

S4: TOPIC QUESTION



In this part you need to answer a complex, often profound question and give your opinion.

You have to speak for 45 seconds and you have no preparation time.

RESPOND

As this is always a difficult or profound question to answer, you can first **acknowledge** the **complexity** of the problem.

OPINION

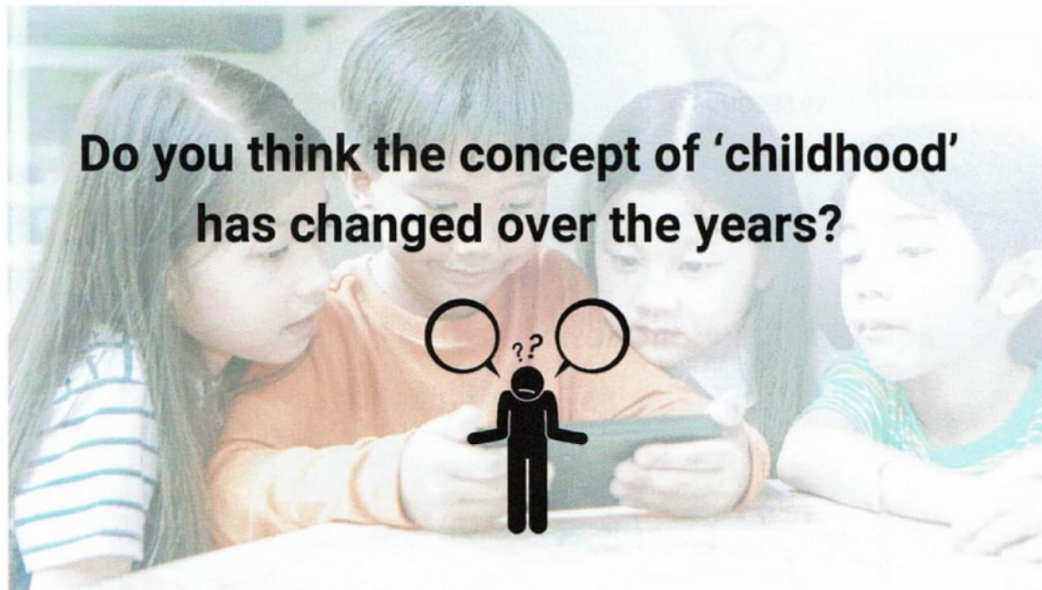
Then you should give your opinion on the topic in a **clear and concise** way.

There are only 45 seconds, so you're not really expected to solve the problem.

EVIDENCE

It's a good strategy to support your opinion briefly with a **case study, example**, or something from your **personal experience**.

Practice 1



The question for task 4 will be connected to the theme in task 3.



STRATEGY: DEVELOPING A COHERENT RESPONSE

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS TO START YOUR RESPONSE

“I think that it's a complex issue, but...”

“I would say that it depends on the (situation, person), but...”

“This is the type of question that requires a deep analysis of all the factors. That said, I'd say...”

“It's curious, as I was reading an article about this just the other day...”

“I'll admit I've never given it much thought before, but...”



USEFUL EXPRESSIONS TO GIVE OPINIONS

“Based on the evidence we have at the moment, it would seem...”

“I imagine that most people would say..., whereas I believe that...”

“To my mind, it seems that...”

“Looking at it from a (Western, biased) perspective, I'd say that...”

“All things considered, I guess that...”



We have included here some useful expressions to give you ideas, but this is not a definitive list, so feel free to use your own ideas.

THE FACTORY OF ENGLISH

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS TO GIVE EVIDENCE

“Taking the case of (Spain) as an example, we can see that...”

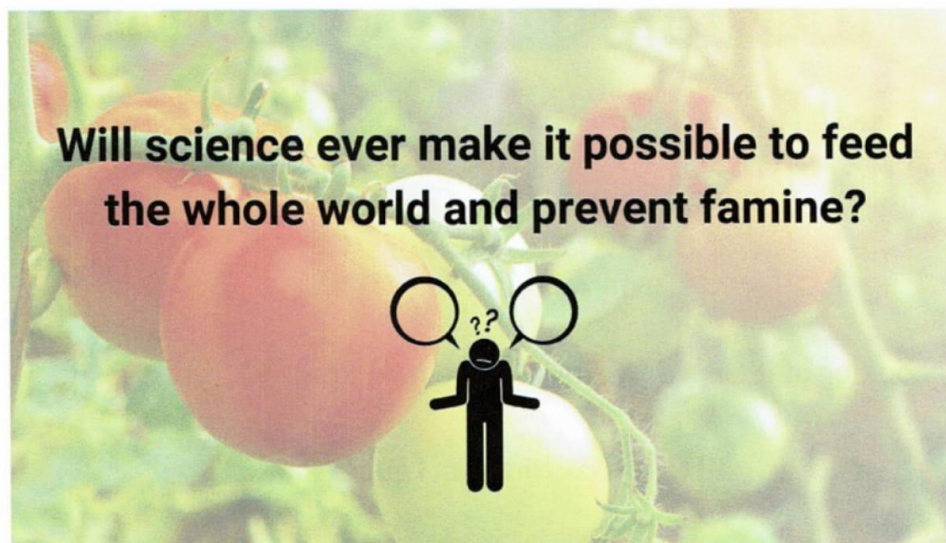
“I can only speak from personal experience, but...”

“There are many studies which have shown that...”

“A good example to support this might be...”



Practice 2



Think about scientific discoveries that have made food more plentiful in the West. Will famine ever be eradicated in the developing world?