The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS

Speaking

학습목표

- **In this unit you will practise :**

  - talking about abstract topics
  - agreeing and disagreeing
  - giving your personal opinion
  - improving your Lexical Resource score

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1. **Talking about abstract topics**

   In Part 1 and 2 of the Speaking test, the topics and questions are familiar and personal. In Part 3, the topics and questions are more general and more abstract. The questions gradually become more difficult.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.1 Listen to how the examiner introduces Part 3. Complete the paragraph below. You may need to watch more than once.

We've been talking about **1**_____ , and I'd like to **2**_____ one or two more **3**_____. So, let's consider first of all **4**_____.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.1 Listen to how the examiner introduces Part 3. Complete the paragraph below. You may need to watch more than once.

We've been talking about **1** a time when you helped someone, and I'd like to **2** discuss with you one or two more **3** general questions related to this. So, let's consider first of all **4** helping neighbour.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.2 Watch and complete the questions the examiner asks.

A Can you tell me some of the practical things
_____ ?

B Why should _____ ?

C You live in quite a small town … Do you think
_____ ?

D So why don't they _____ ?

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.2 Watch and complete the questions the examiner asks.

E Let's go on and think about _____ .
Some people don't _____ ?
F Do you think that the _____ ?
G But doesn't that sometimes mean that _____ ?
H So, Emanuele, do you think that some people
_____ ?

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.2 Watch and complete the questions the examiner asks.

A Can you tell me some of the practical things that people can do to help their neighbours ?

B Why should neighbours help each other ?

C You live in quite a small town … Do you think that people in small towns help each other more than people in cities ?

D So why don't they do the same in cities ?

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.2 Watch and complete the questions the examiner asks.

E Let’s go on and think about attitudes towards helping other people.
Some people don’t want to help other people why do you think that is?

F Do you think that the governments have a responsibility to help people?

G But doesn’t that sometimes mean that people think it's only the government's responsibility?

H So, Emanuele, do you think that some people some people deserve more help than others?

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.3 Watch Emanuele answering the questions from 1.2. Match the extracts 1-8 from his answers to questions A-H.

1 I think government should create … the right base.
2 But sometimes I understand that it's difficult to help some people.
3 You may have a problem some day and if there is someone that can help you, it's a good thing.
4 I think the most common action you can do would be to lend him something he doesn't have.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.3 Watch Emanuele answering the questions from 1.2. Match the extracts 1-8 from his answers to questions A-H.

5 Life in cities is quite stressful.

6 I think that everyone should help each other first, then the government can create the structure and can act in the right way to allow people to be helpful.

7 I think it depends on the country. For example, the experience I had here in England showed me that people are much more helpful here.

8 You should always try to be helpful because you can't base your attitude on a past experience.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.3

F Do you think that the governments have a responsibility to help people?

1 I think government should create … the right base.

H So, Emanuele, do you think that some people deserve more help than others?

2 But sometimes I understand that it’s difficult to help some people.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.3

B Why should neighbours/neighbors help each other?

3 You may have a problem some day and if there is someone that can help you, it's a good thing.

A Can you tell me some of the practical things that people can do to help their neighbours?

4 I think the most common action you can do would be to lend him something he doesn't have.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.3

D So why don't they do the same in cities?

5 Life in cities is quite stressful.

G But doesn't that sometimes mean that people think it's only the government's responsibility?

6 I think that everyone should help each other first, then the government can create the structure and can act in the right way to allow people to be helpful.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.3

C Do you think that people in small towns help each other more than people in cities?

7 I think it depends on the country. For example, the experience I had here in England showed me that people are much more helpful here.

E Let's go on and think about attitudes towards helping other people. Some people don't want to help other people why do you think that is?

8 You should always try to be helpful because you can’t base your attitude on a past experience.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.4 Emanuele gave full answers to the questions. Look at these techniques for expanding on your answers in Part 3.

Techniques

A stating or explaining your own views
B giving relevant examples
C explaining how or why something happens
D saying what would, could, should, or might happen
E suggesting a solution to a problem
F explaining another side to the issue

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.5 Match the sentence beginnings 1-6 to the correct technique A-F in 1.4. You may use any letter more than once.

1 For instance, when we …

2 If that happened, then …

3 Well I think …

4 On the other hand, some people believe …

5 This happens because …

6 One way of dealing with this is …

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

A stating or explaining your own views → 3 Well I think …
B giving relevant examples → 1 For instance, when we …
C explaining how or why something happens → 5 This happens because …
D saying what would, could, should, or might happen → 2 If that happened, then …
E suggesting a solution to a problem → 6 One way of dealing with this is …
F explaining another side to the issue → 4 On the other hand, some people believe …

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1.7 The questions in Part 3 often ask for your opinion. Look at the questions 1-5 and answer them in your own words. Make sure you expand on your answer using techniques from 1.4.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1 Do you think it's more important to earn a large salary or to be happy in your job?
2 Do you think some people spend too much time on their computers these days? (Why?)
3 Do you think the government should try to control the internet, or should people be able to write whatever they want?
4 Pollution is a problem in many countries. What do you think governments can do about it?
5 Do you think newspapers and books will eventually disappear?

1 Do you think it’s more important to earn a large salary or to be happy in your job?

I think to be happy and satisfied in your job is definitely more important than the amount of money you make. Of course , salary is something you cannot ignore and a large salary will affect the quality of life in a way but I believe work is another thing, which means more than that. You can feel the sense of achievement, happiness in a good relationship with others, and so forth. Therefore, I think one should more focus on if the job suits the person before considering the pay.

2 Do you think some people spend too much time on their computers these days? (Why?)

Oh yes, definitely they do. It has to be that way because of the computer based society. Everything is done by computer and requires a basic computer skills nowadays. Thinking of daily activities like going to the bank, booking a movie ticket, even calling a person abroad, all of these are done online via the computer. So because of this kind of change occurring throughout the society, it's inevitable not to be away from the computer. Also, to be productive at work, computer skills are necessary. Most of work prefers to communicate with the employees or clients through online with its time and cost efficiency. So people get less and less time with others in person, which has been worried recently but I think it's a kind of change we cannot escape from.

3 Do you think the government should try to control the internet, or should people be able to write whatever they want?

Well, I guess it's government's responsiblity to protect the public from wrong and misguided information. Since the internet allows the anonymous upload whatever they want without much of regulation, whether it's verified or not, it can be understood a piece of truth. The wrong or false information can accidently lead to negative results. In addition, it can be even more serious when the information is intentionally distorted or manipulated in the purpose of deceiving the naive public. Therefore, a close attention through an effective system by the government is necessary.

4 Pollution is a problem in many countries. What do you think governments can do about it?

Well, of course there will be a number of things government to take to tackle the problems like publicizing by campaigns, imposing heavier tax, strengthening the existing policies with heavier fine etc. However, I believe imposing tax specialised in environment pollution is one of the promising ways of the government. When companies manufacture products, a range of steps and procedures are likely to be involved, which can lead to adverse effects environmentally. By establishing a policy, the government can discourage organisations getting away with and use the revenue to recover the environment. So I think the government can regulate some pollution problems by imposing extra tax.

5 Do you think newspapers and books will eventually disappear?

Well, I guess it's highly likely to be like that. I mean it has already turned that way. A lot of materials have already been replaced into electronic versions and for some, there's no paper books existing any longer. Well, thinking about its advantages, it's not that surprising. It doesn't require much of space, it's easier to carry around, also easy to store as well. In addition, its environmental contribution cannot be ignored too. As we see, the benefits are enormous. Of course, it's going to be a pain if m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m computers break down but still the benefits are immense. So, because of these, I strongly believe that paper books and newspapers will disappear in the end.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

2 Agreeing and disagreeing

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

2.1 Sometimes the examiner will give you an opinion and then ask ‘Would you agree with that?’ Look at the following responses to this question. Put the different answers into the correct column according to their meaning.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

Strongly disagree	Disagree to some extent	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree to some extent	Strongly agree

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

1. Oh no, not at all
2. Well, I think there are valid points for both.
3. I totally agree with that.
4. I think I would probably have to say no.
5. To a certain extent, yes.
6. I completely disagree.
7. I can see your point, but …
8. Yes, I think that's absolutely right.
9. Actually, I think it depends on the situation / country / person
10. It seems to me that there are two sides to consider.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

Strongly disagree	Disagree to some extent	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree to some extent	Strongly agree
Oh no, not at all. I completely disagree.	I think I would probably have to say no. I can see your point, but …	Well, I think there are valid points for both. Actually, I think it depends on the situation/country /person (etc.) It seems to me that there are two sides to consider.	To a certain extent, yes.	I totally agree with that. Yes, I think that's absolutely right.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

2.2 Look at the statements 1-5 and decide whether you agree.

1 Video games in general are a lot more violent nowadays.
2 People should be made to retire earlier so that younger people have a better chance of getting a job.
3 Robots will play a more important role in our lives in the future.
4 We don’t do enough to protect the environment.
5 Everyone should take some sort of further education.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

3. Improving your Lexical Resource score

Another of the criteria your examiner will use to assess your speaking is called Lexical Resource. You will score well if you use a wide range of vocabulary and don't limit yourself to basic words and phrases. During the Speaking test, try not to repeat the same words too often and use some idiomatic expressions if you can.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

3.1 Create idiomatic expressions by completing phrases 1-6 with endings A-F.

1 I felt as though I didn't have	A louder than words.
2 I couldn't keep	B a bit of a slave driver.
3 Actions speak	C a care in the world.
4 My boss was	D by its cover.
5 My sister and I are like	E a straight face.
6 You can't judge a book	F two peas in a pod.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

3.2 Match the completed expressions in 3.1 with the correct meaning.

A I was made to work very hard.

B We're very similar.

C Appearances can be deceiving.

D I was very relaxed.

E What we do matters more than what we say.

F I found it difficult not to laugh.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

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A I was made to work very hard.

→ My boss was a bit of a slave driver.

B We're very similar.

→My sister and I are like two peas in a pod.

C Appearances can be deceiving.

→You can't judge a book by its cover.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

3.2 Match the completed expressions in 3.1 with the correct meaning.

D I was very relaxed.

→I felt as though I didn't have a care in the world.

E What we do matters more than what we say.

→Actions speak louder than words.

F I found it difficult not to laugh.

→ I couldn't keep a straight face.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

3.3 Below are some words/phrases that Emanuele used in Part 3. Are they basic or higher-level vocabulary? Circle the higher-level words.

holiday / help / it depends on / experience / attitude
small / base (something) on / create the structure
children / personal responsibility / act in the right way
house / allow people to / bad / more or less
everybody deserves

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Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

3.4 Emanuele was given a score of 7 for Lexical Resource. Why do you think that is?

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

3.4 Emanuele was given a score of 7 for Lexical Resource. Why do you think that is?

He has a wide range of vocabulary and uses higher-level vocabulary.

Part 3 – Talking about abstract topics

3.4 Emanuele was given a score of 7 for Lexical Resource. Why do you think that is?

There are some inaccuracies that prevent him from being awarded a higher score:

Take a look at his house → take care of /look after

To take up a mindset → develop/create a mindset

Mainly it's a feature of a person → private issue/our individual responsibility

But by the way you should always try to be helpful → anyway/in any case

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