Speaking skills practice: From Source Analysis to Opinion I

For homework, take a look at another example of the speaking task with a different topic and two different sources. Analyse how the example speech is structured. Pay attention to how the student introduces the issue, compares the two sources, gives their own opinion, supports it with reasons and examples, and finishes the speech.

PAPER X

Task instructions:

You are taking part in an English debate club discussion on learning meaterials.

You should give a 3 to 5-minute talk in which you present your opinion on the issue.
After your talk you will answer three questions and justify your opinion.
Use the two sources provided below to plan your talk.

You have 5 minutes to prepare. You can make notes on the paper.

In your talk you should:

- **formulate the issue raised in the material,**
- **compare the information provided in the material,**
- **state your opinion on the issue,**
- **support your opinion with at least two arguments, including reasons and examples,**
- **come to a conclusion.**

Source 1:

Choosing between textbooks and online learning for secondary school students can be a tough decision to make. There are several advantages and disadvantages to each method. The main reason is that print books offer readers a better experience encouraging active critical thinking and interaction with the material. For example, students can make notes, and do the exercises in the material writing by hand.

adapted from salmanzafar.me

Source 2:

Teachers reported that students have a better chance of remembering the information when they use books. In addition, researchers found that reading on a screen requires more concentration and is less effective than reading on paper. As a result, some students need help focusing on homework when using a computer. Still, a lot of young learners love it when there's a chance to study online during a lesson.

adapted from theguardian.com

1. Read an example speech by a Year 10 student. Complete the gaps in the example speech.
For each gap, choose the option that is both grammatically correct and logically connects the ideas.

Formulate the issue raised in the material (explain the issue; you may also briefly describe the situation today):

The [1]_____ presented in both sources is the choice between printed textbooks and online learning for secondary school students. Nowadays, students use both books and digital [2]_____ in lessons and at home. Both methods can be useful, but they also have some disadvantages.

Compare the information provided in the material (explain the difference between the two sources in your own words; you may also connect the information to real-life examples or situations you know about):

Source 1 focuses on the benefits of printed textbooks. It explains that books can help students think more [3]_____ about what they are reading and work more actively with the material. It also points out that students can write notes, underline [4]_____ information and complete exercises by hand. Because of this, students can understand the material better and remember it for longer.

The second source also presents some advantages of printed books. Teachers say that students may [5]_____ information better when they use books. Another point is that reading on a screen can be more difficult, and some students may find it harder to focus on homework when [6]_____ a computer. However, the source also mentions that many young people enjoy studying online during lessons. So, online learning can be interesting for students, but it may also make it harder to [7]_____ .

State your opinion on the issue and support it with at least two arguments, including reasons and examples (start each argument with a clear main point, explain your opinion, and support it with relevant examples; you may also suggest possible solutions):

In my opinion, both textbooks and online [8]_____ are useful, but I think printed materials are better for serious studying.

Firstly, textbooks [9]_____ help students concentrate better. When students use a computer, there are many [10]_____ distractions, such as messages, videos or other websites. For example, a student may start doing homework online but then [11]_____ social media or watch a video. With a textbook, it may be easier to focus only on the task.

Secondly, I think writing by hand can help students remember information more [12]_____ . When we make notes or complete exercises in a book, we often think more carefully about what we are writing. For example, I usually remember vocabulary better when I write it down myself instead of only reading it on a screen. However, online materials can be useful for videos, interactive [13]_____ and finding information quickly.

Come to a conclusion (summarize the main ideas of your speech in your own words; you may also mention your own experience or role in the issue, or add a future prediction or suggestion):

In conclusion, both printed textbooks and online learning have [14]_____ . I believe textbooks are especially useful when students need to concentrate and remember information, while online learning can make lessons more interesting and enjoyable. I think our lessons should use both [15]_____ , depending on the subject and what we are learning.

3. Now take a look at the final part of the speaking task.
Read the student's answers to the interviewer's questions and match each answer to the correct question.

1. Do you prefer studying from textbooks or online materials? Why?
2. Which school subjects are better for online learning?
3. Should schools use fewer printed textbooks in the future? Why or why not?

_____: *I think subjects like science, geography and languages can work well online. For example, students can watch experiments, use maps or complete interactive vocabulary tasks. This can make lessons more interesting and help students understand the topic better. However, for subjects where we need to read a lot, I would still prefer printed materials.*

_____: *I do not think schools should stop using printed textbooks completely. Books are useful because they help students concentrate and make notes more easily. At the same time, schools should also use more online materials when they are useful for the lesson. In my opinion, the best approach is to use both, depending on the subject and the task.*

_____: *I usually prefer textbooks when I need to study something carefully. It is easier for me to focus, underline important information and make notes. However, I also like online materials because videos and interactive exercises can make difficult topics easier to understand. So, I think both can be useful in different situations.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS