

TOEFL Speaking Sample Paper 07

Task 1: Independent Speaking Task

Preparation Time: 15 seconds — Response Time: 45 seconds

Direction: Read the question. Take notes on the main points of your response. Then, respond to the question.

Question:

Which of the following smartphone functions do you think is more useful for university students? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

1. Recording lectures to review later
2. Accessing online study groups and forums

Sample Solution (Task 1)

I believe that **recording lectures** is the most useful smartphone function for students. Firstly, it allows for **comprehensive review**. In fast-paced subjects like organic chemistry, it is easy to miss a small but vital detail. Having a recording allows a student to listen back and clarify their notes. Secondly, it helps students with **different learning styles**. Some people find it hard to write and listen at the same time; by recording the audio, they can focus entirely on the professor's explanation and take detailed notes later. This ensures a deeper understanding of the material and leads to better grades.

Task 2: Integrated Speaking (Campus-related)

Preparation Time: 30 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds

Step 1: Reading Passage (Read for 45 seconds)

Announcement from the President: Tuition Increase

City University plans to increase tuition and fees by approximately 8 percent next semester. For the past five years, tuition has remained the same, but an increase is now necessary. The funds will be used to hire additional professors to reduce class sizes and to renovate our microbiology and technology laboratories, which have become outdated.

Step 2: Transcript

Narrator: Now listen to two students discussing the announcement.

Student A (Male): Oh great, now we have to come up with even more money for next semester.

Student B (Female): Yeah, I know it's a lot, but I can see why they're doing it. When I first started here, the classes were so much smaller. Now, it's **hard to get the personal attention** you need.

Student A: I guess you're right. In my math course, I can't even get a seat sometimes.

Student B: Exactly. And the other thing is the **outdated equipment**. I'm doing okay in my microbiology class, but the lab facilities are so limited. How am I going to compete for jobs against people who have practical experience with modern research equipment? I think the extra tuition will be a **good investment** in the long run.

Question:

The woman expresses her opinion about the university's plan to increase tuition. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion.

Sample Solution (Task 2)

The woman **supports** the university's plan to increase tuition, viewing it as a necessary investment. Her first reason is related to **class sizes**. She notes that classes have become too crowded, making it difficult for students to receive individual attention from professors. Her second reason concerns the **quality of facilities**. She explains that the current microbiology labs are outdated and limited. She is worried that without access to modern technology, she won't be able to compete effectively in the job market after graduation. Therefore, she believes the 8 percent increase is justified to improve the overall quality of education.

Task 3: Integrated Speaking (Academic Reading/Lecture)

Preparation Time: 30 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds

Step 1: Reading Passage (Read for 45 seconds)

Paradox of Choice

The Paradox of Choice refers to the idea that having an overwhelming number of options can lead to greater anxiety rather than satisfaction. When individuals are presented with too many choices, they develop heightened expectations. This often results in disappointment if the chosen item isn't "perfect," as well as apprehension that they have made the wrong decision.

Step 2: Transcript

Narrator: Now listen to a part of a lecture in a business class.

Professor: Think about how complex decisions have become. Whether you're ordering a cup of coffee or buying jeans, the options are endless. Psychologist Barry Schwartz argues that eliminating some of these options could actually **reduce anxiety**.

I'll give you an example. Recently, I went to buy a shirt. When I was a kid, there were only a few selections, and my expectations were low, so I was always happy. But at the mall recently, I spent **an hour** trying on dozens of different shirts. I eventually found the best fitting shirt I've ever owned, but I **wasn't happy**. I was disappointed because, with so many options, I felt the shirt should have been perfect. I blamed myself for not finding a better one. This is the burden of choice leading to buyer's anxiety.

Question:

Using the points and examples from the reading and lecture, explain the concept of the Paradox of Choice.

Sample Solution (Task 3)

The Paradox of Choice is the theory that **too many options cause anxiety** and lower satisfaction. The reading explains that more choices lead to higher expectations and a fear of making the wrong decision. The professor illustrates this with a personal example about buying a shirt. In the past, having few options made him satisfied. However, at a modern mall, he spent **an entire hour** choosing a shirt. Even though he found a great one, he felt **disappointed and anxious** because he expected perfection and felt that among so many choices, there might have been a better one he missed.

Task 4: Integrated Speaking (Academic Lecture)

Preparation Time: 20 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds

Transcript

Narrator: Now listen to part of a lecture in a business class regarding pricing.

Professor: Today we will discuss two strategies companies use to determine the initial price of a product when it first enters the market.

The first approach is to **set the initial price high**. This is often done to build a "high-quality" image. Products that cost more are perceived as being of higher value. During the early stages of a product's life cycle, companies can make **high profits** from "early adopters" who are willing to pay more to have the product sooner. This works well for innovative, high-tech goods. For example, when **video cameras and cell phones** first came out, they were very expensive before eventually becoming affordable for everyone.

The second strategy is to **set the initial price low**. This usually happens in a saturated market where a company wants to **gain market share** from competitors. For instance, a new computer maker might offer a laptop at a much lower price than existing brands to tempt customers to switch. The company makes its profit not from the computer itself, but by encouraging customers to buy **accessories** like software or printers that they also manufacture.

Question:

Using the points and examples from the lecture, describe the two pricing strategies discussed by the professor.

Sample Solution (Task 4)

The professor describes two initial pricing strategies for new products. The first is **setting a high price**, which creates an image of high quality and exclusivity. This allows companies to earn **maximum profit** from customers who want to be the first to own a new technology, such as the first video cameras or cell phones. The second strategy is **setting a low price**. This is used to **undercut competitors** and quickly gain a large number of customers. The professor uses the example of a computer company that sells laptops at a very low price. While they don't profit much on the laptop, they make their money through the sale of **additional products** like software and printers.