

Student's Notes

IELTS: Speaking

The examiner will welcome any initiative you take, so don't feel that you cannot lead the conversation in a particular direction, if it seems appropriate. However, do not try memorizing a prepared talk, as your examiner will recognise this strategy and will mark you down.

Make sure that you stick to the topic and complete the task fully. This is especially important in **Part 2**; continue until the examiner asks you to stop. It will seem like a long time so practise, practise and practise and time yourself.

Remember that this is a speaking test. If you do not speak, or if you answer in 'yes'/'no' answers, the examiner cannot assess the level of your speech and will mark you down. For example, if the examiner asks you '*Do you think sport is good for you?*' do not answer 'yes' or 'no' only. Be prepared to expand your answer, giving reasons for why you do/do not think that sport is good for you.

Consider using 'fillers' so there are no gaps in your conversation. For example, you might use '*actually*', '*well*', '*ummm*', etc.

Before the test, practise speaking in the mirror or in front of your friends or fellow students. Ask them to give you random topical subjects. Ask them to time you – a minute can seem a long time.