

LESSONS for IELTS



ADVANCED SPEAKING

New Oriental Education & Technology Group IELTS Research Institute



NHÀ XUẤT BẢN TỔNG HỢP
THÀNH PHỐ HỒ CHÍ MINH

NTV

Công ty TNHH
Nhân Trí Việt



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Dear Student,

As an advanced speaker who would like to use English fluently and accurately, you have made an excellent choice by deciding to use the IELTS Advanced Speaking Course.

The IELTS Speaking test can be challenging even for the most advanced speakers because, at higher levels, it requires not only accuracy but also flexibility, appropriacy, subtlety, and fluency.

This course provides advanced-level students with language and practice activities which will lead to higher band scores in the IELTS Speaking test. The course also contains tips and advice for engaging in a conversation-style test, where the skills of listening to the questions and responding appropriately are very important.

The course includes practice activities for Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the IELTS Speaking test. However, the main focus will be on Parts 2 and 3. You are advised to use the activities in Part 1 as a speaking warm-up for each lesson. These parts will give you a powerhouse of vocabulary and ideas that you can use to make your own answers for typical IELTS Speaking test questions.

In each unit, the focus in **Part 1** is on:

- breadth of coverage
- natural answers and language
- listening to the questions and answering appropriately
- fluency, speed, and quick reactions

The exercises in **Part 2** focus on:

- coherence and linking ideas
- giving examples
- personalising your story
- describing your reactions, feelings, and emotions
- avoiding hesitation and repetition

In **Part 3**, the focus is on:

- complex language to express sophisticated ideas
- academic vocabulary
- developing ideas
- thinking quickly

The examiner may ask you to clarify or develop your ideas in Part 3 of the test. Therefore, you need to demonstrate flexibility and control of language as you discuss possibilities and ideas, as these skills are key to gaining a higher-level score in the IELTS Speaking test. This course provides extensive practice of these important language areas within a conversational context so that you will feel confident to speak naturally, fluently, and accurately in the test situation.

This course is your pathway to success.

Pam Watson
IELTS Expert

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IELTS

Speaking

ADVANCED SPEAKING

UNIT

Part 1

Teacher Tip

It is important to listen carefully to the examiner's questions. Should you give an opinion, state a preference, or say what you usually do?

 Exercise 1

Work in pairs. Read the following IELTS questions and alternative answers and decide which is the better answer and why.

1. When do you usually read books?

Answer 1	Answer 2
Because I like reading books, I read mostly love stories and sometimes the newspaper.	Well, I don't have a lot of time for reading novels, but I like to read for a little while before I go to sleep every night.

2. Do you prefer going to the movies or watching videos at home?

Answer 1	Answer 2
Well, I like videos because I can stop the movie and have a snack whenever I want, but it's more exciting on the big screen.	I watch home videos in the weekends when I have free time, and I go to the movies in the holidays with my friends.

 Exercise 2

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127. Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

1. Did you answer the question you were asked?
2. Did you give a brief reason or example for your answer?

Exercise 3

Read the questions below and match them to the answers you hear. Note: The answers will not be played in the same order as the questions, so listen carefully.

Write the number of the correct answer in the space provided.

Now, look at the tapescript on page 129. Underline the specific words which answer the questions and **mark** the reasons and examples in the answers.

Then, write your own answer for each question.

Practise the questions and your own answers with a partner.

Food

Questions	Answers	Your Answers
What's your favourite type of food?		
Have you always enjoyed this type of food?		
Is this type of food popular in your country?		
Would you say that popular foods have changed much in your country over the last 20 years?		

Exercise 4

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Travel

1. Are you interested in travel at all?
 - Yes, I am. I'd love to go abroad and learn more about different cultures and people. I have only been to Asian countries, never to Europe or South America, for example.
2. Who would you prefer to go on holiday with, family or friends?
 - I'd prefer to go with friends. When I was younger, I enjoyed holidays with my family, but now, I'd like to go with people my age who enjoy the same things as me.

3. If you had to travel a long distance, how would you prefer to travel?

- By plane is really the best just because it's quicker, though it would have been really interesting to travel by boat or train in the past. You could see much more of the countryside then and make the travelling part of the holiday.

Home Town

4. What would you say are some of the best things about your home town?

- Well, my home town has lots for young people to do. There are shops and movie theatres, karaoke bars, games arcades ... roller skating, and other things I can't think of right now ... we're never bored.

5. Do you think it's a good place for young people to live?

- Yes, it's a great place and young people are very happy here. In fact, a lot of young people come here from the country areas when they are ready for university.

6. Does your home town have many tourist attractions?

- There are quite a few tourist attractions. There's an old, traditional part of town to see and a silk factory, and I think the tourists enjoy the markets. I don't really know much about the tourist activities in my own town because I live here all the time!

7. Is there anything you'd like to change about your home town?

- Yes, the traffic is a problem. It's getting more and more congested on the roads. We need to build more roads and encourage people to use public transport rather than private cars.

Part 2

Teacher Tip

If you want your talk to be coherent, convincing, and engaging, it is important that you link your ideas well. There are a number of ways in which you can link ideas, for example:

- using conjunctions like: and, but, so ...
- emphasising ideas
- repeating key words or phrases
- using pronouns to refer to ideas
- using synonyms when repeating ideas

However, do not overuse linking words in your talk.

Memorising them and using them too often will make your talk sound unnatural and will not give you a better mark in the test.

 Exercise 5

Look at the following two paragraphs.

With a partner, discuss which paragraph is more coherent and why.

Mark the words/phrases which make one paragraph more coherent than the other.

Try to find an example of at least three of the points mentioned in the Teacher Tip on the previous page.

Paragraph A

I would like to talk about my father. I have known my father since I was born. I cannot remember meeting him. I have memories of him from when I was a little girl. We have a photo which shows him and me feeding the ducks in Trafalgar Square in London. I look about 2 years old in the photo. He is kneeling down beside me. We are surrounded by pigeons. We both look so happy. That photo typifies our relationship.

Paragraph B

The person I'd like to talk about is my father. Of course, I have known him since I was born and I can't remember meeting him, but I have memories of him from when I was a little girl. We have a much cherished photo in our family which shows him and me feeding the ducks in Trafalgar Square in London, and I look about 2 years old then. He is kneeling down beside me, and we are surrounded by pigeons in that photo, and we both look so happy! In many ways, that photo typifies our relationship.

 Exercise 6

Read the task card below.

Then, read the sample answer.

Underline all the words and phrases which make this talk coherent (which link the ideas together to make this talk sound natural and fluent).

Task Card

Describe someone whom you have known for a long time.

You should say:

who the person is and his / her relationship to you

where or how you met him / her

how long you have known the person

and explain how he / she has affected or changed your life.

The person I'd like to talk about is my father. Of course, I have known him since I was born and I can't remember meeting him, but I have memories of him from when I was a little girl. We have a much cherished photo in our family which shows him and me feeding the ducks in Trafalgar Square in London, and I look about 2 years old then. He is kneeling down beside me, and we are surrounded by pigeons in that photo, and we both look so happy! In many ways, that photo typifies our relationship – he is showing me something, and I am happy and interested, and that was often how it was when I was growing up. He was the parent who played with us and answered our questions, and he always helped us with our school-work. I remember he would never tell me the answer; he always explained and made me work it out myself, and I used to get so cross! Then, suddenly, I would get it and rush away shouting 'thanks' until the next time.

My dad has been a huge influence on my life. I always remember a conversation from when I was about 10 or so, when he said that the greatest virtue in life was unselfishness. He certainly lived that philosophy himself and set his children that example in his own life. I guess the most obvious time was when my mum was sick. For the last two years of her life, she couldn't really get out of bed, and he looked after her, almost single-handedly. Not many people could have managed that, but he did it without complaint.

He was also a lot of fun, though, and he used to play cards and games like hide-and-seek with us and make silly jokes. He did the same with his grandchildren, too, and my children will always remember 'silly granddad' playing croquet with them on the lawn. I think I am very lucky to have a father whom I admire so much and who has had such a strong influence on my life.

Exercise 7

Use the **bold** language in the answer to the above exercise to plan your own answer on this topic. Use the structure indicated in **bold italics**. Work with a partner, speaking and listening to each other's responses to this topic. Then, practise further at home.

Part 3

Focus on the Question

Teacher Tip

In Part 3 of the Speaking test, the examiner will be asking you more detailed and abstract questions relating to the topic from Part 2. You may be asked to describe, explain, compare, talk about reasons and results, and speculate about the future.

It is important to listen carefully to the questions and understand what you are being asked to do.

Look at the following Part 3 questions. They are all asking you to use the same functional language. Decide whether they are asking you to compare or evaluate or describe.

1. Do you think there is a difference between young people's and older people's friendships?
2. Do you think friendships have changed since computers became so popular?
3. Do young people and older people make contacts and friendships in the same way?
4. Are friendships between boys and between girls the same?
5. Do boys and girls have the same kind of friendships?
6. Have friendships changed between your parents' time and today?

Developing Ideas – Language

Teacher Tip

When you discuss the topic in Part 3, you need to use frame-working language which is appropriate for the type of question you have been asked.

Look at the following questions and answers and underline all the language of comparison and contrast which is used to framework the answers.

1. Do boys and girls have the same kind of friendships?
 - I think that girls tend to have more intense and verbal relationships than boys do. Boys often bond by doing physical things together, whereas girls like to gossip and spend more time texting or chatting on the phone than boys do. Girls also argue much more often than boys, and they frequently change their alliances while boys are less obsessed with their friends.
2. Have friendships changed between your parents' time and today?
 - I think that the fundamental nature of friendship today is very similar to the past. People still make friends with their neighbours and at work, and they still value these friendships and want to nurture them. However, there are certainly some small differences. For example, people can communicate more easily over long distances today, so they can maintain their friendships for longer periods even when they move country or city.

Brainstorm other ways that you can compare and contrast in English. Then, check your ideas with the list in the vocabulary bank.

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the other comparing questions from exercise above. Try to use a variety of language for comparison and contrast.

Developing Ideas – Brainstorming

The topic for this part is friendship. Discuss the following set of general questions related to friendship. Note down some ideas for answering these questions and some examples from your experience.

1. Describe some of the common ways that people make lasting friendships with others.
Think about the Internet, school, clubs, family, other places ... and some examples.

2. What factors will influence whether or not people make friends?
Think about personality, how long they spend together, shared interests, other factors ... and some examples.

3. Do you think it is common for childhood friendships to last into adulthood? (Why / Why not?)
Think about why people would break friendships. Why would they keep them? E.g. going overseas, getting married, new friends ... and some examples.

4. Do you think friendships have changed since computers became so popular? (In what ways?)
Think about the Internet, social networking sites, online chat, and others. Are face-to-face friendships still important as well? What are the differences between face-to-face friends and online friends?

5. How do you think these trends might change in the future?
Think about other computer options or new technology, maybe you think friendships will not change ...

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above, using your notes to help you.

🔗 Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank

Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Expressions

I'm (less / more) interested in + noun / gerund (+ than) ...
 I find + noun / gerund + interesting.
 I don't mind + noun / gerund / whether I / if I ...
 I'm too lazy / tired / busy / active to + base verb ...
 You can make someone / something part of the event.

Talking about Past Memories

I can't remember + noun / gerund ...
 I remember + he / she / noun + would always ...
 That is / was how it was when ...
 I always remember when ...

Comparison and Contrast

Comparison

comparative adjectives

Girls have more intense relationships than boys.
 Girls are more communicative than boys.
 Girls are friendlier than boys.
 They maintain friendships for longer periods (than) ...

more + noun

Girls spend more time chatting than boys.
 They have more money (than) ...

comparative adverbs

(much) more often (than)
 more frequently (than)
 more easily (than)

using (much) more to modify a verb

Girls argue much more.
 They talk more.

using similar (to)

They have similar feelings.
 Relationships today are similar to those of the past.

Contrast

using different (from)

Girls are different from boys.
 They have different points of view.
 Friendships are different now.

using the coordinating conjunction but

Girls like conversation, but boys like action.

using linking words such as however, on the one hand ... on the other hand

Girls like gentle play; however, boys prefer rough play.
 On the one hand, girls are often talkative; on the other hand, boys are frequently silent.

using subordinating conjunctions such as while and whereas

Boys do physical things, whereas girls like to gossip.
 Girls have lots of friends, while boys have just a few.

Topic-Related Vocabulary

Ways That People Make Friends	Friendship
join a sports club become a member of an exclusive club attend a social function go to a charity function play a sport	a close / intimate / lasting / lifelong / long-standing friendship develop / form / renew / destroy / spoil a friendship a friendship between a friendship with
Influence of Technology	Factors That Influence Friendship
participate in social networking subscribe to a social networking site chat with instant messaging participate in a forum use online communication tools contribute to a blog / wiki send regular e-mails	trust dishonesty betrayal time commitment loyalty

 Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

In this section, we will identify and discuss some common problem areas which can prevent candidates from gaining higher scores in the IELTS Speaking test.

Look at the samples below: the first one is a typical IELTS Part 3 answer, but the second one is much better and would get a higher score.

Do you think that there is a difference between young people's and older people's friendships?

Answer 1:

- Yes, I do. I think young people usually make friends quickly, and they can be friends with someone if they only know them for a short time. Old people develop friendships more slowly, and they are slower to make friends, but young people are faster, I think. Young people can be friends with others after they only know them for a short time. Old people know their friends for a long time; they are slower.

Answer 2:

- Yes, I think this is true. One difference that I have noticed is that young people tend to make friends quite quickly. Maybe this is because their lives aren't settled yet, and they move around to different places to study, and maybe they also have more time for making new friendships than older people because they don't have so many responsibilities. Kids at school, for example, spend a lot of time chatting to each other between classes or texting on their phones. Old people, in my view, tend to keep their friends longer, and they don't make so many new friends. Perhaps this is because they have a lot of shared memories or experience with their friends, like watching

their kids grow up together or working in the same job for many years. But, of course, everyone is different, and personality can be another factor besides age.

Discuss with a partner:

1. How many ideas are there in each sample?
2. How are these ideas developed? (e.g. with examples, with reasons, with further ideas ...)
3. Now, look closely at the second answer. Look for:
 - a. starter language
 - b. linking language for reasons, examples, and further ideas

Teacher Tip

In Part 3 of the IELTS Speaking test, you have a chance to show your language skill and to develop ideas in more depth. It is important not to repeat the same ideas several times, but rather to extend your answers by explaining the reasons for your ideas or by giving examples.

 **Listening to a Model**

Listen carefully to the questions and answers on the recording.

Listen to the examiner's questions and notice how they respond to the candidate's answers. There are six questions in total. Write the numbers of the questions which:

- a. introduce a new part of the topic
- b. ask the candidate to expand an answer or to add more information

Notice how the examiner is asking the student to develop ideas in more detail.

 **Practice**

Work with a partner. Use the six questions you have just heard in the task above and take it in turns to ask and answer. You can follow this pattern:

- use a starter
- give an idea
- develop your idea with a reason, using a reason linker
- add an example
- give another idea
- develop this idea with reasons and examples

ADVANCED SPEAKING

UNIT

2

Part 1

Teacher Tip

When it is appropriate, give a reason for your answer. If you find yourself only answering 'yes' or 'no', you have not said enough. This is especially true of closed questions, which often begin: 'Have you ...?' and 'Do you ...?' Don't be tempted to give a one-word answer and nothing else. Ask yourself 'why' and expand your answer. This can include examples of what you are talking about to make your answer clearer and more coherent.

 Exercise 1

Work in pairs. Read the following IELTS questions and alternative answers and decide which is the better answer and why.

1. Which season do you enjoy the most?

Answer 1	Answer 2
Winter. Winter is definitely my favourite season.	Winter is the most enjoyable season for me because I love lots of things about it: the snow, warm cosy fires, and wrapping up warm in a scarf, gloves, and a hat.

2. Has this season always been your favourite?

Answer 1	Answer 2
No, actually, as a child, I really used to prefer summer.	As a matter of fact, no, it hasn't. When I was younger, I always loved spring as a season, as that was the time when my mum used to take me on walks through the countryside, and all the spring flowers were so magical.

 Exercise 2

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127. Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

1. Did you give a brief reason or example for your answer?
2. If the question was 'closed', did you expand your answer?

Exercise 3

Look at the following sample questions. Decide which questions are 'closed' and which questions are 'open'.

Questions	Open or Closed Question?
Fruit and Vegetables	
1. Do you usually eat fruit and vegetables every day?	
2. What kind of fruit do you enjoy the most?	
3. Did you enjoy the same type of fruit when you were a child?	
4. Do you prefer to eat fruit or vegetables?	
Shopping	
5. Where do you normally go shopping?	
6. What do you like about shopping in this place?	
7. Do you prefer to shop by yourself or with other people?	
8. Is there anything that you don't enjoy about shopping?	

Now, go back and write notes for your response to each question. If it is a closed question, try to think about how you could expand your answer with reasons and note down an idea for at least two examples.

For example:

Do you usually eat fruit and vegetables every day?	Yes. They're good for me. bananas – breakfast apple – lunch melon – after dinner
--	---

 **Exercise 4**

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Teacher Tip

Expanding your Part 1 answers does not mean that you go on and on. Just make your point and finish confidently. Usually, about three sentences are sufficient.

Fruit and Vegetables

1. Do you usually eat fruit and vegetables every day?
 - Yes, I do. I usually have bananas with my cereal at breakfast time, an apple for lunch, and sometimes I have melon or some other type of fruit after the main meal. I eat lots of vegetables each day as well because they're good for me.
2. What kind of fruit do you enjoy the most?
 - I really love bananas because I enjoy the flavour and the fact that they are convenient to take to school, and they fill us up easily. They're also healthy.
3. Did you enjoy the same type of fruit when you were a child?
 - No, I don't think so. I used to hate peeling the skin of bananas, so I never really enjoyed eating them. Then, when I got a bit older, I changed my mind.
4. Do you prefer to eat fruit or vegetables?
 - Sometimes, I think I prefer vegetables because they are always part of the meal, not separate, so it's easier to get enough vegetables to stay healthy. But then, fruit is so sweet and delicious. I guess I enjoy both fruit and vegetables equally.

Shopping

5. Where do you normally go shopping?
 - I tend to go shopping at the local shopping mall, but it depends on whether I'm shopping for clothes or whether I'm shopping for food. If it's fresh food, I usually go to the markets because they have the freshest produce and it's cheap.
6. What do you like about shopping in this place?
 - Well, I like the mall because everything is in one place and it's so convenient and easy. And I enjoy the markets for the atmosphere and the better prices.
7. Do you prefer to shop by yourself or with other people?
 - If I'm shopping for clothes and so on, I like to go with my friends because it's always good to get an opinion on what looks good, and my friends are always honest. There's nothing worse than buying something, getting it home, and then never wearing it again!
8. Is there anything that you don't enjoy about shopping?
 - I don't really like spending too much money – then when I get home, I feel guilty about going shopping! So, I like to find bargains and get my money's worth. Oh, and I hate it when I buy something, and it practically falls apart after the first wash. That's so annoying!

Part 2

Teacher Tip

The key to presenting a well-organised Part 2 speech and not running out of things to say is in the planning stage. You have one minute to look at the task card before you begin to speak. Use this time efficiently:

- Quickly read the topic and each prompt on the task card.
- Make brief notes of the prompts so you will cover each area and have ideas about what to say. Remember, you will not have time to write full sentences, so note down key words only.
- Use the prompts on the task card to help you to structure your answer as you talk.
- Do not waste your planning time trying to think of the most interesting or clever story. It is better to quickly decide on a story that you know you can talk about for the whole two minutes.
- Do not try to remember pre-planned answers because you will lose marks by reciting. The best way to prepare is simply to practise speaking for two minutes on a range of different Part 2 topics.

 Exercise 5

Look at the following Part 2 task card. Quickly underline the key words.

Task Card

Describe an exciting piece of news you received.

You should say:

what type of news it was

how you received it and who told you

where you were when you received the news

and mention how you reacted when you got the news and what you did afterwards.

Now, write at least one key word for each point. Look at the example to help you.

Example

Describe an exciting piece of news you received.

You should say:

what type of news it was

- sister's baby

how you received it and who told you

- sister's husband phoned

where you were when you received the news

- in class

and mention how you reacted when you got the news and what you did afterwards.

- excited, rushed to hospital

 **Exercise 6**

Now, you have the basic outline of your story, it's time to put it together. You will need to include additional information to make your talk long enough.

Read the following two paragraphs which both tell the same story. What is the difference between them?

Paragraph A

I received some really exciting news about a year ago when my niece was born. It was the middle of summer and very hot, and I was teaching class at school. My sister's husband called me to let me know, and I was so proud and quite emotional. I rushed out from class and went to the hospital to meet the new member of the family! Luckily, there was a teacher available to teach my class. So, that was the piece of exciting news that I received.

Paragraph B

I'm going to tell you about some really exciting news that I received about a year ago, when my niece, Sophia, was born. It was summer time, so it was very hot, and my sister was sick and tired of being pregnant – she was very big by this stage, and the hot weather was extremely uncomfortable for her. Anyway, the baby was about a week overdue, and the whole family was anxiously awaiting its arrival. It's our first baby of the new generation, you see. It was a weekday and unbelievably hot. Then, in the middle of the afternoon, I received a phone call on my mobile phone from my brother-in-law to tell me that they had had a baby girl! I wasn't surprised, but I was absolutely thrilled! He had been calling all the immediate family and was quite emotional, but I couldn't talk to my sister as she was sleeping. I was teaching a class when he called me, and when he told me the news, I felt so emotional as well. In fact, I felt like crying a little bit, but I didn't really want to burst into tears in front of all my students, so I stepped into the corridor and had a quiet moment by myself. I had to leave school quickly as I wanted to get to the hospital to meet my new niece as soon as possible. Luckily, my students were very understanding, and another teacher stepped in to teach them for the afternoon. It was nice to receive a phone call for this type of news as it is so special. You don't want to hear about it on e-mail or something! Or Facebook – that's often how people get news these days. No, I'm glad that they decided to call people and tell them because it's so much more personal. So, that's the exciting news that I received, and I'll never forget that special day.

 Developing Ideas – Language**Teacher Tip**

In Part 3, you need to use frame-working language which is appropriate for the type of question you have been asked. For descriptive questions, it is often necessary to generalise about people or situations (use plural nouns to reflect this). For speculative questions, you will need to use the future simple (will + base verb) and modal verbs of possibility, such as may, might, and could (+ base verb).

Look at the answers 1, 2, 4, and 5 and underline all the language of generalisation and description which is used to framework the answers. For answers 3 and 6, underline the language of speculation which is used.

1. What kind of news is cause for celebration in your country?
 - People often celebrate the type of news related to different stages in life. For instance, certain birthdays are quite special, such as 18, and then I think 30, 40, 50, and so on. Also, news like people getting engaged, or married, or having a baby – all of these things are celebratory news. Getting a promotion at work or getting a new job is also the type of news that people generally share and celebrate with others, whether it's family or friends, or both.
2. What do people in your country normally do to celebrate exciting news?
 - It nearly always involves people getting together and sharing special food and drink. For instance, for a big birthday, there's always some sort of cake and candles which the person has to blow out. On big occasions such as weddings, people usually make speeches about the couple and wish them well. Oh, and there's generally a wedding cake as well, which is cut together by the bride and groom. For other types of smaller everyday celebration, people usually just share food and drink and enjoy each other's company.
3. Do you think the ways people celebrate will change in the future or stay the same?
 - I think that the ways people celebrate will probably remain similar to the ways they are now, simply because the traditions we embrace today have always been in existence. It's a way for us to maintain a connection with tradition and our ancestors, so I don't believe that will ever be lost. Of course, you can see the effects of technology nowadays in events such as weddings, where relatives in different countries who could not attend the event give a speech via live video link, but I think this just adds to tradition rather than representing a change, and I think this will be the same in the future.
4. What are the types of skills necessary to be a good communicator?
 - I think there are many skills required to be a good communicator, but the most important of these is probably, first of all, to be a good listener. In general, very few people actually really listen to what others are saying, and I think this is the crux of many communication issues between people. The second important skill is to show that you have been listening, so you need to reflect back the main message of what someone has just told you. And expressing yourself concisely and clearly is very

important as well. Verbal communication is just the start; body language is also relevant to being a good communicator.

5. What sort of communication problems can arise between people?

- I suppose one of the biggest problems that can occur is related to misunderstanding, and all the subsequent issues and problems that can happen as a result of this. The problem gets bigger and bigger, and finally, no one is listening to anyone else, as they have usually become angry and frustrated and resort to shouting over each other. There can also be a lot of problems related to cross-cultural communication, where people take or cause offence due to a lack of understanding of the cultural norms of a country. However, I still think that if people genuinely make an effort to really listen, they can overcome a lot of problems associated with communication difficulties.

6. How do you think the ways people communicate might change in the future?

- I certainly hope that people might improve their communication skills as a result of awareness and reflection on communication problems at all levels of society, whether it is between men and women, or between countries and governments. However, I think that, unfortunately, things may well remain very similar to the way they are now. I think the changes will occur in the types of media and technological tools that people use to communicate with each other, but on the whole, I'm sure that nothing much else will change as communication skills and deficits are part of human nature and experience.

Developing Ideas – Brainstorming

The topic for this part is news and communication. Discuss the questions in preparation for giving your own answers. Note down some ideas for answering these questions and some examples from your experience.

1. What kind of news is cause for celebration in your country?

Think about people you know – what personal news do they celebrate?

Think about major birthdays – which ones are special?

Think about major celebrations – wedding, engagement, graduation, promotion, retirement ...

2. What do people in your country normally do to celebrate exciting news?

Think about some of examples you gave in the previous question.

 Exercise 7

Read the sample answer (Paragraph B) on page 20 and match the parts of the text to the notes on the task card. What type of extra information is given? Identify examples of this in the text.

To brainstorm extra descriptive information, ask yourself the following questions:

- **What?** What was the situation at the time? What happened before you received the news? What happened afterwards? What was the context of the news? What were other people's reactions?
- **Why?** Why was the news so exciting?
- **Where?** Where were you when you received the news? Where was the person who was telling you the news?
- **How?** How did they tell you?
- **Who?** Who told you? Who else was involved in sharing the news? Who were you with at the time of receiving the news?
- **When?** When did you get the news? Were there any delays? Why?

 Exercise 8

Use the notes you made on the task card in Exercise 5 to plan your own answer on this topic. Add descriptive background information at the beginning of your talk to set up the context of your story and to give you more to talk about. Offer some personal comments at the end of your talk to signal you have finished your story, then round it off with a concluding comment.

Work with a partner, speaking and listening to each other's responses to this topic. Then, practise further at home.

 Exercise 9

Student A, look at Task Card A and Student B, look at Task Card B. Allow yourself one minute to make notes, then work with your partner, who will time you speaking for two minutes. After you have finished, swap cards and repeat the process for further practice.

Task Card A

Describe a time when you were surprised.

You should say:

what the surprise was and when it happened

why you were surprised

how you reacted and what you did afterwards


and mention whether you enjoyed the surprise or not.

Task Card B

Describe a special meal that you had.

You should say:

- what the meal was
- who you were with
- what the occasion was
- and why the meal was special for you.

Part 3 **Focus on the Question****Teacher Tip**

In Part 3 of the Speaking test, you may be asked descriptive questions. These questions ask you to describe situations, society and people, and you should use your knowledge of your own country to answer them, because this is what you have the most in-depth knowledge about.

This type of question often begins:

- What type of ...
- What kind of ...
- What sort of ...
- What do people in your country do to ...
- What are the typical ...

Another type of question in Part 3 is based on speculation, that is, you need to make predictions about what might happen in the future. These questions often include a time reference such as 'in the future' or 'in the next decade / twenty years'. Remember, there are no wrong answers here, and you can use your imagination as long as you support your ideas with examples and reasons.

Look at the following Part 3 questions. Decide whether they are asking you to describe or speculate or both. Then, underline the language which tells you what types of question they are.

1. What kind of news is cause for celebration in your country?
2. What do people in your country normally do to celebrate exciting news?
3. Do you think the ways people celebrate will change in the future or stay the same?
4. What are the types of skills necessary to be a good communicator?
5. What sort of communication problems can arise between people?
6. How do you think the ways people communicate might change in the future?

Are there parties or ceremonies?

What type of special food is there?

What types of special activities are there?

3. Do you think the ways people celebrate will change in the future or stay the same?

Try to think about the future – how might technology have an influence?

What about the impact of tradition? How might this have an influence on the future?

4. What are the types of skills necessary to be a good communicator?

Think about people you know who communicate well. What good skills do they have?

5. What sort of communication problems can arise between people?

Think about any communication problems that you have experienced or observed among others. What went wrong? Why?

6. How do you think the ways people communicate might change in the future?

Consider changes in technology which might have an influence.

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above, using your notes to help you.

Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank


Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Expressions

Part 1	Part 2																		
<p>I enjoy the + noun ... I enjoy the fact that ... I used to hate ... change one's mind I prefer ... because ... I enjoy both noun and noun equally. It depends on whether ... or whether ... There's nothing worse than ... spend (too much) money find bargains get one's money's worth I hate it when ...</p>	<p>Introducing and Concluding</p> <p>I'm going to talk about / tell about / describe ... The experience I'm going to talk about is ... A time when I ... was ... It was a special day ... I'll never forget that day / experience ...</p> <p>Collocations: Communication</p> <p>communicate with someone communication between people communication skills communication problems / difficulties / issues communication breakdown express oneself body language / non-verbal communication</p>																		
Part 3																			
<p>Generalising, Describing, and Speculating</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>tend to</td> <td>might</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On the whole, ...</td> <td>may</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Generally speaking, ...</td> <td>will</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In general, ...</td> <td>won't</td> </tr> <tr> <td>nearly always</td> <td>probably</td> </tr> <tr> <td>usually</td> <td>certainly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>normally</td> <td>hope</td> </tr> <tr> <td>many</td> <td>remain</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>could</td> </tr> </table>		tend to	might	On the whole, ...	may	Generally speaking, ...	will	In general, ...	won't	nearly always	probably	usually	certainly	normally	hope	many	remain		could
tend to	might																		
On the whole, ...	may																		
Generally speaking, ...	will																		
In general, ...	won't																		
nearly always	probably																		
usually	certainly																		
normally	hope																		
many	remain																		
	could																		

Topic-Related Vocabulary

Part 1	Part 2 & Part 3	
<p>Fruit and Vegetables</p> <p>good flavour convenient to take healthy sweet delicious</p> <p>Shopping</p> <p>shopping mall market produce fresh cheap convenient easy atmosphere bargain</p>	<p>Types of Personal News</p> <p>birthday engagement wedding marriage retirement promotion new baby new job</p> <p>News and Celebration</p> <p>thrilled emotional personal proud special tradition connection speech excited food and drink</p>	<p>Communication</p> <p>a good listener express concisely clearly frustrated cross-cultural communication cultural norms misunderstanding</p>

 Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

1. Listen to the two answers to the following Part 3 question:

What sort of communication problems can arise between people?

Discuss with a partner:

- ① How many times were the following words repeated in Tapescript 1?
 - a. communication
 - b. problem(s)
 - c. interrupted / interrupting / interruption
- ② How many times were the following words repeated in Tapescript 2?
 - a. communication
 - b. problem(s)
 - c. interrupted / interrupting / interruption


Teacher Tip

View Part 3 questions as an opportunity for you to show your language ability. One of the marking criteria in the IELTS Speaking test is called 'Lexical Range', which means the examiner will be considering the range of vocabulary you have shown in your answers. Therefore, try to use synonyms in place of repeating key words, as shown in Tapescript 2 of the above exercise. This will demonstrate a wider range of vocabulary.


2. *Brainstorm possible synonyms for the key words used in the answers.*

- communication _____
- problem _____
- interrupt _____

 **Listening to a Model**

-  1. *Listen to the examiner's questions and decide which type they are: describing, speculating, or comparing (which you covered in Unit 1).*

Questions	Type
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

-  2. *Listen carefully to the answers and note down any linking devices which the candidate uses. Remember, linking devices help provide your answers with a coherent structure and include words like: first of all, however ...*

- Answer 1: _____
- Answer 2: _____
- Answer 3: _____
- Answer 4: _____
- Answer 5: _____
- Answer 6: _____

Practice

Work with a partner. Use the questions below and take it in turns to ask and answer. Remember, try not to repeat key vocabulary items too much – practise using synonyms in their place where you can.

News Media

1. What are the main ways that people access news in your country?
2. Do you think these methods will remain the same in the future?
3. What do you think are the most important qualities for a news journalist?

Communication

4. What sorts of communication problems can occur between people who do not speak the same language?
5. What measures can be taken to address these problems?
6. Do men and women communicate in similar ways? How?

ADVANCED SPEAKING

UNIT

3

Part 1

Teacher Tip


In Part 1, it is important to pay attention to the tense of the questions. Are you being asked about the past, the present, or the future? Questions about the past will often focus on your experience; questions about the present might ask you about likes and dislikes, habits and routines and, although they are less common, questions about the future are also possible in Part 1. Occasionally, you might be asked a question which requires you to offer a comment or opinion. Listening carefully to the questions will help you to determine which time period you are being asked about.

 Exercise 1

Read the following Part 1 questions and answers. What is the problem with the answers? Discuss with a partner.

- Have you always enjoyed this type of fashion?
 - I think I will always like it, yes, because it never goes out of style. It always represents a classic look, and I think it expresses my personal style very well, so I will always incorporate it in my dress.
- What do you think clothes and fashion can tell you about a person?
 - About me, they express that I am fun-loving and creative, and that I care about how I look no matter if I'm going to the grocery store or out for the evening to a restaurant.

 Exercise 2

 Listen to the following Part 1 questions and decide whether they ask you to talk about the past, present or future, or whether they ask for your opinion. Then, write the language clues which help you to decide.

Questions	Types (Past / Present / Future / Opinion)	Language Clues
Colours		
1. What's your favourite colour?		
2. Was this colour your favourite when you were a child?		

3. Is your favourite colour popular with your friends also?		
4. What do you think you can learn about people from the colours they like?		
Where You Live		
5. What type of building is the house you live in?		
6. What do you like most about living there? Why?		
7. Do most people in your city or town live in similar-type buildings?		
8. Do you prefer to live in old buildings or modern buildings? Why?		

Exercise 3

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127. Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

1. Did you interpret the 'time' of the question accurately?
2. Did you accurately form correct tenses in your answer?

Exercise 4

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Teacher Tip

Remember to aim for accurate formation of tenses in your answers. Use the examiner's questions to guide your selection of tenses and language. You can even use part of the question in your answer to help you.

Colours

1. What's your favourite colour?
 - My favourite colour is black because it's classic and versatile. A lot of my clothes are black, but I enjoy brown as well. Around the house, I prefer brighter colours but nothing too loud.

2. Was this colour your favourite when you were a child?

- No, I think as a child, I preferred brighter colours, like blues and greens. I don't really remember very well, but I'm pretty sure I didn't wear much black back then. And at school, we used to paint with lots of vivid colours.

3. Is your favourite colour popular with your friends also?

- I would say so, yes. You can't really go wrong with black because pretty much everyone looks good in it. My male friends definitely prefer dark colours, and all my female friends wear a lot of black because they think it makes them look slimmer.

4. What do you think you can learn about people from the colours they like?

- I suppose you might learn a little about their personality, such as whether they're expressive or creative, or whether they are introverted or extroverted. But I don't think you can learn too much about a person just from the colours that they like.

Where You Live

5. What type of building is the house you live in?

- I live in a fairly modern apartment block with about 10 floors. My family and I have a three-bedroom apartment on the 2nd floor.

6. What do you like most about living there? Why?

- Actually, I don't really like anything about living there. It feels very crowded and noisy, and the location of the building is far away from all my friends, so I don't like it. When I was younger, we had a small house and garden which was much better.

7. Do most people in your city or town live in similar-type buildings?

- Yes, I suppose they do. There are many apartment buildings in my city, and there are more being built every day, because they are convenient and affordable.

8. Do you prefer to live in old buildings or modern buildings? Why?

- I definitely prefer living in modern buildings, because everything works, and they have good heating in winter and air conditioning in summer. Modern buildings are more comfortable to live in.

Part 2

Teacher Tip

Continuation: Sometimes, students get stuck during their Part 2 talk and can't think of anything to say.

- Use the notes you made during the preparation time to help you to continue talking, and use the prompts on the task card to assist you.¹
- Add extra information at any stage to extend your answer. For instance, if you mention a person, place, or an object, add descriptive information or a personal comment or opinion.

¹ Note: Refer to Unit 2 if you need more practice with this.

 Exercise 5


Look at the following Part 2 task card.

Task Card

Describe a famous building in your country.

You should say:

- what the building looks like and where it is located
- why the building is famous
- whether you like it or not
- and whether it is popular with local people.

 Listen to the candidate talking about a famous building.
 Note down any details about the answers to the following questions.

Questions	Details
Name? Ancient or modern? Large or small? Materials?	
When was it made? Who built it? Who designed it?	
Does it have any special or unusual features?	
Is it located in the country or in the city? Is it surrounded by other buildings or on its own?	
Does the speaker like it? Why / Why not?	
Do most local people like it? Why / Why not? How popular is it with visitors?	
What does the building symbolise or represent?	
Is there an interesting history behind it?	
Are there any interesting facts about its construction?	
What types of activities or business go on in the building? Can visitors go inside the building? Are there ever any special events held there?	
Is there a good view from the building?	

Exercise 6

Here are some examples of famous buildings in Vietnam. Choose one from the list or think of your own idea and complete the activity below.

- The Reunification Palace
- The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum
- The One-Pillar Pagoda
- The Thien Mu Pagoda
- The Saigon Notre-Dame Cathedral¹

Picture a building in your country in your mind – visualise it – and then, use the following questions to help you make notes and build up a detailed description. It doesn't matter if you don't know everything, just answer what you can.

1. Is it ancient or modern? Large or small? What types of materials were used to make it?

2. When was it made? Who built it? Who designed it?

3. Does it have any special or unusual features?

4. Is it located in the country or in the city? Is it surrounded by other buildings or on its own?

5. Do you like it? Why / Why not?

6. How do you feel when you visit this building? Why?

7. Do most local people like it? Why / Why not? How popular is it with visitors?

8. What does the building symbolise or represent?

9. Is there an interesting history behind it?

10. Are there any interesting facts about its construction?

¹ Note: Proper names of places are preceded by 'the'.

11. What types of activities or business go on in the building? Can visitors go inside the building? Are there ever any special events held there?

12. Is there a good view from the building? Describe it.

Teacher Tip

Remember to include a clear introduction and conclusion to your Part 2 talk.

Introduction

- I'm going to describe ...
- The famous building I would like to describe ...
- I'm going to talk about a famous building in my country called the ...

Conclusion

- That's why the ... is such a famous building.
- It's a very famous building not only within my country but also abroad.
- It's such a special building because ...

Continuation

If you find yourself with nothing to say in the middle of your talk, take a moment to refocus. Use one of the prompts as a starting point. A short pause is acceptable. If you are stuck in the middle of a sentence, then backtrack a bit or use phrases like:

- Let me think ...
- I can't quite remember the ...
- I think ...
- Well, ...
- Actually, ...
- I mean ...
- Basically, ...
- Anyway, ...

 **Exercise 7**

Use the notes you made in the previous exercise to help you respond.

Task Card

Describe a famous building in your country.

You should say:

- what the building looks like and where it is located
- why the building is famous
- whether you like it or not
- and whether it is popular with local people.

Work with a partner, speaking and listening to each other's responses to this topic. Then, practise further at home.

Exercise 8

Student A, look at Task Card A and Student B, look at Task Card B. Allow yourself one minute to make notes, then work with your partner, who will time you speaking for two minutes. After you have finished, swap cards and repeat the process for further practice.

Task Card A

Describe a building you know.

You should say:

where it is located and what its function is

what it looks like

when it was built

and whether or not you like this building.

Task Card B

Describe a building you like.

You should say:

what it looks like

what it is used for

how old it is

and mention why it is that you like this building.

Part 3

Focus on the Question

Teacher Tip

In Part 3 of the Speaking test, you may have to evaluate opinions (agree or disagree).

Evaluating questions often begin:

- Some people say ...
- Some people argue ...
- Many people believe ...
- In some countries, ...
- Why do you think some people feel ...
- Some people think ... and others think ...

Evaluating questions often end in the following ways:

- Do you agree or disagree with this view?
- Would you agree?
- Do you think this is a good trend or a bad trend?
- What's your opinion?

Another type of question in Part 3 asks you to describe changes over time. This type of question often begins:

- Have / has ... changed in recent years?
- Would you say that ... have / has changed since you were a child?
- How have / has ... changed from the time you were a child?
- How have / has ... changed in the last decade / twenty years?

and it is often followed up with a question about whether you think this change is positive or negative.

Look at the following Part 3 questions. Decide whether they are asking you to evaluate or describe changes over time. Then, underline the language clues in each question which help you to decide.

1. Some people say that old buildings are an important part of history. Would you agree or disagree with this view?
2. How have the types of buildings being constructed in your country changed in the last twenty years?
3. Do you think this has been a positive change? Why / Why not?
4. Some people feel that the restoration and protection of historic buildings is the responsibility of government. Others think it is up to individuals and businesses. What's your view?
5. In many countries, architecture is considered an art form. What's your opinion?
6. How has the role of buildings changed in the last decade?

Developing Ideas – Language

Teacher Tip


When you discuss the topic in Part 3, you need to use frame-working language which is appropriate for the type of question you have been asked. For evaluating questions, you often need to express your opinion and justify it. Justifying your opinion means saying why you think like this or that. It is a good idea to support your opinion with examples.

 Listen to the answers to the Part 3 questions and note down any language which expresses opinion.

Questions	Language of Opinion
1	
2	
3	

Teacher Tip

Questions which ask you to describe changes over time are also asking you to compare these changes with the situation now, so don't forget to use language of comparison. E.g. Houses are more comfortable and easier to live in nowadays.

 Now, listen to the answers to Part 3 questions asking about changes over time and note down any language which expresses comparison or change.

Questions	Language of Comparison / Change
4	
5	
6	

 **Developing Ideas – Brainstorming**

The topic for this part is buildings and architecture. Discuss the questions in preparation for giving your own answers and make notes to clarify your own opinions.

Questions	Notes
1. Some people say that old buildings are an important part of history. Would you agree or disagree with this view?	
2. How have the types of buildings being constructed in your country changed in the last twenty years?	
3. Do you think this has been a positive change? Why / Why not?	

4. Some people feel that the restoration and protection of historic buildings is the responsibility of government. Others think it is up to individuals and businesses. What's your view?	
5. In many countries, architecture is considered an art form. What's your opinion?	
6. How has the role of buildings changed in the last decade?	

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above, using your notes to help you.

Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank


Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Expressions

Part 1	
My favourite ... is ...	You can't go wrong with ...
I prefer ...	I suppose ...
used to	Actually, I don't really like ...
I don't really remember very well, but ...	I definitely prefer ...
I would say so, yes.	
Part 2 & Part 3	
Expressing Opinions	Expressing Changes
I definitely agree ...	have / has become
I think ...	have / has changed
So, in my opinion, ...	have / has developed
I strongly feel ...	have / has progressed
I certainly think ...	
I firmly believe ...	
My view is ...	
I see ...	
I mean ...	
I really believe ...	
I know ...	

Topic-Related Vocabulary

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3
<p>Colours classic versatile bright loud vivid dark expressive creative introverted extroverted</p> <p>Where You Live modern apartment block floor one-bedroom / two-bedroom apartment, etc. crowded noisy location convenient affordable heating air conditioning comfortable</p>	<p>Architecture made of stunning classic temple column carving sculpture construct design sense of history heritage culture symbol pride</p>	<p>Buildings and Architecture material construction style layout museum preserve protect historic building maintenance architecture functional artistic expression practicality efficiency commissioned high density population growth section multifunctional high-rise building public space</p>

 Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Read the two answers to the following Part 3 question:

How has the role of buildings changed in the last decade?

Candidate 1:

- With the development of modern technology, the role of buildings has changed from a purely functional purpose to one of a combined social and work context. Buildings have become multipurpose spaces which meet the needs of different individuals in aesthetic contexts.

Candidate 2:

- The role of buildings has changed dramatically in the last decade as people and architects have begun to realise the importance of buildings in creating work-friendly offices and spaces. The impact of this has meant more of a focus on letting in natural light, using environmentally friendly and sustainable materials as well as expressing culture and art through architecture.

Discuss with a partner:

1. Which answer do you think would score a higher mark? Why?

Read the examiner's possible next questions for Candidate 1:

1. Can I ask what you mean by 'the development of modern technology'?
2. Can I ask what you mean by 'aesthetic contexts'?

Teacher Tip

During Part 3, the examiner may ask you to clarify what you mean by certain vocabulary, so it is important to ensure that you really know what the words you are using mean. If you have memorised phrases or complex vocabulary and used them inappropriately, the examiner will notice.

 **Practice**

Work with a partner. Use the questions below and take it in turns to ask and answer. Remember, try not to repeat key vocabulary items too much – practise using synonyms in their place where you can.

Buildings and the Environment

1. Some people say that the construction industry has a responsibility to use environmentally friendly materials. What's your view?
2. How have the types of materials used to construct buildings and housing changed over the last twenty years?
3. Do you see this as a positive change? Why / Why not?
4. Why do you think that some people are opposed to development in certain places, such as coastal beachfront areas?

Traditional Buildings

5. In some countries, traditional buildings have been beautifully restored and act as tourist attractions. However, some people think this is a waste of money. Would you agree or disagree with this view?
6. How have the types of traditional buildings in your country changed over time?

ADVANCED SPEAKING


UNIT 4

Part 1

Teacher Tip

Formal language is out of place in Part 1 of the Speaking test. If your language is too formal or academic, it might sound as though you don't understand the question, or you have memorised an answer, which could be detrimental to your score. Remember to keep your language natural for this part of the test.

 **Exercise 1**

 Listen to the following IELTS questions and alternative answers and decide which is the better answer and why.

1. Tell me about the house where you live.

Answer 1 Good model / Poor model Reason: _____

Answer 2 Good model / Poor model Reason: _____

2. How many other people live in your house?

Answer 1 Good model / Poor model Reason: _____

Answer 2 Good model / Poor model Reason: _____

 **Exercise 2**

Look at the following words which you might use to answer Part 1 questions about where you live. Decide whether they are formal or informal in tone.

house	residence	accommodation	constructed	however
finally	in addition	certainly	dwelling	considerably
relatives	siblings	in conclusion	accordingly	family members
cohabit	home	made of	pretty	very
family	brother or sister	people in my family	live together	

Formal	Informal

Exercise 3

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127. Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

1. Did you try to use natural, colloquial language?
2. Did you try to avoid formal transition signals such as 'In addition', 'In conclusion', and so on?

Exercise 4

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Movies

1. Where do you usually watch movies? Why?
 - I guess I watch movies mainly at home, like on my laptop, or if I rent a DVD or something. I don't really bother going to the cinema any more because it's so expensive and overrated.
2. What do you enjoy about watching movies this way?
 - It's great because it's so easy – you have everything around you that you need to get comfortable, plus you can pause and restart the movie whenever you want to, and best of all, a group of people can watch it for less than the price of a cinema ticket.
3. Which type of movies do you prefer to watch? Why?
 - I love action and thriller-type movies because they are so exciting and full of drama. I get really bored with slow movies; I need a lot of action to keep me interested in a movie. If it's too boring, I just fall asleep.

Studying

4. Where do you usually study? Why?
 - I usually study in my room or at the library at university. Otherwise, I find it difficult to keep concentrating on what I'm doing because there are too many distractions. At least in the library, everyone is quiet and focused on studying.
5. Do you prefer to study with friends or by yourself? Why?
 - I definitely prefer to study by myself. As I said, I get distracted very easily, so if my friends are around, then I tend to just distract them as well! I'm much more focused on my own.

6. What do you enjoy most about studying in this way?

- Well, I never really enjoy study, but I would say that it gives me some time to myself, and if I achieve what I set out to do and learn some new information, then I guess I feel pretty satisfied.

Neighbours

7. How often do you see your neighbours?

- To be honest, I very rarely see my neighbours. They are always coming and going at different times to me, and we don't really meet. I don't even know their names.

8. Do you think it is important to have a good relationship with your neighbours? Why / Why not?

- Not really. In fact, I think it is probably better to have a more distant relationship so that if there was a problem at some stage, then there wouldn't be any awkwardness in dealing with it or talking about it. But if they are your friends, then it's more difficult to be assertive about issues that are bothering you, like noise.

9. What sorts of problems can occur between neighbours? Why?

- As I mentioned, I think noise is probably the biggest potential problem. It depends on how close you live to each other, but things like music, television, and parties can cause a lot of issues between neighbours.

Part 2

Teacher Tip

Forming and using tenses accurately makes up an important part of your speaking score. In Part 2, it is usually quite easy to recognise the tense that you will mainly need to use in your answer.

Consider the types of Part 2 questions:

- describe an experience
E.g. Describe an interesting place that you have visited.
- describe a routine or something you do now
E.g. Describe a place that you like to go to.
- describe something you would like to do in the future
E.g. Describe a place that you would like to visit.

Each of the three examples asks you about a place, but you would use different tenses in each answer. Be careful to pay close attention to the language on the task card, as it will indicate to you the tense you need to use in your answer.

 Exercise 5

Look at the following Part 2 task cards. Note down the main verb tense you think you would use to answer these topics and underline the language on each task card which helps you to decide which tense to use.

Task Card A

Describe a celebration you attended.

You should say:

what type of celebration it was

who attended

where it was and what you did

and mention whether or not you enjoyed this celebration.

Task Card A main tense: _____

Task Card B

Describe a website you like using.

You should say:

what type of website it is

why you use it

how often you use it

and mention why you like using this website.

Task Card B main tense: _____

Task Card C

Describe a celebration or festival that you would like to attend.

You should say:

what the celebration or festival is

where and when it would be held

who you would like to go with

and whether it is likely you would ever attend such a celebration or festival, and why.

Task Card C main tense: _____

Task Card D

Describe a skill that you have.

You should say:

what the skill is

how good you are at it

when you started to learn this skill

and whether or not you think this is a useful skill for you.

Task Card D main tense: _____

Task Card E

Describe a new skill you would like to learn.

You should say:

what the skill is

how you would learn it

why you want to learn it

and whether you think it would be easy or difficult to learn this skill.

Task Card E main tense: _____

Task Card F

Describe a time when you were late for something.

You should say:

what the event or occasion was

why you were late

what happened when you got there

and what the effects of your lateness were.

Task Card F main tense: _____

Exercise 6



Listen to the excerpts from two Part 2 responses.

Which of the task cards above are they responding to?

Candidate 1: Task Card _____

Candidate 2: Task Card _____

 Exercise 7


Listen to the rest of Candidate 1's answer. Note down the tenses used in each part of the answer.

Parts of Answer	Tenses Used
background to the event	
describing the event	
personal comments about the situation	
concluding the story	

 Exercise 8

Choose one of the task cards, A – F, to talk about with a partner. Give yourself one minute to plan your answer and make sure you consider which tense you will mainly use. Work with a partner, speaking and listening to each other's responses. Then, practise further at home with some of the other task cards.

Part 3

 Focus on the Question

Teacher Tip

In Part 3 of the Speaking test, you may be asked to give your opinion. These questions ask you to say what you think and why. Sometimes, these are similar to the evaluating questions which Unit 3 looked at, and sometimes, they are more of a direct question which asks for your opinion and may begin:

- In your view, ...?
- In your opinion, ...?
- What's your opinion of ...?

Another type of question you may meet in Part 3 is the problem / solution type, which asks you to think about the causes of a problem, the effects of a problem, or possible solutions to a problem. This type of question often begins:

- What do you think are the main causes of ...?
- What can be done about ...?
- What are some possible solutions for ...?
- What are the effects of ... in your country?
- What measures can be taken to improve ...?
- What kind of effects can ... have?

Look at the following Part 3 questions. Decide whether they are asking you for an opinion or causes, effects, or solutions to a problem.

1. In your opinion, is being late for meetings and appointments impolite?
2. What do you think are the main causes of lateness?
3. What can be done about lateness?
4. In your opinion, what is the best time of life?
5. In many countries, both parents have to work in order to provide for their families, even when their babies are very young. What are the effects of this?
6. Some people believe that looking after the elderly should be the responsibility of family. Would you agree with this view? Why?

Developing Ideas – Language

Teacher Tip

When you discuss the topic in Part 3, you need to use frame-working language which is appropriate for the type of question you have been asked. When you are expressing an opinion, you can use the following language:

- In my opinion, ...
- In my view, ...
- I believe that ...
- I think ...
- I feel ...

The following language for talking about causes will also be useful:

- ... is due to ...
- ... is the result of ...¹
- One of the main causes of this is ...
- This is because ...
- One reason for this is ...

When you are answering questions about results or effects, the following language is useful:

- ... leads to ...
- ... causes ...
- ... results in ...
- Consequently, ...
- As a consequence, ...
- Therefore, ...
- As a result, ...

Talking about solutions:

- One possible solution is to ...
- A way of dealing with this is ...
- This could be solved by ...

¹ Note: The cause follows these first two expressions, e.g. 'result' is due to 'cause'.

Look at the answers to the Part 3 questions on page 48 and underline language of opinion and also language which expresses causes, effects, and solutions.

1. In your opinion, is being late for meetings and appointments impolite?
 - On the whole, yes, I think lateness is quite rude, particularly in a business or work environment, as it holds people up, and it ultimately wastes money, which nobody likes. On the other hand, with friends, it's probably a different story, as I feel that you can be a bit more flexible with people you know and, as long as it's not consistent lateness, I believe that's more acceptable.
2. What do you think are the main causes of lateness?
 - I suppose it's mainly caused by disorganisation and bad habits. Of course, occasionally, it is as a result of external factors which are beyond an individual's control, such as a particularly bad traffic jam, or an unfortunate set of circumstances which have contributed to the lateness. However, I think that persistent lateness is really just due to poor planning and personal organisation.
3. What can be done about lateness?
 - I think a potential solution obviously lies in gaining some time management skills, in addition to making a real effort to become organised such as using a diary, whether that's online or even an old-fashioned type diary. It's amazing what a difference writing things in a diary can make! Another solution is to use a mobile phone or Blackberry-type device to schedule your appointments, meetings, and so on.
4. In your opinion, what is the best time of life?
 - I think the best time of life is probably youth. That's my view anyway: that in your twenties, you have the world at your feet, not only lots of opportunities for creating a great future but also lots of chances to enjoy the time and explore your identity. In addition, it's probably the time of your life when you look best!
5. In many countries, both parents have to work in order to provide for their families, even when their babies are very young. What are the effects of this?
 - The effects of putting young babies into full-time day care are quite often detrimental, I think. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that babies under six months need time to bond properly with at least one parent, so I think one of the impacts of day care on young babies is a lack of secure relationship with their main caregiver. However, there is also a positive effect on babies in that they receive socialisation skills in a day-care setting.
6. Some people believe that looking after the elderly should be the responsibility of family. Would you agree with this view? Why?
 - I certainly believe this to be true. I feel that the wider extended family has a responsibility and an obligation to care for all its members through all stages, so whether that's retired grandparents looking after young babies, or middle-aged daughters and sons caring for their retired parents, I think it's all part of the family life cycle. Of course, there should be some support from the state in the case that this is not possible, but my view is that family offers the best care and support in this context.

Developing Ideas – Brainstorming

The topic for this part is time and stages of life. Discuss the questions in preparation for giving your own answers. Note down some ideas for answering these questions and some examples from your experience.

1. In your opinion, is being late for meetings and appointments impolite?

Think about examples from your culture in different contexts.

Work meetings: _____

Social meetings: _____

Family occasions: _____

2. What do you think are the main causes of lateness?

Think about times you and people you know have been late – what were the reasons / causes?

3. What can be done about lateness?

Consider possible solutions to being late:

Cause (from Question 2): _____ Solution: _____

Cause: _____ Solution: _____

4. In your opinion, what is the best time of life?

Do you think it is:

childhood / the teenage years / the twenties / thirties / forties / fifties / sixties / retirement?

Why? Think about examples of what you can do during this stage of life and why this is positive.

5. In many countries, both parents have to work in order to provide for their families, even when their babies are very young. What are the effects of this?

Consider:

Psychological impact on the baby: _____

Social impact: _____

Impact on the family: _____

Is this situation common in your country? Why / Why not?

6. Some people believe that looking after the elderly should be the responsibility of family. Would you agree with this view? Why?

Agree or disagree? _____

Reasons – consider:

Family obligation: _____

Financial factor: _____

Medical / health factor: _____

Benefit and disadvantage: _____

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions on the previous page, using your notes to help you.

Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank

Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Language and Expressions

Part 1	Part 2																				
I guess ... like I don't really bother ... plus best of all I get bored with / by ... otherwise, at least I find it difficult to ... As I said, ... I would say that ... To be honest, ... In fact, ... As I mentioned, ... It depends on how ...	past simple for completed actions and events in the past present simple for things you do regularly would like to + base verb Collocations: Time all the time on time run late keep someone waiting																				
Part 3																					
Giving Opinions and Discussing Causes, Effects, and Solutions <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">In my opinion, ...</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">... leads to ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">In my view, ...</td> <td style="border: none;">... causes ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">I believe that ...</td> <td style="border: none;">... results in ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">I think ...</td> <td style="border: none;">Consequently, ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">I feel ...</td> <td style="border: none;">As a consequence, ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">... is due to ...</td> <td style="border: none;">Therefore, ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">... is the result of ...</td> <td style="border: none;">As a result, ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">One of the main causes of this is ...</td> <td style="border: none;">One possible solution is to ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">This is because ...</td> <td style="border: none;">A way of dealing with this is ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">One reason for this is ...</td> <td style="border: none;">This could be solved by ...</td> </tr> </table>		In my opinion, leads to ...	In my view, causes ...	I believe that results in ...	I think ...	Consequently, ...	I feel ...	As a consequence, is due to ...	Therefore, is the result of ...	As a result, ...	One of the main causes of this is ...	One possible solution is to ...	This is because ...	A way of dealing with this is ...	One reason for this is ...	This could be solved by ...
In my opinion, leads to ...																				
In my view, causes ...																				
I believe that results in ...																				
I think ...	Consequently, ...																				
I feel ...	As a consequence, ...																				
... is due to ...	Therefore, ...																				
... is the result of ...	As a result, ...																				
One of the main causes of this is ...	One possible solution is to ...																				
This is because ...	A way of dealing with this is ...																				
One reason for this is ...	This could be solved by ...																				


Topic-Related Vocabulary

Part 1		Part 2	
<p>Movies</p> <p>laptop rent DVD cinema expensive overrated comfortable pause restart ticket action thriller exciting drama boring</p>	<p>Studying</p> <p>keep concentrating on distraction library university quiet focused distracted achieve information satisfied</p> <p>Neighbours</p> <p>distant relationship problem awkwardness issue</p>	<p>relaxed punctual late stressed out panic nightmare embarrassed relieved</p>	
Part 3			
<p>Running Late</p> <p>lateness impolite rude hold people up flexible consistent disorganisation bad habit</p>	<p>unfortunate circumstance persistent planning time management organised diary schedule</p>	<p>Stages of Life</p> <p>youth opportunity future chance identity baby day care</p>	<p>caregiver socialisation elderly responsibility obligation retired support</p>

 Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Teacher Tip

The IELTS Speaking test can be a stressful experience, and you might feel quite nervous before you engage in the interview. This is normal but, unfortunately, it can have a negative effect on the way the examiner perceives your speaking skill.

 Listen to the following two candidates answering one of the previous questions and reflect on what effect their nervousness may have had on their speaking.

Candidates	Comments
1	
2	

Practice

Work with a partner. Use the questions below and take it in turns to ask and answer. Remember, try not to repeat key vocabulary items too much – practise using synonyms in their place where you can.

Times of Life

1. In your opinion, what are the most exciting times of life?
2. Some people believe that with increased age comes increased knowledge and wisdom. Would you agree with this view? Why / Why not?
3. What are some of the disadvantages of being young?

Saving Time

4. What are some of the most common time-saving devices or machines used in your country?
5. Did people in the past have less or more time to enjoy life?
6. Do young people have more or less free time than older people? Why?

ADVANCED SPEAKING

UNIT


5

Part 1

Teacher Tip

You are marked on pronunciation – it makes up 25% of your score. Pay attention to and practise natural English intonation. Natural intonation includes emphasis on certain words and not on others, as well as rising and falling patterns of tone and pitch.

 Exercise 1

 Listen to the following IELTS questions and alternative answers and decide which is the better answer and why.

1. How do you usually contact people?

Answer 1 Good model / Poor model

Reason: _____

Answer 2 Good model / Poor model

Reason: _____

2. Have you always contacted people in the same way?


Answer 1 Good model / Poor model

Reason: _____

Answer 2 Good model / Poor model

Reason: _____

 Exercise 2

 Listen and repeat the sentences from the recording. Underline the stressed words and draw a(n) up/down arrow to show the direction of the intonation pattern for each sentence.

- I usually text or message my friends to get hold of them and make plans. It's the fastest way to get a response, and it's more fun than just calling or sending an e-mail.
- Mostly, yes. I think messaging through social networking sites is more of a recent thing, but my friends and I have been using it for about six years now, I guess. Before that, it was texting.

 Exercise 3

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127. Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

1. Did you try to use natural intonation?
2. Did you stress important content words in your sentences?

Exercise 4

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Family

1. Do you have a large family or a small family?
 - My immediate family is quite small – I just have one brother and of course, my parents. But my extended family is huge because my parents are both from large families, so there are lots of aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews.
2. How often does your family get together to see each other?
 - My extended family probably only gets together about once or twice a year for big events like weddings, or important birthdays, or Christmas. It's really great when we're all together because it's such a big group of about fifty people, and there's so much news to catch up on.
3. Which members of your family do you get on well with?
 - In my immediate family, I'm really close to my brother because we are so similar in age that we have lots of friends in common, so we socialise together as well. We're interested in similar sorts of things, like rugby, soccer, and cricket, and we get on really well.

Weather

4. What type of weather do you enjoy most? Why?
 - I guess I'm a bit unusual in that I really enjoy stormy, wild weather, but only if I'm indoors. I like the dramatic effect of a storm with all the thunder and lightning.
5. How do different types of weather affect you? Why?
 - Well, even though I like stormy weather, I don't really enjoy long periods of rainy overcast weather because I can't get out and play sport or do anything, and it makes me restless and uptight.
6. Are most people affected in the same way? Why?
 - I couldn't really say for sure, but I suppose that lots of people get frustrated or disappointed when they can't get out and about due to bad weather. I'm sure it affects them in different ways, though.

Music

7. What types of music do you like listening to?
- I'm really into hip hop, drum and bass, and dubstep music at the moment. I like them because of the strong beats and because I'm quite into going out dancing to these types of music. I also enjoy a bit of heavy metal sometimes, just for a change.
8. Do you prefer music with words or instrumental music? Why?
- Overall, I probably prefer music without too many lyrics or vocals, just because I'm more interested in the music and rhythm of the music. But then, I do enjoy the lyrics of hip hop because they're so clever.
9. Have you always enjoyed similar styles of music?
- No, when I was younger, I used to like more mainstream music and pop songs which I heard on the radio. Then, when I got to high school, I met some friends who introduced me to different types of music which I had never even heard of, and that's how I became interested in dubstep and hip hop.

Part 2

Teacher Tip

Sometimes, the task card in Part 2 will have a future focus, and you will have to imagine a situation or scenario in the future. Make sure you can use various future forms to answer correctly.

The first type of these questions usually includes the words 'want to' or 'would like to' to ask about a future object or situation.

The second type of future focus questions uses words such as 'dream', 'perfect', or 'ideal' to ask you to speculate and imagine a perfect scenario.

For both types of questions, using 'would + base verb' is the best way to answer. Remember, in speaking, this is often contracted to 'd + base verb'.

 Exercise 5

Look at the following Part 2 task cards. Which language tells you that you will need to answer with a future focus? Underline it.

Task Card A

Describe a place you would like to visit with a friend in the future.

You should say:

why you would like to go there

how you would get there

which friend you would choose to take

and say what types of activities you would do in this place.

Task Card B

Describe a job you would like to do.

You should say:

- what the job would be
 - where it would be
 - what it would involve
- and mention why you would enjoy doing this job.

Task Card C

Describe a special present you would like to receive.

You should say:

- what the present would be
 - why you would like to receive it
 - who you would like to receive it from
- and say whether or not it would be expensive to buy.

Task Card D

Describe your dream job.

You should say:

- what the job would be
 - where you would work and what hours
 - what type of people you would work with
- and mention why this would be your dream job.

 **Exercise 6**

Read the passage and underline any examples of 'would + base verb'. Discuss the following questions with a partner.

1. When and why has this modal verb been used?
2. Why has it not been used throughout the whole talk?


There are so many presents I would like to receive! I love to give and receive presents, especially ones that are really thoughtful. But if I really think about it, the most wonderful thing that anybody could get me would be the latest Canon camera. This camera has all the most up-to-date features and takes videos as well as still images. It's easy to use, and you can switch it to manual settings if you want to control the light and shutter speed, and so on. It's black and comes with a huge range of the most amazing zoom lenses plus its own camera case. Anyway, I'm crazy about photography, and I'm always taking photos of everyone and everything, so I'd love a really good-quality camera. I really enjoy taking close-up photos of people's faces, and also I'm really interested in the way that flowers and other things in nature photographed up close. At the moment, I'm using my dad's old camera, which is great, but I'd love an upgrade. It would be quite special if my dad gave it to me as we have always done photography stuff together, and he has always

given me my cameras, so it's kind of a tradition in my family. He taught me how to use a camera when I was only about five years old. So, it'd be nice if he got me this camera because we'd be able to spend time together figuring out how to use it! Unfortunately, this camera would be quite expensive to buy. I'm not sure of the exact price, but it's up around 5,000 US dollars, I think. I don't even think it's available here yet, and I know it's too expensive, but it's just a dream. When I'm earning enough money, I'll buy it for myself and buy my dad one, too!

 **Exercise 7**

Choose one of the task cards, A – D, to talk about with a partner. Give yourself one minute to plan your answer and make sure you consider which tense you will mainly use. Work with a partner, speaking and listening to each other's responses. Then, practise further at home with some of the other task cards.

Part 3


 **Focus on the Question**

Teacher Tip

In the Speaking test, you will receive a mixture of the Part 3 question types. Most of them have been reviewed so far:

- comparison and contrast
- advantages / disadvantages
- describing
- speculating
- evaluating
- describing changes over time
- opinion
- causes, effects, and solutions

It is important to identify as quickly as possible what type of question you are being asked so that you can respond appropriately.

 *Listen to the Part 3 questions and write what type each one is.*

Questions	Type
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

 Developing Ideas – Language**Teacher Tip**

Often, using conditional structures to express your ideas in Part 3 of the Speaking test is very useful.

- zero conditional: If you **produce** a lot of rubbish, it's difficult to dispose of.
- first conditional: If people **continue** to produce a lot of rubbish, the world's landfills **will reach** capacity.
- second conditional: If people **stopped** producing so much rubbish, there **would be** much less waste in the world.
- third conditional: If governments **had been** more alert, perhaps there **would not have been** such a huge financial crisis.

The first conditional is usually quite common in this part of the Speaking test, so make sure you feel confident using it.

Look at the answers to the following Part 3 questions. Underline all the conditional structures you can find in the answers.

Giving Gifts

1. What kind of gifts do people typically give in your country?

- It depends on the occasion. For birthdays, people usually give a gift which has a special personal meaning for the person, or if they don't know each other very well, then I suppose they just buy chocolates or flowers or something. If it's a wedding gift, people will usually give much larger and more expensive gifts such as furniture for the house, and sometimes even fridges, washing machines, and beds!

2. What are the benefits of giving gifts to others?

- I think one of the advantages is showing that person that you care and seeing them enjoy and use the gift. If it's something that they really need and haven't bought for themselves, then I think that's particularly satisfying as they obviously really appreciate it. It also makes the person giving the gift feel good to have bought something thoughtful.

3. Do certain gifts have a special meaning in your culture? Why?

- I can't really think of anything specific, except perhaps if you give the gift of tea, then this symbolises health and well-being. I suppose different coloured flowers are associated with different meanings, so if you give someone a bunch of yellow roses, this signifies friendship, whereas if they are red roses, then that's definitely romantic. Sometimes, people give Christmas cake at Christmastime although I'm not sure what the exact meaning of that is.

Consumerism

4. In your opinion, are people today more materialistic than in the past? Why/ Why not?

- I think there is a tendency for people to place more emphases on 'things' and status symbols which

reflect who they are, but maybe less so than in the last decade. As a result of the global recession, I think many people have had to reassess their materialistic tendencies in favour of budgeting and purchasing less, so there has been a shift in attitudes.

5. What are the advantages of increasing consumerism?

- Consumerism is positive in the sense that, I guess, it stimulates the economy with lots of people buying lots of products and things. However, when people buy things on credit and this goes too far, then that's obviously a negative as we have seen with the global recession. If the banks hadn't allowed so many people to borrow so much money, then perhaps we wouldn't have had such a collapse in the economy. Still, consumerism is what keeps our economy going, so it has many advantages.

6. What are the effects of consumerism on the environment?

- I think that consumer society has become quite focused on throwing things out just because they have stopped working, rather than getting them fixed or repaired. This has the effect of creating much more inorganic waste for the environment to deal with, and I presume this waste goes to landfills, which are both unsightly and toxic and have a negative impact on the local environment.

Developing Ideas – Brainstorming

The topic for this part is gift-giving and consumerism. Discuss the following questions with a partner to brainstorm your own ideas to answer the questions.

1. What kind of gifts do people typically give in your country?

Think about different occasions and celebrations such as:

Birthdays: _____

Festivals: (Spring Festival / Vietnamese New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival) _____

Weddings: _____

2. What are the benefits of giving gifts to others?

Consider the benefits for the recipient (e.g. their emotions, impact on their life): _____

Consider the benefits for the giver: _____

3. Do certain gifts have a special meaning in your culture? Why?

Think back to your ideas from Question 1. Do any of these gifts have a special meaning?

If not, are there any other things which people give each other in your country which are symbolic?

4. In your opinion, are people today more materialistic than in the past? Why / Why not?

Think about different demographics of people to make a general comparison:

Teenagers / adults / retired people in the past: _____

Now: _____

Consider any major world events which may have shaped the values of past or current generations (e.g. the financial crisis of 2007): _____

5. What are the advantages of increasing consumerism?

Think about this question from different perspectives:

For the economy: _____

For the consumer: _____

6. What are the effects of consumerism on the environment?

Consider the impacts on:

Climate change: _____

Energy and resources: _____

Local environment: _____

Waste: _____

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above, using your notes to help you.

Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank

Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Expressions

Part 1

quite

There are lots of ...

catch up on

have something in common

get on well with someone

be interested in

... in that ...

even though

get out

I couldn't really say for sure, but ...

I'm sure ...

I suppose ...

out and about


I'm into ...

I used to like ...

That's how I became interested in ...

Topic-Related Vocabulary

Part 1			Part 2	
Family immediate family brother parents extended family aunt uncle niece nephew close	Weather stormy wild dramatic thunder lightning rainy overcast bad weather	Music hip hop drum and bass dubstep strong beat heavy metal lyrics vocal rhythm mainstream music pop song	present receive thoughtful be crazy about up close at the moment upgrade figure out	
Part 3				
Giving Gifts meaning birthday wedding expensive satisfying appreciate	thoughtful symbolise associated signify friendship romantic	Consumerism materialistic status symbol global recession tendency budget purchase stimulate economy	credit collapse repair inorganic waste landfill unsightly toxic	

 Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Teacher Tip

Sometimes, candidates feel as though they have nothing to say or no ideas about the question the examiner has just asked them. There are several ways to get started. The most important thing is to relate the question to what you know and what is happening in your country. Remember, the examiner is not testing your knowledge of a particular subject, but rather the language that you use to talk about it.



Listen to these two candidates dealing with this complex question about the environment.

What impact has the global recession had on environmental issues?

Discuss with a partner:

Which answer do you think would score a higher mark? Why?

Practice

Work with a partner. Use the questions below and take it in turns to ask and answer. Remember, try to relate your answers to knowledge that you have about the situation in your country and society. This will help you to give clear, coherent examples to support your answers.

Gifts and Festivals

1. What types of gifts do people in your country normally give during special festivals?
2. Is there any particular meaning associated with these gifts?
3. Do you think the type of gifts people give and receive during festivals will change at all in the future? Why / Why not?

Consumerism and Globalisation

4. What have been the effects of globalisation on consumerism in your country?
5. Is this a positive or a negative development, in your view?
6. How have the ways in which people shop changed over the last decade? Why?

ADVANCED SPEAKING

UNIT

6

Part 1

Teacher Tip

In Part 1, you are often asked to talk about your experience. However, sometimes you are asked to reflect on the situation in your country, in which case it is necessary to generalise. Identifying when you are being asked about your own experience and when you are being asked about people in your country is important because you have to focus your answer correctly.

 Exercise 1

Look at the following two Part 1 speaking questions. Which one asks about your personal experience? Which one asks about more general experience of people in your country?

1. Do you or anyone you know have a pet? Which type of pet?
 - Yes, my family has a pet which lives with us. It's a little dog called Bobo, and we've had him for about four years. He has lots of energy and goes everywhere with my mum.
2. Are people fond of animals in your country?
 - I would say in general, yes. Lots of people keep pets in their homes.

Personal experience: _____

General experience: _____

 Exercise 2

Look at the following questions and decide whether they are asking you about your own experience or people in your country.

Questions	Your own experience or people in your country?
Flowers	
1. Which is your favourite type of flower? Why?	
2. Do people in your country like to have fresh flowers in their home? Why?	
3. Do you prefer to give or receive flowers? Why?	
Holidays	
4. How often do you take holidays?	
5. Do you prefer to stay at home or to go somewhere for holidays? Why?	
6. In your country, did people take more or fewer holidays in the past?	
7. What do you like most about holidays? Why?	
Watches and Time	
8. Do you always wear a wristwatch? Why?	
9. Do you like to be on time for meetings and appointments? Why?	
10. Are people you know usually on time?	

Exercise 3

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127. Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

Did you correctly identify whether you were being asked about your own experience or people in your country?

Exercise 4

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Flowers

1. Which is your favourite type of flower? Why?

- I don't really pay much attention to flowers, so I have no idea. Maybe ... is it called a lily? Quite a big flower with large petals, and it comes in white, pink, and orange, I think. I like it because it is good-looking and has a pleasant scent.

2. Do people in your country like to have fresh flowers in their home? Why?

- They do, yes, but a lot of people prefer to have living plants because they last longer. There are probably more flowers in shops and restaurants and places like that than in people's houses.

3. Do you prefer to give or receive flowers? Why?

- I've never really thought about it, but I guess I'd prefer to give them as I'm not really a flower type of person. I mean I wouldn't really know what to do with them if someone gave me a bunch of flowers!

Holidays

4. How often do you take holidays?

- I take my holidays once every year, for two weeks at a time. I'd like to have more holidays, but with my job, it's not really possible because I can't take too much annual leave.

5. Do you prefer to stay at home or to go somewhere for holidays? Why?

- I definitely prefer to go away for holidays to someplace different. I love going abroad to see different cultures and countries. Last year, I went to Thailand, and next year, I'm hoping to get to Australia for a visit.

6. In your country, did people take more or fewer holidays in the past?

- I think people had more time for holidays in the past, because the pace of life was a bit slower, and they could relax and enjoy things more.

7. What do you like most about holidays? Why?

- I love everything about holidays! But most of all, I love the fact that I can do whatever I want with my time, like sleep in or go to bed late, eat out or eat in, whatever I like. Taking a break is the best thing.

Watches and Time

8. Do you always wear a wristwatch? Why?

- Not always. I only wear a watch during the week when I'm working and have to know what the time is all the time. On weekends, I don't wear a watch because I don't like to feel time-pressured on my days off.

9. Do you like to be on time for meetings and appointments? Why?

- Of course. I think it's extremely rude to be late, and I pride myself on being a punctual person. If someone is late, I usually think they lack respect and discipline.

10. Are people you know usually on time?

- Yes, being punctual is very important in my culture, so most people I know are always on time, unless there has been some sort of unavoidable hold-up and even then, it's considered polite to ring and let the person know you are running late.

Part 2

Teacher Tip

A good way to show the examiner a wide range of vocabulary is to use more synonyms. Instead of repeating a word several times throughout your long turn, use words of similar meaning. For instance, the words 'good' and 'nice' are very common and quite simple. Synonyms include: 'great, wonderful, fantastic, terrific', and usage of these would indicate a better range of vocabulary.

Exercise 5

Look at Task Card A and the notes that the candidate has made about this topic. Try to think of synonyms for some of the key words the candidate has identified.

Task Card A

Describe a wild animal that you like.

You should say:

what the animal looks like

where it lives and what it does

when you first saw it

and say why this wild animal appeals to you.

Candidate's Notes:

Polar bear

Beautiful


Arctic Ocean – swims, fishes, plays

Zoo

Big and strong but graceful

Adjectives	Possible Synonyms
beautiful	
big	
strong	
graceful	

 **Exercise 6**

 Now, listen to the candidate's answer. Which synonyms were used? Check your ideas with the answer.

Adjectives	Synonyms Used
beautiful	
big	
strong	
graceful	

 **Exercise 7**

Match the adjectives for describing animals with their synonyms.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. loyal | a. graceful |
| 2. fierce | b. shiny |
| 3. agile | c. strong |
| 4. smart | d. soft |
| 5. gentle | e. violent |
| 6. energetic | f. lively |
| 7. majestic | g. speedy |
| 8. fast | h. active |
| 9. brave | i. unusual |

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 10. furry | j. inquisitive |
| 11. noisy | k. adorable |
| 12. elegant | l. smooth |
| 13. curious | m. tiny |
| 14. loving | n. loud |
| 15. cute | o. affectionate |
| 16. playful | p. gorgeous |
| 17. glossy | q. courageous |
| 18. beautiful | r. regal |
| 19. powerful | s. nimble |
| 20. sleek | t. faithful |
| 21. rare | u. hairy |
| 22. small | v. intelligent |

Teacher Tip

One way to make sure your long turn is coherent is to keep your referencing accurate. When you use a pronoun to refer back to a previous noun, be sure to match number and gender.

- a woman → she
- a boy → he
- the men → they
- an animal → it
- animals → they

Look at the following sentences from the Part 2 talk which you heard in the previous exercise.

A wild animal which I love is the polar bear. It is very similar looking to a regular brown bear, except it's bigger...

'It' in the second sentence refers back to the noun 'polar bear' in the first sentence.

 **Exercise 8**

Read the tapescript about a wild animal. Circle all the pronoun referents and draw an arrow back (or forward) to the noun they refer to. Underline the nouns.

A wild animal which I love is the polar bear. It is very similar looking to a regular brown bear, except it's bigger and, of course, a polar bear's fur is white rather than brown. Polar bears have very cute little eyes and a black nose and quite small ears in proportion to their very large bodies. They have huge feet which they use like paddles for swimming in the ocean. Their fur is snow-white when they are baby cubs, but I think

as they get older, their fur goes a bit yellow. The polar bear is a gorgeous-looking animal which lives in and around the Arctic Ocean and mainly spends time on the frozen ice around this area. They can swim though, as I mentioned, and they are very graceful in the sea when they are hunting for seals or fish to eat. It's amazing that such large animals can be so elegant, but they look really as though they are dancing or something when they are in the water. I have never seen one in the wild, but I remember very clearly the first time I ever saw one. It was at the local zoo, and I went one day on a school trip to see the animals. I think I was about six or seven years old. Anyway, the polar bear enclosure was one of the last areas we went to see, and there they were, these giant animals in a tiny enclosure, walking up and down and up and down, and looking incredibly bored. I felt a little sad to see them that way, but then, we had the opportunity to see them being fed, and the zookeeper threw some fish into the water, and the two polar bears jumped in, diving for their food. I love the polar bear because it looks so cuddly and cute, but really, it is quite a powerful and potentially dangerous animal. I also really like the way these bears play with each other, especially in the water. They look so agile. And the baby polar bear cubs are the cutest things I've ever seen! If I went to the Arctic one day, I'd love to see the polar bear in its natural habitat, not just in a horribly small zoo enclosure. For now though, I have to satisfy myself with watching this beautiful and majestic animal in nature documentaries on television.

Exercise 9

Choose one of the task cards, A – C, to talk about with a partner. Give yourself one minute to plan your answer and make sure you think about using a range of synonyms in your answer. Also, remember to use pronoun referents throughout your answer.

Task Card A

Describe a wild animal that you like.

You should say:

- what the animal looks like
- where it lives and what it does
- when you first saw it

and say why this wild animal appeals to you.

Task Card B

Describe an animal which you find interesting.

You should say:

- what the animal looks like
- what its characteristics are
- where it can be found

and say why you find it so interesting.

Task Card C

Describe an unusual animal you have seen.


You should say:

where and when you saw this animal


how you felt when you saw it

any interesting features or characteristics it has

and say whether or not you like this animal.

Part 3
 **Focus on the Question**
Teacher Tip

Part 2 and Part 3 of the Speaking test are connected by a thematic link, as you have seen in previous units and examples. Therefore, if you are asked to talk about a specific animal in Part 2, you will be asked more general questions connected to the theme of animals in Part 3. Predicting the link will help you to focus and respond appropriately to your Part 3 questions.

 Listen to the Part 3 questions and identify what types they are.

Questions	Types
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Developing Ideas – Language

Teacher Tip

Supporting your opinion is a way to show a more structured answer as well as giving you an opportunity to have more language to show the examiner. Supporting your opinion can be done in several ways:

- with examples
- with reasons
- with facts / evidence
- with hypothetical examples
- with explanations and extra details

Look at the answers to the following Part 3 questions. What type of support has been used in each answer?

Animals and Social Issues

1. Many people are opposed to testing cosmetics on animals. What's your view?
 - Personally, I am also strongly opposed to animal testing as it is both cruel and unnecessary. Studies have also shown that the results of testing make-up and cosmetics on animals are not necessarily true for humans anyway – so what's the point of putting animals through the discomfort of testing? There are many other technological ways of testing these products safely and without harming humans or animals, so I think that is definitely the better option.
2. Some people in society treat pets and animals poorly. Should there be penalties for this?
 - Of course! There is no excuse for mistreatment of animals, whether that's neglect of pets or actual physical abuse. If people harm pets and animals, they should be severely punished, because often these people can go on to abuse children or other people as well. There is a proven link between the two types of violence. In addition, animals have the right to be treated humanely as living creatures, so I think there should be penalties such as jail time or large fines to deter this type of abuse.
3. In some countries, poaching of animals is a huge problem. What are some of the reasons for this? What can be done about it?
 - I think the main reason people continue to poach animals is due to the premium prices some of the associated products can fetch on the illegal market, making it a very lucrative business. As many of the animals which are attractive to poachers often live in developing countries where there tends to be a lot of poverty, this also contributes to the problem. As for a solution, education and awareness are probably the best ways to approach the problem so that the international community continues to apply pressure to countries where poaching is an issue.

Animals as Companions

4. What types of animals do people keep in your country as pets?
 - Keeping a dog as a pet is becoming very popular in my country, particularly in the big cities where people see dogs, especially little dogs, as a designer fashion item. Cats used to be quite a popular type of pet when households wanted to keep mice away, but now they are less popular. Also, birds are quite common as pets, and often people take their birds for a walk on their shoulder!

5. What are the benefits of owning a pet?
 - I think there are so many benefits of having a pet, with the main one being companionship. Pets provide unconditional love and are always there for you, regardless of what kind of day you're having or what's happening in your life. There's also research to suggest that when people stroke a cat or dog, they automatically feel more relaxed, so that's a real positive.

6. Are there any drawbacks to pet ownership?
 - Realistically, I think there are some drawbacks, but it depends on which type of pet you choose. For instance, if you choose a dog which needs a lot of exercise but you don't really like taking it for walks, then this is an inconvenient and unsuitable choice of pet for you. Also, when going away on long holidays, it can sometimes be difficult to organise for someone to care for your pets. It's quite a commitment to have a pet, in my view.

Developing Ideas – Brainstorming

The topic for this part is animals. Discuss the following questions with a partner to brainstorm your own ideas to answer the questions.

1. Many people are opposed to testing cosmetics on animals. What's your view?

Think of some examples of animal testing that you know about:

Do you personally agree or disagree with animal testing? _____

What are some of the reasons you feel this way?

Any research or facts that you are aware of that might support your opinion:

2. Some people in society treat pets and animals poorly. Should there be penalties for this?

Think about the ways people mistreat pets and animals:

What sorts of punishments exist in your country? Do you think these are appropriate? What other types of penalties or punishments might be more suitable?

3. In some countries, poaching of animals is a huge problem. What are some of the reasons for this? What can be done about it?

Where does poaching occur? Why? _____

Possible solutions – consider:

Legal: _____

Educational: _____

4. What types of animals do people keep in your country as pets?

Companion pets are often cats, dogs, and birds. What is popular in your country?

What types of activities do people do with their pets?

What do pets symbolise or represent in your culture?

5. What are the benefits of owning a pet?

Consider:

Psychological: _____

Physical: _____

6. Are there any drawbacks to pet ownership?

Consider:

Cost: _____

Inconvenience: _____

Cleanliness: _____

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above, using your notes to help you.

Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank

Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Expressions

Part 1	Part 2
I have no idea. A lot of people prefer to ... I've never really thought about it, but ... I mean ... I wouldn't really know ... I'd like to ... I love the fact that ... whatever I like I pride myself on ...	As I mentioned, ... They look as though or something ... Anyway, ... the ... things I have ever seen I'd love to ... For now though, ...
Part 3	
Supporting Opinions Personally, ... I'm strongly opposed to ... What's the point of ...? Studies have shown that ... whether that's ... or ...	If ... should be ... There is a proven link between ... and ... There's research to suggest ... For instance, ... Realistically, ...

Topic-Related Vocabulary

Part 1	Part 2
Flowers lily petal pleasant scent plant a bunch of flowers Holidays annual leave abroad culture pace of life relax take a break	Watches and Time wristwatch all the time time-pressured rude punctual lack respect and discipline polite run late fur graceful huge elegant giant tiny cuddly cute powerful dangerous agile playful cub hunt in the wild enclosure natural habitat nature documentary

Part 3


Animals and Social Issues

cosmetics
cruel
unnecessary
make-up
human
discomfort
technological
harm
mistreatment
neglect

physical abuse
punish
violence
humanely
living creature
poach
illegal
lucrative
poverty
international community

Animals as Companions

designer fashion
companionship
unconditional love
stroke
exercise
inconvenient
unsuitable
commitment

 **Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score**

Teacher Tip

Sometimes, when you have finished your answer, it can feel a little awkward to just stop speaking. Use concluding statements to round off and finish your Part 3 answers. There are several ways to do this.

 *Listen to the two candidates answering this question.*

What are some of the main reasons that certain birds and animals have become extinct?

1. How do they indicate to the examiner that they have finished speaking?

Candidate 1: _____

Candidate 2: _____

2. Your teacher will tell you some other ways to finish your Part 3 answers in order to make them more structured and coherent:

a. _____

b. _____

Practice

Work with a partner. Use the questions below and take it in turns to ask and answer. Remember, try to support your answers as fully as possible with examples, details, explanations, facts, evidence, or hypothetical examples.

Wildlife

1. How have human activities affected wildlife in China?
2. What are some of the main reasons that certain birds and animals have become extinct?
3. What can individuals do to try to protect endangered species?

Animals and Society

4. What is the role of animals in Vietnam?
5. Some people feel that there is a special bond between animals and humans. Would you agree with this view?
6. What are some of the ways animals have benefited human society?

ADVANCED SPEAKING

UNIT

7

Part 1

Teacher Tip

Phrasing (pausing slightly before or after certain words) and the grouping of words together are natural in English, and it is important to do this to express meaning clearly.

 Exercise 1


Listen to the two extracts.

1. chocolate ice cream and cake
2. chocolate ice cream and cake
 - a. What is different between the two extracts?

- b. How many nouns are mentioned in the first extract? _____
- c. How many nouns are mentioned in the second extract? _____



Listen to these two extracts.

3. Spanish olives and salami
4. Spanish olives and salami
 - d. In Extract 3, is the salami Spanish, or is it from anywhere?

 Exercise 2


Listen to the following Part 1 questions. Identify where pauses have been inserted into the questions. Match the answers to the correct questions.

1. If you could choose, in which part of your country would you live?

2. Do you prefer to live in a house or an apartment?

Candidate 1:

- I prefer to live in an apartment, because there is better security, better views, and they are usually located in downtown areas, which is where I like to live.


Candidate 2:

- I think I'd choose to live on the island of Bali, where there is a little bit of everything: beautiful beaches, cool forest, lush jungle, and of course, lots of interesting art and culture.

Candidate 1: Question _____

Candidate 2: Question _____

 **Exercise 3**

 Listen to the answers above and mark the phrasing (pauses) in the answers. Practise saying them yourself with the correct phrasing.

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127. Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

Did you practise using phrasing to make your answer more natural?

 **Exercise 4**

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Television

1. What types of programmes do you usually watch on television? (Why?)
 - I like to think I'm quite particular about the type of television programmes I watch, because I don't really have that much time to enjoy television. I try to only watch a few really good, high-quality type dramas or documentaries each week, but sometimes, I find myself watching rubbish: soap operas and things like that!

2. How many hours do you watch television each day? (Why?)
 - Well, as I said, I try to watch less than five hours of television a week, so I suppose that averages out at less than an hour a day. Sometimes, it's a lot more, though.
3. Do you prefer to watch television alone or with others? Why?
 - I prefer to watch television by myself because then, there's no one else around to talk while the programme's on, or ask stupid questions about the plot. For me, it's more relaxing to watch alone.

Sounds

4. Which sounds from nature do you enjoy? (Why?)
 - Nature? Well, I really love the sound of the waves crashing on the beach and the sound of rain on my roof. I also enjoy the sound of wind through the trees.
5. Which sounds that you hear regularly do you dislike? Why?
 - I don't really like the sound of motorway traffic and cars, especially in rush hours, and I'm not a fan of cats that constantly meow – that really gets on my nerves. Oh, and I hate the sound of everybody else's mobile phone message alerts!
6. Which sounds remind you of when you were young?
 - Probably my mother's voice, which I heard a lot! And I think also the sounds of summer and the beach – laughing, splashing in the water, talking. I also remember the sound of the recorder, which I played very badly.

Relaxation

7. What do you like to do in order to relax? Why?
 - It's relaxing for me to go for a long run with my iPod. I find exercise in general is really good for clearing my head and getting rid of any stress and tension. So yes, a run or a yoga class works for me.
8. How often do you perform this relaxing activity?
 - I probably run every day, or at least every second day. If not, I start to lose my fitness, and then, it becomes quite hard again. I don't run at the weekend, though.
9. Do you think you will relax this way in the future? Why / Why not?
 - I think so, for as long as my body's able to do it. For me, it's one of the only ways to wind down and take time out for myself, so I hope I can always do it, or at least go for a walk when I'm too old to run.

Part 2

Teacher Tip

Often, you are asked to tell a story about your experience in Part 2. One way to extend and add details to your story is to include things which other people said to you during the experience. You can do this by using reported speech (which also indicates a good grammatical range). Reported speech typically involves a backshift in tense from the original statement and changes in pronouns as well as the use of a reporting verb.

Direct speech:

- Best friend: 'I don't really want you to go away for such a long time.'
- Dad: 'I've been to Spain and it's a lovely place.'

Reported speech:

- My best friend said she didn't really want me to go away for such a long time.
- My dad said he had been to Spain and it was a lovely place.

Common reporting verbs: say, tell, answer, reply, mention, remark, and agree are followed by an optional 'that'. E.g. He replied (that) the shop was closed for the day.

Another way to structure your story is through the use of time order words such as: then, after that, following that / this, in the end, finally.

However, don't overuse these words.

 Exercise 5

Look at Task Card A and the model answer and underline any examples of reported speech.

Task Card A

Describe a happy time in your life.

You should say:

- what the happy time was
- who you were with
- where you were and what you were doing

and say why this was such a happy period of your life.

I'm going to describe my close friend's wedding, as this was a very happy day in my life. My friend, Clara, had decided to get married in summer on a tropical island in the South Pacific called Rarotonga. She had asked me about a year beforehand if I could be there so that I could save up the money. She and her fiancé had been planning this for a while, and altogether about thirty of us had planned to go. When we flew to the island on a tiny plane, we could see how magical the setting was. I said to my friend how perfect the location was for a romantic wedding ceremony. The water was an amazing turquoise blue, and secluded white sandy beaches were everywhere. Most of the guests arrived a couple of days before the actual wedding ceremony, which was nice as we had lots of time to get to know each other. It was very relaxing actually, kind of like a holiday combined with the wedding. Anyway, the wedding was on a Friday, I think, and it was such a perfect day – the sun was shining on the ocean, and the white sand was sparkling. All the guests were gathered around in a circle waiting for the bride and her bridesmaids to walk over the sand dunes to where we were standing by the water's edge. The groom was dressed in a white suit, and he looked very smart, but not as beautiful as his bride when she arrived wearing a simple but classic white dress. I was one of her bridesmaids, and we wore strapless blue dresses, carried frangipani petals and scattered these as we walked in front of the bride. The ceremony itself was quite short but very moving as the bride and groom had written their own vows and they were very personal. Then, we all moved to the reception venue for drinks and snacks while the wedding party had their photos taken at various locations around the island. The food was incredible – fresh seafood and local specialties, and the wine was imported from New Zealand and was delicious. After the pre-dinner drinks, everybody was seated in an outdoor venue as the sun began to set. There was live entertainment by a band, and pretty soon, we all started dancing and enjoying the music. This was followed by a delicious meal and then of course, the speeches. These were very funny and had all the guests laughing and enjoying themselves; especially the best man, who commented afterwards that he had been very nervous, but I thought he did a great job. After the speeches, it was more dancing, and then finally, the night finished at about one o'clock the next morning. Most people had been arranged to stay on for a bit longer to enjoy a holiday, but I had to get back home because of work commitments, so I flew out the next day. It was such a special occasion to be able to share with my friend, and I'm so glad that I made the effort to attend her big day. Hopefully one day, I'll get to go back to Rarotonga, as I would love to have more time to relax and explore this very special island. I said to my fiancé the other day that we should think about getting married there, too!

Exercise 6


Read the model answer again and **mark** any examples of time order words.

Exercise 7

Now, prepare to talk to a partner on Task Card A. Give yourself one minute to plan your answer and make sure you include some reported speech and time order words in your answer.

Part 3

 Focus on the Question

-  a. Look at the possible answers to the Part 3 questions. You will hear the Part 3 questions being asked as well. Match the correct answer to the question.

Answer A: Question _____

Answer B: Question _____

Answer C: Question _____

Answer D: Question _____

Answer E: Question _____

Answer F: Question _____

- b. Now, read the tapescript to identify which types of questions they are.

Questions	Types
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Possible Answers

- A. I'm not sure about that! I'm sure that many elderly people would say that the happiest time for them was in their youth when they had their lives ahead of them. When you're younger, you have your health and a world of opportunity at your feet. In my opinion, somewhere between the ages of 20 and 40 is probably the happiest time of life for most people.
- B. No, I think that's actually quite unrealistic and, in fact, is part of the problem nowadays where people feel dissatisfied with life if they aren't feeling happy the entire time. I think that part of being a person

is to experience a range of emotions, including happiness and sadness. If you feel happy all the time, then something's not quite right!

- C. In my view, personal health, good relationships with family and friends, having a good job, and having enough money to live comfortably are some of the things that make you feel satisfied. Although the money factor is interesting, some studies have shown that those who win the lottery are not necessarily happier after their big win than before. So, it's probably not so much related to money as having the necessities of life which are food, shelter, and water.
- D. Increasing happiness for people is problematic, as I feel that happiness is something which means different things to different people. It's really quite hard to define, which can make it quite elusive. However, I think that if it was cheaper for people to access psychological assistance, and there was less stigma around mental health difficulties, then that might improve overall happiness or well-being in the long run.
- E. I don't think so. Wealth and possessions are only material goods, and as I said, I think happiness is more related to relationships and social support. Having said that, of course, if money makes it possible for you to connect and share with others, then I suppose that could make you happy – for instance, if you bought a holiday house where you went with your friends every year, then that would be a case of wealth helping you to build connections. Overall though, I think money is not the key factor in feeling happy.
- F. I don't believe there is a secret to happiness as such, but I do think it's something that people have to work at finding for themselves. Some people say meditation and relaxation help them to find happiness, for others, it is their work, and for others still, happiness is related to things such as music and art. I guess the main thing is to follow your heart and do what you love.

Developing Ideas – Language

Teacher Tip

Using relative clauses is one way to show the examiner you are competent at forming complex sentences. Relative clauses use relative pronouns and relative adverbs to give extra information about the noun.

Relative pronouns:

- who / that: people
- which / that: things

Relative adverbs:

- where: place
- when: time

Look at the answers to the Part 3 questions from the previous exercise. Underline any relative clauses which you can find in the answers.

1. Some people say that as they age, they become happier. What's your opinion?
 - I'm not sure about that! I'm sure that many elderly people would say that the happiest time for them was in their youth when they had their lives ahead of them. When you're younger, you have your health and a world of opportunity at your feet. In my opinion, somewhere between the ages of 20 and 40 is probably the happiest time of life for most people.
2. What types of things influence personal happiness? Why?
 - In my view, personal health, good relationships with family and friends, having a good job, and having enough money to live comfortably are some of the things that make you feel satisfied. Although the money factor is interesting, some studies have shown that those who win the lottery are not necessarily happier after their big win than before. So, it's probably not so much related to money as having the necessities of life which are food, shelter, and water.
3. Many people around the world suffer from unhappiness and psychological difficulties. What measures can be taken to increase happiness?
 - Increasing happiness for people is problematic, as I feel that happiness is something which means different things to different people. It's really quite hard to define, which can make it quite elusive. However, I think that if it was cheaper for people to access psychological assistance, and there was less stigma around mental health difficulties, then that might improve overall happiness or well-being in the long run.
4. Do you believe wealth and possessions make people happy? Why / Why not?
 - I don't think so. Wealth and possessions are only material goods, and as I said, I think happiness is more related to relationships and social support. Having said that, of course, if money makes it possible for you to connect and share with others, then I suppose that could make you happy – for instance, if you bought a holiday house where you went with your friends every year, then that would be a case of wealth helping you to build connections. Overall though, I think money is not the key factor in feeling happy.
5. What is the secret to happiness?
 - I don't believe there is a secret to happiness as such, but I do think it's something that people have to work at finding for themselves. Some people say meditation and relaxation help them to find happiness, for others, it is their work, and for others still, happiness is related to things such as music and art. I guess the main thing is to follow your heart and do what you love.
6. Should people expect to be happy all the time?
 - No, I think that's actually quite unrealistic and, in fact, is part of the problem nowadays where people feel dissatisfied with life if they aren't feeling happy the entire time. I think that part of being a person is to experience a range of emotions, including happiness and sadness. If you feel happy all the time, then something's not quite right!

Developing Ideas – Brainstorming

The topic for this part is *happiness*. Discuss the following questions with a partner to brainstorm your own ideas to answer the questions.

1. Some people say that as they age, they become happier. What's your opinion?

Think about different people you know in different stages of life: how happy do you think they are? Why?

Childhood: _____

Teenage years: _____

Twenties: _____

Thirties: _____

Forties: _____

Fifties: _____

Middle age: _____

Old age: _____

Think about your own life and reflect back on the times when you felt happiest.

2. What types of things influence personal happiness? Why?

Consider different factors:

Money: _____

A good job or satisfying career: _____

Family: _____

Relationships: _____

Lifestyle: _____

Health: _____

3. Many people around the world suffer from unhappiness and psychological difficulties. What measures can be taken to increase happiness?

Think of examples from your country.

Consider:

Psychological services such as counselling: _____

Government involvement: _____

Education and awareness campaigns: _____

Personal awareness courses and classes: _____

4. Do you believe wealth and possessions make people happy? Why / Why not?

Examples of wealth and possessions: _____

5. What is the secret to happiness?

Consider:

Health and relaxation: _____

Therapy: _____

Acceptance: _____

6. Should people expect to be happy all the time?

Yes or No? _____

Reasons: _____

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above, using your notes to help you.

Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank

Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Expressions

Part 1	Part 2
a little bit of everything	Then, ...
be particular about	After that, ...
I find myself ...	Following that / this, ...
For me, ...	This was followed by ...
get on one's nerves	In the end, ...
	Finally, ...

Topic-Related Vocabulary


Part 1	Part 2	Part 3
<p>Television programme drama documentary soap opera plot</p> <p>Sounds wave rain wind motorway meow message alert laughing splashing recorder</p> <p>Relaxation iPod clear one's head stress tension fitness wind down take time out for oneself</p>	<p>tropical island fiancé wedding magical romantic turquoise secluded sandy bride groom bridesmaid ceremony vow reception venue entertainment speech</p>	<p>Happiness opportunity youth personal health relationship career necessity psychological mental health well-being wealth possessions material goods connection social support meditation relaxation unrealistic dissatisfied emotion sadness</p>

➤ Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Teacher Tip

During the test, if you don't understand something, be confident with language for checking meaning or asking the examiner to repeat the question.

- When you say ..., do you mean ...?
- I'm sorry. I didn't quite hear what you said. Would you mind repeating that?
- Could I just clarify what you mean by ...?

 Listen to the exchange between an examiner and an IELTS candidate. What has the candidate asked for clarification about?

Now, practise with a partner, clarifying vocabulary items in the questions.

1. Some people say that as they age, they become happier. What's your opinion?
2. What types of things influence personal happiness? Why?
3. Many people around the world suffer from unhappiness and psychological difficulties. What measures can be taken to increase happiness?
4. Do you believe wealth and possessions make people happy? Why/ Why not?
5. What is the secret to happiness?
6. Should people expect to be happy all the time?

Practice

Work with a partner. Use the questions below and take it in turns to ask and answer. Remember, try to include complex sentences in your answers – relative clauses are a good way to do this.

Happiness

1. Is it important to be happy?
2. How can people be happy when there is so much suffering in the world?
3. What are the advantages of being happy the majority of the time?
4. Do you think that success leads to happiness?
5. Some people think that nowadays people are less happy than those in previous generations. What's your view?
6. What are some of the effects of unhappiness?

ADVANCED SPEAKING

UNIT

8

Part 1

Teacher Tip

Giving negative answers in the Speaking test is fine. An honest answer will sound more genuine. Remember, there is no 'wrong' answer; this is just a chance to show your English language ability. The same applies when you are asked a question which you feel doesn't really relate to your experience directly – you can redirect it slightly as long as you explain why.

 Exercise 1

Read the following IELTS questions and answers. Which answers give a negative response? Discuss with a partner the useful language used to give a negative answer.

1. What sorts of hobbies do you like doing in your free time?

Answer 1	Answer 2
Well, I don't feel as though I actually have any real hobbies as such. I just like hanging out with my friends and talking. We spend a lot of time together.	I really enjoy playing sports, and my favourite sport overall is volleyball, so any free time I have, I usually meet my friends for a game.

2. What types of sports do you enjoy playing or watching?

Answer 1	Answer 2
I'm crazy about football and basketball, so I love to watch and play both sports. Last month, my friends and I went to see the national basketball team play, which was fantastic.	Actually, I hate sports, whether it's playing or watching. I'm just not interested in all that physical, competitive stuff. I'd rather read a book by myself.

 Exercise 2

Read the following Part 1 questions and make notes of how you would answer. Remember to include some negative answers if they apply to you.

Questions	Your Notes
Hobbies	
1. Tell me about any hobbies you have.	
2. How long have you been doing that hobby?	
3. What do you like least about your hobby?	
Cooking and Meals	
4. Who usually cooks meals in your house?	
5. What is your favourite meal of the day? Why?	
6. Do you prefer to eat at home or at a restaurant? Why?	
Healthy Food	
7. What types of healthy food do you eat? Why?	
8. What do you like most about eating healthy food?	
9. What do you like least about eating healthy food?	

 Exercise 3

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127. Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

1. Did you give a negative or redirected answer where appropriate?
2. What language did you use to express this?

 **Exercise 4**

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Hobbies

1. Tell me about any hobbies you have.
 - I have lots of hobbies and things I like to do in my free time, but the one I love most is listening to music and playing my guitar. I like to learn how to play my favourite tunes.
2. How long have you been doing that hobby?
 - I've been listening to and enjoying music for ages, but it's only recently that I have started to learn to play the guitar. I've been taking lessons for the last six months or so, and I love it.
3. What do you like least about your hobby?
 - To be honest, there's nothing that I don't really enjoy about learning and playing the guitar. Maybe I'll get sick of the practice, but for now, I just love it so much that I can't get enough!

Cooking and Meals

4. Who usually cooks meals in your house?
 - My dad is the one who cooks dinner in my house and he's a great cook, so we all take the leftovers for lunch the next day. Everyone takes care of their own breakfast in the mornings.
5. What is your favourite meal of the day? Why?
 - My favourite meal is definitely dinner because my dad's such a good cook and makes such delicious meals. It's also the time when everyone gets together and catches up on the news.
6. Do you prefer to eat at home or at a restaurant? Why?
 - In general, I probably prefer to eat at home although I do like going out to restaurants occasionally for something special.

Healthy Food

7. What types of healthy food do you eat? Why?
 - Actually, I don't really eat healthy food, at least not that often anyway! I love junk food and sweet cakes and stuff like that. I know it's really unhealthy, but I love all that type of food.
8. What do you like most about eating healthy food?
 - As I said, I don't really eat healthy food, and when I do, I certainly don't enjoy it! Having said that, I do enjoy the freshness and sweetness of some fruit, like strawberries and pineapples in summer, so I suppose I do eat some healthy food.
9. What do you like least about eating healthy food?
 - I don't enjoy it when it doesn't seem to have any flavour. That's the main thing I hate about healthy food – it's just so tasteless, bland, and boring to eat.

Part 2

Teacher Tip

When describing a place, person, or an event during your long turn, use adjectives. You can also use similes for comparison, e.g. 'The fruit was as sweet as honey.' or 'The ocean was like a giant swimming pool.' Language devices like this add interest and complexity to your answer.

 Exercise 5

Look at Task Card A and the model answer and underline any adjectives to describe a place, person, or an event and similes in the answer.

Task Card A

Describe a park or natural area which you enjoy.

You should say:

where it is and how often you go there

who you normally go there with

what you do there

and say why you enjoy going there.

I'm going to describe an outdoor area which I absolutely love not only for its natural beauty but also for the memories that I have of this place. It's a waterfall and swimming hole out in the forest, with lots of cool shade around for enjoying stunning summer days. It's about an hour's drive from the city where I live, and the roads are hilly and narrow. After the drive, you have to walk for about 45 minutes, and the track is quite steep in parts. I used to go there a lot more than I do now because my classmates and I all used to go there on Friday afternoons instead of going to class! It was the perfect place to relax and enjoy nature. I still go there every now and again with friends or family. Anyway, the waterfall is quite high, and the water spills down into a large swimming area which is lovely and deep and excellent for swimming. On a sunny day, the water is as blue as the sky, a beautiful colour. Trees surround the area, but it also gets plenty of sunlight. It seems as though nobody really knows about this spot as it is very secluded and hardly anyone else goes there, so if you're lucky, you have the place to yourself to enjoy. We normally take a picnic lunch and spend the day there, exploring the other tracks and areas around this part of the forest. Of course, we spend lots of time just lying around in the sun, talking and eating delicious food, and we also do lots of other stuff. We spend heaps of time swimming, especially around and under the waterfall where the water streams down like a wall of glass. Behind the waterfall is a cave area which is dark and slippery but fun to explore. You can even sit in there and be completely dry. There's also a swing rope tied to one of the large trees, so we use that to swing on and jump into the water, which is heaps of fun. We used to have competitions to see who could do the craziest jump into the water! I love going to this place because it's so private and special, and it reminds me of really happy memories when I was younger. I also love sharing this unique place with visitors to my country as they always really like it and are very impressed. I'm lucky to live in a country where there are lots of untouched outdoor areas which are accessible to enjoy. So, that's my favourite outdoor area, and I hope it stays the same for years to come.

Exercise 6

Practise taking notes of each of these similar Part 2 topics (Tasks Card A and B). Remember, you only have one minute to think about and take notes for your answer. Use it efficiently by noting down key words to help you to keep talking.

Task Card B

Describe a walk you enjoyed.

You should say:

where the walk was

who you went with

how long it was for

and explain why it was so enjoyable.

Exercise 7

Now, prepare to talk to a partner about Task Card A or B. Remember to include lots of adjectives and similes to extend your answer. For extra practice, switch and talk about the other card.


Part 3

Focus on the Question

Teacher Tip

Remember, the task card you were given in Part 2 is thematically linked to the Part 3 questions you will be asked.

- Which of the following options do you think best links Task Card A in this unit to Part 3?
 - Questions about nature and the environment
 - Questions about beautiful places in your country
 - Questions about free time

-  Listen to the Part 3 questions. Circle what type of question each one is.
 - description / problem-solution / evaluation / opinion / cause-effect / comparison / advantages-disadvantages / changes
 - description / problem-solution / evaluation / opinion / cause-effect / comparison / advantages-disadvantages / changes
 - description / problem-solution / evaluation / opinion / cause-effect / comparison / advantages-disadvantages / changes
 - description / problem-solution / evaluation / opinion / cause-effect / comparison / advantages-disadvantages / changes
 - description / problem-solution / evaluation / opinion / cause-effect / comparison / advantages-disadvantages / changes
 - description / problem-solution / evaluation / opinion / cause-effect / comparison / advantages-disadvantages / changes

 Developing Ideas – Language

Teacher Tip

Modal verbs are often necessary to express certain functions, such as probability, doubt and certainty, possibility and obligation.

- **have to / must** expresses a strong obligation.
E.g. The government must take a firm stance on environmental issues.
- **should** expresses a recommendation or advice.
E.g. People should make an effort to use public transport.
- **can** expresses possibility or ability.
E.g. People can recycle their glass, cans, and newspapers. The situation can improve.
- **could** expresses possibility.
E.g. The government could implement stricter policies to protect the environment.
- **might / may** expresses a weaker possibility.
E.g. People might start to care more about the environment when they realise how polluted the world has become.
- **will / would** expresses a stronger possibility of something happening.
E.g. The situation will get worse if nobody does anything.

Remember that modal verbs are always followed by a base verb.

Look at the answers to the Part 3 questions from the previous exercise. Underline any modal verbs in the answers.

Environment

1. Do you think there is more environmental awareness among people in your country than a decade ago? Why?
 - I definitely think there is more awareness in terms of environmental issues and a pressing sense that people have to act now in order to protect the environment for both the immediate future and generations ahead. For instance, people nowadays are much more concerned with recycling materials, and it has become quite fashionable to be 'green'. People now have the sense that the things they do or don't do can make a difference.
2. What measures are being taken to protect the environment in your country? How successful have these been?
 - As I mentioned, on a personal level, many people are making more sustainable choices in their daily lives. Other initiatives in my country include stricter controls on factories and industry, and I know that more awareness campaigns will take place soon. There has also been a big move towards networking and using social media to promote environmental issues. So, I think there are many things which are being done, but the key is to keep up the awareness to sustain momentum.
3. Is protecting and preserving the environment the responsibility of individual citizens or national governments? Why?
 - I would certainly say both, as it's almost as if one can't happen without the support of the other. The government definitely has a responsibility not only to legislate and enforce at the more serious end of the spectrum but also to provide a framework for individuals to understand and act on their own

environmental responsibility. By that, I mean things like kerbside recycling schemes and subsidies for using public transport instead of private cars, for example. On the other hand, the public has to take up and use the schemes. It's a two-way issue.

Places and Nature

4. What type of outdoor places do people in your country visit and enjoy?

- Well, it depends on which part of the country, but in my city, people tend to make the most of city parks and landscaped areas. People often use the parks for exercise in the mornings and evenings, and when they can, for eating their lunch during their lunch break from work. Kids and families also use parks to play. It's a couple of hours' drive to the coast, but often, people make that trip on weekends or holidays to get out of the city. I'd like to see more parks and outdoor areas in my city, but overall, I think it's pretty good.

5. How important do you think it is for people to spend time outdoors enjoying nature? Why?

- Personally, I believe it's really important to spend time in nature. First of all, it's good for taking time out and relaxing in a peaceful environment. Even if it's just ten minutes' sitting in the sun during a break from work, I think it's worth it just to have a change of scene and refresh yourself. Also, by spending time outdoors, people can get fit and healthy as well as gain an awareness of many beautiful parts of their country. This, in turn, might motivate people to appreciate and care for the environment in a more global sense. So, I think there are lots of reasons why people should get outdoors and enjoy nature!

6. What are some of the effects of urbanisation in your country?

- I think that development has certainly happened very quickly, perhaps even before legislation could move fast enough to protect some of our natural environment, which is a terrible shame. The effects of this are obviously the destruction of natural areas in favour of the construction of apartments, and I think this is a huge loss for society. I only hope in future that the same problems will not occur.

Developing Ideas – Brainstorming

The topic for this part is the environment. Discuss the following questions with a partner to brainstorm your own ideas to answer the questions.

1. Do you think there is more environmental awareness among people in your country than a decade ago? Why?

In what ways do people show their environmental awareness nowadays – what choices do they make each day in the following areas?

Rubbish: _____

Transport: _____

Shopping: _____

Clothing: _____

Water usage: _____

Power usage: _____

How does this compare to the awareness people had ten years ago in the same areas?

2. What measures are being taken to protect the environment in your country? How successful have these been?

Think about:

Individuals: _____

Companies and industry: _____

Government: _____

Successful or not? Why? _____

3. Is protecting and preserving the environment the responsibility of individual citizens or national governments? Why?

Individuals: _____

Government: _____

Anyone else? _____

4. What type of outdoor places do people in your country visit and enjoy?

Consider:

Outdoor Space	Activities People Do There
Park	
Beach	
Forest	
Mountain	
Lake and river	

5. How important do you think it is for people to spend time outdoors enjoying nature? Why?

Consider the benefits of spending time in nature:

Psychological: _____

Physical: _____

Any other benefits: _____

6. What are some of the effects of urbanisation in your country?

Consider:

Effects on environment: _____

Effects on people: _____

Financial effects: _____

Effects on tourism: _____

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above, using your notes to help you.

Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank

Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Expressions

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3
Actually, ... Maybe ... I hate ... I'd rather ... I really enjoy ... To be honest, ... I'm crazy about ... I'm just not that interested in ... I like ...	It seems as though ... Of course, ... I love going to this place because ... spend time doing something used to Anyway, ...	have to should can must may could will would might
		+ base verb

Topic-Related Vocabulary

Part 1	Part 2
Hobbies free time physical fantastic competitive favourite practice Cooking and Meals cook dinner breakfast leftovers delicious special	Healthy Food junk food sweet unhealthy freshness sweetness fruit flavour tasteless bland boring natural beauty waterfall swimming hole cool hilly narrow stunning steep perfect deep excellent secluded delicious dark slippery dry crazy private special unique untouched accessible

Part 3			
Environment		Places and Nature	
awareness	campaign	city	take time out
issue	sustain	park	relax
protect	momentum	landscaped area	peaceful
future	environmental	exercise	change of scene
generation	legislate	lunch break	refresh
recycling	enforce	play	fit
material	spectrum	coast	healthy
make a difference	framework	trip	development
sustainable	responsibility	mountain	legislation
initiative	recycling scheme	river	destruction
strict	subsidy	lake	construction
control	public transport	forest	loss

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Teacher Tip

Sometimes, it's hard to know where to start. A useful way to get going is to paraphrase part of the question in starting your answer.

Listen to the examiner asking a Part 3 question.

How would you begin your answer?

Now, listen to how the candidate paraphrases part of the question to help frame the answer.

Practice

Work with a partner. Use the questions below and take it in turns to ask and answer. Remember, use modal verbs where appropriate. If you get stuck beginning your answers, use the technique outlined above to help you.

Pollution

1. What are some of the problems associated with pollution in your country?
2. What can be done to help solve these problems?
3. Some people believe that spending public money on reducing pollution is a waste. What's your view?

Recycling

4. What types of items are generally recycled by people in your country?
5. What are some of the benefits of recycling?
6. Are there any disadvantages to recycling, in your opinion?

ADVANCED SPEAKING

UNIT

9

Part 1

Teacher Tip

In Part 1, you need to be aware whether you are being asked to compare or whether you are being asked to describe. This will help you to give an appropriate answer and indicate to the examiner that you have understood the question correctly.

 Exercise 1

Read the following IELTS questions. Which questions ask you to compare? Which questions ask you to describe?

1. Tell me about a physical activity you do regularly.
2. Do you like to do this activity by yourself or with others?
3. What effect does doing physical activities have on you? Why?

Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

 Exercise 2

Read the following Part 1 questions and decide whether they ask you to compare or describe.

Questions	Compare or Describe?
Studying	
1. Which university or school are you currently studying at?	
2. What's your major?	
3. What type of career do you hope to have after graduating?	
Family	
4. What type of activity does your family do together? Why?	
5. Have you always done this type of activity together?	
6. What do you like about spending time together in this way?	
Music	
7. Which musical instruments do you enjoy listening to? Why?	
8. Have you ever learnt a musical instrument yourself?	
9. Which style of music do you prefer to listen to? Why?	

Exercise 3

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127. Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

Did you correctly identify whether you were being asked to compare or describe?

Exercise 4

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Studying

1. Which university or school are you currently studying at?
 - At the moment, I study at a local senior high school. It's a pretty big school which is famous for its basketball teams.
2. What's your major?
 - I don't have a major yet, but I'm studying lots of different subjects including English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Geography. My favourite subject is English, though.
3. What type of career do you hope to have after graduating?
 - I really hope to become an English teacher so that I can help young people to achieve their dreams and also help our country to be a good tourism destination.

Family

4. What type of activity does your family do together? Why?
 - Well, I suppose the main activity that we do together is in the evenings when we're all at home, just relaxing and watching television. Sometimes, we all go out together for the day to a park or for a walk or something like that.
5. Have you always done this type of activity together?
 - I think so. For as long as I can remember, we've always enjoyed spending time together in the evenings, watching television and chatting, although we don't have as much time now as we did before.

6. What do you like about spending time together in this way?
- The main thing I enjoy about it is that it is relaxing and easy. It's always very comfortable with family as you know them so well!

Music

7. Which musical instruments do you enjoy listening to? Why?
- I don't really enjoy classical music as such, but I do really love listening to the piano or viola in pop songs. And I love it when my nana plays the piano and sings.
8. Have you ever learnt a musical instrument yourself?
- I tried to learn the piano, but I just wasn't very good at all, unfortunately. Practising was a real bore, and I just couldn't seem to get the notes right.
9. Which style of music do you prefer to listen to? Why?
- I prefer to listen to pop music mainly, but it depends on what type of mood I'm in. Sometimes, I enjoy jazz or blues music, and occasionally, I listen to country music. Pop music makes me happy, jazz for when I'm a bit down, and country is better for fun.

Part 2

Teacher Tip

Sometimes, a Part 2 long turn may require you to discuss a process. Using time order words will give your talk coherence: first / then / after that / the next thing / following that / in the end / finally.

Exercise 5

Look at Task Card A and with a partner, brainstorm the type of things you could talk about.

Task Card A

Describe something you made by yourself.

You should say:

what you made and how

what you used it for

how long it took to make

and say whether it was easy or difficult to make.

Brainstorm

You will see from your brainstorming exercise that there is a wide range of possible topics to talk about in response to this task card.

 **Exercise 6**

The candidate is going to talk about a cake that she made. Before you listen to her answer, try to put the steps of this process in the correct order. Use the time order words to help you – you can use any of these more than once:

first / next / then / after that / in the end / following that

The first two answers have been done for you.

Steps to Make a Cake	Answer
I put the mixture in the tin.	
I looked at hundreds of recipes to find the perfect one.	1
I gave up and threw the cake in the bin.	
I left it in the oven for about an hour and a half.	
I bought all the ingredients and got organised.	2
I mixed everything together, including the flour, eggs, and cocoa.	
I tried to add the icing to make it look better.	

Look back at your brainstorm. Practise telling your partner how you made some of the things on your list, using time order words.

 **Exercise 7**

Listen to the recording of a candidate responding to Task Card A and check your answers to Exercise 6. Underline any time order words which are used for each stage.


Teacher Tip**Brainstorming**


Adding extra details and comments will help make your story interesting as well as help you to extend your answer for the required time. For this task card, think about:

- How did people react to the item that you made? Did they like it? Why?
- When did you make it?
- Would you make it again? Is there anything you would do differently?
- Give lots of background information as to why you made this item.
- Reflect on whether you like to make things like this or not.

 **Exercise 8**

Now, prepare to talk to a partner on Task Card A. Remember to include an explanation of your process in making the item and use time order words to sequence and structure your answer.

Part 3 **Focus on the Question**

 Read the following Part 3 questions and listen to the answers the candidate gives. Which questions are they answering?

1. What are the effects of producing cheap imitations of leading brands for the international market?

2. Some people argue that a handmade gift is more thoughtful and original than something which has been mass-produced. Would you agree with this view? Why / Why not?

3. In what ways are mass-produced goods different from handmade products?

4. What types of things do people in your country make by themselves?

5. What are the skills required to make these types of things?

6. What are the reasons people might decide to make things themselves rather than purchase them?

 Developing Ideas – Language**Teacher Tip**

Using starter and linking language in your answers gives structure and coherence, as well as helping you to keep focused on answering the question specifically.

Introducing your answer:

- There are several reasons / differences / types ...
- There are a number of reasons / differences / effects ...
- I suppose there are many reasons / differences / effects / problems ...
- I certainly agree that ...

Giving examples:

for example / for instance / such as

Comparing and contrasting:

whereas / while / but / however

Listing:

firstly / first of all / secondly

The starters and linkers you actually use will depend on your topic and question type, so make sure you tailor them specifically to the question you are being asked.

Look at the answers to the Part 3 questions from the previous exercise. Underline any examples of starter and linking language in the answers.

Mass Production

1. What are the effects of producing cheap imitations of leading brands for the international market?
 - There are several effects of this trend. The first one is that a greater number of people get to enjoy the thrill of buying a prestigious label at a fraction of the cost, such as Chanel bags or Gucci wallets. This has the impact of taking away the exclusivity of the brand and thus probably devalues the original items. Another effect is the growth of an entire black market industry based on the production and sale of these items. The tourists who come here absolutely love it and go home with lots of presents for their friends and family.
2. Some people argue that a handmade gift is more thoughtful and original than something which has been mass-produced. Would you agree with this view? Why / Why not?
 - I certainly agree with the sentiment that a handmade gift can be more thoughtful than a store-bought one. Making somebody a gift yourself shows that you have spent your own time and energy thinking about what they would like and then making it for them. The other aspect is that handmade gifts are always unique and include something of the person giving the gift, which

is very personal. Mass-produced gifts, of course, are also sometimes thoughtful, but I prefer a handmade gift with love and care.

3. In what ways are mass-produced goods different from handmade products?

- I think there are a couple of main differences. Firstly, mass-produced gifts are just that they all look the same, and there is no individual style or difference to them, whereas handmade items are all slightly different in certain ways. Then, there's the question of price: handmade goods are generally more expensive than mass-produced goods because they take more time to make. Having said that, at local craft markets, there are often items much cheaper than their mass-produced equivalents, so it really depends on where you buy things. The main difference that I like between the two types of goods is that when you buy a handmade item, the money usually goes straight to the person who made it.

Handmade Items

4. What types of things do people in your country make by themselves?

- People here make many different things by hand. For instance, a lot of beautiful jewellery is made from carving wood and special semi-precious stones, and this is all done carefully by hand, so each one is unique. The local women also produce a lot of woven goods, such as dolls, blankets, and clothing, and they weave wherever they go. A lot of people also make their own bread and other food items by hand. There's a range of things that people produce by themselves.

5. What are the skills required to make these types of things?

- There is a variety of skills necessary to produce these items. For instance, many craftspeople have knowledge of carving wood and stone for making sculpture and jewellery. Others have weaving skills to make beautiful blankets from brightly coloured wool. And as for making meals and local dishes, I'm not sure if there are any specific skills necessary or whether it's just the knowledge of recipes and ingredients combined with common sense.

6. What are the reasons people might decide to make things themselves rather than purchase them?

- I suppose there are a number of reasons. First of all, it might be much cheaper for them to make food items at home, as well as the fact that it's probably fresher and tastier. Secondly, many local people rely on their craft skills in making things to sell in the local market and also to tourists. So, making things is their job and their livelihood. Finally, I think many people are creative and get a real sense of pride and satisfaction from making things themselves, so that's a big part of why they decide to make things.

Developing Ideas – Brainstorming

The topic for this part is the production and making of things. Discuss the following questions with a partner to brainstorm your own ideas to answer the questions.

1. What are the effects of producing cheap imitations of leading brands for the international market?
Consider:

	Economic Effects	Effects on Brand Image
Consumer perspective		
Company perspective		

Overall, are these effects positive or negative? Why?

2. Some people argue that a handmade gift is more thoughtful and original than something which has been mass-produced. Would you agree with this view? Why / Why not?

What are the main differences between the two types?

Think about:

Originality: _____

Style: _____

Quality: _____

3. In what ways are mass-produced goods different from handmade products?

Compare:

	Mass-Produced Goods	Handmade Goods
Price		
Quality		
Style		
Originality / Uniqueness		
Availability		
Profit		

4. What types of things do people in your country make by themselves?

Consider:

Craft items: _____

Food items: _____

Tourist souvenir items: _____

Clothing items: _____

Jewellery: _____

Art: _____

Woodwork: _____

5. What are the skills required to make these types of things?

Types of Items	Skills Required
Craft	
Food	
Tourist souvenir	
Clothing	
Jewellery	
Art	
Woodwork	

6. What are the reasons people might decide to make things themselves rather than purchase them?

Consider your answer from different perspectives:

Economic: _____

Psychological: _____

Necessity: _____

Professional: _____

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above, using your notes to help you.

Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank

Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Expressions

Part 1	Part 2
<p>At the moment, ...</p> <p>I really hope ...</p> <p>I think so.</p> <p>For as long as I can remember, ...</p> <p>The main thing ...</p> <p>I do really love ...</p> <p>I couldn't seem to ...</p> <p>I prefer ...</p> <p>It depends on what type / sort of mood I'm in.</p> <p>make me happy</p>	<p>In any case, ...</p> <p>Of course, ...</p> <p>Well, ...</p> <p>Looking back, ...</p> <p>It took ages ...</p> <p>By this stage, ...</p> <p>In the end, ...</p>
Part 3	
<p>There are several reasons / differences / types ...</p> <p>There are a number of reasons / differences / effects ...</p> <p>I suppose there are many reasons / differences / effects / problems ...</p> <p>I certainly agree that ...</p> <p>for example</p> <p>for instance</p> <p>such as</p> <p>whereas</p> <p>while</p> <p>but</p> <p>however,</p> <p>firstly,</p> <p>first of all,</p> <p>secondly,</p>	

Topic-Related Vocabulary

Part 1		Part 2	
<p>Studying</p> <p>local senior high school major subject English Maths Physics Chemistry Biology Geography achieve dream</p> <p>Family</p> <p>relax go out together spend time together chat easy comfortable</p>	<p>Music</p> <p>classical music piano viola pop song practise bore note mood jazz blues country down</p>	<p>cake recipe fantastic straightforward ingredient organised complicated procedure centimetre panic disaster stressful plain gesture fail miserably</p>	
Part 3			
<p>Mass Production</p> <p>trend thrill prestigious label wallet exclusivity brand devalue original black market</p>	<p>industry sentiment store-bought thoughtful unique personal individual style expensive equivalent</p>	<p>Handmade Items</p> <p>by hand jewellery carving semi-precious unique woven doll blanket produce sculpture</p>	<p>craftsperson knowledge common sense cheap fresh tasty livelihood creative pride satisfaction</p>

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Teacher Tip

In Part 3, you must not give prepared and pre-planned answers. Each question is specific and requires careful listening to ensure that you answer on the topic. Be careful not to assume that because you hear a keyword, you know the question.

Read the two different answers to the question below.

What have been the effects of globalisation on the mass production of goods?

Candidate 1:

- There have been many effects of globalisation around the world. First of all, the availability of a wide range of consumer products is now at the disposal of the worldwide consumer, and this has the effect of providing better products at lower prices. Therefore, globalisation has had a significant effect on the level of competition in the international marketplace.

Candidate 2:

- I think that globalisation has had an influence on mass production in the sense that there are now larger markets and more demand for products as a result of these larger markets. Therefore, globalisation has driven up demand for mass-produced goods. For example, people living in America and East Europe have had an influence on the demand for products from Vietnam, particularly textile goods. This is the main way globalisation has impacted on mass production.

Discuss with a partner:

Which is the better answer? Why?

Practice

Work with a partner. Use the questions below and take it in turns to ask and answer.

Mass Production and Technology

1. How has the development of technology influenced mass production?
2. What are the benefits of mass-produced goods?
3. Do you think your country will make more or fewer mass-produced items in the future? Why?

Handmade Products

4. What types of art and craft are popular in your country? Why?
5. What are some of the benefits of making handmade items?
6. Are there any disadvantages to making things by hand?

ADVANCED SPEAKING

UNIT

10

Part 1

Teacher Tip

In order to give the examiner enough language to assess your ability accurately, always extend your answer appropriately by thinking of reasons and examples to support what you have said. Think of examples from your everyday life related to the question you have been asked.

 Exercise 1

Read the following IELTS questions and answers. Identify the examples and reasons the candidates have given in their answers.

1. How do you usually find out about the news?

Answer 1	Answer 2
I usually find out about the news by going online to my favourite newspaper website to catch up with local and international news. I find that online news is the most up-to-date and convenient source for me, personally.	I don't really consciously find out about the news as I just tend to hear bits and pieces either from other people talking or from the radio, things like that. I don't sit down to watch the news every day or anything because I find it depressing and dull.

Answer 1:

Example: _____

Reason: _____

Answer 2:

Example: _____

Reason: _____

2. Do you read or listen to the news every day?

Answer 1	Answer 2
Not every day, because I simply don't have the time, but probably once or twice a week, I make an effort to catch up with what's happening, particularly in my country.	I'm a news fanatic, so I'm constantly trying to keep up to date with breaking news. I definitely read or listen to some sort of news on a daily basis, whether that's online, on the radio, or on the television.

Answer 1:

Example: _____

Reason: _____

Answer 2:

Example: _____

Reason: _____

Ask and answer the questions with a partner, using examples and reasons to support your own answers.

 **Exercise 2**

Read the following Part 1 questions and decide on some examples and/or reasons for each one.

Questions	Your Examples and /or Reasons
Electronic Messages	
1. How often do you send an electronic message to someone?	
2. Which method of sending electronic messages do you prefer? Why?	
3. Do most people you know spend the same amount of time on electronic messages as you?	
Language Learning	
4. How long have you been studying English?	
5. What is the most difficult thing about learning English?	
6. Do you think it's important to learn new languages? Why?	
Pets / Animals	
7. Do you (or anyone you know) have a pet? Which type of pet?	
8. How much time do you (or they) spend caring for this animal?	
9. Is there anything you (or they) dislike about having a pet?	

 **Exercise 3**

Now, you practise.

Work with two other people.

Each person should choose six questions from the Part 1 Question Appendix on pages 126-127.

Choose different types of questions.

Take turns to be the examiner, student, and timekeeper.

- **Examiner:** Choose one person from your group and ask one of your chosen questions.
- **Student:** You have up to 20 seconds to speak on this topic.
- **Timekeeper:** Say 'stop' after 20 seconds.

After each answer, think about the following:

1. Which type of examples and reasons did you give?
2. Were they relevant to the question?

Exercise 4

Look at the following sample questions and answers. Then, practise asking and answering the questions with a partner, giving your own answers to the questions.

Electronic Messages

1. How often do you send an electronic message to someone?
 - All the time! I'm constantly sending either e-mails or text messages to people. I don't think I could live without this type of technology! I send e-mails for work. I message friends on Facebook – probably every ten minutes to half an hour, I send a new message.
2. Which method of sending electronic messages do you prefer? Why?
 - At the moment, I'm really into text messages again because usually people get them straight away. I mean, most people nowadays have e-mail on their phones but not all, so I still think texting is the best method.
3. Do most people you know spend the same amount of time on electronic messages as you?
 - Actually, I think they probably spend more time than me, because a lot of my friends have more time on their hands than me, so I think they message all day long! At least, I'm always getting many more messages from my friends than what I send.

Language Learning

4. How long have you been studying English?
 - I've been studying English since I was about 14 years old, when I picked it up as an option at school. Since then, I've continued at school and also in private classes and been abroad to study, which helped a lot.
5. What is the most difficult thing about learning English?
 - For me, it's definitely the grammar and tenses. In my language, we think about time and tense totally differently, so it's a real challenge to use the English tense system accurately. I think living overseas definitely helped me with that aspect as I started to think in English.
6. Do you think it's important to learn new languages? Why?
 - Yes. I think I read somewhere recently that learning new languages helps to keep your brain sharp and alert, and also I think that learning a language can open the door in terms of experiences and opportunities for work, study, or your personal life.

Pets / Animals

7. Do you (or anyone you know) have a pet? Which type of pet?
- Well, my friend has a very cute dog called Bau, which means “precious” in English. She’s certainly precious, but a little naughty. I can’t remember what breed she is, but she’s little and cute with big ears.
8. How much time do you (or they) spend caring for this animal?
- My friend takes her dog everywhere with her, so I guess she spends quite a lot of time caring for Bau. She doesn’t take her dog for very long walks though, as Bau just fits in with her daily routine.
9. Is there anything you (or they) dislike about having a pet?
- No. My friend is crazy about her dog and loves everything about her. I can’t imagine her disliking anything about having a pet as she is a real animal person. Personally, I wouldn’t like the fact that I always had to walk a dog, if I had one. That’s why I have a cat!

Part 2

Teacher Tip

Throughout the IELTS test, a good strategy to adopt is one of self-correction. This means that if you catch yourself making a grammatical error and you know how to correct it, then correct yourself. This shows the examiner that you have control over your spoken English and is looked at positively. Of course, it’s better not to make any mistakes at all, but if you do, self-correction is a good tool to use.

 Exercise 5

Look at Task Card A and select the most appropriate main tense for your answer.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| a. present perfect | b. present simple |
| c. past simple | d. future simple |

Task Card A

Describe a healthy activity that you do.

You should say:

when you do it and how often

where you do it


who you do it with

and say whether you enjoy this healthy activity or not.

 **Exercise 6**

Read the tapescript. Underline any errors in verb tense you think may have been made and see if you can correct them.

I'm going to talk about a healthy activity that I do. Every day, I go for a walk or a run, which I think is quite a healthy activity. Of course, I don't do it absolutely every day of my life, but most days, I managed to fit in at least a quick walk. My routine is that usually I go in the mornings, when I first get up out of bed and before I have breakfast or a shower or anything like that. It's a struggle because I have to wake up quite early in order to still have time to get ready for university, and so on. Anyway, I wake up at 5:30 a.m., get dressed, and I'm out the door. There are lots of places to run around my area, including the local park, the beach, and just around the streets which were very quiet at that time of the morning because most people are sleeping or just waking up to start their days. I don't like running in the dark, but it's okay now because I have run with my little dog Bobo and, although he wouldn't hurt anyone, for some reason, I just feel more secure when I'm running with him. Sometimes, my friend joins me, but she can't always get out of bed in time. Anyway, I run with my music to keep me company as well. So, if I run around the park, it is a nice route because I get to see the sunrise, which is beautiful. I normally have run about 10 kilometres, and then, it's home for a quick shower, breakfast, and getting to university on time. I absolutely love going for runs, because I feel so good and fit afterwards, and it helps me to keep in shape. If for some reason, I can't run, like when I'm really sick or something like that, I hate it because it affects my mood as well, and I start to feel a bit down and depressed. So, running helps keep me healthy in a lot of ways, by helping with physical well-being as well as psychological well-being. I'd recommend it to anyone to keep fit and healthy: it's a great feeling.

 Now, listen to the tapescript of this candidate speaking. Check that the errors you corrected are the same as the ones the candidate corrected.

 **Exercise 7**

Now, prepare to talk to a partner on Task Card A. Focus on using your main tense accurately and self-correcting where appropriate.

 **Exercise 8**

With a partner, brainstorm the possible theme of Part 3 questions following this Task Card A.

Part 3

 **Focus on the Question**

Match each question with one of the answers below.

Question 1: Answer _____

Question 2: Answer _____

Question 3: Answer _____

Question 4: Answer _____

Question 5: Answer _____

Question 6: Answer _____

Questions

1. How do most people keep healthy in your country?
2. Do you believe that the responsibility for good health lies with governments or individuals?
3. What is the role of schools in educating students about maintaining a healthy lifestyle?
4. How healthy is the traditional diet in your country?
5. In what ways has the traditional diet been influenced by other types of food? Has this been a positive or a negative development? Why?
6. Why do you think that some people continue to make poor food choices even though they are aware that these choices are potentially harmful to their health?

Answers

- A. In general, most people probably keep healthy by eating lots of fresh fruit and vegetables and hardly eating any fast food. And lots of people do sports and go to fitness clubs to keep fit and healthy. However, I am certainly aware that there are still many people who just eat what they like regardless of how healthy or unhealthy it is.
- B. I definitely think that schools have quite an important role to play in this area. In my country, school cafeterias and tuck shops have traditionally sold a range of quite unhealthy food such as hot chips, pies, cakes, and biscuits, and there have scarcely been any healthier options for children to select. So, my feeling is that this is one of the main areas where a school can certainly send a clear message about healthy options to its students.

- C. This is a difficult question. I think it possibly relates to a lack of self-control around eating, and what I mean by that is that quite often, unhealthy food tastes delicious, and the desire to take pleasure from the taste of food overrides the knowledge that this food is unhealthy. In addition, people often do not experience or see the effects of unhealthy eating for quite some time, for instance, heart attacks which usually occur later in life. In saying that, weight gain can happen quite quickly, but this does not seem to be enough to motivate people into healthy eating patterns. It's a huge problem.
- D. Taking responsibility for one's health is definitely an individual concern. I mean, the government can spend all the money in the world on education campaigns and social marketing, but at the end of the day, it's about the choices that individuals make. So, I think it's a combination but also, we have a responsibility as humans to ensure we are completely informed rather than relying on the government to do so.
- E. The traditional diet here in Vietnam is extremely healthy – for instance, vegetables are seen as a dish in their own right and make up at least half of any meal. Rice is very high in nutrients and low in fat and forms a staple part of the traditional diet. Dishes such as soup help to fill people up without too many calories as well. Overall, I think the Vietnamese diet is an essentially healthy one, and it has only been with the introduction of sugary, fatty Western food that we have seen a problem with weight and obesity here.
- F. As I mentioned, the traditional diet has been significantly influenced by the fast food trends which are so popular in the Western world, so that has meant that takeaways such as Lotteria and KFC have become very popular, in particular with young people. This has certainly been quite a negative development, leading to weight gain and associated health problems. On the whole, though, Vietnamese people are very proud of their cuisine and would much rather eat Vietnamese food than any other type of food.

Developing Ideas – Language

Teacher Tip

You can use adverbs to intensify your opinions and show lexical and grammatical range in Part 3 answers.

Look at the following adverbs which have the function of expressing certainty:

definitely / certainly / probably / surely / undoubtedly

The following group of adverbs expresses different degrees:

completely / totally / absolutely / extremely / greatly / hugely / essentially / highly / significantly / quite / rather / very / moderately / partly / slightly / scarcely / hardly

Look at the answers to the Part 3 questions from the previous exercise. Underline any adverbs expressing certainty or degrees which have been used and identify which types they are.

Adverbs	Types

Healthy Lifestyle

1. How do most people keep healthy in your country?
 - In general, most people probably keep healthy by eating lots of fresh fruit and vegetables and hardly eating any fast food. And lots of people do sports and go to fitness clubs to keep fit and healthy. However, I am certainly aware that there are still many people who just eat what they like regardless of how healthy or unhealthy it is.

2. Do you believe that the responsibility for good health lies with governments or individuals?
 - Taking responsibility for one's health is definitely an individual concern. I mean, the government can spend all the money in the world on education campaigns and social marketing, but at the end of the day, it's about the choices that individuals make. So, I think it's a combination but also, we have a responsibility as humans to ensure we are completely informed rather than relying on the government to do so.

3. What is the role of schools in educating students about maintaining a healthy lifestyle?
 - I definitely think that schools have quite an important role to play in this area. In my country, school cafeterias and tuck shops have traditionally sold a range of quite unhealthy food such as hot chips, pies, cakes, and biscuits, and there have scarcely been any healthier options for children to select. So, my feeling is that this is one of the main areas where a school can certainly send a clear message about healthy options to its students.

Diet

4. How healthy is the traditional diet in your country?
 - The traditional diet here in Vietnam is extremely healthy – for instance, vegetables are seen as a dish in their own right and make up at least half of any meal. Rice is very high in nutrients and

low in fat and forms a staple part of the traditional diet. Dishes such as soup help to fill people up without too many calories as well. Overall, I think the Vietnamese diet is an essentially healthy one, and it has only been with the introduction of sugary, fatty Western food that we have seen a problem with weight and obesity here.

5. In what ways has the traditional diet been influenced by other types of food? Has this been a positive or a negative development? Why?
 - As I mentioned, the traditional diet has been significantly influenced by the fast food trends which are so popular in the Western world, so that has meant that takeaways such as Lotteria and KFC have become very popular, in particular with young people. This has certainly been quite a negative development, leading to weight gain and associated health problems. On the whole, though, Vietnamese people are very proud of their cuisine and would much rather eat Vietnamese food than any other type of food.
6. Why do you think that some people continue to make poor food choices even though they are aware that these choices are potentially harmful to their health?
 - This is a difficult question. I think it possibly relates to a lack of self-control around eating, and what I mean by that is that quite often, unhealthy food tastes delicious, and the desire to take pleasure from the taste of food overrides the knowledge that this food is unhealthy. In addition, people often do not experience or see the effects of unhealthy eating for quite some time, for instance, heart attacks which usually occur later in life. In saying that, weight gain can happen quite quickly, but this does not seem to be enough to motivate people into healthy eating patterns. It's a huge problem.

Developing Ideas – Brainstorming

The topic for this part is health. Discuss the following questions with a partner to brainstorm your own ideas to answer the questions.

1. How do most people keep healthy in your country?

Consider:

Diet: _____

Exercise and sports: _____

Lifestyle factors such as smoking or drinking alcohol: _____

2. Do you believe that the responsibility for good health lies with governments or individuals?

Consider:

Individual factors (such as in the question above): _____

The role of government: _____

Education: _____

Awareness: _____

Enforcement: _____

What does the government do in your country to promote good health? Give examples.

3. What is the role of schools in educating students about maintaining a healthy lifestyle?

Consider:

Classroom curriculum: _____

Sports activities at school: _____

Types of food available: _____

What role does your school play? Give examples.

4. How healthy is the traditional diet in your country?

Consider:

What types of traditional foods or dishes are common? Are they healthy or unhealthy?

What is the staple food of your traditional diet? Is it healthy? Is a lot of salt and oil used in traditional cooking?

5. In what ways has the traditional diet been influenced by other types of food? Has this been a positive or a negative development? Why?

Consider:

Is the traditional diet still popular with all groups of people?

How has it changed over the years? Why? What other types of food have influenced it?

Are there any new types of food which are popular?

What do most people prefer to eat – traditional food or other types of food?

Do you think the changes (if any) have been positive or negative? Give examples and reasons.

6. Why do you think that some people continue to make poor food choices even though they are aware that these choices are potentially harmful to their health?

Consider:

Psychological reasons: _____

Economic reasons: _____

Reluctance to change: _____

Taste: _____

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above, using your notes to help you.

Developing Ideas – Vocabulary Bank

Practise these useful phrases with a partner. Add your own information to make them into complete sentences and use these to create your own response to the speaking task.

Useful Expressions

Part 1		Part 2
particularly	straight away	sometimes
keep up to date	have time on one's hands	anyway
whether that's ... or ...	pick up	I love going for ...
make an effort to do something	go abroad	If for some reason, ...
tend to	in terms of	It's a great feeling.
bits and pieces	open the door	I'd recommend ...
catch up with	I can't imagine ...	
on a daily basis	be crazy about	
I'm really into ...		
Part 3		
definitely	slightly	totally
certainly	scarcely	very
probably	hardly	What I mean by that is ...
surely	extremely	My feeling is that ...
undoubtedly	greatly	In saying that, ...
completely	hugely	At the end of the day, ...
absolutely	essentially	regardless of
quite	highly	
rather	significantly	
partly	moderately	

Topic-Related Vocabulary

Part 1		Part 2	
<p>Electronic Messages</p> <p>e-mail text message method message (v.) technology</p> <p>Language Learning</p> <p>option private classes grammar tense language sharp alert</p>	<p>Pets / Animals</p> <p>cute precious naughty breed care for daily routine pet animal person walk a dog</p>	<p>healthy walk run routine park beach keep someone company route kilometre fit keep in shape down depressed psychological well-being physical well-being</p>	
Part 3			
<p>Healthy Lifestyle</p> <p>fresh fruit vegetable do sports fitness club healthy unhealthy concern education campaign social marketing</p>	<p>choice responsibility be informed rely role cafeteria tuck shop biscuit option</p>	<p>Diet</p> <p>dish nutrient staple diet fill up calorie sugary fatty weight</p>	<p>obesity fast food trend takeaway weight gain cuisine self-control delicious desire</p>

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Teacher Tip

Make sure your answers in Part 3 contain a range of different sentence types, but most importantly, be sure to include complex sentences in your answers. A complex sentence is an independent clause combined with one or more dependent clauses and always contains a subordinating conjunction such as **because, after, while, if, when,** and so on.

Two types of complex sentences suitable for Part 3 answers are:

- Conditional sentences (If ...)
- Sentences which contain a relative clause

Remember, you need to demonstrate your competency in formulating complex sentences to get a good band score.

Read the two different answers to the question below.

What have been the effects of different food styles on the traditional diet?

Candidate 1:

- Different food styles have had positive and negative effects on local and traditional food. I think the best effect has been an increased knowledge of different spices which people now adapt for use with traditional dishes, and this gives us the best of both worlds. However, a negative effect would be the high fat and sugar content of some Western food that has become increasingly popular here. If this trend continues, there will be some very detrimental long-term effects on health, such as diabetes and other serious conditions.

Candidate 2:

- There have been several effects on the traditional diet. First of all, younger generations love Western fast food and are generally eating less of the traditional diet. This has led to health-related problems in this group. Secondly, it has had an economic effect. It is more difficult for street vendors to sell their food because lots of people are buying Western takeaways. Finally, the younger generation has become lazy, and they are not interested in learning about how to cook traditional dishes. It's quite a big problem.

Discuss with a partner:

Which is the better answer? Why?

Practice

Work with a partner. Use the questions below and take it in turns to ask and answer.

Healthy Lifestyle

1. Who tends to be healthier: young people or older people? Why do you think this is the case?
2. What can be done to encourage people to live healthy lifestyles?
3. Do you think generations to come will be more or less focused on maintaining a healthy lifestyle?

Diet

4. How important do you think it is to maintain a healthy diet?
5. How have the types of food people eat changed in the last twenty years? What are some of the reasons for these changes?
6. Why do you think some people feel that dieting is a waste of time? Would you agree or disagree with this view?

PART 1 QUESTION APPENDIX

Note: Many of the topics in the textbook have been repeated here with different questions to enable students to practise language they have learned throughout the book. Additional topics also appear in order to cover the range of potential topics which may occur in the exam.

Topics appear in alphabetical order for ease of reference.

Colours

- Which colours are popular for people to wear in your country at the moment? Why?
- Do you think that different colours affect the way you feel? In what ways?
- Do particular colours have any special meaning?
- Which colours do you like the most? Why?

Contacting People

- Which is your preferred method of contacting people? Why?
- Are there any disadvantages to contacting people in this way?
- Do you think most people use the same method to contact people?

Daily Routine

- At what time do you normally get home from work or school?
- What's the first thing you do when you arrive home? Why?
- What do you enjoy doing in the evenings? Why?
- Would you say you are a morning or a night person? Why?

Days of the Week

- Which day of the week is your favourite? Why?
- How do you usually spend this day?
- Is there any day of the week which you dislike more than the others? Why?

Food

- What types of food do you enjoy most? Why?
- Are there any types of food that you don't particularly enjoy? Why?
- What types of food did you enjoy when you were a child?
- Do you prefer to eat by yourself or with others?

Free Time

- How much free time would you say you had each day?
- Do you think you have more or less free time nowadays than when you were younger?
- What type of things do you enjoy doing during your free time? Why?
- In your opinion, are there any drawbacks to having free time?

Fruit and Vegetables

- How often do you eat fruit and vegetables?
- Where do you normally buy your fruit and vegetables? Why?
- How important is it to eat fruit and vegetables regularly? Why?
- Do you prefer to eat raw vegetables or cooked vegetables? Why?

Going out / Entertainment

- What types of entertainment do you normally enjoy?
- Do you prefer going out in a large group of friends or a small group? Why?
- Is there any type of entertainment which you don't really like? Why?

Hobbies

- What type of activity do you enjoy doing in your free time?
- Do you require any special skills to do this activity?
- Have you always done this type of activity? Why?
- Do most of your friends like doing similar types of activities?

Home Town

- Which places in your home town would you recommend to a visitor? Why?
- What is the best thing about living in your home town?
- What changes have there been in your home town recently?
- What improvements would you recommend for your home town?

Internet

- How much time on average do you spend on the Internet each day? Why?
- What do you mainly use the Internet for? Why?
- What do you enjoy most about using the Internet? Why?

Movies

- Which type of movies do you enjoy most? Why?
- Do you prefer to watch movies at home or at the cinema? Why?

Music

- When do you listen to music? Why?
- Which type of music do you mainly listen to? Why?
- Which music style is popular in your country currently?

Physical Activity

- Tell me about a physical activity that you do regularly.
- Have you always done this type of activity?
- Do you like to do this activity by yourself or with others?
- What effect does doing physical activities have on you? Why?

Spending Time Outdoors

- How much time do you spend outside every day?
- Do you spend more or less time outside at the weekend?
- What is your favourite outdoor activity?
- Do you do this alone or with others? Why?

Studying

- How much time do you spend each day studying?
- Which subject do you think you are best at? Why?
- Are there any subjects that you dislike? Why?
- Do you prefer to study by yourself or with a teacher? Why?

Television

- How often do you watch television?
- Which types of programmes do you like watching? Why?
- Do you prefer to watch locally made television programmes or international programmes? Why?
- Is there anything you don't like about watching television?

Travel

- Where was the last place you travelled to and for what purpose?
- Where do you usually travel to? Why?
- Have you ever travelled abroad?
- Where would you like to travel to in the future? Why?

Weather

- Do you pay attention to weather forecasts?
- What type of weather do you enjoy most? Why?
- What types of activities do you like doing in this weather?

Where You Live

- Do you live in a house or an apartment?
- What do you like most about the house/apartment where you live?
- Which room do you spend the most time in?
- How many other people do you live with?

Answer Key

Unit 1

Part 1

Exercise 1

- Answer 2 is better. Answer 1 does not mention 'when'.
- Answer 1 is better. Answer 2 does not express 'preference'.

Exercise 3

[Tapescript]

- It's become very popular especially with young people. I just think the taste is really good, and it's quick and cheap.
- I really enjoy fast foods even though I know they're bad for me.
- Yes, they have, and that's partly because of fast foods, but also because foods from other countries have been introduced as well. Indian food seems to be very popular now, for example.
- Well, my mother wouldn't let me eat fast foods when I was little, so I've only started eating them recently.]

Questions	Answers
What's your favourite type of food?	2
Have you always enjoyed this type of food?	4
Is this type of food popular in your country?	1
Would you say that popular foods have changed much in your country over the last 20 years?	3

- It's become very popular especially with young people. I just think the taste is really good, and it's quick and cheap.
- I really enjoy fast foods even though I know they're bad for me.
- Yes, they have, and that's partly because of fast foods, but also because foods from other countries have been introduced as well. Indian food seems to be very popular now, for example.
- Well, my mother wouldn't let me eat fast foods when I was little, so I've only started eating them recently.

Part 2

Exercise 5

Paragraph B is more coherent.

The person I'd like to talk about is my father. Of course, I have known him since I was born and I can't remember meeting him, but I have memories of him from when I was a little girl. We have a much cherished photo in our family which shows him and me feeding the ducks in Trafalgar Square in London, and I look about 2 years old then. He is kneeling down beside me, and we are surrounded by pigeons in that photo, and we both look so happy! In many ways, that photo typifies our relationship.

Bold language = words/phrases which make Paragraph B more coherent

Exercise 6

(Introduction) The person I'd like to talk about is my father. (How long I have known him) Of course, I have known him since I was born and I can't remember meeting him, but I have memories of him from when I was a little girl. (Example of memories) We have a much cherished photo in our family which shows him and me feeding the ducks in Trafalgar Square in London, and I look about 2 years old then. He is kneeling down beside me, and we are surrounded by pigeons in that photo, and we both look so happy! (Generalisation from the example) In many ways, that photo typifies our relationship – he is showing me something, and I am happy and interested, and that was often how it was when I was growing up. (More examples) He was the parent who played with us and answered our questions, and he always helped us with our schoolwork. I remember he would never tell me the answer; he always explained and made me work it out myself, and I used to get so cross! Then, suddenly, I would get it and rush away shouting 'thanks' until the next time.

(How he has affected my life) My dad has been a huge influence on my life. I always remember a conversation from when I was about 10 or so, when he said that the greatest virtue in life was unselfishness. He certainly lived that philosophy himself and set his children that example in his own life. (Example) I guess the most obvious time was when my mum was sick. For the last two years of her life, she couldn't really get out of bed, and he looked after her, almost single-handedly. Not many people could have managed that, but he did it without complaint.

He was also a lot of fun, though, and he used to play cards and games like hide-and-seek with us and make silly jokes. He did the same with his grandchildren, too, and my children will always remember 'silly granddad' playing croquet with them on the lawn. (Concluding statement) I think I am very lucky to have a father whom I admire so much and who has had such a strong influence on my life.

Part 3

Focus on the Question

- compare
- compare
- compare
- compare
- compare
- compare

Developing Ideas – Language

- Do boys and girls have the same kind of friendships?
 - I think that girls tend to have more intense and verbal relationships than boys do. Boys often bond by doing physical things together, whereas girls like to gossip and spend more time texting or chatting on the phone than boys do. Girls also argue much more often than boys, and they frequently change their alliances while boys are less obsessed with their friends.
- Have friendships changed between your parents' time and today?
 - I think that the fundamental nature of friendship today

is very similar to the past. People still make friends with their neighbours and at work, and they still value these friendships and want to nurture them. However, there are certainly some small differences. For example, people can communicate more easily over long distances today, so they can maintain their friendships for longer periods even when they move country or city.

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Answer 1: 2 ideas

- Yes, I do. I think young people usually make friends quickly, and they can be friends with someone if they only know them for a short time. Old people develop friendships more slowly, and they are slower to make friends, but young people are faster, I think. Young people can be friends with others after they only know them for a short time. Old people know their friends for a long time; they are slower.

[Ideas are just repeated, not developed.]

Answer 2: 3 ideas

- Yes, I think this is true. One difference that I have noticed is that young people tend to make friends quite quickly. Maybe this is because their lives aren't settled yet, and they move around to different places to study, and maybe they also have more time for making new friendships than older people because they don't have so many responsibilities. Kids at school, for example, spend a lot of time chatting to each other between classes or texting on their phones. Old people, in my view, tend to keep their friends longer, and they don't make so many new friends. Perhaps this is because they have a lot of shared memories or experience with their friends, like watching their kids grow up together or working in the same job for many years. But, of course, everyone is different, and personality can be another factor besides age.

[Ideas are basically the same but developed with reasons, examples, and further ideas; they are linked together by introductory and other linking phrases.]

3.

Starter language	One difference that I have noticed in my view But, of course
Linking language for reasons	Maybe this is because maybe because Perhaps this is because
Linking language for examples	for example like
Linking language for further ideas	and maybe they also have can be another factor besides

Listening to a Model

[Tapescript]

1. Can you tell me some of the common ways that people make lasting friendships with others?

- Well, one common way to make friends is to study or work together. Maybe this is because you have to spend a lot of time together at those places, and of course, if you are studying the same subjects with the same teachers, you always have lots to gossip about! Kids love to complain to each other about the teachers they don't like or to share stories about their friends, for example. I guess another common way is to meet friends through your family. Young children, in particular, don't really have the skills to make friends on their own, so they mostly play with the people around them, such as the children of family friends, and lasting friendships can develop from this. So, for young children, proximity is a very important factor in making friends.

2. You've been talking about children, but what about adults? Can adults make lasting friendships, too?

- Of course, they can. I guess a lot of them meet through work, or maybe shared activities such as sports clubs or choirs or something like that. I suppose one of the most common ways for women to make friends as young adults is when they have babies, and they meet other mothers. I know that my mother is still close friends with the other women she met when I was a baby, even though those children have mostly left home by now. So, shared experience is one way to make friends, and then, if you have similar values and ideas, those friendships will last the distance.

3. What other factors might influence whether or not people make friends?

- Well, personality is an important factor. For example, quiet people sometimes find that the noisy ones are irritating or too loud, so they tend to avoid them. I've seen that a lot at school; the more outgoing people often hang out together, while the quieter ones make another group. Another factor might be shared interests, like enjoying computers or watching sports or the same TV programmes. I think this one is important because it's much easier to talk to people if you both enjoy the same things. For instance, I love soccer, and most of my friends do, too. We always talk about the big games after the weekend, and analyse how the game went and what the players might have done differently.

4. Do you think friendships have changed since computers became so popular?

- Yes, in lots of ways. Facebook and other social networking sites have made a huge difference to friendships, haven't they? We can chat to people all over the world without leaving the house, and we can find friends through shared interests or online gaming. I suppose for some people, this is more satisfying than a face-to-face friendship.

5. And you? Do you prefer online or face-to-face friendships?

- Well, I like both. They are very different, and they fulfil different needs. Face to face is the best when you have a real problem or something really exciting to share, but it's fun to chat to lots of people you don't know well and to make jokes online. They're different, that's all, and we have more options now. We can have both in our lives.

6. And what about the future? What do you see as the future of friendship?

- Well, I suppose we might be able to do all sorts of things in the future, like virtual chatting with 3D holograms or group chats with video. But, whatever happens, the basic nature of

friendships won't change. We'll still be attracted to the people who are similar to us or who share our interests, and I think we'll still need face-to-face contact whatever happens in the cyber-world.]

- a. 1, 3, 6
b. 2, 4, 5

Practice

Model Answers: See Tapescript for Listening to a Model

Unit 2

Part 1

Exercise 1

- Answer 2 is better. Answer 1 does not give a reason for winter being the candidate's favourite season.
- Answer 2 is better. Answer 1 does not give a reason or any examples.

Exercise 3

- closed
- open
- closed
- open
- open
- open
- open
- closed

Part 2

Exercise 5

Task Card

Describe an exciting piece of news you received.

You should say:

what type of news it was
how you received it and who told you
where you were when you received the news

and mention how you reacted when you got the news and what you did afterwards.

Exercise 6

The difference between the two paragraphs is obvious: Paragraph A is far too short. This example emphasises the need to use the planning time in Part 2 effectively and to lengthen the answer.

Exercise 7

Extra information = background / descriptive information, personal comment, concluding comment

I'm going to tell you about some really exciting news that I received about a year ago, when my niece, Sophia, was born. (**Introduction**) It was summer time, so it was very hot, and my sister was sick and tired of being pregnant – she was very big by this stage, and the hot weather was extremely

uncomfortable for her. (**Background / Descriptive information**) Anyway, the baby was about a week overdue, and the whole family was anxiously awaiting its arrival. It's our first baby of the new generation, you see. (**Personal comment**) It was a weekday and unbelievably hot. Then, in the middle of the afternoon, I received a phone call on my mobile phone from my brother-in-law to tell me that they had had a baby girl! (**Type of news, how received, who told**) I wasn't surprised, but I was absolutely thrilled! (**Reaction**) He had been calling all the immediate family and was quite emotional, but I couldn't talk to my sister as she was sleeping. I was teaching a class when he called me (**Where**), and when he told me the news, I felt so emotional as well. In fact, I felt like crying a little bit, (**Reaction**) but I didn't really want to burst into tears in front of all my students, so I stepped into the corridor and had a quiet moment by myself. I had to leave school quickly as I wanted to get to the hospital to meet my new niece as soon as possible. Luckily, my students were very understanding, and another teacher stepped in to teach them for the afternoon. It was nice to receive a phone call for this type of news as it is so special. You don't want to hear about it on e-mail or something! Or Facebook – that's often how people get news these days. No, I'm glad that they decided to call people and tell them because it's so much more personal. (**Personal comment**) So, that's the exciting news that I received, and I'll never forget that special day. (**Concluding comment**)

Part 3

Focus on the Question

- What kind of news is cause for celebration in your country? (describe)
- What do people in your country normally do to celebrate exciting news? (describe)
- Do you think the ways people celebrate will change in the future or stay the same? (speculate)
- What are the types of skills necessary to be a good communicator? (describe)
- What sort of communication problems can arise between people? (describe)
- How do you think the ways people communicate might change in the future? (both)

Developing Ideas – Language

- What kind of news is cause for celebration in your country?**
 - People often celebrate the type of news related to different stages in life. For instance, certain birthdays are quite special, such as 18, and then I think 30, 40, 50, and so on. Also, news like people getting engaged, or married, or having a baby – all of these things are celebratory news. Getting a promotion at work or getting a new job is also the type of news that people generally share and celebrate with others, whether it's family or friends, or both.
- What do people in your country normally do to celebrate exciting news?**
 - It nearly always involves people getting together and sharing special food and drink. For instance, for a big birthday, there's always some sort of cake and candles which the person has to blow out. On big occasions such

as weddings, people usually make speeches about the couple and wish them well. Oh, and there's generally a wedding cake as well, which is cut together by the bride and groom. For other types of smaller everyday celebration, people usually just share food and drink and enjoy each other's company.

3. *Do you think the ways people celebrate will change in the future or stay the same?*

- I think that the ways people celebrate will probably remain similar to the ways they are now, simply because the traditions we embrace today have always been in existence. It's a way for us to maintain a connection with tradition and our ancestors, so I don't believe that will ever be lost. Of course, you can see the effects of technology nowadays in events such as weddings, where relatives in different countries who could not attend the event give a speech via live video link, but I think this just adds to tradition rather than representing a change, and I think this will be the same in the future.

4. *What are the types of skills necessary to be a good communicator?*

- I think there are many skills required to be a good communicator, but the most important of these is probably, first of all, to be a good listener. In general, very few people actually really listen to what others are saying, and I think this is the crux of many communication issues between people. The second important skill is to show that you have been listening, so you need to reflect back the main message of what someone has just told you. And expressing yourself concisely and clearly is very important as well. Verbal communication is just the start; body language is also relevant to being a good communicator.

5. *What sort of communication problems can arise between people?*

- I suppose one of the biggest problems that can occur is related to misunderstanding, and all the subsequent issues and problems that can happen as a result of this. The problem gets bigger and bigger, and finally, no one is listening to anyone else, as they have usually become angry and frustrated and resort to shouting over each other. There can also be a lot of problems related to cross-cultural communication, where people take or cause offence due to a lack of understanding of the cultural norms of a country. However, I still think that if people genuinely make an effort to really listen, they can overcome a lot of problems associated with communication difficulties.

6. *How do you think the ways people communicate might change in the future?*

- I certainly hope that people might improve their communication skills as a result of awareness and reflection on communication problems at all levels of society, whether it is between men and women, or between countries and governments. However, I think that, unfortunately, things may well remain very similar

to the way they are now. I think the changes will occur in the types of media and technological tools that people use to communicate with each other, but on the whole, I'm sure that nothing much else will change as communication skills and deficits are part of human nature and experience.

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

1. [Tapescript 1]

I think there are all sorts of communication problems that can happen. First of all, people are always interrupting other people and talking over them. As a result, this can cause communication problems because both people are being constantly interrupted. Interruption is definitely a big communication problem as well as non-verbal communication problems such as a lack of eye contact.

Tapescript 2

There are many problems which can occur as a result of communication, or more accurately, miscommunication. Interrupting someone is one of these problems, as is not properly listening to what the other person is saying. Body language is also an important part of the communication process, and lots of difficulties can happen in this area, such as lack of eye contact, being interrupted as lack of interest, for instance.]

- ① a. communication: 4
b. problem(s): 4
c. interrupted / interrupting / interruption: 3
 - ② a. communication: 2
b. problem(s): 2
c. interrupted / interrupting / interruption: 2
2. communication: interaction
problem: difficulty / issue / challenge
interrupt: talk over / interject

Listening to a Model

[Tapescript – Questions]

1. *What are the main ways that people access news in your country?*
2. *Do you think these methods will remain the same in the future?*
3. *What do you think are the most important qualities for a news journalist?*
4. *What sorts of communication problems can occur between people who do not speak the same language?*
5. *What measures can be taken to address these problems?*
6. *Do men and women communicate in similar ways? How?]*

Question 1: describing
Question 2: speculating
Question 3: describing
Question 4: describing
Question 5: describing
Question 6: comparing

[Tapescript – Answers]

1. *People get their news in all sorts of different ways depending on their preference. For instance, I think younger people tend to get their news online and through blogs, whereas people my parents' age would probably be more likely to read the newspaper. A lot of the older generation watches the television news in the evening as well. Of course, commuters and people driving get their news from the radio.*

2. *I don't think so, no. I think more and more of it will be accessed online. I mean, at the moment, you can already watch television items on demand through your laptop or mobile phone, so I think it will all ultimately change into that format as the main method of access, with different formats available from the website. As for far ahead in the future, maybe computers will be so small that they can be built into our thumbs or something, so news will be much more accessible and up to date wherever you are!*
3. *Actually, I think that they have to have an unusual mixture of compassion and ambition combined with assertive questioning skills. This is because they always have to get the story, no matter if the person they are interviewing has had their house burnt down or is the victim of a tragedy. Also, I believe they have to have quite a strong character to remain neutral and objective in writing and reporting the news. And of course, they have to be intelligent.*
4. *I think there can be a lot of misunderstandings which happen in this situation and as a result, people can get quite offended. Also, the issue of pronunciation can be problematic as often different tones can mean quite different things and once again, if you are communicating through a third common language, such as English, you can offend people with the wrong tone of voice. Finally, I think another problem is people think they understand when they actually don't, so it can lead to lots of mistakes and issues, particularly in an employment context.*
5. *I guess it's really up to the individuals who are communicating, but I always think it is good to follow up a phone conversation with an e-mail just to double-check what has been discussed. Alternatively, you can try to clarify with the person at the end of the conversation. With a little understanding and a lot of patience, I think these problems are quite easy to solve – it just takes a little more time, perhaps.*
6. *Actually no, I don't think that they do. In my experience, men and women communicate differently in the sense that they talk about different things. Men tend to want to find a solution to a problem, whereas women just want to talk about how they're feeling and don't want a solution at all. On the whole, I think men's communication is more functionally based, whereas for women, it is more emotionally and relationally based. Women also tend to be more verbally competent at expressing their feelings, whereas men might bottle their feelings up and not talk about them until they absolutely have to.]*

- Answer 1: For instance / I think / whereas / Of course
 Answer 2: I think / I mean / so I think / As for / so
 Answer 3: Actually, I think / Also, I believe / And of course
 Answer 4: I think / Also / once again / Finally / so
 Answer 5: I guess / but / I ... think / Alternatively / I think
 Answer 6: Actually / In my experience / whereas / On the whole / whereas / also / whereas

Practice

Model Answers: See Tapescript for Listening to a Model

Unit 3

Part 1

Exercise 1

The candidate has misinterpreted the question on both occasions. In the first question, she has talked about the future when she was asked about past experience. In the second question, she has talked about personal experience when she was asked to give a more generalised opinion.

Exercise 2

Answers and [Tapescript

Questions	Types (Past / Present/Future/Opinion)	Language Clues
1. <i>What's your favourite colour?</i>	Present	's
2. <i>Was this colour your favourite when you were a child?</i>	Past	Was, when, were
3. <i>Is your favourite colour popular with your friends also?</i>	Present	Is
4. <i>What do you think you can learn about people from the colours they like?</i>	Opinion	What do you think ...
5. <i>What type of building is the house you live in?</i>	Present	is, live
6. <i>What do you like most about living there? Why?</i>	Present	do, like
7. <i>Do most people in your city or town live in similar-type buildings?</i>	Present	Do, live
8. <i>Do you prefer to live in old buildings or modern buildings? Why?</i>	Opinion	Do you prefer ...

Part 2

Exercise 5

[Tapescript

Well, the building I am going to talk about is an ancient structure called the Parthenon, which is built on the Acropolis in the old quarter of the capital of Greece, Athens. The old quarter where it was built is called Plaka, and around this area, there are also lots of smaller temples and amphitheatres as well as the ancient Greek marketplace area. The main temple structure on the Acropolis is called the Parthenon. Anyway, the Parthenon is a beautiful-looking, huge temple made of white marble, with classic columns holding up its roof, which is now virtually gone. I'm not sure who designed or built it, but each column is symmetrically proportioned and is slightly

wider at the base than at the top, and they all have engraved vertical lines on them. An interesting fact is that there are practically no straight lines in the building, and yet, it looks perfectly symmetrical. The Parthenon was built in the 5th century BC, I think, and it was dedicated to the Greek goddess, Athena. There are lots of carvings and sculptures on the outside of the building as well. Some of them tell stories of mythology, and there is ancient Greek writing, too. The building is famous because it is such a stunning and well-restored example of classic Greek architecture and has had such an interesting history. I love visiting the Acropolis because it is different every time, and you always find a new area or secret part to explore. I mean, for instance, in the morning, looking down over the city, the Acropolis is still and quiet, while the rest of Athens is so busy. And in the evenings when the light is fading, the sun sets, and it looks completely different. I also love the sense of history and time I get from looking at it and being near it. And I enjoy the area around where it is built because it's the old area of Athens, with lots of old-fashioned tavernas, which are a type of Greek restaurant, cobbled streets, and colourful houses with lots of flowers. Sometimes, they even have special plays or concerts in some of the lower temples, which is amazing. The Acropolis and Parthenon are definitely popular with local people and all of Greece: it's our pride and joy. Greeks are very proud of their heritage and culture, and the Parthenon is a symbol of the intelligence, creativity, and wealth of the Athenian people. Tourists come from all over the world to visit this special place, and that makes me feel happy and extremely proud of my culture. So, it's not only famous within Greece but all over the world.]

Questions	Details
Name? Ancient or modern? Large or small? Materials?	the Parthenon, ancient, huge, white marble
When was it made? Who built it? Who designed it?	5th century BC
Does it have any special or unusual features?	each column symmetrically proportioned, carvings and sculptures, ancient Greek writing
Is it located in the country or in the city? Is it surrounded by other buildings or on its own?	in the city of Athens, surrounded by others
Does the speaker like it? Why / Why not?	Yes, very much. likes it at different times of day and likes the sense of history
Do most local people like it? Why / Why not? How popular is it with visitors?	Yes, very proud of it. popular tourist destination
What does the building symbolise or represent?	intelligence, creativity, wealth
Is there an interesting history behind it?	yes - not specified
Are there any interesting facts about its construction?	no straight lines

What types of activities or business go on in the building? Can visitors go inside the building? Are there ever any special events held there?	sometimes special concerts or plays in the lower temples
Is there a good view from the building?	yes, view of the city

Exercise 7

Model Answer: See Tapescript for Exercise 5

Part 3

Focus on the Question

1. Some people say that old buildings are an important part of history. Would you agree or disagree with this view? (evaluate)
2. How have the types of buildings being constructed in your country changed in the last twenty years? (describe changes)
3. Do you think this has been a positive change? Why/Why not? (describe changes)
4. Some people feel that the restoration and protection of historic buildings is the responsibility of government. Others think it is up to individuals and businesses. What's your view? (evaluate)
5. In many countries, architecture is considered an art form. What's your opinion? (evaluate)
6. How has the role of buildings changed in the last decade? (describe changes)

Developing Ideas – Language

[Tapescript

1. **Some people say that old buildings are an important part of history. Would you agree or disagree with this view?**
 - I would definitely agree with this view, because I think that old buildings are a reminder of important parts of history. Their materials, construction, style, and even layout can help us to learn more about how previous generations lived in a way that museums and books cannot. So, in my opinion, old buildings are almost like individual, living museums that everyone can enjoy, appreciate, and learn from. I strongly feel that they should be preserved and protected for future generations.
2. **Some people feel that the restoration and protection of historic buildings is the responsibility of government. Others think it is up to individuals and businesses. What's your view?**
 - I certainly think that the main responsibility rests with the government, mainly due to the cost involved. There needs to be a division of government set up to deal with historic buildings and their maintenance. However, I also firmly believe that individuals who own historic houses or buildings need to also put money into looking after them. After all, they probably knew they were historic when they bought them, and that was part of the appeal. My view is that it's probably a combined responsibility, actually.

3. *In many countries, architecture is considered an art form. What's your opinion?*

- *I wouldn't say art, no. I see architecture as more functional than artistic, because I think the art world has become too wide nowadays. I mean, is my concrete apartment block really an expression of artistic vision? No, I really believe that for the most part, architecture is driven by cost and practicality and is more an expression of efficiency than anything else. Of course, I know there are probably exceptions to that, where commissioned public pieces could be seen as art, but to be honest, I'd rather go to an art gallery than stare at a building.]*

Questions	Language of Opinion
1	definitely agree / I think / in my opinion / I strongly feel
2	I certainly think / I firmly believe / My view is
3	I see / I think / I mean / I really believe / I know

[Tapescript

4. *How have the types of buildings being constructed in your country changed in the last twenty years?*

- *I suppose that the different types of buildings which are being built now are more efficient than those in the past. I mean materials have become more suitable for constructing houses which are cool in summer and warm in winter. Also, I think the type of housing being built has changed to reflect a growing population, and there is definitely more high-density-type apartment buildings being built, particularly in my city. There are fewer houses with large sections or gardens being built, which is also related to population growth. So, there are several types of changes compared with twenty years ago.*

5. *Do you think this has been a positive change? Why / Why not?*

- *I do think it has been a positive change. I definitely prefer more modern styles of architecture, and modern houses are much more comfortable and easier to live in, so I think that's a positive aspect of the change. In addition, houses are becoming cheaper to make, so that's also an advantage which helps the individual who is considering purchasing a house or constructing one.*

6. *How has the role of buildings changed in the last decade?*

- *I think there has been more of an awareness to see buildings, in particular, business or corporate buildings in the city centres, as more of a public space for people to meet and enjoy. For instance, in the lobbies or rooftops of many high-rise buildings, there are often cafés or restaurants which encourage people to access city views and experience something different. So, I think that the role of buildings nowadays has become more multifunctional in terms of work and socialising.]*

Questions	Language of Comparison / Change
4	more efficient / have become / more suitable / has changed / more ... buildings / fewer houses / compared with
5	much more comfortable / easier / are becoming / cheaper
6	more of / has become / more multifunctional

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

The second candidate's answer is better because it is more specific and natural. The first candidate has inserted the phrase 'with the development of modern technology', and this is not strictly relevant. Nor has the first candidate understood the meaning of the word 'aesthetic', and it is awkward and unnatural in this sentence.

Practice

Model Answers

1. *Some people say that the construction industry has a responsibility to use environmentally friendly materials. What's your view?*

- *I agree with this view because environmentally friendly and sustainable materials are so vital for reducing problems related to deforestation, for instance. In addition, environmentally friendly materials have a number of extra benefits, including excellent insulation properties and cheaper costs for the consumer. I think that it will become necessary for governments to legislate the use of these materials in the long term, though the construction industry may not regulate itself.*

2. *How have the types of materials used to construct buildings and housing changed over the last twenty years?*

- *I think they have changed, and now in my country, we are more focused on using timber which has been sustainably grown, not native timbers or rainforest timbers or anything like that. I think concrete is probably the most popular building material nowadays, whereas twenty years ago, it might have been brick or timber.*

3. *Do you see this as a positive change? Why / Why not?*

- *I see this as a positive change because it reflects more awareness on the part of consumers, the building industry and government, so it represents a change in thinking about these types of materials. Instead of just using whatever we like, there is more thought about where the materials are sourced from and how this affects the environment and people, so that can only be a positive thing.*

4. *Why do you think that some people are opposed to development in certain places, such as coastal beachfront areas?*

- *I think this is due to a desire to protect special natural areas from being overdeveloped. With development in coastal areas, for example, there comes a greater demand for other infrastructure such as shops and restaurants, and before long, the whole atmosphere of a place can change from a pristine natural environment to a crowded suburban holiday destination. In addition, birds and other wildlife are negatively affected by development in such places, so I can certainly understand why people are opposed to it. I think it's all about balance.*

5. *In some countries, traditional buildings have been beautifully restored and act as tourist attractions. However, some people think this is a waste of money. Would you agree or disagree with this view?*
- I agree with this view simply because I believe there are more pressing and meaningful issues which money could be spent on. I'm not too concerned about the restoration of some derelict old buildings while there are social issues such as homelessness and poverty in our community, and I believe these should be addressed first. The huge amounts of money which go into restoration and preservation of traditional buildings could make a massive difference in the everyday lives of many people, so that's where I think that money could be better spent.
6. *How have the types of traditional buildings in your country changed over time?*
- I guess that the classic types of old one- or two-storey houses with wooden shutters and courtyards have changed quite a bit, as nowadays, people are more interested in high-rise apartment buildings. The skills of traditional stone work have been lost, and we don't really see much of that any more, which I suppose is a shame. There is more of a focus now on modern buildings, so traditional buildings are going out of favour.

Unit 4

Part 1

Exercise 1

[Tapescript

1. *Tell me about the house where you live.*

Answer 1: My house is a fine example of classical architecture and was constructed of high-quality marble materials at the turn of the century. In conclusion, it is beautiful in its formation.

Answer 2: My house is at the end of the street and overlooks a lovely park. It's a two-storey house with four bedrooms and a huge garden as well as a swimming pool. It's a great place to live, and my family has owned it for several generations.

2. *How many other people live in your house?*

Answer 1: The number of people who reside in my house is six and, favourably, there is sufficient space for this figure. However, at times, it has become significantly cramped and exceedingly noisy.

Answer 2: I live together with my parents and two sisters. Everyone has his or her own room though, so there is plenty of space for all of us. The kitchen and living area are also pretty big, so everybody feels comfortable, and we can have friends over as well.]

1. **Answer 1** Poor model Reason: too formal
Answer 2 Good model Reason: more natural
2. **Answer 1** Poor model Reason: too formal
Answer 2 Good model Reason: more natural

Exercise 2

Formal	Informal
residence	house
accommodation	home
constructed	made of
however	pretty
finally	very
in addition	family
certainly	brother or sister
dwelling	people in my family
considerably	live together
relatives	
siblings	
in conclusion	
accordingly	
family members	
cohabit	

Part 2

Exercise 5

Task Card A: past simple

Describe a celebration you attended.

You should say:

what type of celebration it was

who attended

where it was and what you did

and mention whether or not you enjoyed this celebration.

Task Card B: present simple

Describe a website you like using.

You should say:

what type of website it is

why you use it

how often you use it

and mention why you like using this website.

Task Card C: future 'would'

Describe a celebration or festival that you would like to attend.

You should say:

what the celebration or festival is

where and when it would be held

who you would like to go with

and whether it is likely you would ever attend such a celebration or festival, and why.

Task Card D: present simple

Describe a skill that you have.

You should say:

- what the skill is
- how good you are at it
- when you started to learn this skill

and whether or not you think this is a useful skill for you.

Task Card E: future 'would'

Describe a new skill you would like to learn.

You should say:

- what the skill is
- how you would learn it
- why you want to learn it

and whether you think it would be easy or difficult to learn this skill.

Task Card F: past simple

Describe a time when you were late for something.

You should say:

- what the event or occasion was
- why you were late
- what happened when you got there

and what the effects of your lateness were.

Exercise 6

[Tapescript

Candidate 1: It was such a perfect morning – the sun was shining, and I was enjoying my coffee and breakfast outside in the garden, reading the newspaper and feeling very relaxed, until ... my alarm started to go off very loudly in my ear! I had been dreaming, and my alarm had not woken me. I realised I was going to be really late for my first class of the day, and worst of all, I was meant to be making a group presentation.

Candidate 2: A festival I would love to attend is the Rio Carnival in Brazil. Every time I see the images and news footage of this festival, I remember how much I would love to go! The Rio Carnival is a celebration to say goodbye to pleasures and occurs just before the period of fasting before Easter. It happens every year, so I think I would like to go next year with my close friends and my boyfriend. We would stay in Rio de Janeiro for at least two weeks, but I also think we would take some time to travel around South America after that. It would be the holiday of a lifetime!]

Candidate 1: Task Card F

Candidate 2: Task Card C

Exercise 7

[Tapescript

It was such a perfect morning – the sun was shining, and I was enjoying my coffee and breakfast outside in the garden, reading the newspaper and feeling very relaxed, until ... my alarm started to go off very loudly in my ear! I had been dreaming, and my

alarm had not woken me. I realised I was going to be really late for my first class of the day, and worst of all, I was meant to be making a group presentation. Unfortunately, that was just the start of a terrible day where I was constantly running late from morning to night. Anyway, I jumped out of bed and didn't even have time for a shower before grabbing my notes, handouts, and laptop and running to the local train station. I am always quite a punctual person and hate to let anyone down or keep anyone waiting, so by this stage, I was already feeling stressed and worried about what my group was going to think. I was the one with all the information, so without me, they couldn't start to give their presentation, and we could have ended up failing the assignment, all because of my late start. Of course, just as I arrived on the train platform, I saw a train pulling away, so I had to wait at least half an hour for the next one, all the time starting to panic more and more. My cell phone had also run out of battery, I think, so I couldn't even call or text anyone in the group to let them know that I was on the way. The whole thing was a total nightmare, but anyway, finally a train came, and I jumped on it, hoping that it was an express and not stop at too many stations before the university. Of course, it was a normal train and stopped at every single station along the way. By this time, I was at least half an hour late and extremely stressed out. Finally, the train arrived at the station, and I ran the ten minutes further through the park to my university lecture hall and ran in. As I searched for my group members and my tutor, I got a strange feeling, as nobody looked familiar. Then, I realised it was the day before I was due to give the presentation, and this was a completely different class! I was pretty embarrassed, but more relieved than anything and went off to have a coffee in the sunshine while I waited for my next lecture. It was a good lesson to be on time for the next day, though – I think I was there an hour before class! My classmates laughed when they heard about my mistake, but I'm just glad that we got a really good grade for our assignment in the end!]

Parts of Answer	Tenses Used
background to the event	past simple, past continuous
describing the event	past simple
personal comments about the situation	present simple
concluding the story	present simple

Part 3

Focus on the Question

1. opinion
2. causes
3. solutions
4. opinion
5. effects
6. opinion

Developing Ideas – Language

1. *In your opinion, is being late for meetings and appointments impolite?*
 - On the whole, yes, I think lateness is quite rude, particularly in a business or work environment, as it holds people up, and it ultimately wastes money,

which nobody likes. On the other hand, with friends, it's probably a different story, as I feel that you can be a bit more flexible with people you know and, as long as it's not consistent lateness, I believe that's more acceptable.

2. **What do you think are the main causes of lateness?**

- I suppose it's mainly caused by disorganisation and bad habits. Of course, occasionally, it is as a result of external factors which are beyond an individual's control, such as a particularly bad traffic jam, or an unfortunate set of circumstances which have contributed to the lateness. However, I think that persistent lateness is really just due to poor planning and personal organisation.

3. **What can be done about lateness?**

- I think a potential solution obviously lies in gaining some time management skills, in addition to making a real effort to become organised such as using a diary, whether that's online or even an old-fashioned type diary. It's amazing what a difference writing things in a diary can make! Another solution is to use a mobile phone or Blackberry-type device to schedule your appointments, meetings, and so on.

4. **In your opinion, what is the best time of life?**

- I think the best time of life is probably youth. That's my view anyway: that in your twenties, you have the world at your feet, not only lots of opportunities for creating a great future but also lots of chances to enjoy the time and explore your identity. In addition, it's probably the time of your life when you look best!

5. **In many countries, both parents have to work in order to provide for their families, even when their babies are very young. What are the effects of this?**

- The effects of putting young babies into full-time day care are quite often detrimental, I think. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that babies under six months need time to bond properly with at least one parent, so I think one of the impacts of day care on young babies is a lack of secure relationship with their main caregiver. However, there is also a positive effect on babies in that they receive socialisation skills in a day-care setting.

6. **Some people believe that looking after the elderly should be the responsibility of family. Would you agree with this view? Why?**

- I certainly believe this to be true. I feel that the wider extended family has a responsibility and an obligation to care for all its members through all stages, so whether that's retired grandparents looking after young babies, or middle-aged daughters and sons caring for their retired parents, I think it's all part of the family life cycle. Of course, there should be some support from the state in the case that this is not possible, but my view is that family offers the best care and support in this context.

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

[Tapescript

Candidate 1:

- *I suppose it's mainly caused by disorganisation and bad habits. Of course, occasionally, it is as a result of external factors which are beyond an individual's control, such as a particularly bad traffic jam, or an unfortunate set of circumstances which have contributed to the lateness. However, I think that persistent lateness is really just due to poor planning and personal organisation.*

Candidate 2:

- *I suppose it's um [pause] mainly caused by disorganisation and er, um ... bad habits. Of course um occasionally it is, it is ... as a result of external factors which um [pause] are beyond an individual's control, such as a particularly bad, er, um, traffic jam, or an unfortunate set of circumstances [pause] which have contributed to the lateness. However I think, um, that persistent lateness is really, um, just due to poor planning and, er, um, [pause] personal organisation.*

Candidates	Comments
1	Spoken very quickly and this had an impact on intelligibility
2	Poor fluency as shown through pauses, slowness, and ums and ers

Practice

Model Answers

1. **In your opinion, what are the most exciting times of life?**

- I think the most exciting times of life are those related to special events or milestones, such as turning 18 and becoming an adult or getting married and having a family. These are the times of big changes and learning about oneself, so I think the opportunities at these times are particularly exciting. But of course, I suppose all times of life are exciting and new in their own ways.

2. **Some people believe that with increased age comes increased knowledge and wisdom. Would you agree with this view? Why / Why not?**

- I don't agree with this view at all, as I have met some very wise young people and some very unknowledgeable older people! I think it depends on a number of things – your background and values, education, and how open-minded you are. I believe that we are always learning new things though so, in that sense, as we get older, we have more experience to draw on.

3. **What are some of the disadvantages of being young?**

- I don't think there are many disadvantages, maybe just the fact that when you're young, you don't have as much experience of life to make sense of problems or challenging times. But this is made up for by the fact that everything is special and new and waiting to be discovered.

4. *What are some of the most common time-saving devices or machines used in your country?*

- I would say that household appliances are quite common and have saved a lot of time for those doing household chores. Washing machines, dishwashers, and ovens have all had quite a big impact on the length of time spent doing washing and cooking, so I think that's very beneficial.

5. *Did people in the past have less or more time to enjoy life?*

- I think that probably they had less time to enjoy life as they may have had to spend more time running a household. Nowadays, there are so many more options available to people, and so they can save time in this area and enjoy life. However, I think that with new technology, people tend to work harder in their paid jobs than in the past as they are constantly on call.

6. *Do young people have more or less free time than older people? Why?*

- In my country, there is a lot of pressure on young people, especially students, to do well academically, so they don't have a lot of free time. For example, after school, they often attend extra classes to learn English or to accelerate their maths or science learning. So in many ways, young people have less free time, which I think is a shame.

Unit 5

Part 1

Exercise 1

[Tapescript]

1. *How do you usually contact people?*

Answer 1: (Spoken with flat intonation)

I usually text or message my friends to get hold of them and make plans. It's the fastest way to get a response, and it's more fun than just calling or sending an e-mail.

Answer 2: (Spoken with natural intonation)

I usually text or message my friends to get hold of them and make plans. It's the fastest way to get a response, and it's more fun than just calling or sending an e-mail.

2. *Have you always contacted people in the same way?*

Answer 1: (Spoken with flat intonation)

Mostly, yes. I think messaging through social networking sites is more of a recent thing, but my friends and I have been using it for about six years now, I guess. Before that, it was texting.

Answer 2: (Spoken with natural intonation)

Mostly, yes. I think messaging through social networking sites is more of a recent thing, but my friends and I have been using it for about six years now, I guess. Before that, it was texting.

1. **Answer 1** Poor model Reason: has flat intonation
Answer 2 Good model Reason: has natural intonation
2. **Answer 1** Poor model Reason: has flat intonation
Answer 2 Good model Reason: has natural intonation

Exercise 2

Answers and [Tapescript]

- I usually text or message my friends to get hold of them and make plans. It's the fastest way to get a response, and it's more fun than just calling or sending an e-mail.*
- Mostly, yes. I think messaging through social networking sites is more of a recent thing, but my friends and I have been using it for about six years now, I guess. Before that, it was texting.*

Part 2

Exercise 5

Task Card A

Describe a place you would like to visit with a friend in the future.

You should say:

- why you would like to go there
- how you would get there
- which friend you would choose to take

and say what types of activities you would do in this place.

Task Card B

Describe a job you would like to do.

You should say:

- what the job would be
- where it would be
- what it would involve

and mention why you would enjoy doing this job.

Task Card C

Describe a special present you would like to receive.

You should say:

- what the present would be
- why you would like to receive it
- who you would like to receive it from

and say whether or not it would be expensive to buy.

Task Card D

Describe your dream job.

You should say:

- what the job would be
- where you would work and what hours
- what type of people you would work with

and mention why this would be your dream job.

Exercise 6

There are so many presents I would like to receive! I love to give and receive presents, especially ones that are really

thoughtful. But if I really think about it, the most wonderful thing that anybody could get me would be the latest Canon camera. This camera has all the most up-to-date features and takes videos as well as still images. It's easy to use, and you can switch it to manual settings if you want to control the light and shutter speed, and so on. It's black and comes with a huge range of the most amazing zoom lenses plus its own camera case. Anyway, I'm crazy about photography, and I'm always taking photos of everyone and everything, so I'd love a really good-quality camera. I really enjoy taking close-up photos of people's faces, and also I'm really interested in the way that flowers and other things in nature photographed up close. At the moment, I'm using my dad's old camera, which is great, but I'd love an upgrade. It would be quite special if my dad gave it to me as we have always done photography stuff together, and he has always given me my cameras, so it's kind of a tradition in my family. He taught me how to use a camera when I was only about five years old. So, it'd be nice if he got me this camera because we'd be able to spend time together figuring out how to use it! Unfortunately, this camera would be quite expensive to buy. I'm not sure of the exact price, but it's up around 5,000 US dollars, I think. I don't even think it's available here yet, and I know it's too expensive, but it's just a dream. When I'm earning enough money, I'll buy it for myself and buy my dad one, too!

Part 3

Focus on the Question

[Tapescript]

1. What kind of gifts do people typically give in your country?
2. What are the benefits of giving gifts to others?
3. Do certain gifts have a special meaning in your culture? Why?
4. In your opinion, are people today more materialistic than in the past? Why / Why not?
5. What are the advantages of increasing consumerism?
6. What are the effects of consumerism on the environment?]

1. describing
2. advantages
3. describing
4. opinion / evaluating
5. advantages
6. effects

Developing Ideas – Language

1. What kind of gifts do people typically give in your country?
 - It depends on the occasion. For birthdays, people usually give a gift which has a special personal meaning for the person, or if they don't know each other very well, then I suppose they just buy chocolates or flowers or something. If it's a wedding gift, people will usually give much larger and more expensive gifts such as furniture for the house, and sometimes even fridges, washing machines, and beds!
2. What are the benefits of giving gifts to others?
 - I think one of the advantages is showing that person

that you care and seeing them enjoy and use the gift. If it's something that they really need and haven't bought for themselves, then I think that's particularly satisfying as they obviously really appreciate it. It also makes the person giving the gift feel good to have bought something thoughtful.

3. Do certain gifts have a special meaning in your culture? Why?
 - I can't really think of anything specific, except perhaps if you give the gift of tea, then this symbolises health and well-being. I suppose different coloured flowers are associated with different meanings, so if you give someone a bunch of yellow roses, this signifies friendship, whereas if they are red roses, then that's definitely romantic. Sometimes, people give Christmas cake at Christmastime although I'm not sure what the exact meaning of that is.
4. In your opinion, are people today more materialistic than in the past? Why / Why not?
 - I think there is a tendency for people to place more emphases on 'things' and status symbols which reflect who they are, but maybe less so than in the last decade. As a result of the global recession, I think many people have had to reassess their materialistic tendencies in favour of budgeting and purchasing less, so there has been a shift in attitudes.
5. What are the advantages of increasing consumerism?
 - Consumerism is positive in the sense that, I guess, it stimulates the economy with lots of people buying lots of products and things. However, when people buy things on credit and this goes too far, then that's obviously a negative as we have seen with the global recession. If the banks hadn't allowed so many people to borrow so much money, then perhaps we wouldn't have had such a collapse in the economy. Still, consumerism is what keeps our economy going, so it has many advantages.
6. What are the effects of consumerism on the environment?
 - I think that consumer society has become quite focused on throwing things out just because they have stopped working, rather than getting them fixed or repaired. This has the effect of creating much more inorganic waste for the environment to deal with, and I presume this waste goes to landfills, which are both unsightly and toxic and have a negative impact on the local environment.

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

[Tapescript]

Candidate 1:

- Well, it's difficult for me to comment on the worldwide situation, but I can say that here in Spain, it has meant that for many people, environmental issues have become less pressing than everyday concerns such as paying the mortgage and keeping one's job. In general, I think that people are finding it difficult to address environmental issues as the solutions are often quite costly.

Candidate 2:

- Well, I'm not sure how they are related exactly. Environmental issues are very important and need to be addressed on a global scale, and this is the responsibility of every person, I think. As a result, the global recession has been detrimental.]

Candidate 1's answer is better because of the examples from the candidate's own country. Candidate 2 has not really said anything which makes sense and has gone off the topic completely.

Practice

Model Answers

1. What types of gifts do people in your country normally give during special festivals?

- In my country, we celebrate Valentine's Day which is a kind of festival of love. Couples give special presents to each other which are usually red roses or chocolates. The other festival that we celebrate is a religious holiday, Easter, when people give each other chocolate Easter eggs and other types of chocolate.

2. Is there any particular meaning associated with these gifts?

- Yes, there is. I suppose the red roses are meant to be a symbol of love, of course. And I think the symbolism of eggs at Easter is to represent new life. I'm not sure about the significance of chocolate, though!

3. Do you think the type of gifts people give and receive during festivals will change at all in the future? Why / Why not?

- I don't think that this will change, because the festivals are quite traditional, and this is a special way to retain past traditions and links, so I think people would be quite resistant to change. That's not to say that the type of gifts won't evolve, however, for instance, on Valentine's Day, people also give jewellery now and other special personal gifts, but I think the basics will stay the same.

4. What have been the effects of globalisation on consumerism in your country?

- The effects have mainly been related to the amount of product choice which is now available to consumers – I think people are buying more imported products as a result of this. Of course, there is also online shopping, which has extended the range of choice as well.

5. Is this a positive or a negative development, in your view?

- I think it is mainly a positive development because more choice creates higher-quality products for a cheaper price. However, the downside of people buying more imported products is that locally made things are not so popular, and this is having a negative effect on small businesses, which in turn affects the local economy.

6. How have the ways in which people shop changed over the last decade? Why?

- I think the last ten years has been quite revolutionary in the changes that have occurred in the way people shop. Whereas in the past, it was standard practice to go to a

shop if you needed to buy something, nowadays, people are much more likely to purchase what they need online from websites. That's probably the major change, and it's of course due to technological advances such as the Internet.

Unit 6

Part 1

Exercise 1

Personal experience: Question 1

General experience: Question 2

Exercise 2

Questions	Your own experience or people in your country?
Flowers	
1. Which is your favourite type of flower? Why?	own experience
2. Do people in your country like to have fresh flowers in their home? Why?	people in the country
3. Do you prefer to give or receive flowers? Why?	own experience
Holidays	
4. How often do you take holidays?	own experience
5. Do you prefer to stay at home or to go somewhere for holidays? Why?	own experience
6. In your country, did people take more or fewer holidays in the past?	people in the country
7. What do you like most about holidays? Why?	own experience
Watches and Time	
8. Do you always wear a wristwatch? Why?	own experience
9. Do you like to be on time for meetings and appointments? Why?	own experience
10. Are people you know usually on time?	people in the country

Part 2

Exercise 5

Adjectives	Possible Synonyms
beautiful	stunning, gorgeous
big	huge, gigantic, giant
strong	powerful
graceful	elegant

Exercise 6

[Tapescript

A wild animal which I love is the polar bear. It is very similar looking to a regular brown bear, except it's bigger and, of course, a polar bear's fur is white rather than brown. Polar bears have very cute little eyes and a black nose and quite small ears in proportion to their very large bodies. They have huge feet which they use like paddles for swimming in the ocean. Their fur is snow-white when they are baby cubs, but I think as they get older, their fur goes a bit yellow. The polar bear is a gorgeous-looking animal which lives in and around the Arctic Ocean and mainly spends time on the frozen ice around this area. They can swim though, as I mentioned, and they are very graceful in the sea when they are hunting for seals or fish to eat. It's amazing that such large animals can be so elegant, but they look really as though they are dancing or something when they are in the water. I have never seen one in the wild, but I remember very clearly the first time I ever saw one. It was at the local zoo, and I went one day on a school trip to see the animals. I think I was about six or seven years old. Anyway, the polar bear enclosure was one of the last areas we went to see, and there they were, these giant animals in a tiny enclosure, walking up and down and up and down, and looking incredibly bored. I felt a little sad to see them that way, but then, we had the opportunity to see them being fed, and the zookeeper threw some fish into the water, and the two polar bears jumped in, diving for their food. I love the polar bear because it looks so cuddly and cute, but really, it is quite a powerful and potentially dangerous animal. I also really like the way these bears play with each other, especially in the water. They look so agile. And the baby polar bear cubs are the cutest things I've ever seen! If I went to the Arctic one day, I'd love to see the polar bear in its natural habitat, not just in a horribly small zoo enclosure. For now though, I have to satisfy myself with watching this beautiful and majestic animal in nature documentaries on television.]

Adjectives	Synonyms Used
beautiful	gorgeous
big	huge, large, giant
strong	powerful
graceful	elegant

Exercise 7

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. loyal | t. faithful |
| 2. fierce | e. violent |
| 3. agile | s. nimble |
| 4. smart | v. intelligent |
| 5. gentle | d. soft |
| 6. energetic | h. active |
| 7. majestic | r. regal |
| 8. fast | g. speedy |
| 9. brave | q. courageous |
| 10. furry | u. hairy |
| 11. noisy | n. loud |
| 12. elegant | a. graceful |
| 13. curious | j. inquisitive |
| 14. loving | o. affectionate |
| 15. cute | k. adorable |
| 16. playful | f. lively |
| 17. glossy | b. shiny |

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 18. beautiful | p. gorgeous |
| 19. powerful | c. strong |
| 20. sleek | l. smooth |
| 21. rare | i. unusual |
| 22. small | m. tiny |

Exercise 8

A wild animal which I love is the polar bear. It is very similar looking to a regular brown bear, except it's bigger and, of course, a polar bear's fur is white rather than brown. Polar bears have very cute little eyes and a black nose and quite small ears in proportion to their very large bodies. They have huge feet which they use like paddles for swimming in the ocean. Their fur is snow-white when they are baby cubs, but I think as they get older, their fur goes a bit yellow. The polar bear is a gorgeous-looking animal which lives in and around the Arctic Ocean and mainly spends time on the frozen ice around this area. They can swim though, as I mentioned, and they are very graceful in the sea when they are hunting for seals or fish to eat. It's amazing that such large animals can be so elegant, but they look really as though they are dancing or something when they are in the water. I have never seen one in the wild, but I remember very clearly the first time I ever saw one. It was at the local zoo, and I went one day on a school trip to see the animals. I think I was about six or seven years old. Anyway, the polar bear enclosure was one of the last areas we went to see, and there they were, these giant animals in a tiny enclosure, walking up and down and up and down, and looking incredibly bored. I felt a little sad to see them that way, but then, we had the opportunity to see them being fed, and the zookeeper threw some fish into the water, and the two polar bears jumped in, diving for their food. I love the polar bear because it looks so cuddly and cute, but really, it is quite a powerful and potentially dangerous animal. I also really like the way these bears play with each other, especially in the water. They look so agile. And the baby polar bear cubs are the cutest things I've ever seen! If I went to

the Arctic one day, I'd love to see the polar bear in its natural habitat, not just in a horribly small zoo enclosure. For now though, I have to satisfy myself with watching this beautiful and majestic animal in nature documentaries on television.

Part 3

Focus on the Question

[Tapescript

1. Many people are opposed to testing cosmetics on animals. What's your view?
2. Some people in society treat pets and animals poorly. Should there be penalties for this?
3. In some countries, poaching of animals is a huge problem. What are some of the reasons for this? What can be done about it?
4. What types of animals do people keep in your country as pets?
5. What are the benefits of owning a pet?
6. Are there any drawbacks to pet ownership?]

1. opinion / evaluating
2. opinion
3. causes and solutions
4. describing
5. advantages
6. disadvantages

Developing Ideas – Language

1. facts / evidence, reasons
2. examples, hypothetical examples, facts
3. reasons, explanations
4. examples
5. examples, facts / evidence
6. examples, explanations and details

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

[Tapescript

Candidate 1:

- I believe this is mainly due to the loss of habitat for many of these now extinct species. For example, the destruction of parts of the Amazon rainforest has meant that many unique species of birds have lost their natural home, and accordingly, they have died out. Also, the effects of construction and development have had a similar effect. It's a really sad phenomenon that humans fail to protect species which have been on this earth for thousands of years.

Candidate 2:

- I think one of the key reasons is the fact that many new types of animals and predators have been introduced into environments where perhaps they shouldn't have, and this has had an effect on the natural balance of the local ecosystem. For instance, the introduction of possums into New Zealand has meant that many species of native birds have become extinct. So, that's just one of the reasons why extinction occurs.
1. Candidate 1 offers a personal comment / opinion on the trend to finish off the answer. Candidate 2 uses a summary

statement to finish the answer.

2. Other ways to finish your answers include:
 - a. A **warning or prediction** about the future, using a conditional statement – e.g. If people don't protect species from extinction, many more rare and beautiful animals will be lost forever.
 - b. A **statement** about the situation up until now – e.g. However, progress has been made to address this issue.

Practice

Model Answers

1. How have human activities affected wildlife in China?

- In China, one of the main impacts has been on the natural habitat of the giant panda. Pandas' main source of food is bamboo, but a lot of this land where bamboo grows has been cleared for growing timber and constructing houses for people to live in. As a result, the panda has lost a lot of its natural habitat, and this has had an effect on its population. That's probably one of the most serious impacts of human activities on wildlife in China.

2. What are some of the main reasons that certain birds and animals have become extinct?

- I think this is due to a number of different reasons, including the impact of urban development, mining, and other economic factors which mean that the natural habitats of these species are disturbed, which obviously has a huge effect on their survival. Other factors include climate change, government policies, and poaching. There is no one reason why species become extinct, but it is clearly a huge loss for the planet when animals die out in this way.

3. What can individuals do to try to protect endangered species?

- I really believe that individual citizens have the power to achieve quite a lot in terms of awareness and supporting wildlife protection agencies, which do a lot of work in the areas of education and lobbying governments. Of course, if people have time, they can also volunteer to work directly with endangered species' breeding and survival programmes, but more often than not, I think the best thing people can do is donate money to specialist organisations.

4. What is the role of animals in Vietnam?

- I suppose they have many different roles, for example, buffaloes have been used for work on farms, and in some areas, horses are often kept as a means of transport. Also, the other role that animals play is of course that of pets and companions, which is very popular nowadays. They also play an important role in symbolism; in fact, the Vietnamese astrological chart is based on animals and their different characteristics, such as the tiger, dragon, snake, etc.

5. Some people feel that there is a special bond between animals and humans. Would you agree with this view?

- I think over the years, there has definitely been a special connection between animals and humans, with some

species more so than others. For instance, the dog has always been thought of as man's best friend, as it's so loyal and faithful to its owners. I think it depends on individuals, however, as some people dislike pets and prefer not to be around them.

6. *What are some of the ways animals have benefited human society?*

- I guess animals have helped humans a lot. Nowadays, the role of dogs in assisting search and rescue teams is vital for locating people who are lost quickly and efficiently. The same applies to police dogs, which help society by aiding police to catch criminals. I have also heard of different animals, such as horses, being used for therapy with disabled humans. And of course, there are the more practical ways in which farm animals give benefits through providing meat for the table. So, there are many ways animals help society.

Unit 7

Part 1

Exercise 1

[Tapescript]

1. chocolate [pause] ice cream [pause] and cake
2. chocolate ice cream [pause] and cake
3. Spanish olives and salami
4. Spanish olives [pause] and salami

- a. The difference is the pause between 'chocolate' and 'ice cream' in Extract 1 and no pause in Extract 2.
- b. Three
- c. Two
- d. It's Spanish. There is no pause in Extract 3, so the adjective 'Spanish' refers to both nouns: 'olives' and 'salami', compared to Extract 4 where there is a pause after 'olives', indicating that the salami is not Spanish.

Exercise 2

[Tapescript]

1. *If you could choose, [pause] in which part of your country would you live?*
2. *Do you prefer to live in a house [pause] or an apartment?]*

Candidate 1: Question 2

Candidate 2: Question 1

Exercise 3

Answers and [Tapescript]

Candidate 1:

- *I prefer to live in an apartment, [pause] because there is better security, [pause] better views, [pause] and they are usually located in downtown areas, [pause] which is where I like to live.*

Candidate 2:

- *I think I'd choose to live on the island of Bali, [pause] where there is a little bit of everything: [pause] beautiful beaches, [pause] cool forest, [pause] lush jungle, [pause] and of course, [pause] lots of interesting art and culture.*

Part 2

Exercises 5 & 6

I'm going to describe my close friend's wedding, as this was a very happy day in my life. My friend, Clara, had decided to get married in summer on a tropical island in the South Pacific called Rarotonga. She had asked me about a year beforehand if I could be there so that I could save up the money. She and her fiancé had been planning this for a while, and altogether about thirty of us had planned to go. When we flew to the island on a tiny plane, we could see how magical the setting was. I said to my friend how perfect the location was for a romantic wedding ceremony. The water was an amazing turquoise blue, and secluded white sandy beaches were everywhere. Most of the guests arrived a couple of days before the actual wedding ceremony, which was nice as we had lots of time to get to know each other. It was very relaxing actually, kind of like a holiday combined with the wedding. Anyway, the wedding was on a Friday, I think, and it was such a perfect day – the sun was shining on the ocean, and the white sand was sparkling. All the guests were gathered around in a circle waiting for the bride and her bridesmaids to walk over the sand dunes to where we were standing by the water's edge. The groom was dressed in a white suit, and he looked very smart, but not as beautiful as his bride when she arrived wearing a simple but classic white dress. I was one of her bridesmaids, and we wore strapless blue dresses, carried frangipani petals and scattered these as we walked in front of the bride. The ceremony itself was quite short but very moving as the bride and groom had written their own vows and they were very personal. **Then**, we all moved to the reception venue for drinks and snacks while the wedding party had their photos taken at various locations around the island. The food was incredible – fresh seafood and local specialties, and the wine was imported from New Zealand and was delicious. **After** the pre-dinner drinks, everybody was seated in an outdoor venue as the sun began to set. There was live entertainment by a band, and **pretty soon**, we all started dancing and enjoying the music. **This was followed by** a delicious meal and **then** of course, the speeches. These were very funny and had all the guests laughing and enjoying themselves; especially the best man, who commented afterwards that he had been very nervous, but I thought he did a great job. **After** the speeches, it was more dancing, and **then finally**, the night finished at about one o'clock the next morning. Most people had been arranged to stay on for a bit longer to enjoy a holiday, but I had to get back home because of work commitments, so I flew out the next day. It was such a special occasion to be able to share with my friend, and I'm so glad that I made the effort to attend her big day. Hopefully one day, I'll get to go back to Rarotonga, as I would love to have more time to relax and explore this very special island. I said to my fiancé the other day that we should think about getting married there, too!

Bold text in the model answer above = time order words

Part 3**Focus on the Question**

[Tapescript]

1. *Some people say that as they age, they become happier. What's your opinion?*
2. *What types of things influence personal happiness? Why?*
3. *Many people around the world suffer from unhappiness and psychological difficulties. What measures can be taken to increase happiness?*
4. *Do you believe wealth and possessions make people happy? Why / Why not?*
5. *What is the secret to happiness?*
6. *Should people expect to be happy all the time?]*

a.

- Answer A: Question 1
 Answer B: Question 6
 Answer C: Question 2
 Answer D: Question 3
 Answer E: Question 4
 Answer F: Question 5

b.

1. opinion
2. describing
3. solutions
4. opinion
5. opinion
6. evaluating / opinion

Developing Ideas – Language

1. *Some people say that as they age, they become happier. What's your opinion?*
 - I'm not sure about that! I'm sure that many elderly people would say that the happiest time for them was in their youth when they had their lives ahead of them. When you're younger, you have your health and a world of opportunity at your feet. In my opinion, somewhere between the ages of 20 and 40 is probably the happiest time of life for most people.
2. *What types of things influence personal happiness? Why?*
 - In my view, personal health, good relationships with family and friends, having a good job, and having enough money to live comfortably are some of the things that make you feel satisfied. Although the money factor is interesting, some studies have shown that those who win the lottery are not necessarily happier after their big win than before. So, it's probably not so much related to money as having the necessities of life which are food, shelter, and water.
3. *Many people around the world suffer from unhappiness and psychological difficulties. What measures can be taken to increase happiness?*
 - Increasing happiness for people is problematic, as I feel that happiness is something which means different things to different people. It's really quite hard to define, which can make it quite elusive. However, I think that if it was cheaper for people to access

psychological assistance, and there was less stigma around mental health difficulties, then that might improve overall happiness or well-being in the long run.

4. *Do you believe wealth and possessions make people happy? Why / Why not?*
 - I don't think so. Wealth and possessions are only material goods, and as I said, I think happiness is more related to relationships and social support. Having said that, of course, if money makes it possible for you to connect and share with others, then I suppose that could make you happy – for instance, if you bought a holiday house where you went with your friends every year, then that would be a case of wealth helping you to build connections. Overall though, I think money is not the key factor in feeling happy.
5. *What is the secret to happiness?*
 - I don't believe there is a secret to happiness as such, but I do think it's something that people have to work at finding for themselves. Some people say meditation and relaxation help them to find happiness, for others, it is their work, and for others still, happiness is related to things such as music and art. I guess the main thing is to follow your heart and do what you love.
6. *Should people expect to be happy all the time?*
 - No, I think that's actually quite unrealistic and, in fact, is part of the problem nowadays where people feel dissatisfied with life if they aren't feeling happy the entire time. I think that part of being a person is to experience a range of emotions, including happiness and sadness. If you feel happy all the time, then something's not quite right!

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

[Tapescript]

Examiner: *What are the advantages of being happy the majority of the time?*

Candidate: *Sorry, can I just clarify that majority means most of the time?*

Examiner: *Yes, that's correct.*

Candidate: *Thank you. Well, I think that ...]*

The candidate has asked for clarification of the word 'majority'.

Practice**Model Answers**

1. *Is it important to be happy?*
 - At least some of the time, yes, otherwise, life is just dull and horrible. But of course, happiness is not the same for everyone: it's all relative. For instance, someone living in a developing country with basic needs such as food and water may be just as happy as someone living in a huge house with all the possessions they ever wanted. In fact, they might be happier.
2. *How can people be happy when there is so much suffering in the world?*
 - I think it is mainly because people are disconnected from the majority of global suffering. Simply, there's too much for people to absorb on a meaningful level, so they shut off from it emotionally, and thus, they are able

to feel happy in their own lives. Also, many people can appreciate the suffering and still feel happy because they have accepted the situation.

3. What are the advantages of being happy the majority of the time?

- There are many benefits of happiness. Studies have shown that the body releases certain chemicals when people are happy, and these chemicals are beneficial to good health, both physical and psychological. The other benefit of being happy is that you attract happy people in your life, so then, you continue to be happy, and so on.

4. Do you think that success leads to happiness?

- I think that success can certainly help lead to happiness, but I wouldn't say that it actually causes happiness. It depends on the meaning which the individual attaches to the success. For instance, was it a goal that they had personally set for themselves, or was it a meaningless work-related goal for a large company? It definitely depends on how invested the person is in achieving success and what that means for them.

5. Some people think that nowadays people are less happy than those in previous generations. What's your view?

- In some ways, I agree with this view. Modern life has tended to make things more complicated than in the past, and I think perhaps previous generations were more satisfied with what they had, rather than yearning for the latest consumer goods or designer shoes. It's hard to know though, as they had so much extra hard work to do. So, perhaps not.

6. What are some of the effects of unhappiness?

- Well, I think one of the negative impacts of unhappiness is depression and sadness in individuals, which can lead to other problems such as isolation and withdrawal, and loss of job, and so on. But for most people, unhappiness might be a motivating factor that something in their lives is not quite right and they need to make a change. Those are the two main effects that I can think of.

Unit 8

Part 1

Exercise 1

Answer 1 for the first question and Answer 2 for the second question show negative answers.

Part 2

Exercise 5

I'm going to describe an outdoor area which I absolutely love not only for its natural beauty but also for the memories that I have of this place. It's a waterfall and swimming hole out in the forest, with lots of cool shade around for enjoying stunning summer days. It's about an hour's drive from the city where

I live, and the roads are hilly and narrow. After the drive, you have to walk for about 45 minutes, and the track is quite steep in parts. I used to go there a lot more than I do now because my classmates and I all used to go there on Friday afternoons instead of going to class! It was the perfect place to relax and enjoy nature. I still go there every now and again with friends or family. Anyway, the waterfall is quite high, and the water spills down into a large swimming area which is lovely and deep and excellent for swimming. On a sunny day, the water is as blue as the sky, a beautiful colour. Trees surround the area, but it also gets plenty of sunlight. It seems as though nobody really knows about this spot as it is very secluded and hardly anyone else goes there, so if you're lucky, you have the place to yourself to enjoy. We normally take a picnic lunch and spend the day there, exploring the other tracks and areas around this part of the forest. Of course, we spend lots of time just lying around in the sun, talking and eating delicious food, and we also do lots of other stuff. We spend heaps of time swimming, especially around and under the waterfall where the water streams down like a wall of glass. Behind the waterfall is a cave area which is dark and slippery but fun to explore. You can even sit in there and be completely dry. There's also a swing rope tied to one of the large trees, so we use that to swing on and jump into the water, which is heaps of fun. We used to have competitions to see who could do the craziest jump into the water! I love going to this place because it's so private and special, and it reminds me of really happy memories when I was younger. I also love sharing this unique place with visitors to my country as they always really like it and are very impressed. I'm lucky to live in a country where there are lots of untouched outdoor areas which are accessible to enjoy. So, that's my favourite outdoor area, and I hope it stays the same for years to come.

Part 3

Focus on the Question

- a
- [*Tapescript*
 - Do you think there is more environmental awareness among people in your country than a decade ago? Why?
 - What measures are being taken to protect the environment in your country? How successful have these been?
 - Is protecting and preserving the environment the responsibility of individual citizens or national governments? Why?
 - What type of outdoor places do people in your country visit and enjoy?
 - How important do you think it is for people to spend time outdoors enjoying nature? Why?
 - What are some of the effects of urbanisation in your country?
 - opinion / changes
 - solution / evaluation
 - opinion
 - description
 - opinion
 - effect

Developing Ideas – Language

- Do you think there is more environmental awareness among

people in your country than a decade ago? Why?

- I definitely think there is more awareness in terms of environmental issues and a pressing sense that people have to act now in order to protect the environment for both the immediate future and generations ahead. For instance, people nowadays are much more concerned with recycling materials, and it has become quite fashionable to be 'green'. People now have the sense that the things they do or don't do can make a difference.
2. *What measures are being taken to protect the environment in your country? How successful have these been?*
- As I mentioned, on a personal level, many people are making more sustainable choices in their daily lives. Other initiatives in my country include stricter controls on factories and industry, and I know that more awareness campaigns will take place soon. There has also been a big move towards networking and using social media to promote environmental issues. So, I think there are many things which are being done, but the key is to keep up the awareness to sustain momentum.
3. *Is protecting and preserving the environment the responsibility of individual citizens or national governments? Why?*
- I would certainly say both, as it's almost as if one can't happen without the support of the other. The government definitely has a responsibility not only to legislate and enforce at the more serious end of the spectrum but also to provide a framework for individuals to understand and act on their own environmental responsibility. By that, I mean things like kerbside recycling schemes and subsidies for using public transport instead of private cars, for example. On the other hand, the public has to take up and use the schemes. It's a two-way issue.
4. *What type of outdoor places do people in your country visit and enjoy?*
- Well, it depends on which part of the country, but in my city, people tend to make the most of city parks and landscaped areas. People often use the parks for exercise in the mornings and evenings, and when they can, for eating their lunch during their lunch break from work. Kids and families also use parks to play. It's a couple of hours' drive to the coast, but often, people make that trip on weekends or holidays to get out of the city. I'd like to see more parks and outdoor areas in my city, but overall, I think it's pretty good.
5. *How important do you think it is for people to spend time outdoors enjoying nature? Why?*
- Personally, I believe it's really important to spend time in nature. First of all, it's good for taking time out and relaxing in a peaceful environment. Even if it's just ten minutes' sitting in the sun during a break from work, I think it's worth it just to have a change of scene and refresh yourself. Also, by spending time outdoors, people can get fit and healthy as well as gain an awareness of many beautiful parts of their country.

This, in turn, might motivate people to appreciate and care for the environment in a more global sense. So, I think there are lots of reasons why people should get outdoors and enjoy nature!

6. *What are some of the effects of urbanisation in your country?*

- I think that development has certainly happened very quickly, perhaps even before legislation could move fast enough to protect some of our natural environment, which is a terrible shame. The effects of this are obviously the destruction of natural areas in favour of the construction of apartments, and I think this is a huge loss for society. I only hope in future that the same problems will not occur.

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

[Tapescript

Examiner: What are some of the benefits of recycling?

Candidate: I think that recycling has several key positive effects, including ...]

Practice

Model Answers

1. *What are some of the problems associated with pollution in your country?*

- Pollution creates many issues in my country, and the main problem is probably air pollution. Every day, vehicles emit damaging gases into the atmosphere, and this problem is not helped by people using open fires to heat their house during winter. As a result, smog hangs over the city and in fact, sometimes we have days when the council recommends the elderly do not venture outside. That's how bad the problem gets. And then, of course, there are factory emissions which also contribute to the predicament.

2. *What can be done to help solve these problems?*

- I think it's just about education, awareness, and money. For instance, if it's cheaper for someone to heat their house by burning wood in an open fire, they will continue to do so if they can't afford any other options. So, first of all, there needs to be more environmentally friendly, cost-effective heating solutions. Another problem I mentioned was vehicle emissions, and for this to change, public transport networks have to be more efficient and convenient in order for people to make better use of them rather than using their own cars.

3. *Some people believe that spending public money on reducing pollution is a waste. What's your view?*

- My personal view is that spending public money is an investment rather than a waste, because pollution in my country affects so many people in negative ways that, as a society, we have to find ways to solve this serious problem. Government spending is the only way to make changes at a more meaningful level which involves everyone. It's the only realistic option.

4. *What types of items are generally recycled by people in your country?*

- People tend to recycle certain parts of their household rubbish, such as paper, glass bottles, plastic, and cans.

That's the main item, and many people also recycle clothing and blankets by donating them to charity shops or exchanging with friends. Recycling is definitely gaining in popularity, and so, more and more people are recycling whatever items they can. There is a definite fashionable trend towards recycling.

5. *What are some of the benefits of recycling?*

- I think the benefits of recycling are huge. The most obvious advantage is that it reduces the amount of toxic waste and rubbish sitting in rubbish dumps and landfills. Beyond that, if someone's throwing out something which another person really likes, then that's a win-win situation for both people, isn't it? And I also think that recycling can encourage more creativity in terms of sustainable fashion and arts. All in all, there are lots of different types of benefits.

6. *Are there any disadvantages to recycling, in your opinion?*

- I can't really think of too many disadvantages, but I suppose some people might find it inconvenient to sort out and separate their household rubbish. The cost of running recycling plants might be a disadvantage, but I think with new technology, these are getting cheaper. And some might think that wearing second-hand clothes is not very clean or modern. I guess some people always like to buy themselves new things. So, in that case, recycling wouldn't really appeal.

Unit 9

Part 1

Exercise 1

1. describe
2. compare (doing the activity by oneself with doing it with other people)
3. describe

Exercise 2

1. describe
2. describe
3. describe
4. describe
5. compare (past and now)
6. describe
7. describe
8. describe
9. compare (preferences)

Part 2

Exercise 5

This could be: a meal, a loaf of bread, a cake, a paper dart, a craft item, an item of clothing, a gift for someone, etc.

Exercise 6

1. I looked at hundreds of recipes to find the perfect one.
2. I bought all the ingredients and got organised.

3. I mixed everything together, including the flour, eggs, and cocoa.
4. I put the mixture in the tin.
5. I left it in the oven for about an hour and a half.
6. I tried to add the icing to make it look better.
7. I gave up and threw the cake in the bin.

Exercise 7

Answers and [Tapescript

I'm going to talk about a cake that I made for my mum's birthday last year. It was meant to be a big surprise for her, and I had looked at hundreds of recipes to find the perfect one. I am in no way an expert in the kitchen, but I wanted to make an effort for my mum's special day as we were having a big family dinner of about 15 people. You see, my mum is a fantastic baker, and I was determined to make the cake incredibly special. Looking back, perhaps I set my standards too high! Her favourite is chocolate, which I thought would be straightforward enough. I started baking it the day before her birthday as I didn't want to be stressed and rushing on the actual day. Anyway, the first thing I did was to buy all my ingredients and get organised. Then, I mixed everything together, including the flour, eggs, cocoa, and so on. It took ages to make, probably about an hour and a half because it was quite a complicated procedure. The mixture by this stage was looking a bit strange, because no matter how hard I mixed it, it just wouldn't combine together. In any case, I put it into a tin and then left it in the oven for about an hour and a half. Well, by the time I pulled it out of the oven, it was as flat as a pancake! It couldn't have been more than about a centimetre high. And it was all stuck to the tin in a terrible mess. Of course, I began to panic and tried to add the icing to make it look better, but still, it was a disaster. Then, I tasted some of the mixture stuck to the tin and was horrified to find that the cake tasted very bitter! I knew then that I must have left out a key ingredient and then, I figured it out – no sugar! I even tried to get my brother, who loves cake, to taste it and he spat it out in the sink! That was when I gave up, too, and threw the cake in the bin. Luckily, I still had time to bake another cake before my mum could figure out what was happening and take over and make her own cake, but it was a pretty stressful situation. I think in the end, I just made a very simple, plain cake to be safe and of course, that was fine, because it's not so much the cake as the gesture of making it for someone. So of course, I would say that this cake was extremely difficult to make because it failed so miserably! I don't think I've even tried to make that recipe again.]

Part 3

Focus on the Question

Answers and [Tapescript

- A. *There is a variety of skills necessary to produce these items. For instance, many craftspeople have knowledge of carving wood and stone for making sculpture and jewellery. Others have weaving skills to make beautiful blankets from brightly coloured wool. And as for making meals and local dishes, I'm not sure if there are any specific skills necessary or whether it's just the knowledge of recipes and ingredients combined with common sense. (Question 5)*
- B. *I suppose there are a number of reasons. First of all, it might be much cheaper for them to make food items at home, as well as the fact that it's probably fresher and tastier. Secondly, many local people rely on their craft skills in making things to sell in*

the local market and also to tourists. So, making things is their job and their livelihood. Finally, I think many people are creative and get a real sense of pride and satisfaction from making things themselves, so that's a big part of why they decide to make things. (Question 6)

- C. There are several effects of this trend. The first one is that a greater number of people get to enjoy the thrill of buying a prestigious label at a fraction of the cost, such as Chanel bags or Gucci wallets. This has the impact of taking away the exclusivity of the brand and thus probably devalues the original items. Another effect is the growth of an entire black market industry based on the production and sale of these items. The tourists who come here absolutely love it and go home with lots of presents for their friends and family. (Question 1)
- D. I certainly agree with the sentiment that a handmade gift can be more thoughtful than a store-bought one. Making somebody a gift yourself shows that you have spent your own time and energy thinking about what they would like and then making it for them. The other aspect is that handmade gifts are always unique and include something of the person giving the gift, which is very personal. Mass-produced gifts, of course, are also sometimes thoughtful, but I prefer a handmade gift with love and care. (Question 2)
- E. People here make many different things by hand. For instance, a lot of beautiful jewellery is made from carving wood and special semi-precious stones, and this is all done carefully by hand, so each one is unique. The local women also produce a lot of woven goods, such as dolls, blankets, and clothing, and they weave wherever they go. A lot of people also make their own bread and other food items by hand. There's a range of things that people produce by themselves. (Question 4)
- F. I think there are a couple of main differences. Firstly, mass-produced gifts are just that they all look the same, and there is no individual style or difference to them, whereas handmade items are all slightly different in certain ways. Then, there's the question of price: handmade goods are generally more expensive than mass-produced goods because they take more time to make. Having said that, at local craft markets, there are often items much cheaper than their mass-produced equivalents, so it really depends on where you buy things. The main difference that I like between the two types of goods is that when you buy a handmade item, the money usually goes straight to the person who made it. (Question 3)

Developing Ideas – Language

1. What are the effects of producing cheap imitations of leading brands for the international market?
- There are several effects of this trend. The first one is that a greater number of people get to enjoy the thrill of buying a prestigious label at a fraction of the cost, such as Chanel bags or Gucci wallets. This has the impact of taking away the exclusivity of the brand and thus probably devalues the original items. Another effect is the growth of an entire black market industry based on the production and sale of these items. The tourists who come here absolutely love it and go home with lots of presents for their friends and family.

2. Some people argue that a handmade gift is more thoughtful and original than something which has been mass-produced. Would you agree with this view? Why / Why not?

- I certainly agree with the sentiment that a handmade gift can be more thoughtful than a store-bought one. Making somebody a gift yourself shows that you have spent your own time and energy thinking about what they would like and then making it for them. The other aspect is that handmade gifts are always unique and include something of the person giving the gift, which is very personal. Mass-produced gifts, of course, are also sometimes thoughtful, but I prefer a handmade gift with love and care.

3. In what ways are mass-produced goods different from handmade products?

- I think there are a couple of main differences. Firstly, mass-produced gifts are just that they all look the same, and there is no individual style or difference to them, whereas handmade items are all slightly different in certain ways. Then, there's the question of price: handmade goods are generally more expensive than mass-produced goods because they take more time to make. Having said that, at local craft markets, there are often items much cheaper than their mass-produced equivalents, so it really depends on where you buy things. The main difference that I like between the two types of goods is that when you buy a handmade item, the money usually goes straight to the person who made it.

4. What types of things do people in your country make by themselves?

- People here make many different things by hand. For instance, a lot of beautiful jewellery is made from carving wood and special semi-precious stones, and this is all done carefully by hand, so each one is unique. The local women also produce a lot of woven goods, such as dolls, blankets, and clothing, and they weave wherever they go. A lot of people also make their own bread and other food items by hand. There's a range of things that people produce by themselves.

5. What are the skills required to make these types of things?

- There is a variety of skills necessary to produce these items. For instance, many craftspeople have knowledge of carving wood and stone for making sculpture and jewellery. Others have weaving skills to make beautiful blankets from brightly coloured wool. And as for making meals and local dishes, I'm not sure if there are any specific skills necessary or whether it's just the knowledge of recipes and ingredients combined with common sense.

6. What are the reasons people might decide to make things themselves rather than purchase them?

- I suppose there are a number of reasons. First of all, it might be much cheaper for them to make food items at home, as well as the fact that it's probably fresher and tastier. Secondly, many local people rely on their craft skills in making things to sell in the local market and also to tourists. So, making things is their job and their

livelihood. Finally, I think many people are creative and get a real sense of pride and satisfaction from making things themselves, so that's a big part of why they decide to make things.

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Candidate 2 gives the better answer because globalisation is specifically linked to 'mass production' which is what the question asked for. Candidate 1 has given a more general answer on the effects of globalisation in broader terms.

Practice

Model Answers

1. *How has the development of technology influenced mass production?*

- I think technology has had a massive influence on mass production simply due to the efficiency of new machines in turning out huge amounts of products. I think that has been the main effect although, of course, there have also been spin-off effects such as loss of jobs as machines take over the tasks that people used to do. But the reality is that technology has made mass production much more efficient than before.

2. *What are the benefits of mass-produced goods?*

- I suppose one of the benefits is a consistent level of quality control across all goods, as they are checked and scrutinised to the same standard. Therefore, if you have a problem with something you bought, you can take it back to the store and get an entirely new item. The other benefit is that because these goods are produced in bulk, they are often very cheap for consumers to buy.

3. *Do you think your country will make more or fewer mass-produced items in the future? Why?*

- To be honest, I think the trend is definitely towards more mass production as it has so many economic benefits for the companies and also for the country's economy. It's certainly the most efficient method of making profit and, with globalisation opening up international markets, demand is only set to increase. I think my country will make more mass-produced items in future years.

4. *What types of art and craft are popular in your country? Why?*

- All sorts of art and craft items are popular here. I would say that craft items are usually more popular with tourists, who like to take home an artisan product which reminds them of their visit and reflects local culture. These types of items include woven blankets and dolls, handmade musical instruments, and jewellery. Local people probably prefer more sophisticated types of art such as paintings and sculptures because they like to show these in their homes to indicate style and status.

5. *What are some of the benefits of making handmade items?*

- The benefits of making handmade items are many – including a creative outlet for artists as well as a way of making a living. And the benefits for the people who

buy them are also significant as they get to enjoy an original piece which is special and unique, with nothing else quite similar to it.

6. *Are there any disadvantages to making things by hand?*

- The only drawback which comes to mind is the fact that it usually takes quite a lot of time to make something by hand, compared to by machine. For instance, if making craft products was your job, it might be difficult to make enough products to earn a good living. In addition, sometimes handmade items are not as durable or strong as factory-made products. Those are the only disadvantages I can think of, really.

Unit 10

Part 1

Exercise 1

1. Answer 1:

Example: favourite newspaper website
Reason: most up-to-date and convenient

Answer 2:

Example: people talking, radio
Reason: depressing and dull

2. Answer 1:

Example: once or twice a week
Reason: don't have time

Answer 2:

Example: on a daily basis – online, radio, TV
Reason: news fanatic

Part 2

Exercise 5

b. present simple

Exercise 6

I'm going to talk about a healthy activity that I do. Every day, I go for a walk or a run, which I think is quite a healthy activity. Of course, I don't do it absolutely every day of my life, but most days, I managed to fit in at least a quick walk. My routine is that usually I go in the mornings, when I first get up out of bed and before I have breakfast or a shower or anything like that. It's a struggle because I have to wake up quite early in order to still have time to get ready for university, and so on. Anyway, I wake up at 5:30 a.m., get dressed, and I'm out the door. There are lots of places to run around my area, including the local park, the beach, and just around the streets which were very quiet at that time of the morning because most people are sleeping or just waking up to start their days. I don't like running in the dark, but it's okay now because I have run with my little dog Bobo and, although he wouldn't hurt anyone, for some reason, I just feel more secure when I'm running with him. Sometimes, my friend joins me, but she can't always get out of bed in time. Anyway, I run with my music to keep me company as well. So, if I run around the park, it is a nice route because I get to see the sunrise, which is beautiful. I normally have run about 10 kilometres, and then, it's home for

a quick shower, breakfast, and getting to university on time. I absolutely love going for runs, because I feel so good and fit afterwards, and it helps me to keep in shape. If for some reason, I can't run, like when I'm really sick or something like that, I hate it because it affects my mood as well, and I start to feel a bit down and depressed. So, running helps keep me healthy in a lot of ways, by helping with physical well-being as well as psychological well-being. I'd recommend it to anyone to keep fit and healthy: it's a great feeling.

[Tapescript

I'm going to talk about a healthy activity that I do. Every day, I go for a walk or a run, which I think is quite a healthy activity. Of course, I don't do it absolutely every day of my life, but most days, I managed ... manage to fit in at least a quick walk. My routine is that usually I go in the mornings, when I first get up out of bed and before I have breakfast or a shower or anything like that. It's a struggle because I have to wake up quite early in order to still have time to get ready for university, and so on. Anyway, I wake up at 5:30 a.m., get dressed, and I'm out the door. There are lots of places to run around my area, including the local park, the beach, and just around the streets which were ... are very quiet at that time of the morning because most people are sleeping or just waking up to start their days. I don't like running in the dark, but it's okay now because I have run ... run with my little dog Bobo and, although he wouldn't hurt anyone, for some reason, I just feel more secure when I'm running with him. Sometimes, my friend joins me, but she can't always get out of bed in time. Anyway, I run with my music to keep me company as well. So, if I run around the park, it is a nice route because I get to see the sunrise, which is beautiful. I normally have run ... run about 10 kilometres, and then, it's home for a quick shower, breakfast, and getting to university on time. I absolutely love going for runs, because I feel so good and fit afterwards, and it helps me to keep in shape. If for some reason, I can't run, like when I'm really sick or something like that, I hate it because it affects my mood as well, and I start to feel a bit down and depressed. So, running helps keep me healthy in a lot of ways, by helping with physical well-being as well as psychological well-being. I'd recommend it to anyone to keep fit and healthy: it's a great feeling.]

Exercise 8

Possible Answers

diet
lifestyle
health, etc.

Part 3

Focus on the Question

Question 1: Answer A
Question 2: Answer D
Question 3: Answer B
Question 4: Answer E
Question 5: Answer F
Question 6: Answer C

Developing Ideas – Language

1. How do most people keep healthy in your country?

- In general, most people probably keep healthy by eating lots of fresh fruit and vegetables and hardly eating any fast food. And lots of people do sports and

go to fitness clubs to keep fit and healthy. However, I am certainly aware that there are still many people who just eat what they like regardless of how healthy or unhealthy it is.

2. Do you believe that the responsibility for good health lies with governments or individuals?

- Taking responsibility for one's health is definitely an individual concern. I mean, the government can spend all the money in the world on education campaigns and social marketing, but at the end of the day, it's about the choices that individuals make. So, I think it's a combination but also, we have a responsibility as humans to ensure we are completely informed rather than relying on the government to do so.

3. What is the role of schools in educating students about maintaining a healthy lifestyle?

- I definitely think that schools have quite an important role to play in this area. In my country, school cafeterias and tuck shops have traditionally sold a range of quite unhealthy food such as hot chips, pies, cakes, and biscuits, and there have scarcely been any healthier options for children to select. So, my feeling is that this is one of the main areas where a school can certainly send a clear message about healthy options to its students.

4. How healthy is the traditional diet in your country?

- The traditional diet here in Vietnam is extremely healthy – for instance, vegetables are seen as a dish in their own right and make up at least half of any meal. Rice is very high in nutrients and low in fat and forms a staple part of the traditional diet. Dishes such as soup help to fill people up without too many calories as well. Overall, I think the Vietnamese diet is an essentially healthy one, and it has only been with the introduction of sugary, fatty Western food that we have seen a problem with weight and obesity here.

5. In what ways has the traditional diet been influenced by other types of food? Has this been a positive or a negative development? Why?

- As I mentioned, the traditional diet has been significantly influenced by the fast food trends which are so popular in the Western world, so that has meant that takeaways such as Lotteria and KFC have become very popular, in particular with young people. This has certainly been quite a negative development, leading to weight gain and associated health problems. On the whole, though, Vietnamese people are very proud of their cuisine and would much rather eat Vietnamese food than any other type of food.

6. Why do you think that some people continue to make poor food choices even though they are aware that these choices are potentially harmful to their health?

- This is a difficult question. I think it possibly relates to a lack of self-control around eating, and what I mean by that is that quite often, unhealthy food tastes delicious, and the desire to take pleasure from the taste of food

overrides the knowledge that this food is unhealthy. In addition, people often do not experience or see the effects of unhealthy eating for quite some time, for instance, heart attacks which usually occur later in life. In saying that, weight gain can happen quite quickly, but this does not seem to be enough to motivate people into healthy eating patterns. It's a huge problem.

Adverbs	Types
probably / certainly / definitely / possibly	certainty
hardly / just / completely / quite / scarcely / extremely / at least / very / essentially / significantly / so / much	degrees

Techniques for Gaining a Higher IELTS Band Score

Candidate 1 gives a better answer because there are more complex structures in the answer, whereas Candidate 2 has used very few.

Practice

Model Answers

- 1. Who tends to be healthier: young people or older people? Why do you think this is the case?**

 - I think middle-aged people tend to be healthier because they have an awareness that they have to start looking after their bodies before it's too late! For instance, in my country, this is the group which is often in the park doing exercises or walking together. They are the group that is proactive in prioritising their health needs. Young people are too busy enjoying life to worry about being healthy!
- 2. What can be done to encourage people to live healthy lifestyles?**

 - I think that awareness and action has to occur from a number of different perspectives. First of all, people have to learn about what a healthy lifestyle is and how they might apply and integrate that into their own life. Then, there's the motivation to do so, as people need a reason to make a change. Finally, there has to be some sort of reward or payback for making the effort. Basically, I think social marketing campaigns and media coverage help to get people thinking about healthy living in the most effective way.
- 3. Do you think generations to come will be more or less focused on maintaining a healthy lifestyle?**

 - I certainly believe that future generations will be much more aware and focused on staying healthy. This is because the link between diet and lifestyle with illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease just keeps getting stronger, and people can't ignore the evidence. Also, more and more doctors are using what we call 'green prescriptions' to address health problems and, all in all, society is moving towards a focus on healthy living.
- 4. How important do you think it is to maintain a healthy diet?**

 - Of course, it's very important, particularly as people get older. A healthy diet contributes to many aspects of

health, such as maintaining a healthy weight, getting all the nutrients that one needs, and avoiding diseases which are linked with poor diet such as diabetes. Also, a healthy diet can contribute to psychological well-being and a positive sense of self-esteem. All in all, I think it is extremely important to commit to eating healthily.

- 5. How have the types of food people eat changed in the last twenty years? What are some of the reasons for these changes?**

 - I would say that in my country, the main types of food that people eat have not changed hugely in the last twenty years. The staple foods here are rice and noodles, and these certainly have remained popular because they are cheap and nutritious as well as filling. However, people have become more interested in eating fast food and junk food as they have been introduced, and this represents a bit of a problem as they are not generally healthy food.
- 6. Why do you think some people feel that dieting is a waste of time? Would you agree or disagree with this view?**

 - I guess that some people feel this way because they go on or have heard of 'fad' diets which are quite extreme and not a realistic way to eat on a daily basis, so there is no way they can sustain them, and then, they fail. So, I suppose this leads to quite a negative view of diets, but I strongly believe that dieting and healthy eating are two very different things, so I agree that going on a diet is a waste of time because healthy eating has to last a lifetime, not just two or three weeks.

Lessons for IELTS ADVANCED SPEAKING

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