

## HW Assignment #12 - Task 6 Practice

This is an example of a Task 6 Question, and it should take you less than 4 minutes to complete. Keep in mind, during the exam you will listen to a short passage (**take notes as you listen**), then you will receive the question. After that you will have 20 seconds to prepare your response, and 60 seconds to deliver it.

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[Begin audio at 3:22 -- [TOEFL Speaking, Task 6 Samples](#)]

Q: "The professor describes introduced species, explain how acacia plants and salt grass affected the environment."

### Key Points:

- Explain how acacia plants and salt grass affected the environment. Here are some useful notes:
  - Acacia plants
    - Acacia plants were introduced (primarily for ship-building, agriculture, and cabinet work) because of their seemingly endless supply and impressive durability. They're known to reach forty feet within ten years, often growing eight to ten feet in a single season, and the more you cut them down, the faster they grow.
    - Unfortunately, they kill the species around them because they're too tall, they create too much shade, which stops other plants from getting enough sunlight.
  - Western European Salt Grass
    - Western European Salt grass is often found near water. It was commonly introduced to bring faster production along the coastline. Unfortunately, its introduction often led to the death of nearby plants because the roots of the salt grass dug deeper and absorbed all of the water before they could get to it.
  - Exotic species (in general):
    - Organisms that have been accidentally or intentionally transported to a new location.
    - Typically harmful to the ecosystem.

As ever, pay special attention to the following when critiquing your student's responses:

1. **Delivery:** How clear is your speech? Good responses are those in which the speech is fluid and clear, with good pronunciation, natural pacing, and natural-sounding intonation patterns.
2. **Language Use:** How effectively do you use grammar and vocabulary to convey your ideas? How well can you control both basic and more complex language structures? Did you use appropriate vocabulary?
3. **Topic Development:** How fully did you answer the question, and how coherently did you present your ideas? Good responses generally use all or most of the time allotted, and the relationship between ideas and the progression from one idea to the next is clear and easy to follow.