

PART 3, SECTION 2: CONVERSATION

The 20-Mark Discussion

THE UNPREPARED CONVERSATION: YOUR GOAL

THIS IS AN UNPREPARED, NATURAL CONVERSATION ABOUT THE PHOTO CARD'S THEME.

Example: If the photos show a family eating, the theme is "People & Lifestyle." The conversation can then be about family, health, or education—not just food.

HOW THE 20 MARKS ARE SPLIT:

15 MARKS: AO1 (COMMUNICATION)

This is about HOW MUCH you say and HOW WELL you develop it.

- Give full, developed answers.
- Convey lots of information and detail.
- Answer opinions with reasons (porque ...).
- **Key:** The less the teacher has to prompt you, the higher your mark!

5 MARKS: AO3 (COMPLEXITY)

This is about WHAT grammar you use and HOW ACCURATE it is.

- Show a variety of tenses (past, present, future).
- Use complex opinions (me gustaría, si pudiera ...).
- Use accurate grammar.
- (This is the same for Foundation and Higher, but the expectation of complexity is higher for Higher Tier).

TOP STRATEGY: OPEN & CLOSED QUESTIONS

TURN CLOSED QUESTIONS INTO OPEN ANSWERS.

The teacher will ask both types:

- **Closed Question:** *¿Te gusta tu ciudad?* (Do you like your town?)
- **Weak Answer:** "Sí, me gusta."
- **Strong Answer:** "Sí, me gusta mucho porque es moderna y hay un cine. El fin de semana pasado, fui a la bolera con mis amigos y vamos a ir al restaurante mañana."

Notice how the strong answer adds a reason (AO1) and two extra tenses (AO3), securing marks for both criteria from one simple question.

