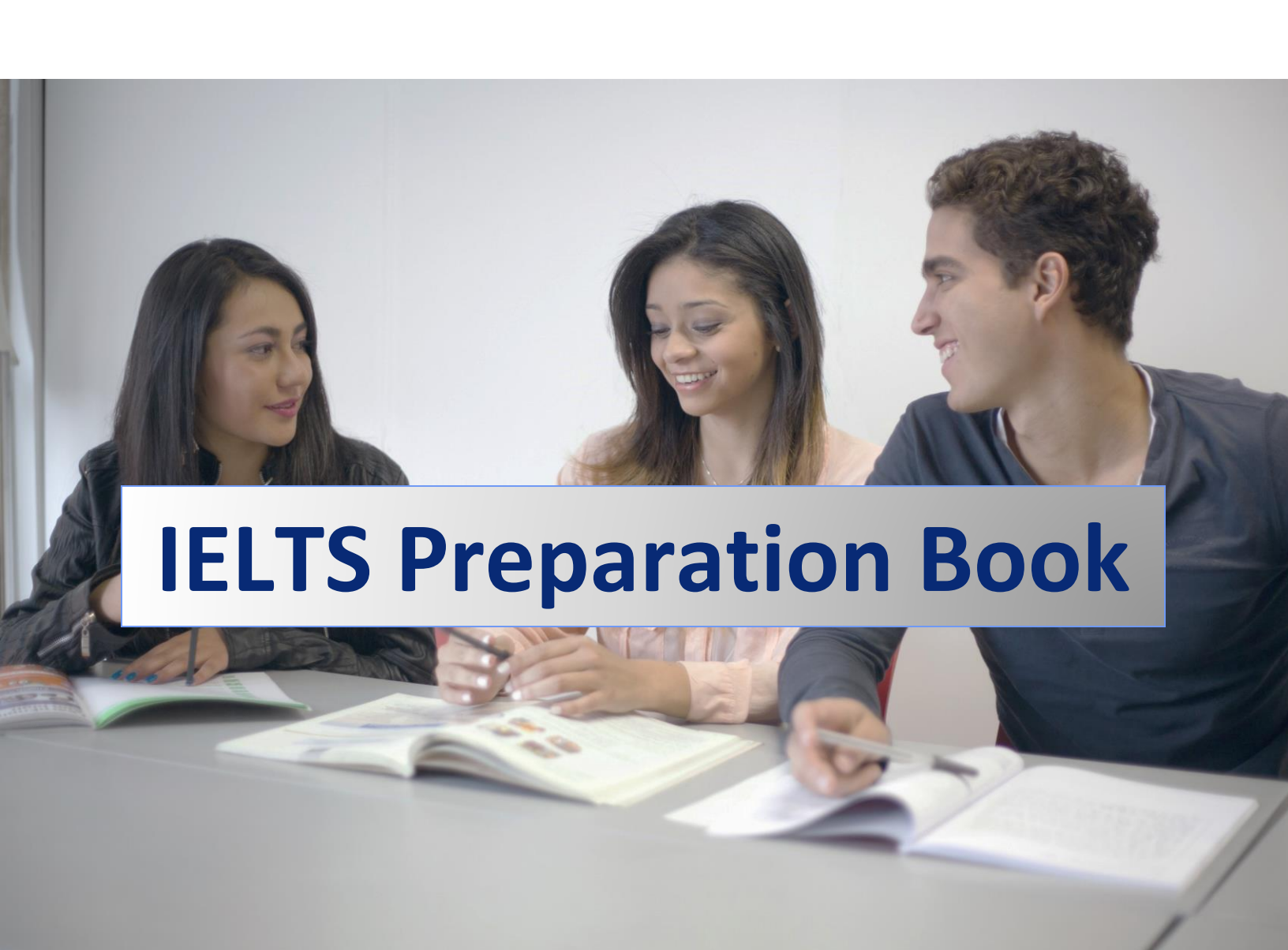




IELTS Preparation Book

Speaking Module

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Course Outline

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- Analysis parts 1, 2 and 3: interview with a candidate (Dai Fen)
- Practice speaking test

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Speaking



About the IELTS Speaking Test

The Speaking test takes between 11 and 14 minutes. It is an oral interview with an Examiner.

The Examiner will use a timer. They *must not* continue beyond 14 minutes, so may sometimes need to stop you speaking in order to move on to another question. Be prepared for a polite signal from the Examiner to stop speaking.

All Speaking Tests are recorded. The examiner uses a prepared script and does not change the wording of the questions at all except in Part Three, where they can add follow-up questions.

The Examiner first records some identifying information about the Candidate, the Examiner, the Test Date and the Location. This is not part of the 11-14 minute time limit.

PART ONE – 4-5 minutes

The Examiner introduces him/herself, asks basic personal information questions, and checks the candidate's ID (in Australia, this is always the passport). This takes about 1 minute.

Candidates then answer general questions on familiar topics. The questions are about themselves, their homes and families, their work or studies, their interests, and a range of familiar topics.

The questions are in groups or sets of four around each topic:

Set 1 – four questions

Set 2 – four questions

Set 3 – four questions

PART TWO – 3-4 minutes

The candidate is given a topic on a task card and has one minute to think and make notes before speaking. The candidate is then asked to speak on this topic for up to 2 minutes. The examiner will not respond in this part.

The examiner usually asks 1 or 2 rounding-off questions to finish this part.

PART THREE – 4-5 minutes

The examiner and candidate have a discussion about ideas and issues related to the topic of Part Two. These ideas are more abstract and require more complex language. The examiner uses the questions in the script but can also add their own questions or ask for more explanation from the candidate.

Assessment and Scoring

The examiner will rate you in four different categories. Your final mark will be an average of the four categories.

The four categories are:

I. Fluency and Coherence

- How smoothly can you speak?
- Do you talk continuously, rather than having to pause constantly to find words, or does it take a lot of effort to explain yourself?
- Can you logically order your ideas, and link them together clearly? Can you use connectives (linking words) and pronouns clearly to link and order your ideas?

II. Vocabulary

- Do you have a wide range/variety of vocabulary?
- Are the words you use appropriate and in the correct form?
- Can you use vocabulary to get your exact meaning across?
- If you can't think of a word in English, can you easily and quickly adapt and find another way to explain?

III. Grammatical Range and Accuracy

- Do you use a variety of grammatical structures? Do you use complex sentences, such as those with subordinate clauses, appropriately and accurately?
- Do you speak with correct grammar? If there are mistakes, do they interfere with meaning?

IV. Pronunciation

- Is your pronunciation clear, or does the examiner have to strain and work hard to understand you?
- Can you speak in groups of connected words with pauses in appropriate places?
- How noticeable is the influence of your first language – on sounds and rhythm?
- Have you used word stress, sentence stress, and intonation appropriately?

The IELTS band descriptors on the next page give you an indication of the 4 criteria used for evaluation and how performance is assessed. Understanding these descriptors should give you a good idea about how your test will be marked.

IELTS Speaking band descriptors (public version)

Band	Fluency and coherence	Lexical resource	Grammatical range and accuracy	Pronunciation
9	- speaks fluently with only rare repetition or self-correction; any hesitation is content-related rather than to find words or grammar - speaks coherently with fully appropriate cohesive features - develops topics fully and appropriately	- uses vocabulary with full flexibility and precision in all topics - uses idiomatic language naturally and accurately	- uses a full range of structures naturally and appropriately - produces consistently accurate structures apart from 'slips' characteristic of native speaker speech	- uses a full range of pronunciation features with precision and subtlety - sustains flexible use of features throughout - is effortless to understand
8	- speaks fluently with only occasional repetition or self-correction; hesitation is usually content-related and only rarely to search for language - develops topics coherently and appropriately	- uses a wide vocabulary resource readily and flexibly to convey precise meaning - uses less common and idiomatic vocabulary skilfully, with occasional inaccuracies - uses paraphrase effectively as required	- uses a wide range of structures flexibly - produces a majority of error-free sentences with only very occasional inappropriacies or basic/non-systematic errors	- uses a wide range of pronunciation features - sustains flexible use of features, with only occasional lapses - is easy to understand throughout; L1 accent has minimal effect on intelligibility
7	- speaks at length without noticeable effort or loss of coherence - may demonstrate language-related hesitation at times, or some repetition and/or self-correction - uses a range of connectives and discourse markers with some flexibility	- uses vocabulary resource flexibly to discuss a variety of topics - uses some less common and idiomatic vocabulary and shows some awareness of style and collocation, with some inappropriate choices - uses paraphrase effectively	- uses a range of complex structures with some flexibility - frequently produces error-free sentences, though some grammatical mistakes persist	shows all the positive features of Band 6 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 8
6	- is willing to speak at length, though may lose coherence at times due to occasional repetition, self-correction or hesitation - uses a range of connectives and discourse markers but not always appropriately	- has a wide enough vocabulary to discuss topics at length and make meaning clear in spite of inappropriacies - generally paraphrases successfully	- uses a mix of simple and complex structures, but with limited flexibility - may make frequent mistakes with complex structures, though these rarely cause comprehension problems	- uses a range of pronunciation features with mixed control - shows some effective use of features but this is not sustained - can generally be understood throughout, though mispronunciation of individual words or sounds reduces clarity at times
5	- usually maintains flow of speech but uses repetition, self-correction and/or slow speech to keep going - may over-use certain connectives and discourse markers - produces simple speech fluently, but more complex communication causes fluency problems	- manages to talk about familiar and unfamiliar topics but uses vocabulary with limited flexibility - attempts to use paraphrase but with mixed success	- produces basic sentence forms with reasonable accuracy - uses a limited range of more complex structures, but these usually contain errors and may cause some comprehension problems	shows all the positive features of Band 4 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 6
4	- cannot respond without noticeable pauses and may speak slowly, with frequent repetition and self-correction - links basic sentences but with repetitious use of simple connectives and some breakdowns in coherence	- is able to talk about familiar topics but can only convey basic meaning on unfamiliar topics and makes frequent errors in word choice - rarely attempts paraphrase	- produces basic sentence forms and some correct simple sentences but subordinate structures are rare - errors are frequent and may lead to misunderstanding	- uses a limited range of pronunciation features - attempts to control features but lapses are frequent - mispronunciations are frequent and cause some difficulty for the listener
3	- speaks with long pauses - has limited ability to link simple sentences - gives only simple responses and is frequently unable to convey basic message	- uses simple vocabulary to convey personal information - has insufficient vocabulary for less familiar topics	- attempts basic sentence forms but with limited success, or relies on apparently memorised utterances - makes numerous errors except in memorised expressions	shows some of the features of Band 2 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 4
2	- pauses lengthily before most words - little communication possible	only produces isolated words or memorised utterances	cannot produce basic sentence forms	speech is often unintelligible
1	- no communication possible - no rateable language			
0	does not attend			

Band 9 – Expert User

Has fully operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate and fluent with complete understanding.

Band 8 -Very Good User

Has fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.

Band 7 - Good User

Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

Band 6 - Competent User

Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.

Band 5 - Modest User

Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field.

Band 4 - Limited User

Basic competence is limited to familiar situations. Has frequent problems in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language.

Band 3 - Extremely Limited User

Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns in communication occur.

Band 2 - Intermittent User

No real communication is possible except for the most basic information using isolated words or short formulae in familiar situations and to meet immediate needs. Has great difficulty in understanding spoken and written English.

Band 1 - Non User

Essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words.

Band 0 - Did not attempt the test

No assessable information provided.

Some useful words and ideas when analysing speaking

- Speech rate – the speed of speaking
- Hesitations – pauses, umm, err
- Reformulations – starting to speak, then changing your words or grammar or even your idea
- False starts – starting and stopping, repeating the first words
- Overuse of “discourse markers” e.g. “like...”, “I mean”, “y’know...”
- Paraphrasing – finding a different or simpler way to say something
- Intonation – the “music” in your voice: rises, falls and stresses
- Colloquial language – less formal everyday words and expressions which native speakers know how to use.

IELTS Sample Speaking Interview and Commentary

- This interview has questions which are very much like the style of IELTS interview questions. However, some of the questions are not typical of the content of the Test. IELTS never asks about any ideas which could be controversial (e.g. money, politics, religion). As this is not a “real” test, the interviewer has the freedom to be a little more adventurous.
- The four criteria for assessing your speaking are:
 - Fluency and coherence: you need a suitable speed, grouping of words, pausing in the right place, few “false starts”, hesitations, reformulations
 - Lexical response: high level vocabulary, correct word forms, some ability to use common expressions, idioms, the ability to overcome the lack of words.
 - Grammatical range and accuracy: few mistakes and a range of complex structures.
 - Pronunciation: clear sounds and sound groups, varied intonation, smooth natural rhythm.

(1st Class)

Lesson A.5 – Speaking



Exercise 1: Speaking Tips – True or False

Look at the following statements about the IELTS Speaking test and decide if they are true or false.

1. The IELTS Speaking test is basically a grammar test.
2. It is not a good idea to memorise answers.
3. You shouldn't say anything, if you think you might make a mistake.
4. You should know exactly what you are going to say before you go into the test.
5. You should try to give as much information about yourself as possible.
6. The interviewer always asks the same questions.
7. A panel of assessors will listen to the tape of your interview after the test.
8. You shouldn't ask the examiner personal questions.
9. You are assessed on an overall impression of your language speaking ability.
10. The interview is the easiest section of the test.



General Strategies for the IELTS Speaking Test

- Speak as much as you can. It is a test of your speaking ability, not of the examiner's. Don't give one-word answers. Always try to give as much information as possible.
- In general, don't worry about time management. That is the examiner's job.
 - For Part 1 and Part 3, you only need to concentrate on speaking and communicating clearly.
 - For Part 2, use the whole 1 minute the examiner gives you to prepare, that is, continue to prepare until the examiner asks you to begin talking. Make sure you are able to speak for 1-2 minutes.
- The test becomes progressively harder. Expect this and be prepared for this. Try not to get too stressed if it happens, but just do your best.
- Use intonation, stress and rhythm to improve your fluency. Speak loudly enough.
- Don't speak too quickly. If you have pronunciation problems, the examiner will find it harder to understand you if you speak very quickly.



Strategies for the Speaking Test – Understanding the Questions

The IELTS interview is not a test of listening comprehension. The interviewer will generally speak quite clearly. The goal is to hear you speak. You need, nevertheless, to understand the interviewer's questions. Remember that the same question can be asked in different ways.



Exercise 2: IELTS Questions

Match the questions in the left-hand column with those that have the same meaning in the right-hand column. Note that questions in the left-hand column may correspond to more than one question in the right-hand column. The first is done for you as an example.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. What's your opinion of ... | A. How different is ... ? |
| 2. Do you feel that... ? | B. How is it that ... ? |
| 3. How do you find ... ? | C. How do you feel about ... ? |
| 4. What's the difference between ...? | D. Is (X) similar to ... ? |
| 5. How come ... ? | E. Why ...? |
| 6. How often ... ? | F. What do you think of... ? |
| 7. In what way ... ? | G. How... ? |
| 8. Where ... ? | H. How frequently ... ? |
| 9. How far ... ? | I. Whereabouts ... ? |
| | J. To what extent ... ? |
| | K. What's your feeling on ... ? |
| | L. Do you think that... ? |



Asking for clarification

In contrast to the Listening section, you have more control in the Interview. If you do not understand the interviewer's questions, you can use the following strategies.

If, for example, the interviewer says:

- ***'Do you like travelling on the Tube?'***

You can ask for a question to be repeated (in Part 1 and Part 3 of the test):

- ***'I didn't catch that. Would you mind repeating it?' / 'Could you repeat the question, please?'***

You can check your understanding of a question (only in Part 3 of the test):

- ***'Do you mean the underground trains?' / 'You're asking me about underground trains, are you?' / 'Are you asking me if I like travelling on the Tube?'***



Giving an organized answer

You need to organise detailed answers so that they are clear to the listener.

Before beginning to answer the question, it is possible to comment on it by saying, for example:

- ***‘That’s a difficult question’ / ‘That’s a very interesting question’.***

If you use this strategy, it will give you a little more time to prepare an organised answer.

In organising your answer, it may be useful (as in writing) to begin with a sentence or phrase that gives a summary of the main points you are going to talk about. This will help your listener to follow your answer. For example:

- **Interviewer:** *‘Why do you want to study X?’*
- **Candidate:** *‘That’s a rather difficult question. There are two main reasons, I suppose.’*

The summary phrase is: *‘There are two main reasons, I suppose.’* This provides a structure for the rest of the answer which describes each of the reasons.

The summary sentence you choose provides the structure for your main points. Let’s look at another example:

- **Interviewer:** *‘What is the procedure for getting a driving licence in your country?’*
- **Candidate:** *‘Oh, it’s fairly simple; there are only a few things you have to do. First . . . Then . . . After that ... And then finally ...’*



Exercise 3: Practice giving an organised answer

Work in pairs and take turns to continue the candidate’s answers to the following questions.

Interviewer: *‘Why do you want to study X?’ (your subject)*

Candidate: *‘Well, for many reasons. Firstly, I...’*

Interviewer: *‘Tell me a bit about your educational background.’*

Candidate: *‘Well, first I went to. ...’*

Interviewer: *‘Do you find American English easier to understand than British English?’*

Candidate: *‘Yes, I do/No, I don’t ...’*

Interviewer: *‘I’ve never been to your country. What’s it like?’*

Candidate: *‘That’s a big question,...’*

Interviewer: *‘Which is the best university in your country?’*

Candidate: *‘I suppose X is, because ...’*

Practice Interview: Part 1 - Mark (Interviewer) and Christian (Candidate)

M. Good afternoon: I'm Mark. What shall I call you?

M. Can I see your id please? That's fine.

M. Let's talk about your hometown or village. What kind of village is it?

M. What is the most interesting thing about this village?

M. What kind of job do people in the village do?

M. Would you say it's a good place to live?

M. Let's move on to talk about accommodation. How long have you lived there?

M. And apart from the colour scheme, what do you most like about living there?

M. What sort of accommodation would you like to live in when you get back to Switzerland?

M. I'd like to talk to you about visitors to your country. What would you suggest a visitor to Switzerland should see and do?

M. Has tourism changed Switzerland very much?



Part 2 of the Speaking Test: A note about the long turn topics

- IELTS topics are carefully chosen
- They must be general enough for all candidates to know something about them. Many topics are avoided, such as:
 - Any subject which may cause offence, for example, sex, religion, politics
 - Any subject which may upset a candidate or bring up some painful memory, for example, war, drug problems
 - Any subject which may be considered too personal
 - Any subject which is too technical

You should be able to answer all of the questions.

- The following are not real IELTS Part 2 Topics, but are similar. Could you talk for 2 minutes about them?
 - A meal that you remember well, with friends or family
 - A teacher who influenced you a lot
 - A shop you like to visit
 - A city you have heard about and would like to visit
 - A job that you would not like to do

Part 2 of the test: What happens? (1)

The Examiner introduces Part 2 with words similar to the following:

“Now I’ll give you a topic and I’d like you to speak for up to 2 minutes. Before you begin speaking you can have 1 minute to think and make notes. Do you understand? Here’s some paper and pen for making notes, and here’s your topic....”

The Examiner hands you the Topic Card and tells you the topic: “I’d like you to describe....”

Take time to read the topic and the three bullet points.

The topic always relates to your personal experience or knowledge.

Make notes about each bullet point and think of good vocabulary/expressions to use.

The quality of your language, your delivery and pronunciation is very important.

Part 2 of the test: What happens? (2)

Try to make sentences with three or four connected ideas.

Try to avoid repeating your ideas.

Try to reach a higher level of vocabulary – don’t overuse simple words like good, bad, nice.

Try to speak clearly and emphasise important words.

Speak in groups, with falling intonation when you finish an idea.

Par 2 of the test: What happens? (3)

When the 1 minute preparation is finished, the Examiner will ask you to begin speaking, and warn you that he/she may stop you at 2 minutes.

Try to speak for the full 2 minutes – the Examiner will only stop you when you reach 2 minutes, and not before.

If you fall silent, the Examiner may ask you, “Can you tell me something more about that?”

The Examiner must try to give you every chance to reach 2 minutes.

If you fall silent a little before 2 minutes, the Examiner will not ask you to continue.

The Examiner will then ask a simple question to finish this part.



Part 2 of the speaking test – giving a short presentation

In Part Two of the IELTS Speaking Test, you are given a topic and then have one minute to prepare a talk. You must speak on this topic for 1-2 minutes. In this section of the interview you are encouraged to extend your discourse, that is, to develop one idea thoroughly by using more varied sentence structures and linking words.

In this section you could be using language to describe, explain, give your opinion, tell a story, justify your opinion, summarise or suggest.

The topics that you are asked to talk about in Part Two should be familiar to you. However, a particular focus of this section is organising your ideas into a cohesive presentation within the time limit and making your listener understand. You should use a mixture of formal and informal language in your talk, but overall, the register of your presentation should be more formal than informal. The following points will give you an idea how to prepare for this part of the test.



Structure/Organisation

It is important to use your one minute preparation time well. As soon as you get your topic, you should 'brainstorm' some written notes about what you are going to talk about. This will also ensure your talk is better organised and follows a clear structure.

Consider the following example:

Describe something you own which is very important to you.

You should say:

what it is,
where you got it,
how long you have had it,

and explain why it is so special to you.

The first thing you should do is to make sure you have understood the central concept. Here it is something you own or possess. You cannot choose a person like your mother or a friend; it needs to be something you own. Then you should organise your structure around the series of statements or prompts on the card.



Exercise 4: Organising your talk

Look at the following topic card. Write down some notes about how you would answer this question. Don't write complete sentences here - your ideas in point form are enough at this stage.

Time limit: 1

minute

Describe something you own which is very important to you.

You should say :

what it is,

where you got it,

how long you have had it,

and explain why it is so special to you.

NOTES FOR TOPIC:

Practice Interview: Part 2 - Mark (Interviewer) and Christian (Candidate)

M Now I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to talk about it for 1-2 minutes (Gives instructions to Candidate)

Topic: I'd like you to describe something you own which is very important to you.

(Gives more instructions to candidate, candidate makes notes for 1 minute, then starts talking for 1-2 minutes.)

M. Would it be easy to replace this piano? Could you buy the same thing today easily?



Part 3 of the speaking test – participating in a more abstract discussion

The final part of the speaking test is a two way discussion with the subject related to the topic you have spoken about in Part Two. The focus is on developing/expanding an idea into a free flowing discussion. For example, if the topic of the presentation in Part Two was about *a teacher who influenced you*, the topic under discussion in Part Three could be one of the following;

- Differences between national education systems
- Recent developments in education or educational technology and how they have influenced teaching
- Different styles/methods of teaching and learning between different cultures

In this section you could be using language to: *consider, describe, discuss, express/justify opinions, explain, compare, contrast, speculate, analyse, evaluate or engage in conversational repair (including paraphrasing and summarising).*

Part One and Part Three of the IELTS Speaking Test are similar in some ways. However, the main difference between a Part One and a Part Three response is between an answer that simply answers the question and an answer that extends/expands. A more advanced standard of language use is also expected in Part Three.



Exercise 5: Extending your answers

Look at the following topics and write questions that explore the topic in a wider way. Make sure you write questions that require a detailed answer (open-ended questions).

Example Topic:

country/place you would like to visit

Possible questions that extend this topic

What time of year do tourists like to go there?

What do you think the people living there are like?

How does that place encourage tourism?

Topics:

1. A film I have recently enjoyed
2. A memorable event in my life
3. A recent news story

Using these techniques will ensure you avoid uncomfortable periods of silence during the Speaking Test.



Exercise 6: Extending your answers

Take turns with a partner to give extended answers to the questions on the topic of education below. Don't forget to use clarification and 'thinking time' strategies where appropriate.

1. What are the differences between methods of teaching and learning in universities in your country and English language speaking countries?
2. Do you think computers will replace the majority of classroom teachers in the future?
3. Has the standard of education changed for the better or worse in the past decade in your country?
4. In your experience, do you think that government or private schools better prepare their students for successful adult lives?

Practice Interview: Part 3 - Mark (Interviewer) and Christian (Candidate)

We've been talking about things we own, and I'd like to discuss with you one or two more general questions relating to this topic.

First, let's consider values, and the way they can change. In Switzerland what kind of possessions do you think give status to people?

Is that a new development? People have thought like that for quite a long time?

M. What do you think of this way of thinking, that I need to have a car, or certain clothes to show my status?

M. You don't think of it as a healthy way of thinking?

M. Do you think this will change? In the future will cars and designer clothes be status symbols in the same way?

M. Tell me a little bit more about that? It's not reasonable to...?

M. I see. What might replace the car, in that case?

M. Which may not be a status symbol.....

M. One final topic. The role of advertising. Do you think it influences what people buy, very strongly? Advertising on television or in the cinema or in newspapers?

M. Do you think it's mainly a question of giving information to people, or do you think it creates a need that otherwise wouldn't exist?

M. A need?

M. Can you think of an example of that, poor information?

M. So, in some areas advertising is not very good for ordinary people. Do you think there should be controls on it?

M. So it will go on being very influential?

M. Thanks very much Christian.



Exercise 7: Short Speaking Test Practice

This is a shortened version of the IELTS Speaking Test. Work with a partner, one of you taking the role of 'examiner' and the other the role of 'candidate'. If you are the 'candidate' you may only look at the Part 2 topic card which is reproduced two pages later in this book. Remember at the IELTS test you do not get to see the questions that the examiner asks.

Examiner Sheet

Part 1

First let's talk about studying.

When you studied at school or at university, did you think it was difficult?

Why?

What did you do to make it easier?

What do you find to be the most difficult thing about studying?

Do you enjoy studying? Why?/Why not?

Now let's talk about social activities.

Do you like to go out with friends? Why / Why not?

What kind of social activities do you enjoy the most? Why?

Part 2

Here's a topic. Please talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes. Before you talk you will have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you want to.

Here is your topic (pass the topic to your partner / "candidate" – *topic card reproduced 2 pages later in this book*)

I'd like you to talk about a person who has been very important to you.

Describe a person who has been important to you.

You should say: who it is/was,
why they were important,
when you met them,
how you feel now about that person,

and say whether you think that person would also be important to other people.

WAIT 1 MINUTE.

OK? You have 1 to 2 minutes. Could you start speaking now please?

ALLOW 2 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Part 3

Here are some general questions about people who are important to us.

Friendship

Why is friendship important to some people?

Is it easier to make friends today than 20 years ago? Why / why not?

Do you think it is better to have one or two good friends or many friends? Why?

Qualities

What are some of the qualities that should be taught to children / young people? Why?

Family

How important is the family in your culture?

Will the role of parents be the same or different 50 years from now? Why?

What are some of the changes in family traditions over the past 50 years in your culture?

Part 2 Topic Card

An important person

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the topic below carefully. You will be asked to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Describe a person who has been very important to you in your life.

You should say: why they were important,
when you met them,
how you feel about them,

and say whether you think that person would also be important to other people.



Exercise 8: Short Speaking Test Practice

This is a shortened version of the IELTS Speaking Test. Work with a partner, one of you taking the role of 'examiner' and the other the role of 'candidate'. If you are the 'candidate' you may only look at the Part 2 topic card which is reproduced two pages later in this book. Remember at the IELTS test you do not get to see the questions that the examiner asks.

Examiner Sheet

Part 1

What is your full name?
And what shall I call you?

What part of your country do you come from?
How long have you lived there?

Which other countries have you visited?
Are there any countries you would like to visit? Why?

What do you find difficult about travelling?
What do you enjoy about travelling?
What is your preferred method of travelling?

Part 2

Here's a topic. Please talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes. Before you talk you will have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you want to.

Here is your topic (pass the topic to your partner / "candidate" – *topic card reproduced 2 pages later in this book*).

I'd like you to talk about a favourite book you have read.

Talk about a favorite book you have read.

You should say: what and when you read it,
what the book was about,
why you chose this particular book.

Explain why you enjoyed it.

WAIT 1 MINUTE.

OK? You have 1 to 2 minutes. Could you start speaking now please?

ALLOW 2 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Part 3

Books for enjoyment

Describe some of the different types of books available today.

Why do people read books?

What do you think makes a book a bestseller?

Why do some books become popular worldwide?

Accessing books

What do you believe is the most popular way to purchase books: from a bookshop or over the Internet? Why?

Books over time

In what ways have books changed in your country in the last 50 years?

Will books have a role in school 50 years from now?

Part 2 Topic Card

A favourite book

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the topic below carefully. You will be asked to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Talk about a favourite book you have read.

You should say: what and when you read it,
what the book was about,
why you chose this particular book.

Explain why you enjoyed it.

Assessment Check List for Speaking (Paired practice)

Fluency and Coherence	Comment or Example
speak smoothly ?	
talk continuously?	
pause to find words?	
explanations too complicated?	
ideas logically ordered?	
ideas clearly linked?	
linking words and pronouns accurate?	
Vocabulary	
wide range?	
wide variety?	
used flexibly?	
get exact meaning across?	
easily and quickly adapt and use synonyms if you don't know the word you want?	
use some less common vocabulary accurately?	
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	
variety of structures used?	
complex sentences used flexibly?	
subordinate clauses used appropriately?	
sentences grammatically correct?	
mistakes interfere with meaning?	
Pronunciation	
clear, or does examiner strain to understand?	
speak in groups of connected words with pauses in appropriate places?	
have a noticeable influence from your first language?	
affect rhythm?	
affect production of sound?	
word stress?	
sentence stress?	
intonation?	

(2nd Class)

Lesson B.4 – Speaking

Listen to Part 3 of a practice interview. Then, with a partner, prepare to practice Part 3 of an interview.

Practice Interview (Part 3): David (Interviewer) and Min (Candidate)

D. Do people in your country watch a lot of television?

D. Do you think the quality of TV programs is improving in Korea?

D. And are there any types of TV programs that you don't like?

D. Will TV change very much in the future?

D. Now let's talk about museums and art galleries. Do you like visiting museums or art galleries?

D. Does your country have many famous museums or art galleries?

D. And is it important for children to visit museums and art galleries?

D. And do you think governments should spend public money on museums and galleries?

An example Part 2 topic:

The Examiner says (after the introduction to this section), “I’d like you to describe a large public building you have visited (a government building, a church or temple, a museum or art gallery)”.

You should say:

- Where it is
- Why you were there
- What people do there
-and why you remember this building in particular.

Practice speaking about this topic for one to two minutes, with a partner. Get comments from your partner afterwards.

Leading to Part 3

The Examiner says (after the introduction to this section), “I’d like to discuss some more general issues related to this topic”.

The Examiner introduces each topic with a phrase, such as, “Now let’s talk about”

There may be 3 or 4 questions for each topic, about such things as:

- Types of large buildings and their purposes
- How large buildings affect the environment
- Designs of buildings and why they become famous
- Large buildings – what is important for people who work in them
- How buildings may change in the future

Practice answering these kinds of questions with a partner.

An example Part 2 topic:

The Examiner says (after the introduction to this section), “I’d like you to describe something ordinary people can do, which can help to save the environment”.

You should say:

- What exactly this thing is
- The details of how people do it
- How it will help the environment
-and whether this is an easy or difficult thing to do and why/why not.

Practice speaking about this topic for one to two minutes, with a partner. Get comments from your partner afterwards.

Leading to Part 3

The Examiner says (after the introduction to this section), “I’d like to discuss some more general issues related to this topic”.

The Examiner introduces each topic with a phrase, such as, “Now let’s talk about”

There may be 3 or 4 questions for each topic, and the examiner can add follow-up questions:

- How important people feel it is to save the environment
- Other things that people can do to save the environment
- Joining organizations which work to save the environment
- How people can get credible information about environmental problems.

Practice answering these kinds of questions with a partner.

SPEAKING TEST PRACTICE

On the following pages you will find material designed to help you practice for your Speaking Test.

Divide into pairs and take turns at being the examiner and then the candidate.

When you are playing the role of examiner, watch the time carefully. Try to take note of how your partner’s responses fit with the criteria. This will help make you more aware of what you have to do when you are the candidate.

Use the Assessment Check List on the following page to give your partner some feedback after his/her interview with you.

Assessment Check List for Speaking (Paired practice)

Fluency and Coherence	Comment or Example
speak smoothly ?	
talk continuously?	
pause to find words?	
explanations too complicated?	
ideas logically ordered?	
ideas clearly linked?	
linking words and pronouns accurate?	
Vocabulary	
wide range?	
wide variety?	
used flexibly?	
get exact meaning across?	
easily and quickly adapt and use synonyms if you don't know the word you want?	
use some less common vocabulary accurately?	
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	
variety of structures used?	
complex sentences used flexibly?	
subordinate clauses used appropriately?	
sentences grammatically correct?	
mistakes interfere with meaning?	
Pronunciation	
clear, or does examiner strain to understand?	
speak in groups of connected words with pauses in appropriate places?	
have a noticeable influence from your first language?	
affect rhythm?	
affect production of sound?	
word stress?	
sentence stress?	
intonation?	

PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST - A

(Influential person)

Examiner Sheet

E: Good morning/afternoon. My name is... Can I have your full name please?

E: And what should I call you? ... Can I see your identification please?

E: That's fine, thank you. Now in this first part, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself.

Part 1

First let's talk about reading.

What kind of things do you enjoy reading in your free time?

What kinds of magazines are most popular among young people of your age group in your country?

Do you think that people read more or less now than in previous generations?

Let's move on now to talk about your free time.

What do you like doing during your free time?

Is this a new interest or something you have always enjoyed?

Are there any new hobbies that you would like to take up? Why?

Now let's talk about food and cooking.

Do you enjoy cooking?

How often do you cook?

What kind of dishes would you consider to be traditional dishes of your country?

Would you consider the diet of people in your country now to be more or less healthy than it used to be?

Part 2

Now I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to discuss it for 1 to 2 minutes. Before you talk you will have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Do you understand?

Here's your topic (pass the topic to your partner/candidate).

I'd like you to describe a person who has greatly influenced you.

Describe a person who has greatly influenced you.

You should say:

- who he/she is/was,
- how he/she influenced you,
- why their influence was important and,
- if you are still in contact with him/her.

Also say what other people think about this person.

WAIT 1 MINUTE. **Then say** All right, so remember you have 1 to 2 minutes for this, so don't worry if I stop you. I will tell you when the time is up. Start speaking now please.

ALLOW 2 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Follow-up question:

Are there other people in your life who have influenced you?

Are you still in contact with them?

Part 3

We've been talking about an influential person in your life. Now I'd like to ask you some more general questions related to this.

First, let's consider how people can be influenced.

(Describe) some of the different ways in which people are influenced.

(Describe) some of the positive or negative effects of this influence.

(Contrast) the way we are influenced now and the way our parents / grandparents were.

Now let's talk about public figures / the media.

(Assess) the influence of politicians, film stars and other famous people on young people today.

(Describe) the public attitude to the media in your country.

Finally, let's discuss international events / competitions.

(Assess) people's attitude to major exhibitions or sporting events in your country.

(Describe) changes in your country influenced by such exhibitions or sporting events.

(Speculate) on the effect of world politics or terrorism on these events.

Topic Card (Influential Person)

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the topic below carefully. You will be asked to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Describe a person who has greatly influenced you.

You should say:

- who he/she is/was,
- how he/she influenced you,
- why their influence was important and,
- if you are still in contact with him/her.

Also say what other people think about this person.

PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST - B

(City visited)

Examiner Sheet

E: Good morning/afternoon. My name is... Can I have your full name please?

E: And what should I call you? ... Can I see your identification please?

E: That's fine, thank you. Now in this first part, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself.

Part 1

First let's talk about your everyday life.

What do you do from Monday to Friday?

What do you enjoy the least about this/these activity/ies?

What would you like to change about it/them? Why?

Now let's talk about your culture.

What is the most important festival in your culture?

Can you describe the events during this festival?

What special food is connected with this festival?

Let's move on now to talk about your free time.

What do you like doing during your free time?

Is this a new interest or something you have always enjoyed?

Are there any new hobbies that you would like to take up? Why?

Part 2

Now I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to discuss it for 1 to 2 minutes. Before you talk you will have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Do you understand?

Here's your topic (pass the topic to your partner/candidate).

I'd like you to describe a city you have visited which has impressed you.

Describe a city you have visited which has impressed you

You should say: where it is situated,

why you went there and,

what you particularly liked about it.

WAIT 1 MINUTE. Then say All right, so remember you have 1 to 2 minutes for this, so don't worry if I stop you. I will tell you when the time is up. Start speaking now please.

ALLOW 2 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Follow-up question:

Do you like cities generally?

Would you like to live in the city you spoke about?

Part3

We've been talking about a city you have visited. Now I'd like to ask you some more general questions related to this.

First, let's consider the advantages/disadvantages of living in a big city.

(Describe) the advantages of living in a big city.

(Describe) negative aspects of living in crowded cities.

(Suggest) ways of reducing negative aspects.

Now let's talk about architecture.

(Describe) the most prevalent/popular architectural design in your home town.

(Identify) ways in which this has changed in recent years.

Finally, let's talk about public transport.

(Compare) the public transport facilities in your home town with those of another town you have visited.

(Speculate) on ways different types of public transport might change in the future.

Topic Card (City)

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the topic below carefully. You will be asked to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Describe a city you have visited which has impressed you

You should say: where it is situated,

why you went there and,

what you particularly liked about it.

Lesson B.5 – Speaking

Listen to a Practice Interview: Interviewer (Claire) and Candidate (DaiFen)

Part 1

Good Morning, I'm Claire

Could you tell me your full name please?

(Dai Fen)

And what should I call you?

(/Madeleine)

Could you tell me where you're from?

Can I see your ID please?

Let's talk about your study or work.

Are you currently studying or do you work?

Why did you choose this particular course?

What are the most challenging or difficult things about your course?

What will you do when your course finishes?

Now let's move on to talk about learning languages

Would you say you are good at speaking other languages?

Why do you think some people are better at learning languages than other people?

Are some second languages easier to learn than other second languages?

What do you think is the most effective way to learn a language?

Let's talk a little about your country.

Have you travelled around it much?

What's the most popular region in your country for overseas tourists?

And why is it so popular?

Does the government encourage tourism to your country? How does it do this?

Part 2

Now I'm going to give you a topic, and I'd like you to talk about it for 1 -2 minutes.

Before you talk, you have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Do you understand?

Here's the topic, and here's a pen and some paper to make notes.

I'd like you to describe somewhere that you have enjoyed living.

(student makes notes for 1 minute)

Remember that you have one to two minutes for this, I'll stop you when the time is up. Can you start speaking now please?

(student speaks for 1-2 minutes)

Would you go back to live there again?

Part 3

We've been talking about places where people live, I'd like now to discuss one or two more general questions relating to this topic.

Firstly, let's consider the recent development of a city you know well.

To what extent was this development a result of planning?

What do you think is the importance of planning in shaping development in urban areas?

And do you think large cities will become more or less planned in the future?

We've seen the development of a lot of communities called Gated Communities recently which are guarded by private companies and it restricts the entry to non-residents, so only residents can go in. Why do you think people want to live in those communities?

What kind of people do you think would choose to live in these gated communities?

Speaking Test Practice

On the following pages you will find material designed to help you practice for your Speaking Test.

Divide into pairs and take turns at being the Interviewer and then the Candidate. Use the Assessment Check List for Speaking (Paired Practice) which is over the page.

When you are playing the role of Interviewer, watch the time carefully. Try to take note of how your partner's responses fit with the criteria. This will help make you more aware of what you have to do when you are the Candidate.

PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST

(Sports)

Examiner Sheet

Part 1

First, let's talk about reading.

1. What kind of things do you enjoy reading in your free time?
2. What kinds of magazines are most popular among people of your age group in your country?
3. Do you think that people read more or less now than in previous generations?

Now, let's talk about your free time.

1. What do you like to do in your free time?
2. Is there a hobby you would like to take up if you had the time?
3. Do you think people have more or less free time now than 50 years ago?

Now, let's talk about food and cooking.

1. Do you enjoy cooking? How often do you cook?
2. What kind of dishes would you consider to be traditional dishes of your country?
3. Would you consider the diet of people in your country now to be more or less healthy than it used to be?

Part 2

Now I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to discuss it for 1 to 2 minutes. But before you do, you can have 1 minute to make some notes. Do you understand? I'd like you to describe a sporting event you have seen recently.

Describe a sporting event you have seen recently.

You should say: what the sporting event was

where you saw it and

what you thought of it.

Follow up question: Do you generally enjoy seeing live sporting events?

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the topic below carefully. You will be asked to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Describe a sporting event you have seen recently

You should say: what the sporting event was

where you saw it and

what you thought of it.

Part 3

We've been talking about a sporting event you went to. Now I'd like to ask you some more general questions related to this.

First, let's talk about sport and education.

Do you think that children should be taught sport in school?

Should there be special schools just for students who are talented at sport?

Do you need to be good at sport to teach it?

Now tell me about sports participation.

What are the advantages of playing sport?

How has watching sport changed over the last 50 years?

How does participation in sport change as people get older?

Finally, let's discuss international sporting events.

What benefits do countries hope to gain by sending participants to international sporting events?

What advantages/disadvantages are there for individuals who participate in these events?

International sporting events are very costly. Will governments in the future continue to spend public money on them?

(3rd Class)

Lesson C.5 – Speaking

Listen to the full interview of a candidate. Make notes about the ability of the candidate, using the Speaking Assessment Sheet and the Band Score Descriptors (Public Version).

Practice Interview: Interviewer and Marwen (Candidate)

Part 1

I. Let's talk about where you come from . Tell me about where you live in Libya.

I. What kind of facilities are there in Tripoli?

I. Is it a good place for children?

I. What kind of countryside do you have in Tripoli?

I. Where would you prefer to live in your country?

I. Why?

I. Let's go on to talk about holidays. What do you do on your holidays?

I. What's your favourite time of year for a holiday?

I. Why?

I. Is there anything you don't like about having holidays?

I. Let's move on to talk about Sport. Do you like Sports?

I. Which is the most popular sport in Libya?

I. Why?

I. Is sport taught in schools?

I. And do you think that's a good thing?

Part 2

I. Now, I'd like you to talk to me on a topic.

(Examiner gives instructions and topic to candidate).

I. Topic: I'd like you to describe a wedding you have been to or heard about.

(Candidate takes 1 minute to make notes then speaks for 1-2 minutes).

I. So, would you say that was a traditional wedding? Have you been to many weddings?

Part 3

I. So we've been talking about weddings. Let's look at some general topics about this.

I. In Libya now, is it unusual to have a wedding like this?

I. Has the decline in young people getting married, is that only for economic reasons?

I. Have there been other reasons for the change in attitude to getting married?

I. Do you think weddings will change even more in the future?

I. What kind of wedding ceremony can you imagine for your future?

I. Just thinking a bit more along the lines of social changes, in a lot of cultures it was the family that chose the partner. Do you think there are advantages and disadvantages to that?

I. Does that mean that in those cultures, do you think the power of the family has been reduced?

I. To make that decision and perhaps others?

I. In Libya, who makes decisions within the family?

I. What have been the changes in Libya if any, in terms of the position of men and women in recent years?

I. Do you think that will change in the future?

I. Thank you Marwen.

SPEAKING TEST PRACTICE

On the following pages you will find material designed to help you practice for your Speaking Test.

Divide into pairs and take turns at being the examiner and then the candidate.

When you are playing the role of examiner, watch the time carefully. Try to take note of how your partner's responses fit with the criteria. This will help make you more aware of what you have to do when you are the candidate.

Use the Assessment Check List on the following page to give your partner some feedback after his/her interview with you.

Assessment Check List for Speaking (Paired practice)

Fluency and Coherence	Comment or Example
speak smoothly ?	
talk continuously?	
pause to find words?	
explanations too complicated?	
ideas logically ordered?	
ideas clearly linked?	
linking words and pronouns accurate?	
Vocabulary	
wide range?	
wide variety?	
used flexibly?	
get exact meaning across?	
easily and quickly adapt and use synonyms if you don't know the word you want?	
use some less common vocabulary accurately?	
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	
variety of structures used?	
complex sentences used flexibly?	
subordinate clauses used appropriately?	
sentences grammatically correct?	
mistakes interfere with meaning?	
Pronunciation	
clear, or does examiner strain to understand?	
speak in groups of connected words with pauses in appropriate places?	
have a noticeable influence from your first language?	
affect rhythm?	
affect production of sound?	
word stress?	
sentence stress?	
intonation?	

PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST – A

(Competition)

Examiner Sheet

E: Good morning/afternoon. My name is... Can I have your full name please?

E: And what should I call you? ... Can I see your identification please?

E: That's fine, thank you. Now in this first part, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself.

Part 1

First let's talk about where you come from.

What part of your country do you come from? Could you describe your home town / village? What do you like about your home town?

Now let's talk about your free time.

What do you like to do in your free time?

How often do you manage to do this?

What do your family or friends think about this?

Let's move on now to talk about food.

What is your favourite type of food? Is it easy or difficult to prepare? Why?

What are the benefits of your favourite food?

Part 2

Now I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to discuss it for 1 to 2 minutes. Before you talk you will have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Do you understand?

Here is your topic (pass the topic to your partner/candidate).

I'd like you to describe a competition (or contest) that you have entered.

Describe a competition (or contest) that you have entered.

You should say: when the competition took place,

what you had to do and,

how well you did it.

Describe how you felt about the competition.

WAIT 1 MINUTE. **Then say** All right, remember you have 1 to 2 minutes for this, so don't worry if I stop you. I will tell you when the time is up. Start speaking now please.

ALLOW 2 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Follow-up question:

Would you recommend this kind of competition or contest to a friend?

Part 3

We've been talking about a competition or contest you entered. Now I'd like to ask you some more general questions related to this.

First, let's consider competition and young people.

Do you think competition is good for children? Why?

What kinds of school competition are the most negative for young people?

In your opinion, what will be the role of school competition twenty years from now?

Which type of spirit do you believe is better for children to learn at school - a competitive spirit or a co-operative spirit?

Now let's talk about competition in society.

Do you think everyone should have a competitive spirit in our society? Why?

What examples of competition do you see around yourself in daily life?

How do you react or respond to these types of competition?

Is there a type of competition that you believe should be promoted or demoted? Why?

Now let's talk about competition from an even broader perspective.

To what extent does competition impact on our lives?

What is the value of international competition?

Do you think our attitudes to our fellow human beings have changed in the past 50 years? How?

Topic Card (Competition)

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the topic below carefully. You will be asked to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Describe a competition (or contest) that you have entered.

You should say: when the competition took place,

what you had to do and,

how well you did it.

describe how you felt about the competition.

PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST - B

(Shop)

Examiner Sheet

E: Good morning/afternoon. My name is... Can I have your full name please?

E: And what should I call you? ... Can I see your identification please?

E: That's fine, thank you. Now in this first part, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself.

Part 1

First let's talk about your home town.

Could you describe your home town / village?

Is your home in the centre of the town/village or outside?

Could you describe your family home?

Now let's talk about family activities.

What does your family usually do at weekends?

Do you like going out with your family? Why?

What are some other activities your family enjoys?

Let's move on now to talk about holidays.

Where would you like to take a holiday? Why?

Who would you most like to go on holiday with? Why?

What was the best holiday you ever had?

Part 2

Now I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to discuss it for 1 to 2 minutes. Before you talk you will have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Do you understand?

Here is your topic (pass the topic to your partner/ candidate).

I'd like you to describe an interesting shop that you enjoy visiting.

Describe an interesting shop that you enjoy visiting.

You should say: what this shop is, and what it sells

Why this shop is interesting,

When you enjoy visiting this shop.

.....and talk about how this shop makes you feel.

WAIT 1 MINUTE. **Then say** All right, remember you have 1 to 2 minutes for this, so don't worry if I stop you. I will tell you when the time is up. Start speaking now please.

ALLOW 2 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Follow-up question:

Are there any other shops like this one?

Part 3

We've been talking about a shop you like visiting. Now I'd like to ask you some more general questions related to this. Let's consider first of all....

Types of shops

Are the types of shops in Australia different from those in other countries? How?

What methods do shops use to attract customers to them?

What skills and qualities are required to be a shop owner or manager?

How do you think shops will develop in the future?

Customer Service

Do you think culture affects how people give customer service?

Do small shops give better service than large ones?

Shopping problems

Why do some people regard shopping as a form of entertainment?

Do you think people shop for more products than they need?

Topic Card (Shop)

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the topic below carefully. You will be asked to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Describe an interesting shop that you enjoy visiting.

You should say: what this shop is and what it sells

Why this shop is interesting

When you enjoy visiting this shop

...and talk about how this shop makes you feel.

(4th Class)

Lesson D.4 – Speaking

Listen to Part 3 of a practice interview with a candidate, Judith. Take notes of the way Judith extends her answers.

Practice Interview: David (Examiner) and Judith (Candidate)

Part 3

D. Now let's talk about museums and art galleries.

D. Why?

D. Does your country have many famous museums and art galleries?

D. Is it important for children to visit museums and art galleries?

D. Should governments spend public money on museums and galleries?

D. Do people in your country watch a lot of television?

D. Do you think the quality of TV programs is improving?

D. So, maybe you've answered this question, but are there any types of TV programs that you don't like?

D. Why?

D. Do you think TV will change very much in the future?

An example Part 2 topic:

The Examiner says (after the introduction to this section) “I’d like you to describe something ordinary people can do, which will help to save the environment”.

You should say:

- What exactly this thing is
 - The details of how people do it
 - How it will help the environment
-and whether this is an easy or difficult thing to do and why/why not.

Practice speaking about this topic for one to two minutes, with a partner. Get comments from your partner afterwards.

Next, with your partner, think of the kind of question you might be asked in order to expand on this topic. This would be similar to the procedure in Part 3 of the interview.

SPEAKING TEST PRACTICE

On the following pages you will find material designed to help you practice for your Speaking Test.

Divide into pairs and take turns at being the examiner and then the candidate.

When you are playing the role of examiner, watch the time carefully. Try to take note of how your partner’s responses fit with the criteria. This will help make you more aware of what you have to do when you are the candidate.

Use the Assessment Check List on the following page to give your partner some feedback after his/her interview with you.

Assessment Check List for Speaking (Paired practice)

Fluency and Coherence	Comment or Example
speak smoothly ?	
talk continuously?	
pause to find words?	
explanations too complicated?	
ideas logically ordered?	
ideas clearly linked?	
linking words and pronouns accurate?	
Vocabulary	
wide range?	
wide variety?	
used flexibly?	
get exact meaning across?	
easily and quickly adapt and use synonyms if you don't know the word you want?	
use some less common vocabulary accurately?	
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	
variety of structures used?	
complex sentences used flexibly?	
subordinate clauses used appropriately?	
sentences grammatically correct?	
mistakes interfere with meaning?	
Pronunciation	
clear, or does examiner strain to understand?	
speak in groups of connected words with pauses in appropriate places?	
have a noticeable influence from your first language?	
affect rhythm?	
affect production of sound?	
word stress?	
sentence stress?	
intonation?	

PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST – A

(Art Gallery/Museum)

Examiner Sheet

E: Good morning/afternoon. My name is... Can I have your full name please?

E: And what should I call you? ... Can I see your identification please?

E: That's fine, thank you. Now in this first part, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself.

Part 1

First let's talk about your home town.

Could you describe your home town / village?

Is your home in the centre of the town/village or outside?

Could you describe your family home?

Now let's talk about family activities.

What does your family usually do at weekends?

Do you like going out with your family? Why?

What are some other activities your family enjoys?

Let's move on now to talk about holidays.

Where would you like to take a holiday? Why?

Who would you most like to go on holiday with? Why?

What was the best holiday you ever had?

Part 2

Now I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to discuss it for 1 to 2 minutes. Before you talk you will have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Do you understand?

Here is your topic (pass the topic to your partner/ candidate).

I'd like you to describe an art gallery / museum that you have visited.

Describe a museum or art gallery you have visited.

You should say: where it is,
 why you went there and,
 what you particularly remember about it.

WAIT 1 MINUTE. **Then say** All right, remember you have 1 to 2 minutes for this, so don't worry if I stop you. I will tell you when the time is up. Start speaking now please.

ALLOW 2 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Follow-up question:

Do you like museums / art galleries?

Would you recommend this art gallery / museum to other people?

Part 3

We've been talking about a museum / art gallery you have visited. Now I'd like to ask you some more general questions related to this.

First, let's consider the popularity of art galleries / museums.

Do you think museums or art galleries are popular with everyone? Why?

What do you think might make museums/art galleries more interesting?

Can you explain why some people strongly believe there is a need for museums and art galleries in our society?

Now let's talk about artworks.

Do artworks influence people's lives positively or negatively? Why? / Why not?

What is the role of treasured artworks in our society?

How difficult is it for people in your country to access treasured artworks? Why?

To what extent would you agree or disagree that graffiti (drawings made with spray paint in public places) can be described as art or vandalism?

Finally, let's talk about different types of works of art.

What reasons can you suggest for the changes in the range of art galleries or museums in the past fifty years?

Can you name some of the famous statues and buildings in your country?

Can you explain their role in your culture?

Compare museums in your country today with how they were in your parents' or grandparents' time.

Topic Card - Art Gallery/Museum

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the topic below carefully. You will be asked to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Describe a museum or art gallery you have visited.

You should say:

- where it is,
- why you went there and,
- what you particularly remember about it.

PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST – B

(Wedding)

Examiner Sheet

E: Good morning/afternoon. My name is... Can I have your full name please?

E: And what should I call you? ... Can I see your identification please?

E: That's fine, thank you. Now in this first part, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself.

Part 1

First let's talk about where you come from.

Tell me about where you live.

What kind of facilities are there in _____?

Is it a good place for children?

What kind of countryside do you have in _____?

Where would you prefer to live in your country?

Let's go on to talk about holidays.

What do you do on your holidays?

What's your favourite time of year for a holiday?

Is there anything you don't like about your holidays?

Let's move on to talk about sports.

Do you like sports?

Which is the most popular sport in _____? Why?

Is sport taught in schools?

Do you think that's a good thing?

Part 2

Now I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to discuss it for 1 to 2 minutes. Before you talk you will have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Do you understand?

Here is your topic (pass the topic to your partner/ candidate).

I'd like you to describe a wedding you have been to or heard about.

Describe a wedding you have been to or heard about.

You should say: who got married,

what they wore and,

what they did on the day.

Also explain how you felt about this wedding.

WAIT 1 MINUTE. **Then say** All right, remember you have 1 to 2 minutes for this, so don't worry if I stop you. I will tell you when the time is up. Start speaking now please.

ALLOW 2 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Follow-up question:

Would you say that was a traditional wedding?

Have you been to many weddings?

Part 3

We've been talking about a wedding you went to. Now I'd like to ask you some more general questions related to this.

First, let's talk about how weddings might have changed.

In _____ now, is it unusual to have a wedding like this?

Do you think weddings will change in the future?

What kind of wedding ceremony can you imagine in the future?

Now let's discuss the traditional power of the family.

In _____, who makes decisions in the family?

Thinking more along the lines of marriage and social changes - in a lot of cultures it was the family that chose the partner. Do you think there are advantages or disadvantages to that?

Finally, tell me about changes in society for men and women.

What have been the changes, if any, in terms of the position of men and women in recent years?

How have these changes been received by the population?

Do you think there will be more changes in the future?

Topic Card – Wedding

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the topic below carefully. You will be asked to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Describe a wedding you have been to or heard about.

You should say: who got married,
 what they wore and,
 what they did on the day.

Also explain how you felt about this wedding.

(Extra Materials)

IELTS Speaking: Real Test

Part 2 Topic Card

1. Describe a museum

- 1) How often do you visit the museum?
- 2) Which type of museum is popular in your country?
- 3) Why do you want to visit the museum?

Follow-up:

- ✧ What do you think of the importance of museums in history?
- ✧ How do you think of the heritage of a country?
- ✧ Compare the museums nowadays and in the past

2. Describe your favorite photograph

- 1) Where was the photo taken?
- 2) Who took the photo?
- 3) What can be seen from the photo?
- 4) Explain why it is the favorite photograph for you.

Follow-up:

- ✧ How to take good photo?
- ✧ When do people use camera?
- ✧ How can the new technology put cinema's skill advanced?

3. The important historic place

- 1) What is the place?
- 2) Where is it located?
- 3) Why do you think it is important?

Follow-up:

- ✧ What do you think of the historic place in the future?
- ✧ Will the government increase or decrease the safety guard?
- ✧ What are the changes to the local people and economy?
- ✧ What is the impact on the historic place by tourists?

4. Describe a party

- 1) What is the party?
- 2) Why was the party held?
- 3) Who attended the party?
- 4) What did you do for that party?

Follow-up:

- ✧ What's the difference between serious party and friendly party?
- ✧ Why are some people late for parties intentionally?
- ✧ Why do some people like party while others hate it?
- ✧ What would you do if the guests feel bored?
- ✧ Will there be more and more people to attend parties?

5. Describe a subject taught in your school?

- 1) Who teaches it?
- 2) How is it taught?
- 3) What do you learn from the class?

Follow-up:

- ✧ Is there any difference between the traditional and modern educational systems?
- ✧ What are the pros and cons of the current educational system in your country?
- ✧ Do you think it is necessary to give comment or criticism to teachers?

6. What is the important invention before the age of computer?

- 1) What is the invention?
- 2) Why do you think it is very important?
- 3) What are the advantages and disadvantages of the invention?

Follow-up:

- ✧ What is the significant impact of modern inventions on life?
- ✧ Which skills do you want to study in the future?
- ✧ Do you think it's necessary to develop modern invention in the countryside?

7. Describe a foreign country you have never been to

- 1) Where is the country?
- 2) When will you go there?
- 3) Why would you like to go there?

Follow-up:

- ✧ Say something about the tourism development in China, facility, services and the effect on environment.
- ✧ What is the importance of travel and tourism industry?
- ✧ What do you think the function of tourist guides?

8. Describe your favourite movie

- 1) What's the name of the film?
- 2) What's the theme of the film?
- 3) Why do you like it?

Follow-up:

- ✧ Describe a type of movie you like.
- ✧ What's the difference between Chinese and American movies?
- ✧ What do you think of the violent films (Hollywood films)?
- ✧ Why movies need computer techniques? Any example of movie using computer techniques
- ✧ Which parts of cinema are the most important and how to improve it?

9. Describe a newspaper or magazine

- 1) What's your habit for reading?
- 2) What are the benefits of reading?
- 3) What's the main difference between newspaper and magazine?

Follow-up:

- ✧ What do you think the important qualities for a news reporter?
- ✧ What's the function of a report to the society?
- ✧ What kinds of books/newspapers/magazines do Chinese adolescents read?
- ✧ With the popularity of Internet, do you think newspapers and magazines will disappear?

10. Describe a children's game (sports not suggested)

- 1) How is it played?
- 2) What can you learn from the game?
- 3) What impact does it bring on your growth?

Follow-up:

- ✧ What do you think of the benefits of children's games?
- ✧ Nowadays children have less and less time for game, what do you think about it?
- ✧ What do you think the difference between games nowadays and in the past?
- ✧ What's the negative aspect of games?

11. Describe a happy event in your life?

- 1) When did it happen?
- 2) Where did it happen?
- 3) What was it?

Follow-up:

- ✧ Tell me how you organize your study time?
- ✧ What do you think is important in achieving happiness?
- ✧ How do Chinese celebrate some happy events?
- ✧ What do the camera and video play in celebrating?

12. Describe a thing which is important to you

- 1) Who gave it to you?
- 2) What is the thing?
- 3) What does the thing mean to you?

Follow-up:

- ✧ What are the changes of city between now and past?
- ✧ Does money represent happiness and why?
- ✧ How do you regard as the things people want to earn?

13. Describe one of your neighbours

- 1) When did you become neighbours?
- 2) Do you often meet?
- 3) State whether your neighbour is a good one

Follow-up:

- ✧ What is the difference between neighbours and friends?
- ✧ Why do people like to watch TV serials in their houses?
- ✧ How do you think of the relationship in the city?
- ✧ How to improve the neighbourhood?

14. Describe one of the shopping centers you often go to

- 1) Where is the shopping center?
- 2) How often do you go to the center?
- 3) Why do you often go to it and its characteristics?

Follow-up:

- ✧ Will smaller shops survive in the current business system?
- ✧ What are the characteristics of shopping malls and smaller shops and their difference?
- ✧ What is the trend of future shopping centers?
- ✧ Talk about Internet shopping

15. Describe your favourite animal

- 1) What kind of animal is it?
- 2) Describe it briefly
- 3) Why do you like the animal?

Follow-up:

- ✧ What do you need to do to take care of it?
- ✧ What's the future trend of the animal?
- ✧ How do you think of the poaching of some precious animals such as pandas?

16. Describe a historical place

- 1) What is the place?
- 2) Where is it located?
- 3) What is the historical meaning of the place?

Follow-up:

- ✧ What do you think of the future trend of historic places?
- ✧ Will government strengthen its protection toward historic places?
- ✧ What are the changes brought about by the historic place in local economy, people, etc?
- ✧ What is the effect of tourists on the place?

17. Advertisement

- 1) What are the forms of advertisement?
- 2) What are the functions of advertisement?
- 3) What is the effect of advertisement to people?

Follow-up:

- ✧ Do you feel bored and disgusted about advertisement?
- ✧ What do you think are the criteria of assessing a good piece of advertisement?
- ✧ What will happen if unauthoritative advertisements prevail in the market?

18. Describe an important letter

- 1) When did you receive the letter?
- 2) From whom did you receive the letter?
- 3) Explain the reasons why it is important

Follow-up:

- ✧ What is the significance of handwriting?
- ✧ Does your country have handwriting lesson now?
- ✧ Compare the handwriting now and past
- ✧ With the popularity of computers and Internet, will people lose their ability to write letters?

19. Describe the best present you have received

- 1) Who sent it to you?
- 2) When did you receive it?
- 3) Detailed information about the present

Follow-up:

- ✧ Do you think that present giving will play an important role in Chinese daily life? Why?
- ✧ Do you think that the brand name is very important for sales?
- ✧ In terms of the media, which do you think will play a main role in present giving, television, newspaper or Internet?

20. Describe your holidays

- 1) Where do you go for the holidays and how long do they last?
- 2) Who do you go with?
- 3) Talk about any interesting things happening during your holidays

Follow-up:

- ✧ What do the Chinese people mostly do in their leisure time?
- ✧ What's the difference between holidays today and 5 years ago and the reasons for the change?
- ✧ Do you think people will spend more time on leisure or working in the future?

Suggested questions for stage 1

Warm-up

1. Could you show me your identification card please?
2. Could you tell me your full name please?
3. What shall I call you?
4. Does your name have any special meaning?
5. Why do so many people change their names?
6. Is your name important to you?

Hometown or birth place

1. Where do you come from?
2. Where do you live?

3. Can you tell me something about your hometown?
4. Can you tell me some famous landscapes or scenic spots in your hometown?
5. Can you tell me some history of your hometown?

Personal background and information

1. Are you a student or do you have a job?
2. What do you like most about your study?
3. What kind of job do you prefer after graduation?
4. What is your major?
5. What do you do for living?
6. Could you tell me a typical day of yours?
7. How do you get your job?
8. Are you satisfied with your job?
9. What do you like most about your job?
10. What kind of job do you prefer in the future?

Hobby or inclination

1. What do you usually do in your spare time?
2. Do you prefer to stay alone or with your friends?
3. What do you usually do on weekends and weekdays?
4. What do you usually do when you go out?
5. What do you usually do with your friends?
6. Do you like reading?
7. What kind of books do you like best?
8. Do you like English? Why or why not?
9. What do you think of the importance of English?
10. What are good hobbies and bad hobbies? Why?

Future plan

1. Why do you take the IELTS test?
2. What are you planning to do in the next five years?
3. What are you planning to do in the next ten years?
4. What is the first thing you will do when you arrive at the new place?

Suggested stage 2 questions most frequently asked in stage 1

1. Traveling

Do you like traveling?

Do you like travel alone or with your friends?
Have you traveled to other places? Where are they?
What do you usually do when you first arrive in a new place?
What are the benefits of traveling?
Why do so many people like traveling nowadays?

2. Friends

Do you have many friends? Are they casual acquaintances or close friends?
Do you prefer to stay with your family or with your friends?
Do you prefer one or two close friends or many friends?
Can you talk about your best friend?
How to make friends?
What do you usually do with your friends?
Is the time you spend with your friends as much as that you spend with your family?

3. Music

Do you like music?
What are the benefits of listening to music?
What kind of music do you like best?
Why do you like this kind of music?

4. Transportation

Can you say something about the transportation in your hometown?
What is the common means of transport in your country?
Do traffic jams often occur in your hometown or in the city where you live?
How to solve the problem?
What changes in transportation have taken place in the past several years in your country?

5. Building

Can you tell me an interesting building in your hometown?
Can you tell me an interesting building in Guangzhou?

Suggested topics in stage 2 & related questions for stage 3

Category 1: Describing things (1 test item)

1. Describing a piece of equipment you often use at home or at work. You should say,
What is it ?
What you do with it/ How to use it?
How long you have had it?
How important it is to you?

Discussion:

1. What are the impacts of electrical equipment on human's life in the past ten years?
2. What are the differences of the life in the past and at the present?
3. What role does technological development play in people's life?
4. How will technology develop in the future?
5. Do you have a mobile phone? What are its advantages?
6. Why do many foreign countries develop faster than China?
7. Why does the China's West develop faster than China's East?
8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of computer and internet?

Category 2: Describing people (3 test items)

1. Describe a well-known person. You should say,

Who he/she is?

What makes him/her famous?

Why you admire him/her?

Discussion:

1. Do you want to become famous?
2. How to become a well-known person in China?
3. What kind of people can become famous in China?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being famous?
5. What do you think of the privacy of a well-known person?
6. What do you think of the relationship between a well-know person and advertising?
7. Would you be influenced by the well-known persons in TV commercials?
8. Do you often talk about singers with your friends? What do you often talk about?

2. Describing a friend in your school time/ you like most. You should say,

Who he/she is?

When did you became friends?

Why do you like him/her or why do you think that he/she is important to you?

How he/she influences you.

Discussion:

1. What are the differences between adults and children in terms of making friends?
2. Can adults make friends with children?
3. What do you think are the most important factors when making friends?
4. What are the possible factors that cause the break-up of friendship?
5. Why is it difficult for adults to make friends?
6. What will the friendship become like when getting old?

3. Describing a person whom you like to work or study with. You should say,

Who is he/she?

When did you work/study together?

What do you often do together?

Why do you like to work with him/her?/ What can you learn from him/her?

Why is he/she particular?

Discussion:

1. Do you like to work alone or with a partner?
2. What do you think of teamwork and team spirit?
3. What kind of people are good to work with?
4. Do you like group work or group learning?
8. What is your opinion on efficiency?
9. What are the advantages of studying by yourself?
10. What do you think of efficiency?

Category 3: Describing places (2 test items)

1. Describe a restaurant or a cafe. You should say,

Where it is?

What it looks like?

What kind of services is provided?

What kind of food you like there/ What kind of food is famous?

Why you like it?

Discussion:

1. Do you like cooking?
2. Will you cook for your friends when they visit you?
3. Who cooks in a Chinese family?
4. What do you think of the advantages and disadvantages of fast food?
5. Why is fast food so popular?
6. Where would Chinese go when they eat out?
7. What changes would take place in terms of Chinese eating habits?
8. What food is popular?
9. What is the difference between fresh food and canned food?
10. What can we do to solve the problem of food shortage?
11. What are the advantages and disadvantages of family food?

2. Describing an interesting building. You should say,

Where it is located.

What it looks like.

What services are provided?

How you like it.

Discussion:

What role do old buildings and new buildings play in modern society?
What changes have taken place in architecture in the past two decades?
Do you think it necessary to protect old buildings?

Category 4: Describing media and communication (4 test items)

Describing a kind of book you like. You should say,

What kind of books you like most.
What they are about.
Why you like them most.
What effect have books brought on you?

Discussion:

1. What is the difference between men and women when choosing what to read?
2. What kind books do children like? Why do they like reading?
3. What is the difference between reading and watching TV?
4. What is the relationship between reading and computer?
5. What are the advantages of reading books?
6. Why do children like pictorials?
7. What books are popular in China?

Describing one of your favorite books. You should say,

What kind of books you like.
What is your favorite book?
What it is about.
When did you get it?
Why you like it.

Discussion:

1. Do you like other books?
2. What kind of books do Chinese people like?
3. What kind of books do Chinese women like?
2. What kind of books do Chinese children like?
3. What kind of books do you recommend to others?

Describing a letter. You should say:

When you received it.
Who sent it to you?
What it is about?

Whether it is important to you? Why?

Discussion:

1. What is the difference between letter and e-mail?
2. Do you often keep diaries?
3. What is the difference between diary and letter?
4. What is the difference in the past and at the present as regards communications?
5. What is the role of letter 50 years ago and at the present?
6. What do you think of the role 50 years later?
7. What do you think of creative writing?
8. Would post office disappear 50 years later?
9. What role does computer play in our society?
10. What changes have been brought by the computer? What is professors' attitude?

4. Describing a kind of music. You should say,

Whether you like music. Why or why not?

What kind of music you like best

What role music plays in people's life.

Discussion:

1. How long do you listen to music everyday?
2. Why is it easier for children to learn playing a musical instrument?
3. What are the benefits of learning to play musical instruments?
4. Discuss the impact of western music on the world music?

Category 5: Describing celebration and leisure time (4 test items)

Describe a traditional festival in China. You should say,

What it is.

When is it celebrated?

How to celebrate? / what you usually do on that day.

What you like and what you don't like.

Discussion:

1. What is the concept of holiday in China?
2. Why is holiday so important to modern people?
3. Do you think it is necessary to observe the traditional customs?
4. What changes in terms of spending festivals and holidays have taken place in the past decade?
5. What is the difference as regards celebration in different part of the country?

Describing a perfect trip/ holiday. You should say,

Where you would go.

When would you go?
Whom you would go with.
What you are going to do.
What you think it perfect.

Discussion:

1. What is the difference in the past and at the present as regards travelling?
2. How would the tourist industry develop in the future?
3. What should the government do to attract tourists?
4. What should the people do to attract tourists?

Describing an interesting trip you have taken. You should say,

Where you went.
When you went there.
Whom you went with. What you did there. Why you like it.

Discussion:

1. What is the difference in the past and at the present as regards traveling?
2. How would the tourist industry develop in the future?
3. What should the government do to attract tourists?
4. What should the people do to attract tourists?

Describing an interesting hobby. You should say,

What it is.
When began to do it.
How long you spend on it.
How often you do it.
Why you like it.

Discussion:

1. Do you think that surfing the Internet, watching TV, listening to music or keeping a pet are interesting hobbies?
2. Do you think it will cost too much time to do them?
3. Do you like hobbies requiring teamwork?
4. Why do people usually do in their spare time?

Category 6: Additional test items (4 test items)

Describe an environmental problem. You should say,

What it is?
How long it has existed.
What effect it has brought to people's life./ What it happens?
What we can do to solve it.

Discussion:

1. What causes environmental problems?
2. What should the government do to protect the environment?
3. What should we do to protect the environment?
4. What other measures can you think of to protect the environment?
5. How should we educate children to protect environment?
6. What's the difference between the old and the young as regards environmental protection?

Describing a kind of extreme weather. You should say,

What it is.

When did it happen?

Where you were.

How you felt at that time.

Discussion:

1. What should you do in a bad weather?
2. Will bad weather mould or change people's personality?
3. What is the relationship between weather and culture?
4. The climate has changed these 50 years. Have you noticed the changes?
5. What changes do you predict in the following years?
6. Are the people interested in gathering the weather information in your place?
7. How does weather influence people's personalities in your country?

Talking about learning English. You should say,

When and where you began studying English.

What is the most interesting thing in an English class?

What is the most effective way of learning English?

What difficulties you have when learning English.

What are the advantages of learning English?

Discussion:

1. What problems do you have when studying English?
2. Do you think that English is the most important language in the world?
3. Can English take the place of Chinese in China?
4. What other languages are taught in China?
5. Do you think that age is the most important factor of learning English? Why?
6. What difficulties would a foreigner have when he learns your native language?
7. What problems would Chinese people have when communicating with foreigners?
8. When would be most suitable for children to learn English?
9. How will translation and interpretation develop in the future?

Describing the way of getting news. You should say,

Whether you get news everyday.

Whether the news is national or international?

How you get news (via newspaper, TV, Internet, radio or other people?)

How do most Chinese people think about the importance of getting update news everyday.

Discussion:

1. Do you think the information on the Internet believable or not?
2. What is the most effective way of getting news?
3. How do reporters gather information?
4. What do you think of the importance of privacy?
5. How do journalists entertain their customers?
6. What role do media play in people's life?
7. How do Chinese people gather information?
8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of different media?
9. Do you think it necessary to control the news coverage?
10. What kind of news do you think should be controlled?

5. Describing a skill you want to learn. You should say,

What it is.

Why you think it is important.

How you are going to learn it.

What role it will play in you future life. Discussion:

1. What do you think of the traditional skills?
2. What skill do you think the university has provided for your job?
3. What skills can you learn in school?
4. What kind of skills have your parents learned?
5. What do you think of the role of family for children to learn skills?
6. What is the most popular skill that people want to learn?
7. What kind of school would you send your children to? Why?
8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of school education and family education?

Sample Answer to IELTS Spoken Topics (Version 1)

1. Special gift:

Describe the best present/gift you have received :

i. Who send it? What is the gift? What is it for?

ii. When did you receive it?

iii. Detail information about the present.

Last year , my wife celebrated my birthday at home. She bought a electronic dictionary as birthday gift. I like the electronic dictionary very much. It's blue and quite small. It fits into my pocket. I remember at that time, my wife said to me : "she decided to immigrate to Canada with me. In future, we must study very hard .And she hoped that the electronic dictionary could help me to improve my English." On that day, I was very happy because my wife agreed to immigrate to Canada finally. Also, with the help of the electronic dictionary , I made such rapid progress that before long I began to write articles in English.

1) In China, when will people send the present?

Oh, attend the party, such as Wedding Party, Birthday Party. During Spring Festival, people give presents each other, including clothes, books, flowers and foods.

2) Compare the gift which people have received 10 years ago to the present that people now are receiving, what's the difference between them? (try to compare the gift you received in your teenage with the gift children received now)

Oh, I think the gift was monotonous before. For example, I often received a notebook as gift. But now, there are various gifts to choose from. Such as flowers, wine, food, clothes etc.

3) Just image the gift in the future children will receive.

In the future, I think more and more children will receive intellectual gifts, such as electronic dictionary, notebook computer and so on.

4) Just image the gift in the future people will receive.

In the future, oh, in most case, people will give flowers each other. I think flowers will be the most popular present.

2. building

What is the interesting building in your country?

What is it located?

What is it used for?

Explain why you think it is the most interesting?

I think the interesting building is the Great Wall. It runs across north China like a huge dragon. It was used to enemies. Soldiers used to keep watch on the Great Wall. When the enemy came , fires were lit to warn other soldiers. I think the Great Wall is the most interesting building. Because it is one of the wonders of the world and it was one of the few man-made objects on earth that could be seen by the astronauts who landed on the moon. Also, the Great Wall has become a symbol of both China's proud history and its present strength.

1) Are there some old buildings in your hometown? Where and Describe it?

Wenfeng Tower, built in 1420, is located in the southern of Anyang City. During the Ming and Qing dynasties, people came to the tower to worship the God of Heaven and pray for a good harvest. Nowadays, it serves as a museum of history . Murals of Wenfeng Tower give visitors a feel for the great artistic achievements of ancient Chinese civilization. In a word, I think the Wenfeng Tower is the most interesting building, and it is the oldest building in my hometown.

2) Compare the differences between the constructions in your city with them in 20 years ago? Describe the building styles in detail?

The traditional buildings are made of the red brick and always have curved eaves. Thousands of buildings look the same. But now, various buildings with different colors and styles have been going up in my hometown. In addition, room is equipped with kitchen and bathroom. This is very convenient.

3) What are people's attitudes to old building today and that of our later generation? Should we protect them? Why?

People, including our later generation, advocate that government should protect old buildings .Because old buildings represent the great artistic achievements of ancient Chinese civilization.

4) What role do you think the old and modern buildings play in the society?

Oh, modern buildings are for us to live and work, while old buildings are for us to visit and research.

5) Compare the differences between house and apartment?

In China, there is a big yard beside house, where we can plant some flowers and trees etc. But house is more expensive. Apartment is convenient and cheap but small.

3. Friend:

Who is your best friend?

How did you meet?

What do you do with your friend?

Tell me the way you make friends with others and you think what people should be your friends?

My best friend isxxx. We were in the same class for 5 years. At that time, we often gather together to study and play. Now, we work in the same company. Friendship is extremely important to me. It's like being brothers or sisters, but even more than that. I mean, I would do nearly anything for my friend, and I would expect that he would do the same for me. If he didn't help me when I was in need, then I would not consider him a good friend. I have a lot of different kinds of friends. Some are loud, others are shy. I prefer having a real variety of friends.

1) Do you think it is easy to make friends in China?

Yes, of course. Nowadays, transportation and communication are easy and convenient. We have more opportunities to meet all kinds of people and make friends with them.

2) what do you think the difference between adults and children making friend?

The difference is attitude or mindset between adults and children making friend. In general, children like to make friend with good students because they can help each other in studying. But adults make friends with anyone they like.

3) How do children make friend?

Children to children.

4) What is the most important thing in friendship?

Trust.

5) What is the second important thing in friendship?

Helping each other.

6) What makes friendship break up?

Misunderstanding For example, when I studied in Chongqing University, one day, my roommate lost his watch. He thought I had taken it. At that moment, I was very angry but I said nothing, and then I helped him to look for the watch. Finally, we found it in his pocket. My roommate apologized to me. I forgave him his rudeness. So, I think trust is the most important thing between friends.

4. Festival

There are many festivals in China, such as Spring Festival, National Day and Yuan Xiao Festival etc. The Spring Festival is the biggest festival in China. I suppose it's somewhat like Christmas is in western countries. Spring Festival is the only time when all families gather together and stores and business are closed for several days. During the Spring Festival, we eat delicious food, visit relatives and friends, and watch TV to welcome the New Year. I also like to try and contact some friends before and see how they're doing and what they're up to. We give each other presents for the New Year.

5.travel:

Describe your latest interesting travel in detail.

When and where you go?

Whom you go with?

What things you do?

Last year, I went to Shilin with my wife. Shilin, is located about 80 kilometers from Kunming. Kunming is the capital city of Yunnan Province .It took us 3 days to get Shilin. Shilin is famous for its large areas of stone forests. All stones in Shilin are vividly shaped, resembling various figures. Some stones look like a monkey, and some stones look like a bird. In a word, the stones are fantastic. In addition, I met a classmate of Chongqing University in Shilin. We talked about the things and persons which we remembered in school. I think that is an interesting trip.

1) Describe some interesting things happened during your travel. Can u describe it for me?

Ok. I met a classmate of Chongqing University .We talked about the things and persons which we remembered in school. I think that is an interesting thing.

2) What is your goal to travel and your reason to travel is

I enjoy traveling. It is so interesting to see how other people live, and it is really an amazing way to learn about different cultures.

3) Describe the advantage and disadvantage of travel for the country

Tourism is a useful source of foreign currency for the country, but sometimes so me visitors destroy cultural heritage.

4) Why China can attract people to travel?

A 5,000--year cultural heritage attract more people to China.

5) Do Chinese people like to travel now?

Yes, of course. Since the opening-up, transportation is easy and convenient. Also, we have

ample money for the journey.

6) Which festival do people travel in and where do people travel to?

We often go to resorts around National Day, such as Forbidden City, Summer Palace, and Temple of Heaven in Beijing.

7) Compare the difference about traveling among Chinese people between 100 years ago and now?

100 years ago, transportation was very difficult; few people could travel in China because most of people were very poor. But now, transportation is easy and convenient and we have ample money for the journey.

6. Natural scenery

What is the most beautiful natural scenery you have ever seen? What is the specific point? Where did you see it? Who did you go with?

Last year, I went to Shilin with my wife. Shilin, located about 80 kilometers from Kunming. Kunming is the capital city of Yunnan Province. It took us 3 days to get there. Shilin is famous for its large areas of stone forests. All stones in Shilin are vividly shaped, resembling various figures. Some stones look like a monkey, and some stones look like a bird. In a word, the stones are fantastic. Also, there is a lake in Shilin. Surrounded by green mountains and forests, the lake is not destroyed by any pollution. Travelers can row a boat on the lake or stroll on the shores to enjoy its special quiet beauty.

(1)What measures does your government take to protect natural scenery?

The government establishes protective zones of natural scenery .Educate people to protect natural environment. People who destroy natural scenery will be punished.

(2) Do you think it is effective?

Yes, of course. Establish protective zones can prevent pollution.

(3) What role does tourism play in your country's economy?

Tourism is playing a more and more important role in our country's economy. Since the opening up, the number of tourists has increased quickly, and this is a useful source of foreign currency for the country. (159 Also, tourism can accelerate other industry to develop.)

(4) What should you pay attention to in travel?

Safety, weather, and I think it is necessary to bring some medicine.

7. Transportation

Give me some opinion on the transportation in your city?

In my opinion, one of the biggest problems of transportation is traffic jams in Anyang city. It has become common to see passengers and drivers having to wait in long lines of buses and cars moving at a snail's pace on the streets during the rush hours. There are several reasons for this problem. First, the number of vehicles is increasing much more rapidly than the building of roads. Second, there seem to be too many private cars and not enough public buses. Third, many people, including drivers, pedestrians and cyclists do not obey traffic rules properly, especially at busy intersections.

In my opinion, one of the biggest problems of transportation is traffic jams in Anyang city. In view of the seriousness of this problem, effective measures must be taken before things get worse. On the one hand, the government should invest more money in the building of new roads and the repairing and maintenance of old ones, particularly those in busy areas of the cities. On the other hand, the number of private cars in urban areas should be limited while the number of public buses should be increased. At the same time, it is essential that stricter traffic rules and regulations be issued to strengthen traffic control.

1) Compare the different transportation, such as between plane, train and car.

Drive car to travel is convenient because we can set out at any time. But it is too slow and it may spend us much more time. Plane ticket is more expensive. So, I think train is the best transportation for me.

2) Can you just image the transportation in the future and describe it for me?

In the future, the speed of car, train and plane will be faster. And, the transportation will be easier and convenient.

3) Just compare the transportation in the past and now? What transportation do you like and why?

Nowadays, we have more choice on the transportation than the past. Such as tube, plane etc, even though in the small city. I like tube, because tube is safety and tube ticket is cheap.

8. Meaningful things (= handcraft)

9. Music:

What role do you think music plays in our life?

Just as other kinds of art, music has become an indispensable part of human culture. It brings us with nutritious spiritual foods, enriches our leisure life. In addition, music can do good to us very much. It can elicit the imagination of us. And, it teaches us how to distinguish beauty from nature. Listening to the music, I am sure you will soon be refreshed from a day's hard work and relax.

1) Can you tell me the western music's impact on the world music?

Oh, it is a difficult question, the western music is definitely great, and it plays an important role on the world music. Many musical talents and eminent musicians have been trained in western country, such as Beethoven, Mozart and so on.

2) Do you think it's necessary to open a music course in high school?

Yes, of course. There is usually 1 or 2 hours each week used for teaching music. I think there should be more, such as at least 3 or more.

3) What effects will take place u think to let children (students) study an instrument?

Music can do good to children (students) very much. It can elicit the imagination of children (students). Also, it teaches them how to distinguish beauty from nature.

4) It's often more easy for children to learn music than adults. Can you tell me why?

Oh, that's because it's important to have soft fingers and palm to learn a music mechanism, such as guitar. Children have more flexible fingers and they are more likely to find the correct feeling.

5) Do u like music or not? Why?

I like music. I like singing, especially in front of many people. I often sing for my friends. When they praise me, I feel happy. Also, listening to the music, I am sure you will soon be refreshed from a day's hard work and relax.

6) Describe the music you like most and tell me why?

I like classic music. It usually has a slow rhythm and a pleasant melody. Listening to the music; I can soon be refreshed from a day's hard work and relax.

7) What are the differences in music between China and western countries?

Oh, it is a big question; in general, the symphony of western countries is long while most of Chinese music is small piece.

10. Clothes:

u like what clothes?

Clothes aren't only used to keep us warm. It has become an important part of modern civilization. Different nations have different styles clothes. And different styles clothes represent different cultures. All people want their life to be filled with variety, color and comfort by wearing clothes. We will have a good mood when we wear beautiful clothes. I like leisure clothes very much. Because it is not only cheap but also convenient to wear. (In addition, the material of leisure clothes is more environmentally friendly.) But I must wear work clothes when we are working. Otherwise, I will be fined.

1) What's the prescript on clothes when you are working? and just the prescript on clothes in school. We must wear work clothes (a school uniform) when we are working (in school). Otherwise, we will be fined.

2) the different between the older and younger people on clothes. The older people think a lot of style and material. But the youger people would like to follow the fashion. Personality is the first consideration when younger people choose clothes.

3)compare the differences between the clothes in ur city with them in 20 years ago. In the past, the colors and styles of clothes were very monotonic. Thousands of people look the same .But now, we can wear clothes with different colors and styles .

11 Think of a person in your family that is the most similar to you.

Who is this person?

How is he/she similar to you?

What kind of family is yours? Is it of a typical family structure in China?

My family is a typical family in China. There are grandparents, parents, a brother, my wife and I in my family. I look just like my father. Medium build, pointed nose and dense black hair. My father is very kind and easy going. His love is the most selfless love. I am luck enough because I have a good father. My father has been specially thirsty for knowledge as he had only a few years of schooling himself. He believe that knowledge can change fate. So, my father offer more opportunity for me to study (no matter how poor my family was) To sum up, my family is harmony and our life is very happy.

1) What do you think are the differences between families in and past and today, and what have caused these changes?

In the past, there were several children in a family. But now, government has is sued "one--child policy" to limit the size of the family. So, there is only one child in a family. Couples will be punished financially if they have more than one child. This is "one --child policy ".

2)What is your opinion of "one--child policy"?

I agree with one--child policy. Because it is difficult to provide enough food and education for a large number of people. So, government must control the population. Also, it is the best way that we can find to control population.

3)What has your government done to support families?

Such as Project Hope . It means that government supports the students in poor families to continue their schooling and improving their education conditions.(6/1999 P10) In addition, our government establishes beadhouse to provide services for old people who have more difficulties or no families to take care of them. (3/199 9 P34)

12 Describe a teacher who has greatly influenced you in your education. You should say: where you met them what subject they taught what was special about them and explain why this person influenced you so much.

I think my first English teacher has greatly influenced me in my education. I had some trouble in studying English when I studied in middle school. I felt English was very difficult,so I didn't like to study it .One day, my English teacher spoke to me about the study of foreign languages . He said : " You must do a lotof reading , listening and speaking . Never mind, keep on trying, I believe you are a good student." In the years that followed , I studied hard and made greater progress. My English teacher loved his job and he was knowledgeable in his field. I love and respect him.

1) compare the differences between education in ur city with them in 20 years ago? In the past, many children can't go to school, and educational conditions were very poor. But now, government provide 9 years compulsory education. Each child who is 7 years old must go to school. And government provide much better facilities and staff. Also, schoolyards are beautiful than before.

2) compare the differences between university and middle school? We study basic knowledge in the middle school. But the course of university is practical and special, such as computer and business courses.

3)compare the differences between students now and past . At present , it is difficult for student to find job. So, their pressure is heavier than before.

13 Sports , Hobby

Describe an interest or hobby that you particularly enjoy:

1)What this interest or hobby is?

2)How long have you been doing it?

3)What effect has it brought to your life?

What do you think about the balance between the work and the leisure ?

I am a big table tennis fan, even though I am not very good at playing table tennis myself. I love to watch the game on TV. I have played table tennis whenever I get a chance since I studied in the middle school. Playing table tennis not only refreshes my body and makes me mentally alert ,and ready and eager to engage in the work of the day. In addition, a reasonable amount of exercise prepares the body for a good night's sleep. However, over-indulgence in physical exercise can do more harm than good. Because it will make you too tired to stay awake during the work.

1/ Is it dangerous for people to spend too much time on hobby?

Yes, over-indulgence in physical exercise can do more harm than good. I have noticed that some of my friends spend too much time on sports make themselves too tired to stay awake during the work.

2) Do you think hobby is beneficial to social life?

Yes, of course.I make many friends during playing table tennis. So, I think that hobby is beneficial the social life.

3)Why do people like to watch games?

Oh, it is a interesting question. Watching games can enrich our leisure life. Also, it is very exciting to watch a close game.

4) What are the advantages and disadvantages for watching games?

Watching games can enrich our leisure life. Also, it is very exciting to watch a close game. But over-indulgence in watching games can affect our rest.

5) What are the advantages and disadvantages between watching games and playing games/sports /

Watching games can enrich our leisure life. Also, it is very exciting to watch a close game. Take part in sports can build our bodies and keep us healthy. But, over-indulgence in watching games or in physical exercise can affect our rest.

6) Do you think which sports demand enough courage?

Oh, I think it is boxing. It is very dangerous and it can do harm to health of athlete.

7) What are the sporting facilities like in your hometown?

Anyang City has a lot of modern indoor facilities offering bowling, table tennis, swimming etc. But, it's too expensive for most Chinese, and you have to belong to the club in order to use the facilities. (P144)

14. Reading

Do you often read newspapers? What's your reading every day? (how frequent do you read?)

What do you like to read the best, I read newspapers every day, such as Workers Daily, Henan Daily. I enjoy reading. It is so interesting to see how other people live and it is really an amazing way to learn about different cultures. In addition, reading can do good to us very much. It can elicit the imagination of us. I also like to read the China Today and China Daily. Both of these magazines are in English, and it is a good way for me to improve my English.

1) Do you like to discuss with others when you read books?

Yes, I do. Because it is easy to understand the difficulty of books.

2) How long do you read ?

Usually, I read books or newspapers for 1 hour before I go to bed.

3) where do you like to read ?

In the library, because there are all kinds of books which I can read.

15.Handcraft

Describe a handcraft which is made by yourself Kite flying is popular in China.

Kites are often played with around the Qingming Festival in April. I like kites very much and I can make kites myself. Once, I made a kite . It was a beautiful swallow. Firstly , I collected 3 sticks and paper. The paper was adorned with paintings. Secondly , I used 3 sticks to control the paper , one linked to its neck , the other two linked with its wing. And then , the work was completed . The kite flew lightly in the sky as if the swallow was greeting the coming of the spring season. (2000/6) What handcraft are there in China? ? Folk papercuts , lanterns and kites , shadow play etc.

16 . Restaurant

on the test card

1) talk about your favorite restaurant.

2) why do you like it?

Sichuan dish features pungent, spicy and salty flavors and tend to go well with rice. Sichuan Restaurant is the largest restaurant in Anyang City. The restaurant t is a beautiful, clean and its price is cheap. My wife and I often have dinner in the restaurant on the weekend. Stir--Fried Shredded Beef is one of the restaurant's best dishes. It's made of fresh tenderloin and celery. Condiments include vinegar, rice wine and ginger etc. When finished cooking, the beef is red and the vegetables are green. The dish is very delicious.

extension of the card topic

1) What are the general ideas about fast food among Chinese people?

Although fast food has little nutritional value , but it is a blessing for busy people .Few people eat fast food all the time-- usually for breakfast and/or lunch--so they can help to balance their diet by eating a sensible evening meal. And I like to eat fast food.

2) What do you think about science in food processing (production)?

Scientific processing (production) is important. Because it can keep us healthy.

3) What is your opinion on food production and the world's population?

At present, it's difficult to provide enough food for world's population. So, on the one hand, we should limit population of world. On the other hand, we should manage to provide enough food.

17. Environment protect

Is there any pollution in your city?

(In Anyang City, pollution is serious.) With the development of modern agriculture and industry, more and more waste is produced. Most of this waste is harmful. It goes into the water, the soil and the air. Especially the air is often made very dirty by factories. In places around big factories, trees and vegetables are often killed by the bad air. Also, when we breathe the air, harm will be done to our health. Fortunately, people are beginning to realize just how serious the whole situation is. Government is taking measures to prevent pollution.

1) What has your government done to prevent pollution

The measures are:

(1)First, all new projects are to have lower discharge levels; (2) Second, all sources of pollution must be identified and monitored. (3) Third, all enterprises should assure a clean and safe work place.

18. Learn

What do you plan to learn in the future?

Why do you want to learn it?

Where and how will you learn it?

I plan to learn computer science in the future. I am very interested in it. There are too many things that I don't know about computers. Also, computers play an important role in our life and are of great use in every field. I think the whole society will be computerized soon. I need more knowledge in this field to meet the great demands of the application of computers. If things go well, I'd like to further my study in computer science and I want to work on my Master's degree in Canada.

1) What's the most important skill nowadays?

I think it is computer. Because computers play an important role in our life and are of great use in every field.

2) Are there any traditional skill in your country? What are they?

Yes, such as sewing and weave cloth. I remembered that my grandmother used to sew clothes herself. But now, few people can do it

3) Do you think it necessary to learn these skills?

No, I just don't like to spend much time on sewing. Because we can buy all kinds of clothes in shop.

4) Is there any difference between your parents' study and nowadays children?

In the past, when our parents studied in school, educational conditions were very poor. But now, children are lucky enough because government provides much better facilities and staff.

5) Do schools teach non-academic courses?

Yes, of course ,such as music, physical education, and painting etc.

6) Should school responsible for teaching these non-academic courses?

Yes, of course. Because school should stress student's moral , intellectual and physical development in a comprehensive way.

7) teacher

describe a teacher you like or dislike

8)useful machine

for example: you can talk about computer

9)national dish

Real interviews

TOPIC 1:

.Q: Describe the best present/gift you have received Requirement:

.i. Who send it?

ii. When did you receive it?

iii. Detail information about the present.

A: I have a Japanese friend. His name is Naoki Watanabe. I met him in Guangdong Sanyo Company in 1997. We worked together there for 3 months. Last year, he visited me in golden week. He gave me the Walkman which is made in Sony in Japan. I use it for listening to English. It is small and delicate (exquisite, fine), it is just as same as cassette tapes. The color is light purple and it has a very clear voice. He told me that the price of walkman was 10,000 yen. (Ten thousand yen, about90 us dollars) It helps me a lot for improving my English. I usually take it with me to listen to English after work.

Q: In China, when will people send the present?

A: In China, firstly, people send gifts on special holidays, such as in spring festival, we give our parents money, clothes, etc. Or we give our children red bags with some money, It means that we give them a next year's good luck. again, in a friend or relative's wedding, we usually give bride or groom a gift, the wedding gift includes money, craftwork, flower, new clothes and life necessities, also, on someone's birthday, we give him or her a gift, the birthday gift includes birthday card, flower, new clothes, secondly when close friends will part, they will give some souvenir gifts each other for happy memories of their friendship.

Q: Compare the gift which people have received 10 years ago to the present that people now are receiving, what's the difference between them?

A: Ten years ago, the gifts people received were simpler and cheaper ,but nowadays they are pretty fine by appearance, higher quality, more beautiful packaging I think people will send flowers as gifts, They are beautiful and cool, especially flowers can be used in all aspects both

good thing and bad thing.

Q: What do you think are the differences between families in and past and today and what have caused these changes?

A: In China, about 20 years ago families were large, \$B!! (Generally \$B!! (B, \$B!! (Beach family had at least 4 or 5 members, but now they are small, especially in big cities, they have one child. In countryside, they have no more than two children. The main reason for this is that we have the family planning policy, which is permitted to have one child. This policy has been executed for about 20 years.

Q: What has your government done to support families?

A: Our government provide the policy to encourage us to receive aids of money if we are too poor

Q: What is the interesting building in your country/city?

What is it located?

What is used for? Explain why you think it is the most interesting?

A: I am from Foshan. In my city, there is an interesting building whose name is Baihua plaza. It is located in the center of my city It has 65 stories, and is the highest building in my city. It is used for offices on 10th floor and over, It also has shopping mall from the first floor to the 8th floor. We can buy everything, such as foods, clothes, cosmetics, stationery, sports goods, and so on. The most interesting floor is on the 9th floor. It ha s a food street where you can eat various kinds of foods, such as Japanese foods, Thai foods, French foods. I like to visit there on weekends.

Q: What do you think are the differences between your grandpa's house and your building.

A: My grandpa's house is made of wood and soil. It is not strong. On the other hand, my house is made of steel and concrete. So it is strong. In addition, his house is small. It is about 30 square meters and mine is large, about 100 square meters.

Q:do you enjoy cooking ,why?

A: I like cooking. I came to be fond of cooking. I can cook what I like. If I have enough time, I can cook for my family.

TOPIC 4:

Q: what is your best friend? And how you met

A: My best friend is Mr. Sheng. I met him in 1993. He is my colleague. When I came to Foshan for the first time, I had difficulty in looking for my job. He encouraged and supported me. We have a lot common in hobby, such as playing Chinese chess, badminton

TOPIC 2:

Q: Think of a person in your family that is the most similar to you.

Who is this person?

How is he/she similar to you?

A: My brother is the most similar to me. He is 5 years older than I, We are the same height. We are one point seven meters and have the same many hobbies, for instance we like to go swimming, playing Chinese chess, and reading. In addition to these, we are very alike. Some of my colleagues get confused who I am. We have a sense of humor and like to make friends.

Q: What kind of family is yours? Is it of a typical family structure in China?

A: My family is large; I have Dad, Mom, two sisters, and four brothers. Our relations are very strong. We usually help with each other. I am very proud of my family. My brothers, sisters and I have already got married. Everyone has one or two children. I think my family is a typical one.

Q: What do you think are the differences between families in and past and today, and what have caused these changes?

A: About 20 years ago they were large in China. Each family had at least 4 or 5 children, but nowadays they are small, especially in big cities. In countryside's they have no more than two children. The main reason for this change is that we have the family planning policy, which allows us to have one child. This policy has been executed for about 20 years.

TOPIC 3;

Q: What is the interesting building in your country/city?

Where is it located?

What is used for? Explain why you think it is the most interesting?

Q: what do you think the difference between adult and children making friend?

A: Children make friends just for playing, if a child can play with another one, they will become good friends, and the friendship between children is more lily-white and nave. But adult make friends in many aspects, including play, business partner, colleague, anyone who has common in some aspects each other of course, the friendship has some profits for them.

Q: tell me the way you make friends with others. and you think what people should be your friends?

A: I make friends in many ways, for example introducing my friends to other ones, sometimes with Internet. I believe in the maxim "prosperity makes friends, adversity tries them" I can give my friend help if he needs, but if he did not do the same for me when I need, I will not consider him my friend

TOPIC 5: Festival

Q: describe the festival in your country:

(Chinese New Eve: 1. dinner (family gathering); 2. special programme on CCTV to welcome the CNY; Chinese New Years Day: 1. visiting relatives; 2. friends visiting. (all eating/drinking); the rest of the days: 1. shopping; 2. sightseeing.)

A: In China, the spring festival is the most important festival. It is just like a Christmas in the western countries. During the spring festival, we have seven-day holidays. We usually go back to our parents' home and get together. It is the only time that all of the stores are closed. We make delicious food for the gatherings. We usually visit our friends and relatives on Chinese Year's Eve. We watch CCTV special program for the spring festival.

TOPIC 6:

Q: describe your latest travel in detail. with whom? and the destination, it take u how long to get to the destination.

A: Last month I went on a trip to Xi'an with my wife and my daughter. We went there by train. It took about 20 hours from Guangzhou to Xi'an, I admit that Xi'an is my hometown. I have not gone back to see my parents for 4 years, We miss my family very much. After arriving Xi'an, we visited one of the 8th wonders of the world. That is terracotta warriors. My wife and I have visited several times before. I have long wanted to show my daughter the wonder of the world. This is the first time she visited. Unfortunately she did not like them. I thought she was too young to enjoy them. She is only 12 years old.

Q: describe the natural scene. Some interesting things happened during ur travel? Can u describe it for me? ur reason to travel is what?

A: The terracotta warriors is the tomb of Qinshihuang emperor about 2000 years ago, who is the first emperor in China history. In his tomb, there are thousands of terracotta warriors and

horses. These terracotta warriors are lifelike(?),also there are lots of ancient weapons such as swords, spears and so on. It is said that the swords are very sharp-edged now.If you visit the museum, you will find how magnificent it is.

TOPIC 7:

Q: give me some opinion on the transportation in ur city.

.A: My city is Foshan. Here the public transportation is mainly buses and trains. There are no planes. People own motorcycles and bikes for transportations. Motorcycles are very popular and convenient. More and more people have private cars. Because of the preferences of those, environmental pollution is a very serious problem here. We should develop the public transportations and restrict private motorcycles and cars. By doing so, the environment can be protected a bit.

Q: compare the different transportation, such as between plane, train, car.

.A: Generally speaking, planes are the safest traffic transportation. It is very fast, but the flight tickets are very expensive in China. If you have a long distance trip more than 800 kilometers, we should take planes. Trains are much cheaper than planes. If your destination is located near the train station and within 300 kilometers, you should take trains. They are more comfortable than planes. (??) of course, you take a plane or a train, you must catch plane or train by plane or train timetable. So the most convenient tool is car, you can travel anytime and anywhere you like.

.Q: can u just image the transportation in the future and describe it for me?

.A: The transportations in the future will be much more useful, safer and (??)Maybe it runs on land, on water and on air

Q:just compare the transportation in the past and now. u like what transportation and why.

A: In China, long time ago, people used horse, cows, on foot. Then it has changed into bikes trains, now we can travel by plane, train, bus, car, motorcycle. I personally like motorcycles, because they are very convenient.

TOPIC 8:

Q: describe the role music play in our life.

A: I think music plays the important role of our life. It makes our life brighter. When we are happy, we want to listen to music for pleasure. When we are blue, we can be encouraged by listening to music. It helps us to forget the sad things. It makes us feel comfortable.

Q: what effects will take place u think to let children study an instrument?

A;I think some children like music and they are interested in learning instruments such as piano, violin, dulcimer, electronic organ and so on. If they have music talents, they can become musician's .But some children hate to learn music instruments. If they are forced to learn by parents, they will not be able to learn music and other subjects such as English, mathematics, Chinese.

Q: u like music or not? Why? u think music play what role in ur life?

A: I like music so. When I was young, I did not learn any musical instruments, I liked reading books listening to music after work.

Q: describe the music u like most and tell me why?

A: I like some Chinese classic music, and western symphony such as Spanish corrido music. I like rhythmical and strong music.

TOPIC 9:

Q: u like what clothes?

A: I like the clothes which are comfortable for me to wear. I especially like sweat shirts, T-shirts and jeans

Q: the prescript on clothes when u r working?

A: Because I work for new high technology company, all the male colleagues wear western-style clothes. They include ties, white shirts, black suits, and black shoes. But female colleagues wear black skirts. The main reason for this is to establish a good enterprise image.

Q: and just the prescript on clothes in school.

A: In China school clothes are blue trousers, white shirts. There is a picture or name of the schools.

Q: the different between the older and younger people on clothes.

A: Generally speaking, young people like to wear fashionable clothes. But older people like to

wear traditional ones.

TOPIC 10:

describe a meaningful thing made by yourself.

.A:

TOPIC 11:

The most beautiful natural scenery you have ever seen

where did you see it?

Who did you go with.

.A: Last year I went to the seaside for a trip with my wife and daughter. The scenery there was very beautiful. It is the most natural scenery I have ever seen. The ocean was blue. There are a lot of seagulls flying over the sea. And the sand beach was clean. There was no pollution there. A large number of people go enjoy swimming, sun bathing. Playing with children.

Topic 12

Q: name

A: My full name is xxx. My family name is x and my given name is xx. Most of my friends call me "old li"(I have heard that "old " means "useless person" in western countries???)

Q: work

A:I am a computer engineer. My job is to analyze computer system and to develop soft ware's such as OA system (office automatization),industry control and enterprise management and so on,

Q: work plan in the future

A: My work plan is to finish my task assigned to my boss and to improve my knowledge constantly. Computer technology is developing so fast.

Q: how frequent do you read?

A: Inmy spare time I like reading including history, newspaper, of course my computer books.

Q: what do you like to read the best?

A: I like to read computer books the best. Because they are interesting and they are very important for my improvement of my job skills.

Q: where do you like to read?

A: Sometimes I enjoy reading at home, sometimes in our city library where there are a lot of new books.

Q: talk about your favorite restaurant. why do you like it?

A: There is a food street near my home. It has various kinds of foods such as Japanese, Italian and domestic foods from other regional ones for example Sichuan spicy food. Shanxi food. On the food street, not only can we taste foreign foods and other regional foods but also eat my hometown foods, especially the noodles in my hometown, the foods are very cheap and clean. So I like them very much extension of the card topic.

Q: your opinions on fast food

A: In my opinion, fast food is not healthy so it is not suitable for us to eat so frequently, but fast food is convenient and it can save our time and money. Some foreign fast foods such as McDonald's and KFC are very attractive for children because they have the different taste from Chinese ones. (??) the environment is very clean and beautiful. sometimes (??) they send our children toys as presents.

Q: general ideas about fast food among Chinese.

A: Chinese fast food, sometimes, is dirty ???

Q: what do you think about science in food processing/production?

A: I am not an expert for nutrition. I think the science in food process would not destroy the nutrition factor and not add any harmful ingredients such as additive, coloring matter and at the same time, it is conducive to protect our environment.

Q: what is your opinion on food production and the world's population?

A: The population is over 6 billion all over the world. There will not enough food for people to eat. So we should save the food and should not waste any food.

Topic 13

Section 1:

Q: What's your full name?

A: My first name is X, my given name is XX, but most of people call me Li Gong, It means Li Engineer.

Q: Do you work or still a student?

A: I am an engineer in a high technology company.

Q: Do you like your current job?

A: I like my job, because I find it very interesting. I have achieved my goals many times in my job, for example publishing some articles, finishing some complicated projects.

Q: How many languages can you speak?

A: I can speak Mandarin, Cantonese, English and a few Japanese.

Q: What do you think foreign language to people?

A: I think foreign languages are important to us, especially in the age of hi-tech info and globalization, if we can understand foreign languages; it is easy to communicate with foreigners.

Q: Future's plan?

A: My plan is to improve my English first, and then to find another better job. I hope to get a wonderful achievement in the field of my study.

Section 2:

Q: Building: where/what use for/why interesting?

A: I am from Foshan. In my city there is an interesting building which is called the Baihua Plaza. This building is located in the center of my city. It has 65 stories. It is the highest building in my city. It is used for offices from over the 10th floor. It is also used as a shopping mall from the first floor to the 8th floor. We can buy everything we need, such as foods, clothes, cosmetics,

stationery, and sports goods. The most interesting floor is on 9th floor. It is a food street where we can taste not only foreign foods and other province foods but also we can eat my hometown foods .especially the noodle of my hometown, The price of the dishes are very low and there are no problems as for hygiene so I like them very much.. I like to visit the food street on weekends.

Section 3:

Q: Are there some old buildings in your hometown?

A: My hometown is Xi'an .It is an ancient city. There are many old buildings there, such as temples, ancient city walls, towers.

Q: Where and Describe it.

A: The bell tower was built in about 500 years ago. Its height is about 20 meters. There is a great bell in the tower, It maybe tell their life period.

Q: What people's attitudes to old building today?

A: I think the old buildings have a lot of attractions to us. And at the same time there are some research values for ancient architectural technology.

Q: Should we protect them? Why?

A: We should protect them. (??)First they can bring tour income for our country, second they are of research value. Finally they are the culture inheritance from our ancestors (??)

Q: What role do you think the old and modern buildings play in the society.

A: The old buildings symbolize the ancient culture and civilization but modren buildings express modern cultures and civilization. (??)They are supplements each other (??).

Topic 14

What's your full name?

Do you work or study now?

Tell me something about your job.

Do you plan to change your job?

What's your future plan?

Q: Tell me something about the accommodation you live in, either here or in your hometown

A: I live in an apartment. We have two bedrooms, one living room, one kitchen and of course one restroom. The size of my apartment is about 100square meters.

Q: What are the advantage and the disadvantage of your accommodation?

A: The advantage is that my accommodation has sufficient sunlight from the windows, and a good ventilation system. And the disadvantage is that there is some noise because it is near the centre of the city.

Q: What's the weather like in your hometown? Which season do you like most?

A: In my hometown, it is extremely cold in winter. The temperature is about minus 15 degrees. Normally there is some storm snow but in summer it is fairly hot. The temperature is about 33 degrees. In spring and autumn, it is very nice. I like autumn the best because the weather is crispy and we can eat delicious fruits such as watermelons, apples, oranges.

part2:

Describe one sport that you like to play or watch most.

1. How do you begin to like it?
2. Why you like it?
3. How often do you play or watch it?
4. And explain why you prefer this sport to other sports?

A1: I like to go swimming the best, in my hometown there is a large pond. When I was a child, I began to learn how to swim in the pond. So I can swim very well, I like swimming very much. We can exercises every parts of our body by swimming. It can especially extend our vital capacities. In my high school days I got a swimming champion. I had much confidence of swimming by getting this prize. In addition swimming is an individual sport. I can swim anytime if the public swimming pool is open. But as for other sports such as football, basketball is team sports, if I want to play those, I must organize several people. Many people are very busy; it is very difficult for me to organize them. This is the main reason why I like swimming rather than other sports. I usually swim with my daughter in our city public swimming pool on every weekend.

A2: I like to watch NBA game. When I was in high school. I began to watch NBA. It is wonderful and all the players have comprehensive skills. It is usually blood-and-thunder. Sometimes in the last one second maybe a team defeats another team and wins the game instead of losing. I am

sure you agree watching such games are really enjoyable. If there is a NBA game on TV, I can surely catch the game. No matter how late it is NBA players win the game by skills and cooperate privacy. We know each player is professional and has special skill.

A3: I like to play badminton. I began to play it about 20 years ago. In those days I was in high school, I usually played it with my classmates after school. I also played it at university. I play it with my daughter and my wife on weekends.

part3:

Q: What's the difference between watching sports on TV and in the stadium?

A: Watching them in the stadium is more exciting than doing on TV. The more exciting atmosphere comes from the players and the audience. Especially the audience always gets very excited by a wonderful goal but watching games on TV at home is less exciting. This is why some of my friends like to watch the football games at midnight. They usually get sleepy before the game finish.

Q: Why people like to watch sports on TV?

A: I think watching sports on TV does not cost a lot of money. We do not need to buy any entrance tickets. Sometimes it is impossible for us to watch the game. (??) At the spot some games hold in another place, such as in foreign countries. (??) Watching sports on TV is safer than doing at the stadium because after the football games sometimes there are some riots among the fans on the street.

Q: What do you think the importance of playing sports?

A: I think it is very important for us to play sports, in the age of hi-tech information; a lot of people have stress even after work, so playing sports can relax us physically and mentally.

Q: If someone doesn't like sport, how do you push him or her?

A: I can tell them the importance of sports, and then I ask them to take part in the sports activities. I can teach them its skills. I think they will gradually be interested.

Q: Do you think playing too many sports is harmful? Why?

A: I think so. Everything has the limit including our bodies, too. (??) Many sports will break the limit, we will feel uncomfortable, so our bodies will be harmful, (??)

Q: disadvantage and advantage of watching and playing sports \$B!# (B)

A: Playing sports can exercise our body. If we win the game, we will be happy but playing sport too much makes us tired.(??) Watching sports is comfortable but they have little happiness when game win (??), and watching sports cannot exercise our bodies.

Topic 15

Part I

what's your name

Where are you come from?

Can you describe your home town?

Compare ShenZhen with your hometown, why did you decide to live in shenzhen?

A: My hometown is in countryside. Shenzhen is a modern city. The countryside is a quiet place. There are more modern entertainment and educational facilities and rich and colorful night lives in big cities, so in China most people like city lives.

Part II

Q: Introduce your hobby, why do you like it ?

A: I like to play chinese chess with my friends, although what I win is more than what I lose, but I like it very much because Chinese chess is a mind game and playing this game can improve our intelligence.

Q:What do you think about the balance between the work and the leisure.

A:I think when we are working we must do our best. We should enjoy our leisure time after work. No matter how busy we are ,we should find some time to entertain ourselves.leisure

Part III

Q: Introduce the eaten habit of the Chinese people

A:I think in the north China people like to eat the food made of wheat, such as mantou, noodle. On the other hand people in south China they like rice. In some provinces like Sichuan, Hunan, they like spicy foods. In addition, people in north like to drink wine. People in south like to drink beer. I think these eating habits may be different because of the differences of weather.

Q: Tell what shall you do in the future

A; I plan to make much money by my ability and wisdom. Then I am to travel around the world with my wife and my daughter. All of us like to travel. We have travelled many sightseeing spots around my country. I also plan to write a book about my travel memories.

Topic 16

Section 1:

What's ur full name?

Do you work now? or still a student?

Do you like your current job?

Future plan.

Describe your accommodation, and its advantages and disadvantages.

Do you like cooking? Why?

Section 2:

What do you plan to learn in the future?

Why do you want to learn it?

Where and how will you learn it?

A: I will continue to learn the computer technology. I can learn the latest technology. His specialty is computer science, I like it at the same time, I make a living for computer technology. I will learn it at my work time or my spare time at my office, at library, or at home.

Section 3:

Q: What's the most important skill nowadays?

A: In the age of hi-tech info, I think the most important skill is IT. If someone has a great skill in IT nowadays I think it is very easy for him to find a job with a high salary.

Q: Are there any traditional skill in your country? What are they?

A: the traditional skills include sculptor (who know how to sculpture), sewer (who know how to make clothes), and chef (who know how to cook food), carpenter or architect (who know how to build house) and so on.

Q: Do you think it necessary to learn these skills?

A: Yes, these skills are important parts of traditional culture. We need all kind of skills for our life.

Section 4:

Q: Is there any difference between your parents' study and nowadays children?

A: In the age of my father childhood, children hardly had opportunities to learn at school, they learned Chinese and mathematics in a small classroom. Sometime there were 3 to 4 children in the classroom. Of course the number of the teachers was very small. But nowadays in China

almost all the children have chances to go to school. There are 30 to 40 students in each classroom. There are more qualified teachers.

Q: Do schools teach non-academic courses?

A: Yes, Schools teach the students a lot of practical courses, such as how to operate computers, do business and communicate with others.

Q: Should school responsible for teaching these non- academic courses?

A: I think so; schools are responsible for teaching these non- academic courses for the purpose that their students could find a good job after graduation. If they cannot get a good job due to their lack of non-academic course, their schools are not responsible for their students.

topic 17

Q: tell me something about you hometown

A: My hometown is Xi'an, which is in the northwestern of China. It is famous for its sites especially for the terra cotta warriors, which is the one of the eight wonders of world. The weather is extremely cold in winter. The temperature is about minus 20 degrees, and in summer the weather is fairly hot, the temperature is about 40 degrees. Of course, spring and autumn are comfortable.

Q: the advantages and disadvantages living in your hometown

A: I think the advantage living in my hometown is as follows; firstly the prices of all food and vegetables are much lower. Secondly people are very kind. The disadvantage is that the weather is extremely cold in winter and fairly hot in summer.

Q: compare the clothes wearing in the work days and weekend

A: We wear western style clothes on duty, and on weekends. We like to wear T-shirts, jeans, sweaters. These clothes are more comfortable to wear.

Q: can you tell me something about the clothes which students wear

A: Students at school usually wear school uniform, which are white shirt and blue pants; there is a pattern of the school badge on the clothes.

card

Tell me a family member who is similar to you

1,who is them

2,what does she or he looks like

3,why do you think you are similar

next

Q: can you tell me the old structure about your grandparent's time

A: There were a lot of members of family, such as dad .mom, about 3 sisters, 5 brothers, at the same time; they had a lot of uncles and aunts. Namely they had a large family.

Q: can you tell the structure of Chinese family changed for your grandparents' time

A: Now we have a small family, There is only one child,(son or daughter) in Chinese cities ,but in country sides each family has no more than 2 children., we have the family planning policy. The increase of the population has caused a lot of problems, such as education problems, environment, pollution.

topic 18

Q: The most beautiful natural scenery you have ever seen

A Last year, I had a business trip to Shandong province, I went to a beach, where I think is the most beautiful natural scenery, the ocean is very blue. The sand on the beach is pretty clean. There is no pollution.

Q: how should we protect this natural scenery?

A: We should legislate laws to protect this scenery. In addition we should notice the consciousness of environment.

Q: what measures has the government taken to protect these natural scenery

A:I think the government have legislated a lot of laws to protect the natural scenery. And give some education for environment protection

Q:what effect do you think have they done?

A: After government taking some measures, our environment will have a great improvement.

Topic 19

Q: what do you do?

A: I am a computer engineer. I work for a hi-tech company.

Q:do you like your job, why?

A:yes I do,my job have bring me a lot of fun.???

Q:what's your hobby?

Card

What's your favorite sport, why, when did you begin? What merit does it have?

What do you think the balance both work and leisure?

topic 20

Q: where is your home town?

A: My home town is &&&.

Q: what's advantage and disadvantages of your home town?

A: advantage is that it's that its economy is &&&&, disadvantage is air pollution. and if you go on street wearing a white shirt, when you reach the destination, you can find your collar dark

Q: let's talk about the western music. Can you tell me the western music's impact on the world music?

A: The western music is definitely great. Often the symphony is long while most of china's music is in small pieces. Western music and Chinese ones are totally different. They are actually a great merit to human merit.

Q: why they are a great merit?

A: because they are ???.....

Q: do you think it's necessary to open a music course in high school?

A: Of course. There are usually one or two hours each week used for teaching music. I think there should be more, such as at least three or more.

Q: why?

A: Because music can do good for students. It can elicit the imagination of the children. It can teach them how to distinct beauty from nature.

Q: It's often much easier for children to learn music than adults. Can you tell why?

A: That's because it's important to have soft fingers and palms to learn music mechanisms, such as guitar. Children have more flexible fingers and are more likely to find correct feelings.

Q: ok. ok. Do you like music?

a: Yes. I like singing, especially in front of many people. I often sing for my friends. When they praise me, I feel happy.

Topic 21

Q: name

Q: work

Q: work plan in the future

Q: how frequent do you read?

A: Sometimes.

Q: what do you like to read the best?

A: I like to read caricature the best. It is very funny

Q: where do you like to read?

A: Sometime I read at the library or at the bookstore. Most of the bookstores are open,we can read books without buying them.

on the test card

Q: talk about your favorite restaurant.

Q: why do you like it? Extension of the card topic

Q: your opinions on fast food.

Q: general ideas about fast food among Chinese.

Q: what do you think about science in food processing/production.

Q: what is your opinion on food production and the world's population?

Topic22

Q: your favorite transport and the tool of travel

A: If the trip is not long, I like to use my motorcycle, if trip is long; I like to take buses, coach trains or planes.

Q: Now many people buy car, who buy and the benefit of using a car,

A: Normally, if a car is important or necessary to his work or to his hobby and he has enough money to buy and maintain a car, I think he will buy a car.

Q: and imagine the transport in the future.

A: Transportation in the future is much safer and faster. And more environmentally

Topic 24:

Q: What do you do?

A: I am a computer engineer; I work for a hi-tech company.

Q: work duty?

A: I am in charge of developing software's.

Q: do you like your job

A: Yes. I do. If I finish software, I will feel happy.

Q: if your are asked to change your job, what will you do

A: I will become a doctor ,and I hope to research new medicine for patients and save the patients who are suffering from cancer and AIDS,Ithink this is the most important things.

Q: what do you do at the weekend \$B!W%= (B

A: If I have money, I like to go shopping, If I have not enough money I like to look at the show windows, sometimes I like to play with my wife and my daughter. in the park

Q: what do you like to play \$B!W%= (B

A: sometime I like to play card with my friends,

Topic: interesting trip,

When/where/what/why

STAGE 3:

Q: do Chinese like to travel? Why?

A:I think everyone likes to travel in China, but about 20 years ago, Chinese people have little money to travel ,with the open policy more and more Chinese people like to travel, because they have more time and money for travel.

Q: what are the differences the Chinese tour between now and 100 years?

A: I think the biggest difference is transportation tools, now there are planes, trains, coaches, buses and motorcycles for travel, but 100 years ago they used animals or travel, such as horse on land, camel in desert.

Q: what holiday do Chinese like to tour, and where?

A: generally speaking,chinese people like to travel in the national days the spring festival, and international labor day, because in these holidays, we have a long holidays about 7 days. Most people make use of this holiday to travel sceneries such as famous mountains, museums, and galleries.

Q: what is aim of general tour?

A: to know outside world. And to enjoy their life

topic 25;

Q; what does the advertisement effect on sports?

A: well,we can see a lot of advertisements in sports stadium, I think, the more advertisements in the sports, the more successfully the sports games hold, because the sport organizer will get more money from advertisements and then do their best

