

PART 4

Exercise 1

- 1 five
- 2 follow on from
- 3 abstract
- 4 more
- 5 speculate
- 6 language only

Exercise 2

Suggested answers

- 1 topics/subjects
- 2 fine/OK/alright
- 3 thinking/preparation
- 4 interrupt
- 5 respond/reply

Exercise 3

Yes. 3 times (Well, to be honest, I'm not sure I agree with Tom; Maya has already mentioned mental and physical problems...; But as a basic rule, perhaps Maya's suggestion is a good one.)

Track 16

Examiner: Tom, how important is it for people to have enough leisure time?

Tom: Oh, it's absolutely vital. Why I say that is that people who work too hard can have a lot of problems with their physical and mental health. Not only that, but most people get more enjoyment and happiness from family, friends and activities outside work than from their jobs.

Examiner: What do you think, Maya?

Maya: Well, to be honest, I'm not sure I agree with Tom. I mean, yes, we all need to take time off sometimes, but for some people, their job is what they love doing anyway, so they don't need to spend time on separate hobbies or whatever.

Examiner: Maya, what kind of problems may be caused by people not having enough leisure time?

Maya: Well, I would say health problems, primarily. Both physical problems like high blood pressure and heart issues and mental problems like stress.

Examiner: Do you agree, Tom?

Tom: Definitely. Maya has already mentioned mental and physical problems that can result from overwork and another thing is many jobs involve sitting down all day. If people don't get out in the fresh air and get some exercise, they can have all kinds of difficulties with their health. And also, if they don't spend enough time with their family, it can cause problems with relationships.

Examiner: Maya, what do you think is a good work-life balance?

Maya: Well, I suppose most people would say of the 24 hours in the day, we should spend about eight hours asleep, eight hours working and the remaining eight hours doing other activities, including leisure activities. I would agree that would be the ideal, but it doesn't always work out that way.

Examiner: What do you think, Tom?

Tom: I think it depends on what stage of life you're at. What I mean is when you're young and trying to build up your career, you need to spend more time at work. Then when you start a family, you need to devote yourself to your partner and children. But as a basic rule, perhaps Maya's suggestion is a good one.

Exercise 4

- 1 B
- 2 C. The answers focus on describing leisure facilities and the need for them rather than what role the government should play.
- 3 A. The female candidate tries to dominate the conversation and interrupts the other candidate.

Track 17

Narrator: Pair 1

Examiner: Elena, do you think people who have to follow rules should help make them?

Elena: Er, well, yes, that would probably be a good idea.

Examiner: Why?

Elena: It just seems fair, really, doesn't it?

Examiner: What do you think, Max?

Max: Yes, I think Elena is right.

Examiner: Why?

Max: Well, like she said, if people have to follow rules, it's fair for them to have a say in making them.

Narrator: Pair 2

Examiner: What role do you think the government should play in supporting leisure activities?

Jorge: Well, leisure is really important to people, so the government should help pay for it. Like, ... take my local swimming pool. It's really amazing now with all kinds of water chutes and diving boards. The price of admission has gone up a lot though.

Examiner: What do you think, Isabella?

Isabella: Well, I agree with Jorge. Everyone needs leisure facilities. Not just sports centres, but parks, libraries, museums and art galleries. People have different interests so there should be something for everyone. I personally don't think people do enough leisure activities. Most people just watch TV or spend their time on social media, which I think is just making us lazy.

Narrator: Pair 3

Examiner: Lee, are there any rules you currently have to follow that you would like to change?

Lee: Yes, there are a few, actually. First of all, I don't like having to get home by 11 p.m. I think I'm old enough to decide when to come home. And another thing is, we are not allowed to have our smartphones in class ...

So Young: Well, of course not. Students would be checking their messages all the time and not listening to the teacher. You can't have that. Anyway, I would change the rules in sports so that men and women can compete against each other. For example, I play tennis and I am better than many men I play against in practice, but I am not allowed to play them in competitions. I think this is extremely sexist and unfair. Also, I hate all the rules when I go to the airport. My hand luggage can only be this size or this weight, and all of that stuff about liquids and so on. What else? Well, ...

Examiner: Thank you. Lee, would you say that ...
[fade]

Exercise 5

- 1 In general
- 2 As a rule
- 3 there are exceptions of course
- 4 generally speaking
- 5 Nine times out of ten
- 6 it's not always the case
- 7 On the whole
- 8 not in every case
- 9 by and large
- 10 there may be the odd occasion when

Track 18

Examiner: Fabio, some people say you should use your head, not your heart, to make decisions. What do you think?

Fabio: In general, I would say it's better to make important decisions with your head. That means you need to think about whether something is practical or not, rather than just considering what you feel like doing. As a rule, I tend to use common sense when I have to decide about something. But, there are exceptions of course. When it comes to love and getting married, for example, you obviously need to be guided by your heart more than your head.

Examiner: What about you, Leah?

Leah: Well, generally speaking, I'm a person who tends to go with my heart rather than my head. For example, I'm quite spontaneous and take a lot of risks. Nine times out of ten, my heart makes good decisions, which is probably why I continue to do things this way, but it's not always the case.

Examiner: Leah, do you think it is important to get your family's approval when making a decision?

Leah: On the whole, I would say yes. Things will be much easier if you have your family on your side. They'll be more likely to support and help you if they approve of what you're doing. So, yes, it is important but not in every case. I don't think you should give up your dreams if others don't agree with them.

Examiner: Do you agree, Fabio?

Fabio: Well, yes, by and large, I agree with Leah. Most of the time I try to convince my family that what I want to do is a good idea. I do value their support, but there may be the odd occasion when you need to do something they are not really on board with. Hopefully, they will come around to your way of thinking later.

Exercise 6

Generalising	Making exceptions
In general	there are
As a rule	exceptions of
Generally speaking	course
Nine times out of ten	it's not always the case
On the whole	not in every case
By and large	there may be the odd occasion when...

Exercise 8

Track 19

Examiner: Claudio, How important do you think it is for vocational training to be available for young people who need it?

Claudio: I would say it's extremely important, because not everyone is suited to a university education. Many people prefer practical subjects which are more directly linked to a job, such as hairdressing or plumbing. The trouble is that in many countries, academic studies are considered more important, but, in my view, it is vital for young people to receive training to prepare them for jobs.

Trinidad: I would agree with all that. In fact, I'd go further and suggest that some practical skills for jobs should be taught in schools. And I think it would be great to have presentations from people who work in different fields, so that school children can learn about what skills are needed for each job, what the positives and negatives are, and so on. That way students have more information about which careers suit them or not.

Examiner: Some people say that family matters more than friends. Trinidad, what is your opinion?

Trinidad: Let me see. That's not an easy question to answer because both family and friends matter a lot. Overall, though, if I were forced to choose, I'd have to agree that family is more important. That's because they are a constant in your life, whereas friends may come and go. Your parents and grandparents, in particular, really do have your best interests at heart, right?

Examiner: Do you agree, Claudio?

Claudio: I'm not sure I do. I think it depends on who you are. For some people, friends are the people who understand them the most and they have problems communicating with their family. I think your age matters here too. I'd say that as a rule, young people value their friends more than their family, especially during adolescence. But then you have children and everything changes.

Examiner: Claudio, do you think parents should limit the amount of time their children spend online?

Claudio: Yes. By and large, I think parents should restrict children's access to the internet, but it depends on the age of the child and how responsible he or she is. The main thing is that parents should not just leave their children to explore the internet on their own. They should teach them about the potential dangers and what they can do to stay safe online.

Trinidad: I think you make some good points, but for me the question is who decides what the limits are. I think the government or doctors should study the effects of children spending time online and make recommendations or rules. That way, it's the same for all families and kids can't complain that their friends get more time online than they do.

Examiner: Trinidad, is it best to make sports compulsory for school students?

Trinidad: I haven't really thought about that before, to be honest. Er, we all know that sports are good for children – and adults too, of course – but if they are compulsory, it could, in the long run, make people less active. What I mean is, if you are forced to do something, you might end up hating that thing, so once you are no longer obliged to do it, you will stop. So I'd say making sports fun is a more useful approach.

Claudio: I have to disagree here. I think sports in schools should be compulsory to maintain a healthy population. Our population is getting more and more unhealthy, and I think a lot of this is due to lack of regular exercise. Perhaps to make sports more fun, schools could offer more variety. I mean, not everyone enjoys competitive sports, so maybe offering things like yoga or dance classes would be a good idea. So yes, I would make sports obligatory, but give students more options.