

# TOPIC: EDUCATION

Sample answers, useful  
vocabulary and resources for  
IELTS speaking exam

## CONTENTS

- 1 SAMPLE ANSWERS**  
Sample questions and answers from speaking part 1, 2 and 3

---

- 2 KEY VOCABULARY**  
Words and terms frequently used when talking about education.

---

- 3 WORD FORMATION**  
Learn how to use wide variety of parts of speech, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives

---

- 4 COLLOCATIONS**  
Find out groups of words that usually used together by native speakers

---

- 5 USEFUL RESOURCES**  
References to teaching and authentic materials related to this topic: IELTS blogs, podcasts, videos and articles

# 1. SAMPLE ANSWERS

## PART 1

### 1. What kind of school did you go to as a child?

-I have studied in a public school from pre-school till 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It used to be the most popular and the best elementary school during my time.

### 2. Did you go to a co-educational school?

-Yes, I did. I had good memories in that school. I gained a lot of friends, both boys and girls.

### 3. What was your favorite subject as a child?

-I liked Maths a lot when I was a kid. Solving word problems were very interesting for me. I'd always get high scores in exams.

### 4. Who was your favorite teacher?

-My Maths teacher. He made the lessons fun and exciting by engaging us into different activities related to our topics. Me and my classmates enjoyed the games.

### 5. Where do you study / Where did you study?

I studied in (name of university). It is located in (name of the city)

### 6. What's your university/college like?

It's one of the best universities in my country. It has a huge campus with approximately 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students of different courses/major.

### 7. What do you study/did you study in university?

I studied business administration. This course is perfect for a business minded person like me.

### 8. What is special about this subject?

Basically, it is about management of business operations. It has relevance and social importance since it deals with technology, economy, global competitions and the emerging markets.

# PART 2

**Describe a subject you enjoyed studying at school. You should say:**

- **When and where you started studying it**
- **What lessons were like**
- **What made the subject different from other subjects**
- **and explain why you enjoyed the subject**

The subject I'd like to describe is World History. It was a subject taught in highschool. About one hour is allotted everyday to learn about significant historical events. For some of my classmates, it was a boring subject but I enjoyed it a lot.

I remember that our teacher distributed a syllabus on our first meeting which served as a guide on the topics that will be discussed each week. We were assigned to read several books and other reading materials. We talked about famous people, from warriors to philosophers to artists. We discussed the wars that happened in the past. We also talked about religion, traditions and customs of the people during the ancient time.

As a subject, it required us to memorize a lot which was a disadvantage for me and my classmates at that time because it consumed much of our time. Nevertheless, history really intrigues me. I am always curious about how humans lived in the past. I have always been interested to look into how history turned us into the present generation. It fascinates me.

# PART 3

## 1. How are education priorities today different from those in the past?

In a fast-changing world we are in today, education priorities have transformed as well. In our current society, education opens more opportunities for a wider skill set that were not offered in the past. For example, colleges and universities have more specific major or courses as compared before. Education has also involved the use of the modern technology such as computers and other gadgets that were not present in the past.

## 2. Is a good education more important to a boy or a girl? Why?

Good education is important for both boys and girls. Both should be given equal rights to education. In today's society, women have proven that they can do tasks and get jobs that only men used to have. Women have shown their competency in various fields such as politics, science, sports and etc. Men on the other have also entered some industries that used to be considered as women's job such as cooking, housekeeping, fashion and etc. I think both sexes must be given equal opportunities.

## 3. How well do you think schools should prepare young people for working life?

Schools are considered our second home. This is where we learn almost everything, starting from the basic such as reading and writing. Before we turn into adults, this is the place where we get most of our training. Therefore, schools should also be the avenue to prepare us to enter into another chapter – the working life. Schools must extend its training by educating and guiding the young people to their future career.

## 2. KEY VOCABULARY

qualification

a quality or accomplishment that makes someone suitable for a particular job or activity

These **qualifications** are just like a ticket for entry into the corporate world

graduation

the completion of university degree course or your education and receiving of an academic degree or diploma

I went to England to work after my **graduation**

to enrol

officially register as a member of an institution or a student on a course, school, university, etc

In many areas, it is possible to **enrol** for adult education classes in archaeology.

to study

To apply the mind to learning and understanding a subject by reading, going to school, university etc

She **studied** biology and botany

course

a series of lessons or lectures in a particular subject, a learning program in a school, university, college etc

He took a **course** in basket weaving

discipline

the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior

In addition , the type of research carried out is exploratory , involving a variety of academic **disciplines**

degree

qualification or an academic rank that is given after successful completion of a course of study

He has no **degree** in education

distance learning

a series of lessons that you are not intended to attend and instead can take at your home or another place

Many of these optional modules will be available by **distance learning** .

tuition

The training or instruction provided by a teacher or tutor especially in small groups

We want to support them by providing free **tuition** in core subjects.

primary (elementary) school

An institution in which children aged between 5 and 11 receive the first stage of academic learning

Some articles may not be appropriate for **primary school** children.

secondary school

a school for children from 11 to 16 or 18 (UK)

The project will involve two primary schools and a **secondary school**.

to pass

To go through any inspection or test successfully, to succeed in exam

I recently **passed** my exams to become a chartered structural engineer.

to conduct	organize and carry out	They <b>conducted</b> a survey of people 's attitudes to local environmental issues
receive	to get something	Managers who have <b>received</b> no formal training will find the course of particular benefit.
acquire	to get or gain something	There are regular classes where you can <b>acquire</b> new expertise , or improve existing skills , with professional tuition .
attend	To go to or be present at (e.g. meetings, church services, university, etc.).	The three children are now <b>attending</b> the local village school
leave	to stop doing something, go away from place or situation	Both of my parents had <b>left</b> school at fourteen.
compulsory	something that is compulsory must be done because of a rule or law	The majority of the age cohort attend beyond the end of <b>compulsory</b> schooling
comprehensive school	A comprehensive school is a state school that does not select its intake on the basis of academic achievement or aptitude (Wikipedia)	The <b>comprehensive high school</b> provides students with a holistic education that allows them to become well-rounded adults.
private education	classess you have to pay for	In fact the percentage of secondary school pupils in England in <b>private education</b> has dropped since comprehensives were introduced.

make progress

someone who makes progress moves forward, improves, becomes closer to goals

Why do some people **make progress** and others don't?

dropout

a student who fails to complete a course of study and leaves university etc with no qualifications

Years ago the official label for `` **dropout** " was changed to `` premature school leaver . "

coursework

work done during a course of study, especially that contributing to one's mark

Approximately 50 per cent of the overall marks each year are obtained from continuously assessed **coursework** .

research

the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions

While the **research** reveals many overlaps and similarities, there are also some interesting differences

subject

Area of knowledge taught in an educational institution

Maybe you want to study a **subject** you particularly enjoy.

industrious

hard-working

**Industrious** students will look for opportunities on their own to have work in their portfolios



# 3. WORD FORMATION

qualification	noun	Colonel Spratt highlighted the importance of the <b>qualification</b> for people planning a career in marketing.
to qualify	verb	Like student nurses, there are no jobs for them when they <b>qualify</b> .
qualified	adjective	The English Department employs well <b>qualified</b> and experienced tutors and as a result has always enjoyed a high success rate in examination results.
graduation	noun	I went to England to work after my <b>graduation</b> .
to graduate	verb	Sadly, a number of high school students are inarticulate when they <b>graduate</b> and cannot properly word a sentence.
to enroll	verb	Failure to <b>enroll</b> for a full academic load does not alter the residency requirement
enrollment	noun	today women make up 70 percent of professional school <b>enrollment</b>
study	noun	Another <b>study</b> showed that 26 %of schools in the country fail to comply with state regulations for PE
to study	verb	This course is designed for complete beginners who are eager to <b>study</b> the language, and provides an excellent opportunity to understand and to feel the language.

studied	adjective	He stops what he's doing and stares in my direction with a <b>studied</b> indifference leaning on his broom.
education	noun	Poland 's <b>education</b> system failed during the 1990s to train enough skilled workers,including engineers and craftsmen.
to educate	verb	Le Quement was <b>educated</b> at a public school in England .
well-educated	adjective	<b>Well-educated</b> Catholics, ie those with university education, did not appear to suffer any disadvantage in occupational achievement compared with their Protestant peers.
educational	adjective	The larger issue, though, is whether such schools can providebetter <b>educational</b> benefits.
innovation	noun	In recent years the value of <b>innovation</b> has been demonstrated in many sectors.
to innovate	verb	Advertisers and web sites are looking to <b>innovate</b> to engage users through marketing campaigns that align across multiple media
innovative	adjective	Magazines and the Internetopen a huge range of <b>innovative</b> designer options.
attendance	noun	Laforge 's life in Germany at the court of the Empress Augusta was steeped inmusic: it involved regular <b>attendance</b> at concerts and operas.
attend	verb	On Saturday, talent scouts will <b>attend</b> thegraduate show of the fashion college Central Saint Martins, alma mater toMcQueen, Chalayan and numerous other stars.

average	noun	figure of 119.4 indicates that GDP per head in the South East was 19.4 per cent above the <b>average</b> in 1988
to average	verb	For the past year, Leno has <b>averaged</b> 5.71 million viewers eachnight to Letterman 's 4.16, according to Nielsen Media Research
average	adjective	Most students , by definition , will be of <b>average</b> ability , with a smaller number below average
on average	phrase	On average , American children watch over three hours of television each day
master	noun	This is your opportunity to learn from a <b>master</b> .
to master	verb	Once you've <b>mastered</b> the basics of Photoshop Elements, this is the book to further develop your skills to get professional results!
mediocre	adjective	No one is <b>mediocre</b> in this world.
mediocrity	noun	<b>Mediocrity</b> is more often a matter of choices than inherited ability.
concentration	noun	Importantly , the lectern is never operated by the speaker who needs full <b>concentration</b> on the speech and presentation .
concentrate	verb	His later works <b>concentrate</b> on the theme of peace

# 4. COLLOCATIONS

academic  
educational  
formal

adjective+

qualification

acquire  
gain  
get  
have

verb +

qualification

adult  
further  
higher  
pre-school  
primary  
secondary

adjective +

education

have  
receive  
continue  
complete

verb +

education

one-year, two-year, etc.  
Intensive  
Advanced  
intermediate, etc.

adjective +

course

introductory  
vocational

do  
take  
complete  
enrol on  
join  
sign up for

in  
on

college, university  
first  
undergraduate  
higher  
master's  
postgraduate  
business  
medical  
history  
law

economics  
marketing  
engineering  
art

have  
hold  
awarded  
gain  
get  
obtain

verb +

preposition +

adjective +

degree + in +

verb +

**course**

**course in**  
**course on**

**degree**

**degree in**

**knowledge**

receive  
acquire

in-depth  
general  
background

adjective +

knowledge

go to  
attend  
leave

verb +

school

teacher  
pupil  
uniform

adjective +

school

elementary  
high  
secondary  
comprehensive  
comprehensive  
co-educational

adjective +

school

mixed  
mixed-sex  
single-sex  
summer local  
rural  
village art  
business  
dance  
drama  
film  
language

adjective +

school

attend  
go to  
study at  
apply for  
enter  
finish (at)  
graduate from  
leave

verb +

university

teacher  
graduate  
student  
undergraduate  
course degree  
education  
term  
year  
vacation

university + noun

university

# 5. USEFUL RESOURCES

## THIS TOPIC ON IELTS BLOGS

- [IELTS Speaking Part 2: educational TV programme \[ielts-simon.com\]](#)
- [IELTS SPEAKING part 1, 2 and 3 sample questions \[ipassielts.com\]](#)
- [IELTS Education vocabulary \[ieltsspeaking.co.uk\]](#)

## PODCASTS

- [Sugata Mitra: How Much Can Children Teach Themselves? \[npr.org\]](#)
- [Can Schools Exist In The Cloud? \[npr.org\]](#)

## ARTICLES

- [Which countries have the best education system and why? \[quora.com\]](#)
- [Schools: How should schools prepare for the future? \[quora.com\]](#)

## VIDEOS

- [Ken Robinson: How to escape education's death valley \[TED TALKS\]](#)
- [Shuka Bose: Teaching one child at a time \[TED TALKS\]](#)