

IELTS Speaking Paper information and tips discussion

How much do you know about IELTS Speaking? Work with a partner and try to answer the following questions, using the language in the box at the bottom during your discussion.

Intro

What will the examiner say when you first enter the room and what do you have to do?

Part One

1. In Part 1 you will be asked some personal questions. What kind of topics could you be asked questions about? Which are the most common topics?
2. What different kinds of questions will you be asked about each topic?
3. Part One ends 4 minutes after you enter the room. How many topics will you usually be asked about and how many questions on each topic in that time?
4. What is a good answer to a question? What happens if you give a short answer?
5. What happens if you don't understand the question?
6. How can you study to help prepare for Speaking Part One?

Part Two

7. In Part 2 you are given a sheet with a topic and four questions that you have to speak about (a kind of mini-presentation). What are the minimum and maximum amounts of time you must speak for?
8. What happens if you speak for less than the minimum amount of time?
9. If the examiner interrupts you at the end, is that a good or bad thing?
10. How much time do you have to prepare before you start speaking in Part 2?
11. What can you and should you do to prepare before you speak?

Part Three

12. In Part 3 you are asked questions again but it is more challenging than the earlier parts of the exam. How is it different from Part 1?
13. What is a good answer to a Speaking Part Three question?
14. How is the topic in Part Three related to other parts of the exam?

Summary

15. How long is the whole paper and each part?
16. Do you get a separate mark for each part?
17. What are the four criteria you are marked on?
18. What are good tactics during the exam?
19. What are good ways of preparing in the weeks before you take the speaking exam?
20. What are the best things to do on the morning of the exam?

Useful language – Expressing uncertainty and speculating

I'm (pretty) sure it's...

If what I read (online) is right,...

It could/ might/ may/ must be...

As far as I know,...

I (would) guess/ I (would) imagine/ I suppose...

I'm not sure, but...

I don't remember very well, but...

If I remember correctly,...

This is just a guess but...

It's something like...