

1 Read the statements about Speaking Part 4 and choose the correct options.

- Part 4 lasts for *three/five* minutes.
- Part 4 questions *follow on from/are not related to* the Part 3 task.
- Part 4 gives candidates the opportunity to discuss more *personal/abstract* topics.
- Candidates get the opportunity to explain their ideas in *more/less* depth than other parts of the test.
- Part 4 tests a candidate's ability to exchange information, express and justify opinions and *negotiate/speculate*.
- You are evaluated on your language and *opinions/language* only.

2 Complete the tips about Part 4 with a suitable word.

- Prepare for this part by reading about many _____ and getting a friend to ask you questions.
- It is _____ to ask for clarification if you need it.
- Use expressions to express opinions, agree and disagree and gain _____ time.
- Don't _____ your partner. Let the examiner control the discussion.
- Listen to your partner and _____ to his or her points politely.

3 Read and listen to Tom and Maya discussing some Part 4 questions. Do they comment on what the other has said?

MODEL ANSWER

¹Give reasons and explanations for your answers.

²If possible, give more than one reason.

⁴Where appropriate answer the question from different perspectives.

Examiner: Tom, how important is it for people to have enough leisure time?
Tom: Oh, ¹it's absolutely vital. ²Why I say that is that people who work too hard can have a lot of problems with their physical and mental health. ²Not 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: ³Definitely. 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. ²And 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: ⁴I think it depends on what stage of life you're at. ⁵What 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 time to your partner and children. ⁶But as a basic rule, perhaps Maya's suggestion is a good one.

³Use a range of phrases to express agreement or disagreement.

⁵Use phrases to clarify your opinions/ideas.

⁶Make generalisations where appropriate.

4 Listen to three other pairs answering Part 4 questions. Match the dialogues (1–3) to the exam technique mistakes they exemplify.

- A** not interacting with the other candidate appropriately
- B** not extending answers sufficiently
- C** going off topic

5 Listen to Fabio and Leah answer some Part 4 questions. Complete the gaps in the extract with the expressions you hear.

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

Fabio: (1) _____, 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.
(2) _____, I tend to use common sense when I have to decide about something. But,
(3) _____. 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, (4) _____, I am 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.
(5) _____, my heart makes good decisions, which is probably why I continue to do things this way, but
(6) _____.

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

Leah: (7) _____, 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
(8) _____. 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, (9) _____, 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
(10) _____ you need to do something they are not really on board with. Hopefully, they will come around to your way of thinking later.

6 Complete the table with the correct expressions from Exercise 6.

GENERALISING	MAKING EXCEPTIONS

7 Use the expressions from Exercise 6 to make generalisations on the topics. Then try and think of an exception for each generalisation.

- 1 People's opinions on climate change.
By and large people would say that banning fossils fuels is vital for protecting the planet, but there are exceptions of course. People who work in the motor industry would say that we still need oil to keep the transport system working...
- 2 Whether video games are good or bad for young people.
- 3 Whether social media has more advantages than disadvantages.
- 4 People's opinions about keeping animals in zoos.
- 5 How interested people are in the lifestyles of celebrities.

8 Practise answering these Part 4 questions. Then listen and compare your answers.

- 1 How important do you think it is for vocational training to be available for young people who need it?
- 2 Some people say that family matters more than friends. What is your opinion?
- 3 Do you think parents should limit the amount of time their children spend online?
- 4 Is it best to make sports compulsory for school students?