

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 1**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Music**

#### **Q. What types of music do you like to listen to? [Why?]**

**A.** I mostly like rock music, country song and blues. However, I am not a fan of a specific type of music as I believe good music can be found in all genres, and as a music lover, I often try music from genres that I have little interests in. Thus I also try different artists and music bands. To illustrate, I am a great fan of Pink Floyd, whose songs have transcendent lyrics and that does not deter me from listening to Shania Twain, who has a completely different lyrics type.

#### **Q. At what times of day do you like to listen to music? [Why?]**

**A.** I usually listen to music when I am on the road and have to sit idly due to bad traffic or walk in the morning. However, I do not have any specific daytime when I tune on to my favourite songs. In general, evening time suits me and I love to listen to music at that time. The reason I pick the time is that I can feel the transformation of the day into night and it is quite sensational. I feel an urge to listen to music to make the feeling more intense and enjoyable.

#### **Q. Did you learn to play a musical instrument when you were a child? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I once tried to play the guitar and that's primarily because I often noticed my younger uncle play it. I did not want to be a famous musician and never went to a music school. That's why I had not developed the skill of playing a musical instrument. Though I tried to mimic my uncle and tried to learn to play the guitar, that did not go far.

#### **Q. Do you think all children should learn to play a musical instrument? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I think music is a great way of expressing someone's feelings and creating a harmony that others would love. But not all children show talents in music, nor do they aspire to. This is why we should not impose music classes or lessons to learn a musical instrument for all children. We must, however, foster those children's passion who express interests in music and give them an opportunity to learn to play musical instruments of their choice.

### **PART 2:**

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

#### **Describe a shop near where you live that you sometimes use.**

You should say:

- what sorts of product or service it sells
- what the shop looks like
- where it is located

and explain why you use this shop.

**Cue Card Answer:**

I feel lucky to have this cue card topic. In fact, it would be comfortable for me to describe a shop I often go to, the type of products it sells, its location, and finally expressing why I love to go to this particular shop.

Well, to begin with, the shop I often go to is called 'The Daily Shop' and it is located just a few blocks away from my home. It is a super mall, so it sells every household item including groceries, frozen food, beverage, clothing items, shoes, toys, fruits, kitchenware, gift items, crockeries and the list goes on and on. Sometimes I wonder what this shop doesn't sell!!! The range of merchandises this mall has is overwhelming and in the past, I often found items there that I never expected them to have.

The shop looks like any other large shopping malls from outside. It is a five storied building and has parking spaces in front of it. The building looks different at night since it is decorated with colourful decorative lights at night.

Once you are inside, you'll find that the interior is incredible and it always looks new to me, though the mall is at least 3 years old. I have never seen a shopping mall that has a collection of some really great paintings. The entire floor is not stacked with products, rather it has well-furnished seats for customers to relax, except on the floor where they sell vegetables and fishes. On top of that, every floor is painted with the colour that seems perfectly suitable with items they are showcasing. What I like most about the shop is that they have plenty of checkout points and professional staffs and the combination minimises the waiting time while checking out from the shop.

As I have already mentioned, this shop is only a few blocks away from my home. If I walk from my home, it will take me 10 minutes, but if I take my car, it will take less than 5 minutes to reach this shop. Anyone who is trying to get to the shop should ask someone about the city community centre as the shopping mall is exactly on the opposite side of it. Someone new to this area should look for the Eastern University campus and walk straight ahead for about ten minutes and then take a left turn to reach the community centre and finally to the shopping mall.

Well, I visit this shop for many different reasons. First and foremost, it's located near my home and it's convenient for me to reach there. Another reason why I frequently visit this shop is the range of products they have. They have a rich collection of commodities and I can buy everything I need from a single store. They offer the customer loyalty program, big sale before major festivals, reward points, discounts for regular customers and a convenient shopping experience that I really love about them. Perhaps another reason I often go there is the gift items they have in their collection. Finally, they offer a reasonable price and a great shopping experience that customers like me really love.

**PART 3*****Discussion topics: Local business***

**Q. What types of local business are there in your neighbourhood? Are there any restaurants, shops or dentists for example?**

**A.** Well, I live in a residential area which is more like a combination of a residential and commercial area. So the restaurants, gift shops, dentists, hospitals, electronic shops, grocery shops and so on are just a few steps away from my house. For instance, the block we live in has more than 6 or 7 restaurants and fast food shops. We only need to walk for 2 to 3 minutes to reach the nearest

restaurant. The same can be said about other amenities and stores which are also within walking distance.

**Q. Do you think local businesses are important for a neighbourhood? In what way?**

**A.** Yes, I believe local businesses are important for a neighbourhood and its residents. It's convenient to have the necessary amenities and services nearby as it saves citizen's valuable time. Moreover, it creates employment opportunities for many and thus fosters our economy.

When residents can avail products and services in their neighbourhood, they would refrain from travelling to other parts of the city and thus contribute to reducing traffic congestion. On top of that, business opportunities in a neighbourhood enable many women and less fortunate people start their own businesses and this, in my opinion, is really important for the advancement of a country.

**Q. How do large shopping malls and commercial centres affect small local businesses? Why do you think that is?**

**A.** Mega shopping malls and large commercial buildings that house a large number of shops and stores at a single place often pose threats to local and small business entities. As they offer shopping experience under the same roof, most of the renowned brands find their place in such a large commercial complex. As a result, shoppers often prefer visiting these mega shopping complexes instead of small shops which are scattered in different parts of a neighbourhood.

It's quite natural that people would like to do shopping from a modern place that offers better security, better amenities, and entertainment facilities rather than browsing products at small shops at various locations. From my experience, I can say that large shopping malls in my city, in some cases, have been the reason many small business owners went out of business or have been forced to relocate in a large shopping complex.

**Discussion topics: People and business**

**Q. Why do some people want to start their own business?**

**A.** Business is often preferred by many over a job with a fixed salary, and the primary reason is that business offers more freedom and flexibility. When an employee is forced to be present at the office from 9 to 5, and sometimes even more, a business person can decide when to work and when to take leaves. Moreover, the earning from a job is fixed and it grows very slowly over the year. On the contrary, the possibility of a successful businessman is virtually unlimited. A flourishing businessman can earn a lot more than a successful employee in an office.

To many people, running a business is equivalent to working for a passion while doing a job is like obeying commands of the employer. I believe these are the primary reasons why people prefer running their own businesses to be their own boss than getting a job at a company.

**Q. Are there any disadvantages to running a business? Which is the most serious?**

**A.** The great benefits of running a business do not come without bigger risks and responsibilities associated with it. The inherent risk of running a business can be far more daunting than we can imagine. A failed business could be a bad enough reason for becoming bankrupt.

When a service holder is assured to receive his salary at the end of a month, a business person has to make a profit from his ongoing operation to bring any excess money home. Moreover, many businesses often fail to sustain due to increasing competitions and shifting market demands.

However, the worst of all is that a business person can be financially broken anytime and can't start a new business without a significant amount of money and time unlike a service holder, who can be fired from his job today and get a new job tomorrow.

**Q. What are the most important qualities that a good business person needs? Why is that?**

**A.** I believe proper business planning is an important quality that every business person should have. In fact, proper planning for a new or a running business makes all the differences. Moreover, to be successful in a business, a person has to be dedicated and hardworking. Commitments to a business and its consumers drive everyone engaged in the operation to be sincere and service-oriented. Besides, hardworking is sometimes considered the mantra to success.

As far as I believe, successful businesses are planned by great visionaries like Steve Jobs, Bill Gates or Warren Buffett who could plan ahead of their contemporaries.

Finally, I would like to conclude by saying that both the promising and successful business persons have to take advantages of technology, especially in this digital era, to reach the global customers and be ready to take challenges of any kind.



collegedunia.com

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 2**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Weekends**

#### **Q. How do you usually spend your weekends? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Well, I usually stay home on a weekend, and sometimes I go out in the evening to hang out with friends. Since my weekdays are normally packed, I try to stay home on weekends and refresh myself to take challenges of the upcoming weekdays. Once a month, I usually pick a weekend and visit a movie theatre with my friends or family. After we finish the movie, we usually have our dinner at a restaurant.

#### **Q. Which is your favourite part of the weekend? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I would say that the whole weekend is my favourite. However, if I have to pick a preferable part from my weekends, I'd pick the evening. This is the time when I get outside to hang out with friends or take my family outside. In a regular evening, I get tired to some extent and I rush to reach home from the office amid heavy traffic. However, an evening on a weekend is far more relaxing and fun.

#### **Q. Do you think your weekends are long enough? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I get two days as the weekend in a week and I think it is fair enough. I know some countries where employees have only one day as their weekend. If I think about them, I feel that I am getting enough time to spend with my family and finish some personal tasks. But, metaphorically speaking, weekends sometimes seems to end sooner than I expect, you know what I mean!

#### **Q. How important do you think it is to have free time on the weekends? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Well, I believe weekends should be relaxing and focused on family. From this regard, having a free and relaxing time on weekends is quite important. Weekends are meant to be refreshing so that we can spend quality time with our family and friends and get revived to take responsibilities for the coming week. I often spend relaxing times on the weekends and that's helpful for me to perform better throughout the rest of the week in my office.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe someone you know who does something well.**

You should say:

- who this person is
- how you know this person
- what they do well

and explain why you think this person is so good at doing this.

**Cue Card Answer:**

I can think of a few people whom I personally know and are quite adept in whatever they do. However, I reconsider my mum a wizard who quite efficiently manages her family as well as her other responsibilities. Thank you very much for this nice cue card topic and I would like to explain why I believe my mum is really good at what she does.

My mum – Rebecca Portela, is a full-time housewife and she is in charge of our family. No doubt my father has a huge responsibility as a breadwinner and as a major decision-maker for the family, but my mother takes care of everything else.

To answer the question ‘how I know this person’, I would like to say that I have known her my whole life. She brought me to this world and had been a great supporter of mine throughout my life. She taught me the most important life skills like reading, writing, walking, swimming, talking and so on and as a child, I had her with me through all the ups and downs.

She is an exemplary person and she never neglects her responsibilities. Taking care of a family isn’t an easy task, especial when this family has six family members and a tight budget. She wakes up early in the morning, before we can even notice, and cleans the house, does the washing and prepares the breakfast for us and her days has, in fact, just begun! She has a unique ability to remember everything we need and wish for! For instance, on my exam day, she remembers what I need to take with me and she gets them ready so that I don’t have to waste time. She remembers my exam schedule better than I do. She does that for every single member of our family including my grandmother who lives with us.

We do not always remember to appreciate her devotion and hard works and sometimes we forget to say simply ‘thank you’ as we often take her tasks as granted. But I realized for the first time in my life how immaculately she does everything for us when she got sick and was taken to a hospital. I was 14 years old then and it turned out that none of us can endure without the supervision and help of our mum.

I believe my mom’s devotion and love for her family makes her so capable of taking care of us and performing her other duties. She often says that her family is the centre of her universe and I believe that this mentality makes her so great in everything she does for the family and others. At a time, we had financial hardships, but she managed everything so well that we never had to feel the burden. She works the whole day and I have never heard her complaining about that. Only true devotion and commitment can make it possible.

Before I end, I would like to say, ‘I wish you could meet my mum to find out how amazing she really is and how well she manages everything!’

**PART 3*****Discussion topics: Skills and abilities*****Q. What skills and abilities do people most want to have today? Why?**

**Answer:** Well, I believe the expectation and desire to develop skills and abilities by people vary to a great extent. For instance, someone who is willing to build a career in the financial sector would like to enhance his or her analytical, and accounting skills while someone who is graduating in computer science, expects to improve his programming and technology related skills. Interestingly, the expectations may vary from country to country as well.

From my personal experience, I can say that one of my sisters always wanted to be a great singer. So she definitely wants to improve her singing skills, and her ability to play different musical instruments. Interestingly, another sister of mine wants to become a doctor and she is focusing on her academic performance and emphasizing her skill development in biology and zoology.

Generally speaking, technology-related skills are globally accepted and that is why so many people around the world are trying to enhance their skills and abilities in technology. I believe this has something to do with the career prospect and job promotion. Finally, technical and mechanical skills have always been important to people and are prevalent even more in this modern era.

**Q. Which skills should children learn at school? Are there any skills which they should learn at home? What are they?**

**Answer:** Well, when it comes to the skill development of children at school, I believe teachers should focus on teaching them how to be a good team member and interact with others. This is an important soft skill that they will need throughout their life. Besides, they should be taught how to be more tolerant and respectful to others. Finally, teachers should supervise and act to develop the academic skills of the children.

I personally believe that every child in a school is unique. So the masters should focus on understanding their passion and talent and then guide them to develop their hidden potential and abilities. For instance, if a child feels passionate about arts and drawing, she or he shouldn't be forced to develop his skills in sports.

Parents, on the other hand, have a great responsibility to nurture the talents of their kids at home. They should primarily focus on developing their children's psychological and cognitive development. Besides they should teach their children how to utilise their time, be punctual, and most importantly follow their dreams and work accordingly.

**Q. Which skills do you think will be important in the future? Why?**

**Answer:** I believe technology-related skills will be highly important in the future. We already live in a world which is surrounded by technology and without these skills, it will be difficult for us to find a job or to do better in academic life.

Having said that, I also believe soft skills like communication skills, interpersonal skills and time management skills will have a great demand in the future. As hard skills like someone's designing, technical and development skills can be enhanced through training at a short span of time, employers in the future will look for people with greater soft skills which takes several years to develop.

Finally, money management is a skill that we all will need in the coming future. The global population and the competition are rising faster than ever before while the global resources are shrinking rapidly; so without this skill, a large number of people won't be able to become financially successful.

***Discussion topics: Salaries for skilled people***

**Q. Which kinds of jobs have the highest salaries in your country? Why is this?**

**Answer:** In my country, software developers, investment bankers, doctors, university professors, engineers, dentists and marketing managers receive the highest salaries. I believe the primary reason these professionals earn a huge sum of money is that those are all special kind of skills and

expertise that a very small percentage of people have. A successful investment banker or a dentist in my country earn at least 5 to 10 times higher than the average wage earners.

I also believe the remuneration of a professional depends on the profitability of the job sector. For instance, a skilled software programmer works for a company that earns in millions and even sometimes in billions, while an expert tailor or a fashion designer works in a company that doesn't have that type of turnover at the end of the year. So naturally, the wage gap is huge.

**Q. Are there any other jobs that you think should have high salaries? Why do you think that?**

**Answer:** Yes, I can think of a few other jobs that are really important for our society and the country as a whole, and I strongly believe that they should have higher payrolls. For instance, a school teacher is doing a really great job to build an enlightened society, but it's a pity that their remuneration isn't lucrative at all. Similarly, the police officers, cleaners, border security personnel, and the nurses in hospitals should have higher wages.

The police officers and the other security personnel are taking great risks to maintain the peace in our society, the cleaners are doing a tough job to clean our neighbourhood on the other hand, and finally, the nurses are taking good care of our sick relatives in hospitals. The jobs they do are extremely important for us and for our country, so it's natural that they should be adequately compensated and rewarded, I believe.

**Q. Some people say it would be better for society if everyone got the same salary. What do you think about that? Why?**

**Answer:** I think that's a good idea in theory as it would eliminate the discriminations from our society. However, it's a faulty hypothesis and not practical.

If every profession has the same salary, no one would do the job that involves risks, hard work and challenges. It would, in a sense, collapse the society. From the very beginning of our life, we would start choosing the easiest tasks and academic subjects and not study or work hard to have a highly rewarding profession in the future. Why should a student study more than 12 hours a day to become a doctor or a researcher when he can spend his time doing whatever he wants and become a salesperson to earn the same salary? I think it does not make sense.

Having said that, I also believe that salary discrimination based on gender, ethnicity and religion should never be tolerated. The same salary should be offered to employees, regardless of their sexes and origins, who are working in the same position in a company or organisation.



## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 3**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: School**

#### **Q. Did you go to secondary/high school near to where you lived? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** Yes, in fact, both of my primary and secondary schools were in the same locality where I lived in. My elementary school was only 15 minutes walk away while my high school was 25 minutes walk away from my home. I went there as my parents thought these were good schools and I should not travel far without them accompany me every day. So I ended up going to schools which were nearby my living place.

#### **Q. What did you like about your secondary/high school? [Why?]**

**A.** I had many friends and my days in my high school were great. Moreover, most of our teachers were committed to teaching us and I have learnt so many things from them. I was in the golden period of my life and enjoyed everything I did at my secondary school. Nice teachers, good friends and an inquisitive mind made my high school days some of the best days of my life.

#### **Q. Tell me about anything you didn't like at your school.**

**A.** I liked almost everything at school except for the fact that we were obliged to take the acting class once a week. I am not against extracurricular activities and I believe that acting classes are helpful for many, but making it mandatory to all is something I did not like. I enjoyed watching theatres and acts, but I never wanted to be an actor, so I hated the acting rehearsal.

#### **Q. How do you think your school could be improved? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I think my school was already great and one of the best places to be in my teenage days. I loved my school and adored my teachers who were very knowledgeable and helpful. Our school did not have separate playgrounds for junior and senior students and that was one aspect that bothered me. I believe that's something the school needs to address as junior pupils often can't play when seniors occupy the field. A separate ground could solve the problem.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe something you don't have now but would really like to own in the future.**

You should say:

- what this thing is
- how long you have wanted to own it
- where you first saw it

and explain why you would like to own it.

**Cue Card Answer:**

I would like to thank you for allowing me to talk about something I do not own now but desire to have in the future. I must say, this is an interesting topic to talk about. During my preparation time for this topic, I have thought about a few things that I fancy, but finally decided to talk about one thing that I dream the most to have in the future and this one thing is a private car.

My family and I live in a metropolitan city and travelling is an everyday activity for all of us. Sometimes, daily commute becomes cumbersome due to the inadequate number of transportation and unbearable traffic congestion, not to mention the time it kills on the road. So, as soon as I got admitted to high school, I desired to own an automobile. However, I was aware of the fact that I would have to be minimum 18 to have a valid driving licence and I was barely 14 at that time. So in a sense, I wanted to have a car since I was a high school student but was not eligible to have it until I turned 18. Now that I am 22, I want it more than anything else in the world – materialistically speaking!

I can't recall when was the first time I saw a car. As I heard from my grandmother, my mother gave birth to me in a hospital and on her way back home, they hired a taxi. So, it's silly but true that, I saw a car when I was barely a week's old! However, I can remember riding in a car when I was 4 or 5 years old; if the memory was not something that developed in my brain by hearing stories from others!

'Where did I saw it first?', well, I can't say it accurately either but my best guess is that I got interested in a car when I first rode in an automobile in my early childhood. That was my uncle's vehicle who came to visit us and gave us a ride to a nearby shopping complex. It was a black car but I am not sure what model it was.

I want to own it because having a car is convenient in many ways. It offers freedom of mobility and comfort. I would be able to avoid a long queue at a bus bay every day and save time. The car would help me plan my own tour schedule and I would often be able to take my families to different places. I am hoping that I would buy a car when I have a job in the near future and my preferred model is the Mazda 6, 2018 model.

**PART 3*****Discussion topics: Owning things*****Q. What types of things do young people in your country most want to own today? Why is this?**

**A.** Well, young people in my country are obsessed with electronic gadgets, expensive cars, powerful computers, and I am sure most of them would like to own these items more or less. I think the modern generation has a fascination with electronic tools like the smartphone, computers and gaming consoles and they want to use the latest gadgets whenever possible. They feel the same way about cars. This has something to do with their lifestyle and attachment to technology.

**Q. Why do some people feel they need to own things?**

**A.** I believe owning things we need and like is in our DNA. From ancient time, we have been feeling an urge to own the house, farming lands, cattle and crops. This trend continues and in this modern era, we have become more materialistic than ever before and want to possess as many things as we can. This has something to do with the rapid expansion of technology, our exposure to different forms of advertisements and our lack of self-satisfaction and contentment.

**Q. Do you think that owning lots of things makes people happy? Why?**

**A.** I don't even remotely believe that owning so many things makes people happy. Happiness is a

mental state, and for being happy we need to be mentally contented and satisfied with whatever little we have. My experience has taught me that people with houses in different cities, piles of cash, multinational businesses and all the materials money can buy have more responsibilities, work pressure and stresses than average people. So, if we want to be happy, we need to learn to be satisfied with the things we have. Expectations to own more drive us away from attaining peace and happiness, I believe.

***Discussion topics: Possessions and success***

**Q. Do you think television and films can make people want to get new possessions? Why do they have this effect?**

**A.** Yes, I believe that electronic media like television and films have a profound impact on shaping our psychology and can often allure us to have more and get new things.

Many of us, knowingly and unknowingly, getting exposed to posh lifestyles shown in movies and soap operas, especially by our favourite stars. This forms a hidden desire among us to own even more.

Owing more is a natural human tendency. So when this is fueled by TV shows, cinemas and the advertisements we watch, it's natural that we would want to have even more than we actually need.

**Q. Are there any benefits to society of people wanting to get new possessions? Why do you think this is?**

**A.** I believe the benefits, in this case, are only a few while the drawbacks are huge. The first benefit of the trend is that it creates more job opportunities as more companies get in the manufacturing and sales of such products. Such a competition, on the other hand, eliminates the monopoly in business and fosters the economy to a certain extent.

However, considering the drawbacks, including the social, environmental and personal, it should not be encouraged and we should be wary of our mentality to possess all new products.

**Q. Do you think people will consider that having lots of possessions is a sign of success in the future? Why?**

**A.** Yes, for many, material gains and money are synonymous to success and this will become even more prevalent in the future.

We already live in a society where our success is measured by the bank balance we have and the cars we drive. In the coming days, people would become more prone to doing so. The degradation of moral values, our materialistic expectation and our inclination to earthly possessions would fuel this psychology in the future. To cite an example, a doctor who works in a rural area primarily to serve less privileged people is considered less adept and successful than his friends who have amassed a fortune by overcharging rich citizens in a city.

I see no positive social changes in our measurement of success. So I guess that would become more intense in the future.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 4**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Travel**

#### **Q. Do you enjoy travelling? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** Yes, I love to travel whenever I have time. I really enjoy being in a place where I have never been to, and exploring new cities is a passion for me. I believe travelling offers us first-hand experience about the world we live in and through travelling, we can understand the diverse cultural aspects and demographics of the world and its inhabitants.

#### **Q. Have you done much travelling? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I could not travel much when I was a student as I had little money to visit foreign countries and distant parts of my country. As I have a job and a steady earning now, I visit at least two countries each year apart from visiting different parts of my country now and then. So far, I have explored most parts of my country and 11 countries in total. I hope the list will go on and I would be able to travel extensively during my late thirties and forties.

#### **Q. Do you think it's better to travel alone or with other people? [Why?]**

**A.** I believe travelling with a group of people is better than taking solo tours. Firstly, group travelling is affordable and safer. It also lets us know about new people and share and adjust our tour plans. I can recall at least two events when a fellow traveller's advice saved me from a disaster. In a group tour, a traveller has others to rely on and share the cost. Thus I personally prefer a group of fellow travellers with me whenever I am in a distant city I have never been to.

#### **Q. Where would you like to travel in the future? [Why?]**

**A.** I would like to explore most of the countries in Asia. I have only been to Malaysia and Japan among the Asian countries and I believe all of the Asian countries have great destinations and distinctive cultural aspects. People are very friendly there and these countries have so many adventures to offer to the tourists.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe a child you know.**

You should say:

- who the child is
- how you know him/her
- how you act with the child

and explain why you like/dislike this child.

**Model Answer:**

Every time I got to visit my younger sister's place, I have to make sure that I have a box full of Coco chocolate and a few packs of chocolate milk. Now, please don't think that my sister needs them for herself, but, rather I buy them for my little four-year-old nephew whom I love with my life.

I don't really visit little Mike during the afternoon since he remains just too busy riding his favourite bike from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm in the evening. So, I visit him when he is just about to finish his afternoon activities, of course, only to hear him complaining as to why I didn't join him earlier during his bike riding time. Then comes the part when I actually get him to talk to me only after making sure that his chocolate box and chocolate milk are "secured" from the "intruders", followed by some "sacred" "uncle-nephew" talks which involve taking little Mike to the nearby zoo as well as buying him his favourite new bike the next day.

Little Mike doesn't really consider himself a "child". So, when I call him my two-and-half-feet "big man", the little chubby boy, with his straight hair, never forgets to thank me. But, I am afraid that I don't exactly get the same kind of "thankful reception" when I score a "goal" against him by accident during a "serious football match" between "Mike the great footballer" and me, the silly footballer.

I love Mike because he is a little sweet and gentle boy with his occasional mood changes. But I love him, even more, when he hugs me and tells me that I am the best uncle in the world. I also like our little "bike riding hero" because I have seldom seen him forgetting to thank me after bringing him his favourite chocolates and chocolate milk. Being a smart kid, Mike knows that it is not a good thing to lie. So, I really like the fact that he never really lies, nor he likes it somebody lies to him. I also like him a lot because of his curiosity, and some honest questions about many things in this world which we normally take for granted. Besides, who wouldn't like a nephew who thinks that he can buy me the biggest helicopter in the world after becoming the richest man in this world?

**PART 3*****Discussion topics: Relationships between parents and children***

**Q. How much time do children spend with their parents in your country? Do you think that is enough?**

A. Overall, parents in our country spend a good amount of time with their children. However, this amount of time varies based on the professions of the parents and their socio-economic conditions. Interestingly, mothers spend more time with their offsprings as they stay home while fathers remain busy at their workplace and thus cannot always manage time to spend quality time with their children. I think average parents spend good enough time with the youngsters, but for nuclear families in which both parents work show a contrasting scenario.

**Q. How important do you think spending time together is for the relationships between parents and children? Why?**

A. The relationship between parents and children is divine and their bond becomes stronger if they spend quality time together. A child who gets enough attention and care from both parents is usually happier and possesses a positive mentality while children who do not get enough time from their parents grow up with depression and melancholy. Since parents are the most reliable persons for a child and perhaps the best mentors, it is important that they spend enough time together.

**Q. Have relationships between parents and children changed in recent years? Why do you think that is?**

A. I believe the eternal relationship between parents and children remained the same but some

social depravities are quite visible in this modern era where some parents put their career ahead of their children's well-being and many children do not hesitate to leave their parents in their adulthood. Our craving for more materialistic and wealthy life and moral degradations are the primary reasons for this. A false sense of freedom and yearning for economic stability have further fueled this trend.

***Discussion topics: Children's free-time activities***

**Q. What are the most popular free-time activities with children today?**

**A.** Children from rural areas in my country mostly play outdoor games with other children, watch television programmes, collect stamps and coins and visit different places with their parents in their free time. While children from cities more often watch TV and play video games. Their pastime activities include fewer outdoor ventures, and the availability of modern technology like the internet and handheld gadgets glue them to the digital screen. However, many city children, especially girls, take arts & crafts, dancing and singing. Collecting stamps and coins and visiting different amusement parks with parents are also common among them.

**Q. Do you think the free-time activities children do today are good for their health? Why is that?**

**A.** If we consider the pastime activities of modern children, many of them are attached to the TV and computer screens, which is detrimental for their psychological and physical health. Evidence shows that many such children end up having weaker eye-sights, obesity and poor performance in schools.

However, free-time activities like arts & crafts, dancing and outdoor sports have positive outcomes as those pursuits are creative and good for health. Parents should make sure their children take more outdoor activities in their free time rather than staying home and watching TV or YouTube all day long.

**Q. How do you think children's activities will change in the future? Will this be a positive change?**

**A.** I'm afraid the trend shows that in the future children will spend more time inside their home and spend their leisure time either browsing the internet or playing video games. This can't be a positive change as those activities involve less physical movements and more time in front of a digital screen. This will aggravate the health-related issues and make them apathetic towards socialising and participating in outdoor activities.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 5**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Giving gifts**

#### **Q. When do people give gifts or presents in your country?**

**A.** People in our country love to give gifts to others as a gesture of their good wishes and to show that they care. If someone invites a person to a birthday party, a wedding ceremony or to a baby shower, the invited guest always brings gifts. We often buy gifts whenever someone invites us to their house even if this is just a social visit. Thus gift giving is a part of our tradition. I must mention here that during the Christmas time, people exchange gifts and cards more than any time of the year.

#### **Q. Do you ever take a gift when you visit someone in their home? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** Yes, I do so all the time as an invited guest to someone's house. It is a part of our custom to bring gifts on a special occasion like a birthday, a wedding anniversary, or to a social visit. Last month I visited a neighbour with my parents and I bought a showpiece and a flower bouquet for them.

#### **Q. When did you last receive a gift? [What was it?]**

**A.** My friends presented me with a few books on my last birthday. They bought four novels that they knew I wanted to read and surprised me on my birthday. Two of these books are written by John Grisham. Two other books are 'The Fault in Our Stars' and 'The Handmaid's Tale'.

#### **Q. Do you enjoy looking for gifts for people? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** That's a tough question to answer because I love to browse a shop and sometimes online gift shops to buy a gift but I usually do it quickly. So to answer your question, I love to buy a suitable gift for others but I do not spend hours after hours doing so. Instead, I visit a large shop or an online store that has numerous gift items and then I quickly pick a gift. I do the same when I buy flowers for others. I do so for a long time and I believe I do not like to waste time in a shop looking for the best gift. I am contented with a suitable gift most of the time.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe something you did that was new or exciting.**

You should say:

- what you did
- where and when you did this
- who you shared the activity with

and explain why this activity was new or exciting for you.

### **Cue Card Answer:**

It was about 5 years ago or so when I had just started to explore the wonderful world of the internet during my college life. In fact, the more I was looking at the cool looking websites with some spectacular designs and functionalities (*it was so back then, at least*), the more I was challenging my “intellectual buds” to create such “information portals” on the world wide web, containing text, image, video and animation. But, how could I take on such a challenge without any guide? Well, after enquiring a little, I knew exactly where to go, and it was none other than a friend of my friend.

His name was Jack Huston. Jack, being a computer lab assistant, had more than enough knowledge to help me with building a website from scratch. In fact, Jack, the computer guru, made it look so easy that I decided to jump on building my first website immediately. But, then I realized that it fell in the category of one of those things where one is forced to say things like “it is easy to say but difficult to do”. So, when I actually started to “build” the much-awaited website by figuring out things like creating proper file structure, website layout, main menu, margins, sidebar, menu bar as well as learning HTML and CSS, I just became overwhelmed very much to my dislike. But, I wasn’t exactly about to give up my dream of building my first website. So, I started afresh again, and as I kept trying again and again by spending at least four hours a day just on creating a website, my dream finally came into a reality.

After all, my hard works really paid off in the end. But, I needed to show it to Jack, my mentor. And, when he actually saw my “wonderful works”, he was really amazed and, of course, proud at the same time. Later on, I shared my newly built website with my friend as well.

They say that nothing succeeds like “success”. And, it becomes even more interesting when we succeed in doing a new thing at the very first attempt. So, naturally, I was also very excited when I succeeded in building my first website. Besides, in the process of building my first website, I came to know about a lot of things about internet and computer which wouldn’t be exactly otherwise possible for a person like me without any prior experience. However, the most exciting part of building my own website was that I could actually conduct many experiments on it, and then share my works my classmates and friends to prove that I was actually more ‘smart’ than I look. Finally, it was one of the most “intellectually stimulating” experiences of my student life. When I put the website live and could access it from anywhere, I felt that I had done a great job which I can be proud of.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Doing new things***

##### **Q. Why do you think some people like doing new things?**

**A.** It’s in the human DNA that we want to try doing something new and exciting. Doing the same thing over and over again makes us bore and we want to get out of the banal routine whenever possible. However, some people always seek adventure and take up new activities while others do not want to go out of their comfort zone. Due to our inquisitive nature, we have explored the ocean, invented so many food recipes, created games and sports, have many inventions that we enjoy and have reached the outer space.

##### **Q. What problems can people have when they try new activities for the first time?**

**A.** A new activity is often challenging, expensive, dangerous for our health and too tough to accomplish. For instance, reaching the summit of a mountain or switching to a completely vegetarian diet, two examples of millions of such new ventures, seems easy but are really difficult to



do. However, if we want to achieve something really great, we will always have to take the first step towards it no matter how challenging they initially become. The joy of being able to do something new is worth taking the risk. Besides, some new activities are not that much challenging and only requires determination.

**Q. Do you think it's best to do new things on your own or with other people? Why?**

**A.** It really depends on the type of things we want to do. For instance, if I want to start writing a story or develop a particular skill, I would rather do it myself. However, if I want to learn how to swim or play a game, I would definitely prefer someone who can teach me the rules and skills.

I believe some activities are better accomplished alone than a group while others could be learnt and done quickly with the help of others. So depending on the activity, we may decide whether we should do it solo or with a group of people.

***Discussion topics: Learning new things***

**Q. What kinds of things do children learn to do when they are very young? How important are these things?**

**A.** I believe we learn the most important life skills in our childhood. Children learn how to walk, talk, interact with others, react in danger and the names of the objects around them. Besides, their basic character is shaped during this time and they gather the essential skills or reading, writing and numerations which affect their further learning and skill development in the future.

As someone's life develops and evolves around the skills he/she learns in his/her early days, it has the utmost importance in our life.

**Q. Do you think children and adults learn to do new things in the same way? How is their learning style different?**

**A.** I believe, children are more inquisitive and are open to everything new and exciting. Thus they learn naturally without prejudice and paying much attention. Their brains are more functional and can process more amount of data. For instance, a child without taking any intensive training course can learn a language only from the people who speak around him/her.

On the other hand, adults learn new things which they feel they need to learn. Their brains are already occupied with a massive amount of data and do not take up new skills easily. Thus if they want to learn a new language, they need to take courses or live in a country where this language is spoken. However, I must mention here that, our learnings in adulthood have great importance as they further shape our character and personality.

**Q. Some people say that it is more important to be able to learn new things now than it was in the past. Do you agree or disagree with that? Why?**

**A.** I definitely agree that it is important for us to learn new things now than it was anytime in the past. The primary reason for this is that we live in a highly competitive era where knowledge and skills are power. We have an ever-increasing competition in schools, workplaces and life, and without constantly learning, we would fail to reach our goal. For instance, if an employee fails to develop his skill, someone else will take up his position. Since technology helps us so much in learning new things, we should take advantage of it and expand our knowledge and skills to further our productivity.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 6**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Games**

##### **Q. What games are popular in your country? [Why?]**

**A.** Football is the most popular game in my country. Our national team plays football at the international level and they often bring fame to the whole country. This game is in our blood for generations and people have a special weakness for this game. Chess, badminton and cricket are perhaps some other popular sports as people in my country enjoy playing these games and often watch the live competition on television.

##### **Q. Do you play any games? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** Yes, I often play football with my friends. Besides, I also enjoy playing badminton and table tennis. As a national sport, football is quite popular and I have been playing it since my childhood. I believe playing football is a great exercise and I feel very passionately about it. For the badminton and table tennis, they are also exciting sports and we play it mostly during the winter season.

##### **Q. How do people learn to play games in your country?**

**A.** Most of the children learn to play games from their seniors and neighbouring friends. Students often learn it from their school and who have dreams to become sportsmen in the future, takes some professional training from different sports centres. I must mention that a large number of youths also enjoy watching sports and game competitions on the television and they also learn from it.

##### **Q. Do you think it's important for people to play games?[Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I strongly believe that all of us should get involved in some sorts of games and sports as they are entertaining, educative and good for both physical and mental health. An active lifestyle keeps us fit and healthy. And playing games is the best way to ensure a healthy lifestyle. Parents should encourage their children to play outdoors sports every single day to avoid a sedentary lifestyle.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe an open-air or street market which you enjoyed visiting.**

You should say:

- where the market is
- what the market sells
- how big the market is

and explain why you enjoyed visiting this market.

### **Cue Card Answer:**

As a small town of Essex, Braintree doesn't exactly have much excitement to offer, whether you are a resident or an outsider, except some country parks and ancient temples. But, with a population size of only about 37,000, the market town of Braintree has done an excellent job of attracting more than enough crowds from outside to its bustling street markets at least on the last Saturday of every month.

The street market, which I visited about a month ago, stretches about a couple of kilometres from Braintree town centre on the Manor Street to High street and up Bank Street. Having offered a perfect cosmopolitan mix of fresh local produce, mouth-watering street foods, drinking bars, artisan bakery shop, plants, flowers and handicraft items to the shows of vintage & classic racing cars and live music, whatever you name, Braintree street market has it covered so that the street market enthusiasts can enjoy their time. As for me, though, I visited the vibrant market place to buy my favourite smoked fish.

One can't help but enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of a street market where all the local farmers and vendors are always eager to treat you like their "gusts" instead of their "prospective customers". To me, visiting a street market in the middle of a beautiful countryside far from the hectic city life, is like enjoying a "breath of fresh air", literally speaking. Of course, another reason, for which I like going to a street market apart from the reason of enjoying the "touch" of fresh fruits and vegetables with a smell of "earth dirt" still present on them, is that I feel like I am actually helping grow the economy of a local area people who are honest, simple and big-hearted, human traits which are becoming more and more scarce by every passing day.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Shopping at markets***

**Q. Do people in your country enjoy going to open-air markets that sell things like food or clothes or old objects? Which type of market is more popular? Why?**

**A.** Most of the rich people in my country chose modern shopping complexes over the open-air markets while the lower middle class often rely on the open-air markets for products like clothes, kitchenware and food. Overall, shopping malls are more popular these days as they offer better products and superior shopping experience. The street market is losing its appeal to the shoppers as they fail to offer warranty and often sells low-quality products. Due to these facts, middle-class shoppers, especially in cities, are turning to large shopping malls.

**Q. Do you think markets are more suitable places for selling certain types of things? Which ones? Why do you think this is?**

**A.** The core concept of a market demonstrates that numerous merchants would gather at a place with their products and shoppers would be there to purchase the merchandises they need at an agreeable price. However, some goods are more common than others and that depends on the type of the market we are talking about. For instance, an electronic market would have different electronic products while a food-court would be filled with food vendors and sellers. However, if we consider the overall scenario of a large market, clothes, kitchenware, cosmetics, food, electronic products, and gift items are some predominant products. I believe merchants in a market sell products that the consumers most often purchase and that's the reason most of the markets have those products.

**Q. Do you think young people feel the same about shopping at markets as older people? Why is that?**

**A.** I believe there is a difference between the shopping habit of older and younger people. In my country, the young generation often meets their friends at a market place and enjoy fast food. They are up to fashion items and accessories. On the contrary, older people go to a market to buy things they need for their houses. They are bargain hunters and spend more time shopping than socialising.

***Discussion topics: Shopping in general***

**Q. What do you think are the advantages of buying things from shops rather than markets?**

**A.** I believe shops offer a particular type of products while the product range in a market is large. For this reason, shops are often nearby the residential areas and are easily accessible. They are less crowded and sell products from renowned brands. Shops often sell goods at a fixed price and give discounts to loyal customers. The environment, security and product warranty are some great amenities a shopper enjoys in a shop.

**Q. How does advertising influence what people choose to buy? Is this true for everyone?**

**A.** I think advertisements have a great influence on consumers. In this era of modern technology and consumerism, adverts are all around us and they shape our purchasing decisions and spending habits. We are knowingly and unknowingly being lured to purchase consumer goods that we often do not need and the credit goes to the advertisements. It also plays a big role while we choose a product over another one. It is natural that we would like to buy something that we have heard about rather than buying a product from an unknown brand and advertisers are spending big money to bombard us with the benefits of their products just to tap this decision-making phase. I believe every consumer is influenced by the advertisements to some extent but some are making an informed decision while others are not.

**Q. Do you think that any recent changes in the way people live have affected general shopping habits? Why is this?**

**A.** I believe people are busy these days and they want to spend less time making something at home when they can buy them from a nearby shopping mall. Increasing work pressure, city-centric lifestyle and the availability of ready-made products are the reasons for this change.

We are also living in the age of technology and that is why the number of online shoppers is increasing rapidly. Thus their shopping habits have changed and they want to get products delivered at our doorsteps rather than visiting a market and purchasing what they need.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 7**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Bicycles**

#### **Q. How popular are bicycles in your hometown? [Why?]**

**A.** It's indeed depressing that bicycles are not as popular as they used to be in our hometown. They have been replaced by motorised vehicles and people hardly use this environment-friendly mode of transport these days in my hometown.

I believe people want to ride faster and save time and that's why they have chosen motorbikes over the bicycles despite the fact that bicycles are cheaper and good for our health.

#### **Q. How often do you ride a bicycle? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I live in a city where we have a separate bicycle lane. As a student, I want to save money and I use a bicycle every single day- to commute to and from my college and to meet friends. I ride a bicycle because I can afford it and it is a healthy habit.

#### **Q. Do you think that bicycles are suitable for all ages? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** Yes, they are indeed suitable for people of all age groups. Bicycles are easier to ride, possess a very low risk of accident, require no costly servicing or repair and are good for health. I think if parents encourage their children to ride a bicycle every day, obesity would not be so prevalent in the future. Besides, riding a bicycle on a regular basis keeps us healthy and it emits no harmful gas unlike the motorised vehicles.

#### **Q. What are the advantages of a bicycle compared to a car? [Why?]**

**A.** First of all, bicycles are cheap and environmental-friendly. Cars, on the contrary, are expensive and harmful to the environment. Air pollution in some cities is increasing faster due to the number of cars on the roads. Second, a bicycle does not require enough space to be parked and can be carried away easily. Car parking is a concern for many. Finally, riding a bicycle is good for our health while we do no physical exertion while we drive and increasing health-related issues are attributed to our over-reliance on cars.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe a person who has done a lot of work to help people.**

You should say:

- who this person is/was
- where this person lives/lived
- what he/she has done to help people

and explain how you know about this person.

**Cue Card answer:**

Helping others in need, in whichever capacity that might be, is certainly a great act of “charity”. In fact, in my opinion, it is the “act of charities” among many of us, that has helped our human race survive from becoming “extinct” so far on a planet called Earth, which has been proved out to be pretty hostile sometimes. But, do we all always help each other equally? “No” is the straight forward response to this question, simply because we all are different, and we all live under different circumstances.

However, when it comes to dedicating one’s whole life to the cause of uplifting the humanity in order to bring some smile on the faces of millions, if not billions, we can talk about the life of Mother Teresa in a heartbeat. Having born in the year 1910 at a place called “Skopje” in the Republic of Macedonia, “the mother of humanity”, lived in Ireland for a brief period of time before moving to India where she lived most of her life.

I have never really met Mother Teresa, one of the most revered philanthropists of all time, if not the most, personally, but when I first came to know about her at my elementary school, I developed a tremendous respect for the “symbol of charity” of the 20th century. As I grew older, I began to learn about her charity works which created millions of loyal disciples not only in India but also all over the world. But, I became even more interested about Mother Teresa, who pretty much changed the idea and trajectory of charity/missionary works, after learning how she got the Noble Peace Prize award in 1979, and how she didn’t attend the ceremonial banquet for the award but asked instead that the \$192,000 fund be given to the poor. In fact, later on, during my college years, I chose to write an essay on this “great avatar of love and compassion” in my language class.

Being a devout Christian, the “symbol of selfless work”, fed those who nobody else was prepared to feed, sheltered those who nobody else was prepared to shelter and treated those who nobody else was prepared to touch and look after. Having started her charity works by begging for funds at times, Mother Teresa the Saint, never stopped her charity works in order to fulfil her mission of serving the poor needy even when she was old, weak, frail and physically ill. With more than 700 charity missions throughout the world today, the greatest “charity organizer” of all time will be remembered for her extraordinary efforts, unparalleled passion and dedications, who managed to bring people of all religions, races, castes and creeds in the cause of humanity like no other in human history.

**PART 3*****Discussion topics: Helping other people in the community*****Q. What are some of the ways people can help others in the community? Which is most important?**

**A.** In fact, there is a lot that we can do to help others in a community we live in. First, we can extend our helping hands to elder citizens, young children and physically challenged people. Sometimes spending some time with them can make a big difference. We should then volunteer in charitable events and help outdoors. Mowing someone’s lawn, trimming hedges, or shovelling their walkway can be a great surprise that encourages community service. We can truly help others by offering our skills and then sometimes taking up initiatives to clean the neighbourhood, water the plants and sweep the streets.

In my opinion, being able to offer our skills for free to other community members could be the best support to the community.

**Q. Why do you think some people like to help other people?**

**A.** People who are benevolent, selfless and possess helping mentality often assist others. This is a basic human nature and being able to help someone brings unimaginable joy to us. Those who know how important it is for us to help others and how our little effort can make a great difference do not fear to extend their helping hands to others. Our life is temporary and people always remember us for what we do and say to others. Thus kind words, which is also considered a charity, and noble acts to help others make us live forever.

**Q. Some people say that people help others in the community more now than they did in the past. Do you agree or disagree? Why?**

**A.** I can't say for sure how supportive people in the distant past were but I have seen people help each other as long I can remember. We, as a community, can't sustain without the cooperation and mutual understanding. Thus I have seen how people risk their own lives to help others even when I was a kid. Two years ago, a devastating storm hit our area and many people worked restlessly to support the victims. So I believe we have flourished as the supreme being not only because we have superior brains but also because we have always supported each other.

**Discussion topics: Community Services**

**Q. What types of services, such as libraries or health centres, are available to the people who live in your area? Do you think there are enough of them?**

**A.** We have two public libraries, two public parks, one sports centre, two community centres, a night school, more than five health centres, two support centres for women and children and an old home in our area. Two of these health centres are funded by the government and another one by an NGO. I believe considering the population in our area those community service centres are good enough. However, I personally feel that we need a dedicated sports centre for the youth where they would be able to spend quality time and play different sports with their friends. I also feel the need for a cultural centre where children would learn and practice arts & crafts, dancing and singing.

**Q. Which groups of people generally need most support in a community? Why?**

**A.** I believe elder, physically challenged and poor citizens need more support than other people in a community. Since our senior citizens often live alone and are not as physically strong as we are, they need more help and time from us. Physically challenged people also need assistance as they have difficulties doing things on their own. Finally, our poor neighbours need our backing as they often find it hard to manage a budget to live properly.

I also believe that women need a dedicated centre run by other women to discuss their rights. Many women are often subject to domestic violence and don't get proper support to overcome it. Such a centre for women could be an excellent idea, I believe.

**Q. Who do you think should pay for the services that are available to the people in a community? Should it be the government or individual people?**

**A.** I think that should be managed both by the government and capable individuals. For instance, a community needs health centres, public parks, libraries, security personnel, roads and other amenities which are too expensive for individuals to manage. The government has a great role in managing such ventures. Affluent citizens of a community should also contribute by donating food, paying money to charitable events, running private charitable organisations and so on. If a collaborative approach is maintained, it would bring a better result in the long run.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 8**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### ***Topic: Telephoning***

#### **Q. How often do you make telephone calls? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** Thank you for the opportunity to let me talk about this. In fact, I scarcely use a landline these days but profoundly rely on my cell phone. I usually make 5-8 calls a day and receive calls more than that. Besides, I sometimes make international calls from our landline but that would not be more than once or twice in a month.

#### **Q. Who do you spend most time talking to on the telephone? [Why?]**

**A.** I guess it would be my mother with whom I talk the most on the telephone. There is hardly a day that she does not call me and I feel quite relaxed talking to her. She is the person I love the most and feel most connected to. She loves me unconditionally and calls me whenever she has something to share. I believe there are many others like me who talk to their moms the most.

#### **Q. When do you think you'll next make a telephone call? [Why?]**

**A.** Well, this is an interesting question! I will make the next call to my mom as soon as my exam is over and I am outside. I am sure she is eagerly waiting to know how I performed in my test and I would let her know how my experience was.

#### **Q. Do you sometimes prefer to send a text message instead of telephoning? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** Yes, I often send text messages instead of calling someone. I do it whenever I need to send information to someone like my address, bank account number and so on. I also prefer sending texts at a time when I believe a phone call might interrupt someone. Thus sending texts is more suitable and convenient in many situations.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe a journey [e.g. by car, plane, boat] that you remember well.**

You should say:

- where you went
- how you travelled
- why you went on the journey

and explain why you remember this journey well.



**Cue Card Answer:**

This is a fascinating topic for me and I would like to thank you for this excellent topic. Just after looking at the topic, I recalled many journeys and trips I embarked, but for this cue card topic, I have decided to talk about a recent journey that I took by our private car.

I went to visit my uncle, James, who works in a research firm and lives with his family in Ontario and we made the journey around 3-4 months ago. This was quite a long journey and I was with my parents, aunt Julia and my younger sister. It was almost 10 hours' journey and we thoroughly relished it. The scenic beauty on both sides of the road was mesmerizing and the country songs that my sister played on the stereo made the journey more amusing. My father and aunt drove the car and they both told us stories from their childhood which sounded unbelievable to me and I was happy to learn that they were just like me in their teenage. This was such a refreshing journey that I will always remember it.

We travelled by our personal car which is a Mitsubishi Sedan and suitable for the long journeys. My uncle James became a father for the first time and we planned the trip to see the new member of the family. We were looking forward to meeting my uncle, his wife Anna and the newborn baby. We brought many presents for all of them and had planned to stay the night there.

This was truly a memorable journey for me and I would like to take such a journey soon. First of all, this long journey helped me to get rid of the monotonous city routine I usually have and it was like a great family reunion. We stopped at least four times in different places on our route and took photos. It was like a family picnic and my father, who is usually very busy, had a great time with us. When I looked at the angelic face of the new baby, I felt like it was a journey worth taking.

**PART 3*****Discussion topics: Reasons for daily travel*****Q. Why do people need to travel every day?**

**A.** Well, it seems like the movement is one of the most fundamental activities of the human being. They travel every day to reach different destinations including educational institutes, workplaces, or markets. They often travel to meet someone, visit a place where they engage in recreational activities, buy or sell something, to fulfil a personal or professional need and so on. Since necessary establishments are not located at a place and people have very different professions and daily requirements, they need to travel to a variety of locations and then get back home at the end of the day.

**Q. What problems can people have when they are on their daily journey, for example, to work or school? Why is this?**

**A.** I think traffic congestion is the most heinous predicament people face while commuting to their schools and offices. The traffic jam kills valuable time, create anxiety among many and make them miss their important schedule. Besides, some people are allergic to dust and yet they have to travel to and from their offices each day. Long queue for a public bus, extra taxi fare, pickpocketing and accidents are some of the common problems people face every day. It's quite sad to notice that some women face even more challenges and problems while they are on the road.

**Q. Some people say that daily journeys like these will not be so common in the future. Do you agree or disagree? Why?**

**A.** I think for some particular types of people the journey would become less prevalent as they would take advantages of the technology and complete many tasks from home. However, as a

whole, the necessity for daily commuting and travel would keep on increasing over time. A programmer or a student might stay home more than they do now but people's need for getting outside would grow. To understand what it would be in the future, we can compare it with the past. Even after dramatic technological progress, more people, these days, travel daily than they did a decade ago. This obviously forecasts what might happen in the coming decades.

***Discussion topics: Benefits of international travel***

**Q. What do you think people can learn from travelling to other countries? Why?**

**A.** Travelling offers first-hand experiences and enhances our horizon and way of thinking. Travelling to foreign lands is even more beneficial. It helps us learn about a totally new culture, diversity of human interaction and refreshes us from our monotonous lifestyle. It is said that a new country always brings new ideas and experience and this eventually helps us become more receptive to other cultures and races. For instance, after I visited Europe, I started realising that we live in a world where we have a diverse lifestyle and hence we should always respect other cultures.

**Q. Can travel make a positive difference to the economy of a country? How?**

**A.** I think travelling brings benefits both for the host country and the country of origin of the tourists. From tourism's point of view, the number of tourists and travellers directly contribute to the economy of many countries who rely on tourism. On the other hand, tourists often get ideas for new ventures or businesses both in the national and international arena and this has quite a powerful impact on the economy of a country. For instance, the entrepreneur of a large IT firm in my country actually got inspired to launch his company after he visited a similar company in Finland.

**Q. Do you think a society can benefit if its members have experience of travelling to other countries? In what ways?**

**A.** I am positive that a society, whose members travel to other countries and bring many innovative ideas, would progress faster than other societies where people scarcely travel. The same lesson is plenty in our history. Nations which travelled more had better technology, trade facility and enlightened citizens who helped progress the whole nation. This is even more true in this age of technology.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 9**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Your friends**

#### **Q. Do you prefer to have one particular friend or a group of friends? [Why?]**

**A.** I had many friends in my childhood and over time, the number has shrunk. These days, I have a few close friends, four to five to be precise, and all them are dear to me. To answer the question, I like to maintain my friendship with all of them rather than a single friend.

#### **Q. What do you like doing most with your friend/s?**

**A.** I like to discuss personal issues with them, talk about contemporary news and events, express our opinions on political news, share our plans, sometimes play sports and watch movies together. Being able to discuss anything without any hesitation is the best part of having good friends.

#### **Q. Do you think it's important to keep in contact with friends you knew as a child? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I think childhood friends are special to us in many ways and they share the most magical memories of our childhood. So whenever possible, we should contact them and keep in touch with them. However, with the passage of time, we often lose contact with these friends and cannot meet them even though we wish we could.

#### **Q. What makes a friend into a good friend?**

**A.** I believe trustworthiness and commitment are really important to develop a good friendship. I would want a friend to be trustworthy to become a close friend on mine. Besides, common interests, similar mentality and shared objectives often make some friends special to us.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe an important choice you had to make in your life.**

You should say:

- when you had to make this choice
- what you had to choose between
- whether you made a good choice

and explain how you felt when you were making this choice.

#### **Cue Card Answer:**

In life, we make our choices whether we like it or not. Some of those choices, that we make, prove out to be wise while the others, let's say, not "so-wise". However, choosing between two choices, that seems to be equally promising and beneficial, can really be a tricky business. But, that's exactly what I did almost fifteen years ago when I had to choose between staying with my loving and elderly parents in my small town and leaving to study economics on scholarship at one of the best

universities in my country which was almost 300 miles away from my parents' place. Of course, after a long debate and deliberation with myself and all of my well-wishers, I finally decided to stay with my loving parents in my own little town.

After making my choice, initially, I didn't exactly make too much of it as I knew exactly what I was doing, and why I was doing it. In fact, when I made the decision, I listened to my heart instead of my head. I just felt, since I have a rather traditional frame of mind where families and friends always come first, that I did the right thing as it at least made my elderly parents very happy and assured. When I was making the choice, I also knew that I almost surely would lose the opportunity to build a very successful career later on in my life. So, I was already preparing myself to work even harder to make up for the "loss" while staying and studying in my own little town with very limited working opportunity. Besides, I was also a bit nervous about how my friends would "treat and accept" me since I would be studying at a local college instead of a "university".

But, after fifteen years, when I come to think of my decision, I certainly think that I made a good choice as things have turned out to be just fine for my life and family. In fact, it was because of that decision I feel that life is all about how we choose to feel about ourselves rather than trying to fit into the "definition of others". Besides, having seen how my elderly parents have appreciated my presence close to them every moment for the last 15 years or so, I have no doubt in my mind that it was one of the best decisions in my life.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Important choices***

##### **Q. What are the typical choices people make at different stages of their lives?**

**A.** Well, in our childhood, our parents make most of the choices for us, but as we grow up, we start doing more and more of it ourselves. We become selective about our attire and friends in teenage, and often decide which subjects to study and what activities to get involved in. Then we pick up our majors at the college and chose the music we like, the sports we play, the friends we make, the food we eat and we plan for our future. Afterwards, we chose our life partner, chose a career, pick our tour destinations, select a house to live in and make many financial decisions. At a later stage, when we get old, we decide a place to live in and take some leisure activities to spend our time and wish to live the rest of our life happily. In between, we make a thousand other choices and few of them are so ordinary like picking a dress for a party while some of them are so important that they determine our future till we leave our last breath on earth.

##### **Q. Should important choices be made by parents rather than by young adults?**

**A.** I think that depends on the type of choices we are considering. If it is about which school to pick for a teenager, parents are better suited to do so. However, if it is about the sports the young boy or girl should take part in, then the children's choice should get a priority. I believe, parents should make most of the important choices for their young children but should leave very personal choices like music, sports, leisure activity and type of friends for their offsprings to decide. Parents can, however, provide guidance and support to their children to make sure they do their best.

##### **Q. Why do some people like to discuss choices with other people?**

**A.** I believe every important choice we make has a great influence on the later courses of our life. This is why we often seek advice or opinion of others we trust to be assured that we are on the right track. Some people are not good decision makers and often rely on their close friends and relatives for the guideline. Others, however, just want to get a second opinion before deciding something.

**Discussion topics: Choices in everyday life**

**Q. What kind of choices do people have to make in their everyday life?**

**A.** I believe we are knowingly and unknowingly making a large number of choices every single day of our life. People decide what to have in their breakfast and then what to wear before leaving home. A mom decides what to do for her kids and an officegoer decides which route to take to reach the office. Thus we decide our food, clothes, routes, tasks, shopping list, to do list, a book to read, a movie to watch, whom to contact, which websites to browse, and so many ordinary things on a daily basis. We are, however, often forced to make important decisions every now and then like switching our job, taking a course, buying something expensive, making a lifestyle change, taking a new activity and so on.

**Q. Why do some people choose to do the same things every day? Are there any disadvantages to this?**

**A.** I believe some people are happy to follow a strict routine as they think a daily routine is much better to follow than not having one at all. Others, however, find it difficult to take up challenges and thus want to stay in their comfort zone all the time. These people love to lead a secure life and often become contented in things they do regularly. So they end up doing the same thing over and over again. Some of these people are convinced that they have nothing more interesting and rewarding to do.

I think this approach has some downsides. They often miss out the excitement of life and never try something challenging yet highly rewarding. I believe, they often miss the hidden opportunity in life and career.

**Q. Do you think that people today have more choices to make than in the past?**

**A.** I quite believe so. We are living in an ultra modern age where we have so many options and choices. Despite this fact, the number of choices we have to make has increased with the passage of time. With the ever-increasing number of the world population, things are highly competitive and our lifestyle shift has forced us to make frequent choices than ever before.

The good news is that the spectrum of options we have in our lives today has increased significantly than the past, and these choices range from simple consumer products to major life decisions and we have the internet to do research before we decide something.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 10**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### ***Topic: Musical instruments***

#### **Q. Which instrument do you like listening to most? [Why?]**

**A.** My favourite musical instrument is the guitar. I like the fact that there are different types of guitar, like acoustic, classical and electric and they create a soothing and appealing sound to the audience. I love the variety of beautiful music a guitar can produce, and how this instrument is used so widely all around the world.

#### **Q. Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument? [Which one?]**

**A.** Since the guitar has always been my favourite musical instrument, I took some guitar lessons when I was in high school and I still have an acoustic guitar at home. I don't play it much nowadays but I wish I had more time to practise. Apart from the guitar, I also tried to learn to play the flute.

#### **Q. Do you think children should learn to play a musical instrument at school? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** Yes, I absolutely love the idea of teaching children to play a musical instrument at school. It would encourage them to appreciate good music and reduce the stress they feel sometimes. Learning to play a musical instrument is fun, refreshing and thoroughly enjoyable.

#### **Q. How easy would it be to learn to play an instrument without a teacher? [Why?]**

**A.** I think it is quite difficult to learn to play a musical instrument without the supervision and guidance of a teacher. It takes time to master a musical instrument and requires passion and inspiration and a teacher can provide both to a learner. Without a teacher, most of the learners would be more focused on learning some particular tunes rather than learning the grammar and rules of it.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe something healthy you enjoy doing.**

You should say:

- what you do
- where you do it
- who you do it with

and explain why you think doing this is healthy.

#### **Cue Card Answer:**

I am not exactly obsessed with my health, but I do like to remain active and healthy without spending too much time on it. One such activity I have started doing lately is playing long tennis with some of my close friends. Needless to say, I have actually started to enjoy it since I am getting better at it by every passing day, even though I was a bit sceptical about my "newly-found" outdoor activity at the start.

Anyway, it wasn't exactly easy in the beginning for a very average-built person like me to show my tennis playing skills in a real tennis field, which, by the way, is about 15 minutes drive from my home, against a bunch of guys who has been playing this "physically demanding" game for years. In fact, it took me almost two weeks just to learn how to hold a tennis bat properly in order to hit a tennis ball effectively. As if it was not embarrassing enough, it took me another two weeks to learn 'landing a successful serve' in the right area! However, after playing for almost 3 months, I guess, it is fair to say that I have "acquired" all the skill necessary to play long tennis.

Now, while pretending to be a professional tennis player these days, I just can't ignore the fact that I am actually more physically fit than the time when I didn't play any tennis. In fact, I can give almost 30 push-ups at a stretch now while I would actually feel like dying after 15 before I started playing tennis! Having developed a bit bicep muscle on my hand, I feel like I can beat Mike Tyson the great anytime! Besides, I don't really feel tired these days even after some long hours. But the best thing about playing tennis for me is my appetite for food has increased in many folds as I would feel full in my stomach even after eating just a little. So, hail tennis!

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Keeping fit and healthy***

##### **Q. What do most people do to keep fit in your country?**

**A.** In my country, the majority of youth play different sports, do cycling and go to the gym to keep their body fit. Adults and elder people, who are health conscious, walk in a park and follow a light exercise routine every day. Many of them also follow a balanced diet. I regret to say that, a great portion of our population still do not follow a balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle.

##### **Q. How important is it for people to do some regular physical exercise?**

**A.** I think regular physical exercise has a direct relation to our wellbeing and good health. Without it, someone can't lead a healthy life. It is perhaps more important than ever before as in this modern era, we have fewer physical activities, and to remain fit, we have no other alternatives than to get engaged in different sports and physical exercise.

#### ***Discussion topics: Health and modern lifestyles***

##### **Q. Why do some people think that modern lifestyles are not healthy?**

**A.** Today we have different technologies and modern amenities to reduce the need for our physical labour. For instance, most of the city dwellers have cars to move to different places. Besides, we have inclined to a sedentary lifestyle as we are less interested in outdoor activities and more interested to stay home. Busy office employees have no time to take part in physical exercise and on top of that, fast food and packaged food comprise a big portion of our daily diet. Sedentary lifestyle and choice of our meals are both detrimental to our health. This is why it is a growing concern that the modern lifestyle is not good for health and it is indeed true.

##### **Q. Why do some people choose to lead unhealthy lives?**

**A.** I believe a healthy lifestyle is a choice for all of us except perhaps for some destitute people. Those who lead an unhealthy life are responsible for their own choices and it is often caused by our ignorance and lack of determination to have a positive lifestyle. The daily routine and the diet we follow are our own decisions. Some would argue that their financial conditions do not allow them to have a salubrious lifestyle and honestly speaking, this is often not the case. On the contrary, if a child has an unhealthy lifestyle, the parents are to blame. But when this child grows up, he/she is liable for his/her own lifestyle.

**Q. Should individuals or governments be responsible for making people's lifestyle healthy? What could be done to encourage people to live in a healthy way?**

**A.** The major portion of the responsibility to lead a healthy life goes to the individual citizens. As I have already said, a healthy lifestyle is a choice and the state can't do much in this regard.

However, the government has a responsibility to ensure a better environment, clean street, enough recreational and sports centre, health education and awareness programmes to encourage people to live in a healthy way. It is the government who can make sure that air, water and sound pollutions in an area remain within a tolerable level.



collegedunia.com



## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 11**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Dancing**

#### **Q. Do you enjoy dancing? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** If you ask me whether I enjoy seeing someone dance or enjoy dancing in a theatre, my answer is 'yes'. However, if you wanted to know if I myself enjoy doing dancing, I would say 'no'. I have never learned it and never tried it. I know dancing is so magical but I never tried it. Maybe I was more interested in sports than dancing during my youth.

#### **Q. Has anyone ever taught you to dance? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** As I have already told, no one ever taught me how to dance and I never wanted to learn it. So I ended up being a person who enjoys seeing others dance but does not dance himself.

#### **Q. Tell me about any traditional dancing in your country.**

**A.** Traditional Italian dances are hard to find in Italy in general as most of the youth are interested in modern dancing these days. The top three such traditional dances in Italy are the tarantella from Puglia, the Sardinian ballu tundu (round dance) and the Neapolitan Saltarello. Among these three, the saltarello is a musical dance and one of my favourites. It became the typical Italian folk dance and a favourite tradition of Rome in the Carnival and vintage festivities of Monte Testaccio. The saltarello is still a popular folk dance played in the regions of southern-central Italy.

#### **Q. Do you think that traditional dancing will be popular in the future? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I am afraid, modern dancing is replacing traditional dancing. As more people, especially the youth, are learning modern dancing and people are following western cultures, traditional dancing is losing its appeal and are being replaced by more contemporary dancing styles. However, Italians love to revive through the traditional dancing during different festivals, and it will not be lost, I believe.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe someone in your family who you like.**

You should say:

- how this person is related to you
- what this person looks like
- what kind of person he/she is

and explain why you like this person.

#### **Cue Card Answer:**

He is a distant cousin of mine from my father's side, and he lives in the same neighbourhood where I live. He doesn't exactly visit me or my family that often, but I really treat him like my own cousin. Being in his mid 20's, he doesn't really seem to be very tidy, strong and well-built like the other

persons of the same age. Barely with a height of 5'7", Lorenzo can also be described as having a fair complexion. Looking at his long thin hair from behind, one can also very easily identify him as "Lorenzo".

Lorenzo doesn't really like to talk much unless there is a valid reason to do. So, naturally, he doesn't really have that many friends who would want to relate to him. But, once you open up to him, Lorenzo can keep you engaged for hours with his "lectures" on space science. Of course, having a bit of a temper, he can get easily irritated if you ever dare to challenge his views on "space science". Lorenzo isn't exactly very conscious about contemporary fashion or design, so it isn't exactly surprising to see him wearing the same types of shirts and pants for years.

However, I like Lorenzo because he doesn't really like to become "nosy" in the affairs of other people. Another positive aspect of Lorenzo's characteristics is that he never really likes to argue with anybody unless he/she is talking about space science. I like Lorenzo also because he gives me company when I go fishing at a nearby lake even though he knows very well that I am not really very good at fishing. Of course, it serves him well too as he gets to spend hours watching the sky with his telescope. In fact, his "theories" on space science sometimes do get interesting, but I never really let him know about my "interest". Anyway, Lorenzo certainly isn't exactly the kind of person with whom one can easily befriend, but I really like my cousin because of his simplicity and honesty.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Family similarities***

##### **Q. In what ways can people in a family be similar to each other?**

**A.** I believe our genetics and DNA have a great role in determining what we look like and how we behave. Since members from a family share the same genetic codes, they are often very similar to each other – in look and behaviour. In my opinion, our upbringing often shapes our characters and habits and it is no surprise that a baby turns out to be more like his/her parents than others. We usually look like our parents, feel exactly the same way when faced with challenges and take similar decisions as a family member. A shared family value often teaches us to stick together and become more like the rest of the family in our acts and thoughts.

However, this does not mean that all of them are strikingly similar as I have seen many people who are a polar opposite to the rest of their family.

##### **Q. Do you think that daughters are always more similar to mothers than to male relatives? What about sons and fathers?**

**A.** I believe there is a 50% chance that a daughter would look like her mother if we consider how the genetic codes impact the way we look. However, a girl spends more time with her mother, especially in her adolescence and youth, and thus acquire more of her qualities, and due to this, end up being more similar to her mother. On the other hand, a son, who oftentimes follows his father and mimic many of his behaviours usually idolise the father and want to become like him.

However, there are many exceptions and I can recall many boys I know about are more like their mothers while many daughters are greatly influenced by their fathers. One of my cousins, Bella, looks like her father and she has more similarities to her father than her mother.

##### **Q. In terms of personality, are people more influenced by their family or by their friends? In what ways?**

**A.** I believe, the family has a greater influence than friends in shaping someone's personality and character. Since we spend more time with family and often learn from them in our childhood, our

core personality is formed by the influence of our family. Our shared DNA also influences us to be more like our family than our friends.

However, as we grow up and start spending time with friends, we often tend to follow them and acquire some of their good and bad habits which further moulds our characters.

***Discussion topics: Genetic research***

**Q. Where can people in your country get information about genetic research?**

**A.** I think the internet is the primary source of information related to genetic research in our country. We have two genetic research centres and they provide useful information on their websites. Apart from that, the Science and Information Technology ministry offers the latest findings on genetic engineering on its website and publications. Someone with a proper channel can get more information from a few public universities that also work in this field.

**Q. How do people in your country feel about genetic research?**

**A.** I think the feelings are mixed. Some people with progressive mentality whole-heartedly welcome it while a few others believe that genetic research is unethical and should not be carried out. I personally think that we need to enhance our genetic research facility as it could bring an unparalleled breakthrough in identifying risks of health problems and then fighting incurable diseases. It can also be the answer to increasing food demands.

**Q. Should this research be funded by governments or private companies? Why?**

**A.** I believe the government should fund and carry out the research. Private companies often invest a huge sum of money in research and development and use the outcome to make even bigger profits from it. Thus their research is often subject to business interest than the benefits of mass people. The government, on the contrary, can be more transparent in carrying out such research and use the result to change the fate of the ordinary people.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 12**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

**Topic: Traffic where you live**

#### **Q. How do most people travel to work where you live?**

**A.** In my city, most of the office-goers take either the public bus or the metro rail to travel to and from their workplace. Some affluent executives have their own cars and chauffeurs and they use their private cars to commute.

#### **Q. What traffic problems are there in your area? [Why is that?]**

**A.** The roads in my city are congested and busy during the office hours and the increasing use of private cars by the rich makes it worse. Some people do not follow the traffic rules and increase the misery of all commuters. I believe, all the roads in our city should be transformed into four-lane roads and more people should ride bicycles than driving cars.

#### **Q. How do traffic problems affect you?**

**A.** Every day I travel about 25 kilometres to reach my office and then take the same route to get back home. The unbearable traffic jam kills more than 2 hours of my personal time a day. Without any traffic congestion, it should take me only 35 minutes to reach the office, but it often takes me more than one and a half hour. I could have better utilised the time with my family or friends. Bad traffic on the road often bores me and after I reach home, I feel tired on such a day.

#### **Q. How would you reduce the traffic problems in your area?**

**A.** I would increase the number of public buses and enhance their facilities so that more people take buses instead of driving their own cars. Apart from that, I would enhance the roads and engage more traffic police so that traffic rule violators are detected and brought to justice. Finally, I would increase the number of metro rails in the city and offer some incentives for the office-goers who would use bicycles.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

**Describe a game or sport you enjoy playing.**

You should say:

- what kind of game or sport it is
- who you play it with
- where you play it

and explain why you enjoy playing it.

### **Cue Card Answer:**

Some people call it the “sport of the kings” since it was usually played by the kings in its early years. But, I like to call it the “king of sports” apparently because I just enjoy watching it and playing it. I am talking about “cricket”, a game loved by billions and played by many around the world.

Having learnt to play the sport during my early childhood, I just love to play cricket with my friends and community members whether it is in a big stadium or a small street in my neighbourhood. However, on a professional level, this “once upon a time” elite’s sport is played in a big stadium between two rival teams, consisting of eleven players in each.

The modern-day cricket, which involves batting and bowling in turn for both the teams, is played in three different formats: one is called “Test” cricket which is played over a period of five days at maximum; the second format is called “One Day International” which takes approximately from eight hours to eight and a half for a fifty overs match. Oh, in case if you didn’t know, it takes six balls to be bowled in order to complete the quota of a full over. Finally, the third format is called the “T-20” which consists of 20 “overs”.

In all three formats of the game, a team, batting first against the bowling side, will have to let the other team bat as well. Similarly, a team, bowling first against the batting team, will have to let the other team to bowl as well for the allocated number of overs, barring some unintended interruptions. Of course, I like to play the limited versions of the game that include One Day International and T-20 since I just don’t have an abundance of time available to watch or play a marathon 5-day test, as the kings and the elites did ages ago.

Now, why I enjoy playing cricket? Well, I like to play it because it’s just not the king’s game or the elite’s game, but it is also the “game of gentlemen” since cricket involves almost no or very little physical touch with members of the opponent team. Besides, cricket is my favourite game because no other sports stimulate my mind and brain as playing this great game does since it involves a great deal of mental calculation, mind games, and planning, along with a fair amount of physical fitness as well, to beat a worthy opponent. I have learnt to love and appreciate the thrill and joy of playing cricket also because of its glorious nature of “uncertainty” as it is just not possible to predict the result of a game until the last ball is bowled. Finally, I enjoy playing cricket since it helps me keep my body in shape and healthy, which matters to me more than anything.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Children’s games***

#### **Q. How have games changed from the time when you were a child?**

**A.** In my childhood, most of the time we used to play outdoors with other children and classmates. We were not up to win a game, rather running, shouting and enjoying were our main objectives. We often invented our own rules for a game and parents scarcely intervened during our playtime. We had many large fields, parks and places to go to and play and we oftentimes mimicked our seniors to learn a new game.

These days, children are more interested in playing computer games and many popular games from our time are no longer played. Parents often look after their offsprings in the field and games are more competitive than our time.

**Q. Do you think this has been a positive change? Why?**

**A.** I don't think that it is a positive change except for the fact that children have their parents to look after them when they play outdoors. First of all, the games were more enjoyable and thoroughly entertaining in our time. We did not have to bother too much about the rules and most of the children were fit due to their extensive physical movements. I can't recall a single friend of mine who was obese. However, I must say that we did not have different types of equipment to play in our time compared to today's children. Considering the sedentary lifestyle children these days have due to their inclination to video games, the trend is negative.

**Q. Why do you think children like playing games?**

**A.** Playing games with friends and family is thoroughly entertaining and children like it today as they always had. All sorts of games and sports have been invented to entertain us and the enjoyment increases significantly when we participate in it. During the play time, a child can run, shout, compete with others and their parents actually allow them to do all these. So it is more enjoyable for children. Besides, having others to play with help them break the monotony on life for a while and they extremely like it.

***Discussion topics: Games and competition***

**Q. Do you think competitive games are good or bad for children? In what ways?**

**A.** I think I have mixed feelings about it. To begin with, competition in a game encourages a child to perform his best and outwit the rivals to become the winner. This nourishes their talent and inspires to do excellent to achieve something. Such competitive games often teach them that everything is not for granted and they have to fight to become a champion.

However, I also believe that children should be taught to be cooperative rather than encouraging them to compete all the time. Otherwise, they would end up becoming more prejudiced than helpful.

**Q. How can games sometimes help to unite people?**

**A.** Most of the popular sports engage teamwork and they can't be won by an individual's effort. Thus such games and sports teach us how we should work together to achieve something important. Besides, such a game competition often brings nations together which foster a healthy relationship among countries. When our national team performs at a big stage, we forget our social differences, political rivalry and come closer to cheer up as a nation. This has great importance in maintaining regional and global peace, I believe.

**Q. Why is competition often seen as important in today's society?**

**A.** The world has more than 7.5 billion people and a limited resource for all of them. So in every stage of our life, only the best are rewarded today. We have to go through a huge competition throughout our career and life and this is why we are expected to be able to compete and win. Since so many people are expecting to achieve the same thing in the modern era, we can't survive and perform our best without being competitive and diligent.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 13**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Family**

#### **Q. Do you have a large family or a small family?**

**A.** I live with my parents and two siblings and we have a nuclear family. Our grandparents passed away a few years ago and we have been living in a city away from our hometown for the last 14 years.

#### **Q. Can you tell me something about them?**

**A.** Well, my father is an investment banker and my mother is a doctor. She is a paediatrician and specialises in child nutrition. I am 25 years old and both of my siblings are in their high schools. We love each other very much and I am lucky to have such a blessed and happy family. They are the most important persons in my life and my parents are very friendly to us. The bond among us is unbreakable and divine.

#### **Q. How much time do you manage to spend with members of your family?**

**A.** I am a university student and have classes from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm. My siblings also have classes while my parents remain busy in their offices during the day time. However, we spend time together in the evening and always have our breakfast and dinner together. We often go out to watch a movie or to have a meal together at a cafe or a restaurant. Weekends are particularly exciting as we spend time together the whole day and play some indoor games. My siblings are very close to me and we often do fun activities together. Last weekend we went to visit a park and had our lunch and dinner outside.

#### **Q. What sorts of things do you like to do together?**

**A.** Having dinner together is a kind of family ritual for us. We never eat alone or skip our dinner at home. During dinner time, we discuss our days, school and works. We often watch a movie in a theatre and go out on a weekend evening for a stroll. Apart from that, we usually make a trip outside the country once a year. Finally, I enjoy playing cards, chess and other indoor games with them.

#### **Q. Do you get on well with your family? [Why?/why not]**

**A.** I believe I am so blessed to have such a happy family. We get on very well with each other. All of us understand how important we are to each other and how our life rotates centring our family. Family comes first and we believe in it from the deep down of our heart and mind. This feeling gives us the sense to do everything humanly possible to support our family and live in harmony.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe a teacher who has influenced you in your education.**

You should say:

- where you met him/her

- what subject she/he taught
- what was special about him/her

and explain why this person influenced you so much.

**Cue Card Answer:**

The idea of the scientific study of the origin of humans has always fascinated me. So, as a student of art faculty, I decided to take a subject called “Anthropology” during my college years, and that’s when I met one of my most favourite teachers.

His name was Joe William. Being a person probably in his mid 50’s, he would show hardly any sign of ageing as far as his “agility” is concerned. Being a student of Anthropology, which ran for almost two hours, I never really dared to become late for his class as “the act” would almost surely draw some serious criticism to “contend” with.

But, when it actually came to teaching, Mr. Joe (as I would prefer to call him) was probably one of the best as far as Anthropology was concerned. He surely knew about his subject from inside out, and he surely knew how to keep his students engaged – at least for two hours each day.

After attending the class of Mr. Joe William for almost four months, I didn’t just learn about being “punctual” in life, but also a great deal about human evolution. Interestingly, even though his subject discussed mainly about the scientific “study of human origin”, I felt like he was more interested and worried about the “end of humans”, apparently in reference to our “destructive” actions and behaviour in order to eliminate each other from this earth. In fact, it was after attending Mr. Joe’s class that I became influenced to question the nationalities of some of our actions and behaviour openly which have continuously threatened our very existence as a “human race”.

Besides, I became really motivated to learn about my “ancestry” after attending his class which certainly is no simple matter in my opinion. Finally, it was because of the influence of my anthropology teacher that I became a member of an “anthropology club” in my country.

**PART 3**

***Discussion topics: Developments in education***

**Q. How has education changed in your country in the last 10 years?**

**A.** I am proud to say that the education system in our country has developed remarkably in the last decade and the literacy rate has doubled during this period. Government subsidiary in education soared by 27% and we have many new colleges and universities today than in the past. The most inspiring trend to mention here is that all parents are sending their children to schools and more girls are in education than ever before. Schools have adopted digital classrooms and the education board has updated its curriculum to make lessons more interesting, interactive and useful. Education is no longer a luxury for the poor and the use of technology in education has already begun.

**Q. What changes do you foresee in the next 50 years?**

**A.** I am not sure whether I will live another 50 years to see the changes but I believe our education system will reach a new height after five decades. I believe we will reach a 100% literacy rate milestone within the next two decades and we will have fully digitalised classrooms by then. Moreover, education will be more related to problem-solving than memorising theories and science and technology will be students’ favourite majors. In the future, the educational institutes will be judged on how well they coordinate complex offerings into a useful package for their students and



graduates and not by their syllabus and academics. Educators and institutions will be forced to adapt and students will have a voice. Finally, students will learn from online and interact with others remotely and after a decade or so, a radical shift will begin to occur in the world of education.

***Discussion topics: A national education system***

**Q. How do the expectations of today's school leavers compare with those of the previous generation?**

**A.** School graduates in the past generation mostly wanted to get a job and become an earning member. However, many such youths today want to enrol in further studies and start a job afterwards. In the past, their expectation was not that high as they are today. Sadly, the unemployment rate was low in the past but due to increasing demands from the employers and higher competition, students often feel uncertain about what to do once they complete their schools in this modern age. On the positive side, they had fewer academic and career choices in the past but that has enhanced to a great extent these days.

**Q. What role do you think extracurricular activities play in education?**

**A.** Extracurricular activities play a critical role in education as they prepare students to face the challenges of the real world. They teach us cooperation, leadership, patience and build the soft skills we need to shine in our life. These activities enhance our social, physical and moral aspects and we discover how to apply what we have learned in our classrooms. They help us continue our journey in life once we get out of our schools. Without having some sort of extracurricular activities, students lose their interests in learning and end up building an apathy towards further learning.

I believe when someone participates in different extracurricular activities, he gets the opportunity to explore a range of interests and unlock passions he never knew he had! Subsequently, it broadens his perspective and makes him more interested in education.

***Discussion topics: Different styles/methods of teaching and learning***

**Q. What method of learning works best for you?**

**A.** Well, I prefer reading books for learning or understanding concepts and also rely on technology to understand how something works in the real world. For instance, to learn how a mathematical theory works, I first try to read a book to get the idea but for further information on the topic, I search it online and browse different sources. Oftentimes, I discuss with a group of friends to understand their viewpoints and this also works for me.

**Q. How beneficial do you think it is to group students according to their level of ability?**

**A.** I believe students who have similar learning curves and skill sets learn better as a group since they understand each other quite well and do not feel shy to interact with the teacher. While teaching such a group, a teacher does not struggle much as he knows the capability of his students and can prepare study materials accordingly. If a highly talented student is put in a group of dull students or a dull student in a group of talented students, he might feel isolated and lost. This is why I believe a group should comprise pupils of the same capability and learning ability.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 14**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Visitors**

#### **Q. What would you suggest a visitor should see and do in your country?**

**A.** I am from Japan and this is one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in the world. With a remarkably unique tradition, this country has so many places to visit and so many things to do.

I would recommend a tourist to visit and enjoy the Mount Fuji, Tokyo Imperial Palace, Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Himeji Castle, Todaiji Temple and Tokyo Tower.

Among the activities, I would suggest that someone should experience the Otaku culture in Akihabara, eat ramen and sushi, take a field trip to a castle, wear a kimono, talk to the local people to get a glimpse of their life, overindulge on food in Dotonbori, and watch a traditional festival. There are still so many things to do and a tourist should explore himself to make it a lifetime experience.

#### **Q. Are there any traditional arts or music you would recommend?**

**A.** Traditional Japanese arts have been a source of fascination and inspiration for centuries. Calligraphy is one of the most admired Japanese arts and I am quite positive that a foreign tourist would thoroughly enjoy it. Ikebana, also known as flower arranging is another unique Japanese art form that delights the tourists.

For music, I would definitely recommend 'Geza' that includes music and sound effects played on stage right, behind a black bamboo curtain. Besides, 'Ki and tsuke' music covers the distinctive sounds made by striking two square oak boards and it is a famous traditional music type in Japan.

#### **Q. Tell me about the kind of foreign visitors or tourists who go to your country.**

**A.** In recent years, Japan attracted around 29 million international tourists in a year and a majority of these tourists come from China, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The number of American, Australian and Malaysian tourists are also significant. Most of these tourists desire to experience the unique traditions and cultural aspects of Japan and a good number of them are solo travellers who want to explore oriental charms and traditions.

#### **Q. In what ways has tourism changed your country?**

**A.** The number of foreigners who visited Japan in the year 2000 was just over 4 million and it went well over 30 million in 2017. The country has relaxed visa restrictions for many nationalities and tourism has emerged as a new economic driver for Japan.

Perhaps because some Asian countries leapt ahead too quickly into tourism without sufficient controls and infrastructure, some Japanese fear the result of a huge influx of tourists might be negative. However, a more developed tourist industry has left Japanese culture intact and unharmed since the Japanese economy is not as vulnerable to fluctuations as developing economies might be.

## **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

### **Describe a memorable event in your life.**

You should say:

- when the event took place
- where the event took place
- what happened exactly

and explain why this event was memorable for you.

### **Cue Card Answer:**

We never really thought that we would be able to attract so many people to attend our event. In fact, we didn't exactly do too much of promotional works to spread the news of our fundraising event that took place about 6 years ago with a very limited amount of preparation. Of course, we were lucky enough to have managed the permission, as it was for a noble cause, from our local authority to organize such a big and important event at a local youth club in my home town. I had no idea back then that this event would later become a memorable experience in my life.

The event started at around 4:00 pm with an introductory speech from our chief event organizer, followed by a live musical performance show by one of our local music concert groups. It was, after all, a fundraising event to help out people in the continent of Africa, so our chief event organizer very passionately tried to describe the plights of some African people who were/are still living under so much economic hardship despite the continuing efforts of many charity organizations around the globe.

As time progressed, people were gathering at our event in numbers. At some points, we were even worried that we wouldn't be able to accommodate everybody as the crowds were getting larger and larger. The event had continued for about 3 hours, and it had ended with a refreshing snack time. I am taken aback with the sheer number of participants and was equally excited about it.

This was a very memorable event for me primarily because I was the one who provided all the logistics behind the scene to turn this event into a success story. Besides, watching so many people "contributing" so generously in the cause of humanity to help out their other fellow human beings was certainly an unforgettable experience for me. Neither, could I ever forget the "little note of thanks" from one of our brothers, living in a little poor village of Africa, after receiving our little "donation" which I had helped collect, nor did I forget how our neighbours, friends and many people I had never met before helped us collect the donation. It was a great experience that I will cherish for a long time.

### PART 3

#### **Discussion topics: The role of ceremony in our lives**

##### **Q. How important are ceremonies in our lives?**

**A.** In Japan, ceremonies and social events are part of our nationalism and tradition. Such events are the best way to socialise and get familiar with new people and Japanese people love it. Ceremonies inspire us and let us forget our woes and distress.

Many ceremonies strengthen our family and social bonding. We celebrate to congratulate a new couple, welcome a newborn baby, congratulate someone on graduation or birthday. We often show respect to our national heroes, celebrate religious ceremonies to reinvigorate our faith and such ceremonies show that we care, we believe and we are there for others.

I believe that ceremonies can motivate us, stimulate our emotions and prompt good memories. The positive effects of the ceremony are universal across countries and regions.

##### **Q. Do you see the role of private and public ceremonies changing in the future?**

**A.** I personally believe that the role and appeal of ceremonies are universal and though the way of celebrating would change in the future, their role would be quite similar as they are now.

However, public ceremonies would be more widely accepted and participated by the people from all walks of life in the future. They will bring people closer and help forget our class divisions. Such ceremonies will promote nationalism, the religious norm and strengthen social bonding.

Private ceremonies, on the other hand, will become more complex and engage a group of people with similar social status and thus focus on celebrating special occasions like a birthday, a wedding and so on. They will be more important in our social life and give us more chances to get together and enjoy the event.

#### **Discussion topics: Attitudes to marriage in your country**

##### **Q. Have attitudes to marriage changed in recent years?**

**A.** I believe people in western countries want to choose their life partners after spending a considerable amount of time with them and the attitude towards marriage has shifted significantly in recent days. Many of them remain single and even same-sex marriage is allowed. Many prefer to choose their own life partner unlike the past when marriage was mostly arranged by the family.

In Japan, traditionally, marriages were categorized into two types according to the method of finding a life partner: *omiai* (arranged marriage) and *ren'ai* (a boy met a girl and decided to marry). The distinction, however, has grown less meaningful over postwar decades as Western ideas of love has altered Japanese perceptions of marriage.

The number of unmarried Japanese in recent years is alarming and economic and social aspects are two reasons for this declining trend to get married and have a family. Besides, The average age of marriage in Japan has climbed steadily.

##### **Q. In what ways do men and women feel differently about marriage, in your opinion?**

**A.** I believe the reason for getting married is to have a life partner and a family, and this feeling is the same for both men and women. However, boys and girls don't exactly think alike when it comes to marriage, at least not in traditional marries. In such a marriage, the bride is excited to have a partner but also worries about leaving her own house and making a whole new life. A groom, on the contrary, thinks about all the responsibilities and cost he will have to bear from the time he gets

married. Besides, the number of elder men getting married is much higher than that of women. In my country, interestingly, more men than women are reluctant to get married.

***Discussion topics: Events of national/global significance***

**Q. What sorts of national events make headlines in your country?**

**A.** Big political agendas, sports news, a scientific breakthrough, heinous crimes and our success at an international level often make it into the headlines. Apart from that, a big national event, any political movement which is controversial are often the headlines in our national news and TV channels.

**Q. Does the media in your country pay more attention to global or national events?**

**A.** I believe media in Japan give equal emphasis both on national and international events and they have dedicated pages for both. With the globalisation, the rest of the world is no longer far away from us and any big international even ignites interest to Japanese media. Having said that, I would like to mention that regional newspapers, radio stations and TV channels focus more on national news while English newspapers and satellite TV channels deal more with international events.



collegedunia.com

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 15**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Festivals**

#### **Q. Tell me about the most important festival in your country.**

**A.** I come from England and Camp Wildfire is one of the most important and widely celebrated festivals in my country. As I have always participated in this festival with my friends, I find it very important to the English people. For four days of non-stop fun, this music festival-cum-adventure camp offers a truly wild ride and the spontaneous participation of people makes it the most significant festival in my country.

#### **Q. What special food and activities are connected with this festival?**

**A.** Camp Wildfire lasts for four days and it is an exciting summer camp for adults in England. The forest dining is a significant part of this festival and participants dine in the open space and different juices, drinks and vegetarian items dominate the menu.

Campfires, live music, parties, DJs, inspiring talks, cabarets, relaxing spa, axe throwing, archery, water slide, water rafting dining in the forests are some notable activities of this festival. My favourite one is the water rafting which involves building and sailing our own raft which is a truly adventurous venture.

#### **Q. What do you most enjoy about it?**

**A.** As I have said, my personal favourite is the activity related to building a raft and then driving it in the water. This is so far the most challenging task as building a raft takes patience and experience. Once it is built, the participants get a feeling of making something on their own. I have done this several times and I absolutely enjoy it.

#### **Q. Do you think festivals are important for a country? [Why?]**

**A.** Every festival has its special appeal and when it connects people from all around the country, it becomes a magnificent one. Festival brings people together and are a great occasion for us to enjoy and forget our stress and anxiety from our day to day life. It signifies the culture and history of a country and this is quite important I believe.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe a film or a TV programme which has made a strong impression on you.**

You should say:

- what kind of film or TV programme it was, e.g. comedy
- when you saw the film or TV programme
- what the film or TV programme was about

and explain why this film or TV programme made such an impression on you.

### **Cue Card Answer:**

I loved watching different comedy serials, but the one I really liked, probably the most, was the “Last of The Summer Wine”. Being considered as the longest running TV comedy series in the history of the United Kingdom, the comedy serial started its journey in 1973 and finished in 2010 with nearly 300 episodes of pure fun and entertainment to offer.

If I remember it correctly, I probably watched it for the first time in 2005 with three old men walking aimlessly and talking like some young boys in their late teens. Basically, it was a simple story of three old men who, in all essence, couldn't be any younger in their hearts. One of the three “stooges” was Bill Owen, the shabbiest man from Yorkshire, who has only two passions in life: one is his ferret and the other is, of course, Nora Batty (the lady for whom he has a never-ending infatuation). The second man of the group was Norman Clegg who would always get himself into trouble, while trying to help the other two, by getting carried away with their crazy ideas and “evil” schemes. The third man, of course, of the trio was Foggy Dewhurst who always seemed to have a story ready to convince others to believe him as an old day war hero.

I think that the best thing about this comedy serial was the characters were just so surreal in their expressions and behaviour as if they didn't really need to fake anything. Another fascinating aspect of this comic masterpiece was its “surprise elements” with which it was just impossible to predict what would happen next to keep us “glued” with the TV. Besides, I would always remember the background music which was just too perfectly in tune with the beautiful countryside surroundings to make it look like a “perfect getaway” site waiting to be explored. But, above all, the comedy serial will get a top class rating from me because of its sincere efforts to portray old men positively.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: People's cinema-going habits nowadays***

##### **Q. Do you think the cinema has increased or decreased in popularity in recent years?**

**A.** From my personal experience, I can say that movies have gained huge popularity in recent years but interestingly, the number of people who enjoy movies in a cinema hall or a movie theatre has decreased remarkably. Particularly in my country, people have large screen TVs, DVD players, Blue-ray video players, home theatres, the internet, YouTube, Netflix and so on and these technological advancements allow them to enjoy any movie they like staying at home. The number of movie-goers is steadily declining due to the influence of Hollywood movies and amenities to enjoy movies with family and friends at home.

##### **Q. In your opinion, will this trend continue into the future?**

**A.** I believe so. The overwhelming popularity of Netflix – a popular media streaming company that provides video on demand, outlines how people would enjoy movies at home rather than visiting a theatre in the future. Low-quality local movies often fail to attract discerning viewers who eventually switch to high-quality foreign movies. Since most of the movie theatres in my country offer local movies, a huge portion of movie-viewers is no longer interested in going to a theatre and this will continue in the coming days with fewer movie-goers.

#### ***Discussion topics: Making a film or TV drama of real/fictional events***

##### **Q. What are the advantages and disadvantages of making films of real-life events?**

**A.** I believe real-life movies are entertaining and educational. These movies often deal with famous historical events and prominent figures from history. This is why they have many pedagogical aspects and are not forgotten as just another dull movie. Thus movies like ‘The Imitation Game’,

'Escape from Alcatraz', 'Midnight Express', 'Catch Me if You Can', and 'A Beautiful Mind' which are based on real-life events will entertain viewers many years to come and would be remembered as great movies. For such movies, viewers have more to relate to and a realistic storyline. The producer and director already have a plot, script, actors in mind, and the settings which make things easier for them.

Among the downsides, when dealing with real-life events and famous people, producers need to secure lifetime rights, which is always tricky and costly. The producer, director, actor and actress are all under scrutiny to tell the closest-to-the-truth story and there are critics who make things harder for them. Finally, despite great stories, many such movies do not become box office hits as people already know the story and do not buy tickets to enjoy them.

**Q. How important do you think it is for a film-maker to remain true to the original story?**

**A.** I believe if a movie plot is taken from a real-life event, the movie producer should adhere to the original story as much as possible. Otherwise, the film would be highly criticised and face a backlash from the viewers who are well aware of the event. However, remaining true to the original story might be challenging sometimes as the audience already know the story. Using a highly engaging script, modern technology, skilled actors and having a talented director who has an excellent vision and can see the film from its conception through to its final product could nevertheless add some appeal to the movie which would make it worth enjoying despite being a known story.

***Discussion topics: Censorship and the freedom of the film-maker/TV producer***

**Q. Should films and television be censored or should we be free to choose what we see?**

**A.** I believe censorship makes sure a movie or a TV programme is suitable for the general audience. Without some sort of censorship, many cinemas and TV series would include terribly violent and offensive scenes which would ultimately diminish their quality and their acceptance to the family. The idea of freedom of expression in a movie varies from people to people and even from country to country. Thus a censorship panel can determine what is suitable for the audience and how much editing is required for a cinema to be released or for a programme to be broadcast on TV. This ensures a balance in the entertainment industry.

Furthermore, the young generation constitutes a major percentage of cinema and TV audience and they are often influenced by the movie they watch and by their favourite actors or actresses. If no censorship is in place and they are free to watch any movie or programme they want, we would end up having a society with more juvenile delinquency.

**Q. How do you think censorship laws will change in the next 20 years?**

**A.** I believe the censorship laws would become more rigid to eliminate violent and offensive scenes from a movie but would allow creative artists to express their viewpoints more freely in the future. Specifically, after 20 years, we will have more laws related to movie censorship and ordinary people would be allowed to express their views about movie censorship. By that time, many programmes would be released worldwide and we will have global censorship panels who would determine what TV programmes and movies are suitable for what countries.



## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 16**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Daily Routine**

##### **Q. What would you like to change in your daily routine?**

**A.** Well, first, I would like to get up before 6.30 in the morning so that I get enough time to get ready for my office. I would also like to dedicate an hour or so to go to a gymnasium and take my dinner before 8.30 pm and finally, go to sleep before 11.30 pm. Those are the obvious changes I would like to have in my daily schedule.

##### **Q. Are all your days the same?**

**A.** Not really. The usual office days are kind of same, but days off and vacations are quite different. On a weekday, I have to spend the whole day at my office while on a weekend, I can spend the day the way I like. Finally, whenever I have a long vacation, I can travel to my hometown to meet my parents.

##### **Q. Tell me about your typical weekday and your typical weekend.**

**A.** On a typical office day, I leave home at 7.30 am and work till 6.30 pm. Then I take a bus to return home and sometimes I do some shopping on my way back home. Once I am home in the evening, I do my laundry and cook my dinner. At around 8.30, I either read for a while or watch my favourite TV shows. Then I eat my dinner and go to bed at around 12.30 am. But before I fall asleep, I read for a few more minutes.

On a weekend, I wake up late and then read the newspaper. I skip my breakfast and do some shopping from a grocery shop. Sometimes I visit friends and hang out with them till the evening. Otherwise, I watch live sports or watch a movie on TV. I stay outside till 9.00 pm and get back home to cook my dinner. If I do not have office works the next day, I remain awake till the late night.

##### **Q. What is the balance of work/study and free time in your normal day?**

**A.** I try to maintain a balanced routine so that I do not have to be stressed out in my office or at home. I try to avoid procrastination as it is one of the leading causes of anxiety, in my experience. I also socialise with my friends and visit my parents whenever I have a long vacation. However, I would like to take up some more social and outdoor activities to have a really good daily routine.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe something you own which is very important to you.**

You should say:

- where you got it from
- how long you have had it
- what you use it for

and explain why it is so important to you.

**Cue Card Answer:**

Having driven an old and used car for years, I just didn't know what it really felt like driving a new one until, of course, I bought my first brand new Honda Accord with all of my savings from a local car dealer in my city almost 2 years ago. It was like a gift to myself, for I could do it all by myself. It was also a moment of little "pride" when I was able to embrace the "newly-discovered" freedom of owning a brand new car.

My new car puts me in charge of my own life by taking me wherever I want to go. From home to work, from work to grocery shop, from grocery shop to lake, from the lake to restaurants, wherever I need to go, my 6 cylinder engine Honda accord with its 5-speed automatic transmissions and shiny black exterior is always there for me like a trusted friend. Offering great fuel efficiency as well as meeting the latest emission standards at the same time, my black "road warrior" often takes me to visit my parents and friends whether they live far from me or close by.

Life takes me to places, and having a car has made my life really easier. Besides, living in a city with a few reliable public transportations, a car can prove out to be more than important to a person who has to commute at least a couple of hours a day to and from work. Having many happy memories associated with my car, I just love my "strong 4-wheeler" because it offers me an opportunity to get out of hectic city life whether it is for a pleasure ride on a bright sunny day, or just hitting a nice café in the countryside, away from the city. Finally, my car is really important to me as it protects me on the roads with its airbags, seat belts, back-up cameras, and tons of other safety features that save lives which wouldn't really be available otherwise.

**PART 3**

**Discussion topics: How values can change**

**Q. What kinds of possessions show status in your country?**

**A.** Well, in my country an expensive car is often a symbol of status when you are out in public. When most people in my country cannot afford a car, someone who has a BMW or a Mercedes Benz automobile is thought to be a rich man with some sort of social influence. Besides, a large house in a posh area is also a symbol of status as a very few fortunate people have houses in such areas. I believe status symbols are a prevailing phenomenon in every part of the world and disposable income, luxurious furniture, electronic gadgets, political power, education and job are also being considered for status in modern society. A tiny percentage of our population owns their own yacht and private jets. Such ultra-rich are also members of private clubs and own large businesses. These possessions and positions are also considered to add status to their portfolio.

**Q. Do you think it was different for your grandparents?**

**A.** As far as I recall, expensive cars, private jets and costly electronic gadgets were not widely available during my grandparent's era. That kind of consumerism is a fairly modern thing, so this couldn't have been used as a representation of something valuable, I guess. So basically, money, large houses, cultivable lands, gold and jewellery, social status and political power were the possessions and positions people considered as symbols of status in the past. Many of these things are still considered important for having status in society and they will matter in the coming years, I believe. But I think that we are living in a more competitive and materialistic era and we have a tendency to show off our earthly possessions than that of our ancestor's time.

### ***Discussion topics: The consumer society***

#### **Q. Modern society is often called 'materialistic'. Why do you think this is?**

**A.** We are living in a time when our ambitions are higher than the sky and we have so many options to choose from. The Industrial Revolution and technological advancement have created a society where we have easy access to abundant of things we need and want. We take pride in our material possessions than our inner values and moralities. Some believe that, with terribly high competition, it is hard to achieve success and own a portion of the resources and money that billions of people are fighting hard to gain. So we feel somewhat special to achieve material gains, and others envy us for our luxurious cars, large houses and a hefty bank balance.

Gone are the days when people valued someone's quality, kindness and morality more than their possessions. With a declining shift towards early possessions, we no longer are satisfied with a few things. Our necessity and expectation know no bound and no doubt our modern society is largely based on capitalism and materialism.

#### **Q. Do you think consumerism is a positive or a negative development?**

**A.** An obsession with buying material goods or items, which we often do not need, can never be a good trend. We are already living in an era where the lion's share of the world resources are distributed among the fortunate few and the rest of the population are struggling hard to earn their basic needs. Thus the consumerism habit makes the disparity of resources more acute.

Moreover, consumerism is a plague that lures us to buy things that we scarcely need. Thus with it, we are jeopardising our economic stability and increasing our debts. The throwaway society that we have created for our consumerism habits is actually harming the world and its environment. The unquenchable thrust we feel for buying every new model available in the market is making us more selfish and diverting us from the feeling that our life is more than owning material possessions.

### ***Discussion topics: The consumer market***

#### **Q. What is the role of advertising?**

**A.** In general, the advertisements are meant to inform the customers about a product or a service. In this modern era, adverts are basically paid promotions that use different strategies to highlight the benefits of a product or service to influence a target audience's attitudes and/or behaviours. For instance, all the advertisements from the beauty industry are aimed to sell their products by highlighting how they can make us more elegant.

However, some advertisements aim to enhance the brand reputation of a company or a product. Finally, the government and the non-profit organisations often use adverts to aware people or inform them about something

#### **Q. How do you think the Internet will affect buying patterns in the future?**

**A.** I believe a large proportion of the consumers will use the Internet and e-commerce platforms to buy products of their choice in the future. With the rapid popularity of e-commerce websites, people would not like to visit a shop to get a product. The convenient means of payments, including credit cards and virtual money, would be more widely used and online merchants would be ready to sell everything online. Companies will get even better at using data to predict consumer needs and make more accurate recommendations.

Moreover, people would sell their used products online besides buying and compare a single product from different vendors from shopping comparison sites. Since many young people would be using the Internet, young consumers would rise in the future and they would often buy products for the elders. Finally, it is often predicted that mobile Internet shopping will dominate the overall shopping trend and online shopping would become more ubiquitous and more simplified in the future.



## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 17**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Names**

#### **Q. How did your parents choose your name(s)?**

**A.** To be honest, I can't say for sure what was on my parents' mind when they decided my name. But once I heard from my mother that my parents decided to name me Helen because they thought it was a beautiful name. Who knows, they might have been influenced by the American actress Helen Hayes MacArthur as they named me Helen Hayes!

#### **Q. Does your name have any special meaning?**

**A.** With Greek origin, the word 'Helen' means 'shining light' and 'Hayes' is derived from an Irish word meaning descendant of Aodh ("fire"), or of Aed, an Irish mythological god. So the name 'Helen Hayes' could mean something like a descendant of the fire God who shines brilliantly!

#### **Q. Is your name common or unusual in your country?**

**A.** The first part of my name 'Helen' is very common in the United States and the last part 'Hayes' is also customary. But together they create a less common name, I guess.

#### **Q. If you could change your name, would you? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** No, I would never want to change my name and why should I? My parents chose this name with great love and fervour and this name means a lot to me. I have always been Helen Hayes and want to be the same for the rest of my life. This very name defines me as a person and I will never take another name.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe a TV documentary you watched that was particularly interesting.**

You should say:

- what the documentary was about
- why you decided to watch it
- what you learnt during the documentary

and explain why the TV documentary was particularly interesting.

#### **Cue Card Answer:**

Some say it "the partisan documentary" while the others call it "fair and balanced". But, I called it very "powerful" when I first watched the documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11", made by Michael Moore, back in 2010. I decided to watch the documentary simply because, in my opinion, no American documentary film managed to provoke as much political controversy ever before as Fahrenheit 9/11. This is, in fact, one of the best documentaries I have ever watched.

Being filmed during the US presidential campaign of 2004, the documentary probably was aimed, in my opinion, at helping the-then democratic presidential candidate even though many argued at the same time that film-maker was actually trying to turn off swing voters and thus contribute to a Republican victory with his “strident” film-making approach. Having raised some legitimate questions over Bush administration’s motives for war in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as the disputes about the Saudi flights from the United States right after the horrific events of 9/11 in 2001, the documentary has also tried to shed some lights on the “dark” sides of American politics and corporate profiteering. I heard about this documentary for the very first time from one of my university professors who highly recommended it to us.

Being a political documentary presented with an interesting “deadpan humour” approach, Fahrenheit 9/11 served a very significant and serious purpose in proving to its audience that any war, considering that it was based on lies, was bound to cause atrocities and loss of innocent lives. Having a very passionate tone in its words and images in order to create a lingering effect in the mind, the film also proved that the then president was no “take-charge” kind of leader during a time of “serious crisis”, leaving the audiences to wonder about how the greats like Eisenhower, Reagan, Truman, Bush senior, Clinton, Nixon or Kennedy would behave in such crisis situation. Besides, the controversial film also tried to reveal a “naked truth” during its 2-hour 3-minute run time about how some people, who are in charge of making the laws of the country, do not care to read and understand the laws. Having fashioned its arguments in favour of revealing an “uncomfortable truth”, the document was surely interesting enough to have won the Palme d’Or at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Different types of TV programmes***

**Q. What are the most popular kinds of TV programmes in your country? Why is this?**

**A.** TV series, live sports competitions, news programmes, talk shows, music shows, cooking shows, documentaries, reality TV shows and weather updates are some of the most popular programme types on the TV in my country.

I believe people of all ages enjoy watching different TV series, weather updates, news programmes while the youth love to enjoy sports. Cooking shows and reality TV shows hosted by women are popular among females. Students and more serious viewers mostly watch news, music, documentaries and talk shows. Due to public demands, these TV programmes are widely common in different TV channels.

**Q. Do you think there are too many game shows on TV nowadays? Why?**

**A.** I do not think that game shows and similar programmes are all over the TV channels in my country, and we have any reason to be worried about it. Since the inception of the satellite TV channels, we have dedicated channels for news, sports, documentaries, music, movies and so on. So, a particular channel may focus mostly on programmes like game shows, but their number is not that high, especially not in my country. Many TV channels broadcast a single game show in a season and have numerous other programmes on their other slots.

I think TV channels are highly competitive these days and showing too many game shows would not make much profit for them. However, we have many popular games shows that attracts a large number of audience of all ages. ‘Who wants to be a millionaire?’ and ‘Double Dare’ are two highly popular game shows of all time in my country.

**Q. Do you think TV is the main way for people to get the news in your country? What other ways are there?**

**A.** I think TV once was the main source of news and information but the Internet has replaced it already as a source of news, especially with more than 85% internet users in my country. However, TV is still a popular source of news and information.

To get news on current events and to get other information, people also rely on the radio, which is also losing its popularity, online news portals, and newspapers in my country.

***Discussion topics: TV advertising***

**Q. What types of products are advertised most often on TV?**

**A.** I can't be accurate on that as I do not watch TV much. However, from my experience, I can say that commercials of beauty products like soap and cosmetics; household consumer products like tea, coffee, dishwashing and electronics; common consumer products like soft drinks, packeted food, and cookies; Internet services, insurance services and baby products dominate the TV channels. In recent days, adverts of real estate companies, fast food chain shops, car manufacturers, mobile phone makers and pharmaceuticals have also become common.

**Q. Do you think that people pay attention to adverts on TV? Why do you think that is?**

**A.** I think people enjoy creative and entertaining TV adverts and we are being greatly influenced by them. They, however, hate too many commercial breaks during their favourite TV programmes. Since advertisements are all over there, we often do not pay extra attention to them but they have an impact on our subconscious mind as we decide what products to buy and what not to largely based on the advertisements we see and listen to, even without paying much attention.

I think brands and companies are spending a hefty amount of money to shape the consumers' decisions and behaviours and they often produce commercials that viewers would like. Since advertisements are so common on TV, we have started accepting that there would be dedicated time for commercial breaks and we would watch them.

**Q. How important are regulations on TV advertising?**

**A.** I think proper regulations should always be in place while deciding what commercials could be shown to the public and what should be banned, censored or restricted to a few particular channels. Thus TV channels that are enjoyed by the whole family should not contain any offensive and vulgar scene and speech. Besides, no commercial should be allowed to target the children. I personally think that the authority should not allow a commercial to be aired that demeans others, has false claims and fail to meet the guideline. Regulation of television advertising should cover both the length of commercial breaks and on the content of the advertisements themselves. Restricting the advertising of certain products like tobacco, liquor, and gambling is also important. Thus a fitting regulation on TV advertisements has direct and indirect impacts on our family and the society as a whole and that's why they are extremely vital.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 18**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### ***Topic: Food and cooking***

##### **Q. What sorts of food do you like eating most? [Why?]**

**A.** In our country, rice, bread, pizza, shepherd's pie, sweet and sour chicken, meat and spaghetti bolognese are some very common food items and I like all of them. As long as the ingredients are fresh and the menu is delicious, I do not hesitate to try it.

##### **Q. Who normally does the cooking in your home? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** My mother is in charge of cooking at our home. We have a housemaid who helps my mom in cooking. My mother is the only person who stays at home and she loves cooking. She is one of the best cooks I personally know about and she knows how important it is for her to ensure a healthy meal for the family. I believe this is the reason she cooks for all of us.

##### **Q. Do you watch cookery programmes on TV? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I do not follow such programmes all the time but once in a while, I like to watch it. Good Eats, MasterChef and The Great British Bake Off are some of the cookery programmes I have watched. I believe I am not so passionate about cooking and like to watch sports or talk shows on TV instead.

##### **Q. In general, do you prefer eating out or eating at home? [Why?]**

**A.** I prefer eating at home most of the time. Considering the cost and hygiene, home-made food is far better than outside junk food. However, whenever I hang out with friends in a restaurant and cafe, I like to eat a menu they have. But I try to avoid junk food most of the time.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe a house/apartment that someone you know lives in.**

You should say:

- whose house/apartment this is
- where the house/apartment is
- what it looks like inside

and explain what you like or dislike about this person's house/apartment.

#### **Cue Card Answer:**

My friend David lives in a 2-bedroom apartment on the 2nd floor of a busy neighbourhood which is, of course, conveniently located only about 10 minutes drive away from the downtown area of a big city. Apart from having 2 bedrooms, the apartment also has a sitting area, 3 bathrooms of which one is attached to a bedroom, a kitchen, one small dining hall, a storeroom, and two balconies.



Having been nicely designed, the apartment seems to be more spacious than its original size of about 1350 square feet which, in my opinion, is one of the best features of this apartment. The interior of this apartment is quite impressive with its “easy on the eyes and relaxing” pastels colour. I like the apartment’s fully equipped kitchen with its distinctive looking kitchen cabinet, hanging on its kitchen wall, from a very famous German furniture brand. The apartment also has some elegant-looking, expensive, wooden furniture from leading brands which seem to be matching perfectly with the colour of the carpets (*from Turkey, I assume*) covering its floors. Besides, the windows of the apartment are perfectly designed to ensure that enough light enters its interior any time of the day.

However, even though my friend made every effort to make his apartment look really nice and contemporary, I feel like its small balconies are rather crowded with flower pots on their floors. Besides, I don’t quite like the switches, as if they look obsolete with their “out of fashion” designs, which are attached with the walls in the apartment. I also feel like the rooms of this apartment could have been designed with a better layout in order to ensure a bit more privacy from each other.

But, overall, I like this apartment for the price my friend is paying for its monthly rent, as well as for its prime location which can be accessed pretty much from all directions.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Different types of home***

##### **Q. What kinds of home are most popular in your country? Why is this?**

**A.** The type of houses people have in my country depends on the location and average economic condition of people of this area. For instance, most of the rural people have traditional bungalows built with wood and bamboo. Comparatively rich in rural areas like to have large bungalows and a garden in front of it. Apartments and high rising building are not available in such an area. I believe tradition, economic condition and lifestyle have something to do with the choices of houses in our rural areas.

On the contrary, city people mostly own or rent apartments and rich citizens have large houses. Multistoried buildings are quite common in such an area and despite city people’s dream to live in an independent house, they mostly end up buying or renting a flat. The property price in recent years has skyrocketed and middle-class can’t afford to buy an independent house in a large city.

##### **Q. What do you think are the advantages of living in a house rather than an apartment?**

**A.** A house gives a sense of ownership of the entire living space including the garden, pool and the barbeque area while apartment buildings are shared by multiple owners. Thus freedom of living in a house is an obvious advantage. A house owner can have parties at their backyard, listen to loud music and allow children to yell and pets run free. These can’t be done in an apartment as freely as in a house. Moreover, the neighbours on the top often drop things on the floor and drag chairs and it is hard to ignore a bad neighbour in an apartment. A house owner can plant trees, enjoy enough sunlight and fresh air which are absent in many apartments in the congested area. Finally, the market value of a house increases more rapidly than an apartment.

##### **Q. Do you think that everyone would like to live in a larger home? Why is that?**

**A.** I believe if people are given free will, almost all of them would choose a large house to live in. The advantages of a large house are obvious and people would opt to live in a large house considering those benefits. Many city dwellers rent or buy an apartment because they are cheaper.

**Discussion topics: Finding a place to live**

**Q. How easy is it to find a place to live in your country?**

**A.** In rural areas, we have plenty of lands and someone can easily buy a plot and build a house of their choice. However, renting a house is not that easy in such an area as people do not have large buildings or houses to rent out to others. I believe, people migrate to cities for a better lifestyle and job, and this leaves the villages with fewer demands for property renting.

On the contrary, large cities in my country have thousands of multistoried buildings and the landlords rent out apartments to tenants. This is why it's easy to find a flat in such a city but the rent is a bit higher these days. Buying property, on the other hand, is so expensive that a few people can actually purchase them.

**Q. Do you think it's better to rent or to buy a place to live in? Why?**

**A.** I believe buying a property is always a better option if someone can afford it. This not only gives freedom of living but also benefits the owner financially. Property price is increasing rapidly and someone who owns a house can rent out a portion of it to earn from the property. Even if a person who owns a house needs to relocate, he can easily rent it out or sell it at a higher price.

**Q. Do you agree that there is a right age for young adults to stop living with their parents? Why is that?**

**A.** I think that depends on the county and culture we consider. For instance, a young adult in a western country is expected to have his own earning source and a living place. Such young adults should leave their parents' house as soon as they are 21 years old and have some sort of earning.

In most Asian countries, on the contrary, parents expect that a boy would live with them and take responsibilities of the family after they become earning members. These young adults often bring their brides to the house and they live together as a family. In those cultures, adult girls live with their parents until they get married. This tradition expects that children would take care of their parents when parents become old. Many youths temporarily leave the house for studies and job but eventually return to the family.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 19**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Photographs**

#### **Q. What type of photos do you like taking? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I must mention that I am not a professional photographer and do not understand the technical aspects of photography. Thus anything that seems beautiful or interesting is my subject of snap shooting. However, nature, children and landscapes are some common subjects that I like to frame in my camera.

#### **Q. What do you do with the photos you take? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I first transfer the photos to my laptop and then sort out the ones I like. I then store those photos online. Sometimes I print out a few photos which I believe are worth printing. Sometimes I share a few of them online with my friends and family.

#### **Q. When you visit other places, do you take photos or buy postcards? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I mostly like to take photos in that case. Buying postcards is not a common practice in my country these days. However, if I visit a different country, I do both. I believe taking photos and buying postcards have different appeals. Since I know very little about foreign cities, I try to buy some postcards to make it more interesting.

#### **Q. Do you like people taking photos of you? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I would not allow a stranger to take a photo of mine. I think this is a breach of privacy. However, if the person is someone close to me, I might allow as I know his or her intention of taking my photograph.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe a day when you thought the weather was perfect.**

You should say:

- where you were on this day
- what the weather was like on this day
- what you did during the day

and explain why you thought the weather was perfect on this day.

#### **Cue Card Answer:**

The summer in the city of “Kolkata” (*formerly known as Calcutta*) in India is usually hot and humid with temperatures hovering around the high 30’s and with humidity as high as 80%. Then, of course, with the possibility of torrential rain on a hot July day, any Kolkata resident like me would be pretty certain what the weather is going to be like on any given day during the summer. But, luckily, about

3 years ago, when I and my friends were just casually visiting “The Eden Gardens”, the oldest cricket ground in India, to buy our tickets for the next cricket match between India and Australia, we felt like the Kolkata weather was in a mood to surprise us.

In fact, the weather on that particular day was nothing like what we are used to in a long, long time. With no rain in the forecast for the rest of the day, a perfect temperate at around 28 degree Celsius and almost 50% humidity, the Calcutta weather was seemed to be “too good to be true” for us. Besides, the near-perfect breeze at a nice and steady speed of around 15-20 kilometre per hour, together with a few fluffy clouds high in the sky, was working like a “perfect natural cooling system” in the open for us.

It was just a perfect day for doing outdoors. So, instead of riding on an “auto rickshaw” for too long (*we lived quite far away from the Eden Gardens*), I and my friends decided to walk as much as we could with a pack of “jthalmuri” (*a popular street snack in Calcutta made of puffed rice and an assortment of fried lentils, peanuts and chickpea flour ghatia*) in our hands each. After walking for almost 45 minutes by constantly trying to evade a “sea of human” on the streets, when we finally reached our destination, we didn’t see any trace of sweats on our bodies.

Now, if you don’t find any sweats on your body after walking for almost 45 minutes on Calcutta streets on a typical summer day, it has to be either because you are completely immune from an irritating human condition called “sweating” or because you are under the “magical spell of a perfect weather”. I would go with the “magical spell of a perfect weather”.

Having visited the Eden Gardens many times in the past, I never really felt the need or urge to see the place from up close. But, this time, I felt really different because of the perfect weather. So, we decided to see the “actual Eden Gardens”, instead of the Ranji Cricket Stadium where the cricket matches are played, which was actually a beautiful, peaceful and serene park. Being the final resting place of two Eden sisters of Lord Auckland, a former Governor General of British India, the Eden Gardens is also home to a large artificial lake which is adjoined by a Burmese style pagoda of some exquisite designs. Interestingly enough though, after finishing our little tour, we were wondering more about the beautiful Kolkata weather on that day than the beautiful Eden Gardens.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Types of weather***

##### **Q. What types of weather do people in your country dislike most? Why is that?**

**A.** People in my country, in general, hate the storm, heavy rain, prolonged snowfall and extremely hot or cold weather. It is natural that extreme weather conditions and storms disrupt our normal life and damage life and property on one hand, and bring discomfort for us on the other hand. So all of us enjoy the normal weather condition while dislike excessively hot or cold weather.

##### **Q. What jobs can be affected by different weather conditions? Why?**

**A.** I believe people who need to travel a long distance every day to reach their workplaces and professionals who have to remain outside most of the time are affected most severely by the bad weather condition. For instance, an office executive who travels more than 60 miles to get to his office find it hard to drive during heavy snowfall and similarly a vendor who sells street food on the corner of a street can’t stay outside due to severe weather. People avoid being outside on a rainy day and that’s why these professionals lose their customers on such a day. Apart from that, drivers, who are on the road most of the time, farmers who grow crops, and marketing executives, who go door to door are also worse sufferers.

**Q. Are there any important festivals in your country that celebrate a season or type of weather?**

**A.** We have in fact many such festivals and 'Navroze' or 'New Day' is one of the most celebrated festivals in India. Many people celebrate the festival of Navroze on the spring equinox. It is a day to clean and paint our houses, wear new clothes – and children love it so much, and hang roses and jasmine flowers on doors and windows. If you ever witness this festival, you will love it and find it interesting how ordinary people spontaneously celebrate the day. We also celebrate the first day of Spring and the first day of Autumn every year and these celebrations have their own charms and traditional values.

**Discussion topics: Weather forecasts**

**Q. How important do you think it is for everyone to check what the next day's weather will be? Why?**

**A.** I believe everyone should check the weather forecast for the next day and sometimes for the whole week. It is particularly easy these days as our handheld devices and the Internet can provide us with the latest weather updates at any time. Without knowing what the weather would be like, we might end up wearing inappropriately dresses and suffer due to this. If the prediction is a rainy day, we would be able to take an umbrella or a raincoat to avoid being soaked on the street. Similarly, a hot day forecast would allow us to dress up accordingly. Besides, we often plan for a backyard barbeque party or a tour to open space and if we do not check the weather forecast, our plans may be completely ruined.

**Q. What is the best way to get accurate information about the weather?**

**A.** I believe the internet can be a reliable source for checking weather updates and predictions. Forecast.io and accuweather.com are tow reliable sources for such information and they have mobile applications that we can use on our mobile phones to get updates on the weather. Many people in my country use local TV and radio stations to get weather forecast and updates.

**Q. How easy or difficult is it to predict the weather in your country? Why is that?**

**A.** I believe the weather forecast in my country has become more accurate these days than the past and technological advancement has made it possible. Meteorologists now have a combination of different approaches and mathematical trajectory system to analyse and prepare the weather forecast. However, we must bear in mind that, weather prediction is not accurate all the time and the best forecasts take into account the weather events that are happening over a wide region. This is why despite the use of satellite data, supercomputers, doppler radar, weather buoys, ships, and aeroplanes we can't always have 100% accurate weather forecast.

## **IELTS Test – Speaking Mock Test # 20**

*[The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.]*

### **PART 1:**

#### **Topic: Friends**

#### **Q. How often do you go out with friends? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I am a university student and working as a part-time executive in a tour-management office. So, my schedule is much busier than they used to be. Due to this, I go out with friends once or twice in a month which was at least five to six times per month before I took the job.

#### **Q. Tell me about your best friend at school.**

**A.** My best friend is Emma Hutson, whom I call Emmi and she is in the same university I study in. 'Tourism and Hotel management' is our major and I spend a considerable amount of time with her each day. She was in the same school I used to study. She is a good human being and always supports me. She loves music and travelling, two of my favourite pastime activities and we share almost everything with each other. She is 25 and lives in the same city I reside in.

#### **Q. How friendly are you with your neighbours? [Why/Why not?]**

**A.** I am lucky to have some great neighbours who have been with us for many years. They are very close to me and I consider them dear friends. They are amiable and often visit us. We invite them to our house during every major celebration and we live in our neighbourhood happily. I like and respect them and value their privacy, and so do they. We do not hesitate to extend our helping hands to each other and thus we are more than neighbours.

#### **Q. Which is more important to you, friends or family? [Why?]**

**A.** I believe family comes first. No doubt, my friends are very important to me but family means something more special. They are like the same soul living in different bodies while friends are like fresh air who make our life more meaningful.

The reason I put my family ahead is the sacrifices they have made for me. They have abandoned their own happiness to make me happy and have done everything humanly possible to raise me up properly. Their sacrifices are unparalleled and incomparable to anything else.

### **PART 2:**

*[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]*

#### **Describe a writer you would like to meet.**

You should say:

- who the writer is
- what you know about this writer already
- what you would like to find out about him/her

and explain why you would like to meet this writer.

### **Cue Card Answer:**

How “successful” can a person become in life if he/she is too shy to even ask for a pen from another person? Well, the conventional wisdom suggests that he/she wouldn’t really go that far. But, with Joanne K. Rowling, one should be wise enough not to rely too much on “conventional wisdom” as she has pretty much defied all of it. In fact, the British novelist, screenwriter, film & television producer and philanthropist, best known for writing the Harry Potter fantasy series, Joanne K. Rowling is the ninth-best-selling fiction author of all time with an estimated 500 million of copies sold so far. If I ever get a chance to meet a writer I admire, it would be her.

Having born in 1965 in the United Kingdom, the 54-year old history-making author had an ambition of becoming a writer from an age as early as 6 years. In fact, at that age, she even wrote a book about a “rabbit with measles”. Having learnt “French” and then graduated from a university, J. K. Rowling took different jobs in London, but her favourite job was working for Amnesty International, a charity organization which campaigns against human rights abuses throughout the world.

But, it was in 1990 when one of the greatest fiction authors of all time conceived the idea of “Harry Potter” which eventually was published in her book called “The Philosopher’s Stone” in mid 90’s. Then, it was in the year of 1998 when the Hollywood film-making giant “Warner Brothers” secured the film rights to the book by offering her a handsome seven-figure sum of money, did she become the “author” J. K. Rowling as billions all over the world know her today.

Of course, many things had happened to this real-life tough character between these years from the death of her mother to a bitter divorce to surviving on state benefits. But nothing really moved her from her goal of offering the world a “Harry Potter” movie, a name she was really fond of from quite an early age.

Apart from what I have already known about this great, great author, I would certainly love to gather more by actually meeting her in person. In fact, if I ever get a chance to meet her, I would ask what was it exactly that inspired her to write the first book which made history. I would also like to know why she had requested for all the actors/actresses to be British in the “Harry Potter” movie, as well as why she preferred the movie to be filmed in Britain. Besides, there are always more to a person than what our naked eyes can see on news and media. So, it definitely would be quite an honour to meet a religious and “spiritually insecure” person like J. K. Rowling, who has donated a large sum of money to different charities, and tell her “thank you” as a token of appreciation for all of her wonderful works.

### **PART 3**

#### ***Discussion topics: Reading and children***

##### **Q. What kinds of book are most popular with children in your country?**

**A.** In general, children in my country love to read books that have a lot of illustration images and comprise imaginary and interesting stories. Since colourful and clear illustrations and artwork support a simple storyline, most young children love them. They also read folktales and fables that are easy to read, comics, nursery rhymes, alphabet and counting books.

##### **Q. Why do you think some children do not read books very often?**

**A.** I think reading is a habit that should be nurtured. If someone feels the joy of reading, he will no doubt read whenever possible. But for many children, the scenario is different. They are more interested in doing fun stuffs and playing with toys and other children than reading books as the

latter one requires more attention and inscription. However, parents and teachers should often read to the young child to build the habit in them.

**Q. How do you think children can be encouraged to read more?**

**A.** I think parents have a great role here. Children like to mimic their parents and if parents have the habit of reading books, their offspring will also feel passionate about reading. Besides, we should buy books for them that have more illustration images and artwork and fewer texts. This will connect the young readers to books and they will feel interested to read more. Not to mention, we should often read interesting stories to them from books and this will be highly encouraging for them to pick a book and read on their own. Finally, teachers and parents can offer some sort of incentives and prizes to encourage children who do not like to read very often.

***Discussion topics: Reading for different purposes***

**Q. Are there any occasions when reading at speed is a useful skill to have? What are they?**

**A.** I believe we need the skill of speed reading to be able to extract some information from a lengthy passage and this skill is useful for us to do well in competitive exams. Sometimes teachers ask us to read in front of the whole class and our speed reading skill can save us from mumbling while reading. Besides, reading at speed is useful to complete an assignment, thesis work and find information from a website.

**Q. Are there any jobs where people need to read a lot? What are they?**

**A.** I believe doctors, teachers, researchers, computer programmers, writers, meteorologists, paralegals, historians, journalists and editors read a lot to do well in their professions. These professionals often read to learn new information, to solve a problem, to deliver a speech, to present writing to the mass audience, to get ideas and to pass exams to improve their career prospects. In fact, people from all professions should read to enhance their skills and knowledge as reading is always helpful to do better in a job.

**Q. Do you think that reading novels is more interesting than reading factual books? Why is that?**

**A.** I believe novels are more interesting to the general audience as they are often more intriguing and have thrilling plots to entertain the readers and surprise them every now and then. A good novel opens a new door to the readers and often presents the world from a different perspective. Not to mention they are fast-paced, thought-provoking and engaging.

Factual books, on the contrary, are based on real events and historical facts. The academics, scholars and serious readers are more interested in these books as they often want to learn rather than being entertained. Some factual books, however, are more intriguing and entertaining and are more widely read. For instance, "The Diary of a Young Girl" by Anne Frank, "The Interpretation of Dreams" by Sigmund Freud and "The Second World War" by Winston Churchill are some factual books that have entertained and informed millions of readers throughout the generations.