

TOEFL Speaking Mock Test 5

This is meant to accompany The English Formula's "[TOEFL Speaking Mock Test 3](#)" - it is to be used for educational purposes only; not for profit. Use this handout to run students through a mock examination in your TOEFL exam prep course. Break students into pairs, and have them take turns completing each task. So, student A will complete Task 1 while student B (student A's partner) acts as monitor. Then, student B will complete Task 2 while student A acts as monitor, and so on.

If you want every student to practice each task, then, after student B completes Task 6, inform your class that you will be running through the mock examination a second time. However, this time you will swap positions, so whoever completed Task 1 will complete Task 2 instead.

Instructions:

Tasks 1 and 2 are independent speaking tasks. You have 15 seconds to prepare your response, and 45 seconds to deliver it.

Task 1

Talk about a time when you experienced success. Describe the experience, and say why it was a success for you. {15s prep, 45s answer}

Task 2

Some people think that they can learn better by themselves than with a teacher. Others think that it is always better to have a teacher. Which do you prefer? Include details and examples in your explanation. {15s prep, 45s answer}

Instructions (continued):

Tasks 3 and 4 are integrated speaking tasks. You have 45 seconds to read a short text, you will then hear a short conversation, or part of a lecture, on the same topic. **You may take notes** during both the reading and listening sections. Next you will see a question concerning the information you read and heard. Finally, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response, and 60 seconds to respond.

Task 3

"The Student Government Association is holding a person of the year award. Read the announcement about the award. You will have 45 seconds to read the announcement. Begin reading now."

A Student Government Announcement... The Student Government Association, SGA, has decided they would like to sponsor a Person of the Year award at the university. This award is for a teacher, student, or member of the staff who has made a difference or has had a positive impact on the university community. Please submit nominees' names, and a brief essay detailing the impact this person has made on the community, to the SGA office in Building 400, Rm 107. Nominees' names must be submitted before October 23rd. For more information, stop by the SGA front desk.

[listen to audio] ... {instructor's note: begin at 5:43 mark}

Question: The man expresses his opinion about nominations for an award. State his opinion and explain the reasons he gives for holding that opinion. {30s prep, 60s answer}

Task 4

Hacking: Crime or Service to Society? ... In the world of computers, the term "hacker" gets two different responses. One hacker can be productively designing games, programs, and ways to improve security of information, while the other hacker tries to break into systems in a way that causes individuals and companies to lose, distort or release information without permission. How do we define a "hacker"? A hacker can improve programs in business so that the business or individual will be protected from unwanted tampering. This hacker explores the limits of the program. Or, is a hacker the term for activity that is unlawful? A hacker in this case is one who deliberately invades programs and causes computer problems. Some do this for fun; however, this can cause great hardship for businesses and individuals. People who play around with computers would say hackers are exercising their skills. Others may say hackers are criminals. Which definition is it?

[listen to audio] ... {instructor's note: begin at 9:16 mark}

Question: Two opinions on computer hacking are given in the reading. Explain which of these views the professor holds and how she supports her opinion. {30s prep, 60s answer}

Instructions (continued):

Tasks 5 and 6 involve a short listening passage. **You may take notes** as you listen. After listening to the conversation or lecture, you will see a question. You have 20 seconds to prepare your response, and 60 seconds to deliver it.

Task 5

"Now listen to a conversation between two students."

[listen to audio] ... {instructor's note: begin at 12:30 mark}

Question: The students discuss several possible solutions to the woman's problem. Describe the problem. Then state which solution you prefer and explain why. {20s prep, 60s answer}

Task 6

"Now listen to a talk in an economics class."

[listen to audio] ... {instructor's note: begin at 15:31 mark}

Question: The professor describes the law of diminishing returns. Explain this concept and how it works using examples from the lecture. {20s prep, 60s answer}