

Preparation • Speaking

Part 3

Part 3 of the Speaking paper lasts for about four minutes.

In this part, you have a discussion with your partner. The interlocutor will describe an imaginary situation for you to discuss. To help the discussion along, you will be given some ideas in the form of pictures. With your partner, you discuss the situation and, ideally, come up with the best idea.

Your task is to make and respond to suggestions, to discuss other possibilities and to try to reach an agreement.

- 1 Think about how you should approach this exercise. Then put the steps (A–F) in order (1–6).

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A — Make suggestions. | D — Look at the pictures. |
| B — Listen to the interlocutor. | E — Reach an agreement. |
| C — Respond to ideas. | F — Begin the discussion. |

- 2 There are key phrases you will need to use when you make suggestions and agree or disagree with your partner. Complete the table with the expressions in the list below.

How about ... ? I don't think that would work. I think you're right.
 I'm afraid I don't agree. It's a great idea. Maybe we could ...
 Sorry, I don't see it that way. That's true because ... Well, I disagree because ...
 What if we ... Why don't we ... Yes, I agree with that.

Agreeing	Disagreeing	Making suggestions

- 3 Read these sentences. Cross out the ones that are inappropriate because they aren't polite.

- Oh yes, that's an interesting suggestion.
- That's wrong. We should do it this way instead.
- No. I have a much better plan.
- I understand. Unfortunately, I think it might be difficult to manage.
- I can see the advantages, but there could be some issues.
- It's obvious that would never work. Luckily, I have an excellent idea.

TIP

Whenever you make a suggestion, invite your partner to say what he or she thinks of it.

TIP

It's very important to remain polite during the discussion. Listen carefully to what your partner says, and be respectful when you disagree or make alternative suggestions.

- 4 The interlocutor has given two candidates an imaginary situation to discuss. The situation is that a school has asked students to help raise money for a charity. You and your partner want to hold a charity event, but you don't have much time to organize it. You are given this visual prompt and asked to discuss the ideas. Your task is to discuss the possibilities and, together, decide which would be the best to do and the quickest to arrange. Look at the ideas. Think about the pros and cons (advantages and disadvantages) of each one.

**TIP**

Remember: In the exam, the ideas will be presented in pictures rather than words.

- 5 Read these excerpts from a discussion between two candidates. Circle the word or phrase that is better to use in this part of the exam.
- 1 **Me / Personally**, I like the idea of a sports day. Most people enjoy sports, and it would be fun. **And you? / What do you think?**
 - 2 **Definitely / Maybe** we could arrange a charity car wash instead. **Am I right? / How does that sound to you?**
 - 3 Yes, I **see what you mean. / I know**. You're right. How do you **think / feel** about the idea of a cake sale, then?
 - 4 I'm just not sure we'd make much money selling cakes. **Do you agree? / Yes?**
 - 5 Yes, I do. Good point. **What's going on? / What do you think we should do?**
 - 6 As far as I'm **concern / concerned**, a quiz is the best option.
- 6  **10** Now listen and check your answers. You will hear the complete discussion.

TIPS

- It's OK if you don't discuss every idea in the visual prompts, but try to consider as many as possible.
- Do your best to reach an agreement before the time is up.
- Remember: You can also suggest alternative ideas of your own.
- When you make a point, try to provide a reason for it. Explain why you believe an idea will or won't work.

Preparation • Speaking

Part 4

The final part of the speaking paper lasts for about three minutes.

Part 4 always links to Part 3. You and your partner will now be asked follow-up questions on the same topic as you discussed in Part 3. You may be asked for your opinion on this topic or your own experiences, habits or preferences related to it. Sometimes you will be asked questions individually, but the interlocutor will also address questions to both of you. You are expected to communicate with each other when you are answering.

- 1 The questions in this part of the test are spoken, not written down, so you need to listen carefully and think about what you are being asked. Read these typical follow-up questions related to the topic in Part 3. Choose the objective of each question.
 - 1 Do you think that events for charity are important? (Why?)
 - A habits
 - B likes/dislikes
 - C personal opinion
 - 2 Have you ever taken part in a charity event?
 - A agree/disagree
 - B personal experience
 - C preference
 - 3 Which do you think is better: making the government or the public responsible for charity?
 - A preference
 - B habit
 - C experience
 - 4 Do you enjoy supporting charity events? (Why?)
 - A likes/dislikes
 - B recommendation
 - C agree/disagree
- 2 Underline the words or phrases in the exercise 1 questions that helped you answer.
- 3 Match the statements (1–6) with their functions (A–F).
 - 1 From my point of view, this is a very positive development. _____
 - 2 While online groups can be useful, I would rather meet other members in person. _____
 - 3 I worked on a project like this about a year ago. It was incredibly interesting. _____
 - 4 Yes, I too feel it's true that more people need to get involved. _____
 - 5 I appreciate their efforts, but I really don't enjoy surprises. _____
 - 6 Every day, I bring my own cup to the café, and I generally recycle as much as I can. _____
 - A agree/disagree
 - B habits
 - C personal opinion
 - D likes/dislikes
 - E preference
 - F personal experience

TIP

When one of the candidates has answered a question, the interlocutor may turn to the other candidate and ask: *How about you?* or *What do you think?* or *Do you agree?* Revise the agreeing/disagreeing phrases you practised in Part 3.

- 4 Use the words and phrases in the list below to complete these sample answers.

don't agree experience explain far go along mean point

- 1 From my _____, people are usually willing to help.
 - 2 I think it's a bad idea. Let me _____ what I mean.
 - 3 It's a popular issue. I _____, most people have thought about it.
 - 4 I know it's a worry, but there's still hope. I _____ that it's too late to change it.
 - 5 As _____ as studying is concerned, I definitely don't do enough.
 - 6 I can't _____ with that idea because it won't change anything.
 - 7 The _____ I'm making is that we all have responsibilities.
- 5 Giving clear answers is your first goal, but you should use a range of language. Make these answers more interesting by inserting the adverbs in brackets in the correct place.
- 1 If you ask, everyone will help. (nicely)
 - 2 It's difficult at the beginning. (always)
 - 3 They shouldn't drive so fast. (really)
 - 4 It seems to be an expensive operation. (extremely)
 - 5 It's a product I would buy for my parents. (definitely)
- 6 Read the questions. Which answer do you think is better, A or B?
- 1 Do you think that events for charity are important? (Why?)
 - A Yes, because they help people. Sometimes they're fun. Well, you can't always have fun at charity events, but sometimes you can, and that's OK, I think.
 - B In my opinion they're very important. The reason is that life is difficult for some people in the world, and we all should try and help them if we can.
 - 2 Have you ever taken part in a charity event?
 - A Yes, I took part in one last year. A local charity needed a new van, and a group of us wanted to help. We played table tennis for 24 hours and people gave us money for it.
 - B Yes, I did an event for charity a few weeks ago. My cousin did it with me. He lives in Mexico, but he was visiting me in London. I don't see him often so it was exciting!
 - 3 Which do you think is better: making the government or the public responsible for charity?
 - A The way I see it, charity is entirely the responsibility of the government. And I don't like it when politicians don't do their job, but unfortunately it happens all the time.
 - B As far as I'm concerned, it should be both. It shouldn't stop with politicians because society is better when members of the public help each other.

TIPS

- Don't worry if your opinions are right or wrong. Show that you can participate in a conversation and use a wide range of language to express yourself.
- Don't just answer Yes or No. Explain what you mean and give examples.
- Show interest in what your partner is saying.

Practice Test 1 • Speaking

Parts 3 and 4

Taking up a new sport

Part 3

A young man wants to do more exercise, but he doesn't have a lot of money. He wants to find a sport that he can do to get fit.

Look at the opposite page. Here are some sports that he could take up.

Talk together about the different sports, and say which would be the cheapest to do and the best for keeping fit.

Part 4

Answer and discuss together the following questions:

- What sports have you played?
- Which sports do you play now?
- Did / Do you enjoy these sports?
- Do you think it is important to play sports? Why (not)?

