

## IELTS SPEAKING TEST QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### PART 1

#### What work do you do?

I'm a marine biologist and work at my city's aquarium. I take care of the penguins and am responsible for overseeing their breeding programme.

#### Why did you choose to do that type of work (or. that job)?

Well, ever since I was a little girl I have been absolutely obsessed with penguins and I new I always wanted to work with them. They mate for life and are the best role models for us humans.

#### Do you like art?

I love art. I particularly enjoy works by Picasso. His paintings are so unique and timeless. He is definitely my favourite artist.

#### Do you think art classes are necessary? (Why?)

Absolutely! Not many people are born artists, so we need expert help to guide us and inspire us. There is a lot of technique required to paint a simple landscape, so I believe that lessons are crucial.

#### How do you think art classes affect children's development?

In my opinion, art classes will awaken a child's creative mind. If the classes are fun and allow free expression of imagination then the child will be free to explore colours, techniques and really use their imagination to create amazing works of art.

#### What kind of paintings do people in your country like?

Well, I'm not an expert but our rainbow nation is renowned for colour and graphic prints as well as scenes depicting our country's varied ethnic backgrounds. But it probably also depends on the age of the beholder. Older people may prefer more subdued colours.

### Part 2

Describe a **present** you have given someone.

You should say:

- Who you gave it to
- What kind of present it was
- How it compared to other presents you have given

Explain why you decided to give this particular gift.

ANSWER:

I'm going to talk about a present that I gave to someone.

**The person that I gave it to was** a very good friend of mine at the time. His name was Peter and he came from Denmark. I knew him because we studied together at a language school in London. Although we were from different backgrounds and cultures, we got on really well and we had the same sense of humour so we became very good friends.

**The present was a picture** that had been painted of Big Ben in London. It was not very big, but it was very realistic. It came in a blue frame and the picture had been

drawn by a particularly well-known London artist. It had been signed by this person as well.

It's the first time I have given this person a present, and I guess **it's quite different from presents that I have given to other people before** – I don't remember ever giving someone a picture. If I'm buying for family, then I'll usually buy chocolates or maybe some jewellery if it is a special occasion. Normally when I've bought something for friends it's something more fun so we can have a laugh about it, nothing that serious.

**The reason why I decided to give this particular gift is** because we had spent a lot of time together in London and we had had some really fun times exploring the city – that's obviously why I thought this was an appropriate present. On one occasion we spent the whole day walking the city and photographing the different monuments and historical sites and as usual we went on a boat trip together. We both have a lot of photos to remind us of this great day.

So, my friend, Peter, is the person that I gave a present to and this was because I felt it would always remind him of the fun times that we had and also of London.

### **Part 3**

**Let's talk about transport.**

**How do most people travel long distances in your country?**

I'd say that the main ways are cars, busses, and trains. If someone has a car, I think this is their preference because to be honest the trains are not reliable where I live. Also, there are often delays with the trains which can be a real pain, so you may end up with a long journey. The busses are a bit cheaper, but I don't think that is such a comfortable way to travel. There is the option to travel by plane as well of course, but most of the primary airlines go abroad – you can't really travel that cheaply by plane within the country. So then, cars are really the best option, and of course they give you the most freedom when you are travelling.

**Have the types of transport people use changed much over the last few decades?**

I don't think they have really. We've had the transport I mentioned before for many decades now in my country, and it is much the same today. Of course, cars have become much more popular as people's incomes have risen which accounts for the problems we see on the roads today such as congestion and more accidents and pollution. This has probably led to some changes within cities. Many have now introduced environmentally friendly forms of transport such guided buses that don't run on gas and mean that people can travel without the use of the car. There has also been an increase in air travel, but like I said, this is quite expensive in my country so most cannot afford it.

**What kinds of improvement have there been in transport in your country in recent years?**

There have been several ways that transport has improved. More major roads have been built which means it is easier to travel long distances, though of course some would argue that more roads are not an improvement. They can be an eyesore in the countryside, and they have encouraged more people to drive which may mean these improvements ultimately don't work because there are more cars using the roads. As I mentioned before, there has been the introduction of mass transit in many cities, such as taxis and trains. In our capital city they have also extended the underground system, so it now links many more areas of the city. This has helped many people as commuting times are horrendous if you must travel on the roads. Those are the main improvements.