

Preparing for the general conversation in your speaking exam

Remember that your speaking exam will consist of three sections:

Section 1: Role play

Section 2: Photo card

Section 3: General conversation

Possible general conversation questions for THEME 2: UNIT 7 – GLOBAL ISSUES:

1. *Para ti, ¿es importante reciclar? ... ¿Por qué (no)?*

(Is it important to recycle for you? Why (not)?)

Opportunity to use: *es esencial* + infinitive OR *es imprescindible que* + subjunctive, *por un lado, por otro lado*, fancy connectives, unusual opinion phrases, opinion of someone else, what you are going to do in the future to help the environment (near / simple future tense)

2. *¿Cuál es el problema medioambiental que más te preocupa?*

(What is the environmental problem that most worries you?)

Opportunity to use: topic vocabulary, contrast what worried you before (imperfect tense) with your current worries, superlative, negative forms of verb, modal verbs to express obligation (*debería, podría* or *debo, puedo*)

3. *¿Qué se debe hacer el gobierno y las ONGs (organizaciones no gubernamentales) para ayudar a los que viven al margen de la sociedad?*

(What must the government and NGOs do to help those who live on the margin of society?)

Opportunity to use: modal verbs + infinitives, topic vocabulary, opinions with subjunctive, fancy connectives, sequencers (*en primer lugar, luego, etc*)

4. *¿Qué has hecho tú recientemente para proteger el medio ambiente?*

(What have you done recently to protect the environment?)

Opportunity to use: present perfect tense, *para* + infinitive, infinitive phrases with prepositions (*he empezado a* + inf, *he dejado de* + inf, *he intentado* + inf), actions of another person, describe what you are going to try to do in the future too.

5. *¿Si fueras alcalde de tu ciudad, ¿qué harías para mejorar las condiciones de los ciudadanos más necesitados?*
(If you were mayor of your city, what would you do to improve the conditions of the most needy citizens?)

Opportunity to use: *si* clauses (imperfect subjunctive + conditional), *por un lado...por otro lado, mientras*, comparatives, superlatives.

Tips:

- Each answer must contain an opinion with TWO reasons.
- Do not repeat words & try to use the more advanced vocabulary we have learnt since September.
- You need to try to include language structures – comparatives, negatives (*nunca, no sólo... sino también*), fancy connectives (*además, no obstante, mientras*), opinion phrases + infinitives / nouns, expressions of frequency (*por lo general, a veces, rara vez*), adverbs (*claramente, personalmente*), different forms of the verb, different tenses etc.
- Use your notes from class and your 'key' crib sheets.
- **Verbs have to be formed accurately!**
- All answers must be written on alternate lines on the same piece of lined paper. You have to keep these questions and answers until your speaking exam in year 11 so DO NOT lose them!

How is this part of your exam marked?

(Not including grids for pronunciation or fluency)

Communication

Level	Mark	Communication
5	9–10	A speaker who consistently develops responses in extended sequences of speech. Narrates events coherently when asked to do so. Conveys information clearly at all times, giving and explaining opinions convincingly.
4	7–8	A speaker who regularly develops responses in extended sequences of speech. Usually narrates events when asked to do so. Almost always conveys information clearly, giving and explaining opinions.
3	5–6	A speaker who develops some responses in extended sequences of speech. Sometimes narrates events when asked to do so. Usually conveys information clearly, giving and often explaining opinions.
2	3–4	A speaker who usually gives quite short responses but occasionally gives extended responses. Occasionally narrates events briefly when asked to do so. Usually gives clear information but lacks clarity from time to time. Gives opinions, some of which are explained.

Range and accuracy of language

Level	Mark	Range and accuracy of language
5	9–10	Excellent language with a wide variety of linguistic structures and a wide range of vocabulary. References to past and future, as well as present, events are made confidently. There are few minor errors and other errors occur when complex structures and/or vocabulary are attempted.
4	7–8	Very good language with some variety of linguistic structures and a range of vocabulary. References to past and future, as well as present, events are generally successful. Any errors are only minor or occur when complex structures and/or vocabulary are attempted.
3	5–6	Good language with some attempts at more complex structures which are usually successful. References to past and future, as well as present, events are made and are sometimes successful. There may be minor errors and occasional more serious ones, but they do not generally impede comprehension.
2	3–4	Generally good language which involves mainly simple linguistic structures and vocabulary, with some repetition, but with attempts to use more complex linguistic structures and more varied vocabulary. There is some success in making reference to past and future, as well as present, events. Although there may be errors they do not generally impede comprehension.

