

TOPIC: HOMETOWN

Sample answers, useful vocabulary and resources for IELTS speaking exam

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References to teaching and authentic materials related to this topic: IELTS blogs, podcasts, videos and articles

1. SAMPLE ANSWERS

PART 1

1. Describe your hometown.

- My hometown is a small city. It is both **traditional** and **modern** because of having several festivals celebrated by the **locals**, and at the same time it is starting to be developed with increasing number of **infrastructures** and **establishments**.

2. Where is your hometown located?

- My hometown, Sorsogon City **is located** in the southernmost tip of the Bicol Peninsula and the Luzon Island. Bicol is **one of the regions in the Philippines** and Luzon **is the biggest island in the country**.

3. Is it easy to travel around your hometown?

- Yes, it is. It is a small city but there are different kinds of **transportation** available.

4. What is it known for?

- It is known for “Pili nuts”. They are said to grow in volcanic soil.

5. What do people in your town do?

- **Agriculture** and **fishing** are common in my hometown. Also, with the latest modernization, numerous **office jobs** have appeared in my town.

PART 2

Describe your hometown

- Describe the place
- What is special about it?
- Compare it to other cities in the world?

My hometown is called Sorsogon. I was born and raised there and I can say it is definitely my **favorite place**. It is located in the southernmost tip of the largest island in my country. I cannot tell that it is a very big **province**. The town is both traditional and modern. I call it traditional because there still are many festivals celebrated by the locals, yet modern, as it is starting to be **developed** just like other province having much more sophisticated **infrastructure**.

Sorsogon is a province that is **about 12-hour bus ride from** the capital city of the Philippines. Main roads are part of the national highway, so they are wide and huge. The highway happens to be an important place, because it is a key passage for buses and cars that cross it on their way from the North to the South.

Sorsogon **is also special as** it offers many **tourist attractions**. For example, in a close vicinity, there are an active volcano and a lake with very **beautiful scenery**.

Among all the places I have been to, I think Sorsogon is one of the best. There are wonderful places to visit – not **crowded** and not **polluted**. I frequently go to beautiful and clean **beaches**. Sogroson is located on many islands that are not yet **developed** and are very **peaceful** and **relaxing to stay in**. On top of that, natural cold and hot springs are popular here as well. Many people **visit** this place **to experience** them.

PART 3

1. In what ways can you improve your hometown?

One problem in my hometown is a low **accessibility of some places** due to problems of **public transportation systems**. Although there are different means of transportation, it can still take you hours to get to certain venues. For example, the earliest bus leaves at 5:00 am and the latest – around 5:30 pm. Therefore, for those who go back from work after 5:30 pm, it **gets increasingly difficult** to commute.

2. What is the main reason for liking your hometown other than the fact you were born there?

I reckon, we all love our hometowns, because we were raised there. I am personally **used to this place** and I have become very comfortable with it. I have created some very pleasant memories here – met friends, family, my first love, first academic achievements. In my hometown I was formed physiologically as an individual.

3. Most people in this world do not live in their hometowns. Why?

Well, I guess **the majority of people feel** that there could be more opportunities outside of their hometowns and consequently – comfort zones. Therefore, many believe that **living in such a** comfortable place, with relatives and friends can be distracting and too relaxing on the way of pursuing goals. Also, people (not only youth) strive to explore other places and experience different cultures across the globe.

2. KEY VOCABULARY

famous

well-known

In the 12 days they were in Nevada, they paid visits to some of the most **famous** landmarks in America.

situated

located somewhere

Windsor **is situated** 20 miles (32km) to the West of London in the Thames Valley.

imposing local buildings

visually impressive buildings

Several **imposing local buildings** were built with the money from this operation, e.g. my church.

huge

extremely large

The universe is so **huge** and so old, we must expect loads of different places where life could exist.

shopping mall

shopping centre

All high street shops and **shopping malls** are slightly rearranged versions of each other.

poor area

region; part of world, country or town lacking money

Cities definitely have rich and **poor areas**.

ethnic neighborhood

a district forming a community with a common

The multitudes of **ethnic neighborhoods** in Melbourne are found mainly out in the

district

national or cultural tradition within a town or city

suburbs.

an area or quarter within a city or town; a locality within a country

Melbourne had three identifiable **districts**: upper-middle class, middle class and working class.

traditional

relating or conforming to well-established customs, practices or style

My hometown is a small city. It is both **traditional** and modern.

infrastructure

the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g., buildings, roads, and power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise

It is starting to be developed with improved **infrastructure** and establishments.

establishment

a business organization, public institution, or household

More and more educational **establishments** are rolling out business programs.

transportation

a system or means of taking people or goods from one place to another

It is a small city, but there are different kinds of **transportation** available.

agriculture

the science or practice of farming

Agriculture and fishing are common in my hometown.

fishing

the activity of catching fish, for commercial or sporting reasons

The seas around Mayo support a wide variety of fish species, which provide sea anglers with excellent **fishing**.

pace

the relative speed of progress or change

We will remind students to raise their hands if the **pace** of the lecture is too fast.

poverty

the state of being extremely poor

Absolute **poverty** in the globalizing developing countries fell sharply in the last 20 years.

amenities

organizations, businesses, or buildings providing a service in a particular location

The village offers an excellent range of **amenities** including grocery and food stores, post office, public house, primary school, and churches of various denominations.

outskirts

outer areas of a town or city

A gondola from the town centre or a cable-car from the **outskirts** take you up to Rochebrune.

shortage

an insufficiency of something needed or wanted

One of our biggest problems locally is the **shortage** of housing, particularly for young adults.

congestion

the fact or instance of blocking or overcrowding a place, especially with traffic

The new bridge should ease **congestion** in the area.

vibrant

full of energy and enthusiasm.

A **vibrant** cosmopolitan city.

bustling

full of activity and people.

Louth is a beautiful Georgian town, with a **bustling** market.

provincial

relating to or involving a province

Scenes of violence were reported in **provincial** towns.

dull

boring

Students, short of money, have always faced long hours of **dull** or repetitive work in supermarkets, pubs or clubs.

local delicacy

something that is good to eat belonging or relating to a particular area or neighborhood

But the French were the first to consider geese a culinary **delicacy**.

growing rapidly

Increasing quickly

The interactive games industry is **growing rapidly**.

culture

art, music, literature, and related intellectual activities, considered collectively

It is less stressful than a big city, and full of bookshops, libraries, and people interested in **culture**.

downtown

in or relating to the business and commercial centre of a town or city

The heart of Sydney's **downtown** is booming.

intersection

a road junction

The University's main entrance and reception are at the **intersection** of Borough Road and Albert Road.

dramatic change

sudden and striking difference, modification or an alteration

This **dramatic change** was caused both by the presence of the pairing family and by the introduction of herding and agriculture.

railway

-a track made of parallel bars on which trains run
-the system of transport

Japan's privately-run **railway**, for example, is among the best in the world.

industrial facilities

means to do something, as provided by the equipment in a building, room, or other place

A very large number of the city's **industrial facilities** were destroyed or severely damaged.

familiarity

experience and knowledge of something

There was some increased customer **familiarity** with this product.

crowded roads

roads full of people

The **roads** can be very **crowded** because of traffic.

accessibility

being physically accessible or available

South Liverpool is the ideal short break destination with easy **accessibility** from the North via the M5 highway.

traffic

vehicles moving on roads

At the peak hours, we have been overloaded with **traffic**.

it used to be

talking about habitual actions in the past

Downtown **used to be** very commercial, with merchants selling their products all the time.

improved economically

to become better in terms of economics

Multiple new train lines have **economically improved** remote city's parts.

expanding

growing larger in size or scope

'Northampton is an **expanding** area; and wages of care assistants cannot match those to be found in industry,' says Bill Aitken, the department's operations manager.

business center

a place where businesses can rent offices or rooms for meetings, events, etc.

The Northern **Business Center** is located along Norton Shops.

building

structure such as a house

The engineer said the Council does not intend to demolish the **building** Market Square.

3. WORD FORMATION

tradition	noun	My hometown is a small city. It is both traditional and modern.
traditional	adjective	We have tried to assess how four related factors have helped govern the development of the paradigm tradition .
growing	adjective	The interactive games industry is growing rapidly .
growth	noun	The borough has experienced the fastest population growth in England in the last decade.
to grow	verb	North America, that's the second behind Mexico, population of which grew 1.8 percent over the previous year.
accessibility	noun	South Liverpool is the ideal short break destination with easy accessibility from the north via the M5 highway.
to access	verb	With the opening of the bypass scheduled for early December shoppers should be able to easily access the town's businesses.
accessible	adjective	Peterborough and Swindon are now almost as accessible as suburbs only fifteen miles away from Piccadilly.

4. COLLOCATIONS AND PHRASES

beautifully
delightfully
ideally
pleasantly
conveniently
inconveniently
centrally
remotely

adverb+

situated

neighbouring
surrounding
northern
southern
rich
wealthy
poor
working-class
coastal
country
local
metropolitan
rural
suburban
urban
agricultural
business

adjective+

district

build
found
live in

verb+

town

big
large
major
little
small
nearby
ancient
historic
medieval
old

adjective+

town

hall
square
walls
council
life
planning

town+noun

town

the centre/middle of (the) town
the edge/outskirts of (the) town

phrase

town

filthy
picturesque
ideal
terrifying

adjective+

place

interesting
busy
crowded
quiet
strange
faraway
out-of-the way
remote

adjective+

place

big
high-rise
large
tall
low
single-storey

adjective+

building

small
attractive
beautiful
fine
imposing
impressive
magnificent
crumbling
derelict
ancient
historic
old
seventeenth-century

adjective+

building

build
erect, put up
demolish
destroy, flatten, gut, knock down
pull down
damage
renovate
restore

verb+

building

5. USEFUL RESOURCES

THIS TOPIC ON IELTS BLOGS

- [IELTS Speaking Part 1: home town \[ielts-simon.com\]](http://ielts-simon.com)
- [Home town vocabulary and ideas for IELTS \[dcielts.com\]](http://dcielts.com)
- [IELTS Speaking : Home Town \[ielts-exam.net\]](http://ielts-exam.net)

PODCASTS

- [Scott Hutcheson: I Love this Town](#)
- [Scott Hutcheson: Hometown. Collaboration. Initiative.](#)

- [Podcast 73 – Brisbane – The River City \[slowenglish.info\]](#)

ARTICLES

- [What is Your Hometown Famous For? \[quora.com\]](http://quora.com)

VIDEOS

- [Alessandra Oroffino: It's Our City. Let's Fix It \[ted.com\]](http://ted.com)
- [Talking About Your Hometown - Spoken English Lesson \[Oxford Online English\]](#)
- [Talking About Your Hometown: IELTS Lesson \[ETJ English\]](#)

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