

Sample 1 Candidate A's Prepared Topic
Speaking Syllabus General Topic: Education
Why is it difficult for adults to return to education?
Following questions in the Speaking Syllabus

How can ongoing education help us keep up with progress?

Why can continuing education make us better people?

Why can ongoing education make us more competitive in the job market?

Linking Devices

First of all,
such as
Indeed,
of course,
Another reason worth mentioning is the fact that
thus,
It goes without saying that
For instance,
subsequently,
Furthermore,
This means that
since
Last but not least,
So
In conclusion,
therefore,
despite

Vocabulary and Useful Phrases

It is an undeniable fact that
There are many reasons why
pressing responsibilities
family obligations
additional burden
be enough to
put anyone off
exorbitant
a major deterrent
mortgages
make ends meet
postpone
lack the motivation
see the point of
personal growth
intimidated
reluctant
outside their comfort zone
fear of failure
factors
from where they left off
admire
difficulties they face

Candidate A's Sample Talk using the vocabulary given:

It is an undeniable fact that adults often find it difficult to return to education. **There are many reasons why** this happens. **First of all**, they don't have enough time. Going back to education requires time and most adults have other **pressing responsibilities** such as a full time job, **family obligations** and a social life. **Indeed**, any **additional burden** could lead to stress and frustration and this, **of course**, might **be enough to put anyone off** returning to learning.

Another reason worth mentioning is the fact that the cost of further education can be **exorbitant** and is, **thus**, a **major deterrent** to someone continuing their education. **It goes without saying that** adults have many **financial responsibilities**. **For instance**, they have bills and **mortgages** to pay, and families to support so they are obviously worried that they might not **make ends meet** and, **subsequently**, **postpone** going back to studying.

Furthermore, many adults **lack the motivation**. **This means that** they don't really **see the point of** going back to education **since** they are not convinced that taking a class will actually help them in their career or **personal growth**. **Last but not least**, many adults feel **intimidated** and are **reluctant** to do anything that is **outside their comfort zone**. They worry that they may not do well in their studies or that they might not manage to finish their studies. **So**, the **fear of failure** is another reason that makes it difficult for adults to return to education.

In conclusion, there are many **factors** that prevent an adult from continuing their education **from where they left off** and we should **admire** those who do manage to do so, **despite** the numerous **difficulties they face**.

Examiner's Sample Follow-up Question to Candidate A:

What is something new that you have learnt?

Candidate A's Sample Answer to the Follow-up Question:

Well, I recently learnt how to drive. It was difficult at first but after having some lessons I felt comfortable enough to take my test and I passed first time. It made me feel very proud of myself.

Examiner's Sample Follow-up Question to Candidate B:

What do you think about what your partner said?

Candidate B's Sample Answer to the Follow-up Question:

I agree with him/her (or name). It can be difficult to learn something new, whatever age you are. There are plenty of obstacles to put you off. However, like he/ she (or name) said, learning something new can make you feel good about yourself.

Examiner's Sample Interaction Question to both Candidates A and B:

What are the benefits of lifelong learning?

Sample Dialogue to the Interaction Question. (Either Candidate can answer first).

Candidate A's Sample Answer:

In my opinion, we should never stop learning. There is so much to know and be curious about and learning new things helps us feel alive and youthful as we see ourselves keeping up with the times. What do you think?

Candidate B' Sample Answer:

I totally agree. Also, if we continue to learn new things, such as a new language, it helps our minds function properly and helps keep problems associated with ageing, such as dementia, at bay.

Sample 2 Candidate B's Prepared Topic

Speaking Syllabus General Topic: Sport

Why do some people choose to do indoor rather than outdoor sports?

Following questions in the Speaking Syllabus

Why is exposure to sunlight and fresh air beneficial?

How can playing sports outdoors help us connect with nature?

Are there more outdoor sports to choose from than indoor sports?

Linking Devices

All kinds of
whether
in general
Although
such as
One of the most important reasons
Furthermore,
On the other hand,
Also,
Apart from that,
Another reason
For example,
In addition,
which
Finally,
to conclude

Vocabulary and Useful Phrases

depend on weather conditions
impossible
very disappointing
a great way to
without worrying about
no risk of
easy to maintain
more comfortable places
adequate lighting
tend to be
cause nasty injuries
socialise
numerous reasons
take up a sport

Candidate B's Sample Talk using the vocabulary given:

All kinds of sports, **whether** they are indoor or outdoor sports, can benefit us. Sports **in general** keep us fit and healthy. **Although** there is a greater variety of outdoor sports, some people choose an indoor sport, **such as** badminton, squash or basketball, for several reasons.

One of the most important reasons is that indoor sports or games do not **depend on weather conditions**. Playing or training in hot or cold weather can be difficult and sometimes **impossible**. **Furthermore**, it can be **very disappointing** when bad weather can make us cancel our favourite game. **On the other hand**, playing indoors is **a great way to** exercise **without worrying about** the weather. **Also**, there is **no risk of** getting sunburn in hot weather or drenched by a sudden downpour of rain or getting a chill because of freezing winds. **Apart from that**, as indoor facilities are protected from bad weather, they are **easy to maintain** throughout the seasons.

Another reason people choose indoor sports is that the playing area is much easier to play on. **For example**, there are no bumps, uneven ground or stones. Indoor facilities are also **more comfortable places** in which to play or do the sport we like. There is always **adequate lighting** so people can play any time of the day or night they want. **In addition**, indoor facilities **tend to be** safer for the users. There will be no broken bottles on the ground or rusty pieces of wire sticking out of fences,

which can often **cause nasty injuries**. **Finally**, some people choose indoor sports because indoor playing areas are smaller and that helps them to **socialise** more easily.

So, **to conclude**, we can see there are **numerous reasons** why someone would choose to **take up a sport** that they could play indoors, rather than choosing an outdoor sport.

Examiner's Sample Follow-up Question to Candidate B:

Do you do any indoor sports or activities?

Candidate B's Sample Answer to the Follow-up Question:

Yes, I belong to a gym. I have been going there for 3 years now on a regular basis. It's great to have somewhere where I can exercise every day whatever the weather. Also, I have become good friends with many of the other members there and so now the gym is part of my social life as well.

Examiner's Sample Follow-up Question to Candidate A:

What do you think about what your partner said?

Candidate A's Sample Answer to the Follow-up Question:

I agree with my partner. I play ping-pong quite a lot and belong to a club. It would be very difficult to play outdoors for much of the year as it is often windy where I live. However, having said that, I do believe there are benefits to playing sports outdoors, too.

Examiner's Sample Interaction Question to both Candidates A and B:

Should schools have facilities for indoor sports?

Sample Dialogue to the Interaction Question. (Either Candidate can talk first)

Candidate B's Sample Answer:

Absolutely! In Greece, the weather can be extreme both in winter and summer. Therefore, I believe it's essential that schools provide a sheltered place for students to exercise in comfort all year round, even if it is just a gym where students can do some physical exercise. Do you agree?

Candidate A's Sample Answer:

I couldn't agree more. The PE lesson at school is vital for the students' well-being. In fact, it is the only time that some students get to exercise. So schools should provide adequate indoor facilities for sports, and not just a gym; they should also have an indoor basketball court, a five-a-side football pitch and even, perhaps, an indoor swimming pool.