

# PREPARE FOR IELTS: GENERAL TRAINING PRACTICE TESTS

## PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST ONE

- Interviewer: Good afternoon. My name is Andy. Could you tell me your name please?
- Candidate: Er, Mikhail Migalovic is my name.
- Interviewer: Thankyou Mikhail. Um, I'd like you to tell me about your home town or city please.
- Candidate: Er, it is Belgrade, er, capital of a former Yugoslavia, now Serbia. Er, one and a half million inhabitants place at the confluence of two big rivers, Danube and Sava.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. Can you tell me about the most interesting things in Belgrade?
- Candidate: Um, probably its past, colourful past, I would say, and then physically the configuration and dynamics of the place.
- Interviewer: And could you describe places of special interest I could visit near where you live?
- Candidate: Oh yes, there are many, er, wonderful natural, natural interest places, so to say, and places of historical interest, er, but mostly the, the famous monasteries, mediaeval monasteries, from, say, thirteenth century on.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. And what would be the best way for me to get to those places?
- Candidate: I guess, er, the best would be to simply, um, look up the travel agency, the deals with, er, Inter-Serbia Tours, and especially the monastery tours, and, er, they're well guided and you'll be well taken care of.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. Should I go there at any special time of year?
- Candidate: Er, certainly, um, as in whole Europe I think, the best time is, er, sometime in spring or autumn.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. Springtime or autumn.
- Candidate: Yes, say April-May, and then perhaps September-early October.
- Interviewer: Oh, I see. Okay. Thankyou for that. Er, I, I'd like to ask you a few questions about food and diet now. What do you usually eat for breakfast?
- Candidate: Um, well, I'm not much of a breakfast eater, but, er, um, so I tend to have a light breakfast, but, say, people tend to eat a lot for breakfast and it's all sorts of things, I guess meat-based, and milk and – hot milk and hot tea is accompanying all that.

- Interviewer: Mm hmm. And what is the most important meal of the day in your opinion, Mikhail?
- Candidate: Well, in my opinion, as I am told, it should be the breakfast, but for me personally I, I love early dinners, that's my, my preference. I'm not saying it is the most important, it's the one that I like the most.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. Mm hmm. And what should we eat to stay healthy?
- Candidate: Um, I would say certainly not heavy food that takes a lot to digest, so I would recommend a lot of vegetables and fruit, and fish and chicken, rather than red meat, although I wouldn't discard red meat just like that at all.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. Will people's diet change in the future?
- Candidate: I have impression because we are witnessing the obesity daily in many countries so it's all around us and it's becoming a very serious problem and I have impression that everybody starts focussing on that, so I have impression that we'll get more attention to diets that will make us feel light and agile and being able to perform. So I guess the clever combination of the, our food intake is more important than only what we eat. It is not about just what we shouldn't eat, I think it's more like how we eat it, um, and when. So we should maybe start our meals with, er, easily digestible things such as fruit, and finish with, er, with heavier stuff rather the other way around.
- Interviewer: Thankyou. Thankyou, Mikhail. Now I'd like to ask you to speak for one to two minutes on a topic. You have one minute to plan your answer. Here is a pencil and paper to make some notes. Here is your topic. I'd like you to describe a celebration you recently participated in.
- <the candidate now has one minute to make notes and prepare an answer>
- Interviewer: Thankyou. Could you start speaking now please? I will stop you after two minutes.
- Candidate: By the end of January, precisely on twenty-seventh of January last, I was at a friend's place on Central Coast, as a guest to his family feast, and he was celebrated, celebrating sorry, his family was celebrating their family patron saint day, which is a very important feast for the Serbs in the orthodox tradition. So, it was interesting to see how that particular feast is being celebrated. Originated centuries ago, it is still very strong, going strong, and very few things are changed, I was amazed to, to witness. But the main thing was that, over there in Europe, given the time of the year, these feasts are usually done in, celebrated in November, December, January, it is cold, so the food, accompanying food is corresponding, it's heavy, and all that you need to eat during that time, whereas here we were in, er, sweating in the hot January, and yet we h-, had the same type of food that we would be eating in January in Europe. So that was interesting. But the most important thing about that type of feast and celebration is that the hosts, both, both my friend and his wife, were standing on their feet all the time, the whole day, absolutely being impeccable hosts to every whim or need that we guests would, would have, some twenty of us. So it was really a special day, and all of us twenty people there felt very, very special, er ...
- Interviewer: Thankyou, Mikhail. Mikhail, are there many similar celebrations where you come from?

- Candidate: Er, yes, but this is the most important one, I think.
- Interviewer: Thankyou. Now, let's talk more about traditions and celebrations. What role do traditional c-ceremonies play in the social life of people in your country?
- Candidate: Um, they have always played an important role, but I have impression that it is more so the case these days, when even the youth is embracing them, simply feeling need to go back to their roots.
- Interviewer: And what traditions were important for your grandparents, say fifty years ago?
- Candidate: Apart fro-, apart from that Slava, or family patron saint day, all other major and secondary Orthodox Christian fest-, festivities or festive days are important or were important as well, like, such as Christmas or Easter, for instance, so that, that keeps being the major focus of, of my tradition and people.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. And which traditions are we likely to continue to celebrate in the future?
- Candidate: Um, but I would say precisely those that we mentioned before. I have a feeling that they're simply going strong, that they are not fading, simply because in this time and era people are overwhelmed by, by the velocity, by the speed, so at the same time they are, feel need to go back to their own beginnings and traditions, so it is simply reviving what we already had.
- Interviewer: How would you describe young people's attitudes towards tradition?
- Candidate: Um, well, I would say that at the beginning many of young people would maybe not embrace fully the, the idea of going through a very pain-, through every painstaking detail of preparations and behaviour codes for all these celebrations and feasts, but then gradually they would become part of their lives, and that would be the connection with their families and the extended family, so they would, kind of, go more and more into it, and trying to adhere to every rule that that tradition was brought to them by their parents and grandparents, so at the beginning maybe the youth would take it lightly on the surface only, but then later I think the traditions would be embraced fully.
- Interviewer: And do you think customs and traditions are changing these days?
- Candidate: I would say so inevitably, because of the adjustment of the urban, to the urban living if you wish, and to the, the fast times we're living in, we live in. So de-, definitely there are concessions to what used to be done before, but the core which is much more important is always preserved, at least has been the case so far.
- Interviewer: Do you think traditions and customs are affected by advertising?
- Candidate: Um, I never actually gave it a thought. They might be, but again in my personal experience I, I haven't seen any kind of a direct influence that would change or alter, take, take people from their original directions, whatever the advertisement is about.
- Interviewer: Do some countries celebrate traditions more than others?
- Candidate: I wouldn't say so. I have impression that all countries celebrate traditions, or rather, the people who live in these countries. Even in some new countries, a

conglomerate of, of different people, all these different people would stick to their old traditions. That's how I see it. So people who wouldn't follow the traditions would do it in all sorts of countries or in any country.

Interviewer: Thankyou Mikhail. That's the end ...

# PREPARE FOR IELTS: GENERAL TRAINING PRACTICE TESTS

## PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST TWO

Interviewer: Good afternoon. My name is Anna. Could you tell me your full name please?

Candidate: Roberto Rossi.

Interviewer: What should I call you?

Candidate: Roberto.

Interviewer: Thankyou. Do you work, or are you a student?

Candidate: I'm a student.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about your studies?

Candidate: Um, well, er, my studies are in relation to cultures in the world. When I was, when I was young my father used to travel a lot and used to come back home giving me a picture of a very vast world where people used to live and think and behave in different ways. So in comparison to what I used to study in geography, the world seemed to be a lot more interesting to go and, and explore. So as soon as I got older, a bit older and I finished school, I decided to go and, er, and experience at first hand what really means to live in direct contact with a different culture. So I ended up looking for the most traditional and isolated cultures in the world, at that time, few years ago, and, er, I decided to go and live as one of the local people, which I did for a period of time. So that experience really changed my life and made me understand also a lot better what I wanted to study, um, at university.

Interviewer: What is your favourite subject?

Candidate: Anthropology, and social anthropologies in, in particular. So in reality what I do is that I go back to one of these places where I've been in the past, and I, and I see in what way the society changes as the rest of the world changes, and in what way it is affected by the outside world. So I ended up learning the language, and I, and I ended up understanding, um, probably a lot more what really goes on in, er, in, er, in the inside a person who lives in a little dot in the middle of the ocean, and all he or she knows is that, and that is the universe, in comparison to us, um, being sort of constantly in, bombarded by, um, by a lot more information.

Interviewer: What is your study plan?

Candidate: I'm studying to, an, um, I'm thinking of, er, of furthering my studies by doing a Master and perhaps a PhD. Um, I'm, I'm very interested in, er, in, er, in, er, following, um, what I've started already, and, er, and, um, not again, again not, not only for, from my professional point of view, but also for a personal point of view. I think it's very important these two things are combined together, and

what we learn and understand in life, er, can really be of help to other people if we, um, if we, er, develop it to a certain extent.

Interviewer: Thankyou. Do you have any hobbies or interests?

Candidate: Oh yes, a number of them. Um, I like to read, um, I like to read a lot, and I also like to play soccer. Um, but I can say that lately unfortunately I haven't had much time to do either of them.

Interviewer: What hobbies are popular with young boys and girls in your country?

Candidate: Well, young boys and girls like to interact and meet and have a good time together, so we start generally since we very young by meeting at the end of the day when we get out of school, the local bar or cor-, er, the corner in the area where we live, in the square, and, er, and in the same area there are lots of other people older and younger tha-, than us, and, er, the, um, hobbies generally for the young boys, um, are sport and socialising and dancing, and same for the girls, except that the girls certainly are a lot more into fashion and, um, and dancing.

Interviewer: Do people usually continue their hobbies when they get older?

Candidate: When they can they do, um, generally that depends on what kind of commitments they get involved to, and, er, or with, and, er, if they can afford, er, only, also in terms of time, er, what they like to do.

Interviewer: Thankyou. Now I'd like to ask you to speak for one to two minutes on a topic. You have one minute to plan your answer. Here is a pencil and paper to make notes. Here is your topic. I'd like you to describe a movie which made a strong impression on you.

<the candidate now has one minute to make notes and prepare an answer>

Interviewer: Thankyou. Can you start speaking now please? Remember, you have a maximum of two minutes.

Candidate: Well, um, the name of the film is *Cinema Paradiso*. It's actually a very famous movie, it won the Oscar in 1989, and, um, it's a movie about, um, the, the story of, um, of a kid who grows up in a small village in Sicily, and we can see very clearly through the, er, the film, in what way the community influence him, and, er, also his first love story with a local girl, and how much they affect his life. So it's actually a movie, um, in retrospective, because he goes back, and, er, he, he try to get in touch with the same girl, and by doing that, he basically revisits the most important part of his life, parts, and, er, and it's really showing us in what way all these things really affect all of us. How much we keep on dreaming, and how much we keep on hoping in our life, especially when we can't live what we really wish and desire to live, especially when it comes to emotional things, and, um, it's a film that, er, is also based on, on a true story, and, um, I, I think the public can, er, can really feel that. So it's, er, it's, it's also shot in a, in a very, very good way, and, er, and we can see Sicily through fifty years of life, and from this, from the end of the Second World War to today - which is also more or less perhaps you know, the period of time of my life, of my father's life. Anyway, the main actors in the film are Salvatore Cascio, and a famous actor I don't remember.

Interviewer: Thankyou. Do you go to the movies often?

Candidate: Yes, yes, as often as I can. I really like films, and especially the European movies, um, French, the Italians and the English. I really like the way they are, um, they represent the, er, European culture.

Interviewer: Thankyou. Now I'd like to ask you a few more questions about films and movies. Are films popular where you come from?

Candidate: Yes, they're very popular. Actually c-, cinema, um, movies, there's a big industry in Italy, and, er, it has been the second major industry in the world in terms of films, er, in, in, in the fifties. Er, so you probably have seen yourself a number of Italian movies. Um, but, er, it, it, it actually, um, it's particular, it's a particular kind of, er, of way of making films, and they still remain very popular, yes.

Interviewer: Do you think people are going to the cinema more these days compared with twenty-five years ago?

Candidate: Um, no, I don't think so, I, I think that today TV and videos and DVDs actually have replaced often what people used to go only, er, going to the theatre. Um, when, er, a few years ago when I was younger, I remember there were a lot of people going to the cinemas and they were packed, and the same movie was left there for weeks and weeks and weeks and, while now they normally are shown in the same cinema for a lot less.

Interviewer: What films are popular with young people these days?

Candidate: We have, er, in Italy, a very strong American influence, um, as well, so a lot of American movies, and a lot of high-tech movies with special effects and, er, but at same time we also keep maintaining a, a kind of, er, our own genre, and, er, some Italian movies, they never get to the overseas market, they also remain, become very popular in Italy.

Interviewer: Do people's taste in films change as they grow older?

Candidate: I think so, I think so, I think, mmm, movies also a little nearer our, we change in life, what interests us and what we see in them. And, er, as we, you know, in the twenties, when we are perhaps more romantic, we like a certain kind of movies and then perhaps we like to think a bit more about our life and, and we see different kinds of films, yeah.

Interviewer: Has technology made a difference in the quality of modern films?

Candidate: I think so, yes. A big difference. Er, the effects now really seem to suck you in when you see a movie. And the way the film are edited, they also keep yours, mm, attention a lot better than in the past. You can see the way that they are put together, and also the sound quality is a lot better, and, er, I think that has been certainly technologically speaking a big improvement today.

Interviewer: How will technology be used to improve films in the future?

Candidate: Well, I am not an expert, but I think that if you'll ever get 3-D movies, er, or movies in 3-D, we will, er, find ourself more immersed in what, er, at the moment only our eyes and our ears can see in two dimensions.

Interviewer: Why have the forms of popular entertainment change, changed over the years?

Candidate: Because the society has changed a lot, and now we, um, we seem to be rushing all the time and we want to consume everything a lot faster, so I think every form of entertainment is also reflecting that kind of very fast, quick way of, er, of wanting something different and wanting something very quickly, and, er, yes.

Interviewer: Will people still go to the cinema in the future?

Candidate: I hope so. I don't know but, er, I, I think there will be people that, like today, like to see not only the new movie, but also the old movie, because they represent what they have seen when they were younger, and what they, and also what, what they were dreaming at that time, and it, I think that remains within us all our life.

Interviewer: Thankyou. That is the end of ...

# PREPARE FOR IELTS: GENERAL TRAINING PRACTICE TESTS

## PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST THREE

Interviewer: Good afternoon. My name is René. Could you tell me your full name please?

Candidate: My full name is, er, Jehangir Nasumi Verki.

Interviewer: Can I check your identification?

Candidate: Sure.

Interviewer: Thankyou. Do you work or are you a student?

Candidate: At the moment I'm working.

Interviewer: Could you describe what kind of work you do?

Candidate: Ah, at the moment I'm a manager of the, er, Persian TV. This is recently a 24 hours, um, station is going to operate it in Sydney. This station is going to be for the Persian people, and at the moment we are trying to televise some programme from America but we are trying to build a studio in, in Sydney as well. The plan is I'm going to operate and organise for this studio to be able to produce some programme from Sydney as well. So at the moment I'm doing everythings like to do, to organise for everything, like subscription, studio, anything, equipment, but a little bit later I'm going just to focus and stay just in the studio for producing and directing the programme which is going to be happened later.

Interviewer: What do you like about your job?

Candidate: I have to confess, this job is my passion, from long time ago, um, just I start from drama, I study in drama in my country, then I, when I moved, um, to, to Australia I continue in, in different course, which was, um, TV and film production and because all the time when I act, I really, f-, finally I wanted just to make my film. I made some children programme in my country for TV. Here I start to extend my experience, than, then I got lots of new experience, I made some film, short film, documentary, and I found, OK, I'm in a right pathway so I wanted to continue. So now I think I, I catch it, now I need a little bit more time, just to do this job.

Interviewer: What kind of job do you hope to do in ten years' time?

Candidate: That's a good question. My dream is finally without having any problem like in life and the other problem that comes to the, any, anybody, er, my dream is just to direct my film. That's the thing that I'm going to do. I have, in my past I had lots of experience, life experience, lots of things that I want to talk to the people, so for me film is a tool to talk to the people.

Interviewer: Do you play any sports?

Candidate: Yes.

Interviewer: What are the most popular sports in your country?

Candidate: Good question. In my country is just the people are mainly, mm, I'm come from Iran. In my country people mainly play soccer, anywhere, in the street, at home, anywhere that you can see, people play soccer.

Interviewer: Is it better to play sport or to watch it?

Candidate: OK, um, you know it's, it's very un-, it's depend, to me, um, sometimes, when you're in the right mood, or the right time, you should better just to play, but sometimes you would like to see, particularly when it's, when, when it is a professional sport, you would like to watch it. That's depend to the situation, to you and many, many things.

Interviewer: Can sport be dangerous?

Candidate: Er, I think it could be dangerous or not, could be dan-, n-, it's not going to be dangerous, it's depend. I think even if you're walking in the street could be dangerous for you. So I cannot say, but I can say if you're not playing a sport it's going to be dangerous because it's just affecting your health. But, but playing, accident could be anywhere. This is my opinion.

Interviewer: Do men and women play different sports in Iran?

Candidate: Of course, men, as you know during last twenty-four years, because of the government and the, the things that happen in my country, so women couldn't do the same sport that men do. Even they couldn't go to the stadium like watched soccer. Er, however, recently it was some movement for the women, so they haven't chance, there, there is, there is not enough facility for them just to do lots of sport.

Interviewer: Thankyou very much. Now I'm going to give you a topic, and I'd like you to speak on it for one to two minutes. You have one minute to prepare your answer. Here is a pencil and paper to make notes. Here is your topic. I'd like you to describe a vacation you have really enjoyed.

<the candidate now has one minute to make notes and prepare an answer>

Interviewer: Thankyou. Can you start speaking now please? I will stop you at two minutes.

Candidate: Alright, um, we went t-, to the Tumut actually, we went to the Tumut with my wife and my kids, just mainly to visit the, the, my wife's family. I like Tumut because, um, when I went to the Tumut, which is about five hours far from Sydney, the road, the nature, and it was very similar to the scene that I had in my country, and it remembered me, um, the nature and the road that we had over there. I like Tumut, I like everythings over there, I can't, I can't tell you, I like the smoke, the fog, I like the environment, it's, I like the friendship that was there, I love the food, I love everything over there, and the star at night, I loved the moon, I loved morning, and when it was morning, it's remember the morning that I had my country. It was very similar because nature are similar anywhere. So, I spend lots of time over there, and it helped me to remember the thing that I had before. It gives a secure, it's very mysterious, um, feeling to

me, so I love them, because it help me more and more to back to the memory that I had from my country. Animals, horse, you know, farm, everythings, it's really attract me. See the people who works in the farm. That was amazing, I like these things, and I think this is my nature and I love to be in this nature and that nature was very similar to the things that I had before, and I like just to be there. That was something that I had over there. So I spent time with my wife, and I explained the things that happened to my country, and I told her, look, Kalla, I will show this in my country to you again.

Interviewer: Thankyou. Would you go there again?

Candidate: Sure, I love it, if I get any chance I'm sure I will go over there.

Interviewer: Now I'd like to ask you a few more questions about vacations and holidays away. Are people taking more holidays and travelling more these days?

Candidate: I have to say I don't think so, because, er, lifestyle is really not letting the people to do the thing that they want. They have to work more and more and even, you know, when they got some family they need to works more, so to me, in my point of view, I think they haven't enough time to pay attention to the holidays.

Interviewer: Where did people go for holidays in your grandparents' time, say, fifty years ago?

Candidate: Um, I think in that time, you know, just, um, t-, to go to another, another city, which was very far, like five to ten hours. They go to visit their, you know, relative in somewhere else, in their country.

Interviewer: Where do people usually like to go for a holiday away these days?

Candidate: Er, it's, it's, it's easy things, the people likes just to go, you know, to a very, very close and very easy things, if they can get anywhere around themselves, you know, just, j-, even if it's in Sydney they would go to Harbour, s-, Opera House or anywhere around, as, because it's, it's very cheap and he, it's help them just to stay sometimes out of their, you know, the routine of their life.

Interviewer: Why do people want to travel, to go away, for a holiday?

Candidate: Life is very hard. All of us need just to go, to, to go out of this stressed a-. During the weeks, you know, the technology, the government, the people, the boss, and, and so and so and so, you know, just pushing your shoulder, so that's a time that you can say "OK, I'm human." So <laughs> so you can just do something that you like.

Interviewer: Is tourism having an effect on the environment, do you think?

Candidate: Sure, I think, tourism, um, just de-, definitely affecting environment, because they bring the wave of the culture, and, you know, many, many things by themselves. They bring it and show to, to the new culture. So I'm, I'm sure it's, it's very effective. Like, if you thinks, like, when, when I, when I'm coming from, you know, from my country, the way that, er, that, the food that I'm having, the thing that I interest, the way that I treat, you know, my family, and the way that I love, the way that I dance, all of these things when they comes together, it's, it's giving like encyclopaedia, it's give some information about outsides to anybody, to the, to the other people.

Interviewer: How important is the tourist dollar for the economy?

Candidate: I love their dollar. <laughs> You know, it's very good, mean you h-, you have to think, you have to think about this issue and just have some study. You have to prepare yourself for the tourist interest. You have to put these things in their hand - not in the country, in their country. You have to advertise, you have to show what things is available here because they bring more money. It's very easy. Lots of country just depend on the, just the tourism, when they put their money, and you have to think about all the issue, to make the situation ready for them, to let them to be happy to spend their money. And when they back, back again, for, as, as it, as it, as it, revisit again and just, you know, advertise for the other people to come over here.

Interviewer: Will the tourist industry grow in the next ten to twenty years?

Candidate: I'm sure, you know, because many people are still, and the attraction of seeing, and the technology, I think, is helping the people just to be more close together and fine. Because if it was just, er, in the hand of a few country, just had attraction for the tourism, now, many peoples from far, they can advertise themself on the internet, they say "Look, I'm very far here, I have a nice beach, you don't need, you don't need to pay this money, you know, to that company, half price for you, I'm a little bit far, come over here, and we're right."

Interviewer: What do you think of tourism designed not to damage the environment?

Candidate: I think the government and the council, all of them, and all, all the policy has to help, has to really has a close watch to this issue. And because, if, if it sees it's going to affect anywhere, you, er, they have to put this policy to not, things, you know, do anything wrong.

Interviewer: Thankyou. That is the end of the ...

# PREPARE FOR IELTS: GENERAL TRAINING PRACTICE TESTS

## PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST FOUR

- Interviewer: Good afternoon. My name is Deborah. Could you tell me your full name please?
- Candidate: My full name is Pilar Maria del Carmen Montes.
- Interviewer: May I check your identification please?
- Candidate: Would you like to see my passport?
- Interviewer: Thankyou. Do you work or are you a student?
- Candidate: I'm a student.
- Interviewer: And what are you studying at the moment?
- Candidate: At the moment I'm studying theatre studies.
- Interviewer: And why did you choose to study theatre studies?
- Candidate: Because I arrive here five years ago, and my background is in theatre. In my home country, in Ecuador, I was studying theatre, and I was also working as an actor and as a director.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm.
- Candidate: And then I had the opportunity to go overseas to England and study theatre there. But once I moved to Australia, I thought it was going to be a good idea to get into the profession again and start all over again from the basics, so I thought it will be good to do some drama studies, and that's why I join it, and I'm learning so much at the moment, I'm very exciting about all these amazing teachers ...
- Interviewer: Mm hmm.
- Candidate: I have, and I can understand now how the business works. And the main thing about my theatre studies is, after that it was, it's going to lead me to the, a real theatre.
- Interviewer: Mm.
- Candidate: I, I have to w-, see how it works in real life in Australia. And I thought that was going to be important for me.
- Interviewer: Okay, and, um, what do you hope to do when you've finished your current studies?

Candidate: When I finish I really would like to work in the, in the area. Because I'm also a teacher, so I would like to combine my teaching skills with my theatre skills. So I know it's hard to get a job as a theatre director or as, as an actor anywhere in the world, and in Australia as well, so I'm hoping, of course, when, once I've finished, to be able to direct plays and to work on projects, to work for the community and with-, with the community. But I'm also hoping perhaps to get some work as a, as a teacher, where I can combine also my skills in theatre.

Interviewer: Hmm. And how do you spend your spare time?

Candidate: Ooh, I love swimming and I love dancing, so those are the two activities I mainly do when I have the opportunity. But then sometimes when I'm at home I love reading and, er, ...

Interviewer: Mm hmm.

Candidate: I love to read novels, or poetry, or theatre as well.

Interviewer: And when you go out do you usually go out alone or with others?

Candidate: Mm, it depends. Australian life is very busy, so sometimes I have to go on my own. I, usually if I go swimming I go on my own. If I go to the beach sometimes I go with friends.

Interviewer: Mm.

Candidate: So it depends, but I don't mind being on my own.

Interviewer: And is there a particular time in the week when you prefer to go out?

Candidate: Mm, not really, mainly in the afternoon, it depends on the season, sometimes I like in the morning, early morning, I love walking as well, so usually I tend to do that around six o'clock in the afternoon.

Interviewer: And do you think it is important to do some regular exercise?

Candidate: I think it's vital for everyone. I think it's part of life, and the good thing about Australia's ... I wish it, there are less cars, but also, because I love walking it's, it's OK, I, I can, I can do a lot of exercises, and, yeah, I think it's so important for everyone. We should do that really. We all should go out and enjoy ourself, do a bit of exercises, because this society is becoming bigger as well, you know, the size people are getting bigger and bigger, so I think it's important to do, er, you know, jogging or walking or swimming, it's, yeah, important.

Interviewer: Mm, why?

Candidate: Because if you are not happy with your body it's very hard to be happy with everything else. I think your body is the base of your life, and mind and body are always connected. And if, if you don't exercise your body you don't exercise your mind, and I think once you walk or once you swim, it's a good chance to really think who you are, and what you want in life, and what things can you do, and ...

Interviewer: Thankyou.

Candidate: You're welcome.

Interviewer: Now I'd like to ask you to speak for one to two minutes on a topic. You have one minute to think about what you might say, and here is a pencil and paper to make notes. Here is your topic. I'd like you to describe someone you admire very much.

<the candidate now has one minute to make notes and prepare an answer>

Interviewer: Thankyou. Can you start speaking now please? You have one to two minutes.

Candidate: I have a person who I really admire, and it's an ex-teacher from university. Her name is Cecilia Vera. She's a wonderful, talented lady. She's around sixty, and she's married and has four kids. But what I really admire of her is because she has the time to raise her family, and at the same time to teach kids at school and teach kids at primary school as well, and then she went on and was teaching at university. And I had the privilege to meet her when I was fifteen, and then when I was twenty I went to uni and she really encouraged me to write. She opened a lot of windows for me through the literature, and she taught me how to analyse text, and she make me love literature, a thing that's something very hard, because when you are at, at the school, you don't really want to learn a lot about literature, you just want to play around with your friends, but she was a teacher that, she really, really kept us captivated by all these stories and all these composers and some writers, and writers in general. And she played us some music and she read poems for us, and we watched films and we discuss, and I think that was so important to have her as a teacher, because she really made us see the world in a different way. We, we were studying mainly in a Catholic school, and we couldn't analyse things, but once we had our literature teacher we were able to expand our whole world. And I think what she really brought us, it's these differences in life that literature and life, in a way they're very similar but in a way are very different, so we interpreted life in a different way from that point.

Interviewer: Thankyou. Is this person admired by others, do you think?

Candidate: Yes, definitely. I think she made a huge mark in this group that had the opportunity to have her as a teacher. We were, like, fifty of us, and she did it for many, many years.

Interviewer: What makes a person famous?

Candidate: Mm, I think there are different ways to see what makes a person famous. One is the machinery behind, the publicity and the marketing around a person, but I don't think that's a real, honest way to be famous. I think if I have to choose I rather be famous for being honest, for being kind and for trying to help and solve conflicts or problems in the world, instead of being in a magazine, in a cover of a magazine, so my characteristics for a, a famous person, I will go for honestly and kindness.

Interviewer: Mm hmm. What kinds of people were famous in your grandparents' time?

Candidate: Mm. In my home country we had different, mainly two political parties, and the heads of those political parties were very famous, especially one guy called Eloyal Faro, and he made a lot of changes in Ecuador during my grandparents' time, because he gave the vote to women, and he also made it compulsory, the vote for all the citizens in my home country, and he worked for the li-, liberal education, not tied with the religions or anything like that, but very open to everyone.

- Interviewer: In your opinion, is being well known easy to live with?
- Candidate: No, I don't think so. I think well known, it's, it can be hard, I think to be famous, sometimes you pay a price for it.
- Interviewer: Mm.
- Candidate: So I'd rather be anonymous I think.
- Interviewer: What kinds of people will be famous in the future?
- Candidate: Mm, ah, it's hard to say, but I guess the famous people are the ones that people create, and, you know, the media has so much impact on that, and how much, i-, it has so much i-, influence on who's famous or who's not famous, who is good or who is bad. He, the media made us see, make us see the world and the people in different ways, so I guess, yeah, if you have a machinery behind, you would be famous.
- Interviewer: What responsibilities to society do famous people have?
- Candidate: I think they have a huge responsibility, because people really look up on them, you know, they look upon and they want to copy models. I think we are a very sensitive society, that we like just to copy. And if someone is famous they should have, they should use this power to give things back to the community. Like, you know, like, for example, the tsunami disaster or things like that, you know, to use this power to call for people to stop children detention, things like that, you know, they should use that in order to make people aware what's going on, not just to be a part of an entertainment, but I think they should have a political voice in the community.
- Interviewer: Do you think the children of famous people have an easy time?
- Candidate: No, I don't think so, I, they m-, it must be very, very hard. Er, you know, to live in, like, in my home country, I know a lot of famous people and they always have to have bodyguards, or they have to live behind bars, you know, behind big walls, and children are always protected, and they don't have the freedom, so it's a big price you pay, I don't know why.
- Interviewer: Would, would you like to be famous?
- Candidate: No, not really.
- Interviewer: Would, would being famous change you?
- Candidate: Yeah, I'm sure it will, but I like to be popular, but I don't like to be famous. And I think that's good, you know, I can be popular with my students, with my actors, you know, I, that's what I like, and I'm happy with that.
- Interviewer: And should the media be able to invade the privacy of famous people?
- Candidate: No, I think there should be a very strong and tough code that they shouldn't allow it to interfere in people's life even if they are famous.
- Interviewer: Thankyou. That is the end of the ...

# PREPARE FOR IELTS: GENERAL TRAINING PRACTICE TESTS

## PRACTICE SPEAKING TEST FIVE

- Interviewer: Good afternoon. My name's Darryl. Could you tell me your full name please?
- Candidate: My name is Shi En Li.
- Interviewer: And what should I call you?
- Candidate: Call me Shi En please.
- Interviewer: Thankyou. Do you work, or are you a student?
- Candidate: I work. I do interpreting and translation.
- Interviewer: Ah. Can you tell me about your job?
- Candidate: Well, there are different types of, um, interpreting. There's medical interpreting and there's legal interpreting, business interpreting, and conference interpreting, et cetera. Er, they're all very different, and you get to meet different types of people. Um, it's very rewarding 'cause you're helping people who doesn't have much English, and you get paid for your job as well. So, um, you get to learn a lot about current issues, and at the same time you get lot of headaches too, because you get to hear a lot of problems from your clients. So it's a very interesting job, and I'm enjoying it still, after seventeen years.
- Interviewer: And, er, when is the busiest time in your job?
- Candidate: I can't say that I'm ... at my busiest, you know, at a certain time of the year, it's very hard to predict. So I really can't say, say around, w-, well, summer's the busiest time of the year, or the winter's the busiest, or, I really can't say that certain time of year's the busiest.
- Interviewer: Um, if you could change your job, what would you prefer to do?
- Candidate: Sometimes, um, although I'm working and I'm helping people, and without an interpreter I guess nothing much can happen, because there won't be any communication, proper communication between, you know, two parties. But then again, interpreters are not supposed to give opinion. So you are left with feeling like you're not contributing at all towards the result of the session. So if I change my job, I think I'll pick something which is completely different from interpreting, and where I can actually contribute towards the result of, you know, the discussion. So that's what I would, I, I might do in the future. You never know.
- Interviewer: What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?
- Candidate: Well actually I like all sorts of music. My husband says that I've got, you know, catholic, you know, taste in music. I like classical music of course, because I played piano when I was a little girl. Actually not just as a little girl; I still play.

So, I like classical music, and I like jazz, blues, you know, even heavy metal.  
<laughs> Whatever is good, I can appreciate it.

Interviewer: Do you play a musical instrument?

Candidate: Yes, I play piano, and I play little bit of violin as well.

Interviewer: And what musical instruments do most people play in your home country?

Candidate: Um, in Korea, I think most girls from a proper family <laughs> would play at least one musical instrument, and, which is normally piano. So, lot of girls would s-, you know, start playing piano from the age of, say, five or seven, and I started playing piano when I was six, I think.

Interviewer: Er, if you can play a musical instrument, does this help you to enjoy music more?

Candidate: Yes and no. In some ways it makes you, I guess, take more interest in music, and when you listen to the music, um, you know how to appreciate it properly. But then again, if you get to hear certain piece of music on the radio which you played before, straight away you find yourself, sort of, analysing the performer, so you really can't relax, so it, sort of, it's not, maybe, enjoyable as much, it, suddenly it becomes a chore, your mind is at work, analysing and, you know, assessing the performance. So, I guess, yes and no.

Interviewer: Thankyou. Now I'd like to ask you to speak for one to two minutes on a topic. You have one minute to plan your answer. Here is a pencil and paper to make notes. Here is your topic. I'd like you to describe your favourite teacher.

<the candidate now has one minute to make notes and prepare an answer>

Interviewer: Thankyou. Can you start speaking now please? You have one to two minutes. I will tell you when the time is up.

Candidate: My favourite teacher, um, his name is Kwan Sun Park. He was my English teacher when I was in high school in Korea. You know, in Korea all the English teachers are basically Korean. Um, he was my teacher, um, for two years, um, year eleven and year twelve. You know, the girls of that age, um, they normally like teachers, you know, good-looking, with, er, with the looks and, and, and with good sense of humour and, and all, but this teacher, specific teacher, was not physically attractive at all. He was rather, not terribly good-looking. Sorry to be saying this. <laughs> But I really adored this teacher because, um, I guess to start with I love studying languages, and he was teaching English, and I really loved learning English from him. And he was very passionate about his job, teaching, and he was actually enjoying it, and I could tell that he was enjoying it. He had good teaching skills. He encouraged and nearly coerced, you know, contribution from the students. And you can actually be quite sure, sitting in his class, that, er, when you give answers, how silly that might sound, you'd never be laughed at or anything. So you were feeling quite free to have a conversation or discussion with the teacher, or other students in the class. And what was also, um, quite special about him was that he had good sense of humour, much, so much so that you only remembered his jokes, when actually you have the test paper in front of you, and you look at all the questions and you couldn't remember the answers, but his jokes only.

Interviewer: Thankyou. And did other students also like this teacher?

- Candidate: Oh yes, yep. Most of the students, um, just loved this teacher. He was very popular.
- Interviewer: So we've been talking about teaching. Um, I'd like to ask you a few questions about teaching and education. What are the qualities of a good teacher?
- Candidate: I should say, um, a good teacher is the one who always is well-prepared for the class, and I guess if the person has a good sense of humour, that will help because, you know, boring, um, session nobody would, you know, sit in a class, you know, h-, hours after hours.
- Interviewer: A-, and what differences in teaching styles have you experienced with different teachers?
- Candidate: Some teachers can be very knowledgeable. I could tell the person had lot of knowledge and experience and everything, but the person just didn't have the skills to convey all that to the students, so the rendering was really boring, and, and everybody was just falling asleep; whereas some teachers, they knew how to, to pass that down to the students somehow, and the session was completely enjoyable.
- Interviewer: Should teachers use discipline in the classroom?
- Candidate: Coming from where I <laughs> , um, am, I think yes, teachers should discipline students. In Korea, students would respect the teachers. Now, my mum's generation was more so, and my mum had to say one day she thought teachers don't eat, don't go to the toilet, they're demigods, and wouldn't even step on the shadow of a teacher, 'cause you respect the teacher so much. But I don't think that same kind of respect is here, and students sometimes m-, misbehave, um, during class hours, and I just find it hard to understand.
- Interviewer: Mm.
- Candidate: There's not enough respect for the teacher, and also for the learning itself.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. And can t-, students learn from computers?
- Candidate: I guess yes and no. I see my children, they're sitting in f-, front of the computer, sometimes writing their essays and getting information through the net. In that case I guess computers can be educational and helpful. But sometimes I see my son sitting in front of the computer hours after hours, doing, you know, video game, and ... I don't think in that case computers educational or helping.
- Interviewer: Mm hmm. Can you describe the education system in your country?
- Candidate: In some ways it's quite similar to the Australian education system. The only difference I can tell straight away is kindergarten is not part of, er, the primary school education in Korea, whereas here you start from kindergarten. And three years, we call it junior high, and then three years high school and then four year, normally four years, um, university education, tertiary education. So I, I don't think there's, um, that big difference between two systems.
- Interviewer: When should children start formal schooling?
- Candidate: Formal schooling, I guess it starts in Australia from the age of five, whereas in Korea from six. I don't know, sometimes when I see little kindergarten students, you know, looking little bit tired, makes me wonder whether it's,

they're bit too young to start formal schooling at that age. But I really have no idea.

Interviewer: Er, has education changed since your parents' day, you know, in the, in the last twenty-five years?

Candidate: I think it's changed a lots, although I guess I can't say that I understand what education was like when my mum and dad, they were in school, but definitely, well, I'm talking about Korean situation. In Korea you have to study many, many more subjects than your father or your mother would have, you know, in the past. And you use, like, different equipment, like computers and things, you know, all these audiovisual sort of teaching material. I, I guess in that way education of students's changed a lot.

Interviewer: OK, thankyou. That is the end of the speaking test.