ecosystems

Food chains could be broken if crops are resistant to predators organic foods are produced without chemicals or genetic modification organic farming may be slower and more expensive .However, the environment is not damaged by fertilizers or pesticides.

10. Global issues

Problems in developing countries

Developing countries face a range of problems Standards of healthcare and education are low, life expectancy is usually lower than in developed countries .There is a lack of infrastructure, employment and good quality housing many people are forced to live in poverty .Food, drinking water and basic medicines are in short supply

How to help developing countries

The best form of help for developing countries is development aid Richer nations can help by investing in long-term projects .Governments and charities can help by building new houses and schools

Globalization may also help developing countries.

Multi-national companies can creating jobs in developing countries on the other hand, many people emigrate to find work in richer countries. They often sand money back home to their families .This money helps to improve the standard of living in developing countries

Immigration

Some people move to another countries in search of a better life. Many immigrants come from less developed countries .Richer, industrialized countries may offer opportunities for employment Free healthcare and schooling are available in some developed countries other people migrate to a foreign country to improve their academic qualifications

Positives of immigration and Multi-cultural societies.

From an economic perspective, immigration can be extremely positive. Many immigrants have skills that are needed in the country they move to Immigrants who find work contribute to the economy of their new country .Many immigrants send money home to help family members

Immigration also creates cultural diversity .People of many different nationalities learn to live together .This can help people to become more open-minded and tolerant

Negatives of Immigration

Some people believe that immigrants take jobs that should go to local people Some immigrant workers work longer hours for less money .

Companies might pay lower salaries to immigrant workers unemployment rates could rise if there are too many immigrants

Opinions about Immigration .

Immigration can help the economy of a country It can create multi-cultural societies. However, immigration needs to be controlled in many countries, immigrants need

visas or work permit .Governments should stop companies from exploiting immigrant workers

Foreign and local workers should have the right to equal pay and conditions

Positives of Globalization

Business of becoming increasingly international

Multi-national companies do business across the world. Companies like MacDonald's can be seen on high streets in most cities Goods are produced in one country and sold in many others a global economy means free trade between countries .This can strengthen political relationships .

Globalization can also create opportunities for employment It encourages investment in less developed countries .It could reduce poverty in the developing world.

Negatives of Globalization

Globalization is not always beneficial to everyone Companies can move to countries where labour is cheap .This creates redundancies, or job losses Employees cannot be confident that they have stable jobs.

Companies sometimes exploit their employees in developing countries Global trade creates more waste and pollution .

The future of Globalization

There should be global regulations for salaries and working conditions Governments should impose laws to protect the environment

11. Government and Society

What governments can do

Governments provide public services like healthcare and education They support people who are living in poverty or unable to work Governments raise money by taxing working people

They can spend money on resources and campaigns They can introduce new laws They can impose taxes .

They can raise people's awareness of issues (e.g climate change/healthy eating)They can influence people's habits and opinions .They can create jobs .They can regulate the activities of companies such as banks.

They can provide resources for schools .They are also responsible for the security and well-being of their citizens They control armed forces and police forces

Public services

Governments pay the salaries of public sector workers like police officers and teachers The necessary money is raised by taxing people's income

Free education and healthcare may be provided by the state Some governments control public transport systems and even TV channels

In other countries, these services are provided by private companies .Some people believe that competition between private companies is good It helps to improve quality while bringing prices down other people think that essential services should be free Governments should pay for them

Censorship opinion

Governments can censor what public sees or reads in the media To a certain extent censorship is necessary .We should use censorship to protect children from violent images Some computer games involve killing people or committing crimes The Internet also needs to be controlled .Many websites show pornography and violence .There should be age limits for websites and computers games Parents need to take responsibility for checking what their children watch It is impossible for governments to control everything we see

Video cameras in public places

The use of CCTV is becoming widespread Video cameras have been installed in many public places They are supposed to protect us and deter criminals .Many people think that this surveillance violates our privacy The authorities could build databases with our pictures and identities We should not be treated like criminals

Smart cards: Positives

Governments will probably introduce a digital identification card system Smartcards will have benefits and drawbacks .They could help to reduce crime .

They could hold personal information, such as DNA Digital bank cards could contain fingerprint information It would be very difficult for criminals to use a stolen card It would be easier for police to identify people and catch criminal

Smart cards: Negatives

Many people are worried about losing their privacy Governments could store all our personal and medical information This information could be used by insurance companies .Employers could check our health records

People with Disabilities

People with disabilities should be treated the same as everybody else. They should have the same rights as other people .They should have access to the same jobs as other citizens Discriminations against disabled people is illegal in many countries Ramps and lifts for wheelchairs should be installed in public buildings .Support teacher can be employed to help children with learning difficulties

12. Guns and Weapons

Why guns should be legal:

In some countries, people are allowed to own firearms Individuals have the right to protect themselves People can use guns in self defense .This deters criminals .

Why gun ownership should be illegal: There is a risk of accidents with guns .The number of violent crimes increases when guns are available Criminals may be armed .The police then need to use guns Suicide rates have been shown to rise when guns are available Guns create violent societies with high murder rates .

Why polices should use guns

Many criminals use weapons The threat of a gun can deter criminals Police officers can forces a criminal to surrender It is easier to arrest someone and avoid physical violence The police may shoot violent criminals in self defence They can protect the public .They can shoot an escaping criminal who poses a serious danger to the public .Why police should not carry guns .There is a risk of accidents and mistakes .The police might shoot an unarmed criminal or an innocent person .Accidents can happen in public places .There are several alternatives to guns (e.g tear gas, sprays and electric shock weapons)only special police units should use guns

Arm Trade: Positives

The export of arms, or weapons, is an extremely controversial issue .Governments of rich, industrialized countries sell arms to each other This industry creates jobs and wealth .The trade of weapons may improve relationships between governments

Arms Trade: Negatives

Weapons may be used in conflicts and wars .The supply of arms could be responsible for deaths Governments are promoting war in order to make a profit Rich countries can influence the politics of other nations

Nuclear weapons

Nuclear weapons are capable of destroying whole cities .A nuclear war between two countries would destroy both countries Nuclear weapons are used as a deterrent .They prevent wars from starting

Nuclear weapons: opinion

Nuclear weapons should be prohibited .Governments should limit the production of nuclear weapons There is a danger of nuclear weapons being obtained by terrorists Nuclear weapons cannot be used against terrorist organizations

Armed Forces: Positives

Armed forces provide security and protection They deter military attack by another country .They can also be used to maintain peace within countries They can be used to give the police extra support .Soldiers are also used to help in emergency situations, such as after a natural Disaste

Armed forces: negatives

Armies require a lot of funding from governments .Too much money is spent on weapons and military technology This money could be spent on schools, hospitals and other public services

13. Health Diet

The human body requires a balanced diet An unhealthy diet can cause various health problems obesity, diabetes and heart disease are on the increase .Many people nowadays rely on fast food or pre-prepared meals These foods often contain too much fat, salt and sugar .They are cheap to buy and very easy to prepare Many young people have grown up on a diet of convenience foods Populations in developed countries are increasingly overweight Exercise .Regular exercise is essential in maintaining a healthy body Exercise burns calories and helps to build healthy bones and muscles Doctors advise exercising at least three times a week for 20 minutes Most people nowadays lead a sedentary lifestyle .We tend to walk less and do desk jobs Most adults relax by watching television Children play video games rather than doing outdoor sports In the past, people were more active in their jobs and at home

Government's Role

Governments have a significant role to play in reducing obesity .More and more people, including young children are seriously over weight They are at risk of heart disease and diabetes .This situation will increase the burden on hospitals and taxpayers .Hospitals rely on the government for money and resources Governments should promote a healthy diet and regular exercise There should be more time for sports on school timetables Unhealthy junk food should be banned from school menus People need information about what foods contain Food packaging must show the food's nutritional content .The British Government recommends eating five portions of fruit and vegetables per day

State Health system: advantages

Good healthcare should be available to everyone for free State healthcare is paid by the government using money from taxes Everyone has access to the same quality of care and treatment

Private healthcare is unfair because only wealthy people can afford it .The National Health Service in the UK provides free healthcare for every Resident

Private Healthcare: advantages

State hospitals are often very large and difficult to run

Private hospitals have shorter waiting lists for operations and appointments

Patients can benefit from faster treatment .Many people prefer to pay for more a personal service Patients have their own room and more comfortable facilities

Alternative medicine: Positives

People are increasingly using alternative medicines to treat illnesses. For example, acupuncture can be used to treat backache

Herbal medicines can be used to treat allergies or viruses Many patients report positive experiences with these treatments Some traditional cures have been used for hundreds of years

Alternative medicine: Negatives

Many alternative medicines have not been tested scientifically They may have no beneficial effect at all They may cause unknown side effects People should trust the opinions of qualified doctors An illness could get worse without treatment from a doctor

Stress

Modern lifestyles are increasingly stressful People work long hours with strict deadlines .our busy lifestyles mean we have less time to relax Unemployment is a major cause of stress Children may be affected by their parents' relationship problems Tests and exams can also cause stress .H ow to reduce stress. Stress can be reduced by taking regular exercise and eating a healthy diet It is also important to get sufficient sleep and make leisure time a priority People should work less overtime and take regular holidays Schools have started to employ psychologists They can offer emotional support to students They can help students to cope with exam stress

14. Housing and Architecture

State/council housing In some countries the government provides state or council housing. This helps people who cannot afford to buy their own house .It can be argued that state housing creates dependence on the government People should be rely on the government to look after them .People have no incentive to earn money and buy their own home Council properties are often made with cheap, poor-quality materials.

old Buildings

Historic buildings are part of a country's heritage They should be protected old buildings are often considered to be works or art .They give character to cities and attract tourists .They show us how people lived in the past We identify countries by architectural symbols like the pyramids in Egypt .Governments should spend money on looking after historic buildings They need regularity repairs and maintenance New buildings should be designed to complement them

Modern/green buildings

Modern buildings should be designed to be environmentally friendly. They should use less energy and produce less waste .Modern insulation can make houses more energy-efficient Solar and wind power can be used to generate electricity Rainwater and waste water can be recycled and used to flush toilets. Modern glass buildings take advantage if natural light

15. Language

English as an international language

English is widely used around the world It is becoming a global second language .It is the dominant language of technology, science and international business .International

business meetings are regularly held in English The most important textbooks and journals are published in English The ability to speak English is a necessary skill in the modern world

Negative of English as an International Language

If one language is dominant, other languages may disappear The dominant language brings its own culture American culture has become popular around the world other cultures may be damaged .As an alternative to English, a new global language could be invented It would have no nationality or culture attached to it .This could help to promote international peace and understanding Esperanto is an example of a language that was invented with this aim

16. Money

Money and Society

Society has become increasingly materialistic People aspire to earn more money .They want a bigger house or a better car .We connect wealth and material possessions with happiness and success Brands like “Armani” or ”Mercedes” are status symbols .Advertising creates new desires and needs It persuades us to buy the latest styles

Positives of Consumerism

Consumerism creates employment It helps to reduce poverty .It encourages innovation and creativity in business We live in a global economy .We have a better quality of life

Negatives of Consumerism

Consumerist societies create more waste. They use more natural resources .They cause damage to the environment Consumerism creates a “throw-away” culture Advertisers tell us who we are and what we want Wealth does not lead to happiness Materialism causes greed and crime .We should return to traditional values like sharing

17. Personality

Happiness Means different things to different people .It can be described as a feeling of pleasure or enjoyment People enjoy spending time with family and friends Hobbies, sports and games can be a source of fun and enjoyment Some people see money as a source of happiness .other people define happiness as something deeper In order to be truly happy it is necessary to live a good life We need to feel that we are doing something useful with our lives Some people get a sense of achievement from their

work others find happiness in bringing up their children Religion or a sense of purpose can also be a source of happiness

Success

People define success in different ways Some people get a sense of achievement from raising a family For others, success is defined by wealth or status .We often think of rich and famous people as being successful in life .Millionaires like Bill Gates are considered to be successful .They have risen to the top in their chosen professions .For some, being successful means achieving personal or professional goals They see success as the result of hard work Success in any field requires long-term planning and effort

Nature or Nurture

Some people believe that our personalities are determined mainly by genetics We inherit our abilities and talents from our parents others think that our education and upbringing are more important We develop according to the influences around us .our personalities and achievements depend more on nurture than nature Many people argue that we control our own destinies .We can shape our own personalities .By working hard we can achieve and goal that we put our minds to Many successful people are “self-made” .We are not limited by our genetic characteristic or upbringing

18. Sport and Leisure

Arguments against Professional/competitive sport

Sport has become a business Professional sport encourages people to compete for money Many sports stars are only concerned about money and fame Some athletes take drugs in order to win at any cost Competitors are often selfish and rude. They are not good role models for children .All sports should be amateur .Sports should be leisure activities rather than jobs .People should do sporting activities for enjoyment and health reasons Taking part is more important than winning

Arguments f or Professional sport

Professional sports are the same as any other business Many people are employed in the sports industry .People should be able to use their talents to earn a salary .Sports stars entertain millions of people .Money is necessary to improve facilities and train athletes The level of professional sport is much higher than that of amateur sport

Arguments f or Competitive sport

Competition is a natural instinct in humans .In daily life we compete to get jobs or the highest grades Sports are a safe form of competition. Competition is healthy because it pushes us to give our best Competitors and fans can release energy and aggression Supporters of teams feel a sense of belonging to a community

opinion: professional sport salaries are too high Sports professionals earn to our personalities and achievements depend more on nurture than nature Many people argue that we control our own destinies .We can shape our own personalities .By working hard we can achieve and goal that we put our minds to many successful people are “self-made” .We are not limited by our genetic characteristic or upbringing

opinion: professional sport salaries are fair

It is fair that the best professional earn a lot of money Sport is a multi-million-pound industry .There is a large audience of sports fans Sports .on television attract many viewers Sports stars have dedicated hours of practice to developing their fitness and skills only the most talented among them will reach the top .A sports career many only last 10 years Sports fans are willing to pay to support their teams

Sports and Politics

Some people think that sport and politics should remain separate Governments are involved in the hosting of sporting events such as the olympics. These events attract investment and create jobs. The olympic Games are an advertisement for the host nation They attract huge numbers of visitors and sports fans Wealthy countries tend to hold these events Developing countries should be given the chance to become hosts

19. Television, Internet, Phones Positives of television .

Watching television is a good way to relax .It is many people’s favourite way to wind down after a hard day at work .Television programs can be entertaining and enjoyable Viewers have access to a huge variety of entertainment channels Television brings the best comedians, musicians and actors into our homes Programmers can also be informative and educational

News coverage makes the public aware of events around the world Documentaries can make learning more interesting

Negatives of Television

Television is having a negative impact on society .Some people link violence on television with crime rates in the real world .Children copy the behaviour they see on

the screen .Children are less healthy because they spend less time playing Advertisers direct their marketing at children .Most programs do not require much thought Watching TV is a waste of time

Opinions about Television.

Television has many benefits .However, it can be addictive .Children should play outside rather than sit in front of a screen all day .Behaviour shown on TV can influence people .Parents should choose carefully what their children watch Children should not be exposed to violence, swearing or sexual images Advertising during children's programs should be strictly controlled TV companies should make more positive, educational programs

Positives of the Internet .

There are many advantages to using the Internet .It gives us instant access to information on almost any subject Shops and other services are now available online .People can buy goods and services from the comfort of their homes The Internet is starting to replace other forms of entertainment It has revolutionized communication .We can keep in touch by email or instant messenger services Video messaging is becoming common for business meetings .

Negatives of the internet

Many websites contain offensive content Some sites show violent or sexual images Parents find it difficult to control what their children see online They do not always know who their children are chatting to With so many websites it is difficult to search for good information Criminals increasingly use the Internet to steal people's money

Internet compared to newspaper and books .

Newspapers and books are now published online as well as in print .We can read the news in any language from any country in the world It costs nothing to publisher access information on the Internet .The Internet allows anybody to publish their own writing Newspaper articles and books are written by professionals. Professionals produce better quality writing than amateur People still buy newspapers and books because they are portable People do not like reading from a screen

Positives of Mobile Phones .

The mobile phone is the most popular gadget in today's world Mobile phones have revolutionized the way we communicate .We can stay in touch with family, friends and colleagues wherever we are .Users can send text messages, surf the Internet, take photos and listen to music .Mobiles have also become fashion accessories

Negatives of Mobile Phones .

Mobiles phones can be a problem in some public places .Ringing phones cause disturbance in cinemas and school lessons Some people are not aware that others can hear their conversations Mobile phones may also interfere with electronic equipment .Their waves could cause damage to our brains Mobile phones can also be a dangerous distraction .Using a phone while driving reduces the driver's concentration Mobile phones are a popular target for thieves

Opinion about Mobile Phones .

The benefits of mobile phones outweigh the drawbacks We need to use these phones with care

20. Tourism Positives of Tourism .

Tourism is a popular leisure activity People go on holiday to relax and have fun Tourists can experience different cultures .They can sunbathe on beaches or go sight-seeing .Travelling abroad opens our minds .We can learn to speak other languages .The tourist trade is vital for some economies .It creates employment in services like accommodation, transport and entertainment Some areas rely on tourism for their income .Tourists spend money .Tourism attracts investment from multi-national companies It helps to improve the standard of living .Low-cost airlines are making it cheaper to travel abroad .

Negative effects of tourism .

Tourism can have a negative effect on the natural environment .The building of facilities and infrastructure can destroy the habitat of wild animals Beautiful beaches are spoilt by the building of hotels .Tourism creates pollution and waste It puts pressure on local resources .Local traditional and cultures may be ended A rise in the cost of living affects local people .The price of goods, services and housing may increase significantly

The future of tourism

Government should introduce laws to protect natural environments and local cultures Tourism should have a low impact on wildlife Renewable resources like solar or water power should be used Waste should be recycled .Local businesses such as farms should be supported

21. Traditional vs. Modern Losing traditional skills

Because of industrialization and global trade, many traditions have disappeared Global advertising encourages everyone to buy the same products .Most products are now made in factories Machinery has replaced skilled human labour Factory work is boring and leaves people feeling unfulfilled Goods are produced very quickly and in large numbers .Products are cheaper, which means that more people can buy them

Examples :

Clothes are mass produced in standard size. People wear similar clothes, rather than traditional costumes Jeans and T-shirt are now worn throughout the world Historic buildings took skilled craftsmen years to build Modern concrete, steel and glass buildings are built in only weeks or months There are fewer people who can create hand-made goods .

Traditional customs

Traditional customs are still important during weddings and religious festivals People wear traditional costumes and eat special foods .It is important to maintain our different cultural identities .We should celebrate festivals, teach traditional skills and protect historic places

22. Transport Traffic problems .

Traffic congestion is caused by commuters travelling to work Most people live in the suburbs outside city centre Commuters tend to travel at the same time of day They tend to travel alone .Cars and road space are not used efficiently This causes traffic jams during the rush hour

Traffic solutions

In order to reduce traffic we should change our working habits The internet can now be used to connect people More people could work from home Meetings can be held as video conferences Workers could be given flexible timetables Another solution would be to tax Drivers Workers should share their cars and travel together In London, for example, there is a congestion charge This helps to raise money for better public transport .Public transport needs to be reliable and efficient

Positives of Public transport .

We need to reduce our dependence on cars Parking a car can be extremely difficult in big cities .Well-designed transport systems are comfortable and convenient Modern public transport can be fast and cheap Public transport can help to reduce pollution in

cities Investment in buses and trains will ease traffic congestion Buses can be given special lanes to avoid traffic

Negatives of public transport

Public transport is often slow and unreliable Metro systems and trains are often dirty and crowded People feel like “sardines in a can” Cars are much more comfortable

Road safety

Driving while tired or drunk is extremely dangerous Mobile phones can be a dangerous distraction for drivers They draw the driver’s attention away from the road The use of phones while driving has been banned in many countries .Punishments are becoming stricter Television campaigns are used to remind people to drive safely Speed cameras have become more common Speed bumps are another form of traffic calming Many streets are designed with the aim of slowing traffic down

23. Water

Importance of clean water .

Water is as necessary natural resource .Humans need access to clean, safe drinking water in order to live Poor water quality is a major cause of disease and death in some countries Water usually needs to be treated before we can drink it .Developing countries often lack the means to treat and supply water to citizens Developed countries tend to have much better sanitation .Citizens have access to clean tap water .Drinking water is not contaminated by sewage or waste water .The supply of clean water would improve public health in many developing countries .

Water supply

Urban life would be impossible without water supply systems These systems are massive engineering projects .Many professionals are involved in their planning, construction and maintenance The supply and distribution of water are major concerns .Water is becoming scarce in some countries .Areas that suffer droughts often need to import water .As populations grow, there is more pressure on water supplies This could lead to a water crisis

Water and politics .

The supply of water is also an important political issue .Huge amount of water are needed for agriculture and industry The irrigation of crops accounts for a large proportions of water use A water crisis could lead to political conflicts or even wars

Argument: water should be free

Some people believe that water should be free for everyone .Governments should supply water to all homes at no cost .Private companies should not be allowed to profit from this natural resource Money from taxes can be used to pay for water supply systems

Argument: water should not be free

If water is free, people take it for granted .They do not think about how much water they waste .They leave taps running while washing or brushing their teeth If we have to pay for water, we will use it more responsibly Water supply systems are extremely expensive Investment is needed to maintain and improve them Private companies may provide a better service than governments If they provide an efficient service, they will make more money They will repair leaks to avoid losing money

Bottled Water: opinions

Some people carry bottles of water wherever they go For example, they take bottles of water to work or to the gym They believe that bottled water is healthier than tap water They also argue that it tastes better However, other people believe that we should consume less bottled water Plastic water bottles add to litter and waste problems. Companies should not be able to make a profit from water It is unethical to make money by selling packaged water .There is no difference in quality between bottled and tap water

24. Work The benefits of staying in the same job for life Employees have a stable career with one employer

They have a good pension and health insurance Their salaries gradually increase They may be promoted within the organization They demonstrate loyalty .Experienced staff can be trusted with responsibility They become part of a team. There is a clearly defined path for development.

The benefits of not staying in the same job People often change jobs in order to further their career Another company may offer a promotion or a higher salary People who change jobs can gain experience .They can learn different skills .Changing jobs is interesting and challenging People can retrain in a different occupation In a fast-changing world workers need to be flexible People need to develop arrange of experience and skills

Self-employment Nowadays, it is easy to set up a company The Internet provides a global marketplace Self-employment offers greater freedom than working for a

company However, there are risks to starting a new business Self-employed people may face financial difficulties. Many businesses fail to make a profit. There is less stability in self-employment. There are no benefits like pensions, sick pay and holiday pay Self-employment involved hard work, long hours and total responsibility .

Unemployment

Unemployment is a big problem for individuals, communities and society Some people are unable to find a job. They may not have the sufficient level of education or qualifications They may find themselves homeless .

Unemployment causes frustration and stress Jobless people may become involved in crime as a means to get money The unemployed need careers advice .Governments need to provide vocational courses and retraining .

Unemployment benefits: positives

Some governments pay unemployment benefits in order to help jobless people Unemployed people need financial support until they find a new job. By claiming benefits they can continue to pay for their homes .The benefits system helps to reduce poverty, homelessness and crime .

Unemployment benefits: negatives

Some people claim benefits rather than working They become dependent on the government They are not motivated to find a job. The benefits system is a burden on taxpayers .All citizens should work to earn a living and support themselves Receiving benefits affects people's self esteem .

Work/Life Balance

It is important to achieve a balance between work time and leisure or family time Too much work can result in stress and poor health “workaholics” may neglect their families and friends People need to take regular holidays .Companies should be expect employees to work overtime .Nowadays, many people work part-time or have flexible working hours Technology allow people to work from home .Many companies provide childcare facilities .A good work/ life balance can raise job satisfaction Happy, healthy workers are more productive

Technology and work

Internet, fax and mobile phone technologies have revolutionized working life Workers can communicate via email, online networks and video conferencing Technology can connect workers in different countries It gives people more freedom It can also save

time and money Some people believe that offices could disappear in the future Virtual online offices may replace them

Child labour

In some countries, children are exploited .They do repetitive jobs for very low pay Children are often used in agriculture and factory work .The employment of children is prohibited in other countries. Many people think that children should be free to enjoy their childhood governments should make education a priority They should build new schools. They should supply the resources to educate children. Children need to be given the knowledge and skills for adult life.

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