

Eiken P1 Speaking Exercise 2016-3

1. **Will printed newspapers become obsolete in the Internet-driven 21st century?**

I agree that printed newspapers will become obsolete in this Internet-driven century. Let me explain why I feel this way. First, technology will continue its rapid pace of development, delivering news more quickly and interestingly than a print newspaper can. Users today get more than just the printed word on computer screens: they get pictures, links, and timely updates. Future technology will have even better functionality, like three-dimensional images. Second, printed newspapers are expensive to produce and deliver. Basic resources, like the paper used to print news on, are becoming more expensive for newspaper publishers and delivery is labor-intensive. There are also other costs that are often not taken into consideration, such as environmental damage caused by the logging of trees and production processes required to make paper. Finally, newspapers are likely to see their revenue drop due to the loss of advertising income as well as subscribers. Advertising is an important income source for newspaper survival, but advertisers can increasingly see that Internet sites have a larger and more focused target market than newspapers. These are the reasons I believe newspapers will become outdated this century.

2. **Which should school curriculums emphasize more, competition or cooperation?**

Although I agree that competition can sometimes challenge us to enhance our abilities, I firmly believe that school curriculums should emphasize cooperation more than competition. There are three reasons why I feel putting an emphasis on cooperation offers more benefits to students. First, cooperative learning enables students to fully understand the subjects. Sometime you may get lost when the lessons are difficult. If you work with others, however, you can ask them to get some clues. You can also teach other students when they need help. Teaching gets you to review the material and understand it thoroughly. Second, students benefit psychologically when they are accustomed to cooperating in school. Your friends will surely encourage you when you need their support in getting satisfactory results. If you work alone, concentrate on studying if you regularly get support from your friends. Finally, learning in a cooperative environment provides students with skills that will help them throughout their lives. Communication skills are vital in almost all kinds of jobs today. We can certainly see the importance of being able to communicate and get along with colleagues, employees in other firms, and customers. However clever you are, you cannot get promoted without much skills. These are the reasons I feel schools should stress cooperation over competition.

3. **Are family values today as important as they were in the past?**

I believe family values are as important today as they ever were. Let me give you three reasons to support this belief. First, the family is the first and most important support group for infants and children. There may be some exceptions, but in most cases, it is the family that loves the children the most. They experience belonging and respect within a loving environment created by their parents, and that enables them to have a stable mind and be better prepared to face their future. Second, it may be true that values change with time, but it is good to introduce something that children can rely upon early in their lives. If they are deprived of all traditional values and have to think what is right from the beginning, they will simply get confused. With traditional ideas the family offers, children gain perspectives for living in society. Finally, children today are exposed to more temptations than ever before. They can see and read loads of malicious information or fake news on the Internet. In this age, it is the family who can best teach traditional morality, which is more important than ever before. I'm quite certain that family values have a great impact on the development of children and that family values are as important as they were in the past.

4. Is economic inequality in society inevitable?

Unfortunately, economic inequality in society will almost surely continue far into the future. I will focus on three reasons to support this claim. Firstly, some children have parents who have a lot more time and money to spend on them. So it is likely that they are given better chances than others. These lucky children are given a head start in life and are more likely to have the knowledge and skills to make money. Secondly, discrimination plays a role in all societies. People with certain background are treated differently, resulting in different economic outcomes. For example, women still have lower income possibilities than men in most countries, despite pushes for gender equality. Finally, countries that have attempted an equal income distribution have had limited success. In one communist country I visited years ago, I walked in a rich neighborhood where important communist officials lived. It was clear that certain members of society were granted special privileges. Some people might think about a basic income system, in which people will receive exactly the same amount of money, but it is no easy to realize. Even if we can do it, some may want to spend the money while others will invest it and watch their resources grow. These are the reasons I believe that economic inequality is inevitable.

5. Can terrorism ever be eliminated?

I do not believe that terrorism can ever be eliminated, at least not completely. There are three reasons that contribute to my view. First, there will always be ideological differences, with people dividing "us" from "them." For terrorists with particularly passionate beliefs, the other side, sometimes defined as the enemy, is dehumanized. In doing so, the deaths of the enemy, including civilian deaths, may not be viewed as evil. Until every person in the world opens their hearts and minds to diversity and tolerance, terrorism will continue to be viewed by some as a valid means to an end. Second, there are historical divisions in the world that have caused long-standing wars and injustices. To those people who are suppressed, for such reasons as religious or ethnic differences, terrorism may seem to be one of the few options for fighting back against the suppressor. Finally, modern technology and media are making terrorism more attractive for some. There have been cases of terrorist groups being successful at making news and winning sympathy for their causes, making it easier for them to recruit new members. As Internet sites and news outlets emphasize political, religious, and other identity divides, anger and discrimination increase, fueling terrorism. For these three reasons, I believe that terrorism will continue to be a challenge to humankind.