Speaking

Part 3

Discussion Topics

# Cambridge IELTS Academic 09

## Test 1

Q: Do people in your country enjoy going to open your markets that sell things like food or clothes or old objects? Which type of market is more popular? Why?

Q: Do you think markets are more suitable places for selling certain types of things? Which ones? Why do you think this is?

Q: Do you think young people feel the same about shopping at Markets as older people? Why is that?

Q: What do you think are the advantages of buying things from shops rather than markets?

Q: How does advertising influence what people choose to buy? Is this true for everyone?

Q: Do you think that any recent changes in the way people live have affected general shopping habits? Why is this?

## Test 2

Q: Why do you think some people like doing new things?

Q: What problems can people have when they try new activities for the first time?

Q: Do you think it’s best to do new things on your own or with other people? Why?

Q: What kinds of things do children want to do when they are very young? How important are these things?

Q: Do you think children and adults learn to do new things in the same way? How is their learning style different?

Q: Some people say that it is more important to be able to learn new things now than it was in the past. Do you agree or disagree with that? Why?

## Test 3

Q: Why do people need to travel every day?

Q: What problems can people have when they are on their daily journey for example to work or school? Why is this?

Q: Some people said that daily journeys like this will not be so common in the future. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Q: What do you think people don’t want from traveling to other countries? Why?

Q: Can travel make a positive difference to the economy of a country? How?

Q: Do you think a society can benefit if its members have experience of traveling to other countries? In what ways?

## Test 4

Q: What are some of the ways people can help others in the community? Which is most important?

Q: Why do you think some people like to help other people?

Q: Some people say that people help others in the community more now than they did in the past? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Q: What types of service such as libraries or health centers are available to the people who live in your area? Do you think there are enough of them?

Q: Which groups of people generally need more support in a community? Why?

Q: What do you think should pay for the services that are available to the people in the community? Should it be the government or individual people?

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## Test 1

Q: What things are important when people are choosing hotel?

A: When people are choosing a hotel, some important factors to consider include:

1. Location: The proximity of the hotel to the desired destination, such as popular attractions, public transportation, and businesses.
2. Price: The cost of the hotel room and any additional fees, such as parking or resort charges.
3. Amenities: The facilities and services offered by the hotel, such as a pool, gym, or spa.
4. Room quality: The size and amenities of the hotel room, such as the bed, bathroom, and view.
5. Reviews: The opinions of previous guests, which can be found on websites such as TripAdvisor or Yelp.
6. Safety and Cleanliness: Guest safety and health concern due to COVID-19, cleanliness of the hotel.
7. Brand reputation and loyalty program: If the hotel is part of a well-known brand, or if it offers a loyalty program that the guest is a member of.
8. Pet-friendly or not: If the guest is traveling with pets.

Q: Why do some people not like staying in hotels?

A: There are several reasons why some people may not like staying in hotels:

1. Privacy: Some people may not like the idea of staying in a room with strangers coming and going, or they may not like the idea of being in a public space.
2. Noise: Hotels can be noisy, especially if they are located in a busy area or if the walls and floors are thin. This can make it difficult for some people to sleep.
3. Lack of personal space: Some people may not like the feeling of being in a small, confined space, and may prefer to have more room to move around.
4. Cost: Hotels can be expensive, especially if they are located in popular tourist destinations. This can be a deterrent for some people who are on a budget.
5. Limited facilities: Some people may not like the limited facilities offered by hotels, such as no kitchen or limited laundry facilities.
6. Cleanliness and hygiene concerns: Some people may not trust the level of cleanliness and hygiene of hotels, especially in the current pandemic scenario.
7. No personal touch: Some people may prefer staying in a place that feels more personal, such as a rental property or a friend's house.
8. Pets not allowed: Some people may not like the fact that their pets are not allowed in the hotels.

Q: Do you think staying in a luxury hotel is a waste of money?

A: Whether or not staying in a luxury hotel is a waste of money depends on the individual's personal preferences and priorities.

For some people, the added amenities and services offered by luxury hotels, such as a higher level of service, comfortable furnishings, and high-end amenities, are worth the additional cost. They may also appreciate the exclusivity and prestige that comes with staying in a luxury hotel.

However, for others, the added cost of a luxury hotel may not be worth it. They may prefer to spend their money on other aspects of their trip, such as activities or dining. Some people may also be more comfortable in budget-friendly hotels or home-sharing options.

It ultimately depends on the individual's preferences and priorities, and whether they feel the additional cost is worth it for the added amenities and services offered by a luxury hotel.

Q: Do you think hotel work is a good career for life?

A: Working in the hotel industry can be a rewarding career, but it may not be a good career for life for everyone.

Working in hotels can provide an opportunity for growth and advancement, as well as the chance to work in a dynamic and fast-paced environment. It can also offer a diverse range of roles and responsibilities, from front-line positions such as customer service and housekeeping, to managerial and administrative roles. Additionally, the hospitality industry is a global industry, so there are opportunities to work in different locations and cultures.

However, working in hotels can also be physically demanding and require long hours, including nights, weekends and holidays, which may not be suitable for everyone. Furthermore, the work can be stressful, especially during peak seasons and the current pandemic scenario.

Ultimately, whether or not a career in the hotel industry is a good fit for someone depends on their individual preferences and priorities. It is important to research and consider the pros and cons before making a decision.

Q: How does working in a big hotel compare with working in a small hotel?

A: Working in a big hotel can be different from working in a small hotel in several ways:

1. Variety of roles: Big hotels tend to have a wider range of roles and responsibilities available, as they have more departments and a larger staff. This can provide more opportunities for growth and advancement for employees.
2. Busier and fast-paced environment: Big hotels tend to have a higher volume of guests and more activity, which can make the work environment busier and more fast-paced.
3. More resources and support: Big hotels often have more resources and support for employees, such as training programs and specialized equipment.
4. More corporate environment: Big hotels tend to have a more corporate culture and structure, with more emphasis on policies and procedures.
5. Variety of guests: Big hotels tend to have a more diverse range of guests, including both leisure and business travelers.

Working in a small hotel can be different from working in a big hotel in several ways:

1. Closer-knit staff: Small hotels tend to have a smaller staff, which can create a closer-knit, family-like atmosphere among employees.
2. Less formal environment: Small hotels tend to have a less formal culture, with more flexibility and autonomy for employees.
3. More hands-on experience: Small hotels tend to have fewer staff, which can mean that employees are required to take on a wider range of roles and responsibilities, providing more hands-on experience.
4. More personalized customer service: Small hotels tend to have a more personalized approach to customer service, as the staff get to know the guests better.
5. Less standardized: Small hotels tend to have less standardized policies, procedures, and equipment, which can mean more flexibility in the way the work is done.

Ultimately, whether working in a big or small hotel is better depends on the individual's preferences, priorities and the type of work they are looking for.

Q: What skills are needed to be a successful hotel manager?

A: To be a successful hotel manager, several skills are necessary:

1. Leadership: A hotel manager must be able to effectively lead and manage a team, including hiring, training, and motivating staff.
2. Communication: A hotel manager must have strong verbal and written communication skills, in order to interact with guests, staff, and other stakeholders.
3. Organizational skills: A hotel manager must be able to manage multiple tasks and projects at once, and be able to prioritize and delegate effectively.
4. Problem-solving: A hotel manager must be able to think critically and make effective decisions in order to resolve any issues that may arise.
5. Financial skills: A hotel manager must have a good understanding of budgeting, accounting, and financial management.
6. Guest service: A hotel manager must be able to provide excellent guest service and be able to handle customer complaints and concerns in a professional manner.
7. Flexibility: A hotel manager must be able to adapt to changing situations and be willing to work in a fast-paced and dynamic environment.
8. Knowledge of the industry: A hotel manager should have a good understanding of the hotel industry, including trends, best practices, and regulations.
9. Sales and Marketing: A hotel manager must be able to understand customer needs and be able to design and implement sales and marketing strategies to increase revenue and occupancy.
10. Technical skills: A hotel manager must be proficient in the use of technology, such as property management systems, front office systems, and revenue management systems.
11. Knowledge of health and safety: A hotel manager must have knowledge of health and safety regulations and protocols, especially in the current scenario of pandemics.

## Test 2

Q: What kinds of things do people in your country often buy from online shops?

A: Bangladesh is one of the fast-growing e-commerce markets in South Asia and as such, people in Bangladesh often buy a variety of things from online shops, including:

1. Clothing and Accessories: Online shops offer a wide range of clothing and accessories, from everyday wear to formal wear and designer labels.
2. Electronics: Online shops offer a wide range of electronics, such as smartphones, laptops, tablets, and home appliances.
3. Books and Digital Media: Online shops offer a wide range of books, movies, and music, both physical and digital formats.
4. Food and Groceries: Online shops offer a wide range of food and grocery items, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and processed food items.
5. Home goods and Furniture: Online shops offer a wide range of home goods and furniture, including decor, kitchenware, and home appliances.
6. Personal care products: Online shops offer a wide range of personal care products, including skincare, haircare, and makeup.
7. Services: Online shops also offer various services such as online bill payments, mobile recharge, and ticket booking.
8. Online Marketplaces: There are various online marketplaces such as Daraz, Ajkerdeal, Grameenphone, and others which are becoming increasingly popular among the people in Bangladesh.
9. It's worth noting that e-commerce is still a relatively new concept in Bangladesh, and the market is still growing, so the list is not exhaustive, and new products and services are appearing in the market frequently.

Q: Why do you think online shopping has become so popular nowadays?

A: Online shopping has become popular for several reasons:

1. Convenience: Online shopping allows people to purchase goods and services from the comfort of their own homes, without having to go to physical stores. This can save time and effort, especially for people who have busy schedules or live in remote areas.
2. Variety: Online shops often offer a wider range of products and services than physical stores, which can make it easier for people to find what they are looking for.
3. Competitive prices: Online shops often have lower overhead costs than physical stores, which can allow them to offer competitive prices. Additionally, online shoppers can easily compare prices from different sellers to find the best deals.
4. Comparison shopping: Online shopping allows people to easily compare prices and features of different products and services, which can help them make more informed purchasing decisions.
5. Personalization: Online shopping allows people to personalize their experience by saving their preferences, browsing history, and shopping cart information.
6. 24/7 availability: Online shops are open 24/7, which allows people to shop at any time that is convenient for them.
7. Global reach: Online shopping allows people to purchase products and services from all over the world, which can be especially beneficial for people who live in remote areas or countries with limited product availability.
8. Online marketplaces: The rise of online marketplaces such as Amazon, Alibaba, and others has made it easier for people to find a wide range of products and services from different sellers, all in one place.
9. Mobile Shopping: Mobile devices have made it easy for people to shop online from anywhere, at any time.
10. COVID-19 pandemic: The pandemic has accelerated the shift towards e-commerce as people are looking for safer ways to purchase goods and services, and many brick-and-mortar shops are closed.

Q: What are some possible disadvantages of buying things from online shops?

A: While online shopping has many advantages, there are also some potential disadvantages to consider:

1. Shipping costs: Online shoppers may be required to pay for shipping and handling, which can add to the overall cost of the purchase.
2. Longer delivery times: Online shoppers may have to wait longer for their products to be delivered, especially for items that are being shipped from overseas.
3. Quality of the product: Online shoppers may not be able to inspect the products before purchasing, which can make it difficult to determine the quality of the item. This is particularly true for items such as clothing and furniture.
4. Returns and exchanges: Online shoppers may have to pay return shipping costs if they need to return or exchange an item. Additionally, some online shops have strict return policies, which can make it difficult to return or exchange an item.
5. Limited customer service: Online shoppers may have limited access to customer service, which can make it difficult to get assistance if they have a problem with their purchase.
6. Security: Online shoppers may be at risk of credit card fraud or identity theft if they make purchases on unsecured websites or if they provide personal information to an untrusted source.
7. Product authenticity: Online shoppers may be at risk of buying counterfeit or fake products if they purchase from untrusted sources.
8. Lack of instant gratification: Online shoppers may have to wait for the item to be delivered, which can be difficult for people who want the item right away.
9. Dependence on technology and internet: Some people may not have access to technology or internet, or may not be comfortable buying online, making it difficult for them to buy from online shops.
10. Dependence on shipping companies: Some people may not have access to reliable shipping companies, making it difficult for them to receive their purchased items.

It's worth noting that while there are potential disadvantages to buying things from online shops, many of these issues can be mitigated by doing research, reading reviews, and only buying from reputable sources.

Q: Why do many people today keep buying things which they do not need?

A: There are several reasons why many people today keep buying things which they do not need:

1. Consumerism: The culture of consumerism has led many people to believe that buying more things will make them happier and more fulfilled, even if they do not need them.
2. Advertising: Advertisements and marketing tactics are often designed to create a sense of desire or need for a product, which can influence people to buy things they do not need.
3. Social media: Social media platforms have made it easy for people to see what others are buying and owning, which can create a sense of FOMO (fear of missing out) and pressure to keep up with others.
4. Convenience and ease of online shopping: Online shopping has made it easier for people to buy things, and the ability to buy with a few clicks, can lead to impulse buying.
5. Stress and emotional regulation: Some people may use shopping as a way to cope with stress or other negative emotions, even if they do not need the items they are buying.
6. Psychological factors: Some people may have a tendency to hoard or collect items, which can lead them to buy things they do not need.
7. Lack of self-awareness and self-control: Some people may not be aware of their own buying habits, or may have difficulty controlling their impulses to buy things, which can lead them to buy things they do not need.
8. Economic factors: People with higher income and disposable income may be more inclined to buy things they do not need.

It's worth noting that buying things that one does not need can lead to financial and environmental problems, and it's important for people to be aware of their own buying habits and to make conscious, responsible choices when it comes to their purchases.

Q: Do you believe the benefits of a consumer society outweigh the disadvantages?

A: Whether or not the benefits of a consumer society outweigh the disadvantages is a matter of perspective and can be debated.

On one hand, a consumer society can provide economic benefits, such as increased production and consumption, which can lead to job creation and economic growth. Additionally, a consumer society can provide people with access to a wide variety of goods and services, which can improve the quality of life.

On the other hand, a consumer society can also lead to negative consequences. Some of these include:

1. Environmental impact: Increased production and consumption can lead to a greater use of natural resources and increased pollution, which can harm the environment.
2. Social impact: A consumer society can create a culture of materialism, which can lead to a lack of fulfillment and dissatisfaction, and can also contribute to social inequality.
3. Economic impact: A consumer society can lead to increased debt and financial instability for individuals and for the economy as a whole.
4. Psychological impact: A consumer society can lead to negative psychological effects, such as anxiety, depression, and addiction.
5. Impact on physical and mental health: A consumer society can lead to an unhealthy lifestyle and an increase in chronic diseases.

Ultimately, whether or not the benefits of a consumer society outweigh the disadvantages depends on the specific context and how the society manages and balances these different factors. It's important to consider both the positive and negative impacts of consumerism and to strive for a more sustainable and equitable society.

Q: How possible is it to avoid the culture of consumerism?

A: Avoiding the culture of consumerism can be challenging, as it is deeply ingrained in many societies and is often reinforced by marketing and advertising. However, there are several ways to reduce the impact of consumerism on an individual level:

1. Questioning needs vs wants: Before buying something, it's important to question if it is a need or a want. If it's a want, people can ask themselves if they really need it or if it's just an impulse buy.
2. Mindful consumption: Being mindful of the impact of consumption on the environment, society, and personal well-being can lead to more responsible consumption habits.
3. Buying less and buying used: Instead of buying new items, people can look for second-hand items, which can be more sustainable and less wasteful.
4. Avoiding impulse buying: Impulse buying can be reduced by making a list of things to buy, and sticking to it, instead of buying things on a whim.
5. Being aware of marketing tactics: Being aware of marketing tactics and understanding how they are designed to influence buying decisions can help people make more informed purchasing decisions.
6. Prioritizing experiences: Instead of buying things, people can prioritize experiences such as traveling, learning, or spending time with loved ones.
7. Supporting local and ethical businesses: Supporting local and ethical

## Test 3

Q: What kinds of people are most famous in your country today?

Q: Why are there so many stories about famous people in the news?

Q: Do you agree or disagree that many young people today want to be famous?

Q: Do you think it is easy for famous people to earn a lot of money?

Q: Why might famous people enjoy having fans?

Q: In what ways could famous people use influence to do good things in the world?

## Test 4

Q: How interested are most people in your country in science?

Q: Why do you think children today might be better at science than their parents?

Q: How do you suggest the public can learn more about scientific developments?

Q: What do you think are the most important scientific discoveries in the last 100 years?

Q: Wo you agree or disagree that there are no more major scientific discoveries left to make?

Q: Who should you pay for scientific research - governments or private companies?

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