

Preview

Question 1

The following is a sample Question 1 similar to the one you will see when you take the test. You will first see a prompt on your screen describing the task.

Describe an important accomplishment from your past. Why was this accomplishment important to you? Include specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

You will then have 30 seconds to prepare a response and 60 seconds to speak your response into the microphone. A sample outline of a response can be found below.

Sample Outline

Introduction:

Thesis statement

Body:

Reason 1

Topic sentence

Reasons, examples, and details

Reason 2

Topic sentence

Reasons, examples, and details

Sample Response

Thesis statement

One of my significant childhood accomplishments was learning how to ride a bicycle successfully.

Topic sentence

This was important because I first learned how hard work can pay off. I spent many days learning how to ride a bicycle. Then one day I was able to ride it without falling. I realized that when I practiced hard enough at something, I could achieve it.

Reasons, examples, and details

Topic sentence

Secondly, it helped me to obtain a level of independence. Now that I could ride a bicycle, I could go to different places by myself without having to depend on my parents for a ride. It made me a freer child.

Reasons, examples, and details

Question 2

The following is a sample Question 2 similar to the one you will see when you take the test. You will first see a prompt on your screen describing the task.

Many believe that it is important that children spend time participating in extracurricular activities. Others believe that it is more important that children spend most of their time studying. Which view do you believe? Include specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

You will then have 30 seconds to prepare a response and 60 seconds to speak your response into the microphone. A sample outline of a response can be found below.

Sample Outline

Introduction:

Thesis statement

Body:

Reason 1

Topic sentence

Reasons, examples, and details

Reason 2

Topic sentence

Reasons, examples, and details

Sample Response

Thesis statement

I believe it is important for children to spend some time participating in extracurricular activities.

Topic sentence

First of all, extracurricular activities let children develop their bodies as well as their minds. As a young child, most of the exercise I received was at after-school soccer games. Hence, I think children should participate in these types of activities so they can maintain their physical health.

Topic sentence

Reasons, examples, and details

Secondly, they help students figure out what they are good at and what they like to do. Playing in an after-school band allowed me to realize how much I loved music. Now I want to study music professionally in college.

Reasons, examples, and details

Question 3

The following is a sample Question 3 similar to the one you will see when you take the test. You will first see a short reading passage about a campus-related topic. You will have 45 seconds to read the announcement.

Announcement from the University Library

As of September 1, students who fail to return library books by the due date will not be allowed to register for classes until the books are returned and the late fees are paid in full. This past semester, we received a large number of overdue books, and we hope that the new policy will encourage more students to return books on time. In addition, the library would like to use all late fees collected under this policy to help fund an old books exhibit on the library's main floor.

After 45 seconds, you will be asked to listen to a conversation about the passage you just read. Read the conversation below. Keep in mind that this conversation will only be heard on the real test and will not appear on your screen.

M: Did you see this notice from the library? I'm going to have to be more careful about returning books on time.

W: Well, I think it's a good thing. It seems like every time I want to check out a book, it's not available. It's almost always because someone didn't return it by the due date. Then I have to request the book back, and it takes several days to get it.

M: Sounds like a major pain.

W: So this new policy will get more students to return their books by the due date.

M: I bet it will. No one wants to miss class registration or accumulate fines just because of an overdue library book.

W: Right. Plus, my history professor said that the library is going to try to fund an exhibit of books over a hundred years old. I bet it could raise enough money to fund future exhibits as well.

M: That'd be pretty nice.

W: Yeah, the library staff always comes up with neat exhibits. And I've found that a lot of them can even be helpful for class projects. They've helped me in the past.

After the conversation concludes, you will see a prompt on your screen similar to the one below.

The woman expresses her opinion of the announcement made by the library. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion.

You will have 30 seconds to prepare a response and 60 seconds to speak your response into the microphone. A sample outline of a response can be found on the next page.

Sample Outline

Introduction:

Summary and speaker's opinion

Body:

Reason 1

Topic sentence

Reasons, examples, and details

Reason 2

Topic sentence

Reasons, examples, and details

Sample Response

The woman thinks that the new library policy not to allow students to register until they return library books and pay overdue fees is a good idea.

Summary and speaker's opinion

Topic sentence

She complains that she often cannot check out the books she wants because students do not return them on time. Then she has to request the book back, which takes time. She thinks that the new policy will encourage students to return the books by the due date.

Reasons, examples, and details

Topic sentence

She also thinks that collecting fees will help the library fund other exhibits in addition to the one they are planning. She mentions that these exhibits have helped her with past projects.

Reasons, examples, and details

Question 4

The following is a sample Question 4 similar to the one you will see when you take the test. You will first see a short reading passage about an academic topic. You will have 45 seconds to read the passage.

Extroversion Versus Introversion

According to modern personality theory, there are two fundamental types of people: introverts and extroverts. Extroverts are people who are predominantly concerned with the world outside of themselves. They tend to enjoy social interactions and are naturally enthusiastic, talkative, and assertive. Introverts, on the other hand, are largely interested in what goes on in their own minds. They tend to be quiet, reserved, less outgoing, and do not socialize as much.

Recent evidence has shown that these personality differences are the result of physiological differences in the body. Differences exist between the brains of introverts and extroverts. Also, introverts and extroverts use energy differently.

After 45 seconds, you will be asked to listen to a lecture about the passage you just read. Read the lecture below. Keep in mind that this lecture will only be heard on the real test and will not appear on your screen.

M: Personality differences, like introversion and extroversion, are actually consequences of physiological differences.

Recent studies show that, in general, extroverts and introverts have more activity in different areas of the brain. Researchers studied which areas of the brain were activated by looking at how much blood flows to different brain regions. The more that blood flows to a certain area, the more that area is activated. The studies found that introverts have more blood flow to areas that are responsible for internal processing, like remembering and problem solving. Conversely, extroverts have more activity in areas used for sensory processing, like listening or watching. So it's not surprising that introverts are inwardly focused while extroverts seek social activities.

Introverts and extroverts also differ in how their bodies use energy. Extroverts use up energy really quickly and they recharge their energy by engaging in social activities . . . which is why an extrovert can jump from one conversation to another or from party to party and still want to go dancing at two in the morning. Introverts, however, are energy conservers. Lots of social activities make them tired, and they have to spend some time being quiet by themselves to regain their energy. This is why many introverts will decide to leave a dinner party early so that they can go home and read a book or write a letter before going out again.

After the lecture concludes, you will see a prompt on your screen similar to the one below.

The professor describes two differences between introverts and extroverts. Explain how these differences influence personality.

You will then have 30 seconds to prepare a response and 60 seconds to speak your response into the microphone. A sample outline of a response can be found below.

Sample Outline

Introduction:

Summary of the lecture's main point

Body:

Reason 1

Topic sentence

Details from the lecture

Reason 2

Topic sentence

Details from the lecture

Sample Response

Summary of lecture's main point

The reading and the professor both state that extroversion and introversion are caused by physiological differences.

→ Topic sentence

The professor says that one difference between introverts and extroverts is the area of the brain that is most activated. In introverts, there is more activity in brain areas used for internal processing, which makes them more inwardly focused. In extroverts, there is more activity in areas used for sensory processing, which makes them more social.

→ Details from lecture

→ Topic sentence

Another difference between introverts and extroverts is how their brains use energy. Extroverts use up energy quickly and regain energy through socializing. Introverts conserve energy and regain energy by being alone. So extroverts tend to seek out social activities while introverts are more likely to spend more time by themselves.

→ Details from lecture

Question 5

The following is a sample Question 5 similar to the one you will see when you take the test. You will listen to a conversation between two students about a campus-related problem. Read the conversation below. Keep in mind that this conversation will only be heard on the real test and will not appear on your screen.

W: Hey, Carl. How do you like your new roommate?

M: He's OK. He's a really neat person and everything. There's just one problem.

W: What's that?

M: Well, he's a mathematics major. He just loves graphs and numbers. Anyway, he's been hanging these really ugly graphs and charts on all the dorm room's walls.

W: And that bothers you because you're an art major, right?

M: Exactly. Besides, I get enough of that stuff in my own math classes. I don't want to have to look at it while I'm relaxing, too.

W: Can't you just ask him to take them down?

M: Yeah, I was thinking of that. The thing is, I don't want to hurt his feelings. Plus, he's a really good roommate.

W: What about establishing some boundaries?

M: What do you mean?

W: There are four walls in your room. Tell your roommate that he can put his ugly posters on two walls. Then you can put your stuff on the other two walls.

M: I'll have to think about that. I'd have to tell him to stop taking up all the walls with his stuff. Even worse, I'd still have to look at two ugly walls. Those graphs and charts really bother me.

W: Hmm. Well, I guess you'll have to decide which option will work better for you.

After the conversation concludes, you will see a prompt on your screen similar to the one below.

The students discuss two possible solutions to the man's problem. Describe the problem. Then state which of the two solutions you prefer and explain why.

You will have 30 seconds to prepare a response and 60 seconds to speak your response into the microphone. A sample outline of a response can be found on the next page.

Sample Outline

Introduction:

- Summary of the problem
- Suggestions
- Your preferred solution

Body:

Reason 1

- Topic sentence
- Reasons, examples, and details

Reason 2

- Topic sentence
- Reasons, examples, and details

Sample Response

The man's roommate is putting up ugly graphs and charts on the walls. The woman suggests that he either ask his roommate to remove them completely or ask his roommate to limit his charts to two walls. I think the first option is the better one.

Summary of problem

Suggestions

Your preferred solution

Topic sentence

First, I do not think the man should have to look at graphs and charts that he finds ugly up on his walls. It is his room, too, so he has a right to look at things that he finds pleasing.

Reasons, examples, and details

Topic sentence

Secondly, I think it is better for the man to be honest with his roommate. If they want to have a good relationship, they need to be able to talk to each other openly about things that bother them.

Reasons, examples, and details

Question 6

The following is a sample Question 6 similar to the one you will see when you take the test. You will listen to a lecture about an academic topic. Read the lecture below. Keep in mind that this lecture will only be heard on the real test and will not appear on your screen.

M: Scientists have long believed that one of the key differences between humans and all other animals is episodic memory—the kind of memory that lets us remember past events, times, places—even past emotions. Basically, they thought that we have it and that animals do not. But recent experiments have led many scientists to conclude that some animals actually do have episodic memory.

Several of these experiments have been carried out on a type of bird called a scrub jay. The experiments were designed to test whether scrub jays can recall past events and use what they remember to plan for the future. In one experiment, for example, researchers left out two types of food—worms and peanuts—for the jays to store for later use. When the birds dug up the worms, they found that many of them had spoiled. From then on, they dug up peanuts instead since they found that the peanuts were still good. This change in behavior led the researchers to believe that the birds remembered finding the spoiled worms in the past. Thus, they avoided digging them up in the future.

Other experiments have studied episodic memory in non-human primates, such as chimps and gorillas. There was one experiment, for example, that was conducted on a domesticated chimpanzee named Panzee at Georgia State University in Atlanta. During the experiment, researchers hid about thirty different items—items like fruits, balloons, and rubber snakes. They hid them one at a time—all while Panzee was watching from inside her cage. In more than ninety percent of the cases, Panzee correctly identified where each item was hidden. She directed her caretakers to each place the toys and fruits were hidden. This showed that she could recall the memory of the researchers hiding the items.

After the lecture concludes, you will see a prompt on your screen similar to the one below.

Using points and examples from the lecture, describe two cases in which animals exhibit episodic memory.

You will have 30 seconds to prepare a response and 60 seconds to speak your response into the microphone. A sample outline of a response can be found on the next page.

Sample Outline

Introduction:

Main topic

Body:

Key point 1

Topic sentence

Reasons, examples, and details

Key point 2

Topic sentence

Reasons, examples, and details

Sample Response

The professor says that recent experiments have led scientists to believe that animals, and not just humans, have episodic memory, or memories of past places and events.

↙
Main topic

↖
Topic sentence

One set of experiments showed that scrub jays have episodic memory. Researchers found that the jays can remember past events, such as finding spoiled worms, and use those memories to change their behavior. For example, after the jays initially dug up the worms and found them spoiled, they dug up stored peanuts instead of worms from then on.

↘
Reasons, examples and details

↖
Topic sentence

Other experiments have studied episodic memory in non-human primates. One experiment studied a chimpanzee named Panzee, who remembered which toys and foods the researchers had hidden and where they had hidden them. Both these experiments show that certain animals have episodic memory.

↘
Reasons, examples, and details

Part 1

Thinking and Speaking

- **Chapter 1** Independent Speaking:
Organizing Speech
- **Chapter 2** Integrated Speaking:
Synthesizing Information
- **Chapter 3** Integrated Speaking:
Stating Opinions and Summarizing
- **Vocabulary Review 1**
- **Vocabulary Review 2**