

## 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 6 – SOCIAL ISSUES:**

1. *Si pudieras ¿cómo te gustaría ayudar a los demás?*

(If you could, how would you help others?)

**Opportunity to use:** unusual topic vocabulary (recaudar fondos etc), fancy connectives, *además de + infinitive*, conditional infinitive structures (*podría / tendría que / debería + infinitive*)

2. *¿Llevas una vida sana?*

(Do you lead a healthy life?)

**Opportunity to use:** present perfect (*recientemente he dejado de + infinitive / he empezado a + infinitive*), infinitive structures and verb clumps (*intento evitar comer*), future plans to lead a healthy life (*a partir de ahora*), negative forms of verb.

3. *¿Qué hacías para mantenerte en forma cuando eras más joven y qué haces ahora?*

(What did you used to do to keep fit when you were younger and what do you do now?)

**Opportunity to use:** imperfect vs present (two verbs in one sentence), opinions in imperfect, opinions of other people (*mi madre decía que*), reflexive verbs (*drogarse, emborracharse, acostarse* etc).

4. *¿Es peor el alcohol o las drogas?*

(Which is worse, alcohol or drugs?)

**Opportunity to use:** *por un lado...por otro lado, mientras*, comparatives, superlatives (if comparing multiple types of drugs), topic specific vocabulary (use crib sheet), indirect object pronouns with phrases such as (*me quita el estrés*), subjunctive.

5. *¿El alcohol debería ser ilegal?*

(Should alcohol be illegal?)

**Opportunity to use:** verb constructions to express disagreement / agreement (*estar de acuerdo / estar en contra*), opinions of others, topic specific vocabulary, negatives, impersonal statements with subjunctive.

## 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.

