

TOPIC 3: EDUCATION

Speaking Part 1

Frequently-Asked Questions

- ☐ What do you major in?
- ☐ What subject do you study?
- ☐ Why did you choose this subject?
- ☐ What do you find most difficult in your studies?
- ☐ What do you find most interesting in your studies?

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
senior	/ˈsiː.ni.ər/	a student in their final year of high school or university (sinh viên năm cuối)
admission	/ədˈmɪʃ.ən/	permission to study at a school or college (được học tại 1 trường)
competitive	/kəmˈpet.i.tɪv/	trying very hard to be better than others (cạnh tranh)
major in something	/ˈmeɪ.dʒər/	to study something as your main subject at college or university (học chuyên ngành)
overwhelming	/ˌəʊ.vəˈwel.mɪŋ/	very great or very strong (quá nhiều dẫn tới ngợp)

have a knack for something	/næk/	a skill or an ability to do something easily and well (năng khiếu)
interest in something	/'m.trəst/	the feeling of wanting to know more (yêu thích)
personality	/'pɜː.sən'æl.ə.ti/	the type of person you are (tính cách)
patient	/'peɪ.ʃənt/	able to accept difficulties without becoming angry (kiên nhẫn)
skillful	/'skɪfl/	good at doing something (có kỹ năng)
assignment	/ə'saɪn.mənt/	a piece of work given to someone, typically as part of their studies or job (bài tập, nhiệm vụ)
under pressure	/'preʃ.ər/	the act of trying to make someone else do something (chịu áp lực)
predictable	/'prɪ'dɪk.tə.bəl/	acting or happening in a way that is expected (dễ đoán)
sail through sth	/seɪl/	to succeed very easily in something, especially a test (dễ dàng vượt qua)
revision	/'rɪ.vɪʒ.ən/	study of work you have done, in order to prepare for an exam (ôn tập lại)
enjoyable	/'ɪn'dʒɔɪ.ə.bəl/	making you feel happy (thú vị)
air-conditioned	/'eə.kən'dɪʃ.ənd/	cooled, or equipped with a system for cooling (được trang bị hệ thống làm mát)

Useful sentence structure

- ✓ I studied at (school/ college/ university) and majored in (subject/ area).

Ex: I studied at Sydney University and majored in English Language Teaching Methodology.

- ✓ The best thing about being a student was (gerund phrase/ noun).

Ex: The best thing about being a student was having a lot of free time.

- ✓ I'm currently a (freshman/ sophomore/ junior/ senior) at (university/ college)

Ex: I'm currently a sophomore at Hanoi Open University.

- ✓ I guess the aspect I find most enjoyable is (the environment/ well-trained teachers/ facilities...)

Ex: I guess the aspect I find most enjoyable is the environment.

PRACTICE

Q1: Do you work or are you studying?

Suggestions

- ✓ a senior at
- ✓ one of the top universities
- ✓ admission: not quite competitive
- ✓ proud of being a student

Q1: Do you work or are you studying? (Sample)

I'm currently a senior at Hanoi Open University, which is one of the top universities in the nation. Though admission is not quite competitive, I'm still proud of being a student here.

Q2: What are you studying?

Suggestions

- ✓ major in English
- ✓ deal with essays, literatures...

- ✓ overwhelming
- ✓ have a passion for languages

Q2. What are you studying? (Sample)

Well, I'm majoring in English, so as you can guess, I deal a lot with essays or literatures. Sometimes it can be overwhelming, but I think that I have a passion for languages, so it's fine.

Q3: Why did you choose to study that major?

Suggestions

- ✓ developed an interest in English
- ✓ personality → changed positively
- ✓ become more confident

Q3: Why did you choose to study that major? (Sample)

There are many reasons for my choice. I have to say that I have developed an interest in languages, namely English since I was at high school. Another reason could be because of English itself since I've found that my personality has changed positively. I've become more confident, positive and skillful.

Q4: What's the most difficult part of your study?

Suggestions

- ✓ so many assignments → under pressure
- ✓ exams: quite easy → predictable + sail through

Q4: What's the most difficult part of your study? (Sample)

Well, for the most part, I'd say it's the workload. I mean there are so many assignments, and students are always under a lot of pressure to meet deadlines. But on the other hand, exams are quite easy. They are predictable, and I can sail through them with a bit of revision.

Q5: What do you like most about your school?

Suggestions

- ✓ the environment
- ✓ modern facilities
- ✓ friendly and helpful teachers and classmates

Q5: What do you like most about your school? (Sample)

I guess the aspect I find most enjoyable is the environment. The facilities are modern; I mean, all the classrooms are air-conditioned and equipped with projectors. My friends and teachers are all friendly and helpful, so, all in all, it's a great place to study.

Speaking Part 2

Cue card

Talk about a science subject that you enjoyed studying at school.

You should say

What was the subject?

Who were your teachers?

How useful was the subject?

and explain why you enjoyed it?

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
compulsory	/kəm'pʌl.sər.i/	(of something) that must be done (bắt buộc)
vividly	/'vɪv.ɪd.li/	in a way that is very clear, powerful, and detailed in your mind (sống động)
experienced	/ɪk'spiə.ri.ənst/	having skill or knowledge because you have done something many times (đầy kinh nghiệm)

explanation	/ˌek.spləˈnei.fən/	the details or reasons that someone gives to make something clear (giải thích)
a piece of cake		easy to do (dễ dàng)
acquire	/əˈkwaɪər/	to obtain or begin to have something (có được, thu lượm)
useful	/ˈjuː.s.fəl/	helping you to do or obtain something (hữu ích)
unknown	/ʌnˈnəʊn/	not known or familiar (không được biết đến)
realistic	/ˌrɪəˈlɪs.tɪk/	seeming to exist or be happening in fact (thực tế)
application	/ˌæp.lɪˈkeɪ.fən/	a way in which something can be used for a particular purpose (ứng dụng)
practical	/ˈpræk.tɪ.kəl/	suitable for the situation in which something is used (có tính ứng dụng)
enable sb to do sth	/ɪˈnei.bəl/	to make someone able to do something
unlock the mystery/ secret of sth	/ʌnˈlɒk/	to discover important new facts about something (giải mã bí ẩn)
phenomena	/fəˈnɒm.i.nə/	something that exists and can be seen, felt, tasted, etc (hiện tượng)
enhance	/ɪnˈhɑːns/	to improve the quality, amount, or strength of something (cải thiện)

Useful sentence structure

- ✓ The most enjoyable subject I studied at high school is + name of subject.

Ex: The most enjoyable subject I studied at high school is Chemistry.

- ✓ Our + (name of subject) teacher is very experienced in (marketing/ chemistry/ physics/ science..)

Ex: Our Chemistry teacher is very experienced in science.

- ✓ I acquired some good knowledge of something.

Ex: I acquired some good knowledge of programming.

- ✓ What I found most interesting about the subject is + clause

Ex: What I found most interesting about the subject is how easily experiments were conducted.

PRACTICE

Talk about a science subject that you enjoyed studying at school

You should say

What was the subject?

Who were your teachers?

How useful was the subject?

and explain why you enjoyed it?

Sample

Well, one of the most enjoyable science subjects which I love to talk about is definitely Physics. It was a compulsory subject and we had to study at least twice a week. I still vividly remember that our Physics teacher was Mr Quan - an experienced teacher with a fantastic teaching method. Through his clear explanation, everything about Physics was just a piece of cake. I acquired some basic knowledge of Physics.

What I found this subject tremendously useful is that it provides a great number of unknown facts. Actually, at first, I couldn't see any realistic applications in this subject but eventually it turned out to be much more practical. Gradually, I developed a great sense of interest in this subject because it enabled me to understand how the universe works as well as unlocks most of the mysteries of life. It also enhances my logical thinking.

Speaking Part 3

Frequently-asked questions

- ✓ Has education in your country changed in the last 20 years?
- ✓ How do you think it will change in the future?
- ✓ In what ways can education prepare pupils for life after school?
- ✓ What is the importance of extracurricular activities such as sport and music?
- ✓ Why do you think language students are usually grouped according to level?

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
incredibly	/ɪnˈkred.ə.bli/	used for saying that something is very difficult to believe (đáng kinh ngạc)
have access to	/ˈæk.ses/	the right or opportunity to use or look at something (được tiếp cận với)
standard of living	/ˌstæn.dəd əv ˈlɪv.ɪŋ/	the amount of money and comfort people have in a particular society (mức sống)
result in	/rɪˈzʌlt/	to cause a particular situation to happen (dẫn đến cái gì)
emphasis	/ˈem.fə.sɪs/	the particular importance or attention that is given to something (sự nhấn mạnh)
interactive	/ˌɪn.təˈrækt.tɪv/	involving communication between people (tương tác)
equip sb with	/ɪˈkwɪp/	to give someone the skills needed to do a particular thing (trang bị cho ai thứ gì)

background	/'bæk.graʊnd/	your family and your experience of education, living conditions, money (hoàn cảnh, bối cảnh)
unwind	/ʌn'waɪnd/	relax (thư giãn)

PRACTICE

Q1: Has education in your country changed in the last 20 years? (Sample)

Absolutely yes! Education has tremendously improved in recent years. For one thing technology has helped educate more people. Now, people in rural areas, who have historically not had access to the highest quality of education, are able to study online and gain knowledge from people all over the world. Improved standards of living has also resulted in many more students attending schools and universities.

Q2. In what ways can education prepare pupils for life after school? (Sample)

Well, of course the most basic and obvious way is to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills for them to succeed in the workplace. Another way is that it teaches them vital social skills. Schools are great environments for establishing new relationships, where you're required to interact with all kinds of people from different backgrounds.

Q3. What is the importance of extracurricular activities such as sport and music? (Sample)

These kind of extracurricular activities are not only a great way to unwind but also could lead children to discover their hidden talents. A few students even became professional athletes and musicians after school. Moreover, they are the perfect way to make new friends, learn communication skills, and interact with each other in a non-academic environment.

HOMEWORK

Answer the following questions

Q1. Why do you think language students are usually grouped according to level?

Q2. Do you think this is always the best way to group students?

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