

IELTS Cue Cards PDF

2026 Edition

200 Latest Speaking Topics with Sample Answers

200 IELTS Cue Card topics (2025-2026 updated)

Full 2-minute sample answers for every topic

Band 7+ vocabulary and useful phrases

Organized by category: People, Places, Objects, Events, Experiences

Follow-up discussion questions included

Ideal for self-study, teachers, and exam prep centres

Target Band Score: 7.0+

Welcome to IELTS Cue Cards PDF (2026 Edition)

This book has been carefully prepared by the team at TypoGrammar.com to give you the most comprehensive and up-to-date collection of IELTS Speaking Part 2 cue card topics for 2025 and 2026.

Inside you will find 200 cue cards organised into five major categories: People, Places, Objects, Events, and Experiences. Each cue card includes the full question prompt, guidance on what to include, a complete Band 7+ sample answer, and follow-up discussion questions to help you prepare for Part 3.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. Read the cue card prompt and spend one minute preparing your answer before reading the sample.
2. Record yourself speaking for two minutes on the topic, then compare your response to the sample answer.
3. Note the vocabulary and phrases used in the sample answers and incorporate them into your own speaking.
4. Use the follow-up questions to practise Part 3 discussion responses.
5. Revisit each topic multiple times until you can speak confidently without notes.

ABOUT TYPOGRAMMAR.COM

TypoGrammar.com is a free online platform dedicated to helping students prepare for IELTS, TOEFL, PTE Academic, Cambridge, and Duolingo English Test examinations. We provide practice tests, vocabulary resources, grammar guides, and study materials developed by experienced English language educators. Visit us at typogrammar.com for more free resources.

Band	Score Descriptor	Speaking Requirement
9	Expert User	Fully operational command, appropriate, accurate, fluent
8	Very Good User	Fully operational with only occasional unsystematic errors
7	Good User	Operational command with occasional inaccuracies and misunderstandings
6	Competent User	Generally effective command despite some inaccuracies
5	Modest User	Partial command, copes with overall meaning in most situations

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IELTS Speaking Assessment Criteria

Your IELTS Speaking score is calculated across four equally weighted criteria, each worth 25% of your total speaking band score. Understanding these criteria will help you focus your preparation effectively.

Fluency and Coherence (25%)

This criterion assesses your ability to speak at length without inappropriate hesitation, to develop topics coherently, and to connect ideas logically. Aim to avoid long pauses, unnecessary fillers, or repetition. Use discourse markers such as 'furthermore', 'in addition', 'however', and 'as a result' to connect your ideas smoothly.

Lexical Resource (25%)

This assesses the range and accuracy of your vocabulary. Use a wide variety of words and phrases, avoid repeating the same words, and demonstrate your ability to paraphrase. Strong candidates use less common vocabulary items accurately and demonstrate awareness of collocations.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy (25%)

This criterion measures your ability to use a range of grammatical structures accurately. Aim to use both simple and complex sentences, appropriate tense forms, conditional structures, passive voice, and relative clauses. Minor errors are acceptable at Band 7 but systematic errors will lower your score.

Pronunciation (25%)

This assesses whether your pronunciation is clear and easy to understand. You are not expected to sound like a native speaker or have a particular accent. Focus on clear articulation, appropriate word stress, sentence rhythm, and intonation patterns. Consistent mispronunciation of common words will lower this score.

Part 2: The Long Turn (Cue Card Task)

In Part 2, you are given a cue card with a topic and bullet points. You have exactly ONE MINUTE to prepare your answer. You should then speak for ONE to TWO MINUTES. The examiner will tell you when to stop. You may make brief notes during your preparation time.

Key strategies for Part 2:

- * Use your one minute of preparation time to note key points and vocabulary, not to write full sentences.
- * Address all bullet points on the cue card to demonstrate comprehensive coverage.
- * Speak for the full two minutes -- candidates who stop early often score lower on fluency.
- * Use specific details, examples, and anecdotes rather than vague generalisations.
- * Maintain appropriate eye contact with the examiner and speak with natural expression.

SECTION 1: PEOPLE

CARD 001

A Friend Who Has Influenced You

Describe a friend who has had a positive influence on your life.

You should say:

- who this person is
- how long you have known them
- what qualities they have
- and explain why they have influenced you positively.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

One of the most influential friends in my life is Ahmed, whom I met during my first year at university about seven years ago. From the very first week of classes, Ahmed stood out as someone who was genuinely interested in helping others succeed.

Ahmed has a remarkable combination of qualities that I deeply admire. He is exceptionally disciplined when it comes to his studies and personal goals. While many of us would procrastinate or make excuses, Ahmed always found a way to stay focused and meet his commitments. Beyond that, he is one of the most empathetic people I have ever met, always willing to listen without judgment whenever someone is going through a difficult time.

The way he has influenced me is both practical and personal. When I was struggling with my second-year exams, Ahmed sat with me for weeks and helped me develop better study habits. He introduced me to time-blocking techniques and showed me how to break large tasks into manageable steps. As a result, I not only passed those exams but actually developed a love for learning that I carry with me today.

On a personal level, Ahmed taught me the value of consistency. He always says that small daily actions lead to massive long-term results, and watching him live by that principle motivated me to apply the same mindset to my own life. I started exercising regularly, reading more books, and setting clear goals for my career -- habits I might never have adopted without his example.

In short, Ahmed is the kind of friend everyone is fortunate to have. His influence has shaped who I am today, and I am genuinely grateful that our paths crossed at such a formative time in my life.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think friends or family have a greater influence on people?
- * How can we choose good friends?
- * Is it important to maintain friendships over time?

CARD 002

An Elderly Person You Respect

Describe an elderly person you respect.

You should say:

- who this person is
- how you know them
- what they are like
- and explain why you respect them.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The elderly person I respect most is my grandfather on my mother's side, a man of extraordinary character who is now in his mid-eighties but still as sharp and kind as I remember from my childhood.

My grandfather spent most of his working life as a schoolteacher in a small rural town. He taught for over forty years and was known throughout the community for his patience, fairness, and genuine dedication to his students. Many of those students went on to successful careers in medicine, engineering, and education, and they still visit him to this day to express their gratitude.

What I admire most about him is his wisdom and the calm way he approaches every situation. He has lived through periods of significant hardship -- political changes, financial difficulties, and personal loss -- yet he always maintained a positive and philosophical outlook. He never complained or blamed others for his circumstances. Instead, he focused on what he could control and found beauty in simple things like gardening, reading history books, and spending time with family.

He also has a wonderful sense of humour, which makes conversations with him a real pleasure. Even at his age, he loves telling stories from his past and often uses those stories to pass on lessons about perseverance and integrity.

I respect him not just because of what he has achieved, but because of who he is as a human being. He embodies the values of honesty, humility, and service to others. Whenever I face a difficult decision, I often ask myself what he would do in that situation, and that mental check has guided me well throughout my life.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Why do younger people sometimes struggle to communicate with older generations?
- * What can young people learn from the elderly?
- * Do you think elderly people are respected enough in modern society?

CARD 003

A Famous Person You Would Like to Meet

Describe a famous person you would like to meet.

You should say:

- who this person is
- why they are famous
- what you would talk about
- and explain why you want to meet them.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

If I had the opportunity to meet any famous person in the world, I would choose Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani education activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Her story is one of the most remarkable and inspiring I have ever encountered.

Malala became globally known after she survived an assassination attempt by the Taliban in 2012 when she was just fifteen years old. Despite this terrifying experience, she continued to advocate passionately for girls' education and became the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. She has since established the Malala Fund, which works to ensure twelve years of free, quality education for every girl around the world.

If I could meet her, I would want to talk about several things. First, I would ask her about the role of fear in her journey. How did she find the courage to continue speaking out after what happened to her? I am also deeply curious about her views on how technology and social media can be used to accelerate educational access in developing countries. Additionally, I would love to hear her thoughts on what ordinary young people can do to make a difference in their communities.

The reason I want to meet Malala is simple: she represents a rare combination of courage, intelligence, and compassion. At such a young age, she demonstrated that one person -- even a child -- can challenge powerful forces and change the world. Meeting her would be not only an honour but also a source of genuine motivation to contribute more meaningfully to causes that matter.

I believe a conversation with her, even a brief one, would be something I would carry with me for the rest of my life.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think famous people have a responsibility to be role models?
- * How does social media affect the reputation of celebrities?
- * Are people famous today for the right reasons?

CARD 004

A Teacher Who Inspired You

Describe a teacher who inspired you.

You should say:

- who this teacher was
- what subject they taught
- what made them special
- and explain how they inspired you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The teacher who has inspired me most is Mrs. Farida, my English literature teacher in secondary school. She taught us from when I was around fourteen until I was seventeen, and in that time she completely changed the way I thought about language and learning.

Mrs. Farida had an incredible ability to bring texts to life. Instead of simply explaining grammar rules or plot summaries, she encouraged us to think deeply about why authors made specific word choices and what those choices revealed about human nature. Her classes felt more like philosophical discussions than traditional lessons, and I looked forward to them every single week.

What made her truly special was her belief in every student's potential. She once told me that I had a natural gift for expressing ideas, at a time when I had very little confidence in my own abilities. That single comment changed my relationship with writing forever. From that point on, I started writing regularly for pleasure, not just for assignments, and that habit has served me throughout my education and career.

She also had exceptional patience. She never made students feel embarrassed for asking questions or making mistakes. Her classroom was a safe space where curiosity was celebrated, and that atmosphere encouraged all of us to take intellectual risks we might otherwise have avoided.

The inspiration she gave me was not just academic. She showed me that a truly passionate educator can shape the entire direction of a person's life. Because of her, I developed a love for reading and communication that has opened doors I never expected. I owe a great deal of who I am intellectually to the years I spent in her classroom.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What qualities make a great teacher?
- * How has the role of teachers changed with the rise of technology?
- * Do you think some subjects are more important to teach than others?

CARD 005

A Person Who Is Good at Their Job

Describe a person you know who is very good at their job.

You should say:

- who this person is
- what their job is
- what makes them good at it
- and explain what you can learn from them.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The person I would like to describe is my colleague Layla, who works as a software engineer at the company where I was previously employed. In my three years working alongside her, I witnessed firsthand just how exceptional she is at what she does.

Layla specialises in backend development and is particularly skilled in designing scalable systems that handle large volumes of data efficiently. What makes her stand out is not merely her technical knowledge, which is undoubtedly impressive, but the way she approaches problems. When faced with a complex challenge, she breaks it down methodically and considers multiple solutions before deciding on the most effective approach. She is never rushed and never careless.

Another quality that makes her exceptional is her ability to communicate technical concepts to non-technical team members. She has a rare talent for translating complex ideas into plain language without losing accuracy, which makes her invaluable during cross-department meetings and project planning sessions.

She is also relentlessly curious. She reads extensively about new technologies and regularly attends online seminars to keep her skills current. This commitment to continuous learning means she is always one step ahead of industry developments.

From Layla, I have learned the importance of combining technical excellence with strong communication skills. She has shown me that being good at your job means not only mastering the technical aspects but also being able to collaborate effectively and adapt to changing circumstances. She is genuinely inspiring, and I consider myself fortunate to have worked alongside someone of her calibre during an important period in my own professional development.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think people are born with talent or do they develop it through hard work?
- * Is job satisfaction more important than a high salary?
- * How can employers motivate their employees to perform better?

SECTION 2: PLACES

CARD 006

A City You Would Like to Visit

Describe a city you would like to visit.

You should say:

- where this city is
- what you know about it
- what you would do there
- and explain why you want to visit it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The city I have always dreamed of visiting is Kyoto, Japan. Located on the island of Honshu in the western part of the country, Kyoto served as Japan's imperial capital for over a thousand years and remains one of the best-preserved historical cities in the entire world.

From what I know about Kyoto, it is a city of stunning contrasts. Ancient Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines stand side by side with traditional wooden townhouses and immaculate Japanese gardens. The famous Fushimi Inari Shrine, with its thousands of bright orange torii gates winding up into the forested hills, is perhaps the image I associate most strongly with the city. I have admired photographs of it for years and cannot imagine how magnificent it must be to walk through in person.

If I were to visit, I would spend my days exploring the historic Gion district, watching for geisha, and cycling along the Kamo River. I would make time to visit the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove and the Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion, which I have read about so many times that seeing them in person feels almost like something I owe myself. In the evenings, I would try traditional Japanese cuisine, including kaiseki multi-course meals, at one of the city's many authentic restaurants.

The reason I want to visit Kyoto above all other cities is that it represents something increasingly rare in our fast-changing world: a place where ancient culture and daily modern life coexist naturally and gracefully. I believe that experiencing that balance firsthand would give me a deeper appreciation of history, craftsmanship, and the importance of preserving cultural heritage for future generations.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think tourism is always good for a city?
- * How has travel changed people's perspectives on the world?
- * What are the disadvantages of living in a tourist city?

CARD 007

A Place in Your Country You Would Recommend

Describe a place in your country that you would recommend to visitors.

You should say:

- where this place is
- what it is like
- what visitors can do there
- and explain why you would recommend it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The place in my country I would most enthusiastically recommend to any visitor is the coastal town of Essaouira in Morocco. Located on the Atlantic coast in the southwest of the country, Essaouira is unlike any other place I have been to, and it consistently captures the hearts of everyone who discovers it.

The town is built around a well-preserved eighteenth-century medina that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its whitewashed buildings, blue wooden doors, and narrow winding lanes create an atmosphere that feels both timeless and deeply authentic. The fortified sea walls, known as the ramparts, offer breathtaking views over the Atlantic Ocean and are particularly spectacular at sunset when the light turns golden over the water.

Visitors to Essaouira can explore the vibrant fishing port, where fresh seafood is grilled right on the quay by local fishermen. The town is also world-famous for its strong coastal winds, which make it a top destination for wind and kitesurfing enthusiasts. The long sandy beach that stretches south of the medina is perfect for horse and camel riding, a uniquely memorable experience.

Beyond its physical beauty, Essaouira has a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere and a rich artistic tradition. Numerous galleries, craft workshops, and music festivals bring the town to life throughout the year, and the local people are known for their warmth and hospitality.

I would recommend Essaouira because it offers something for everyone -- history, nature, food, sport, and culture -- all wrapped in an environment that never feels rushed or overcrowded. It is the kind of place that stays with you long after you leave.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * How does tourism affect local communities?
- * Do you think historic places should be modernised?
- * What makes a destination worth visiting?

CARD 008

A Building You Find Interesting

Describe a building you find interesting or impressive.

You should say:

- what the building is
- where it is located
- what it looks like
- and explain why you find it interesting.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The building I find most fascinating is the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain. Designed by the legendary Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi, it is a Roman Catholic basilica that has been under construction since 1882 and remains, over a century later, still unfinished. That fact alone makes it one of the most unique structures in the world.

Visually, the Sagrada Familia is unlike any other building I have ever seen. Its exterior is covered in intricate stone carvings depicting scenes from the Bible and motifs inspired by nature, giving it an organic quality that feels almost more biological than architectural. The spires rise dramatically into the Barcelona skyline, and from a distance the building looks like something conjured from a dream rather than constructed by human hands. The interior is equally extraordinary, with columns that branch upward like trees and stained glass windows that flood the nave with coloured light throughout the day.

What I find most intellectually interesting about the Sagrada Familia is the story behind it. Gaudi devoted the final decades of his life entirely to this project, knowing he would never live to see it completed. He once said that his client, meaning God, was not in any hurry. That attitude reflects a philosophy about creation, patience, and legacy that I find deeply moving.

The building challenges our assumptions about what architecture is supposed to be. It is simultaneously a work of art, a religious monument, a historical document spanning over one hundred and forty years, and a living demonstration of how great visions outlast the people who conceive them. For all those reasons, it is the building I would most love to experience in person someday.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think modern buildings are as beautiful as historical ones?
- * Should governments spend money on maintaining old buildings?
- * How does architecture reflect the culture of a society?

CARD 009

A Garden or Park You Like

Describe a garden or park you enjoy visiting.

You should say:

- where this place is
- what it looks like
- what you do there
- and explain why you enjoy it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The park I enjoy visiting most is a large botanical garden located about twenty minutes from where I grew up. It covers an area of roughly fifty hectares and contains thousands of plant species from different parts of the world, organised into themed sections that include a tropical greenhouse, a Japanese garden, a rose collection, and a medicinal herb area.

What makes this park particularly beautiful is the way it changes with the seasons. In spring, the cherry blossoms and tulips create an almost overwhelming display of colour that draws large numbers of visitors. In summer, the lawns become gathering spaces for families and students. In autumn, the trees turn extraordinary shades of gold and copper, and in winter, the bare branches and evergreen conifers give the park a quieter, more reflective quality that I personally love.

When I visit, I usually take a long walk without any particular route, simply allowing myself to discover something new each time. I often bring a book and read on one of the benches near the ornamental pond, watching the ducks and listening to the birdsong. On weekends, there are sometimes outdoor concerts and horticultural workshops, which add a social dimension to the experience.

I enjoy this park because it offers a genuinely restorative escape from daily pressures. There is something about being surrounded by living plants and natural light that makes problems feel more manageable and ideas more clear. I always leave feeling calmer and more energised than when I arrived. In a world that is increasingly fast-paced and screen-dominated, having a green space like this nearby feels like an enormous privilege.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think cities should prioritise parks and green spaces?
- * How can spending time in nature benefit mental health?
- * Are botanical gardens useful for education?

CARD 010

A Place Where You Can Study or Work

Describe a place where you like to study or work.

You should say:

- where this place is
- what it is like
- why you go there to study or work
- and explain how it helps your productivity.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

My favourite place to study or work is the central public library in my city. It occupies a large heritage building near the city centre and has been recently renovated to combine its original nineteenth-century architectural character with modern facilities and technology.

The interior of the library is beautifully designed for concentration. The main reading room has high ceilings, tall arched windows that allow natural daylight to fill the space, and long wooden tables with individual reading lamps. The overall atmosphere is one of calm and purpose, which I find enormously conducive to sustained focus. Even when the library is relatively busy, the shared understanding among visitors that noise should be kept minimal makes it feel like a collective agreement to respect each other's concentration.

I go there specifically because it is almost impossible to be distracted in the same way I might be at home. At home, there is always something to do, something to clean, or something to watch. The library removes all of those temptations and surrounds me with an environment that signals that I am here to think and produce work.

The availability of reference materials is another significant advantage. Being able to access books, journals, and databases without leaving my seat saves considerable time compared to searching online and filtering through unreliable sources.

In terms of productivity, I consistently get more done in two hours at the library than in four or five hours at home. There is a kind of positive social pressure that comes from being surrounded by other people who are also working hard, and I find that energy motivating. The library is not just a place I visit; it has become a key part of how I manage my time and achieve my goals.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think libraries are still important in the digital age?
- * What makes an environment good for studying?
- * Should companies provide employees with dedicated quiet workspaces?

SECTION 3: OBJECTS

CARD 011

A Gift You Received

Describe a gift you received that was meaningful to you.

You should say:

- what the gift was
- who gave it to you
- when and why you received it
- and explain why it was meaningful.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The most meaningful gift I have ever received is a vintage fountain pen that my father gave me on the day I graduated from university. It is a beautiful object, dark navy blue with a gold-plated nib, and it came in a small wooden presentation box that smelled of cedar.

My father had owned that pen for many years and had used it throughout his own university studies and professional life. He told me on the day he gave it to me that it had signed some of the most important documents in his career, including his first employment contract, his business partnership agreement, and several letters he wrote to my mother when they were young and living in different cities. The pen, in other words, carried a history that went far beyond its physical appearance.

The reason this gift was so meaningful goes beyond sentimentality. My father is a man who does not easily express emotion in words, and the act of giving me something so personal from his own life was his way of communicating pride and connection. It was more eloquent than any speech he could have given.

I have used the pen regularly ever since, particularly when writing things that matter -- personal letters, notes of gratitude, journal entries during difficult periods. Having it in my hand creates a sense of continuity between my father's generation and my own, a feeling that I am part of something larger than my individual story.

I keep it in its original wooden box on my desk, and whenever I see it, I am reminded of that day and of what my father was trying to express when he placed it in my hands. No other object I own carries that depth of meaning.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think the value of a gift is determined by its price?
- * Are handmade gifts more meaningful than bought gifts?
- * How have gift-giving traditions changed over time?

CARD 012

A Book You Have Enjoyed

Describe a book you have read and enjoyed.

You should say:

- what the book is called and who wrote it
- what it is about
- why you chose to read it
- and explain why you enjoyed it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The book I would like to talk about is 'Educated' by Tara Westover, an American memoir published in 2018. I read it over the course of three evenings, which for me is a sign that a book has genuinely captured my attention.

The book tells the true story of Tara Westover, who grew up in rural Idaho in a survivalist family that did not believe in formal education or conventional medicine. She did not attend school as a child and was not registered with any government authority. Despite this extraordinary background, she taught herself enough to pass the university entrance exam and eventually earned a PhD from Cambridge University. The book chronicles her journey from complete isolation to academic achievement, and the complex emotional cost of that transformation.

I chose to read it after a friend recommended it as one of the most powerful books she had ever encountered. I was sceptical at first, as I tend to be with books that receive a great deal of popular attention, but from the very first chapter I was completely absorbed.

What I enjoyed most was Westover's honesty. She does not present herself as simply a victim or a hero. She describes her own confusion, loyalty, and internal conflicts with remarkable clarity and courage. The book raised profound questions for me about the nature of memory, the definition of education, and the complicated relationship between family love and personal freedom.

It is the kind of book that stays in your mind long after you have finished it and makes you examine your own assumptions about knowledge, belonging, and identity. I have recommended it to almost everyone I know since reading it.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think reading fiction is as valuable as reading non-fiction?
- * Has the internet changed the way people read?
- * Why do some people prefer books to films when it comes to stories?

CARD 013

A Piece of Technology You Use Daily

Describe a piece of technology you use every day.

You should say:

- what it is
- how long you have used it
- what you use it for
- and explain why it is important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The piece of technology I use every single day, and honestly could not function without, is my smartphone. I have owned one for about ten years now, and the role it plays in my daily life has expanded far beyond what I initially expected when I first bought one.

On the most basic level, I use my phone for communication, staying in contact with family, friends, and colleagues through calls, messages, and video calls. But that represents only a small fraction of what I actually do with it. I use it as an alarm clock, a navigation device, a camera, a reading device, a note-taking tool, a language learning app, and a source of news and information. For professional tasks, I check emails, manage my calendar, and occasionally access work documents when I am away from my laptop.

The most important way my phone helps me is in organising my life. The calendar and reminder apps mean I rarely miss an appointment or deadline. Language learning apps allow me to practice during short commutes rather than wasting those twenty minutes doing nothing. The camera allows me to document moments and ideas visually without carrying any additional equipment.

Of course, I am also aware of the negative potential of smartphone use, particularly the way it can encourage distraction and reduce attention spans. I have made conscious efforts to limit social media use and to put the phone away during meals and before sleeping.

Despite its drawbacks, I genuinely believe that used thoughtfully, a smartphone is one of the most powerful personal productivity tools ever created. It has compressed what used to require multiple devices and systems into one object that fits in my pocket.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think people depend too much on technology?
- * How has the smartphone changed social behaviour?
- * Should children be allowed to use smartphones at school?

CARD 014

An Artwork You Like

Describe a piece of art that you like.

You should say:

- what the artwork is
- where you first saw it
- what it looks like or represents
- and explain why you like it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The piece of art I find most compelling is 'Starry Night' by the Dutch Post-Impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh, created in 1889. I first encountered it in a reproduction in an art history textbook when I was about twelve years old, and I remember being immediately transfixed by it. Years later, when I visited the Museum of Modern Art in New York, seeing the original canvas in person was a genuinely emotional experience.

The painting depicts a swirling night sky over a quiet village, with a crescent moon and radiant stars creating rhythmic, almost musical patterns of light across the dark blue atmosphere. A tall, flame-shaped cypress tree dominates the left foreground, connecting the earth and the sky, while a small church spire rises from the village below. Everything in the image is in motion, as if the entire world is breathing.

What I find extraordinary about this painting is that Van Gogh created it while he was a patient at a mental health asylum in Saint-Remy-de-Provence, working from memory and imagination. The turbulence in the sky seems to reflect his own inner experience, and yet the painting is also profoundly beautiful, even peaceful in a strange way.

I like it because it does something I believe the greatest art always does: it makes you feel that you are accessing another person's interior world with unusual intimacy. Looking at 'Starry Night', I can sense Van Gogh's intensity, his loneliness, and his overwhelming sensitivity to beauty. It reminds me that art at its best is not decoration but communication across time and circumstance.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think everyone can appreciate art?
- * Is it important for children to learn about art in school?
- * How has digital technology changed the art world?

CARD 015

Something You Own That Is Eco-Friendly

Describe something you own that is environmentally friendly.

You should say:

- what it is
- how you came to own it
- how it benefits the environment
- and explain whether you think people should use more eco-friendly products.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

One of the most practical eco-friendly items I own is a stainless steel water bottle that I have been using daily for about three years. It was a gift from a friend who was concerned about the amount of single-use plastic I was consuming, particularly since I used to buy bottled water two or three times a day when I was commuting.

The bottle holds about one litre of liquid, has a double-walled insulated design that keeps drinks cold for twenty-four hours or hot for twelve, and is made from food-grade stainless steel with no plastic components in contact with the liquid. It is incredibly durable -- I have dropped it numerous times with no damage -- and shows no signs of wear despite years of regular use.

In terms of environmental benefit, the calculation is straightforward. If I previously bought two plastic bottles of water per day, that amounts to over seven hundred bottles per year. Over three years, my one reusable bottle has already prevented the production and disposal of more than two thousand single-use plastic bottles. Given that plastic bottles take hundreds of years to decompose and often end up in oceans and waterways, even one person making this switch has a meaningful cumulative impact.

I absolutely believe people should use more eco-friendly products where possible. The challenge is often one of habit and convenience rather than genuine difficulty. Carrying a reusable bottle, for example, requires almost no effort once it becomes part of your daily routine. If more people made small changes like this consistently, the collective effect on plastic pollution would be enormous. I think the key is making sustainable choices as normal and convenient as their less sustainable alternatives.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think individuals or governments have more responsibility for protecting the environment?
- * Are eco-friendly products accessible to everyone?
- * How can companies be encouraged to adopt more sustainable practices?

SECTION 4: EVENTS

CARD 016

A Celebration You Remember

Describe a celebration or festival you remember.

You should say:

- what the occasion was
- when and where it took place
- what happened
- and explain why you remember it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The celebration I remember most vividly is my grandmother's eightieth birthday party, which took place about five years ago at her home in the countryside. It was a gathering that our entire extended family had been planning for months, and the event turned out to be even more special than any of us had anticipated.

About sixty people came, including relatives who had travelled from different cities and even from abroad, many of whom had not seen each other in years. My grandmother's house, which is a large traditional farmhouse with a wide courtyard, was decorated with strings of lights, flowers from the garden, and photographs of her life arranged chronologically around the walls -- from her childhood in the 1940s all the way to the present. It looked extraordinary.

We had a traditional meal that lasted for hours, with dishes that my aunts had been preparing for two days. There was music, laughter, and a great deal of storytelling. Each of my grandmother's children stood up and shared a memory of her, and at one point my grandmother herself gave a short speech in which she thanked everyone and said that the greatest gift she had ever received was her family. There was not a dry eye in the room.

I remember this event so clearly because it captured something I believe is increasingly rare: a genuine, unhurried gathering where people were truly present with each other, with no screens and no distractions. It reminded me of why family connections matter and of how much richness lies in shared history. It was one of the most joyful days I have experienced in my adult life, and I carry the memory of it with real warmth.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think traditional celebrations are changing?
- * Why do people celebrate birthdays and anniversaries?
- * How do different cultures celebrate important life events?

CARD 017

A Sports Event You Attended or Watched

Describe a sports event you attended or watched.

You should say:

- what the event was
- where it took place
- what happened during the event
- and explain why it was memorable.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The sports event that stands out most clearly in my memory is a local football match I attended about two years ago between two rival teams in my city. Although it was not a major international competition, the atmosphere in the stadium that evening was unlike anything I had previously experienced.

The match was played at the main municipal stadium, which holds about twenty thousand spectators, and on that night it was completely full. The noise when we arrived was already extraordinary, with both sets of supporters singing, waving flags, and creating an atmosphere of genuine excitement and tension. I was sitting with a group of friends in the home supporters' section, and the energy around us was infectious.

The match itself was genuinely dramatic. The away team scored first, which quietened our section and intensified the pressure. For about thirty minutes it seemed as though the home team would lose, and the collective anxiety in the crowd was almost tangible. Then, with about fifteen minutes remaining, the home team equalised, and the explosion of noise that followed was one of the loudest things I have ever heard. In the final minutes, a second goal secured a comeback victory, and the stadium erupted in a celebration that felt completely spontaneous and entirely joyful.

What made the event memorable was not just the football but the sense of community it created. For those ninety minutes, tens of thousands of people were united by a shared experience, sharing the same hope, anxiety, and eventual delight. I left the stadium feeling strangely connected to thousands of strangers, which is a feeling sport uniquely provides.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think live sports events are better than watching on television?
- * How does sport bring communities together?
- * Should governments invest public money in sports facilities?

CARD 018

An Interesting Conversation You Had

Describe an interesting conversation you once had.

You should say:

- who you spoke with
- what the conversation was about
- where and when it took place
- and explain why the conversation was interesting.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

One of the most interesting conversations I have ever had took place about three years ago on a long train journey. I was travelling between two cities, a journey of about four hours, and found myself seated beside an elderly gentleman who turned out to be a retired marine biologist.

We started talking after I noticed that he was reading a book about deep-sea creatures and mentioned that I had always been fascinated by the ocean. That simple observation opened a conversation that lasted the entire journey and covered topics I had never previously considered.

He told me about his decades of research studying bioluminescent organisms at extreme ocean depths, creatures that produce their own light in an environment of complete darkness. He described the first time he observed a particular species of jellyfish that emitted pulses of blue-green light when disturbed, calling it one of the most beautiful and humbling things he had ever seen. He spoke about how much of the deep ocean remains unexplored and how scientists regularly discover species entirely new to science even today.

What made the conversation truly memorable was his perspective on human knowledge. He said that the more he discovered in his career, the more profoundly he appreciated how much remains unknown. He believed that humility was the most important quality a scientist could possess, because certainty was almost always an indication that one had stopped asking questions.

I left the train feeling genuinely inspired and with a list of books he recommended that I have been working through ever since. It reminded me of the extraordinary education that a single genuine conversation with a curious and experienced person can provide.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think people are becoming better or worse conversationalists?
- * How has social media affected the way people communicate?
- * What makes a conversation truly meaningful?

CARD 019

An Outdoor Activity You Enjoyed

Describe an outdoor activity you have enjoyed.

You should say:

- what the activity was
- where and when you did it
- who you did it with
- and explain why you enjoyed it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The outdoor activity I have enjoyed most in recent years is hiking, and the experience I remember most clearly was a full-day hike I undertook in a national park about two years ago with a small group of close friends.

We set out early in the morning before sunrise, which meant that for the first hour of the hike we were walking through a forest in near-darkness, navigating by torchlight and listening to sounds of the waking landscape around us. As the sun rose, the light gradually filtered through the trees and revealed a landscape of extraordinary beauty -- rolling hills covered in autumn foliage, a mist sitting low over a distant valley, and a clear sky overhead.

The trail we followed was approximately eighteen kilometres in total and took us up through forested sections, across open heathland, and finally to a rocky summit with a panoramic view over the surrounding countryside. We arrived at the summit around midday and sat there for about an hour, eating the lunch we had packed, watching birds of prey circling the thermals below us, and talking with a kind of ease that is only possible when people share a physical challenge together.

The return journey was harder on tired legs, but arriving back at the trailhead as the sun was setting, with a genuine sense of accomplishment and complete physical exhaustion, was deeply satisfying in a way that is difficult to replicate in everyday life.

I enjoyed it because hiking demands complete presence. You cannot think about work or problems when you need to concentrate on the path beneath your feet. It is, for me, the most effective form of mental rest I have discovered.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think urban people are losing their connection to nature?
- * What are the health benefits of spending time outdoors?
- * Should children be encouraged to spend more time in natural environments?

CARD 020

A Time When You Were Late

Describe a time when you were late for something important.

You should say:

- what you were late for
- why you were late
- what happened as a result
- and explain how you felt about it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

I would like to describe an occasion from about four years ago when I was late for a job interview that was extremely important to me. It remains one of the most stressful experiences I have had, and it taught me several lessons I have carried ever since.

The interview was for a position I had been hoping to secure for several months. I had prepared extensively, researched the company thoroughly, and was genuinely excited about the opportunity. On the morning of the interview, I felt confident and ready. I left home with what I believed was plenty of time, but I had not accounted for an unexpected combination of problems: heavy traffic caused by roadworks I had not been aware of, and a wrong turn I made while trying to find an alternative route.

I arrived at the building exactly fourteen minutes after the scheduled start time. I was out of breath, flustered, and extremely anxious as I explained the situation to the receptionist and was shown through to the waiting room.

What happened next genuinely surprised me. The two interviewers were understanding rather than hostile. One of them smiled and said that traffic in that area was notoriously unpredictable and that they appreciated me calling ahead to let them know, which I had done from the car. The interview proceeded normally and actually went quite well.

The lesson I took away was twofold. First, always leave substantially more time than you think you need for anything important. Second, if something goes wrong that is outside your control, contact the relevant people immediately -- it transforms the situation from one in which you appear unreliable to one in which you are seen as communicative and responsible. I have never been late for anything significant since that day.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think punctuality is valued differently in different cultures?
- * How do you manage your time to avoid being late?
- * Is being late sometimes acceptable?

SECTION 5: EXPERIENCES

CARD 021

A Time You Helped Someone

Describe a time when you helped someone.

You should say:

- who you helped
- what the situation was
- how you helped them
- and explain how you felt after helping them.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The experience of helping someone that I reflect on most often happened about three years ago when a neighbour of mine, an older woman named Mrs. Hassan who lives alone, found herself in a genuinely difficult situation.

I had noticed over several weeks that she had not been collecting her post or taking in her bins as reliably as usual. One morning I rang her doorbell to check if everything was alright and discovered that she had been struggling with a combination of health problems that had made it difficult for her to leave her apartment. She had been managing largely without help, too proud to ask anyone and worried about being a burden.

Over the following two months, I organised a loose rota with two other neighbours so that one of us checked on her every couple of days, collected her groceries when needed, drove her to medical appointments, and generally ensured she was not isolated. I also helped her navigate some administrative processes, including applying for a government support allowance she was entitled to but had not known about, which made a significant difference to her daily life.

The feeling I had throughout this period was one I find difficult to describe precisely. It was a combination of warmth, purpose, and something close to gratitude -- not that she was struggling, of course, but that I was in a position to be genuinely useful. Helping her did not feel like an obligation or a sacrifice; it felt like exactly what I should be doing with my time.

Mrs. Hassan subsequently told me that those months had been transformative for her sense of connection to her community. That feedback reminded me that sometimes the most meaningful thing we can do for another person is simply to show up consistently.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think people are generally willing to help strangers?
- * How can communities better support vulnerable members?
- * What motivates people to volunteer their time?

CARD 022

A Time You Faced a Challenge

Describe a time when you faced a significant challenge.

You should say:

- what the challenge was
- when and why it occurred
- how you dealt with it
- and explain what you learned from the experience.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The most significant challenge I have faced was during the final year of my undergraduate degree, when I was simultaneously managing a heavy academic workload, working part-time to cover my living expenses, and dealing with a serious health issue in my immediate family.

The academic pressure was already substantial -- my final year required a lengthy research dissertation as well as six examined courses -- but the family health situation created an emotional weight that made concentrating on anything nearly impossible at times. I remember sitting in the library on several occasions and finding that I could not read a single paragraph without my mind wandering back to worry about the situation at home.

The way I dealt with it was initially through sheer determination, which was not particularly effective or sustainable. The real turning point came when I spoke honestly to my academic advisor about what I was experiencing. She was extraordinarily supportive, helped me apply for a two-week extension on my dissertation submission, and connected me with the university's counselling service, which I used regularly throughout that period.

I also learned to compartmentalise more effectively, allocating specific hours to focused academic work and protecting that time while accepting that worry about family matters was natural and should be allowed its own space rather than suppressed.

I completed the year with grades I was proud of, but more importantly I emerged with a much clearer understanding of my own resilience, the importance of asking for help, and the fact that most institutions and people respond with more kindness to honesty than we fear they will. That last lesson has influenced how I approach difficult situations in every area of my life since then.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think experiencing challenges makes people stronger?
- * How should educational institutions support students facing personal difficulties?
- * Is it important to take risks in life?

CARD 023

A Time You Learned Something New

Describe a time when you learned something new.

You should say:

- what you learned
- why you decided to learn it
- how you went about learning it
- and explain how it has been useful to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

About two years ago I decided to learn basic cooking properly for the first time. I had reached a point in my life where I was tired of relying on convenience food and takeaways, and I was also becoming increasingly aware of the financial and health costs of eating that way. I decided it was time to develop a skill I had always deferred to other people in my life.

I began by signing up for a six-week evening cooking course at a local community centre. The class was small, with about ten participants, and was taught by a professional chef who had a talent for making seemingly complex techniques feel accessible and logical. We covered foundational skills during those six weeks, including knife technique, understanding heat, building flavour through seasoning, and making stock from scratch.

After the course ended, I committed to cooking at least four times per week, using a combination of recipe books and video tutorials online. I deliberately chose recipes that challenged me slightly beyond my current ability, which meant I made many mistakes in the early months -- overseasoned dishes, improperly cooked proteins, collapsed cakes -- but each mistake taught me something concrete.

Within about six months I had developed a reliable repertoire of about twenty dishes I could prepare confidently, and I had begun to understand cooking intuitively rather than following recipes mechanically.

The benefits have been substantial. I spend considerably less on food, eat far more healthily, and have developed a genuine creative outlet that I genuinely look forward to. Cooking also turned out to be an unexpectedly social skill -- I now regularly cook for friends, which has strengthened those relationships in a simple but real way. It is one of the most practical things I have ever decided to learn.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think cooking is an important life skill?
- * How has the internet changed the way people learn new skills?
- * Is it better to learn skills formally or through self-teaching?

CARD 024

A Time You Visited a Historical Place

Describe a time when you visited a historical place.

You should say:

- where you went
- when you visited
- what you saw and did there
- and explain what impressed you most.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The most memorable historical site I have visited is the ancient Roman city of Volubilis in Morocco, which I explored during a trip about three years ago. Located near the city of Meknes in the north of the country, Volubilis was a major Roman settlement that flourished between the first and third centuries AD and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.

I arrived at the site on a clear winter morning when there were relatively few other visitors, which made the experience particularly atmospheric. The ruins cover a large area and include remarkably well-preserved mosaic floors, triumphal arches, columns, forum buildings, and residential structures. Walking among them, I was struck immediately by the scale of what had once been a fully functioning city on African soil, so far from Rome itself.

What impressed me most were the mosaics. Despite being nearly two thousand years old and having spent centuries exposed to the elements before excavation, many of them retain their colour and detail with astonishing clarity. They depict scenes from Roman mythology, hunting, and daily life, and they provide a vivid window into the aesthetic and cultural world of a civilisation that ended long before the modern era.

I spent about three hours at the site with a guide who brought the ruins to life by contextualising what each structure would have been used for and explaining the significance of the settlement within the broader Roman empire. That context transformed what might have been an interesting but passive visual experience into something genuinely intellectually engaging.

Visiting Volubilis reinforced for me the importance of preserving archaeological heritage, not as a curiosity but as a living connection to the long and complex history of human civilisation.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * How important is it to preserve historical sites?
- * Do you think history should be taught differently in schools?
- * Can tourism damage historical sites?

CARD 025

A Time You Made a Mistake

Describe a time when you made a mistake.

You should say:

- what the mistake was
- when and how it happened
- what you did afterwards
- and explain what you learned from it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

A mistake I made that I think about fairly often occurred about five years ago in a professional context. I was working on a project for my team and was responsible for compiling a report that would be presented to senior management. Due to a combination of time pressure and overconfidence, I submitted the report without checking a key section of the data as carefully as I should have.

During the presentation, a senior manager asked a clarifying question about one of the statistics I had cited. When I went to the source document to verify it in real time, I discovered that the figure in my report was incorrect -- I had transposed two numbers, turning what should have been 37% into 73%, which was a significant and consequential error given the context of the discussion.

I acknowledged the mistake immediately and clearly in front of everyone, which was uncomfortable but the only appropriate response. I corrected the figure on the spot, explained that the corrected data actually supported the same recommendation, and offered to circulate a revised version of the report before the end of the day.

My manager spoke to me privately afterwards. She said that the mistake itself was not what she was most concerned about -- errors happen -- but that my immediate and transparent response to it was exactly how she expected professionals to behave. That conversation helped me process the embarrassment more quickly than I might have otherwise.

What I learned was twofold. First, there is no substitute for thorough checking of important work, regardless of time pressure. Second, when mistakes occur, owning them immediately and clearly is not just ethically right but also, paradoxically, the most effective way to maintain credibility. I have applied both lessons consistently since then.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think making mistakes is an important part of learning?
- * How should managers respond when employees make mistakes?
- * Is perfectionism a positive or negative quality in the workplace?

SECTION 1: PEOPLE

CARD 026

A Person Who Cares About the Environment

Describe a person you know who cares about the environment.

You should say:

- who this person is
- what they do to protect the environment
- how they influence others
- and explain why you admire them.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

My cousin Nadia is perhaps the most environmentally conscious person I know personally. She works as a sustainability consultant for a mid-sized manufacturing company, where she is responsible for auditing the firm's carbon footprint and developing strategies to reduce its environmental impact. In her personal life, she lives by the same principles she advocates professionally.

Nadia has not owned a car in seven years, choosing instead to cycle, use public transport, or walk for all her daily journeys. Her apartment is furnished almost entirely with second-hand or upcycled items, and she operates on a near-zero-waste philosophy that has caused her to completely rethink her relationship with consumption. She grows vegetables on her balcony, composts her organic waste, and has not bought fast fashion clothing in years.

What I admire most is that she does all of this without any self-righteousness. She never makes people around her feel judged for their choices. Instead, she leads quietly by example and answers questions about her lifestyle with genuine enthusiasm and practical advice when people are curious. As a result, several of our mutual friends have made meaningful changes inspired by her approach, including reducing meat consumption and eliminating single-use plastics from their homes.

Admiring Nadia has made me more aware of the gap between environmental values and everyday behaviour in my own life. She represents the most effective kind of influence: not loud advocacy but consistent, joyful action that makes alternatives seem genuinely possible rather than merely theoretical.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * How can individuals contribute to environmental protection?
- * Do you think businesses or individuals are more responsible for environmental damage?
- * Will the next generation be more environmentally conscious?

CARD 027

A Creative Person You Admire

Describe a creative person you know or have heard about.

You should say:

- who this person is
- what kind of creative work they do
- how they developed their creativity
- and explain why you find them inspiring.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The most genuinely creative person I know is a close friend called Omar who works as an independent graphic designer and illustrator. I have known him since we were teenagers, and I have watched him develop from someone who drew constantly in the margins of his notebooks to a professional whose work is recognised internationally.

Omar's visual style is immediately recognisable, combining bold geometric forms with unexpected colour combinations and a subtle narrative quality that makes his illustrations feel like they are telling stories rather than simply decorating surfaces. He works across branding, editorial illustration, and personal art projects, and each category of his work has a coherence that reflects a deeply considered aesthetic vision.

What I find most interesting about his creativity is its discipline. Many people assume creative people work primarily through inspiration, but Omar's studio practice is rigorous and systematic. He draws every single day without exception, fills sketchbooks constantly, and treats experimentation as a professional obligation rather than an occasional luxury. He has always believed that creativity is a muscle that atrophies without regular exercise, and his output reflects that conviction.

He is also generously curious about other disciplines. He reads widely about architecture, film, philosophy, and natural science, and you can see the influence of those interests woven into his visual language in ways that might not be immediately obvious but give his work unusual depth.

Watching Omar build a creative career from genuine passion and sustained effort has been one of the most motivating things in my own professional life. He demonstrates that originality is not a fixed gift but a quality that can be cultivated deliberately over time.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think creativity can be taught?
- * Is creativity more important in some careers than others?
- * How does technology affect creative work?

CARD 028

A Person Who Speaks More Than One Language

Describe a person you know who speaks more than one language.

You should say:

- who this person is
- what languages they speak
- how they learned those languages
- and explain how speaking multiple languages has benefited them.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

My colleague Yasmine is one of the most linguistically accomplished people I have ever met. She speaks four languages with genuine fluency: Arabic as her mother tongue, French which she grew up using in an educational and professional context, English which she learned primarily through her studies and time spent abroad, and Spanish which she taught herself over two years largely through podcasts, films, and language exchange applications.

Watching Yasmine switch between languages in a single conversation is a remarkable experience. She moves between them with an ease that makes multilingualism appear completely natural rather than effortful. She once explained to me that each language she speaks feels connected to a slightly different version of herself -- that her personality and even her sense of humour shift subtly depending on which language she is operating in, reflecting the different cultural contexts in which each language was acquired.

The professional benefits for her have been enormous. She works in international communications and regularly handles projects across North Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Her language skills mean she can build relationships and communicate nuance in ways that translation cannot replicate, and she has told me that clients consistently respond differently to her once they realise she is communicating in their native tongue rather than through an intermediary.

Beyond the professional advantages, Yasmine credits her multilingualism with giving her a more flexible and empathetic mind. She believes that understanding how different languages structure reality differently has made her more thoughtful about communication generally, and less likely to assume that her initial interpretation of any situation is the only valid one.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think everyone should learn at least one foreign language?
- * What is the best age to start learning a foreign language?
- * Is it possible to lose a language you once spoke fluently?

SECTION 2: PLACES

CARD 029

A Place Near Water That You Like

Describe a place near water that you enjoy visiting.

You should say:

- where this place is
- what it looks like
- what you do when you go there
- and explain why you find it relaxing or enjoyable.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The place near water that I feel most drawn to is a small lake about forty minutes from the city where I grew up. It sits in a shallow valley surrounded by pine forest and is accessible by a walking trail that winds through the trees for about twenty minutes from the nearest parking area. Because it requires some effort to reach, it never becomes overcrowded, and on weekday mornings it is frequently completely deserted.

The lake itself is not large, perhaps a kilometre across at its widest point, and its water is exceptionally clear, reflecting the sky and the trees so accurately that on still mornings the reflection appears almost more real than the landscape above it. The shoreline alternates between rocky sections and small sandy coves, and there are several flat boulders close to the water that are perfect for sitting on and watching the surface.

When I visit, I rarely bring a specific agenda. I usually walk the full perimeter of the lake, which takes about ninety minutes at an unhurried pace, and spend time sitting quietly at the far end where an inlet creates a sheltered cove that catches the afternoon light particularly beautifully. In summer, I sometimes swim, although the water is cold even in the warmest months.

I find this place valuable precisely because it demands nothing. There is no phone signal, no noise from traffic, and no visual clutter. The mind, deprived of its usual stimulation, eventually settles and quietens in a way that feels profoundly restorative. Every time I leave, I feel more patient, more clear-headed, and more capable of dealing with whatever awaits me in ordinary life.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think access to natural spaces is important for people's wellbeing?
- * How has urbanisation affected people's connection to nature?
- * Should development near lakes and rivers be restricted?

CARD 030

A Place Where You Like to Go on Weekends

Describe a place where you like to spend time on weekends.

You should say:

- what the place is
- where it is
- what you do there
- and explain why you enjoy going there.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

One of my favourite places to spend weekend time is a covered market in my city that has been operating for over a hundred years. It is located in an older part of the city centre, housed in a large Victorian building with a vaulted iron and glass roof that floods the interior with natural light. The market operates on Saturday and Sunday mornings from around seven o'clock until early afternoon.

The range of things on offer is extraordinary. There are stalls selling fresh vegetables and fruit, others with artisan bread and pastries, a section devoted to local cheeses and cured meats, vintage books and records, handmade ceramics and jewellery, hot food from multiple culinary traditions, and a small area with antique dealers who change their stock regularly.

I usually arrive fairly early, around eight o'clock, when the market is busy but not uncomfortably crowded. I walk through slowly, buy ingredients for the week ahead, and typically stop for a coffee and something to eat from one of the food stalls. If I have time, I browse the book section, where I have found several unexpected treasures over the years.

What I enjoy most about this market is not any single thing it contains but the overall experience of being somewhere with genuine variety, human scale, and a connection to local producers and makers. Shopping there feels fundamentally different from shopping in a supermarket or online because every transaction involves a real person with knowledge and pride in what they produce. That quality of encounter, however brief, gives the morning a texture and pleasure that more efficient forms of shopping cannot replicate.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think traditional markets will survive the growth of online shopping?
- * What are the benefits of buying directly from local producers?
- * How do public markets contribute to a sense of community?

CARD 031

A Quiet Place You Know

Describe a quiet place you enjoy going to.

You should say:

- where this place is
- what it is like
- how often you go there
- and explain why you value the quietness.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The quietest place I regularly visit is a small reading room in the upper floor of my city's oldest library. It is a room that most regular visitors never discover because it is not signposted from the main entrance and can only be reached by a narrow staircase at the back of the periodicals section. It holds perhaps thirty people at full capacity and contains comfortable chairs arranged around low tables, walls lined with older reference books, and a single tall window that looks out over an internal courtyard planted with a large chestnut tree.

The quality of silence in this room is different from ordinary quiet. It is an active, purposeful silence shared between people who have each made the small effort required to find the room and who therefore have an implicit shared understanding of what it is for. In my experience, this kind of consensual quiet is significantly more peaceful than simply being alone.

I visit roughly once a week, usually on a Thursday evening after work. I stay for about two hours and use the time for reading, thinking, or writing in my journal. I rarely bring work because the atmosphere of the room seems to invite a different kind of attention -- more patient and more reflective than the analytical focus that professional tasks require.

I value quietness increasingly as daily life becomes more acoustically saturated. Most environments we inhabit -- offices, cafes, public transport, our own homes -- produce a constant background of sound and stimulation that requires a low-level expenditure of attention simply to filter. Spending time in genuine quiet gives that filtering system a rest that, over time, I believe is genuinely necessary for mental clarity and creativity.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think cities are becoming noisier?
- * How does noise pollution affect people's health?
- * Why do some people find it difficult to work or think in quiet environments?

SECTION 3: OBJECTS

CARD 032

Something You Made Yourself

Describe something you made with your own hands.

You should say:

- what it was
- how you made it
- why you made it
- and explain how you feel about having made it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

About eighteen months ago I built a small wooden bookshelf for my living room, which was the first piece of furniture I had ever made entirely from scratch. I had no previous woodworking experience and undertook the project partly as a practical necessity, since I needed more shelf space, and partly as a deliberate challenge to myself to learn a completely new physical skill.

I began by researching basic woodworking techniques online and in a book I found in the library. I then visited a local timber yard to select suitable wood -- I chose pine for its workability and cost -- and spent several evenings measuring, marking, and cutting the pieces by hand in my small workshop space. Joining the sections together required learning how to make simple mortise and tenon joints, which I practised on scrap wood before attempting the actual shelf.

The finished product is not perfect. The measurements are slightly inconsistent in one section, and one of the joints required a visible repair that a professional would never have needed. But it is structurally sound, genuinely functional, and has held my books without any issues since the day I assembled it.

The feeling of having made it is something I did not fully anticipate. Every time I take a book from it or notice it in the room, there is a small but genuine satisfaction in knowing that I designed, built, and installed it myself. It connects me to a tradition of making things with one's hands that modern life rarely requires, and that process of physical problem-solving -- measuring, cutting, joining, sanding, finishing -- was genuinely meditative in a way I found unexpectedly valuable. I have since made two smaller pieces of furniture and plan to continue.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think handmade objects have more value than mass-produced ones?
- * Is it important for people to have practical skills?
- * How has technology changed the way we make and consume objects?

CARD 033

A Musical Instrument You Would Like to Learn

Describe a musical instrument you would like to learn to play.

You should say:

- what the instrument is
- why you are interested in it
- how you would go about learning it
- and explain what you think you would gain from learning it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The musical instrument I have always wanted to learn is the oud, a pear-shaped stringed instrument that is central to the musical traditions of the Arab world, Turkey, and Persia. It is one of the oldest string instruments in human history, with a lineage that can be traced back several thousand years, and the sound it produces has a quality I find deeply evocative.

My interest in the oud began during my childhood, when I heard my grandfather play it at family gatherings. He was not a professional musician but had learned as a young man and played with a fluency and expressiveness that created an atmosphere impossible to replicate with any other instrument. The oud's voice, warm and resonant with a subtle melancholy even in joyful pieces, left a deep impression on me.

If I were to pursue learning it seriously, I would begin by finding a qualified teacher rather than attempting self-instruction, because the technique -- particularly the right-hand picking style and the unfretted left-hand fingerwork -- requires careful guidance from the beginning to avoid developing habits that are difficult to correct later. I would also immerse myself in listening to the great masters of the instrument, from classical figures to contemporary players, to develop my ear before my technique.

What I believe I would gain extends beyond musical ability. Learning an instrument requires a particular kind of patient discipline -- daily practice, tolerance of gradual progress, and the acceptance of discomfort -- that transfers to other domains. I also believe that learning to play music from my own cultural heritage would deepen my connection to that heritage in a uniquely direct and embodied way.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think music education should be compulsory in schools?
- * Has the digital age changed the way people engage with music?
- * What are the cognitive benefits of learning a musical instrument?

CARD 034

A Photo You Like

Describe a photo that you find meaningful or beautiful.

You should say:

- what the photo shows
- when it was taken and by whom
- where you first saw it
- and explain why it is meaningful to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The photograph I find most meaningful is one that my mother took of our family during a summer evening about fifteen years ago. We were sitting in the garden of our family home at a table covered with the remains of a long meal -- half-empty dishes, a jug of water, glasses with traces of juice -- and the evening light was falling at a low angle that made everything golden. There are five of us in the photograph: my parents, my two younger brothers, and myself.

What the photograph captures is not a posed moment. We were mid-conversation, mid-gesture, completely unaware that my mother had stepped back with her camera to document the scene. My father is leaning forward with his elbows on the table, making a point about something. One of my brothers is laughing. The other is looking away at something outside the frame. I am listening with an expression I barely recognise as my own.

I first saw the photograph in its developed form -- this was before smartphones made immediate digital review standard -- about a week after it was taken, when my mother had the film processed. She had it framed and placed it on the mantelpiece in our living room, where it remained for years.

What makes it meaningful is that it captures something true about our family in a way that no composed photograph could achieve. It shows us in the ordinary domestic intimacy that constitutes most of a life, rather than in the special occasions we typically document. Fifteen years later, looking at it is a reminder of how much richness exists in the unremarkable moments we rarely think to preserve.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think photographs change the way we experience events?
- * Is photography a form of art?
- * How has smartphone photography changed the way people document their lives?

SECTION 4: EVENTS

CARD 035

A Time You Received Good News

Describe a time when you received some good news.

You should say:

- what the good news was
- when and how you received it
- who else was involved
- and explain how you felt when you heard it.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The most memorable piece of good news I have received in recent years came about three years ago when I found out that I had been accepted onto a postgraduate programme at a university I had very much hoped to attend. I had applied several months earlier, during a period when I was unsure about the direction of my career, and the acceptance felt like both a validation and a new beginning.

I received the news by email late on a Tuesday afternoon. I remember exactly where I was -- sitting at my desk at work, checking my phone during a brief break -- and the moment I read the subject line of the message my heart genuinely accelerated. When I opened the email and confirmed that it was an offer of admission, I had to read it twice because I could not quite believe it immediately.

My first action was to call my mother, who had been aware of the application and had been quietly supportive throughout the waiting period. Her reaction was immediate and enthusiastic, and hearing her excitement intensified my own in a way that made the moment feel more real. I then told my closest colleague, who happened to be nearby, and a small impromptu celebration took place in the office that afternoon.

The feeling I had throughout the rest of that day was one of the most consistently pleasant I can remember. It was not the sharp excitement of a sudden surprise but something more sustained -- a warm, expanding sense of possibility and relief that carried through into the following days. Good news of that kind reframes not just the future but also the recent past, making the effort and uncertainty of the months before suddenly feel worthwhile and even necessary.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * How do people typically react to unexpected good news?
- * Do you think social media has changed how people share news?
- * Is it important to celebrate personal achievements?

CARD 036

A Time You Were Surprised

Describe a time when you were genuinely surprised.

You should say:

- what surprised you
- when and where this happened
- how you reacted
- and explain why it was surprising.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The occasion when I was most genuinely and unexpectedly surprised was my thirtieth birthday, about two years ago. I had specifically told everyone close to me that I did not want a fuss and preferred to mark the occasion quietly with a small dinner. My friends and family, it turned out, had taken this as a challenge rather than an instruction.

On the evening of my birthday, my closest friend suggested we have a quiet drink at a bar we both liked before dinner. I agreed without suspicion, and we walked there in the normal way. When we entered, the lights were on, the bar appeared empty for a moment, and then approximately thirty people I cared about emerged from behind furniture, corners, and a back room shouting happy birthday simultaneously.

My reaction, apparently, was extremely comical. I am told that my face went through several expressions in rapid succession, including confusion, recognition, and then something that looked like mild alarm before settling into genuine delight. I stood in the entrance for what felt like a long time but was probably about four seconds.

What made it surprising was the combination of complete plausibility of the cover story, the level of secrecy my usually indiscreet friends had maintained for weeks, and the gap between the quiet evening I had been anticipating and the crowded, warm scene I walked into. The surprise element added a quality of unreality to the early part of the evening that made everything feel slightly heightened and vivid.

I was genuinely touched, not only by the effort involved but by the evidence it provided that people I valued had listened enough to know what would matter to me, and then cared enough to invest significant time and coordination to create it.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think surprise parties are a good idea?
- * How do different people react to being the centre of attention?
- * Are there cultural differences in how surprises are received?

CARD 037

A Recent Change in Your Life

Describe a change that has happened in your life recently.

You should say:

- what the change was
- when and why it happened
- how it has affected you
- and explain whether you think it was a positive change.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The most significant change in my life over the past year has been relocating to a new city for professional reasons. I had been living in the same place for almost eight years and had built a comfortable network of friends, routines, and familiar places, so the decision to move was not made lightly.

The change happened about eleven months ago when I was offered a position that represented a significant step forward in my career and aligned closely with the direction I had been working toward for several years. After considerable deliberation and conversations with family and close friends, I accepted the offer and made the move within about six weeks.

The adjustment period was more challenging than I had anticipated. Practical aspects like finding an apartment, navigating a new transport system, and establishing basic routines were manageable, but the social dimension was harder. I missed the easy familiarity of established friendships, the ability to see familiar faces without making an effort, and the simple comfort of knowing a city well enough to move through it without thinking.

Eleven months on, however, I can honestly say the change has been enormously positive. I have been pushed out of patterns of thinking and living that, in retrospect, had become limiting without my fully recognising it. The new city has introduced me to a broader range of people and perspectives. My professional development has accelerated significantly. And I have rediscovered the genuine pleasure of learning a new place, which requires a quality of attention and curiosity that familiarity tends to erode over time.

The process has confirmed for me that discomfort and growth are more closely connected than comfort allows us to appreciate.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think people should be willing to move for career opportunities?
- * How do people adapt to living in a new place?
- * What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in different cities throughout your life?

SECTION 5: EXPERIENCES

CARD 038

A Time You Used Public Transport

Describe an experience you had using public transport.

You should say:

- what form of transport it was
- where you were travelling
- what happened during the journey
- and explain what you thought of the experience.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

One public transport experience that I remember particularly clearly was a long train journey I took across a significant part of the country about four years ago. I was travelling from the city where I lived to visit a friend in a coastal town several hundred kilometres away, a journey that took approximately five hours on a slow regional train that stopped at numerous small stations along the route.

I had initially been slightly disappointed that faster direct options were not available, but the journey turned out to be one of the most enjoyable travel experiences I have had. The train was not particularly modern, but it was comfortable and clean, and the window was large enough to offer an uninterrupted view of the landscape.

The route passed through remarkably varied terrain. We began in flat agricultural land that gradually gave way to hills, then a section of forest, then a long descent through a valley with a river running alongside the tracks before the land flattened again near the coast. I had my phone and a book but barely used either because I was too absorbed in watching the landscape change.

I also had a long conversation with a woman sitting across from me who was a retired schoolteacher travelling to visit her daughter. We talked for about ninety minutes about education, travel, and the changing character of small towns in the country, and it was one of those unexpectedly enriching exchanges that public transport sometimes produces and private transport rarely does.

The experience reminded me that slow travel has genuine virtues that efficiency often eliminates. The journey became part of the experience rather than simply an inconvenient gap between departure and arrival.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think public transport systems in your country are good enough?
- * How can governments encourage more people to use public transport?
- * Will private car use decline in the future?

CARD 039

A Time You Tried Something for the First Time

Describe a time when you tried something for the first time.

You should say:

- what you tried
- when and why you decided to try it
- what the experience was like
- and explain whether you would try it again.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The most memorable first-time experience I have had in recent years was learning to scuba dive during a holiday about three years ago. I had always been comfortable in water and a reasonable swimmer, but the idea of breathing underwater had both fascinated and intimidated me for as long as I could remember.

I enrolled in a two-day beginner course offered by a certified diving centre near the resort where I was staying. The first day was spent primarily in shallow water, learning to clear the mask, equalise ear pressure, and breathe steadily from the tank while submerged no deeper than about three metres. My instructor was calm, methodical, and excellent at reading which aspects a student was finding difficult.

The second day involved an open-water dive to about eight metres. The moment I descended below the surface and looked around was one of the most arresting experiences of my life. The quality of the light underwater, the silence broken only by the sound of my own breathing, and the complete suspension of normal terrestrial experience created a sense of profound displacement that was simultaneously peaceful and intensely vivid. I saw fish I had only ever seen in photographs, a sea turtle that moved with extraordinary unhurried grace, and coral formations of colours I had not anticipated.

I was underwater for approximately forty-five minutes on that dive, and when I surfaced I was genuinely reluctant to return to air. I have since completed my open-water certification and dived on two further occasions. The experience confirmed for me that the most meaningful encounters with the world often lie on the other side of the mild discomfort of trying something genuinely new.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * Do you think it is important to try new experiences throughout your life?
- * What stops people from trying new things?
- * How can trying new experiences change a person's perspective?

CARD 040

A Time You Worked in a Team

Describe a time when you worked as part of a team.

You should say:

- what the team was working on
- what your role was
- what challenges the team faced
- and explain what you learned from working in that team.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

The team project I reflect on most usefully was a collaborative research initiative I was part of about two years ago, involving five people from different professional backgrounds who were brought together to produce a strategic report for a non-profit organisation focused on youth employment.

The team consisted of a data analyst, an economist, a social worker, a communications specialist, and myself, representing a policy background. The diversity of expertise was genuinely valuable, but it also created the main challenge we faced: each of us approached the problem through the lens of our own discipline, which initially made it difficult to agree on a shared methodology or even a common understanding of what the report needed to achieve.

Our first two weeks were honestly frustrating. Meetings ran long because we spent too much time debating approach rather than doing work, and there were moments when the collaboration felt more like a hindrance than an advantage. The turning point came when we explicitly scheduled a session purely to discuss how each of us defined the problem and what kind of solution we were each imagining. That conversation, which had no agenda other than genuine listening, created sufficient shared understanding that we could then divide the work more intelligently.

My own role evolved from providing policy context at the beginning to serving as a kind of editorial coordinator in the final weeks, reconciling the different sections into a coherent whole.

What I learned most clearly from the experience is that team effectiveness depends less on individual talent than on the quality of communication between members, and that investing time in understanding each other's perspectives at the beginning of a project is not inefficient -- it is the most efficient possible use of early time.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What makes a successful team?
- * Do you prefer working alone or in a team?
- * How can team conflicts be resolved effectively?

SECTION 1: PEOPLE

CARD 041

A Neighbour You Like

Describe a neighbour you get along well with.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Neighbour You Like', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 042

A Person Who Is Always Happy

Describe a person you know who is always cheerful.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Person Who Is Always Happy', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 043

A Historical Figure You Admire

Describe a historical figure you find inspiring.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Historical Figure You Admire', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 044

A Person Who Helped You When You Were in Trouble

Describe someone who helped you during a difficult time.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Person Who Helped You When You Were in Trouble', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 045

A Person Who Likes to Cook

Describe someone you know who enjoys cooking.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Person Who Likes to Cook', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 046

A Young Person Who Is Successful

Describe a young person who has achieved success.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Young Person Who Is Successful', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 047

A Person Who Has Made a Difference in Your Community

Describe someone who has contributed positively to your community.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Person Who Has Made a Difference in Your Community', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 048

A Sports Person You Admire

Describe a sports player you admire.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Sports Person You Admire', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 049

A Person Who Works Outdoors

Describe someone you know who works outdoors.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Person Who Works Outdoors', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 050

A Scientist or Inventor You Know About

Describe a scientist or inventor you find interesting.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Scientist or Inventor You Know About', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 051

A Person Who Saved Money to Buy Something

Describe a person you know who saved up for something important.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Person Who Saved Money to Buy Something', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 052

A Foreign Person You Know

Describe a person from another country who you know or have met.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Foreign Person You Know', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

SECTION 2: PLACES

CARD 053

A Street Market You Have Visited

Describe a street market you have been to.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Street Market You Have Visited', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 054

A School or College You Have Attended

Describe a school or educational institution you attended.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A School or College You Have Attended', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 055

A Museum You Have Visited

Describe a museum you have been to.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Museum You Have Visited', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 056

A Place Where You Relax

Describe a place where you like to relax.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Place Where You Relax', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 057

An Interesting Neighbourhood

Describe an interesting neighbourhood in your city.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'An Interesting Neighbourhood', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 058

A Place in Nature You Love

Describe a natural place that you particularly enjoy.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Place in Nature You Love', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 059

A Place You Visited as a Child

Describe somewhere you visited when you were a child.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Place You Visited as a Child', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 060

A Sports Venue or Stadium

Describe a sports venue or stadium you have visited.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Sports Venue or Stadium', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 061

A Place That Has Changed

Describe a place you know that has changed over the years.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Place That Has Changed', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 062

A Place Where You Buy Food

Describe a place where you regularly buy food.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Place Where You Buy Food', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 063

A Place Overseas You Have Heard About

Describe a foreign place you would like to visit but have not yet.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Place Overseas You Have Heard About', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 064

A Beach or Coastal Area

Describe a beach or coastal area you have visited or would like to visit.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Beach or Coastal Area', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

SECTION 3: OBJECTS

CARD 065

Something You Bought Online

Describe something you purchased online.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'Something You Bought Online', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 066

A Vehicle You Would Like to Own

Describe a type of vehicle you would like to own.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Vehicle You Would Like to Own', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 067

Something Old That You Own

Describe an old object that you own.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'Something Old That You Own', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 068

A Toy or Game From Your Childhood

Describe a toy or game you enjoyed as a child.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Toy or Game From Your Childhood', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 069

An Item of Clothing

Describe an item of clothing that is important to you.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'An Item of Clothing', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 070

A Plant or Animal

Describe a plant or animal that you find interesting.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Plant or Animal', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

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PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 071

A Traditional Object From Your Country

Describe a traditional object from your country.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Traditional Object From Your Country', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 072

A Useful Household Object

Describe a household item you find very useful.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Useful Household Object', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 073

Something You Want to Buy

Describe something you are planning to buy in the future.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'Something You Want to Buy', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 074

A Product That Has Improved Your Life

Describe a product that has made your daily life better.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Product That Has Improved Your Life', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 075

A Bag or Container You Use

Describe a bag or container that is important to you.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Bag or Container You Use', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 076

A Machine That Makes Life Easier

Describe a machine that you think has made modern life better.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Machine That Makes Life Easier', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

SECTION 4: EVENTS

CARD 077

A Wedding You Attended

Describe a wedding you attended.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Wedding You Attended', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 078

A Concert or Performance You Saw

Describe a concert or live performance you attended.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Concert or Performance You Saw', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 079

A Family Reunion

Describe a family gathering you attended.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Family Reunion', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 080

A Meal You Particularly Enjoyed

Describe a meal that was particularly memorable.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Meal You Particularly Enjoyed', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 081

A Time When the Weather Affected Your Plans

Describe a time when weather changed your plans.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time When the Weather Affected Your Plans', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 082

A Time You Travelled by Plane

Describe an experience travelling by aeroplane.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Travelled by Plane', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 083

A Time You Had to Wait for Something

Describe a time when you had to wait for something.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Had to Wait for Something', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 084

A National Holiday or Festival

Describe a national holiday or festival celebrated in your country.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A National Holiday or Festival', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 085

A Time When You Helped Organise an Event

Describe a time when you helped to plan or organise an event.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time When You Helped Organise an Event', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 086

A Time You Saw Something Funny

Describe a time when you saw or experienced something amusing.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Saw Something Funny', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 087

A Sports Day or Competition You Took Part In

Describe a sports day or competition you participated in.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Sports Day or Competition You Took Part In', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 088

An Exhibition or Fair You Visited

Describe an exhibition or fair you have attended.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'An Exhibition or Fair You Visited', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

SECTION 5: EXPERIENCES

CARD 089

A Time You Got Lost

Describe a time when you got lost.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Got Lost', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

Practice extending your answers naturally. If you find yourself running out of things to say, use techniques such as reflecting on the significance of the experience, comparing it to similar experiences, or speculating about what you might do differently in hindsight.

Remember that the cue card task is not just about conveying information but about demonstrating your spoken English ability. Speak clearly, at a measured pace, and do not worry about minor errors -- fluency and coherence are weighted heavily in the assessment criteria.

Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 090

A Time You Learned From Watching Someone Else

Describe a time you learned something by watching another person.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Learned From Watching Someone Else', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 091

A Time You Spent the Night Away From Home

Describe a time you stayed somewhere other than your home.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Spent the Night Away From Home', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 092

A Time You Used Your Language Skills

Describe a situation when your language skills were helpful.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Used Your Language Skills', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 093

A Time You Went to a Restaurant

Describe a meal you had at a restaurant.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Went to a Restaurant', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 094

A Time You Did Volunteer Work

Describe a time when you did voluntary or unpaid work.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Did Volunteer Work', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 095

A Time You Solved a Difficult Problem

Describe a time when you solved a difficult problem.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Solved a Difficult Problem', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 096

A Time When You Were Bored

Describe a time when you felt very bored.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time When You Were Bored', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 097

A Time You Used the Internet to Solve a Problem

Describe a time when the internet helped you solve a problem.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Used the Internet to Solve a Problem', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 098

A Time You Were Away From Your Phone

Describe a time when you spent time without using your phone.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Were Away From Your Phone', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 099

A Time You Changed Your Mind

Describe a time when you changed your opinion about something.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Changed Your Mind', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

CARD 100

A Time You Worked Hard to Achieve a Goal

Describe a time when you worked hard to reach a goal.

You should say:

- relevant personal details about this topic
- when, where, and why
- how you felt or what you thought
- and explain why this is meaningful or important to you.

SAMPLE ANSWER (Band 7+)

This is a topic that many IELTS candidates find engaging because it draws on personal experience and genuine reflection. When answering a cue card like 'A Time You Worked Hard to Achieve a Goal', the most effective approach is to speak from specific and vivid personal experience rather than speaking in generalities.

Begin by setting the scene clearly so your examiner can visualise the situation. Include specific details about time, place, and the people involved. This specificity demonstrates your ability to use descriptive language and makes your answer more compelling and memorable.

In the body of your response, focus on what happened, how you felt, and why this particular experience stands out. Using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures -- including complex sentences, appropriate tense variation, and precise adjectives -- will help you achieve a higher band score.

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Strong vocabulary choices for this topic include: memorable, significant, meaningful, valuable, compelling, enriching, challenging, rewarding, and unexpectedly. Using topic-specific vocabulary accurately will also contribute positively to your Lexical Resource score.

PART 3 FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- * What do you think about this topic generally?
- * How has this changed in recent years?
- * Do you think this will be different in the future?

Useful Vocabulary for IELTS Speaking

The following vocabulary items are particularly useful for achieving a Band 7 or above in IELTS Speaking. These are organised by function to help you incorporate them naturally into your responses.

Describing People

charismatic, empathetic, resilient, principled, perceptive, conscientious, forthright, pragmatic, tenacious, compassionate

Describing Places

picturesque, vibrant, tranquil, bustling, serene, immaculate, sprawling, nestled, panoramic, atmospheric

Expressing Opinions

From my perspective, In my view, As far as I am concerned, I would argue that, It seems to me that, I genuinely believe, I am inclined to think, Without doubt

Adding Information

Furthermore, In addition to this, Not only that, but, What is more, On top of that, It is also worth noting that, Beyond that

Contrasting Ideas

Nevertheless, On the other hand, Despite this, Having said that, In contrast, While it is true that, Notwithstanding

Describing Change

has transformed dramatically, has undergone significant changes, has evolved considerably, has deteriorated, has improved markedly, has shifted substantially, has remained largely unchanged

Final Study Tips from TypoGrammar.com

Practice Speaking Daily

The single most effective preparation strategy for IELTS Speaking is daily spoken practice. Even fifteen minutes of recording yourself speaking on a topic, then listening back critically, will produce measurable improvement within weeks.

Expand Your Answers

IELTS candidates frequently lose points by giving answers that are technically correct but insufficiently developed. Practice the habit of always adding a reason, an example, or a personal anecdote after every main point.

Improve Your Pronunciation Awareness

Use a pronunciation dictionary to check words you are uncertain about. Pay particular attention to word stress in longer words and to the connected speech patterns that make natural English sound fluent.

Build a Topic Vocabulary Bank

For each major cue card topic area, compile a list of ten to fifteen words and phrases you would not normally use. Practice incorporating these into your responses until they feel natural.

Manage Exam Anxiety

Nervousness in the speaking exam is normal and the examiner is experienced in helping candidates relax. Take a breath before you begin, speak at a measured pace rather than rushing, and remember that the examiner is assessing your English ability, not judging you personally.

Use TypoGrammar.com for More Practice

Visit typogrammar.com for additional practice tests, vocabulary quizzes, grammar exercises, and speaking preparation resources. Our platform is completely free and updated regularly with new content for 2026.