

D. SPEAKING

Exercise 1. Read the information. Then look at the questions in the box. Do they come from IELTS Speaking Part 1 or Part 3? Complete the table with the questions.

In IELTS Speaking Part 1, most of the questions will be on topics you are familiar with and can talk about from personal experience. In Part 3, you will be expected to expand your answers and speak in more general terms.

What is the most important festival in your country?

Do people usually have meals together in your culture?

How important do you think it is for a society to keep its traditions?

Do you think the government should fund museums and art galleries?

Which other foreign language would you like to learn?

Do you think traditions that we have today will survive in the future?

Do you think that we should maintain old buildings and monuments?

Are there any traditions that you especially enjoy?

Part 1

Part 3

Exercise 2. Watch the video of a native English speaker answering four IELTS Speaking Part 3 questions. Put the questions that the speaker answers in the correct order. (▶ Video 8.1)

Can you remember a place that you visited that made a big impression on you?

Is there anywhere you would especially like to visit?

What advice would you give to visitors to other countries?

What do visitors to your country dislike?

Question 1:

Question 2:

Question 3:

Question 4:

Exercise 3. Read the responses to the IELTS Speaking Part 3 question: *Do you think extended families will become more or less common in the future?* Choose the correct examiner comments for the responses.

- 1 No, I think that people will live either separately or in nuclear families in the future.
 - ☐ There are too many mistakes.
 - ☐ The response is off-topic.
 - ☐ The response is too short.
 - ☐ The student needs to use more cohesive devices.
 - ☐ The vocabulary is too basic.
 - ☐ This is a good response.
- 2 I think that fewer people will be living in extended families. More and more young people are moving to different cities or countries. They leave their families behind. They forget about the extended family. The older people don't expect to be looked after.
 - ☐ There are too many mistakes.
 - ☐ The response is off-topic.
 - ☐ The response is too short.
 - ☐ The student needs to use more cohesive devices.
 - ☐ The vocabulary is too basic.
 - ☐ This is a good response.
- 3 I think that people won't live in big families with grandparents and uncles and aunts in the future. They will live with their small family – husband, wife, son and daughter – or they will decide to live alone because people like to be free, they don't like to live with their big family. It will be less common, for sure.
 - ☐ There are too many mistakes.
 - ☐ The response is off-topic.
 - ☐ The response is too short.
 - ☐ The student needs to use more cohesive devices.
 - ☐ The vocabulary is too basic.
 - ☐ This is a good response.

- 4 I am thinking that extended family is critically for the most people, it is good people has grandparents who can look at the children when they are busy and who can rely on younger generation for help in their old age.
- ☐ There are too many mistakes.
 - ☐ The response is off-topic.
 - ☐ The response is too short.
 - ☐ The student needs to use more cohesive devices.
 - ☐ The vocabulary is too basic.
 - ☐ This is a good response.
- 5 For me, the extended family is important. I really like spending time with my grandparents. For instance, I like the fact that I can go to them for support and that they can rely on me for help when they are in need.
- ☐ There are too many mistakes.
 - ☐ The response is off-topic.
 - ☐ The response is too short.
 - ☐ The student needs to use more cohesive devices.
 - ☐ The vocabulary is too basic.
 - ☐ This is a good response.
- 6 In my opinion, at least in my society, the extended family is really important and, if anything, I think that it will become more common in the future. Firstly, our culture hasn't changed as much as perhaps in other countries, so for us at least, the idea of an extended family is still very common, and I can't see people wanting it to change. Secondly, due to the way the economy is, people cannot afford the high prices of accommodation, so they will rely on their parents for longer, and the older generations will expect their support in return.
- ☐ There are too many mistakes.
 - ☐ The response is off-topic.
 - ☐ The response is too short.
 - ☐ The student needs to use more cohesive devices.
 - ☐ The vocabulary is too basic.
 - ☐ This is a good response.

Exercise 4. Read the information. Then read the IELTS Speaking Part 3 questions. Put the sentences in the correct order to complete the responses.

A useful way of answering IELTS Speaking Part 3 questions is to structure your response in the following way:

1. Make a statement.
2. Explain your answer.
3. Support your statement.

1 How should tourists behave when they are in a different country?

I think that people should behave with respect for the local traditions and culture when they are in a different country.

For me, it is really annoying when tourists visit the ballet in my country and are dressed casually. For us, it is important to be dressed smartly, and I think that they should follow these rules like I do when I visit another country.

For example, I think that they should do some research on the place that they are going to and see how they should behave in certain circumstances.

2 Why do so many people enjoy participating in national celebrations?

The reason I believe this is that if you take my country, people are very keen to participate in Independence Day, when there are a lot of concerts, parties and other festivities, but if it is something more sombre like a memorial day, fewer people attend.

In my opinion, taking part in national celebrations helps people feel part of society and allows them to feel proud of the nation, and of course the celebrations are quite often a lot of fun.

That said, I think that the key thing is that people are enjoying themselves, and it doesn't matter to them if it is to celebrate the accomplishments of the nation or something that is personal to them or their families.

3 Do you think that we should maintain old buildings and monuments?

What's more, as well as providing a source of national pride and interest for the public, historic buildings help to attract tourists, who want to visit these attractions and are willing to pay good money to visit them.

I think that it could be argued that the government should be made to pay for the upkeep of old buildings and monuments, as they are part of the country's culture and heritage.

I suppose that it's in everybody's interests for old buildings to be preserved from a historical, cultural and economic perspective, and as the government raises taxes from the public, it should be down to the government to fund these projects.

4 Do you think that the traditions that we have today will survive into the future?

Younger generations have fully embraced the possibilities of moving away from their traditional homes, communicating with people from other countries and participating in a global economy.

I really don't think that traditions will be of any importance to future generations. Most of the old traditions and customs have already been forgotten, and the development of technology means that people are becoming less and less interested in the past.

We can see that improvements in technology have led to people abandoning old working practices, and this gives them fewer ties to the past.

Exercise 5. Read the information. Then complete the responses to IELTS Speaking Part 3 questions with the phrases in the box.

Indefinite pronouns with a defining relative clause (e.g. *anyone who* and *something that*) are a good way of making general statements. They can be useful in IELTS Speaking Part 3.

Differences between cultures are something that

Everyone who

I am someone who

I don't know anybody who

Something that

Somewhere that

- 1 visits another country should be respectful of the local culture.
- 2 firmly believes that the extended family is important and will remain so. That's my view, anyway.
- 3 should be celebrated, and individual cultures should do their best to maintain their traditions.
- 4 still maintains the old traditions of our culture is the northern region of my country.
- 5 would argue that we aren't all responsible for looking after old buildings and monuments.
- 6 surprises me is that the expat community in my city doesn't mix at all with the local people and hasn't bothered to learn our language.

Exercise 6. You are going to practise some IELTS Speaking Part 1 questions.

1. *Can you tell me where you're from?*
2. *Do you live in a city or in the countryside?*
3. *What do you like about living there?*
4. *Would you like to move somewhere else in the future?*
5. *Tell me about the most popular festival in your country?*
6. *What special food and activities are connected with this festival?*
7. *What do you enjoy most about it?*
8. *Are festivals important in your country?*