

Exercise 3

Read the information. Then read the IELTS Speaking Part 1 question and the responses given by four students. Which students do the examiner's comments refer to? Choose the correct answers.

In the IELTS Speaking test, it is important to answer questions accurately and appropriately. Try to extend your answers with relevant ideas and examples. Also, remember to answer the question that you are asked – one of the most common mistakes is to give a response that doesn't answer the question asked by the examiner.

Examiner: What sports or physical activities do you do or play regularly?

Student 1: I don't. I hate sports. And exercise. I prefer social media.

Student 2: Well, to be honest, sport doesn't really interest me. I would say this is partly because I am not a competitive person and partly because I am not very good at sports, especially those that involve running. However, I do like to go walking in the countryside, and I cycle to work every day. So, I would say that these are my main forms of regular exercise.

Student 3: I'm a big fan of football. My team is Manchester United and I try to watch all their games. I also collect their merchandise; I have posters, football kits and videos, and I follow a number of the players on social media. There are often two games per week during the football season, so a lot of my free time is spent watching their games.

Student 4: I think it is very important to do some kind of regular exercise, whether it is sport or something more relaxing, such as yoga. I think as a society, we are becoming more sedentary; that is to say, we spend more and more time sat down in front of computers or television screens. We are already seeing the effects of this, with increasing numbers of people suffering conditions like diabetes and obesity. So, in short, I would say that regular exercise is something we should do.

1. While your answer is personalised, you have not really answered the question. The question was not about the sports that you watch, but those that you actually do. On the positive side, your language is quite good, and you have tried to give an extended answer. Student 1/ Student 2/ Student 3 /Student 4
2. You answer the question honestly, but in such a brief way that you would not score highly in the IELTS Speaking test. Some questions will relate to subjects that you might not be able to talk about extensively, but you should still try to support your responses with reasons and examples. Student 1/ Student 2/ Student 3 /Student 4
3. This is a well-constructed answer with some excellent language and use of discourse markers. The problem is that it is not an answer to the question you were asked. Your answer focuses on people and society in general rather than your own experiences, which means that your approach is more suitable for IELTS Speaking Part 3 than for Part 1. Student 1/ Student 2/ Student 3 /Student 4
4. This is a well-constructed answer and would score well in IELTS Speaking Part 1. Student 1/ Student 2/ Student 3 /Student 4