Exercise 4

Read the IELTS Speaking Part 3 questions and responses. Choose the most appropriate phrases for agreeing and disagreeing to complete the responses.

1. **Examiner:** Should history be a compulsory subject at school?
Student: Absolutely/Definitely not/Well, there are two ways of looking at this . I think that if we are going to understand the world we live in, we have to understand where we came from. For example, there is a lot of conflict in the world at the moment, and history gives us a context, a way to understand how these conflicts started and why it is so difficult to resolve them. I would add that history as a subject shows us the mistakes that mankind has made, and if we are going to learn from these mistakes and not repeat them, then it makes sense to study history all our lives. So yes, I think it should be compulsory.

2. Examiner: Many people would argue though that we need to change the way that history is taught in schools. Do you agree?
Student: Certainly not/Up to a point/Without a doubt . By that I mean, I can understand why some people don't like studying history; all those names and dates can be difficult to remember. Perhaps a different approach, something more interactive or twenty-first-century, can help bring history to life for students who feel this way. But on the other hand, when I learnt history at school, I loved the classes, and I am sure that many other students did, too. I am not sure we should change everything just because some students find it difficult. So, maybe I will change my mind about your first question and say that history shouldn't be a compulsory subject. Maybe it isn't for everyone.

3. **Examiner:** Let's talk about family history. Do you think it is important to know your own family history?
Student: It depends on how you look at it/No, not at all/Yes, I would say so . As I said, I prefer history as a larger subject that explains how the world works. But on the other hand, I guess for some people it's really important, or at least really interesting, to know where they are from and what their family past is. I think that's fine, but personally speaking, it doesn't interest me.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. **Examiner:** Many people are now using online services that test their DNA to find out their cultural origins. Do you think this is a good idea?
Student: Sure/That's not how I see it/To some extent, yes . I know people who have done this, and the test results say that they come from many different countries, places they didn't expect. Perhaps if people realise that their origins are more international than they thought, then it might help reduce racism. The thing is, I am not convinced that these tests are scientifically accurate. I don't really understand how they can accurately come up with all this information about your origins from your DNA. I have looked at the science behind it, and I am not convinced it is valid. But that is just my opinion.

LIVEWORKSHEETS