

HW Assignment #17 - Task 5 Practice

This is an example of a Task 5 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.

[Begin audio at 4:40 -- [TOEFL Speaking, Task 5 Samples](#)]

Q: "The professors discuss two possible solutions to the woman's problem. Describe the problem, then state which of the two solutions you prefer and explain why."

Key Points:

- Describe the woman's problem, here is a summary:
 - The woman is giving her students a term exam, but one of them is going to be absent because she has to attend a swimming competition. So the woman must find another way to fairly evaluate this student.
- Give reasons to support your preferred solution, for example:
 - Initially, I thought it might be nice to give just the one student an extension, but that wouldn't be fair to the other students. Next I thought of how convenient it would be to give her a makeup exam, but those are not allowed in this department. So, with those two solutions off the table, she should give the entire class an extension on the term exam. It's the best viable solution. It will keep the class, including the student-athlete, on nearly the same schedule. To ensure this, on the day that she is going to be at the swimming competition, they can take some time to review rather than covering new material.
 - She should give her an extra, challenging writing assignment that will force her to demonstrate all of the knowledge that she is expected to have, and then use her grade on that assignment as a substitute for her term exam grade. This is the best solution, even though she is already taking some writing intensive classes...

- She should give the entire class an extension on the term exam. It's the best solution because she's rewarding her student for being a good student-athlete (as she should). Student-athletes make the school look good, and are often the hardest working students because they have to balance their studies with countless practice sessions and competitions. To be clear, this is a reward because the rest of class will be grateful for the extension because it affords them more time to prepare. And of course they wouldn't get this extension without her, so they owe her some gratitude. It's *not* a reward because the exam is going to be any easier for her.

[Bonus Task 5 Sample Question -- Exam English](#)

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.