

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

In Part 1 (and also Part 3) of the IELTS Speaking test, the examiner will ask you questions on familiar topics, such as home life, family, work, studies, travel, culture and interests. This list includes nearly 500 sample questions. You can record yourself and listen to your answers, or you can practise the questions with a speaking partner.

TOPIC: WORK

Do you work or are you a student?
What work do you do?
What do you do in your work?
What are your responsibilities?
Can you describe a typical working day?
How many hours do you work each day?
How long have you been doing this work?
Why did you choose to do the type of work that you do?
What was your first day of work like?
Do you enjoy your job?
What do you dislike about your job?
Do you work better in the mornings or the evenings?
Is this a popular job in your country?
Do you plan to continue doing this work in the future?
Do you prefer to work in a quiet environment or a place where there is some noise?
Is there some other work you would prefer to do?
If you could change your job or profession, what would you do?
What is your ideal job?
Has your work changed in recent years?
In the future, what changes do you think will take place in your industry?

TOPIC: STUDIES

What are you studying?
Are you good at the subject you are studying?
Is it interesting?
Why did you choose the subject you are studying?
Was it an easy choice?
How do you feel about your studies?
How long have you been studying?
What do you dislike about the subject you are studying?
Do you prefer to study in the mornings or evenings?
What was your first day at university like?
What do you hope to do after you graduate?

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Do you prefer studying or working?
What are your future study plans?
Why are you taking the IELTS test?

TOPIC: SCHOOL

What is your secondary school like?
What is your favourite subject at school?
Which subjects do you dislike?
Did you like your first day at secondary school?
Do you have a favourite teacher?
Do you have any recreational activities at your school?
What is the best thing about your school?
What do you dislike about your school?

TOPIC: HOMETOWN

Where do you come from?
Whereabouts did you grow up?
Where is your hometown?
What kind of place is it?
Are you from a city or the countryside?
Do you still visit your hometown?
Does your family still live there?
What do people do in your hometown in their free time?
Do you know much about the history of your hometown?
What's the weather like in your hometown?
Why did you move?
What's your favourite part of your hometown?
What do you like about your hometown?
What do you dislike about your hometown?
Is it a good place to live?
Is it a good place for children to grow up?
Do many people visit your hometown?
How could your hometown attract more visitors?
Are there any tourist attractions in your hometown?
Which place do you prefer, the city where you are working/studying now or your hometown?
How do you visit your hometown?
What's the transport system like in your hometown?
Has your hometown changed much in recent years?
How do you think your hometown could be improved in the future?

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TOPIC: CURRENT PLACE OF LIVING

Where are you living at the moment?
What do you like about the place where you are living?
What do you dislike about it?
Why did you choose to live in the place where you are living?
How does your current place of living compare to your hometown?
How long do you plan to stay there?
How could it be improved?
Is it a good place for families to live?
Would you like to change the place where you live?
Where else would you like to live?

TOPIC: HOME

Do you live in a house or a flat?
How long have you lived there?
Who do you live with?
Can you describe your home?
What do you like about it?
What are the advantages of living in a house/flat?
What's your favourite room in your home?
Is there anything about your home that you would like to improve?
Do you know your neighbours?
Do you get on well with your neighbours?
Has your home changed in recent years?

TOPIC: TRANSPORT

How did you come here today?
What's the public transport system like in your hometown?
What's the traffic like in your hometown?
Has the transport situation in your hometown changed in recent years?
Do you think transport will change in your hometown in the future?
How do you think it could be improved?
Do you often use public transportation?
What kind of transport do you usually use?
What are the advantages of using that form of transport?
What's your favourite form of transport?
What forms of transport are most common in your country?
Do you think people should use public transport more?
Is train travel very common in your country?
Do you often travel by train?
Do you enjoy travelling by train?
What do you usually do when you are travelling by train?

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TOPIC: TRAVEL

Do you like to travel?
Which places have you visited?
What kind of places do you travel to?
Which place would you really like to visit?
How often do you travel?
What was the last place you travelled to?
Why do you travel?
Do you like long trips?
Do you prefer to travel alone or with friends/family?
What form of transport do you prefer to use when you travel?
What's the most interesting place you have been to?
Which places in your country would you recommend for visitors?
What do you think are the benefits of travel?
What kind of place would you like to travel to in the future?

TOPIC: HOLIDAYS

What do you usually do on your holidays?
Which places do you usually visit on your holidays?
Who do you usually spend your holidays with?
Where do you like to spend your holidays?
How important are holidays to you?
What did you do on your last holiday?
Do you think holidays are important?
If you could take a holiday anywhere in the world, where would you go?
What do people in your country usually do on their holidays?
What do you dislike doing on holiday?
Has the type of holidays you enjoy changed in the past 10 years?

TOPIC: FREE TIME

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
What do you do to relax?
Why do you like doing this activity?
What did you do to relax when you were younger?
How much free time do you have?
Do you have any hobbies or interests?
Do you have enough time for your hobbies or interests?
What would you do if you had more free time?
Do you ever spend your free time with your colleagues/classmates?
Do you prefer to spend your free time alone or with other people?
Is there a sport or hobby you would like to try?
How do people in your country spend their free time?

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Do you think it's important to have free time?
Do you think it's easy for people to relax nowadays?
What can people do to find more time to relax?
Do you think sport/exercise is a good way to relax?
How has the way people spend their free time changed in recent years?

TOPIC: FOOD

What kind of food do you like to eat?
Is there any food you dislike?
What do you usually eat for lunch?
What do you usually eat for breakfast?
What did you like to eat as a child?
Do you have a favourite food?
Do you ever eat 'junk food'?
Do you always eat the same food everyday?
What kind of food do people eat in your country?
Do you prefer to eat out or eat at home?
Do you prefer to eat alone or with other people?
Do you think it's important for people to eat with their families?
What do you think are the benefits of eating at home?
Have your eating habits changed in recent years?
Have people's eating habits changed in your country since you were a child?
Do you know how to cook?
When do you usually eat?
Do you like cooking?
Are you good at cooking?
How did you learn to cook?
When did you learn how to cook?
Do you think you will learn to cook in the future?
What was the last meal you cooked?

TOPIC: DAILY ROUTINE

Do you do the same things every day?
Can you describe your daily routine?
Has your routine changed much in recent years?
What does your typical day look like?
What do you do after you get up?
Which part of the day are you most efficient?
If you could change something in your daily routine, what would it be?
Do you like to plan your daily routine?
What do you usually do at this time of the day?
Do you get together with your work colleagues after work?
Do you get together with your fellow students after classes?

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TOPIC: FAMILY

Do you have a large or small family?
How many people are there in your family?
Do you all live in the same house?
What do you like doing together?
Do you get along with all your family?
How much time do you spend with your family?
Who is your favourite family member?
Is family very important to you?
Do you think family is more important than friends?
In what situations are friends more important than family?
If you were married, how many children would you choose to have?
Has your family life changed in recent years?

TOPIC: FRIENDS

Do you have many close friends?
Do you have a best friend?
Do you have any friends who you work with?
Is it important to have friends?
What kind of people do you like to have as friends?
How often do you meet your friends?
What do you like doing with your friends?
How do you keep in contact with your friends?
If you had more free time, would you spend it with your friends?
Do you like meeting new people?
Do you like talking to strangers?
Do you think you can make friends on the Internet?
Have you made any new friends recently?
Can you remember your first best friend?
What do your friends think of you?

TOPIC: CLOTHES

What kind of clothes do you like to wear?
Are clothes important to you?
Do you prefer casual clothes or formal clothes?
When do you wear formal clothes?
What kind of clothes do you dislike?
Do you think you'll be wearing the same kind of clothes when you are older?
Do your friends wear the same kind of clothes as you?
What kind of clothes do people in your country like to wear?
Are clothes expensive in your country?
Are young people in your country interested in fashion?

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Has your taste in clothes changed in recent years?

Do you have a dress code at work?

Do you think the clothes a person wears leaves an impression on others?

TOPIC: TELEVISION

Do you like watching television?

How much time do you spend watching television?

Do you have a favourite TV programme?

Do you prefer to read a newspaper or watch TV?

Do you prefer to watch TV or listen to the radio?

What type of programmes do you enjoy watching?

What type of programmes did you watch as a child?

Have your television watching habits changed much in recent years?

Do you watch foreign TV programmes?

Do people in your country have the opportunity to watch English language TV programmes?

Do you think people can improve their English by watching English language TV programmes?

How much TV would you like your children to watch?

What are the most popular television shows in your country?

Why do you think they are popular?

What are some of the benefits of watching television?

What are some of the drawbacks of watching television?

How do you think TV broadcasts in your country could be improved?

TOPIC: WEATHER

What's the weather like in your country?

What's the weather like today?

Is the weather in your country generally good or bad?

Does the weather affect your mood?

What's your favourite season of the year?

What do you like to do when it's hot?

What do you usually do in the winter?

How many seasons does your country have?

Have there been any weather changes in your country in recent years?

Do you often talk about the weather?

What sort of climate do you prefer?

What kind of weather do you dislike?

Is the weather in your country the same everywhere?

Do you like extreme climate?

Do you often check the weather forecast?

How does bad weather affect your mood?

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TOPIC: SPORT

Do you like sport?
What sports do you like?
Do you do any sports?
Do children in your country do much sport?
Do you think children should be encouraged to do more exercise?
Do you think physical activity is important?
How often do you play sports?
Do you like to do exercise every day?
Which sports are most popular in your country?
What are the benefits of doing sports?
Do you prefer team sports or individual sports?
What's your favourite sport?
What equipment do you need for your favourite sport?
Do you have a favourite sports team?
Is there any sport you would like to do in the future?

TOPIC: SHOPPING

Do you enjoy shopping?
What do you usually buy when you go shopping?
How often do you go shopping?
What do you dislike about shopping?
Who does the shopping in your home?
Do you prefer shopping alone or with other people?
Do you like shopping on the Internet?
What are the advantages of shopping online?
What are the disadvantages of shopping online?
How can you judge the quality of a product that is sold online?
Do you have a favourite shop?
Do you like street markets?
Are street markets very common in your country?
Do you prefer to shop at a street market or a normal shop?
When was the last time you went shopping?
Do you like to go window-shopping?
Have shopping habits changed in your country in recent years?
Are there many shops near your home?
Do you prefer shopping in small shops or in large shopping centres (malls)?
What are some differences between men and women shopping?
Do people in your country spend a lot of money on shopping?

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TOPIC: THE INTERNET

How often do you use the internet?
What do you use the internet for?
Have you ever bought anything online?
Do you often shop online?
Do you think the internet is a good thing?
What are the bad points about the internet?
Is the internet very popular in your country?
What do you usually do on the internet?
How did you learn to use the internet?
How has the internet had an impact on people's lives?
How can people learn things on the internet?

TOPIC: COMPUTERS

Do you use a computer very often?
What do you use computers for?
When did you start using computers?
Do you think computers help society?
What are the drawbacks of using computers?
Have computers improved our lives?
How important are computers in every day life?
Do you think computers are good or bad for children?
Do you play computer games?

TOPIC: FILMS/MOVIES

Do you like watching films?
What's your favourite film?
Do you have a favourite actor?
How often do you go to the cinema?
How often do you watch a film?
How much time do you spend watching films?
Do you prefer to watch films alone or with other people?
Do you prefer to watch films in a cinema or at home?
Are there any types of films that you dislike?
Do you watch foreign films?
Has your taste in films changed since you were younger?

TOPIC: MUSIC

Do you often listen to music?
What kind of music do you like?
What kinds of music did you listen to when you were younger?
What kinds of music are popular in your country?

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Is music important to you?
Have you ever been to a concert?
Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument?
Do you or your friends play any musical instruments?
If you could play a musical instrument, which instrument would you choose to learn?
Do you think parents should encourage their children to learn a musical instrument?
How do you feel when you listen to music?
Why do older people dislike pop music?
What are the differences in the tastes of music of young people and older people?
Has your taste in music changed since you were younger?

TOPIC: THE NEWS

Do you often follow the news?
How important is the news for you?
Do you think it's important to keep up with the latest news?
Which is more important for you, domestic news or international news?
What news topics are you most interested in?
Do you prefer to get your news from TV or the internet?
Do you often read newspapers?

TOPIC: DRIVING

Do you drive a car?
Do you have a driving license?
Was it easy to get your driving license?
What do you think is the minimum age for a young person to get a driving license?
Do you think it's necessary to learn how to drive?
Is it necessary to drive a car in your hometown?
Do you prefer to travel by car or use public transport?

TOPIC: LANGUAGES

What languages do you speak?
Which language do you use the most?
How long have you been studying English?
Do you think that English is difficult to learn?
What do you think is the most difficult aspect of learning English?
What do you think is the most difficult part about learning foreign languages?
What do you think is the most effective way to learn a foreign language?
How would you compare learning English to learning other languages?
Do you think it's important to know more than one language?
Is there any other language you would like to learn?
What is the value of knowing a foreign language?

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TOPIC: PUNCTUALITY

Do you wear a watch?
Is it important to be on time in your country?
Do you think it's important to be on time?
Are you ever late for meetings?
What would you do if you were late for an important meeting?
How do you feel when other people are late?
Do you feel that time moves fast or slowly?

TOPIC: ANIMALS

Do you like animals?
What's your favourite animal?
Do you have a pet?
What kind of pets do people have in your country?
What was your favourite animal when you were a child?
What wild animals are common in your country?
If you were a parent, would you let your children raise a pet?

TOPIC: CELEBRATING

What's the most important festival in your country?
How do people celebrate this festival?
What special food do people eat at this festival?
Do you think festivals are important?
When did you last celebrate a special event?
Do you like parties?
Are there any parties that you dislike?
How do people in your country celebrate birthdays?
Do you think it's important to celebrate your birthday?
Do you like to dance?
Do young people like dancing in your country?
When was the last time you danced?

TOPIC: MUSEUMS

Do you like visiting museums?
Are there any museums in your hometown?
What have you learned from visiting museums?
What can people learn from visiting museums?

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TOPIC: GIFTS

Do you like giving gifts to people?
Do you like receiving gifts?
What gifts did you receive in your childhood?
When do people give each other gifts in your country?
Do you like flowers?
When do people give each other flowers in your country?

TOPIC: HEALTH

What do you do to stay healthy?
Is it easy to keep fit where you live?
What is more important, eating healthily or doing exercise?
Do you have a good public health system in your country?

TOPIC: ART

Do you like art?
What is your favourite kind of art?
Have you ever bought a painting?
Do you have a favourite artist?
What are the benefits of art?
Have you been to an art gallery?
Were you good at art at school?

TOPIC: READING

Do you enjoy reading?
What sort of things do you read?
Do you have a favourite book?
Is there anything you dislike reading?
Why do people sometimes dislike reading?
Do you think reading is important?
Do you prefer to read or go to the cinema?

TOPIC: HOUSEWORK

Do you like to do housework?
How often do you do housework?
What housework do you dislike the most?
Who usually does the housework in your home?
Do you think children should lend a hand around the home?

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TOPIC: ADVERTISING

Is there a lot of advertising in your country?
Do you like advertisements?
Do you think there is too much advertising?
Do advertisements influence your choice about what to buy?
Do you like TV commercials?
What do you think is the purpose of advertising?
What are the various places where we see advertisements?
How do you feel about advertisements?
Has advertising changed in recent years?

TOPIC: EMAILS AND LETTERS

How often do you write emails?
What do you usually write emails about?
Who do you send emails to?
Do you ever write letters?
On what occasions do you write letters?
What kind of emails/letters are you pleased to receive?
How important are emails in your life?
How do you usually keep in touch with your friends and relatives?
How do you prefer to contact people, by email or by phone?
How do you prefer to communicate with people at work, by email or by phone?
How do you feel about spam emails?

TOPIC: MOBILES/CELLPHONES

What do you use your mobile/cellphone for?
How often do you use your mobile/cellphone?
When did you get your first mobile/cellphone?
How did you feel when you got your first mobile/cellphone?
How do you think mobiles/cellphones will develop in the future?
How important is your mobile/cellphone in your daily life?
What are the disadvantages of mobiles/cellphones?

TOPIC: PHOTOGRAPHS

Do you like to take photographs?
How often do you take photos?
In what situations do you take photos?
What device do you normally use to take photos?
What do you take photos of?
What do you do with your photos after you have taken them?
Do you usually share your photos with other people on the internet?
Is taking photos a popular activity in your country?

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TOPIC: GAMES

Do you often play games?

What games are popular in your country?

Do you think it's important for people to play games?

TOPIC: COLOURS

Do you have a favourite colour?

Are there any colours that have a special meaning in your country?

Are there any colours that you dislike?

What colours do you prefer to wear?

If you had to repaint the walls of your home, which colour would you choose?

TOPIC: COLLECTING

Did you collect anything when you were a child?

Do you collect anything?

Do people in your country like collecting things?

What are some things that people in your country like collecting?

Why do you think people like collecting things?

Is there anything you have always wanted to collect?

Would you like to collect something if you had a lot of money?