In the second part of the oral exam each candidate is asked to talk about at least two issues related to the topic for about two minutes. In some cases the issues listed are in the form of a statement:

The environmental impact of tourism.

The advantages and disadvantages of the job of a teacher.

In other cases the candidate is provided with questions:

Are video games dangerous for young people?

How have new technologies changed our daily life in the past ten years?

There are normally three issues or questions to choose from.

**YOU SHOULD START YOUR MONOLOGUE MENTIONING THE ISSUES OR QUESTIONS YOU'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT**

First... In the first place... To begin with...First of all... I’d like to start by giving my opinion on the impact of tourism on the environment (it’s a good idea to rephrase the issue)

To start with... let me express my view on the pros and cons of working as a teacher (use synonyms whenever possible)

Then.... In the second place... Besides, I’ll move on to the issue of whether video games are dangerous... (Use an indirect question)

I’d also like to answer / deal with the question of how new technologies have changed our daily life in the past ten years. (Use an indirect question)

**EFFECTIVE OPENINGS**

In order to grab the attention of the audience you may employ one or two of the following devices:

- **Rhetorical questions:**
  
  Can crime really be prevented? Has the role of teachers changed in the past years?

- **Interesting facts:**

  According to an article I read recently,... Did you know that...?

  I’d like to share an amazing fact / figure with you. Have you ever heard of...?

- **Starting with an anecdote:**

  Let me tell you what happened to me.

- **Problems to think about: (use conditional type 2 or 3)**

  Suppose / Supposing you wanted to... Imagine you had to...
Have you ever wondered what would happen / would have happened if...?

- **Quoting a well-known person**

  As X once said,... To quote a well-known writer,... To put it in the words of...

**INTRODUCING A POINT**

When delivering a monologue on a particular subject it is important to introduce the key points first. You may use one of the following phrases:

  - First of all I'd like to point out... The main problem is... The fact is that...
  - The question of... Speaking of...

**OR YOU MAY BEGIN BY STATING SOMETHING AS A FACT**

  - As everyone knows... It is generally accepted that... There can be no doubt that...
  - It is a fact that... Nobody will deny that...

**ENUMERATION OF POINTS**

If you want to provide several reasons, factors or arguments in a row, you have to organize them in the logical way. In order to structure your answer properly enumerate the main points using one of the suggested phrases:

  - First of all... In the first place... To begin with... To start with... I'd like to say / to mention that...
  - Second... Secondly... In the second place... In addition to that... Apart from that... Besides... Moreover,... Furthermore,... Another example of this is...
  - Finally,... Lastly... Finally, and perhaps most importantly,...
  - In conclusion... All in all... All things considered...

**MOVING TO THE NEXT POINT**

  - This leads directly to my next point. This brings us to the next question.
  - Let’s now move on / turn to... After examining this point, let’s turn to...
  - Let’s now take a look at...

**GOING BACK**

  - As I said / mentioned / pointed out earlier,... Let me come back to what I said before...
  - Let’s go back to what we were discussing earlier... As I’ve already explained...
GIVING YOUR OPINION

• I think / feel / believe that...  • As far as I’m concerned....  • As I see it...
• To my mind...  • In my view / opinion...  • From my point of view...
• I tend to think that...  • It seems to me that...  • To my knowledge
• I have the impression that...  • I reckon...(informal)  • For my part...

Note: We use from my point of view to express how we see something or how it affects us personally. When we are expressing our beliefs or opinions, we use in my opinion or in my view. E.g. From my point of view, driving is not a good option. I get very tired if I drive more than about two hours. I spent two months working in England. From my point of view, that was the easiest way to learn English. (How the speaker is personally affected by something) In my opinion/In my view, in 100 years’ time people will still be wearing jeans. In my view, everyone should stay in school until they are 18.

GIVING A STRONG OPINION

• I’m absolutely convinced that...  • To tell you the truth / to be honest / frank
• I strongly believe that...  • I have no doubt that...  • There’s no doubt that...
• My own view is that...  • I’m absolutely certain that...  • I’m sure that...
• If you want my honest opinion...

EXPRESSING UNCERTAINTY

• I definitely doubt if that...  • I’m uncertain / not sure that...  • As far as I know...
• It is very doubtful whether...  • I don’t know about you, but I...

GIVING OPINIONS USING IMPERSONAL LANGUAGE

It is vital that more is done to prevent the illegal trade in wild animals.
◇ (Compare: We have to do more to stop people trading wild animals illegally.)

Journalists play a vital/crucial/essential role in educating the public.

The ability to write well is essential for any journalist.

The Internet has become an indispensable /ˌɪndɪˈspensəbl/ tool for reporters.

In journalism, accuracy is paramount. / ...is of paramount importance.

It is imperative that journalists maintain the highest possible standards of reporting.

This case emphasizes/highlights the importance of honest communication between managers and employees.

It should be noted that / It is important to remember that / An important point to remember is that ...

I would like to draw attention to the role of listening in effective communication.
MAKING AN OPINION SOUND LESS DEFINITE

Most cybercrime involves traditional crimes, such as theft and fraud, being committed in new ways.

Phishing is perhaps/possibly/probably the best-known example of this.

It seems/appears that the more personal data which organizations collect, the more opportunity there is for this data to be lost or stolen.

It seems clear that introducing national ID cards would do little to prevent identity theft.

It could be argued that the introduction of national ID cards might actually make identity theft easier.

It is possible that/It may be that the only way to protect ourselves against DNA identity theft is to avoid the creation of national DNA databases.

GIVING REASONS AND MAKING A POINT

There are several reasons why I think that... The reason for this is that / why I say that is....

I base my argument on... I tell you all this because... What I'm basically saying is...

The point I'm trying to make is that... Let me put it this way:....

INDICATING THE END OF YOUR MONOLOGUE

Well, this brings me to the end of what I wanted to say about....

That covers just about everything I wanted to say about...

As a final point I'd like to say / add that... Finally, I'd like to highlight one final / key issue.

My final comments concern.... I would like to finish by mentioning...

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMING UP

The obvious conclusion is... Last but not least... The only possible solution / conclusion is....

In conclusion I can / would like to say that... To cut a long story short...

All things considered... Let me summarize by saying... Briefly said,....

In short,... To recap what I've said so far... To sum up,...
Connectors and Modifiers

1. Appearance and reality.

At first sight a primera vista but in fact pero de hecho. Apparently...but they are really/actually

The fact is that el hecho es que As a matter of fact de hecho

2. Developing an argument (sequence)

First... In the first place... To begin with... First of all... Second... Secondly... In the second place... In addition to that... Apart from that... Besides... (además).

Third... Finally... Lastly... Above all... por encima de todo. In conclusion...

All in all...(with everything considered) e.g. All in all, I would say John and I had a very nice trip.

All things considered... considerándolo todo e.g. All things considered, we didn't do too badly.

In the last resort... como último recurso e.g. They would in the last resort support their friends whatever they did. In the last resort we shall have to turn to him for help.

If this were not enough... On top of all this... To make matters worse.

3. Giving examples

For example... For instance... A case in point is... un caso que lo explica es

4. Contrast

Although... e.g. Although his argument is interesting, it does not convince me.

However,... At the same time... e.g. At the same time, we didn't want to leave our parents.

But... After all... (después de todo) e.g. After all, we didn't really have a choice

In spite of + noun phrase/ -ing/ the fact that...

Despite + noun phrase/ -ing/ the fact that...

On one hand... (por una parte) On the other hand... (por otra parte)

5. Cause and effect

Because of... e.g. We were worried because of the weather, but the event was very lively.

Owing to... e.g. I couldn't attend, owing to illness

Caused by... Due to... e.g. The cancellation of the concert was due to the rain.

Consequently... As a result... In consequence...

For this reason... For these reasons... For one reason or another...

6. Expressing personal opinion

For my part... (por mi parte) e.g. For my part, I do not agree en lo que a mí se refiere / por mi parte, no estoy de acuerdo.

Personally... In my opinion... In my view... As I see it... e.g. As I see it, you have no choice.

To my mind... e.g. To my mind, their behaviour is unreasonable.

As far as I am concerned... por lo que a mí se refiere e.g. As far as I am concerned, that's very sound (reliable and sensible) advice; you should take it.

7. Modifying what is said or written

To agree

In general... As a rule... por norma. On the whole... en conjunto e.g. On the whole it was a happy marriage. In the main en lo principal e.g. It was an excellent conference in the main.

To agree to a certain extent
In a way... en cierta forma e.g. You’re right, in a way, but we have to consider the price.
In a sense... en algún sentido e.g. In a sense our schools are the best in the state, but the test scores don’t always show that.
In some sense... e.g. In some sense I agree with you, but not entirely
Up to a point hasta cierto punto. It is interesting up to a point.
To say that you are not very well informed
As far as I know... por lo que sé. For all I know... e.g. For all I know, she’s gone to China.
To the best of my knowledge... e.g. To the best of my knowledge, they arrive tomorrow.
To limit the argument
In these circumstances... e.g. In this circumstances, the next suitable day for me to have the personal interview is 30th October. At least... por lo menos
Things being as they are... si la situación es esta e.g. Anyway, things being as they are these days, many states are either broke or getting close to it.

8. Intensifying the statement
Clearly... Obviously... Of course... Needless to say... As everyone knows...
To point something out
In particular... Especially... Above all... por encima de todo. Let alone... aún menos. Not to mention... por no decir. In other words... en otras palabras. In any case... en cualquier caso

9. Referring to someone or something
With regard to... con relación a e.g I spoke to him with regard to [as regards, in regard to, regarding] his future.
For that matter... respecto a este asunto e.g. For that matter I don’t care either.
As for... en lo que se refiere a e.g. As for this chair, there is nothing to do but throw it away.

Linking Devices Extra Writing

1. Introduce additional information (meaning "and")
What is more, another (problem/ issue/ point, etc.), additionally, in addition to this, furthermore, likewise.

Examples:
Bilingual children do better in IQ tests than children who speak only one language. In addition/What is more, they seem to find it easier to learn third or even fourth languages.
Learning another language not only improves children’s job prospects in later life, but also boosts their self-esteem.
Teaching children a second language improves their job prospects in later life. Other benefits include increased self-esteem and greater tolerance of other cultures.
Additionally, the bus service will run on Sundays, every two hours.
Another/One further/One additional reason for encouraging bilingual education is that it boosts children’s self-esteem.
Studies suggest that bilingual children find it easier to learn additional languages. There is, moreover, increasing evidence that bilingual children perform better across a range of school subjects, not just foreign languages.

His claim that children find bilingual education confusing is based on very little evidence. Moreover, the evidence he does provide is seriously flawed (with mistakes).

Research has shown that first-language development is not impeded by exposure to a second language. Furthermore, there is no evidence to support the claim that children find bilingual education confusing.

The banks advise against sending cash. Likewise, sending British cheques may cause problems.

2. Indicate a contrast with what has come before (meaning "but")

in contrast, on the contrary, conversely /ˈkɒnvɜːsli/, however, On the other hand, nevertheless.

Examples:

You can add the fluid to the powder, or, conversely, the powder to the fluid.

Women suffering from anorexia are still convinced that their thin, frail bodies are fat and unsightly. Conversely, some people who are a great deal heavier than they should be can persuade themselves that they are ‘just right’.

Politicians have promised to improve road safety. So far, however, little has been achieved.

Despite clear evidence from road safety studies, no new measures have been introduced.

Politicians have promised to improve road safety. In spite of this/Despite this, little has been achieved so far.

Although /ɔː.ˈlɑː/ politicians have promised to improve road safety, little has been achieved so far.

Some politicians claim that the new transport policy has been a success. In fact, it has been a total disaster.

Government campaigns have had a measure of success, but the fact remains that large numbers of accidents are still caused by careless drivers.

While the film is undoubtedly too long, it is nevertheless an intriguing piece of cinema.

It can be argued that the movie is too long. It is nonetheless an intriguing piece of cinema.

The film is undoubtedly too long. Still, it is an intriguing piece of cinema.

Of course, huge chunks of the book have been sacrificed in order to make a two-hour movie, but it is nevertheless a successful piece of storytelling.
Critics are wrong to argue that the film's plot is too complicated. **Certainly** there are a couple of major twists, **but** audiences will have no difficulty following them.

**It is true that** you cannot make a good movie without a good script, **but it is equally true that** a talented director can make a good script into an excellent film.

**It remains to be seen whether** these two movies herald (are a sign) a new era of westerns, **but there is no doubt that** they represent welcome additions to the genre.

3. **Follow a logical argument (meaning "therefore")**

**Thus, hence, accordingly, as a result, consequently, so, for this reason.**

**Examples**

We do not own the building. **Thus**, it would be impossible for us to make any major changes to it.

Eating habits formed in childhood tend to continue into adult life. **Thus**, the best way to prevent heart disease among adults is to encourage healthy eating from an early age.

Eating habits formed in childhood tend to continue into adult life, **hence** the importance of encouraging healthy eating from an early age.

The cost of materials rose sharply last year. **Accordingly** (therefore), we were forced to increase our prices.

Many children spend their free time watching TV instead of playing outside. **As a result**, more and more of them are becoming overweight.

Many parents today do not have time to cook healthy meals for their children. **Consequently /As a consequence**, many children grow up eating too much junk food.

Today's children eat more junk food and get less exercise than previous generations of children. It is not surprising, **therefore**, that rates of childhood obesity are on the increase.

Children who grow up on a diet of junk food find it difficult to change this habit later in life. It is essential, **therefore**, that parents encourage healthy eating from an early age.

Children who grow up on a diet of junk food find it difficult to change this habit later in life. **For this reason, / This is why** it is essential that children eat healthily from an early age.

**One consequence of** changes in diet over recent years has been a dramatic increase in cases of childhood obesity.

Last year junk food was banned in schools. **The effect of this** has been to create a black market in the playground, with pupils bringing sweets from home to sell to other pupils.
4. Prove your point.

evidently, obviously, indeed, to conclude, In fact, In conclusion.

Examples

Evidently: according to what people say. E.g. Evidently, she had nothing to do with the whole affair. Evidently, these valleys were formed by glacial erosion.

Obviously: used when giving information that you expect other people to know already or agree with. E.g. Obviously, we don’t want to spend too much money.

Indeed: used to add information to a statement. E.g. I don’t mind at all. Indeed, I would be delighted to help.

To conclude, I would actually like to say.

in (actual) fact:

1 used to give extra details about something that has just been mentioned. E.g. I used to live in France; in fact, not far from where you’re going. I haven’t seen him for years. In fact, I can’t even remember what he looks like.

2 used to emphasize a statement, especially one that is the opposite of what has just been mentioned. E.g. I thought the work would be difficult. In actual fact, it’s very easy.

In conclusion, the study has provided useful insights into the issues relating to people’s perception of crime.

Based on this study, it can be concluded that the introduction of new street lighting did not reduce reported crime.

To sum up, no evidence can be found to support the view that improved street lighting reduces reported crime.

The available evidence clearly leads to the conclusion that the media do have an influence on the public perception of crime.

The main conclusion to be drawn from this study is that public perception of crime is significantly influenced by crime news reporting.

This study has shown that people's fear of crime is out of all proportion to crime itself.

Fear of crime is out of all proportion to the actual level of crime, and the reasons for this can be summarized as follows. First...

Overall/In general, women are more likely than men to feel insecure walking alone after dark.