



Test Format | Part 3 (*The Discussion*)

- between 4 to 5 minutes
- the examiner will ask further questions which are connected to the topics in part 2
- this part is the opportunity to talk about more abstract issues and ideas

Criteria

Each of the four criteria counts equally. Around the beginning of Part 1, the examiner will write down a band score for each of the four criteria (*it means that the examiner already has an idea of what your band score more or less is*).

Then those numbers will be marked up or down during the test.

All the criteria count EQUALLY and are judged throughout all 3 parts of the speaking test.

The examiner then uses well defined criteria to assess your ability in the following areas:

Fluency and Coherence	Lexical Resource (<i>Vocabulary</i>)
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Pronunciation

At the end of the test, the interviewer calculates the average of the four scores and that number will represent your final speaking band score.

example:

Grammatical Range and Accuracy	7	
Lexical Resource (<i>Vocabulary</i>)	7	
Pronunciation	6	= 24, which divided by 4 equals 6
Fluency and Coherence	4	Band Score 6

Improving Band Score

Fluency and Coherence

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + speaking naturally <i>(try copying the speed of your examiner)</i> but ONLY if the pronunciation is good + expanding answers with relevant information/details and using correct tenses and connectors + answering the questions directly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long, awkward pauses - not answering the question completely/correctly

Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + using a wide range of vocabulary + using appropriate words + correct usage of collocations and phrasal verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using unfamiliar vocabulary words or using words incorrectly - always using common and simple vocabulary

Grammar

Mark Up for...	Mark Down for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + knowing how to use the basic verb tenses well + making complex sentences, using <u>conjunctions</u> and <u>connectors</u> + making complex structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inconsistent tenses - always using simple sentences - constructing complex sentences incorrectly

Pronunciation

Mark Up for...

- + easy to understand pronunciation
- + speaking CLEARLY so that every word can be understood
- + proper intonation to emphasize a certain meaning or idea
- + basic word pronunciation
- + linked sounds and connected speech
(not pronounced sound for sound)

Mark Down for...

- repeatedly mispronounced words
- very fast or very long answers
(poor pronunciation or no coherence)

NO NEED FOR "American" OR "British" ACCENT

REMINDERS

- There are no 'right' answers to the questions asked; concentrate on how you give your answer.
- Practice answering the questions, but do not learn or memorize the answers.
Examiners can tell if you have memorized your answers.
- Always try to explain what you mean, even if you can't find the specific word. Paraphrase.
- Always give Reasons, Effects, Comparisons, Supporting Examples, Experiences.
- Avoid always giving personal information and examples, this should be an abstract discussion.
- If the examiner asks a question that you don't understand, take control of the situation.
Responding like this will show evidence of your communication skills.
 - ▶ If the examiner uses a word or phrase that you don't understand:
"Sorry but could you explain what you mean by ..."
"I'm not familiar with that word/expression. Could you please explain what you mean?"
 - ▶ If you didn't hear a part of the question:
"Excuse me, I didn't quite catch that. Could you say that again?"
"I'm sorry, but would you mind repeating that?"
 - ▶ If you want to clarify what the examiner asked:
"Do you mean"
"When you say, do you mean/are you asking"?
- Make sure you elaborate and give the necessary details.
for example:
*"One of my many hobbies is taking pictures. (Don't stop here! Add more details/information!)
I find taking pictures fun and challenging. It is also a great way of keeping precious memories."*
- ALWAYS offer examples to help your explain a statement.
for example:
*"I need it for my studies. (Don't stop here! Add more details/information!) I've been offered
a place at a university in New York to continue my studies on Business Management, but I need to prove my
level of English is good enough."*

Questions

Topic: ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

1.) Do you think that governments around the world are doing enough to tackle the world's problems?

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences*.

2.) Tell me about some of the environmental problems that are affecting countries these days.

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences*.

3.) Why do some people not consider environmental problems to be serious?

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences*.

Topic: PRODUCING FOOD

1.) What effects has modern technology had on the way food is produced?

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences*.

2.) How important is it for a country to be able to grow all the food it needs, without importing any from other countries?

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences*.

3.) Do you think there will be a greater choice of food available in shops in the future, or will there be less choice?

Answers

Topic: ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

1.) Do you think that governments around the world are doing enough to tackle the world's problems?

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.*

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON) *"No, frankly, I don't think they are doing enough. There are countries that do what they can to help their people when problems occur and they are trying to come up with measures to mitigate the effects, but when it comes to the major issue of global warming, countries are not doing enough."*

(EXAMPLE / EFFECT) *We see time and again that no agreement can be made on how to reduce the carbon footprint. This is usually because governments know that in order to make a serious reduction in carbon dioxide emissions they will have to sacrifice economic growth and they are not prepared to do this. Governments think very short-term. They know that if there is economic decline, then they will be voted out."*

WORDS and PHRASES

<i>carbon dioxide</i>	<i>agreement</i>	<i>emission</i>	<i>reduce</i>	<i>mitigate</i>
<i>measures</i>	<i>effect</i>	<i>carbon footprint</i>	<i>sacrifice</i>	<i>prepare</i>
<i>frankly</i>				
<i>doing enough</i>	<i>come up with...</i>	<i>when it comes to...</i>		<i>global warming</i>
<i>economic growth</i>	<i>serious reduction</i>	<i>problems occur</i>		<i>major issue</i>
<i>do what ... can</i>	<i>be made on...</i>	<i>economic decline</i>		<i>time and again</i>
<i>doing enough</i>	<i>short-term</i>	<i>voted out</i>		

2.) Tell me about some of the environmental problems that are affecting countries these days.

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences*.

EXAMPLE:

(REASON / EFFECT) *"Well, there are a lot at the moment. Although it has not been proven beyond doubt, there is consensus about the fact that global warming is leading to severe climate change and this is creating lots of problems.*

(EXAMPLE / COMPARISON) *We are seeing a lot of countries with the same problems that they have always had, but on a much larger scale. For example, in the United States there seem to be far more hurricanes and tornadoes than in the past, with more devastating effects. There seems to constantly be news of serious flooding in many countries from Asia to Europe. Forest fires also seem to be getting worse each year, particularly in Asia."*

WORDS and PHRASES

- consensus* *tornadoes* *constantly* *proven* *hurricanes*
- severe* *effects* *particularly* *although fact*
- problem*
- at the moment* *global warming* *weather change* *many problems*
- leading to...* *serious flooding* *be news of...* *resulting in...*
- much larger scale* *great deal* *in the past* *getting worse*
- more devastating* *for sure* *be far more...* *forest fire*

3.) Why do some people not consider environmental problems to be serious?

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.*

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION/REASON) *"I think there are several reasons for that. In some cases, it is simply because people are not affected on a day-to-day basis by climate change, so it does not concern them. They just see it on the news affecting other people. It does not mean they do not care, but that they think on the short-term.*

(EXAMPLE) *Also, some big organizations can be responsible for putting the wrong information out. For example, oil companies have a vested interest in making sure people do not believe in global warming, as it could affect their profits, so they play the issue down.*

(COMPARISON) *Moreover, some people think that because it is a long-term problem, they will be dead by the time it could affect them, so they think it is not important to tackle this issue."*

WORDS and PHRASES

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <i>affect</i> | <i>company</i> | <i>interest</i> | <i>vested</i> | <i>affect</i> |
| <i>concern</i> | <i>news</i> | <i>profit</i> | <i>problem</i> | |
| <i>by the time...</i> | <i>putting ... out</i> | <i>... does not mean</i> | <i>in some cases</i> | |
| <i>soon forget</i> | <i>affected on...</i> | <i>day-to-day basis</i> | <i>make sure</i> | |
| <i>global warming</i> | <i>simply because...</i> | <i>long-term</i> | <i>big organization</i> | |
| <i>several reasons</i> | <i>play ... down</i> | <i>believe in...</i> | | |

Topic: PRODUCING FOOD

1.) What effects has modern technology had on the way food is produced?

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences.*

EXAMPLE:

(EXAMPLE / OPINION) *"Well, apart from mechanization and the implementation of technology at the cultivation level, such as in agriculture, I think the biggest impact on food production is delivered by the genetic modification of food for human consumption."*

(REASON) *We've already seen it become commonplace and more and more of our everyday food is being 'tampered' with without our knowledge. Food is now less natural than before and it is full of things which we know nothing about. This obviously makes more money for the food production companies, but we still don't know what the long term effects are for us, the final consumers"*

WORDS and PHRASES

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>tampered</i> | <i>obviously</i> | <i>technology</i> | <i>agriculture</i> | |
| <i>mechanization</i> | <i>commonplace</i> | <i>implementation</i> | <i>which</i> | |
| <i>biggest impact</i> | <i>apart from...</i> | <i>as it is..</i> | <i>everyday food</i> | <i>than before</i> |
| <i>human consumption</i> | <i>long term</i> | <i>full of things</i> | <i>cultivation level</i> | <i>less natural</i> |
| <i>genetic modification</i> | <i>without our knowledge</i> | <i>final consumer</i> | | |

2.) How important is it for a country to be able to grow all the food it needs, without importing any from other countries?

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences*.

EXAMPLE:

(REASON / OPINION) *"In recent times it hasn't been that important as it's been easy enough to import anything that was required. Maybe in the future there will be more emphasis on being independent in terms of food production, as well as other essential resources, such as energy and fuel.*

(EFFECT) *The way things are going in the world at the moment, it looks like there are going to be some major changes which could affect everyone in terms of how we look at our ability to survive in the event of another world conflict, when food and possibly water may become scarce*

WORDS and PHRASES

- important* *ability* *conflict* *world* *affect* *fuel* *possibly*
- scarce* *which* *require* *food* *import* *energy* *water*
- essential resources* *in the future* *being independent* *as well as...*
- food production* *more emphasis* *in terms of...* *easy enough*
- in recent times...* *major changes* *in the event...* *looks like...*
- at the moment* *certain areas* *way things are going*
- never been the case before...*

3.) Do you think there will be a greater choice of food available in shops in the future, or will there be less choice?

Give your *opinion*: add *reasons, supporting examples, effects, comparisons, experiences*.

EXAMPLE:

(OPINION / REASON) *"That's hard to say, but I think that due to the fact that most industries are becoming more and more consolidated and there are less and less independent producers, you could safely say that the choice will probably be less, as it will be dictated by only one or two giant global conglomerates in the food industry.*

WORDS and PHRASES

- most* *consolidate* *global* *anything* *giant*
- becoming* *could* *less* *industry* *conglomerate*
- more* *choice*
- food industry* *safely say...* *independent producer* *probably be...*
- due to the fact...* *dictated by...* *hard to say* *becoming more...*