

Exam technique: Coherence

Exam tip: Coherence, together with fluency, makes up a quarter of your mark. Coherence is the logical relationship of parts making up a whole. In other words, the listener should be able to understand if what you are saying begins a new point, adds extra information, offers a contrast with what you have said before or what someone else has said, concludes your point, and so on. In addition, what you say should be clear and logically ordered. A person who speaks coherently has consideration for their listener.

Coherence is especially important in Parts 2 and 3 because you speak for longer.

- 1 **1 Using your dictionary, check the meaning of *keyhole surgery*. Then reorder the sentences a-g.**
 - a So, as you see, it really is a brilliant development.
 - b Then, surgeons can perform very delicate operations in this way.
 - c I believe keyhole surgery is one of the most significant developments in modern medicine.
 - d Last, but not least, recovery time is much quicker due again to the small incisions.
 - e There are numerous advantages.
 - f First of all, the surgeon can operate through tiny incisions so there is less scarring.
 - g It involves introducing a video camera into the body of a patient so the surgeon can watch what he is doing on a TV monitor.

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
- 2 **Underline the language used to introduce each of the three advantages of keyhole surgery. You could also say *Firstly, Secondly, Thirdly/Lastly*.**
- 3 **What phrase is used to introduce the summary? Do you know any other phrases used for doing this?**



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CD1

- 2 **Answer the question you hear, giving three advantages and a summarising statement using the language from Exercise 1.**



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- 3 **This speaker gives two opposing ideas: one positive, the other negative. What phrase does she use to introduce the opposing idea?**



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CD1

- 4 **Answer the question you hear by giving two opposing ideas. Link them using the phrase you have just learnt. What two phrases, involving the word *hand*, could you also use to give two opposing ideas?**

Exam tip: Cohesion, which is also assessed in the exam under 'Fluency and Coherence', can be improved through the use of pronouns.

This allows you to avoid repeating the noun and makes your speaking less repetitive.