

TOEFL Speaking Sample Paper 10

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:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "It is always better to have arranged marriages; that is, the parents determine who their sons and daughters marry." Use specific reasons and examples to support your argument.

Sample Solution (Task 1)

I **disagree** with the statement that arranged marriages are always better. Firstly, I believe that **personal compatibility** is best determined by the individuals involved, not their parents. Marriage is a lifelong commitment, and two people need to share similar values and a deep emotional connection, which parents might overlook in favor of financial or social status. Secondly, choosing one's own partner fosters **independence and personal responsibility**. If a couple chooses each other, they are more likely to work through difficulties together because the decision was theirs. For example, many of my friends who chose their own partners have very strong, resilient relationships built on mutual understanding.

Task 2: Integrated Speaking (Campus-related)

Preparation Time: 30 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds

Step 1: Reading Passage (Read for 45 seconds)

Why isn't recycling mandatory on campus?

A student-led audit at the University of C revealed a significant lack of recycling infrastructure. Despite having 30 vending machines that dispense plastic and glass, only 10 recycling bins were found on campus, and only one was designated for paper. President James Wicker stated that the university's current waste contractor does not recycle paper and that switching to a more comprehensive service is currently unaffordable due to university finances.

Step 2: Transcript

Narrator: Now listen to two students discussing the article.

Male student: Hey Lisa, did you see the article? Only one paper recycling bin for the whole campus!

Female student: I saw it, and I think the university's response is **totally unacceptable**. We're a university—we go through more paper than almost any other kind of institution!

Male student: But the President says switching companies costs too much.

Female student: That's just a poor excuse. They charge us student fees for things like **live entertainment**, which half the students don't even go to. Why can't they use that money for recycling?

Male student: You think students would be okay with that?

Female student: Definitely. I'd happily pay a few extra dollars a year if it meant we weren't just throwing all our paper in the regular garbage. It's about the **university's priorities**, and right now, they aren't focused on the environment.

Question:

The woman expresses her opinion about the recycling situation on campus. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion.

Sample Solution (Task 2)

The woman **strongly disagrees** with the university's current approach to recycling. Her first reason is that the university is a **massive consumer of paper**, so it is irresponsible not to have a dedicated paper recycling program. Secondly, she challenges the "budget" excuse given by the President. She argues that the university **misallocates funds** by spending student fees on things like live entertainment that many students don't use. She believes this money should be redirected to environmental programs and suggests that students would even be willing to pay **additional fees** to ensure the campus becomes more sustainable.

Task 3: Integrated Speaking (Academic Reading/Lecture)

Preparation Time: 30 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds

Step 1: Reading Passage (Read for 45 seconds)

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

OCD is an anxiety disorder where a person experiences persistent, intrusive thoughts (obsessions) and feels driven to perform repetitive behaviors (compulsions). While many stressors in life come from real-world problems like work or money, OCD obsessions are often products of the imagination. Sufferers usually recognize their fears are irrational but perform rituals to temporarily relieve the intense anxiety these thoughts cause.

Step 2: Transcript

Narrator: Now listen to part of a talk in a psychology class.

Professor: Many people use the term "obsessed" casually, but true OCD is one of the most **debilitating** psychological diseases, affecting about 4% of the population. It significantly ruins a person's quality of life. What's truly strange is that the **rituals are often unrelated** to the obsessive thought. For instance, imagine someone who can't stop thinking that a tree is going to fall on their house. Instead of checking the tree, they might feel a compulsive need to **flip through the pages of a specific book** over and over. They know flipping pages won't stop a tree, but they can't stop the ritual. Without help, these individuals often become isolated and severely depressed because these rituals take up so much of their day.

Question:

Using the information from the reading and the lecture, explain the characteristics of OCD and how the professor's example illustrates the disorder.

Sample Solution (Task 3)

OCD is an anxiety disorder involving **irrational thoughts and repetitive rituals**. The reading explains that sufferers know their fears are not real but perform compulsions to manage stress. The professor expands on this by explaining that OCD is **debilitating** and often results in rituals that have **no logical connection** to the obsession. He uses the example of someone obsessed with a tree falling on their house who compulsively **flips through book pages** to find relief. This illustrates the core of the disorder: performing a senseless, imaginative ritual to combat an irrational fear, which ultimately leads to isolation and a lower quality of life.

Task 4: Integrated Speaking (Academic Lecture)

Preparation Time: 20 seconds — Response Time: 60 seconds

Transcript

Narrator: Now listen to part of a lecture in an art history course regarding the Renaissance.

Professor: Today we're looking at how Renaissance art differed from the Middle Ages. There were two major shifts in how art was produced.

The first was the **portrayal of human emotion**. In the Middle Ages, faces in paintings were usually flat and expressionless because the goal was purely religious devotion. In the Renaissance, this changed. Artists wanted to show **how humans felt**. For example, in Michelangelo's *Pietà*, a sculpture of Mary holding Jesus, Mary looks **visibly downcast**, and the body of Jesus clearly suggests pain and suffering. This was a huge innovation—making the viewer feel the emotions of the figures.

The second shift was toward **realism and perspective**. Medieval art was very two-dimensional. Renaissance artists, however, developed techniques like vanishing points and shadows to create depth. A perfect example is Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*. Even though it's painted on a flat surface, the way he used **perspective and light** makes it look like a real, three-dimensional room. You feel like you could walk right into the scene.

Question:

Using the points and examples from the lecture, describe two ways Renaissance art differs from art in the Middle Ages.

Sample Solution (Task 4)

The professor describes two major innovations of Renaissance art compared to the Middle Ages. The first is the **depiction of clear human emotions**. While Medieval art featured expressionless faces, Renaissance artists like Michelangelo used figures to convey feelings, such as the **sadness and suffering** seen in the *Pietà*. The second difference is the **use of perspective to create realism**. Unlike the flat art of the Middle Ages, Renaissance artists used light and shadows to create a 3D effect. The professor highlights Da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, which uses these rules of perspective to make a flat painting appear like a **real, three-dimensional room**.