

IELTS

SPEAKING

EXERCISES - 1 to 10

FREE



Entenda como é o IELTS

Existem dois tipos de testes, o IELTS Academic, para quem deseja estudar fora; e o IELTS General Training, que avalia o domínio do inglês em situações práticas do dia a dia.

O IELTS General Training é o teste que você vai precisar fazer para aplicar para a residência permanente. Por ele, você será avaliado em sua capacidade de conversação, de compreender informações; de interpretar textos e escrever redações.

O exame é dividido em seções com diferentes tempos de duração. Os testes de interpretação oral e de texto e a redação são feitos em sequência, já o teste de conversação pode ser feito até 7 dias antes ou depois da data do exame, de acordo com a disponibilidade do centro que aplicar o teste. No infográfico abaixo você confere mais detalhes do formato do exame e do tempo disponível para cada etapa:

Listening - 30 minutos

O candidato ouve 4 textos gravados, monólogos e conversas com diferentes sotaques nativos, e em seguida escreve as respostas para uma série de perguntas. As conversas são divididas das seguintes formas e ouvidas apenas uma vez:

Parte 1 Uma conversa entre duas pessoas em um contexto social. ex: Uma entrevista de emprego.

Parte 2 Um monólogo sobre um momento do cotidiano. ex: Uma apresentação sobre serviços disponíveis em algum lugar.

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- Parte 3** Uma conversa entre até 4 pessoas em um contexto educacional ou de treinamento. ex: Uma conversa entre professor e alunos
- Parte 4** Um monólogo sobre um tema acadêmico. ex: Uma palestra

Reading - 60 minutos

A parte de leitura é formada por textos autênticos extraídos de livros, revistas, jornais, anúncios e guias, seguidos por 40 questões variadas para testar a habilidade de interpretação do candidato.

Writing - 60 minutos

A parte escrita é composta de duas redações sobre tópicos de interesse geral.

- REDAÇÃO 1** Os candidatos são apresentados a uma situação e devem escrever uma carta solicitando mais informações ou explicando a situação. Ela pode ter de ser no estilo pessoal, semiformal ou formal.
- REDAÇÃO 2** Escrever uma composição em resposta a um ponto de vista, argumento ou problema.

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Speaking - 11 a 14 minutos

A parte falada do IELTS avalia a capacidade do candidato de se expressar verbalmente em inglês. Tudo é gravado, e as questões são feitas de uma forma que os candidatos não podem ensaiar suas respostas antes.

PARTE 1 Candidatos respondem perguntas gerais sobre eles mesmos e sobre uma variedade de tópicos familiares. Duração de 4 a 5 minutos.

PARTE 2 Os candidatos recebem um cartão com um tópico sobre o qual eles devem falar. Eles têm apenas um minuto para se preparar para falar até dois minutos, e em seguida devem responder a uma ou duas perguntas do examinador sobre o mesmo assunto.

PARTE 3 São feitas mais perguntas relacionadas ao tópico da parte 2. Essas perguntas dão ao candidato a possibilidade de falar mais sobre ideias e de uma forma mais abstrata. Duração de 4 a 5 minutos.

Exercise 1

Part 1 - Introduction

Q - Good afternoon. My name is Kristina Pollock. Could I have your name, please?

A - Good afternoon Madam. My name is Joseph Mark and my nickname is Mark.

Q - And your candidate number?

A - My candidate number is...

Q - Thank you. Now could you tell me a little about yourself and where do you live?

A - Well, I'm Joseph Mark and I live at... My father's name is... He is a Government service holder. My mother's name is... She is basically a housewife but sometimes she works at our shop. I'm 26 and I've finished my graduation from... University. My major was Mathematics. I've got 2 brothers and a younger sister. We live like a very happy family and my parents take great care of us. I'm doing a part-time job at a local school as a Mathematics teacher. I'm planning to complete my M.Sc. from any reputed University of the UK. My future plan is to teach in a college. I spend my leisure time surfing the internet and reading books. Sometimes I hang around with my friends on the lake shore. The place I live now is really charming and I love to live there. It's not noisy and busy like other cities and I have got many friends there. I am maintaining a personal blog and there I try to add a post every week. This is basically a technology and Math related blog.

Q - What are some of the nicest things about where you live?

A. The place where I live in is a calm area and is very neat and clean. You will find it naturally beautiful and the lakes, gardens, fountain, river, hill and the songs of birds will take your heart away. Whenever my friends from other cities come to visit my area, they become awestricken! Our area is indeed a beautiful place to live in. The people are

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very nice and friendly and you would be very pleased with their charming behaviours if you visit there. The area is free of pollution as it is not an industrial area and the fresh air would give a soothing feeling. The traffic on the road is good most of the time and you won't have to worry about the public transportation as they are available around the clock. This area is famous for many historical sites and monuments like (...say some names here...) and many tourists come to visit here every day. The tour guides are very nice and are maintained by Government. There are many restaurants there and you can pick one of your delicious menus from there and I am sure you will never forget the taste! People in our area lead simple yet friendly lives and they make friends easily. The crime rate is pretty low and as a small town, we know other members of our area.

I am sure if you visit our area once, you will simply love it.

Q - Are there any places of special interest I could visit in your home area?

A - The Gomez River and Roar Hills are two most beautiful places in our area. Thousands of tourists each month come to visit our area and these two places are main attractions for the tourists.

Apart from that, some monuments of famous politicians, poets and renowned persons in the Family Square is one of the main attractions and it is worth visiting. The hill hiking, swimming and fishing are three most popular activities among tourists and I would recommend those activities to you. You will never get bored there and if you even slightly do, simply get yourself enrolled in the government managed tour plans for a couple of days. This would give you a whole new chance to explore hills, rivers, forests and you would find challenges and enthralling experiences from there. Lastly, do not forget to taste our local foods and fruits.

Take the chance to visit our area and I am sure you would start recommending your friends after that.

Q - Could you describe some of them for me?

A - The Gomez River is a long river that passes through our town. The water is crystal clear and you can see the fishes, corals and other objects inside it. The water is surprisingly warm and when you will look at it, you will be surprised to see all the fishes

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there. It is like a large aquarium. The reflection of the sky gives it a heavenly look and many people go there for picnic and fishing there. In the evening children and parents play in the fields beside the river and you can find some newly constructed motels and restaurants there. Swimming in this river is a popular activity among local people and tourists in the summer season.

The Roar hill is another beautiful site in our area and it got its names from the roaring echo sound it creates. There are several hills there and they are over 300- 500 feet tall. The vista, illusionary sound of birds, the natural beauty and fountains give it a painted picture like looks. In the evening when the sun starts hiding behind the hills, people look at this out-of-the-world scenery simply in amazement.

Q - What would be the best way for me to get there?

A - If you have a private car with you, you can drive along the roads and reach there. From the city centre, both of the destinations would be around 1 and half hour's journey. Alternatively, you can take a public bus or hire a small car and reach there. The rent/ticket fee of the public transportation is fixed and you do not need to pay any extra charge.

If you enrol with the tour service provider, they will manage the plan, route and based on your preference, you can either share a zip or can take a private car for rent. The later one is comparatively expensive.

Q - What sort of places could I stay at?

A - You can stay at a tourist motel near the hills or can rent a hotel room in the city centre. If you are visiting your family members, then villa near the hill road would be better alternatives for you. Almost every tourist motel provides meals facility.

Q - Should I go at any special time of year?

A - Most of the tourists come to our area during the summer season and I would recommend you to visit during summer as well. There are lots of activities you can do during this period and you will find the beauty of our city at that time.

[I see, this has all been very interesting.]

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Part 2 - Cue Card

Topic: Describe a problem that affects the environment in the area where you live.

You should say:

- what the problem is
- what causes it
- what people feel about the problem
- and explain what you think could be done to solve it.

Sample Answer:

There are so many problems that negatively affect the environment in our area and among these, the density of population, in my opinion, is the most severe one. While in many countries, less than 100 people live in one square kilometre, we have got around thousand of people living in one square kilometre. Because of this high population and population density in city areas, lots of problems are arising.

The expenditure to support living is quite high compared to the average earning of the people, a heavy traffic has become a common scenario in the roads and as a consequence, lots of time is killed every day. The lower economic people are not getting the proper education and hospital facility, crime has increased than ever, lots of unplanned and risky constructions have been established, the environment is getting polluted and seems like no one cares.

There are many reasons that caused this outburst of this mass population in our city and among those, the most influential reason is the centralization of industry in this city. Most of the factory, offices and organisations are located in this city and people from all area of the country are coming here to find a living. The unemployment in rural areas is another reason why people are trying to stay here. The political reason not to take strict decisions on making equal opportunity in the country is another reason. The businesses and job opportunity attract people to come and live here in this city.

People can feel the heat of this uncontrolled population and the problems are creating

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for that but they have little control over it. We all suffer from the problems and talk about it but I have not seen any big movement to solve this problem. On the other hand, the political leaders who can take initiatives to lessen the problem are sometimes corrupted to take appropriate and honest steps.

There are lots of theories to solve this problem and seems like we all know about it. First of all, decentralisation should be done and industries and factories that can be moved to other areas should be moved promptly. Proper education and job sectors should be ensured so that people can earn their living at their cities rather than coming here. Local government can be formed to support and improve each area of the country. Each local government should be able to invest and decide about the development projects in their area.

People naturally want to live in a better place where they can find the necessary infrastructure, daily needs and can earn a living. If that can be ensured throughout the country, this problem can be reduced.

Part 3 - Details Discussion

[Now let's go to real life and you.....]

Q - Tell me, what do you think are the greatest problems facing your country at present?

A - Economic development issue, political instability, unemployment and healthcare are the major issues most of the people in my country face. In my opinion, these are the most burning issues and the greatest problems we have in our country.

Q - And what has been done so far to solve these problems?

A - The government has taken many initiatives for the economic progress of our country. According to the statistics, we are indeed progressing. But I am not convinced with the reported statistics. I want to see the result, I want to feel it. The political instability seems like consuming most of our good will and energy. While major political parties should have worked together to help improve our economic conditions, sometimes their actions give me real doubt whether they are the type of leaders we need for our country!

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On the positive sides, government has emphasized on ICT sector, has made the export process easier for business people, established many training institutes to enhance the skill of the rural people and those are all hopeful signs. Someday definitely we will see the progress. Education, skill, foreign investment, job security etc. are also important areas where the government has invested a lot of money. The aim of this investment is to create a skilled and educated generation who would lead the economy and the country.

The health care section is still an expensive area for the mass people and the government's initiatives for the establishment of new hospitals, enrolling more doctors and nurses are in reality very little compared to the actual need.

Q - How successful would you say these measures have been?

A - These measures are successful to some extent but if I present it in figures, it would only a few percentages than the actual progress we expect. For instance: more than three thousand hospitals are required throughout the country whereas only 45 hospitals have been established in the last one year.

Q - Do you think things are likely to get better or worse in the future?

A - We hope that the problem we have in our country would be resolved in next few years. The government and other organisations are working hard to address these issues and we are noticing some progress. So we can definitely be positive and wait for the glorious days when we won't have those issues. This was an optimistic idea and I possess this positive idea about my country. But the greatest obstacle is the hunger for power and our political parties often create haphazard situations for the power. This is the single reason that can degrade the situation in the future.

Q - Is what you are going to study likely to be of any use to solve these problems?

A - I am going to finish my graduation majoring Computer Science and I am very positive that it would directly or indirectly help eradicate unemployment, economic progress issues to some extent that I have talked about. After finishing my education, I would establish a small software company and hopefully one day it would grow to be a large company where thousands of employees would work. The ICT sector also

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helps earn foreign remittance for a country and I would also contribute to enhance the foreign remittance for my country.

[Thank you very much. It's been pleasant talking to you. I wish you success in your study program. Goodbye.]

Exercise 2

Part 1 - Introduction

Q - Good Morning. Could you tell me your name and candidate number, please?

A. Good Morning. I am Rahul Sharma and my candidate number is.....

Q - And what would you like me to call you?

A - Please call me Rahul. That's my nickname.

Q - Tell me a bit about your family.

A - Well, I live in a joint family and there are almost 20 family members in this family. My grandpa, grandma, my parents, sisters, my uncles and their children are living in a joint family and that makes it a large family. My grandpa was a teacher and he is now around 70 years old. My father owns a small business and two of my uncle work there. My mother is a house wife and she takes care of me, my sisters and cousins. I have two sisters who are younger than me are in school. My father mostly takes care of the financial part of our family and he is the main earning member of our family. The house we live in quite big and it has more than 15 rooms in total.

That's the summary of my family members. If there is anything particular you would like to know about my family, I would be happy to answer.

Q - What do your brothers and sisters do?

A - I have not got any brother of my own. I have two sisters and both of them are students. The older one, Radhika, reads in class ten while the younger one, Dina, reads in class seven. Besides study sometimes they help my mother on her housework and often help my cousins to prepare their homework. My sisters are very close to me and I like them so much. They are both very adorable.

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Q - So, where are you from?

A - I am from (tell the City/ Village/ Area name) of (District/ County/ Area/State name). I was born in this city but for my university education I, later on, moved to (Area name). Currently, I am living at (Your present area) and I came here from my current living place.

Q - What are the advantages and disadvantages of living here?

A - The place where I am currently living is a busy and residential area.

Among advantages I would say:

It is a secured area as there are guards and police cars often roam in the streets. There are very few incidences to bother about.

People are nice and amiable. The internet, cyber café, library and other facilities are available. Transportation facility is another advantage of this area. You do not need to wait for a long in the queue to get a public car.

Amusement park, gardens, playgrounds, shopping complex and other community facilities are nearby. Finally, there is no industry or commercial building there to pollute the air or sound. Overall, I enjoy living there and compared to my previous living place, this is many times better.

Now among the disadvantages, I would mention that:

The rent of the houses and apartments are comparatively higher and it is rising every year. The entrance gate of my area closes at 11:00 pm and that's why I have to worry about returning home before 11:00 pm even after I have important tasks outside.

The roads are busy during the school and office time. The last problem I would like to mention is the scarcity of doctors in this area. There is no hospital or medical centre here so people have to go to the city centre to avail this facility if required.

Q - I'm new here. Could you recommend a good restaurant?

A - That would depend on your taste of foods and budget. If you want to enjoy the natural views and taste the local foods, I would recommend you to go to (Mark Polo Restaurant). It is nearby- would not take more than 20 minutes in a car.

Now if you want to taste other menus like Chinese, Italian, Indian, Thai, or European

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foods, your best deal would be the Dela Mono restaurant. They are bit expensive but their foods are delicious.

Finally, if you want to enjoy your foods and have some refreshment like music, you should better go to WestInn and as far as I know it is quite expensive. To taste cheap fast foods you can visit the small restaurants nearby the New Market area. In fact, I often go there and I enjoy their foods.

Q - Why do you like it?

A - I like quick foods and they are delicious. They offer ready foods at a low budget and that's why I like it very much. Apart from that, New Market area is only 10 minutes distance from my university and having foods from those restaurants is convenient for me.

Q - What types of foods does it serve?

A - It serves only fast foods and quick meals including the burger, sandwich, pizza, fried chicken, fried rice with vegetables, all type of soft drinks and lassi. If you want to have lunch or dinner, you can order the set menu that includes: fried rice, vegetable, chicken, curry and other local items. Lassi and pizza are my two favourite foods of this restaurants and I often have these two items.

Q - What do you suggest I order?

A - I would suggest you to order a small California Pizza, one glass of Lassi and a mixed vegetable item. I am quite fond of this menu and enjoy eating it a lot. I am quite sure if you are not a pizza hater, you would also like it.

Q - Is it expensive?

A - Not at all. The whole menu would cost you only a few dollars. If you compare the price of this restaurant to other restaurants, you would find it quite cheap in fact.

Q - How do I get there?

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A - The newmarket area is a well-known place so you don't have to worry much. From here you can take a public bus to reach the new market area. After reaching there you need to take a turn to the north and you will see the large banner ads of this restaurants. If you take your private car, you need to reach the City fountain first and then you should turn left. After 5 minutes you will see a large auditorium and then you should turn to your right. Go straight for a couple of more minutes and you are bound to notice the New Market. In case you are not sure about the route at any moment, you should ask any passerby about the location and anyone would be able to tell you the direction.

Q - After you have taken the IELTS, what are you planning to study?

A - I have finished my graduation in Computer Science and I have planned to finish my post-graduation in the same major. After getting my IELTS I would get myself admitted in any renowned university of the United Kingdom.

Q - Why are you interested in this?

A - I have a passion for computer programming and web development. Before deciding to take my undergraduate program in Computer Science, I talk with my teachers, parents and some relatives and they all suggested me to take part in this study. Since I have already completed my B.Sc. degree in Computer Science, I think it would be wise to continue my post-graduation courses in the same subject. Apart from that, the career prospect in Information and Communication sector and more specifically in software engineering is very high in my country. So I am interested in it from my passion, past educational background and because of the career prospect.

Q - Why do you want to study overseas?

A - I always wanted to study in an oversea university as it would ensure a better educational environment and quality education compared to the universities of my country. Apart from that, the opportunity to learn about the diverse cultures and people in a foreign university is something I don't want to miss. Finally, a foreign degree, especially a degree from a reputed USA or UK university is helpful for better career prospect in our country. Considering all of the above-mentioned reasons, I have decided to continue my study at an overseas university.

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Part 2 - Cue Card

Topic: Describe a course you took in your college or university.

You should say:

- what it was
- when you took it
- what you learned from this course
- And explain why you took this course.

Sample Answer:

'Book Keeping & Banking' was one of the most interesting courses I took in my university level and I thoroughly enjoyed this course. In fact, I learned many new concepts and theory from this course that it helped me a lot throughout the remaining semesters. This was a mandatory course in the 3rd semester in my Bachelor of Business Administration studies and the courses on this subject lasted for four months. I was so interested in this course that later on, I took three other courses in different semesters related to banking.

I learned the accounting concept of banking, how a bank is operated, how the banking transactions and accounting are maintained, how the central banks control the money supply of the market and many more concepts from this course. A practical session was included in this course and I learned some basic transaction processes of bankers from this lab sessions.

In my third semester, this was a mandatory course and I had no alternatives other than taking this course. I came from Science background until my undergraduate course and that's why I had no prior accounting course experience. I was bit dubious about this course in my university level as I did not know what it includes. But after I completed this course, I found myself very much interested in Banking procedure and automated banking.

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Tips for answering this cue card:

For this cue card you can talk about any course (be it academic or not) you took in your college or university. You should talk about a course that you actually enjoyed so that you can answer the questions fluently. You are free to pick any subject you like and the third question 'what you learned from this course' actually expect you to talk about the things you learned from this course.

For the final question 'why you took this course' might have two types of answers; one: it was a mandatory subject and you had no other choice but to enrol in it. Two: you had a passion and interest on this subject and that's why you decided to take it.

State the name of the academic subject clearly (like, C programming language, Introduction to Business, Basic Accounting etc.). After that, tell the year and term/semester when you took this course. If you can recall the year and month, also mention that.

Your ability to talk about this cue card would also help you to talk about the following cue cards:

- 1 - Describe a subject taught in your school.
- 2 - Describe one of your favourite subjects.
- 3 - Describe something you learned from college.
- 4 - Describe a subject taught in your university.
- 5 - Talk about your favourite subject in high school.

Part 3 - Details Discussion.

[OK, good. I would like to go back to you now.]

Q - How do you think studying overseas will be different to studying in your own country?

A - Studying in a foreign country is far different than studying in the home country. First of all, a student would have to leave his family, relatives, friends and stay in a different country to continue his/ her study in a foreign university. In home country s/he has the

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option to either attend classes from home or to stay in the university residence halls. In the second case, s/he can meet family and relatives frequently and can make new friends very quickly. While studying in a foreign university, students often suffer from homesickness and have to get enrolled in part-time jobs to support his/ her expenses. While studying overseas universities students can learn about different custom, culture and tradition. Overseas universities are often better in quality than home universities and thus overseas universities offer quality education and this has a better prospect in the future career. Among other differences, the language, communication and exam systems might be different. Finally, an overseas university offers latest and up to date curriculum while home universities, especially in less developed countries, might lack the proper study environment and proper syllabus.

Q - So what problems do you think you will have studying abroad?

A- I will miss my family members and I think for the first few weeks this would be terrible. All my life I lived with my family members and being in a foreign country would mean that I can contact them over the phone and have video calls, but can't spend time with them in person.

The language barrier would be another problem. My English is better than average but still understanding and communicating with people of a different country who have a different accent is sometimes an unavoidable problem. Hopefully, this won't last for a long as I am a quick learner and I will try my best to learn the manner, custom and accent of this country very quickly.

Another problem that might arrive is loneliness. This is going to be a new country and I won't have any friends and relatives. So the first few days would be lonely I guess. Travelling and not knowing the route and bus number would be another problem. The different kinds of foods in this country might be a problem as I am habituated to eat common types of foods available in my country. It might happen that I won't find foods of my preference near my living place.

Finally finding a senior student, classmate or a teacher who would spend some time to explain some of the lessons that I might find difficult would be another problem I guess. In my country, I always had resources and helping hands for my studies. I guess that would not be available initially in a new country where I would go for study.

I think these are the main issues I will face in first few weeks after I arrive in a different country to study.

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Q - Do you think you will have many difficulties adapting to a new culture?

A - I guess it would not be much difficult for me to adapt to a new culture as I am already exposed to diverse customs and cultures in my home country. But of course, it is a bit tough to adapt a new culture very, especially when the culture and tradition are quite different from my home country. But I have the confidence that I won't face many difficulties there, especially related to the new culture, as I already did my research on common customs and traditions of this new country. So nothing would be completely new and shocking for me, I hope.

Q - Do you think that there will be any major changes in your field of study over the next few years?

A - Yes, the subject Computer Science by its nature changes over time. Since this is a pure technology-based subject unlike other subjects like History, Mathematics, Arts etc. changes are very obvious. Programming languages and computer hardware are ever changing from the very beginning and many changed would occur in my field of study.

The courses change very frequently and many new algorithms are introduced to make the computing and software development more efficient. For instance, the data security, search mechanism, encryptions are very core subjects of Computer Science and they are changing very fast. It is not unlikely that new computing concept would emerge and that would be included in my field of study.

Q - How do you think an overseas degree will improve your professional skills?

A - I am planning to have an overseas degree mainly because of the finest quality and facilities this university can offer in my area of study. The overseas degree would actually ensure a better study environment and learning opportunity for me. Thus I would be able to learn better and have better skills to pursue a better career.

In my country, a foreign degree is given a priority in case of a job interview. Many local and international organisations even mention that a foreign degree from a reputed university would be a plus for the candidate. So I am sure having a foreign degree would open more opportunity for me in my professional life.

The foreign universities, especially universities of first world countries, are renowned

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for their professionalism, study environment and facilities to learn better skills. I am sure I would be able to take advantages of these facilities and would be able to learn more. The top notch universities of a first world country are often renowned for their research and I will put every effort to get involved in such research facilities to enhance my skills.

Q - What do you intend to do once you have finished your studies?

A - I will get admitted in my Master's degree in few months and after I finish my studies, I would get back to my country. Once I get back to my country, I will start applying for a suitable job. In fact, the job would be the place where I would be able to learn even more and use the knowledge I have learned in the past few years and will learn in next two years.

So in a nutshell, starting a job related to my study to enhance my skill would be the first thing I will do after I finish my graduation. Apart from that, I have a plan to work on a personal eCommerce project that I have been planning for years. The potential of eCommerce in my home country is immense and I would try to tap in this sector to establish a large eCommerce business.

These are the plans I have now for my immediate future but time often drives us to new tracks and different motivations. So if something bigger and better comes across my pathway, I will plan accordingly then.

Q - What do you see yourself doing professionally in 10 years' time? And how do you see your personal life changing?

A - Umm, predicting what I will be doing after 10 years is bit tricky! But if everything goes according to my plan and the Almighty drives me to the right track, I will own my own Ecommerce business after 10 years. I will be able to quit my day job at that time and would be able to fully concentrate on my own business. E-commerce would not be the only thing where I would be working then. At that time I will own some of the prominent and large software nationally and internationally. I have a plan to establish a night school in my hometown and hopefully in ten years that would be renowned one and a role model for the people of my locality.

After 10 years I will probably be a married person with 1-2 kids of my own. That would be a big change I guess. There would be many responsibilities and new ways of life.

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I will devote more on doing humanitarian things than concentrating more on personal gains. Probably my choices of dresses, foods, music, movies and books would change and I would become more matured. Finally, I will have fewer friends than I have now but they would be very close. My relationship with my co-workers and employees would be more prominent than my relationship with my university or college friends. I think those are very significant changes that are most likely to take place in my personal life after 10 years or so.

[OK I think that's all I want to ask you today. Thank you very much. It was very interesting talking to you and I wish you all the best with your future studies. Goodbye now.]

Exercise 3

PART 1 - Introduction

[The examiner asks the candidate about him/her, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics in the introduction part. Some of the common questions of part one are as following:]

Q - Are your friends mostly your age or different ages? Why?

A - Most of my friends are my own age. But yes, I have few friends who are senior to me and I can remember having 2-3 friends who are younger than I am. Basically, most of my friends are from my college and that's why naturally they are contemporary to me age. I have few friends from my locality and they became my friends mostly because we played together and shared many common interests. Somehow in my locality, young people prefer playmates of their ages. This is one of the main reasons they belong to my age group.

Q - Do you usually see your friends during the week or at weekends? Why?

A - That depends and I see my college friends 7 days a week as we have classes together. I see them at weekend as well since we plan our holidays together very often. The friends who are already doing jobs mostly meet me on their weekends.

Q - The last time you saw your friends, what did you do together?

A - Recently I went to watch a movie in a nearby cine complex with my friends. The Cineplex was showing a recent Hollywood movie and we planned to watch it together. On that day we also had our lunch together in a fast food chain shop and we also talked about the recent European Football league final game. Apart from that, we planned to attend a seminar that is likely to be arranged by our college and we agreed to do so on that day.

Q - In what ways are your friends important to you?

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A- My friends are very significant to me in many ways. Firstly they share many common interests that I have and that's why I enjoy a lot talking to them and spending time with them. I never feel bored or get out of topics while I am with them and having a conversation or simply chitchatting. They are indeed very good friends of mine as they have often raised their helping hands in my crisis time.

My friends often plan activities that I find very exciting. They share their class notes and study materials with me and that's very helpful for my studies. In fact, friends are the persons with whom we can share everything and my friends listen to my thoughts very attentively. I play with them, study with them, share my thoughts and opinion and that's why they have a very special place in my life.

PART 2 - Cue Card

Topic: Describe an interesting historic place.

You should say:

- what it is
- where it is located
- what you can see there now
- and explain why this place is interesting.

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

Sample Answer:

Machu Picchu in southern Peru is a very interesting historic place and I have a great interest about his historic place. Though I have not visited this place in person, but I would definitely love to be there someday. I mostly learned about this place from one of my friends who visited there and from TV, internet and newspapers.

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Machu Picchu is located in Machupicchu District in southern Peru and it is historically connected with the 15th-century Inca civilisation. It is located in 2,430 meters or around 7,970 feet area above the sea level. This place lies on top of a mountain and is a very popular destination for the tourist all around the world. This place is referred as the “Lost city of the Incas” and it was named as one of the 7 wonders of the world in 2007. UNESCO nominated it as a world heritage in the year 1983.

This historic place was built as an estate for the Pachacuti emperor of the Inca civilisation in around 1450 and is considered as the most significant and familiar icon of the Inca civilisation.

A tourist can see the finest work of the Inca civilisation there and can learn many things about this civilisation. Apart from the ruins and cultural icons, one can enjoy the great beauty surrounding this place. The sunset time is awesome and eye-witnessing the hills is something unforgettable. The Inca bridge is interesting to hike, and the scattered stones in the place is a different experience one can get. The Condor, Steps, Falling stairs, Temples, Sacred Rock, Llamas and other Animals, Inca Trail will all blow your mind and would remind you that you are visiting one of the 7 wonders of the world.

This is an interesting place due to the vast area and iconic meaning of the Inca civilisation. There are a lot to see, a lot to do and enjoy and being at one of the 7 wonders of the world is something a visitor will never forget. This place takes us to the past, in the time when Inca nation was there, and taught us how advanced they were as they have been able to build such a place with virtually no technological advancement of modern technology.

Alternative Answer:

An interesting historic place in my country is (...say a name of a historic place...). It is situated at (...area name...) in (...city/town name ...). In my opinion, this is a very interesting historic place as it is almost two thousand years' old and it was discovered in the middle of the last century. This was the centre of the (...say a civilisation name...) civilisation and was one of the most prominent cities of our country. More than several hundred feet had to be dug to discover it.

Now the place has been renovated to reflect the city it once been. There are more than hundred acres of places on this site and most of them are the remaining of the lost civilisation and city of that time. There are several old buildings, castles, fortress, monuments, rivers, canon, cryptic houses, under paths and sculptures are there. A

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museum was built as recently as 10 years ago for the visitors to learn more about this lost city and people. The museum is a really good one in terms of its collection and reflection of that civilisation.

To me, this was interesting because of the proof of advancement this civilisation had. I have read a lot about this civilisation and cultures of these people and visiting this place was a really good experience. The museum was very rich in terms of learning history. The city was more than 2 thousand years old and yet it has many amazing artworks, tools, intricate designs, buildings with amazing work, finest canon and many more proofs of their advancement. They had been a flourishing civilisation that dominated that part of the country. The idea of our civilisation being found by future generation was an interesting idea and this historic place just reminded me that. The museum, the fine airmanship and advancement of that civilisation are all amazing historic proof and interesting to explore.

Similar Cue Card Topics

Your ability to talk about this Cue Card Topic would also enable you to talk about the following Cue Card Topics as well:

- 1 - Describe a historical place you have visited.
- 2 - Describe a worth visiting tourist spot in your city.
- 3 - Describe a famous spot in your country.
- 4 - Describe an interesting place you have been to.

PART 3 - Follow-up Questions

Discussion topics: Looking after historic places.....

Q - How do people in your country feel about protecting historic buildings?

A - Most of the people in my country would advocate protecting any significant historic building. The historic buildings in my country are the icons of our heritage and we feel very proud to have them. It is not unlikely for people to protest against any planning or

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activities that might negatively affect our tradition and historic significance including those building.

I can recall an event from my college days when our teacher asked us to leave the classroom and take part in a rally that would march towards the local administrative complex to protest a decision taken by the local authority to diminish an old building to establish a hospital there. This old building was more than 1000 years old and it was once a part of the early 'independence movement' in our country against the invaders of a foreign power. The protest took a great shape and people stayed there until the local authority assured that they will talk to the higher authority about it. The protest continued to grow and eventually after few months it won its victory when an alternative landscape was chosen to build the hospital. In fact, these types of events in my country are not rare and that shows our feelings about the historic buildings.

Q - Do you think an area can benefit from having an interesting historic place locally? In what way?

A - An interesting historic place encourages national and international tourists to travel to this area and this in term of tourism and economic development is very important. Local people get many benefits from a renowned tourist spot including employment opportunity, better exposure of their culture and custom to the world and finally they get many development works in their area since the government invests in promoting the area.

Apart from that, having a historic place in an area is a matter of pride and people of such area can easily describe their hometown or locality to the people of other parts of the country.

Q - What do you think will happen to historic places or buildings in the future? Why?

A - I think the prominent and popular historic places and buildings which are famous among national and international tourists would survive and the government would try to preserve such places both because of its historic and economic significances. Besides, many other historic places which are the part of the national pride would also continue to exist as they are known throughout the country and government would take care of such places.

However, there are many historic buildings and places that are less famous and have

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very few visitors to visit them. Such buildings and places would face catastrophic destiny in a distant future. As the population of our country is increasing, the necessity would appear to diminish such buildings and to establish new multi-complex building. I guess such less important historic buildings and places would cease to exist after a century when the generation of that time would give less priority to their past heritage than their present necessity.

The teaching of history at school.....

Q - How were you taught history when you were at school?

A - I mostly learned about our national any many international historical events from our academic books, journals and TV programs. Teachers used to teach us the history books we had in our syllabus. They first emphasized on the history that was part of our class lessons and some of the teachers were really good as they explained the history in details. This covered mostly the national history. Sometimes the school arranged trips to national historical places as part of our lessons and the local tour guides told us a lot about the historical significance of such places.

We also learned from the story our teachers told us about numerous historical events especially about our freedom fight and Second World War. Sometimes the teachers inspired us to read history books and gave us assignments on particular historical events and we had to complete our assignment as part of our academic exams. This was an excellent way to learn more about the history.

Q - Are there other ways people can learn about history, apart from at school? How?

A - Definitely, there are many other ways people can learn about history and that varies from reading books till travelling to historically important places.

First books offer us an excellent opportunity to learn about the world history. If someone is interested in learning the History, he has countless options to read famous and resourceful historical books. Apart from that, many television channels, like History Channel, National Geography Channel, Discovery Channel etc. offer excellent documentaries on history that can be very helpful for learning about world history. Libraries and museums could be other two important resources for people to learn about history. When people travel to different places, they can also learn about the historical significant of such places.

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Reading history journals can be another good way of learning about the history. In fact, there are many different ways of learning about history than to be taught history in the classroom by teachers and an inquisitive person has many options to learn about that.

Q - Do you think history will still be a school subject in the future? Why?

A - I most certainly believe that history would always be a part of school syllabus in the near and far future. The fundamental of history and its importance are learned from the school and that has a lasting impact on students. The inquisitiveness about history is formed among students when the teachers explain some great historic events in the classroom. The significance of history can never be denied as it teaches us our past, our ancestors and the world our grandparents used to live. Those lessons create our impression and concept about the world we live in.

We can't build a great future without knowing our past and the school plays an important role in forming our curiosity in History. That's why I believe that history will always be a major subject in school in the future.

Exercise 4

PART 1 - Introduction

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

Family:

Q - Do you have a large family or a small family?

A - I come from a small family. I live with my parents and two siblings. As I recall we used to live with our grandparents, uncles and aunts many years ago. But now we have a nuclear family.

Q - Can you tell me something about them?

A - Yeah sure. My father is a doctor and he has been practising medicine for more than 15 years. He is a devoted doctor and possesses a great and exemplary personality. People think that he has a very controlled personality but we know that he is very kind. I am proud to have such a great father. He is my idol in my life.

My mother is an angel and she is the most kindhearted woman I have ever seen in my life. She is a teacher in a school and she teaches literature. She is my best friend and I adore her very much.

My brother is 3 years senior to me and he is working in a telecommunication company as a System Analyst. He is around 28 years old and a very good friend and mentor to me.

My younger sister is only 12 years old and she is busy with her home works, study and computer. She is very sweet and helps my mother often to finish her household chores. I love her very much and she talks a lot to me. In our house, I am her best friend and I often help her completing her home works.

Q - How much time do you manage to spend with members of your family?

A - I live with my family and I spent most of my time at home with my family members. When I am out of home for my classes or go to hang out with friends are the times I

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stay away from my family. Apart from that, I mostly spend time with them.

I have a very close relationship with my younger sister and my brother. We often go out together to watch movies or to do shopping. We sometimes play computer games together. On an average, I spend 5-7 hours with my family members in a typical day.

Q - What sorts of things do you like to do together?

A - I like to discuss my plans with my father. I often take advice on important things from him. He discusses his experience, tells me history and often he teaches me morality and importance of being honest in life. He recommends me books and then we discuss these books in our free time.

I do everything with my brother John. We hang out together, watch movies, read books, sometimes we fight, we often complaints to our parents about what I or he should not have done, we swim, catch fish, play football and many other countless things. Though he is very friendly, he often scolds me whenever he thinks I did something wrong. He even acts like a mentor sometimes. Nowadays, he got busy in his office and that's why we spend our time together on his days off.

I play computer games and chess with my sister and she often seeks my advice regarding things she can't decide alone. We watch cartoons and documentary on History Channel together.

I love to talk to my mother and she is very fond of feeding us. She often shares her experience at school with us and we often watch TV serials and sports together. She loves to hear some classic music and I have become a fan of her favourite singers. So I often listen to music with her. There are many more activities that actually I do with my family members and those are the frequent ones.

Q - Did/ Do you get on well with your family? Why?

A - Yes, obviously I go well with my family. They are the most precious things I have in my life. They care for me a lot, they help me on my difficult times and my whole existence is surrounded by them. Whoever I am and whoever I become in future would be because of my family members' love, care and affections.

I have a strong bonding and friendly relationship with my family. They share their thought and everyday experience with me. They always try to support me no matter

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what and all those mutual understanding makes us a small, happy family.

PART 2 - Cue Card

Topic: Describe a teacher who has influenced you in your education.

You should say:

- where you met him/her.
- what subject he/she taught.
- what was special about him/her.
- and explain why this person influenced you so much.

[You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]

Possible Answer:

I consider myself lucky to get several very good teachers throughout my academic years. Among them, I'd like to talk about Mr Smith who was an extraordinary teacher, a really good mentor and who has a great influence in my education.

I met Mr Smith when I was in class 4 and he was our math teacher. Initially, we thought that he would be a moody teacher and we would have to be very polite in front of him. This impression came mostly because of his serious face and tidy dress-up. But soon we found that he is a very friendly person and teaches us very well. He never made things complicated and tried over and over again to explain something to us. He had a unique way of teaching. Seems like he would start an interesting story and later we would find that he would relate the math to the story. Thus everything we learned from him was interesting and that's why we remember most of the theory and techniques of math he taught us.

I'd say he has a great influence in my education because he made a very strong

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foundation on Mathematics. Later on, I studied Science and Mathematics was the most important subject. I have always been good at math and that's mainly because of Mr Smith who had a major role in making the subject interesting to me. Before I learned math from Mr Smith, my impression on math was not good and I considered mathematics to be a very difficult and uninteresting subject. But his teaching and influences changed my way of thinking about math and later on math became my one the most favourite subject.

Tips for answering this cue card question:

Talk about a teacher you remember and liked. Say his/her name and the class/grade s/he taught. Also, mention which subject she taught and what have you learned from him/ her. Following are some of the reasons a teacher becomes influential for a student that you can talk about:

- The way of teaching is very effective and interesting.
- She has a great personality and leads an exemplary life.
- She tells lots of example and stories to make the subject and topic interesting.
- She is a famous teacher on your locality who also taught your elder brother, father etc.
- She has a great personality and because of that, students like his/ her very much.
- She has is successful explaining difficult topics in an easy and intuitive way.
- She behaves very politely with all and never discriminates among students.
- She is brave and speaks the right thing no matter what.
- She teaches lots of moral values as well as inspires students to study properly.
- Apart from teaching, s/he does some social works, creative stuff and or anything which is beneficial for others.
- She is a great orator and has a great personality.

Part 3: Details Discussion:

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

A - The truth is that ten years ago the educational system wasn't the same as it is now and many aspects have changes in our education system. In the past years, teachers used conventional methods to transfer information and knowledge to their students and the only means they utilised was blackboards.

Furthermore, as far as I'm concerned, schoolmasters paid more attention to their student's weaknesses, problems and needs and the bonds between them were stronger than nowadays. Moving to the present, the existing ties between teachers and children have become more impersonal and unfortunately many teachers willingly keep a distance from students in the classroom. In addition, technological advances play a vital role in teaching and the methods used before are now obsolete.

To conclude, in my opinion, I prefer the educational system as it was 10 years ago than it is now because this isn't only the internet that makes someone literate, but teachers and strong bonding between a teacher and a student do.

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

A - It seems to me that in the forthcoming future the changes will be tremendous. First of all, it won't be necessary for teachers to be present in the classroom as everything is going to be accomplished by the usage of technology. For example, students will become knowledgeable about different matters from the comfort of their home and they will correspond with their tutors rather than having personal relationships. Of course, it still happens these days to a certain extent, but in the next 50 years, I believe that this will be the way of teaching exclusively. Going further, I think that apart from some basic and necessary subjects such as literature and mathematics, all of the other will be optional and each child will have the opportunity to choose the subject they want to be taught even when at primary school. From my point of view, I cannot say for sure if this is the appropriate course of action, but one thing is clear; if this happens the disadvantages will be inevitable.

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

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A - When someone completed school in the past, they just hoped to find a job in order to earn a salary and cover their living expenses. Many, in the past, did not even look for jobs and continued their family business. They didn't have as high expectations as present school leavers have these days.

In many cases, nowadays school-leavers don't have realistic expectations and they expect a high position with high income, even without professional experience. Furthermore, these days knowledge isn't the only element required for a good job as skills, experience, passion about work, learning, discipline and adaptability to name but a few, are prerequisites in order for someone to enter the labour market. That, however, was not the case in the past.

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

A - It is commonly believed that extracurricular activities play an important role in education and have many benefits both in personal and professional life. I quite agree with that as those activities enhance someone's capability and improve the way of thinking. First of all, children with extracurricular activities learn how to collaborate and co-exist with other peers and learn about soft skills and values. In addition, a great opportunity is provided to them to interrelate with others and develop and evolve their interpersonal skills. Hence, these types of activities can create a feeling of contribution, as children are involved in different things and this will lead them to boost their self-esteem. Lastly, all these advantages will help children to build a well-rounded personality and an exceptional character and will benefit the school and teachers by having well-mannered and conscious students.

[Part three answers are written by- Mary, Economist & Business Consultant, UK]

If you can answer this cue card, you should be able to answer the following topics as well:

- 1** - Talk about a person from your childhood whom you still remember.
- 2** - Describe a teacher from your school/college whom you want to meet.

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- 3 - Talk about your math/literature/history teacher from school.
- 4 - Describe an old person who you admire.
- 5 - Describe a subject taught in your school.
- 6 - Describe a teacher who has helped you in your education greatly.
- 7 - Describe an exemplary person from your hometown.

Exercise 5

PART 1 - Introduction

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

Festivals

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

A- The most important festive in my country would be the Eid. A majority of our population are Muslims and this is why the Eid is the most celebrated and most important festival in our country.

Q - What special food and activities are connected with this festival?

A - During the Eid Mubarak in Indonesia, people cook and eat Ketupat and Rendang, which are served with spices and fried chicken. Among the activities, people go to Pray in the morning, visits relatives and friends, wear new dresses and embrace each other to great people and cooks delicious foods to celebrate this day in a special way.

Q - What do you most enjoy about it?

A - What I enjoy most about the festive is that I could see people spend sometimes with their big families once in a year. They would pray and dine in together, and it feels great to see that. People are usually busy at their colleges or office and during the Eid they get a long vacation and meet the people they care. I also like the way small kids celebrate this special day. They seem to be so happy and contented and all of them wear new dresses and that gives me immense pleasures.

Q - Do you think festivals are important for a country? Why?

A - Yes, I do believe that festivals are important because they could represent the identity of a country. And then festivals could also attract tourists and would boost

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the tourism industry sector. Working class people need vacations and the festivals are great ways to refresh the tiredness of people that they feel from the monotonous daily routines. The important festivals also bring people together and eliminate the classifications we have in our society.

PART 2 - Cue Card

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

You should say:

- what kind of film or TV programme it was, e.g. comedy
- when you saw the film or TV programme
- what the film or TV programme was about
- and explain why this film or TV programme made such an impression on you.

[You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes. You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]

Model Answer 1:

I do not watch TV that often nowadays but when I was a student, I used to watch televisions a lot. There are lots of programs that really liked and watched regularly. In those days I watch mostly news and some selective TV programs. The TV program that made a strong impression on me was a documentary that I watched on Discovery Channel.

The TV program was called "The sacrifice of genius" and it was a serial that had around 10 episodes. I watched all of those episodes and enjoyed a lot. This was mainly a documentary serial which emphasised the sacrifice the famous and genius scientists like Marie Curie, Thomas Edison and 8 other scientists.

I watched the TV program in my third year of my graduation program. In our local time,

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the program was broadcasted at 9.00 pm every Thursday. The program showed the life and work of the famous scientists and the sacrifices they made for humans and to make the world a better place. These stories were presented in a fascinating way and were very professionally made. The spectators would have the impression that they were actually watching the real scientists and their works.

I have learned so many things about those scientists and learned the sacrifices they made. Those sacrifices were unbelievable and after watching this program, I could not stop thinking about those famous scientists and their supreme sacrifices. This program has helped me to think from a different perspective that sacrificing for others can be more important than personal achievements like wealth, fame and self-awareness. I later searched for more details of those scientists and other famous persons as well and learned many things. I was actually inspired by this program and started learning closely about the people who made the world a place where we no longer need to live in the dark and do not have to fight the wild animals to earn our foods.

Sample Answer 2:

My favourite television program is an old television series which was produced during the 80's in America. The title of the film was MacGyver and it was an action TV series. MacGyver was produced for about 5 consecutive seasons, and it was considered as one of the top-rated TV serials in its era.

RCTI was the local television station in Indonesia that broadcasted the programme. The TV series was usually played once a week for about one hour, and I remember that it was played on Friday Night at 7.00 pm. So as a teenager during that time, I would have sat in front of the television from 6.45 pm and waiting for the programme to start. On the next day, my friends and I would discuss what happened in it, to talk about how cool and exciting the episode was and how smart and talented the MacGyver was.

The unique thing about it is that the main character, MacGyver did not like to use a gun as his weapon. Instead of using rifles, he used his creativity in creating tools to fight his enemies. I remembered that in one of the episodes, where he was locked by his enemy in a garage. But then with his creative thinking, he found some tools that could be used to open the gate of the garage, and he could escape from his enemy. I believe that we could learn some positive things from this series. We learned that we should avoid using guns, and we should also be encouraged to use our creativity. I believe that MacGyver had influenced so many teenagers during my era and I hoped

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that it would be remade in the future.

[Written by - Darwin]

Similar Cue Card topics that you should be able to answer as well:

- Describe a TV programme that you watched and would like to watch again
- Describe a radio or TV program that you like.
- Describe a famous TV program in your country.
- Describe a TV program that you watched and did not like.
- Describe a TV program you have recently watched.
- Describe a comedy show that you watched.

PART 3 - Detailed Discussion

Discussion topics: People's cinema-going habits nowadays

Q - Do you think the cinema has increased or decreased in popularity in recent years?

A - I believe that the popularity of cinema has increased in the past few years. It can be seen from the number of Movie theatres that have been build in many big cities. It means that the demand of cinema has increased and more business people are investing on the building the cinema halls. Apart from that, more television channels are showing movies daily and the numbers of movie viewers are increasing day by day. The globalisation and easy access to foreign films made it possible for people to watch movies that were produced and released on the other side of the planet.

Q - In your opinion, will this trend continue into the future?

A - Yes, I do believe that it will grow more in the future. It is because that we are living in the modern world where we have more opportunity to view the variety genres of movies from different countries. The working hours have become longer and the works are

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more stressful these days. This means that people need more entertainment to loosen their tense, and one of them is by going to the cinema. Movies are becoming more popular among the teenagers and because of the variety of movies people would go to watch movies more.

Making a film or TV drama of real/ fictional events

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

A - The advantages of making films based on a real-life event are that we could learn many things from such films. For example, when we make a film based on a true story of World War 1 or 2, we can learn about the cruelties of war, therefore we should avoid any kind of wars and support the world peace. The real event movies are more important in terms of underlining story, lesson, historical figures and facts. This type of film reveals the past among us and creates a lasting impression on the viewers.

However, among the drawbacks of such films, we can say that it is not easy to produce such movies that would be based on true facts and entertaining at the same time. Producers often need to put extra emphasize on choosing casts, costumes and locations to make such movies. Such films might be biased sometimes and would spark a flame of criticisms. Then there is a chance that it won't be able to attract all types of movie viewers and that the box office hits of such movies are often uncertain.

Q - How important do you think it is for a filmmaker to remain true to the original story?

A - Well, I think it depends on how the director wants to convey the message of the film. If his purpose is to show history, then I believe that it should stick to the original story. Meanwhile, if the aim of the films is for popularity or entertainment, then the director could develop the story.

Sometimes many books are converted to films and in such cases, the filmmakers often change the dialogues and story of the original one. If the story is a fictitious one, I think the filmmakers should change a bit to make the movie more attractive. However, if the story is based on a prominent historical event or person, then they should remain as much authentic and true as possible to the original event or character.

Censorship and the freedom of the film-maker/TV producer

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

A - In my opinion, I think films and TV programmes should be censored, since they might contain some inappropriate scenes which could be embarrassing for the whole family. The amount of violence, blood-scene, drug abuse and slangs used on TV programmes and movies should also be censored as it might not be appropriate for people of all ages.

Many films show adults or violence scenes these days, and they should be censored, since it could have negative effects on people, especially on the children's imagination.

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

A - Well, even though I support censorship, but I think it will be loosen in the future because people would be able to access films from many sources including the internet these days. For example, children will be able to download films in their tablet PCs and watch films that they like. Therefore it is important for us to monitor our children's gadget these days, to ensure that they watch appropriate films.

The trends of movie censorship reveal the fact that movies are not censored as strictly as the used to be in the past. The freedom of creative arts will also be a dominating factor for the loose censorship of movies.

[Written by - Darwin Lesmana]

Exercise 6

PART 1 - Introduction

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

Visitors:

Q - What would you suggest a visitor should see and do in your country?

A. I am from Singapore and my country is not only famous for high-end shopping malls, fine dining and luxury hotels but also it has a vibrant history and diverse ethnic quarters, lovely public places and many tourists attractions. For a visitor, I would suggest Marina Bay Sands, Chinatown, Changi Chapel and Museum, Sentosa Island and Singapore Flyer. Those are already very famous tourist spots in our country and a visitor would definitely enjoy the lovely sights and attractive landscapes there.

If the visitor loves shopping, Singapore is the place to be.

The rich collection antiques, local products, electronic gadgets and other necessary things make the Singapore shopping malls hot favourite among visiting tourists. Dining is another great experience a tourist can have from here and the museums and botanical gardens would be exquisite places for any tourists to explore and learn about true Asian traditions and customs.

Q - Are there any traditional arts or music you would recommend?

A - We have comparatively young history and we went through a rapid modernization and due to this genuine art, cultural heritage and music are not as diverse as it should have been. However, in terms of rich ethnic markup without any doubt, we have the best Western-style performing arts such as opera or ballet as well as plenty of indigenous Malay, Indian and Chinese arts.

Each of the ethnic group here maintains their traditional music, art and artistic heritage. We have vibrant artist galleries and exhibition works across the country.

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There is no better place than Singapore Art Museum to get a thorough grounding in Singaporean visual art. Singapore Symphony Orchestra at Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay is a place I would recommend highly. Apart from these Mosaic Music festivals, Singapore Dance Theatre, Indian Bhaskar Academy of Arts some other recommended places to get a thorough glimpse of our traditional art and music.

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

A - Tourism in Singapore is very famous and it is indeed a major industry to our economy and GDP. We get more than double tourists each year than our own population. A majority of the tourists who visit Singapore come from Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Australia and India. Other countries from where a significant number of tourists visit Singapore each year are the Philippines, Japan, the UK, Thailand and the United States.

The visiting tourists come from different age groups and among them 20-40 years old could be seen more frequently. Some tourists come to enjoy their holidays, some come for shopping and business needs and some of them are adventure seekers and explorer.

Q - In what ways has tourism changed your country?

A - Tourism is one of the most significant contributors to our economy. The numbers of tourists come here is much higher than our own population. Because of the substantial growth in tourism in Singapore, both seasonal and full-time job opportunity has increased. Cross-cultural and intercultural communications have developed and many extensive constructions and infrastructural development have been done by the Government. For example, the creation of SembCorp NEWater plant has been established in Singapore which is one of the world's largest water recycling facilities now. Because of the tourists from different countries, our own heritage has been greatly enriched and it has become a lively place.

Among the negative impacts, I would say air pollution has increased from all the carbon emissions from planes and land transport. Some loss of authenticity of culture and traditions was obvious.

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PART 2 - Cue Card

Describe a memorable event in your life.

You should say:

- when the event took place
- where the event took place
- what happened exactly
- and explain why this event was memorable for you.

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

Sample Answer:

Childhood is a time when everything is magical and pleasant. The possibility and dreams are vast and things become happier in childhood. Everybody has childhood memories and among them some are pleasant and some are sad. I have various childhood memories and I would like to talk about my childhood memory related to my first day at school.

I was about 5 years old when my parents got me admitted in a local school. I had a fascination of going to school from 3-4 years as I recall and when my father finally announced that I'll get admitted in the coming January, I felt like being in heaven.

I imagined the school would be a great place and I would have lots of friends and I would study there. On the day, my parents took me to the school that I saw in the past many times from outside but never entered. After entering the school, I find myself anxious about everything.

I was unsure what to do, who to talk to, what to do when the teachers would ask questions and many such things. After my father submitted some necessary papers and fees to the admission department, they gave me new books, a temporary Identity Card and a

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syllabus. I started feeling comfortable after I found that some of our neighbouring kids were already in this very school and they came to me and talked to me. This took place in my hometown where I grew up and I had been to this school for the next 4 years.

To my surprise, one of the teachers asked my parents to leave me and told me to attend the classes. I was not at all prepared to join the class but I found I had little choice over that. My parents spent few times and advised me how to behave, how to listen to teachers and many more tips. After my parents abandoned me, I was frightened for few moments and sat at a corner of the class. The teacher asked to come forward and introduce myself. I found I was unable to walk and talk. But in few minutes my hesitation got away and I was talking about myself.

The teacher appreciated me and some of the new classmates came forward and greeted me. I started enjoying the class and teachers and found that I started loving my school. Later on, I got admitted in college, university and many other places but the memory of the first day at primary school was totally different and I still remember the day evidently.

You should say:

- who was with you
- where it took place
- what you did
- and explain why it is memorable.

Tips for answering this cue card topic:

You are asked to talk about any event from your childhood which you still remember. This event does not have to be a big event like a sporting success or a visit to a famous place. You can talk about virtually anything that you think was interesting and you can describe comfortably.

Try to talk about something that you would be able to talk fluently. While in the phase of 1-2 minutes for the cue card, many things from your childhood might pop-up in your mind. But pick the thing that you would be able to talk in details.

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Some of the common things that we usually remember from our childhood and this list was made to help you generating some ideas to talk about:

- 1 - Your first day at school.
- 2 - Your birthday celebration that you enjoyed.
- 3 - A fight with a friend!
- 4 - A brave thing you did as a child.
- 5 - An expected gift that you got.
- 6 - Something interesting you did.
- 7 - Something naughty you did.
- 8 - A dangerous experience from your childhood.

Not necessarily you have to talk about an interesting and enjoyable thing from your childhood. You can talk about any negative experience you have had in your childhood; like, a death of a relative could be a memorable event that you can't forget.

Try to make the description interesting and give an impression that you are reciting your memory. Being able to give much detail about the experience and making the topic interesting would help you get a good score.

If you can answer this cue card topic, you should also be able to talk about the following topics:

- 1 - Describe one of the happy memories in your life.
- 2 - Describe a memorable event of your life.
- 3 - Describe a childhood friend.
- 4 - Describe a celebration that you enjoyed.
- 5 - Talk about your first day at school.
- 6 - Describe a negative experience you had in your childhood.

PART 3 - Detailed Discussion

The role of ceremony in our lives:

Q - How important are ceremonies in our lives?

A - Ceremonies are our expressions of joy, passion, devotion and bonding. We celebrate through the different ceremonies we have in our life. Some ceremonies have religious, patriotic, cultural and traditional significance. They are filled with ritual and it helps us to acknowledge the true meaning of our life and presence.

Many ceremonies strengthen our family and social bonding. We celebrate to welcome a newborn into this world, to cherish our memory, to congratulate someone; in graduation, marriage and anniversary ceremonies. Many ceremonies show that we care, and we are true friends; which simply help to heal the wound.

Ceremonies motivate us, inspire us and refresh us to work in new spirit and some ceremonies let us forget our woes and depression. Some ceremonies like New Year eve, Christmas, Eid are celebrated worldwide and remind us who we are, what course of actions define us. Finally, ceremonies can bring enemies together to forget their hostility and gives us excellent opportunity to know new people and make friends.

Q - Do you see the role of private and public ceremonies changing in the future?

A - I think I have already observed some changes in the role of both private and public ceremonies in our life. That's why I believe that the ceremonies, as well as their roles in our personal and social life, would also change in the future. For example, some ceremonies are not as widely celebrates as we used to do it in the past. Many public ceremonies have political relation and that would surely be changed.

In terms of the role of private ceremonies-- their role would change in terms of their influence on our personal and social life. Since people in a different era have different doctrine and way of living, the role of private festivals thus changes over time. The public ceremonies changes based on a country's economic and political situations, so do they roles in our lives.

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Attitudes to marriage in your country:

Q - Have attitudes to marriage changed in recent years?

A - Yes, in my opinion, that has changed a lot. While arranged marriage was the norm in past decade, people no longer follow this trend nowadays. The average age of marriage for both male and female is around 25 years, while it was far less than that just in last decade. Parents in older generations prepared their daughters to get married to established men. This attitude has changed and they are now making sure that their daughters have their own identity and establishment before getting married.

While the number of single fathers or single mothers in our country was very few, this has increased nowadays and seems like this is because of the increased divorce rate.

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

A - I think the basic feelings of marriage would be same for both men and women. This includes the excitement, some anxiety, dream, hope, uncertain new lifestyle, responsibilities etc.

But it's also true that in our society marriage means a bonding between a man and woman and in a traditional arrangement the bride would leave her house and start living in the groom's house. From this context, the girl's feeling would be different from the boy. The boy would be responsible for earning the money and that's something the bride would not feel anxious about.

Events of national/global significance:

Q - What sort of national events make headlines in your country?

A - Any big political movement, a success or failure by our national sports team, a natural disaster, a new law, any brutal crime, national festivals or misconduct by any renowned politician would usually make headlines in our newspapers.

Any big success by our scientists, engineers, researchers would also make headlines. Sometimes news editors pick some interesting and comical events to presents at the

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headlines of their newspapers as well.

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

A - We have more than 100 daily newspapers and more than 20 TV channels that mainly focus on our national events. But that does not mean that they ignore the important global events to be reported. In fact, they make a good balance of national and international news and events. Some programs and sections of newspapers are dedicated for national events while others are for international news and events. I would say that would be a 60, 40 rations in terms of national and international news and events in our media.

Exercise 7

PART 1 - Introduction

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

Daily Routine

Q - What would you like to change in your daily routine?

A - I would like to wake up early in the morning. I usually wake up at around 9.00 am and that's mainly because I am late to go to bed and I would like this one aspect to be changed from my current daily routine.

Q - Are all your days the same?

A - Not really. For me, a day-off is quite different than the busy working day in every perspective. Apart from that different circumstances and events make the days different from each other. While Sunday is a day to spend time with my family members and to meet friends and play with them in the evening, I have a tight schedule at the university and work on Monday.

Q - Tell me about your typical weekday and your typical weekend.

A - In a typical weekday I have to wake up a bit early and revise my university lessons and then I rush to the university campus to attend the lecture. At around 2.00 pm I eat my lunch in the cafeteria and spent the whole evening in the library. After I return home at around 7.00 pm I spent my time in my study room and have my dinner with my family members. I watch a news channel for an hour and then get back to my room. I read a story book for a while and at around 1.00 am I go to bed.

On the contrary, in a typical weekend, I wake up late and take my breakfast in the TV room while surfing the TV channels. I go shopping with my father at around 12.00 and

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eat my lunch with my family members. I either take a nap or play computer games in the noon and in the evening I meet my friends. At night I watch a movie and take my dinner late than usual. I surf the internet and watch TV sometimes at night.

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

A - In a typical weekday, I have to put more emphasis on my study, classes and assignment. But that does not make me totally busy not to have my very personal time at all. Amid of a busy day, I find my times. For instance, after I wake up in the morning, I meet my parents and spent few times with them. In my way to my university, I read story books or magazines. During the break of my classes, I gossip with my classmates and sometimes I meet my friends on my way back to home. I help my mum on some household works at night and I make time to watch TV, browse the internet and read novels. So I would say my daily routine is kind of balanced and I am contented with that.

PART 2- Cue Card

Topic: Describe something you own which is very important to you.

You should say:

- where you got it from
- how long you have had it
- what you use it for
- and explain why it is so important to you.

Sample Answer:

The desktop computer I have is very important to me. I spend almost 6-7 hours with this computer which is even higher than the time I spend with my friends! My father bought me this computer 3 years back when I got admitted to the university. I have done some parts upgrades of it but the main parts of the computer remain almost the

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same as they were when I purchased it.

I use the internet with this computer and thus get lots of help related to my study and assignments. I maintain the social networking, update my blogs, play video games, watch movies, listen to music, learn and practice the graphics designing and programming and many more things in this computer. This computer has become an inevitable part of my life and I can hardly think of a day without this computer. The references and helps I get from the internet regarding my study are unmatched. This saves a lot of time and helps me do better in the exams as well.

This computer is my main source of entertainment a source of knowledge to me. I send important emails and check incoming emails which help me doing important communication. In short, this is the most necessary thing that I own.

Rounding off questions:

Q - Is it valuable in terms of money?

Q - Would it be easy to replace?

Part 3 – Two-way discussion:

Let's consider first of all how people's values have changed.

Q - What kind of things give status to people in your country?

Q - Have things changed since your parents' time?

Finally, let's talk about the role of advertising.

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Q - Do you think advertising influences what people buy?

Similar Cue Card Topics:

- Describe an object you value most in your possessions
- Describe an important thing that you own.
- Describe an electronic device that you own.
- Describe the most useful device that you have.
- Describe something that you often use at home.
- Describe a valuable thing that you bought recently.

PART 3 - Detailed Discussion

Discussion topics: How values can change

Q - What kind of possessions show status in your country?

A - Well, in our country a large house, expensive and latest car, latest electronic gadgets are often considered to be the possessions of high status. Apart from that, a top position in a well-known company and exposure to media are two others things that people often consider as symbols of high status.

Q - Do you think it was different for your grandparents?

A - I think it was not much different. The electronic gadgets would be the latest additions, though. During my grandparent's era, the symbols of status were land ownership, political influence, big houses, and expensive cars - which were quite similar as they are today. I guess the so-called status symbols are quite materialistic in our society and that's why it was not much different for my grandparents as well.

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The consumer society

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

A - This is mainly because of our inclination to worldly success and competition to possess more than we need. The globalisation has also affected our mentality to possess more and more than ever before. We compete with others and put too much concern about our status. The old ways of traditional life and values have declined alarmingly among the societies and we are following the trend without giving much consideration. The decline of family bonding and patriotism are also making us more materialistic. We feel proud to own a luxury car, latest cell phone and powerful parents while we think very less about the people who are suffering from daily basic needs. This mentality is like a virus and competition among us is also making it worse.

Q - Do you think consumerism is a positive or a negative development?

A - The concept of consumerism causes a materialistic belief that the more materials acquired by an individual the better, implying an increased value placed on material possessions. In my opinion, this is a negative development. While millions of people are starving every day, others are changing their mobile phone and car every few months. The waste disposal has already become a huge issue and the increased usages of electronic devices are increasing the world temperature which is dangerous for the world. The consumerism also makes people more materialistic and thus they forget the traditions and values of their society.

The consumer market

Q - What is the role of advertising?

A - The true role of advertising is to promote a product or service among the potential consumers and customers. Advertising is particularly important to establish the brand reputation in the market and to allure people to purchase a product or to enlist to a service offered. Advertisement from non-profit organisations and the government often aim to create awareness on important issues among people.

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Q - How do you think the Internet will affect buying patterns in the future?

A - The Internet has already established its supremacy in the consumer market and a lot of people nowadays purchase products or services online. The e-commerce is booming and it is not far away when people would absolutely rely on online shopping than the conventional marketplace. The e-commerce websites are ever increasing and people no longer needs to go to a shopping mall to purchase the products s/he needs. The advancement in internet technology will capture a major share of all trades and shopping done by consumers in the near future.

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Exercise 8

PART 1 - Introduction

Q - How did you reach the examination centre?

A - After I left my home I hired a taxi and it dropped me in front of the exam venue. So it was easier for me to reach here.

Q - What are the most common types of transportation run on the roads of your town?

A - Well, private cars and public buses are the most two common types of vehicles in my town. Taxis and trams are also available. To reach a far destination within the city one can also take a metro rail.

Q - Which types of transportation do you often use to move?

A - I mostly use public buses to move from one place to another within the city. If I need to visit outside the city, I take the train and that's the most convenient way of travelling for long distance travelling in our city. Sometimes I hire a taxi, which is bit expensive, to reach important places where I need to maintain strict time schedule like I did today.

Q - Do you think that new transportation system should be introduced in your city? Why?

A - I don't think new transportation system would be required in my city right now. However, the existing transportation system like public bus and tram should be renovated. The number of such public transportations should also be increased for the convenience of the commuters.

PART 2 - Cue Card

Cue Card Topic: Describe a historical place that you know about.

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You should say:

- what the place is
- where it is located
- what is the historical significance of the place
- and explain what you think about this place.

[You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]

Follow-up Questions:

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

Sample Answer:

I have a special interest in visiting famous places and on my list historical places always get preferences. I have visited many historical places like Machu Picchu in Peru, The Pyramids at Giza, Taj Mahal, Parthenon in Greece and many more. The historical significance and the site attractions sometimes mesmerised me. The historical place that I would like to talk about today is Colosseum (also known as Coliseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre) which is situated in Rome, Italy.

It is basically an elliptical amphitheatre in the centre of the city of Rome, Italy which is the largest amphitheatre in the world and is made of concrete and stone. The construction of Colosseum began under emperor Vespasian in 70 AD and was completed under Titus in 80 AD.

The Colosseum could hold approximately 50,000 to 80,000 spectators and was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles such as mock sea battles, animal hunts,

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executions, re-enactments of famous battles etc. The Colosseum was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1980 and was also included among the New Seven Wonders of the World. It is 189 meters long, and 156 meters wide, with a base area of 6 acres. The height of the outer wall is 48 meters. The Colosseum nowadays is one of the major tourist attractions in Rome with thousands of tourists each year paying to view the interior arena.

I have heard and seen of this famous place a lot and when I witnessed it for the first time, I became speechless. The huge architect, the overwhelming interior and exterior decoration was beyond appreciation. The place kept reminding me the classical mythological and historical facts I have read and heard about.

Part 3: Details Discussion:

Q - What do you think of the future trend of historic places?

A - This is a really controversial issue. There are many people who believe that historic places should be preserved because they are the depiction of a country's overall civilisation. These places constitute an integral part of a nation's history, culture and heritage. On the other hand, opponents of this trend argue that places with historical significance should be demolished and replaced by something modern that will meet nowadays' needs and demands, such as supermarkets, cinemas, theatres, and so on. Personally, I strongly oppose the latter opinion and I totally believe that historic places must be retained either for usage, if possible, or for posterity. The future is uncertain and depends, many times, on the decision of political leaders and the powerful people. However, I believe that historical places in future would become more important and would be preserved more carefully. More tourists would be interested in visiting such places and they would be one of the main attraction among foreign tourists.

Tip: A good way to fully answer the question is to say something general about historic places and then justify your opinion. For example, you could say that you want them to be preserved or not. Give examples to put more articulation.

Q - Will government strengthen its protection toward historic places?

A - I can't really know for sure, but I would say that these places must be protected

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no matter what. As mentioned, historic places reflect a country's history, culture and civilisation and they are a nation's brand. To illustrate, Greek authorities make significant efforts to preserve and renovate the structure of the Acropolis and every year they perform programmes for the restoration of the Hill. They also work to make different monuments approachable by the tourists and also maintain their initial identity.

Q - What are the changes brought about by the historic place in local economy, people, etc?

A - When I think of changes brought by the historic places, the first thing that comes to my mind is 'benefits'. Firstly, these places provide employment and income to many people, not only in some particular seasons with many tourists, but also throughout the year. In addition, as these places are famous and a country is characterised by those, locals and foreign visitors will pay them a visit and this results in gaining popularity of a country. Furthermore, as a result of these visits, the whole economy will develop and these countries will flourish and prosper. People would learn diverse cultural aspects and would be able to present their own cultures and custom to the visitors.

Q - What is the effect of tourists on the place?

A - Visits from people of other countries to these places might lead to both positive and negative consequences. The most important thing is that a place will become really popular and prestigious and will attract more visitors every year. Through the internet and social media, those tourists will share photos and videos of their activities and their friends will learn about those places. The visiting tourists bring many foreign cultures and customs which are often unknown to the local people. The increasing tourists often increase the business opportunity in the local area.

Apart from the beneficial aspects, there are some negative implications as well. As these places are very crowded with the tremendous number of visitors, they become dirty because everyone throws their rubbish wherever they want and this is unhygienic and if the trash isn't cleaned immediately, a place like this will become smelly. Local people learn foreign customs and culture which often threaten the local culture.

[The part three answers are written by Mary, UK]

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With your ability to answer this cue card topic, you should be able to answer following cue cards as well:

- 1** - Describe a place you recently visited.
- 2** - Describe a worth visiting famous place.
- 3** - Talk about a place you would recommend others to visit.
- 4** - Describe a famous place in your locality.
- 5** - Talk about a place you have planned to visit in the future.

PART 3 - Detailed Discussion

Q - Which city in the world you would like to visit? Why?

A - I would like to visit Brussels, which is the Capital of Belgium. This city is quite distinctive and after I saw a documentary on this city in Discovery Channel, I made my mind visit this city someday. The heart of the city has the ornate Grand-Place and many cafes and fast food shops inside the 17th-century guild houses. This city is the symbol of ancient prominence and the intricate Gothic Hôtel de Ville (town hall) with its distinctive bell tower is something worth visiting.

Q - What will you suggest to a tourist who came to visit your country?

A - I would suggest any foreign tourist to visit the National Museum first. This would be an excellent opportunity for him/ her to learn about our history and traditions. I would also advise this person to stay in the northern rural part of the country to observe some of the historically important significances of the 17th century. The city centre at the west part of our capital offers an excellent chance to observe the lively gathering of people from different professions. The main attraction of this place is actually the most popular coffee shop in our city and one of the best places to know about the people of our country. The Beach in the city of Graham is another attractive place this person should visit. The exotic foods, the tranquillity of the nature and wild beauties of the birds and animals are sure to amaze his/ her.

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Q - Why travelling is important?

A - Travelling is, in fact, a unique experience and a great source of firsthand knowledge. Travelling helps us to broaden our horizon of knowledge and deepen our understanding of the world, people and different cultures. Lessons learned from travelling different places are proven to be quite effective in practical life. Knowledge gained from books is often too much theoretical while travelling, on the other hand, gives us an excellent opportunity to learn about life, culture, history and geography. There is a quite interesting saying that represents the true importance and significance of travelling “The more you will read the more will you learn. And the more you will learn the more places you would want to travel.”

Q - Have you ever been to a foreign country?

A - Yes, I have been to several foreign countries including the UK, India, Malaysia, Spain and Nepal. Each country has its own traditions and infrastructures so they gave me a whole new experience as a visitor.

Q - How do you compare the country you have visited with your own?

A - Well, the countries I have visited are quite different than my home country in terms of people, their way of grooming, the language the use, the buildings, the history, the foods and many other aspects. While my countries have very few skyscrapers and high rising buildings, the UK and Spain had plenty of them. The foods and people’s interactions were different. Finally, I am accustomed to all the aspects and way of life in my home country while these two were quite new for me in other countries.

Exercise 9

PART 1 - Introduction

Q - Do you work or are you a student?

A - I have been working as a medical laboratory technician since July 2013.

Q - What is difficult about your job?

A - I am dealing with the human for their sample diagnosis and analysis every day. So there is no scope of error and the job requires utmost dedication and sincerity. In my opinion, no scope for any mistake in my job is the most difficult part.

Q - Would you recommend your job to someone else?

A - Yes, I would love to do that. This job really satisfies me. Every day I am helping people and this gives me an immense pleasure and a sense of fulfilment. The medical report done by me can help people prevent serious diseases, such as lung cancer, at the very early stage. My job also helps improve public health. For example, I was one of the technicians to provide the results of people body check last year. From this regards, I would recommend this job to others who want to help people as well as have a meaningful career.

Q - What are the types of shops that you usually go to?

A - I usually go to the supermarket. Actually, I go to a supermarket three times a week for my various needs for shopping.

Q - What is the name of the shop?

A - The name of the shop I usually go to is called 'Welcome' and 'Supreme Market'.

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Q - What changes have you seen in those shops these days?

A - Honestly, I haven't seen any significant changes in those shops these days. While, I do see some changes on the way people purchase their goods. Apart from better decoration and more sales persons, things have been almost same as it was a few years ago.

Q - Do you read books? What kinds of books?

A - Not really. I read research papers regularly. I used to read a lot but nowadays I spend most of the time reading professional readings.

Q - Did you read books when you were a child? How often?

A - Yes, I did. I read fairy tales when I was a child, like Snow White and Cinderella. I used to read fairy tales every day after school.

Q - Do children nowadays love reading?

A - I'm afraid not. Children nowadays prefer to play games on iPod and in other gaming devices, rather than reading books. In our childhood, reading books was the main activity among children but nowadays children have electronic gadgets and internet connection to spend time. So they read less on an average than our generation.

Q - Would you give a book as a gift?

A - Definitely, I would. In fact, I often do that. I gave my best friend the book called "Bridget Jones's Diary" as her birthday present recently.

Part 2 - Cue Card

Topic: Describe a magazine that you often read.

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You should say :

- What is it
- What type of people read it
- Is it popular in your country
- and explain why it is important to you to read it.

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

Sample Answer 1:

Reading is a great habit and not everyone has it. I am lucky in that regards that I have formed the habit of reading different types of books and magazines from an early age. Now, this is a pleasant moment for me to describe my habit of reading a magazine and my favourite magazine. Besides reading books, I also love reading magazines. They contain a good number of interesting elements to entertain the readers.

I regularly read the Reader's Digest of Australia and this is the best magazine in my opinion. This is a standard magazine to go through and pass the leisure hours. Besides, this is an enriched magazine that deals with some specific issues and themes. As a result, the readers of the magazine come to know about a lot of things from a single place. It tells the readers about health, shopping, travelling, living at homes and more other issues.

Actually, there is no exact information that which types of people read the magazine. But it is anticipated that the Australians who have crossed their 30s are highly interested in this Reader's Digest. In fact, they are the people who need some real-life information to deal with 'situations' in their life. So, as part of their external needs, they take help from the magazine. The Home Living section of the magazine is particularly useful for the women. They can get ideas to improve their living conditions at home. Besides, they also can generate newer ideas and implementation them on decorating their respective households through the earned knowledge from the magazine. This is also a great resource for the adventurers. The travelling section deals with the travels and adventures and they also provide numerous valuable tips and tricks to be applied in trips.

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The magazine is extremely popular in Australia and it has gained popularity by its own capacity. The magazine comes with a nice cover and size, Besides, this is also available in online. So, if someone misses the printed version of the magazine, this is easier to read the articles and stories on its online version. Further, the magazine is popular for some other reasons. This is a special type of magazine that deals with most necessary issues for each of the Australians. It deals with recipes, health, travel, home living and other important aspects of human life. Since we all are to remain busy with our professional engagement, it really becomes hard to take decisions on any important issues, and this is the only magazine that comes with necessary articles, tips and other ways to help in dealing with the situations. Hence, it is a popular magazine.

I love to read books, particularly novels. But this is the only magazine that has attracted my attention because it comes with the necessary things in need. I also love to travel but managing days for a long travel is really tougher for me. With the ideas of travelling tips, I plan for some small trips nearby. Besides, my wife also loves to read the recipe section. She, in fact, loves to learn cooking using the recipes provide on the magazine. Both of us read the magazine and have subscribed to it. Now, it appears that if I had not read the magazine, my life could have been incomplete in some sense. I am really fond of this magazine.

Similar Cue Card Topics

Your ability to talk about this Cue Card would enable you to talk about the following Cue Cards as well:

- Describe a newspaper or magazine you like to read.
- Describe a popular magazine in your country.
- Describe an important source of knowledge for you.
- Describe something you recently read.
- Describe a magazine one of your family members read.

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Part 3 - Two-way Discussion.

Q - Compare reading a newspaper and a magazine.

A - Newspaper, as its name suggests, includes all kinds of news and recent events and editorials. For example, by reading the daily newspaper, we can get all information happened yesterday and in the week, sometimes even today's event. While, magazines, on the other hand, are more likely to focus on certain areas; such as geography, spots, short story, significant recent events etc. For instance, the magazine "Hello", includes lots of news about celebrities. People, who like stars like Beyonce or Victoria, can get special information from it.

Finally, newspapers are targeted for all the people while magazine targets people with a special attraction to a certain niche or field. For instance, a newspaper might include an interesting news about a successful genetic engineering experiment that has grabbed a considerable attention on people recently with other regular and diverse type of news. On the other hand, a magazine which is based on Genetic Engineering is aimed to target professionals and students of this field and would cover most of its articles on this subject.

Q - How do people read them? Do they just read the headlines or the entire story?

A - It depends. Most of the people prefer to read the headlines first. If a headline attracts their attention, they prefer to read the whole story afterwards. For some certain people, it is true that they are the fan of some newspapers or magazines and they are likely to read all of them.

Again, in case of newspapers, people read the headlines and often skim through the news. Magazine readers prefer mostly to read the details article.

Q - Why do people read magazines?

A - Like I said earlier, people read magazines to seek certain information. People read "Hello" and "US weekly" to get gossip and fashion news of celebrities. Geography and Nutrients are the magazines that offer the knowledge in special areas. Many professionals and students prefer to read magazines as those often come with special news, in-depth articles and research papers related to their profession and study.

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Q - Is reading the newspaper popular in your country?

A - Yes, newspaper reading among people is quite popular actually. Evening papers are the most popular newspapers in my country. We get to know news from it every day. For example, the new policy issued by the government, and the construction of the train could be learned from such daily newspapers.

Q - What are the other sources of news? Do people from the rural areas have the same access to these sources as people from the urban areas?

A - People can obtain news by watching TV and using the internet. These are also the population ways to get news. I believe so. In our modern society, even newspaper and magazine are popular, watching TV and the internet become the most important and convenient ways for people no matter where they are living.

Q - What are the advantages of the Internet?

A - When people read a newspaper or a magazine, they can't choose what kind of information exactly they are willing to read. For example, it is hard to chase a piece of information about how a special medical technique developed in this month by reading them. But it works with the internet. People can simply put keywords in Google search and get the results in one second. It is easier and more convenient. Again it's not possible to purchase all the newspapers and magazines from a store. On the contrary, you can read as many newspapers, magazines and other news sources from the internet. With the popularity of social media like Twitter and Facebook, the news is being shared and read by people without even searching for them. So I would say the advantages of the internet as a whole and in terms of communication and news source is unparalleled.

Q - Are there any disadvantages?

A - Of course, it has. Every coin has two sides. The disadvantage of using the internet is that there are too many results and we have to choose which one to read that contains more useful information. The other disadvantage is that it is not very healthy to sit in front of laptop or computer for a long time. Finally, the news sources are not always authentic and one can often get biased and false news from the internet.

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Q - Describe the impact of the internet on the lives of the students.

A- It depends. For high school students, I think the negative impact overtake the position parts. They are more likely to be attracted by internet games, instead of learning things. They would spend too much time chatting and playing games than reading interesting articles.

The college students can control them better than high school students. The Internet is a useful tool for them. The Internet can offer them information to help them find the reference materials, especially for their dissertations and assignments.

For younger students like primary and secondary students, I think they should not use the internet at all. It is obvious that they will hurt their eyes and might find unsuitable content which is detrimental to their physical and psychological growth.

Overall, students are relying on the internet heavily than the past generation. They find study materials, they submit their homework, find references from the internet and that has many positive sides in terms of their interaction with the teachers and classmates.

Q - Do you recommend that all countries adopt the latest trends in technology?

A- I don't think so. Whether the latest trends in technology should be used or not depends on the development of the country. For example, when the technique of mitochondrial donation was published early this year, it was impossible for some developing countries to adopt this. It is not only because the money spent on this technique is expensive, but also the condition of technique in the country. Maybe America can use this one quickly, but for some countries, they can't even think about this when many people are living in poverty.

However, the widely accepted technologies like online learning should be adopted by all countries for the sake of advancement

[Written by - Veta]

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Exercise 10

PART 1 - Introduction

Q - What's your name?

A - My name is Anoop Asokan.

Q - What do you do?

A - I am a Nurse by profession and I work for Saudi Aramco Remote Area clinics in Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia.

Q - Where do you come from?

A - I belong to India, and my hometown is called as Kochi, which is the commercial capital of the State of Kerala.

Q - Do you like your country?

A - As a matter of fact, I would say, I am proud that I am an Indian and yes, I love and respect my country a lot.

Q - What do you like about your country?

A - Well, my country has the world's largest democracy with more than 125 crore residents. Additionally, you won't be able to find another nation like India with its vast diversity in culture, language, customs and race. The simple and amiable people who represent the country are quite helpful to others. Our country has a vast diversity of natural beauty and if you travel India, you can in a sense say that you have travelled the entire world.

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Q - What street do you live in?

A - As I have already mentioned, I live in the city of Jubail, and the street where I live is Jubail Central Street.

Q - What is the street called?

A - It's Jubail Central Street.

Q - Why is your street called this way?

A - Well, I suppose, it's because this street extends from the heart of the city to the Northern end. I don't know if there are any other factors which attribute to this name.

Q - Do you like your street?

A - By contrast to the other streets, this is my favourite one. The most significant reason for this could be the fact that, it's the busiest street in the city with all types of shopping destinations.

Q - What do you like about your street?

A - I presume, it's the ambience and the busy nature of the street. It's so nice to commute around during busy hours.

Q - Do you like living in this city? Why?

A - Yes, as a matter of fact, I like this city more than any other cities in Saudi Arabia. My city is the home to some of the major petrochemical companies in the world and maybe that's the reason why Jubail is regarded as the largest Industrial city in the Middle East. It is a beautiful city with all the facilities a city dweller can expect.

Q - Are you a city dweller? Why?

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A- Yes. I am. I like to explore the nook and corner of the city, looking for best restaurants, and entertainment centres. Moreover, I love to live in a city than in a village.

Q - What do you like doing with your friends?

A - Primarily, I would say, it's partying. I love to enjoy the weekends with friends. I would also like to watch movies when my friends are around. Sometimes I love to discuss the recent events and politics with my friends.

Q - What is your favourite meal?

A - No doubt, it's biryani. I reckon, it's a blend of Indian and Arabian food, but very delicious.

Q - Who cooks in your family?

A - Like every other Indian family, my mother and my wife do all the household works including cooking. Occasionally, though, I would also like to experiment.

Q - What is their best meal (house special)?

A - It's the traditional Kerala rice and spicy fish curry. We consume it almost every day.

Part 2 - Cue Card:

Topic: An important event in your life.

You should say:

- what is it
- how old you were then
- what happened

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- and explain why this is an important event in your life.

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

Model Answer 1:

Well, I have so many important events in my life and I can remember many of them. However, I would like to talk about the most auspicious ceremony of my life, my marriage, which happened in December 2012.

When I got married, I was 26 years old. Since I belong to a traditional and orthodox Hindu family, it's more or less like a religious and family festival. We invited most of our friends and relatives and the celebrations started three days prior to the event. We had to arrange all the amenities to the guests who came by; such as hotels to stay, food and drinking arrangements and we had to make sure all of them were pretty satisfied. However, another biggest challenge I faced was the raising of the fund for the occasion. Fortunately, everything went well and the day is still a wonderful experience to think about.

On the flip side, the greatest reason why that day is rather important is because, ever since then, I witnessed a dramatic change in the way I live. I had to become more responsible and after all, I got someone to share my life together. I gradually realised, the biggest part in life is to become shoulders and shade, to someone who is important to us, especially at the time of crisis. I would like to conclude by saying that now I am happily living with my parents, wife and son, and my marriage was the first significant step towards this journey.

[Written by - Anoop Asokan]

Similar Cue Card Topics:

Your ability to talk about this Cue Card would enable you to talk about the following Cue Cards as well:

- Describe a positive experience you have.

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- Describe a memorable event in your life.
- Describe an important day in your life.
- Describe an event you remember clearly.
- Describe something you recently did.

Part 3 - Follow-up question:

Q - Is it important to celebrate different events in our lives?

A - Yes. I definitely think so. It's our responsibility to make sure that we enjoy and celebrate our life. It's the best way to create awesome memories and for me, it means a lot. The tradition of giving surprise gifts and spending time together with family and friends, is inevitable, according to me, in these hectic modern days. Moreover, it's a chance to meet new people and to refresh relationships with people around us.

Q - Are you a goal-settler? Why?

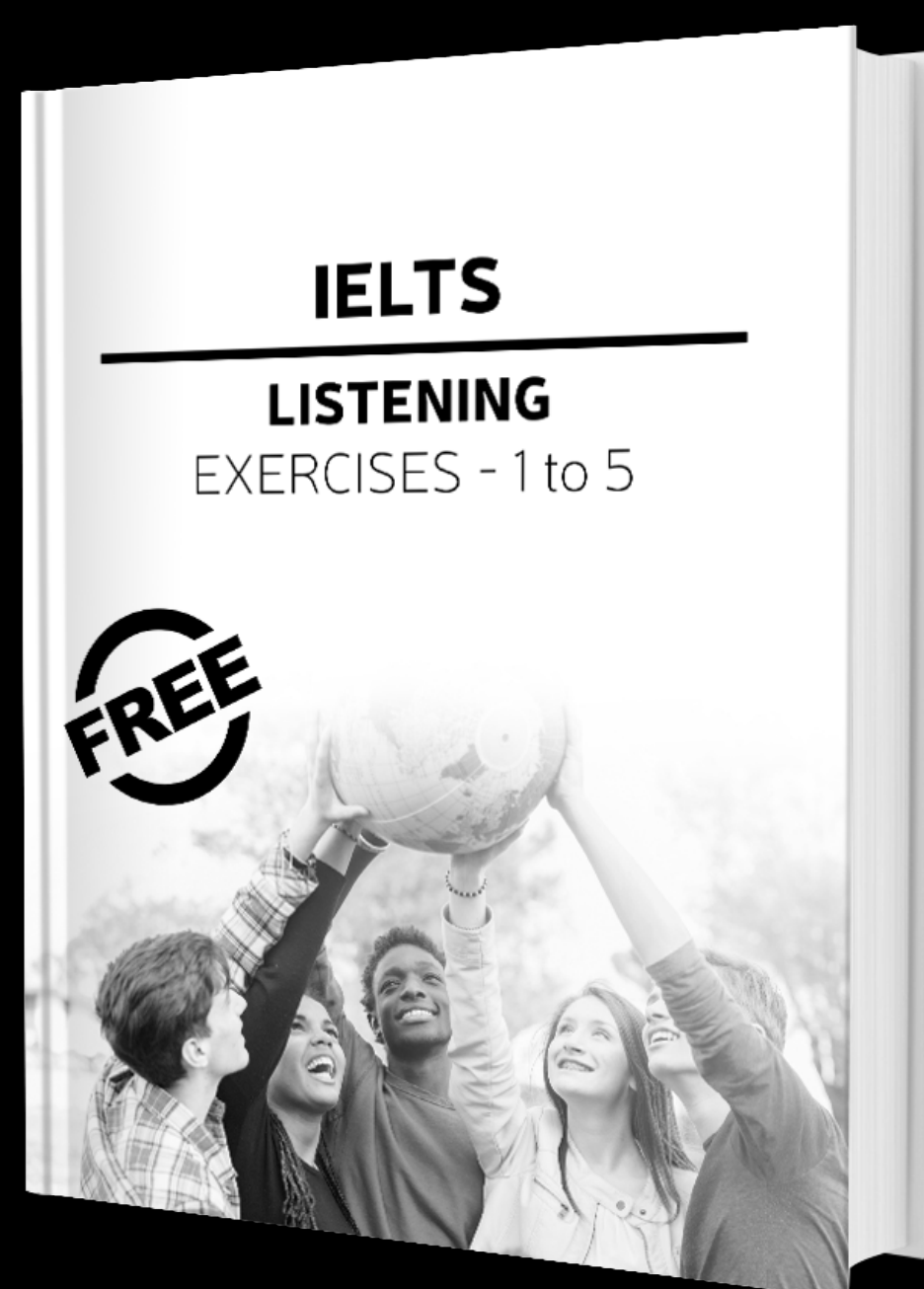
A - I wouldn't dare to say I am a goal setter. I would rather like to experience everything which comes in my way, than creating goals and waiting for them to be achieved. I have always believed that when you live, you need to exhibit certain ethics and moral values, which would take you to your destiny and until this moment, it comes true in my life.

Q - Do you prefer celebrating family occasions at home or in a restaurant? Why?

A - Definitely home. It's the place where we spend most of our life. I would not risk spoiling my memories, at a place which has little significance to us. Moreover, at home, I feel safe and happy with my dearest people around me. I don't know, why, but I have seen many people partying at restaurants and I presume it's always a personal choice.

[Written by - Anoop Asokan]

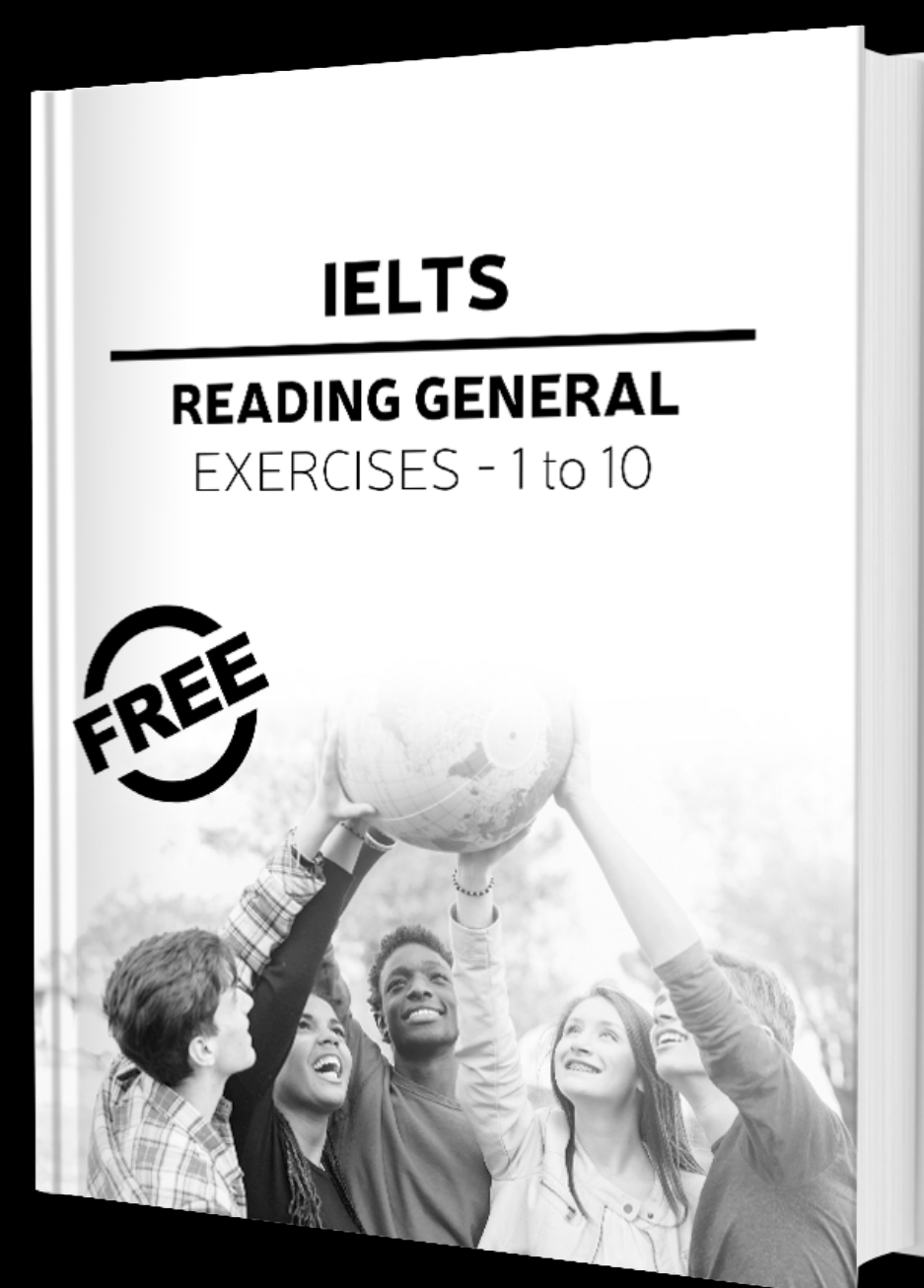
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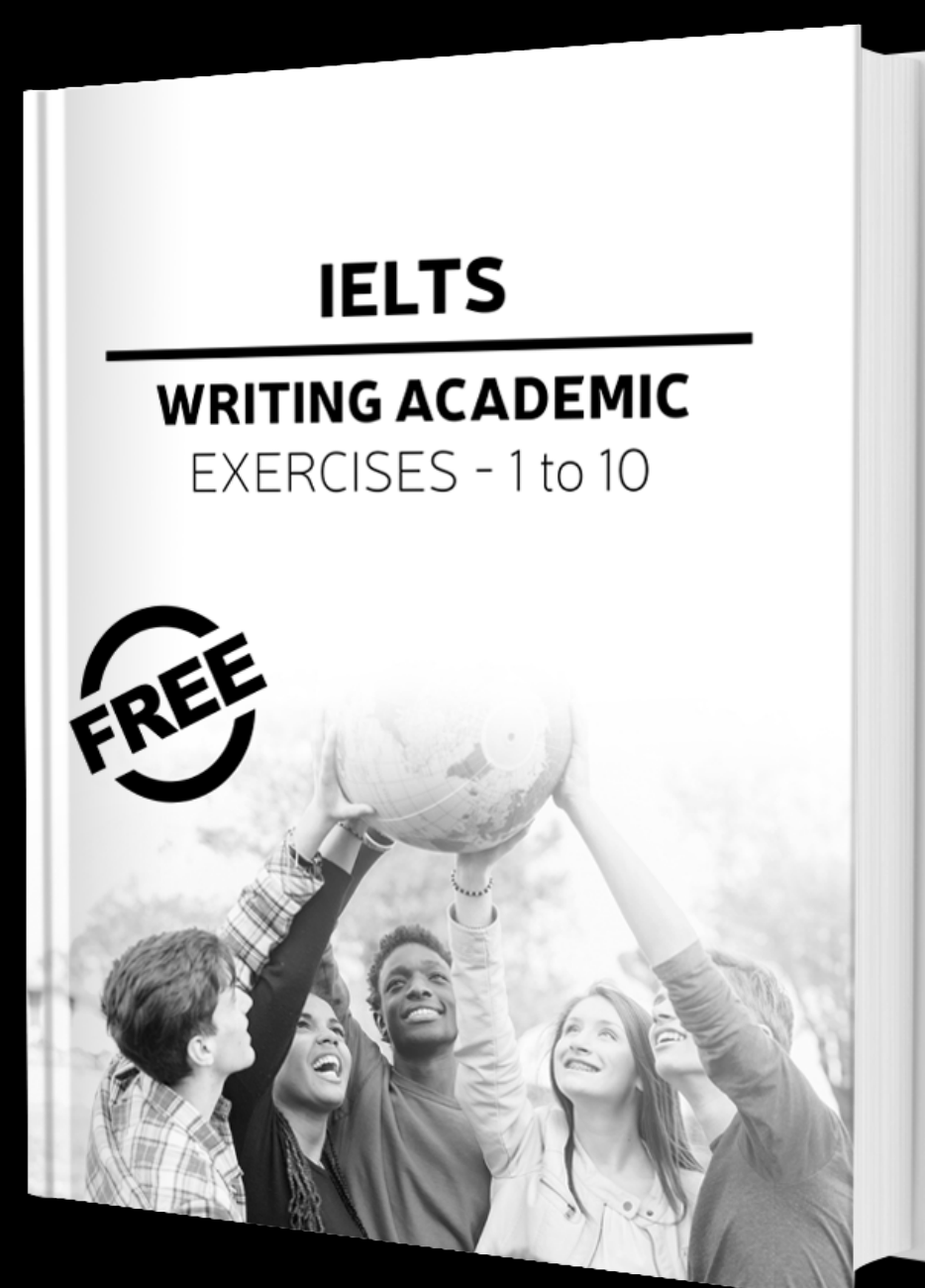
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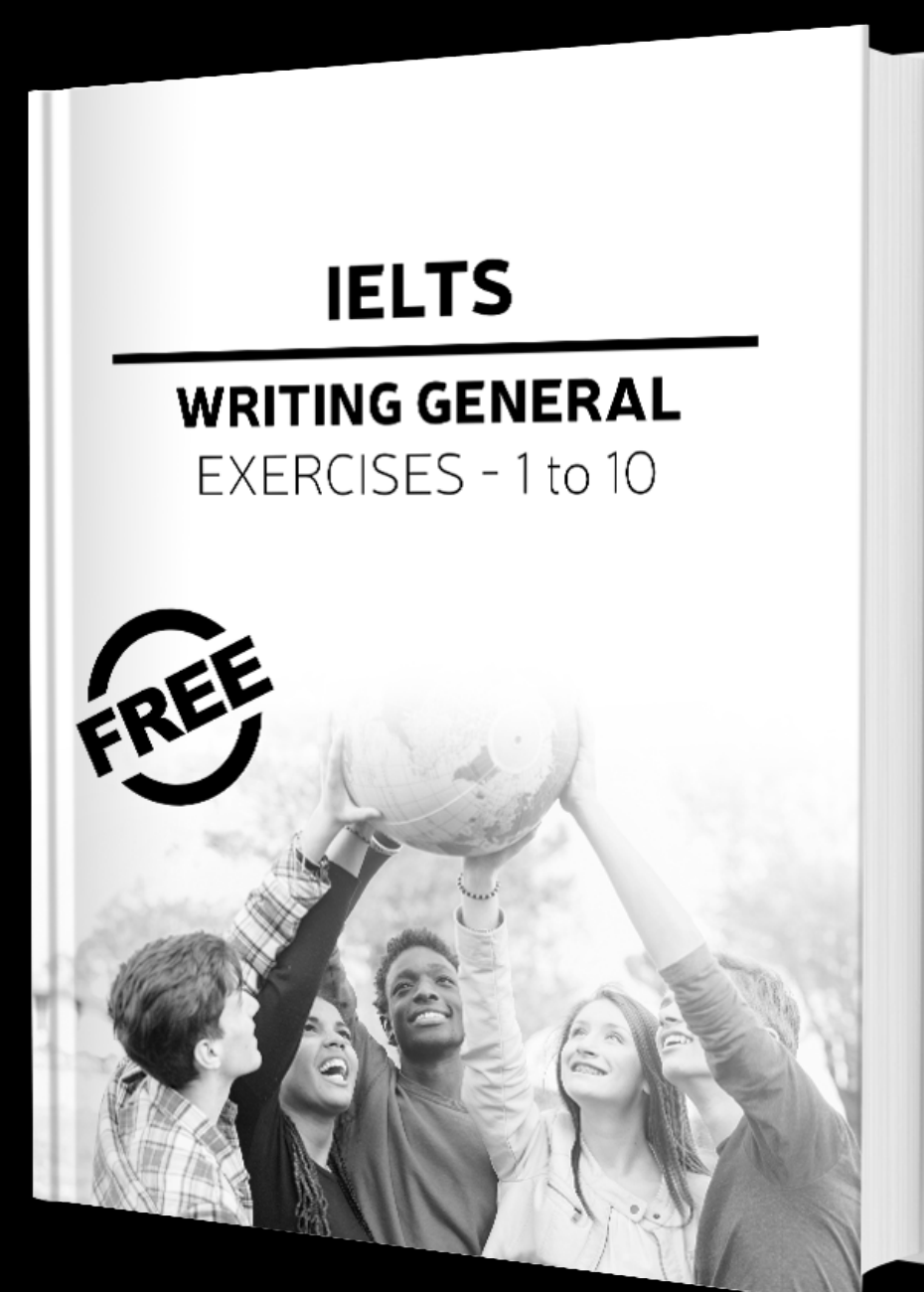
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