

ETS Scoring Criteria

- › Deliver
 - Clear and fluid speech
 - Good pronunciation
 - Natural pace
 - Good intonation
- › Language Use
- › Topic Development
 - How fully you answer
 - How clearly you express your ideas
 - How you connect ideas
- › Your speaking responses are graded holistically (overall impression)



How should you prepare for this section?

- › Be familiar with ALL question types
- › Generate your own list of talking points
- › Create your own template (there is NO standard template)
- › Practice to take good notes
- › Learn to capture key points and summarize
- › Calibrate your own speaking pace



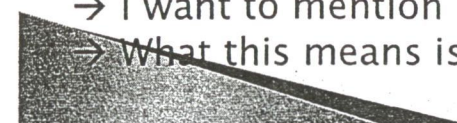
Specific Strategy for Questions 1 and 2

- › Make prompt decision regarding direction of your response
- › Choose reasons/examples from the list of talking points
- › Write down a few words to remind yourself to stay focused
- › Make up a conclusion statement if there is still time remaining (like I said, what's more)



Approach Tips for 1 & 2

- › Don't memorize responses before the test.
- › Memorizes responses will lower your score.
- › They sound different and the content is different.
- › You don't need to organize your response into sections like a written essay.
- › Speak naturally and use common connection words and phrases.
- Because
- So
- On the other hand
- I want to mention
- What this means is



Specific Strategy for Questions 3 and 5

- Respond according to the prompt
- Be consistent every time (follow your own template, do NOT try to be creative)
- Give ALL required information within the time limit (60 seconds)
- In question 5, you are given the latitude to develop your own argument (within the two solutions)
- Read Official Guide pages 180 and 183



Approach Tips for 3 & 5

- Speak at a normal pace
- Time yourself when you practice
- For #5, you need to do more than just summarizing, you need to give opinions. Use most of the time explaining WHY it is the best solution.



Specific Strategy for Questions 4 and 6

- Practice taking good notes (write down as much as you can)
- Structure your response in a logical manner
- Use standard opening line every time
- The critical success factor is LISTENING not speaking



Approach Tips for 4 & 6

- Take notes while listening.
- Write down key words or ideas.
- Review notes as you prepare your response.
- Don't repeat yourself to fill time.
- Say something to clarify, develop or elaborate.
- Practice timing yourself.



Question 1 & 2 Samples

- Ex: Students study in a variety of ways. Explain how your study habits are different from those of other students you know. (01/12/2014)
- Ex: The high school in your hometown plans to offer after-school activities for the students. What kind of activity would you recommend they offer to students? Explain the reasons for your recommendation. (03/02/2014) (01/13/2013)
- Ex: Talk about one thing that visitors to your country need to know in order to have a successful visit. Explain why it is important for visitors to know about this before they arrive. (03/02/2013)
- Ex: Talk about something you have always wanted to do, but not yet had the time to do. Use details and examples in your response. (03/16/2013)

Question 1 & 2 Samples

- Ex: Your friend is going to study abroad in your country. What suggestion would you give him/her? (12/08/2012)
- Ex: Talk about a group, organization, or club that you would like to join. Explain what the group does and why it interests you. Use details and examples in your response. (11/18/2012)
- Ex: Your friend wants to improve his/her scores on studies, what suggestions would you give him/her? (03/10/2012)
- Ex: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
Teacher should require students to participate regularly in class discussions.
Use details and examples to support your opinion. (05/26/2013)

Study related talking points

- 學語言
- 多討論 (讀書會)
- 見教授
- 勤上網
- 有品德/要正面
- ETS prefers ethical / positive answers. Do NOT answer in any negative way (cheating in tests, sleeping in class, describing yourself as lazy or stupid.)

Question 1 & 2 Samples

- Ex: Your town needs volunteers from the community to help with the following community-service projects:
 - Cleaning up the town parks
 - Building a new trail for bicycles in the town
 - Planting new trees and plants in the townWhich project would you choose to help with? Explain why?
- Ex: Which one of the following forms of transportation do you consider to be most enjoyable?
 - Bicycle
 - Automobile
 - TrainExplain why you enjoy it. (02/22/2014)
- Ex: Some people prefer to travel by car. Others prefer to use public transportation systems such as buses and trains. Which do you prefer? Use details and examples to explain your answer. (03/30/2013)