

# Mastering the combined speaking questions: part II

SPEAKING

EXAM  
PREPARATION

NUMBER  
TE\_02\_S





## Goals

- Learn the combined speaking question
- Become familiar with common campus situations topics
- Practise quickly preparing arguments



# Combined speaking question



## Combined speaking

### Combined speaking question: campus situations

These questions are based on campus situations. They ask you to read a short passage, listen to a talk on the same topic and to then prepare a response to a question based on the text and audio which will be recorded.



## Strategies

1. Note the amount of time you have for each task and stick to it
2. Read through the given passage carefully
3. Take notes of the main ideas
4. Listen to the audio carefully
5. Take notes of the main ideas
6. Listen to the question carefully
7. You will have 30 seconds to prepare your answer and 60 seconds to speak
8. Don't speak too quickly, speak at a normal pace
9. Time yourself when you practice



## Passage

**Read the short passage about a campus-related topic.**

Dining Hall Announcement:

Due to some of the complaints received by the campus dining hall about the vegan meal option, the school has decided to cancel this meal plan. Due to careful consideration, the dining hall management has found that this meal option is not cost-effective. The university, unfortunately, does not have the adequate resources to allocate separate cooking facilities nor ingredients for the vegan meal option. Vegetarian meal options will continue to be served.

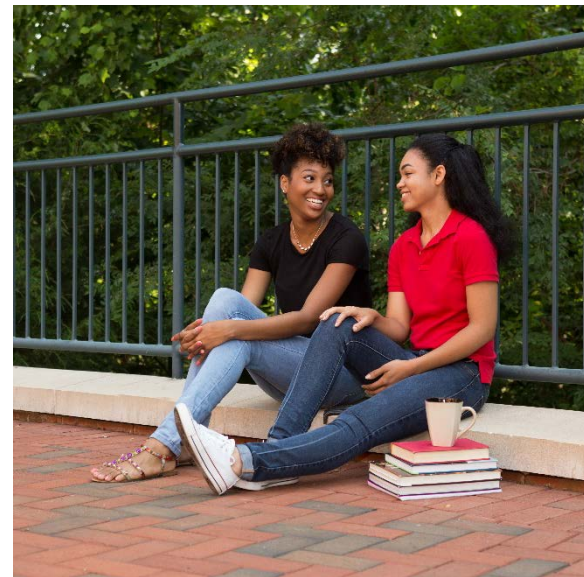
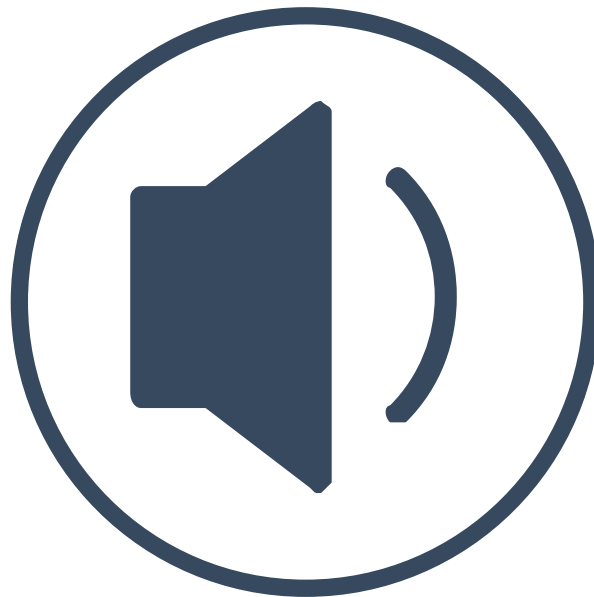
We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Sincerely,  
University Catering Management



## Directions

Now listen to a response to the topic.





## Transcription

**Student 1:** This is unfair.

**Student 2:** What? You mean the scrapping of the vegan option?

**Student 1:** Yes. The university does not give us a choice to cook our own meals as freshmen and we don't have a choice but to sign up for these expensive meal plans. But now that we have, they want to further strip the choices we have by removing the vegan option? It is not cost-effective for me to keep eating here when I don't have that many food options to choose from.





## Question

**State the student's opinion about the cancelation of the vegan meal option and explain the reasons he gives for holding that opinion. You have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak your answer.**



## Directions

**Now listen to this topic about a campus-related topic.**





## Transcription

**Student 1:** Hi Cathy. What are you reading there?

**Student 2:** I am a reading a proposal from the cafeteria management team.

**Student 1:** Is that about the complaint you sent them about the cancelled vegan meal option?

**Student 2:** Yes. So I have a decision to make and I am not sure which one is better. I could either be released from the university's meal plan scheme and buy my own vegan meals from now on but because I live in a tiny shared dorm room, where am I going to cook my meals?

**Student 1:** That is tough. I suppose you would have to live on ready-made meals or easy to make foods such as sandwiches, noodles and fresh fruit and vegetables.

**Student 2:** Yes I could. But I do like having warm meals to such as soup, rice and stir-fry. The other option I have is to stay on the meal plan scheme, which means I can only eat the vegetarian meal options that have minimal chances of containing animal or dairy by-products.

**Student 1:** How would you make sure of that?

**Student 2:** That's just it. I can't.



## Question

**Briefly summarize the problem the speakers are discussing. Then state which solution you would recommend. Explain the reasons for your recommendation. You have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak your answer.**

## to boast

- ☐ The man loved to brag about the amount of money he
- ☐ made. He would **boast** to anyone that would listen about
- ☐ his expensive clothes and cars.

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## copious

- The students had a **copious** amount of homework and
- assignments. Most of them could not cope with the
- workload and dropped out of the class.

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## to detect

- ☐ A shark can **detect** the presence of prey by smelling a drop of blood in the ocean from a quarter of a mile away.
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

## flaw

- ☐ The jeans would have been perfect had it not been for one **flaw**: the zip was broken.
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐



## hierarchy

- The medieval feudal system was based on a **hierarchy**.
- Royal families, followed by other members of the noble
- classes, and the rich were the top members of society. The
- poor and peasants, were at the bottom of that **hierarchy**.

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## jargon

- ☐ The IT specialist was trying to explain to the employees
- ☐ why the internet was not working but he was using so
- ☐ much IT **jargon**, no one understood what he was saying.

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## mediocre

- Unlike her other more electrifying performances, the
- performance given by the singer was so **mediocre** that the
- audience gave a half-hearted applause when he was done.

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## to evade

- ☐ The spokesperson would **evade** the critical questions the
- ☐ media asked him. Instead of answering those questions,
- ☐ he wanted to talk about the company's plans.

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## Match the words to the definitions

a feature that  
mars the per-  
fection of some-  
thing

a system of  
classifying  
people, often  
according to  
social or  
professional  
standing

of moderate or  
low quality

technical  
terminology or  
characteristic  
idiom of a  
special activity  
or group

mediocre

jargon

hierarchy

flaw

detect



## Pick the correct answer

	TRUE	FALSE
1. A copious amount of food is too little.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Industry jargon will be understood by lay people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. A mediocre assignment will get an A+ plus grade.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. A flawless product has no glitches.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. A calculation error can usually be detected by a word-processing computer program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Pick the correct answer

1. An Achilles heel can also be seen as a \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a. flaw**
- b. mediocre**

2. The government was known for it's lack of transparency. It was known for hiding and \_\_\_\_\_ questions from the public.

- a. detecting**
- b. evading**



## Pick the correct answer

3. People from the medical and legal professions use words that are part of their industry \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. hierarchy
- b. jargon

4. No one is perfect. We all have our \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. floors
- b. flaws





## Questions

**Write down two new strategies you have learned in this lesson.  
Do you have any questions?**

A vertical sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing answers.



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