



ISTANBUL KÜLTÜR UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Dear Students,

We would like to inform you that the speaking part of the English Proficiency Exam will include a group discussion.

- All students take part in a group discussion. The groups consist of 4 people.
- Interlocutors provide the necessary instructions for the exam and share the task card by projecting it onto the screen in the exam hall.
- Group members are asked to have a 10-minute discussion in total. Students are given 2 minutes to get prepared, and then speak for 10 minutes about the topic and questions in the task card.
- In group discussions, students must use functional language, such as asking for clarification, agreeing / disagreeing, confirmation, apologizing, asking for or giving advice, etc.
- Students must support their ideas with good, relevant explanations and examples.
- Students must use signposting language as can be seen below:
 - ❖ First,
 - ❖ Another point is that
 - ❖ The most important reason is ...
 - ❖ One of the main effects of X is
 - ❖ Above all, ...
 - ❖ Most importantly, ...
 - ❖ For instance, ...
 - ❖ In my opinion, ...
 - ❖ I totally agree with you.

- Students must use the rhetorical patterns (cause & effect, comparison & contrast, definition, exemplification, arguing for & against, listing, etc.).
- Students must not include anything out of context into their discussion.
- Students must avoid repetition. In other words, they should not mention the same ideas, explanations or examples over and over again.
- Students mustn't dominate the whole discussion. Instead, they should try to discuss the topic with their group members in a natural way.
- It is not obligatory to answer all of the questions. However, we suggest students discuss most of the questions in the task card and add more on it if possible.
- In case of grade objection, each discussion is recorded during the exam.

Below, you can find two sample task cards for practice.

Wish you all the best of luck,

School of Foreign Languages

INSTRUCTIONS

- You are asked to talk to your group members about the questions given.
- You have 2 minutes to think. You can take notes on a piece of paper.
- Then, you will have a discussion for about 10 minutes with your group members.

TASK CARD 1: Travel and Cultural Exchange

- Is there a place at the top of your travel list? What attracts you to that place?
- Is travelling the best way to learn about another culture? Why / why not?
- How can travelling help people understand different cultures better?
- Why do some travellers experience culture shock?
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of:
 - studying abroad
 - backpacking / travelling on a low budget
 - cultural exchange programmes

TASK CARD 2: Creativity and Innovation

- Why is creativity important for students and workers today?
- Is it easier to be creative alone or in a group? Why?
- Can hobbies become successful business ideas? Can you give an example?
- Do you think AI tools can help people create better ideas? Why / why not?
- Do you think creative people can still be more innovative than AI when it comes to original ideas and problem-solving?
- Do you think AI could replace some creative jobs in the future, or will human creativity always be more valuable? Why?