

**The Most Recent *Speaking*
Topics Offered in the TOEFL Test**

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To the Students

Many of the following topics have been regularly offered in the TOEFL iBT Test, many of which have been offered more than 5 times in the past two years. The parts that have been *highlighted* show the type of the question in hand. **The way to address the task** has been mentioned under the questions. Please pay close attention to the “NB” notes, which give you more information and details about the question type and the way to address them. In order to have a better understanding of the question type and the way to address them, you can refer to the book *TOEFL Writing Success*, written by Amir Khadem. If you understand the type of the questions and address them accordingly, you will certainly get a very high score in the real TOEFL iBT Exam.

Wish you luck!

Iran 2018 Task 1: Your friend went straight to work after high school and skipped university. But now ten years later, he decides to go to university. Please *talk about at least one challenge he will face when he goes to university at an older age.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2018 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It's never acceptable to interrupt other people when they are talking.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2018 Task 1: Nowadays, universities usually hold exams in the class, but recently some universities allow students to take exams at home. *Talk about the advantages or disadvantages of this.* Give specific reasons to support your answer.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both **the advantages and disadvantages of taking exams at home.**

Iran 2018 Task 2: Some people prefer talking about their opinion immediately when they hear a topic, while others prefer to wait and listen to others before they talk about their own opinion. *Which one do you prefer and why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2018 Task 1: To reduce air pollution from automobiles, officials in your community are considering a proposal to provide free public transportation within the city. *Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal.* Use details and examples in your explanation. (The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both **the advantages and disadvantages of providing free public transportation within the city.**

Iran 2018 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People are more interested in reading negative news stories than positive ones.* Explain why. Use specific examples and details in your response.

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2018 Task 1: *Talk about an advantage and a disadvantage of studying in a university that is located in a small town or the countryside.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about **the advantages and disadvantages of both choices.**

Iran 2018 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children should gain access to computers and other electronic devices as early as possible.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2018 Task 1: Things keep changing. *Describe one thing you think you would never do ten years ago.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both the present and the past – ten years ago.

Iran 2018 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children should listen or read news at an early age.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2018 Task 1: *What is the most useful function of cell phones for students?*

- A. Taking photographs
- B. Listening to music

C. Recording videos

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2018 Task 2: Should parents prevent children from making mistakes or should children be allowed to make mistakes?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2018 Task 1: Your school is planning to add some information on the school news board. *Which one would you choose?*

- A. Travel
- B. Reviews of restaurants nearby
- C. Films

State your opinion and explain why.

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2018 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?* Schools should be responsible for teaching students moral values. State your opinion and explain why.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2018 Task 1: Teachers should not allow students to record class lectures. *Do you agree with this policy? Why?*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2018 Task 2: The government wants to fund one of the following areas to improve children's education. *Which one do you think is better? Why?*

- A. Hire more teachers to teach in a small class
- B. Make preschool education before kindergarten mandatory
- C. Provide some training courses so that teachers can be more professional

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2018 Task 1: What do you think can improve your local community and make it a better place to live?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2018 Task 2: Some people like to make decisions based on their own experience, while other people prefer to ask others for help such as family and friends. *Which do you prefer and why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2018 Task 1: If your friend wants to visit your country, *what kind of transportation do you recommend him to use?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2018 Task 2: *Which one is the most important factor to help you work productively?*

- A. Having an environment which is free of noise and distractions
- B. Knowing that you will receive a reward
- C. Doing something you are interested in

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2018 Task 1: Teacher assignments now tend to include group assignments rather than individual assignments. *Talk about one of the advantages and disadvantages of group assignments.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both the advantages and disadvantages of group assignments.

Iran 2018 Task 2: When you and your friends and family have disagreements over some of the controversial issues, *do you want to convince them or do you agree with their opinion?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2018 Task 1: *Which of the following is the most effective way to encourage company's employees to contribute to the communities?*

- A. Allow some time off to tutor or clean parks
- B. Financially reward the employees
- C. Post volunteer activities on the company's website

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2018 Task 2: *Do you think it is important for people to learn about local history?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 1: If you have the opportunity to do something for a good cause, *which of the following would you choose?*

- A. Distributing meals to needy people
- B. Helping build a playground for children
- C. Visiting people in hospitals

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Schools shouldn't allow young students to use calculators during exams.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: *What kind of knowledge background do you think the future government leaders should have?*

- A. Military background
- B. Business background
- C. Legal background

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Nowadays, it is harder to save money than it used to be.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should compare both the past and the present.

Iran 2017 Task 1: If there is a foreign teacher who has come to your country to teach high school students, *what suggestion will you give him for preparation?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Some people like to use smartphones or other navigational devices to guide them on the road while traveling, while some others prefer to ask around. *Which do you like to do?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: There are several ways you can get to know a country without travelling abroad. *Which of the following ways would you like to choose? Choose one and explain why.*

- A. Reading books
- B. Watching videos
- C. Joining online communication groups

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Do you think it is reasonable to give a lower grade to an assignment that is handed in after the deadline?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 1: *Which of the following best describes a quality that a parent or another family member helped you develop?*

- A. Self confidence
- B. Kindness
- C. Patience

Choose one of the above qualities and explain how the parent or another family member helped you to develop that quality.

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

NB You should talk about both the quality and explain how the parent or another family member helped you to develop that quality.

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree that the determining factor for the success of students in school is intelligence?*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: *Your local community center wants to add some new workshops or programs for children. Which of the following do you think would be most beneficial for children's development?*

- A. Art craft workshop
- B. Technology workshop
- C. Athletic programs

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Some managers tend to check workers' tasks closely or frequently, while others tend to check them rarely or casually. Which is better for the management?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: *Final is coming, and your friend often oversleeps and misses the class. Will you help your friend to study while you also have a lot of exams?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Good teachers admit they make mistakes or don't know something.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: *A university wants to build a museum. Which of these museums do you think is better to be built?*

- A. Museum of local history
- B. Science Museum
- C. Art Museum

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: *If you want to talk about your problems with your friends, do you prefer to talk face to face and on telephone about your problems, or do you prefer to talk about them by text message and email?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Your town is electing a new mayor. None of the candidates has any experience working in city government, but each has been successful in another profession. Which of the candidates do you think would be best prepared from their profession to be a good mayor?

- A. A doctor
- B. A university professor
- C. A banker

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is important for a child's development to spend short periods of time living away from home, visiting other relatives or friends.

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Talk about an occasion when people give one another gifts in your country. Describe the occasion and the types of gifts people usually give.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both the occasion and the types of gifts people usually give.

Iran 2017 Task 2: Children learning to play musical instruments often want to stop taking music lessons because they don't like practice. Some people think that children should be made to continue taking lessons. Others think that children should decide for themselves whether or not to continue. Which view do you agree with? Explain why.

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Talk about a time when you unintentionally hurt someone's feelings. Describe what happened. Use details in your response.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Some people prefer to spend their extra money on objects such as clothes or electronics. Other people prefer to spend it on experiences like vacations or concerts. Which do you prefer and why?

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: As they mature, children need to learn to cooperate and get along with others. What can adults do to help children learn this skill? Use specific examples and details in your response.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The government should not allow violence or bad language in television programs.

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Your friend has difficulty remembering certain kinds of information. He sometimes forgets people's names and he recently forgot to submit a class assignment on time. What advice would you give to your friend to help him remember these kinds of important information?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Your city is considering a law to make people pay the fine if they use their cell phones at the same time they are walking across street intersections. Do you think this is a good idea? Explain why.

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Which of the following qualities do you think is the most helpful for a person starting a new small business?

- A. Being outgoing and friendly
- B. Being well organized

C. Being creative and imaginative

Why do you think it would be the most helpful?

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: To encourage healthier eating habits among students, your university cafeteria plans to charge higher prices for unhealthy foods such as chips and candy. The extra money will be used to expand the selection of healthy eating options such as fresh fruits and vegetables. *Do you think this is a good idea? Use details and examples to explain why you agree or disagree.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: The university has been given a very large research grant for new and important scientific research. *Which of the following research projects do you think the university should pursue?*

- A. Develop a way to predict weather more accurately
- B. Develop an efficient method to clean rivers and oceans
- C. Develop a new way to detect life in outer space

Choose one and explain why you think your university should choose this area of research. Include details and examples in your response.

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Some people enjoy participating in performances such as theatrical plays or musical concerts. Others prefer to be in the audience watching the performers. *Which do you prefer? Use details and reasons in your response.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Your university has acquired a piece of land near the campus. There have been several proposals as to how to use the land and the university is considering three options. *Which of the following do you think the university should choose?*

- A. New athletic facilities and a stadium
- B. A park with nature trails
- C. A visitor center and hotel for campus guests

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Some universities expect students to choose a major field of study when they enter universities. Other universities allow students to wait until the second or third year before deciding on a major field of study. *Which do you think is better? Why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: *Which of the following professions should be paid the highest salary?*

- A. Nurse
- B. Police officer
- C. Teacher

Choose one and explain why you think it deserves to be paid a higher salary than the other two.

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Older doctors are more knowledgeable than younger doctors.*

(Model 2 A/D, both sides of the issue is discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: You belong to a group that tutors young children from a local school. You are planning to take the children on an educational day trip. *Which of the following would you choose for the trip?*

- A. A science museum

- B. A local farm
- C. A theater performance

Choose one and explain why you think it would be the best choice for the children?

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is less important now for schools to teach young people to do math in their heads because of the availability of new technology that can do it for them.

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Imagine that your best friend has injured a leg in a sporting accident and cannot get around school easily. What kinds of things would you do to help your friend? Describe some things that you would do and explain why you think they would be useful.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Your university is organizing a series of guest lectures. Some people think that speakers with controversial opinion should not be invited to speak at the university. Others believe that the university should feature a variety of speakers regardless of their opinion. Which point of view do you agree with? Explain why.

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Your town needs volunteers from the community to help with the following community service projects.

- A. Cleaning up the town parks
- B. Building a new trail for bicycles in town
- C. Planting new trees and plants in the town

Which project would you choose? Explain why.

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Playing sports as children encourages people to become overly aggressive later in life.

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Which of the following jobs do you think is most exciting?

- A. Airline pilot
- B. Actor
- C. Detective

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Male and female university students should have separate residence halls.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Your degree requires that you take a science course. Which of the following courses would you choose?

- A. Energy and environment
- B. Health and nutrition
- C. The solar system

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: In a group discussion, some people prefer to immediately give their opinion on the topic. Others prefer to wait and listen to other people's opinion before giving their own. *Which do you think is better? Explain why.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Your friend is moving to a new city and is nervous about making new friends. *What advice would you give your friend about how to make friends in the new city?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 2: You have been very busy today and unable to begin studying for a test you have tomorrow. Now, it's evening and you have a chance between either staying up too late, studying and getting less sleep and studying for less time than you want and getting a full night sleep. *Which do you think would be better for your test performance? Why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: There is going to be a students' TV show. *Which show would you like to watch?* Please give your reasons.

- A. Interview school leaders
- B. Students' debate on political and social topics
- C. Comedy about school life

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Some people want to change their appearance, even by surgery. *Do you agree or disagree?* Give your reasons.

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: The university has decided to remodel your dormitory building and add a new space for residents. *What kind of space do you think the students would be most interested in having in your dormitory?*

- A. A café
- B. A quiet study room
- C. A game room

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?* All workers should be required to stop working and retire by age 65.

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Your friend is planning to visit your home country for the first time and wants advice on how to be polite and respectful to people there. *Describe* what things your friend should and should not do in your country in order to be polite and respectful.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Some people prefer to spend their extra money on objects such as clothes and electronics. Other people prefer to spend it on experiences like vacations and concerts. *Which do you prefer? Why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: *Which of the following areas of current events do you most like to read about?*

- A. Politics
- B. Sports
- C. Arts and film

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Some students prefer to study for exams in the morning. Other students prefer to study in the evening. *Which do you prefer? Explain why.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: The university currently requires all the students to take the physical education course to graduate. *Which of the following items will you choose?*

- A. Soccer
- B. Dancing

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Imagine that you have been accepted by two different universities; one university is well-known for its excellent academic program, but it's expensive, while another is less well-known, but has offered you with scholarship to pay for your tuition fee. *Which university would you prefer? Explain why.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Our lives often change in unexpected ways. *Describe something you have done recently that ten years ago you never imagined you would do. Use details in your response.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both the present and the past – ten years ago.

Iran 2017 Task 2: Imagine that you live in a crowded city with only one green space - the city park. In order to address the issue of overcrowding, the city council has proposed building a new housing complex on this last green space in the city center. *Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2017 Task 1: *Talk about a time when you had an argument with someone. Describe what the conflict was about and what the outcome was.* Use details in your response.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both the conflict and the outcome.

Iran 2017 Task 2: Imagine that you need to find housing next semester. You have found two possible apartments. The first apartment is within walking distance to the campus, but the rent is a little expensive. The other one is farther away, but the rent is affordable. *Which apartment would you choose? Why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: *Which one of the below is the most important in leading to a country's success?*

- A. Many business opportunities
- B. Good medical care
- C. Excellent educational system

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?* Because of the growing popularity of entertainment technology, fewer people take the time to read books for pleasure. Use details and examples to support your answer.

(Model 2 A/D, both sides of the issue is discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Many companies have begun offering flexible work hours so employees can make their own schedule arriving and leaving the office whenever they want as long as they complete their work on time. *Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of this offer.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both the advantages and disadvantages of it.

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People spend too much time on computers and other electronic devices nowadays. Use examples and details to explain your position.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally **one side** of the issue is discussed, similar to **The Explanation type**)

Iran 2016 Task 1: *Talk about an event that happened to you in school, which seemed negative but was beneficial for you.*

(**The Explanation type**, generally **one side** of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2016 Task 2: *Some people go to gym every day to exercise. Others go to gym whenever they have time. Which one would you choose and why?*

(**The Preference type**, **both sides** of the issue should be discussed, but **focusing on one item**)

Iran 2016 Task 1: *Which of the following functions of the smartphones do you think has been most beneficial to students' daily lives?*

- A. Taking photos
- B. Listening to music
- C. Recording lectures

Choose one of the functions and explain why you think it has been the most beneficial. Use details and examples to support your answer.

(**The Preference type**, **three sides** of the issue should be discussed, but **focusing on one item**)

Iran 2016 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A boss or manager should not form close friendship with his/her employees. Use details and example to support your answer.*

(**The Explanation type**, generally **one side** of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2016 Task 1: *People often have disagreement with their friends. What do you think is the most effective way of resolving a disagreement with a friend? Use specific examples and details in your response.*

(**The Explanation type**, generally **one side** of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2016 Task 2: *Some people think it is best for students to choose their future career before going to university. Other people think it is better for students to take a few university courses before choosing a career. Which do you think is better? Explain why.*

(**The Preference type**, **both sides** of the issue should be discussed, but **focusing on one item**)

Iran 2016 Task 1: *Talk about a time when someone disappointed you. What happened and how did you respond?*

(**The Explanation type**, generally **one side** of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both how they disappointed you and how you reacted.

Iran 2016 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The government should not allow violence or harsh language in television programs. Use specific details and examples to support your response.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally **one side** of the issue is discussed, similar to **The Explanation type**)

Iran 2016 Task 1: *Computer technology has had a strong influence on students' lives. What influence has computer technology had on your education? Include details and examples in your response.*

(**The Explanation type**, generally **one side** of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2016 Task 2: *Friends or colleagues sometimes need to have a serious talk about a problem such as misunderstandings. Some people prefer to have these important discussions in a public place such as a café or restaurant. Others prefer to have such talks in more private places or at home. Which do you prefer?*

(**The Preference type**, **both sides** of the issue should be discussed, but **focusing on one item**)

Iran 2016 Task 1: Many students have part-time jobs while going to university. *Which of the following factors do you think is most important to students, when they are choosing a part-time job?*

- A. Pay
- B. Location
- C. Work schedule

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is less important now for schools to teach young people to do math in their heads because of the availability of new technology that can do it for them.*

(Model 2 A/D, both sides of the issue is discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 1: Your friend is planning to get a part-time job while attending a university. *What do you think of this plan? Talk about the advantages and/or disadvantages of this plan.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both the plan and the advantages and/or disadvantages of it.

Iran 2016 Task 2: You have received two invitations for the same evening and must decide which to choose. You have been invited to a party at a friend's house. On the same night, your family would like you to get together for dinner. *Which will you choose? Explain why.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 1: Your local community center is offering the following free weekend classes.

- A. How to become a better public speaker
- B. How to start your own small business
- C. How to improve your photography skills

Which class would you choose to attend? Explain your reasons for wanting to attend this class.

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The best way to teach children how to behave is to praise their good behavior rather than to criticize their bad behavior.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2016 Task 1: The university currently requires all students to take a physical education class in order to graduate. *Which of the following courses would you prefer to take?*

- A. Swimming
- B. Tennis
- C. Horseback riding

Choose one and explain what you think the benefits of the class will be.

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 2: Some people prefer to be constantly busy and always have something to do. Others prefer not to be busy all the time, but to spend some period of time doing nothing. *Which approach do you think is better? Explain why.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 1: Your university would like to add a class that is not currently offered and that will attract a large number of students. *Which of the following classes do you think would attract most students?*

- A. Sound engineering and recording
- B. History of rock music
- C. Film studies

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 2: Some people would like to own and manage their own business. Others would prefer to work at someone else's business. *Given a choice, which would you prefer and why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 1: *Which of the following qualities do you think is most important when choosing a roommate?*

- A. Cleanliness
- B. Friendliness
- C. Quietness

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 2: Some people like to buy used books, including textbooks whenever they are available. Others prefer to buy only new books. *Which do you prefer and why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 1: Parents face many challenges when raising children and sometimes make mistakes. *What is a common mistake that parents make in raising children?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

Iran 2016 Task 2: Some people like to share lots of photos of themselves online for their friends and family to see. Others prefer not to share many photos online. *Which do you prefer? Explain why.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 1: Your friend is planning to get a part-time job while attending a university. *What do you think of this plan? Talk about the advantages and/or disadvantages of this plan.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should talk about both the plan and the advantages and/or disadvantages of it.

Iran 2016 Task 2: You have received two invitations for the same evening and must decide which to choose. You have been invited to a party at a friend's house. On the same night, your family would like you to get together for dinner. *Which will you choose? Explain why.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 1: The university currently requires all students to take a physical education class in order to graduate. *Which of the following courses would you prefer to take?*

- A. Swimming
- B. Tennis
- C. Horseback riding

Choose one and explain what you think the benefits of the class will be.

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

NB You should talk about both the course and the benefits it can have for you.

Iran 2016 Task 2: Some people prefer to be constantly busy and always have something to do. Others prefer not to be busy all the time, but to spend some period of time doing nothing. *Which approach do you think is better? Explain why.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2016 Task 1: *Which of the following best describes a quality that a parent or another family member helped you develop?*

- A. Self Confidence

- B. Kindness
- C. Patience

Choose one of the above qualities and *explain how the parent or another family member helped you to develop that quality.*

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

NB You should talk about both the quality and the way they helped you to develop that quality.

Iran 2016 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In the future, it will be easier than it is now for everyone to obtain a good education.*

(Model 2 A/D, both sides of the issue is discussed, but focusing on one item)

NB You should talk about both the future and the present.

Iran 2017 Task1: Your university offers different opportunities for student entertainment on campus.

- A. A theater by student actors
- B. A concert by a professional musician
- C. A lecture by a well-known professor

Which of these would you choose and why?

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Friends should be able to disagree with each other and still maintain their friendship. Use reasons and examples to support your position.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

Iran 2017 Task 1: Teachers use different tools to engage students and help them to learn. *Which of the following tools do you think is most effective?*

- A. Guest speaker
- B. Class trips
- C. Videos

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: You have been offered two jobs. One job is in your preferred professional field, but the pay is low. The other job is outside your preferred field, but it pays more. *Which job would you choose?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 1: You have an assignment to do a presentation for your literature class. The professor has given you the following three choices. *Which one would you choose and why?*

- A. Act out a scene from a play to the class (with a partner)
- B. Present to the class your review of a novel the class has recently read
- C. Memorize and recite a selection of poems to the class

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

Iran 2017 Task 2: Some people prefer to work with a small company where there are few coworkers, while others prefer to work in a large company or organization in which there are thousands of employees. *Which would you choose and why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 1: *Which one of the following volunteer work would you prefer doing?*

- A. Tutoring children
- B. Driving senior citizens around
- C. Teaching adults to read

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 2: If there's something you want to buy, *do you prefer saving money yourself to buy it or ask someone to lend you some money to buy it?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 1: The school allows students to keep pets in their dorms. *Do you think it is good or not?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2016 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree that celebrities such as artists and athlete should be the role model for people?*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2016 Task 1: *Which of the following community service would you be more interested in doing and explain why?*

- A. Cleaning the city park
- B. Planting flowers and trees
- C. Building a bicycle lane

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree that the success of a school depends on experienced teachers?*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2016 Task 1: The university is going to make some changes to improve students' life; *which do you think university should change and why?*

- A. Cafeteria
- B. Swimming pool
- C. Students' dorm

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 2: *Do you think you can learn a lot about a stranger from the first observation or you have to know his personality after a long time?*

(Model 2 A/D, both sides of the issue is discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 1: *Describe the most popular website in your country and explain why.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2016 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to use games in class. Please use specific reasons and details to support your opinion.*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2016 Task 1: *What do you think is the most important thing that parents should teach their children? Please include details in your response.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2016 Task 2: *Some people prefer to spend lots of money on vacation. Others would spend little money on vacation. Which do you prefer and why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 1: *Do you think it's a good idea for university to ask a student to leave school if he was caught cheating in exams? Explain your response in details.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2016 Task 2: *Some college students like to join clubs and enjoy club activities, others like to spend their time studying other courses or doing schoolwork. Which one do you think is better and why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 1: Which of the following is the best way to learn about a city?

- A. To join an organized trip
- B. To visit the museums
- C. To take a walk in the streets of the city

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 2: Some people like surprise visits from their friends, others prefer to be informed ahead of the visit. Which one do you prefer? Why?

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 1: A school is planning to forbid the use of cellphone on campus. What do you think are the effects of the policy?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2016 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree with the statement that students should be rewarded if they perform well at school?

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2016 Task 1: Describe the way your life may change five years from now. Please include specific reasons and details in your response.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2016 Task 2: In a workplace, do you think employers should constantly supervise their employees, or is it better that they only check on the employees occasionally? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2016 Task 1: Your friend is going to quit school. Do you think this is a good idea or not?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2016 Task 2: Your professor requires you to help with a school research. You also have to get back to hometown to attend your sister's birthday party. What will you do?

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: What do you like to do on weekends?

- A. Attending sport events
- B. Visiting friends
- C. Cooking

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: Robots will replace human beings in many tasks. Do you agree or disagree?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: What kind of activity do you think will help children to take responsibility?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: Which one will you choose when you move from a place to another? Wearing a headset or going in silence.

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: Which one is the most important for a teacher?

- A. The ability to give advice about planning for the future
- B. Ability to recognize the students that need help
- C. Ability to encourage students to learn outside the classroom by themselves

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: Which one will you choose when you move from a place to another? Wearing a headset or going in silence.

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: Your school has been funding for students to participate in different types of activities, but this year, due to the lack of money, the school will fund only one activity, which one do you think is the one the school should fund?

- A. Sports
- B. Arts
- C. Volunteering activities done to develop a community

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: If a tourist is going to visit your country, what do you advise him or her to bring along? why?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: Which of the following do you think the university should reward?

- A. Volunteer services
- B. Athletic achievements
- C. Academic performance

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: Which courses do you think schools should offer to students: language courses or computer courses?

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: Talk about one of your special ways to study.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree that it is acceptable for students to disagree with their instructors?

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2015 Task 1: What was the biggest challenge in your life and how did you overcome it?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

NB You should address both parts of the question to get the whole score.

2015 Task 2: Which of the following community services would you be more interested in doing and explain why:

- A. Cleaning the city park
- B. Planting flowers and trees
- C. Building a bicycle lane

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: What do you consider when you choose a restaurant?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree that the success of a school depends on experienced teachers?

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2015 Task 1: *Which is the best public place in your country?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: Some people prefer to make a schedule in advance; however, some others prefer to figure out what to do when the time comes. *Which do you prefer and explain why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: *Which is the best city you have visited? Why?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: *Describe the country you would most like to visit and explain why. Include details and examples to support your explanation.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: Some people prefer finishing their projects long before the due date, while others prefer finishing their projects right before the deadline. *Which one do you prefer and why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: *Describe the most important social or political event in your country. Why is it important?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: *What was the most important decision in your life?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: *What kind of job or career do you want to pursue?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: *Describe the moment that you were disappointed the most.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: *What was the most significant present in your life?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: *Which one of the following qualities do you think a good school should have?*

- A. Students who like to help each other
- B. Knowledgeable teachers
- C. Strict rules

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: *Which one do you think is more important? The process of doing something or the result at the end.*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: *The school allows students to keep pets in their dorms. Do you think it is good or not?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree that celebrities such as artists and athlete should be the role model for people?*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2015 Task 1: Among the following three volunteer activities, *which one are you interested in and why?*

- A. Tutoring students
- B. Teaching adults to read
- C. Providing transportation for old people

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: Some people prefer to borrow money to make purchases. Others prefer to save their money and wait to buy things at a lower price. *Which one do you think is better? Why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: Describe what your life would be like if you were banned from using your cellphone for a month. Give specific details and examples in your response.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree with the statement that protecting the environment is as important as economic development.

(Model 2 A/D, both sides of the issue is discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: When visiting a new city, *which of the following would you choose to better learn about the place:*

- A. Visiting a museum
- B. Walking through streets
- C. Taking an organized trip

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: Some people like surprise visits from their friends; others prefer to be informed of such visits. *Which one do you prefer?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: *Which one of the following jobs deserve a higher salary?*

- A. A teacher
- B. A policeman
- C. A nurse

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: Should students be required to do volunteer work?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: If you were supposed to do a volunteer work at the library, *what would you choose to do and why?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Nowadays, children spend too much time on playing video games.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 1: Your friend is going to a new school to study. *What suggestions would you give him to help him fit in?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: Do you think scientists should be required to study a certain field or to study whatever that interests them?

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: Some countries now take measures to attract a large number of foreign tourists for the tourism sites. *Discuss the advantage and disadvantage of attracting a large number of foreign tourists in tourism sites; give examples to illustrate your points.*

(4.5 Compare and Contrast type, the advantages and disadvantages of both sides should be discussed)

2015 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree with the statement that process is more important than result?*

(Model 2 A/D, both sides of the issue is discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: If your university is going to invite someone to give a speech, who do you think they should invite?

- A. A businessman
- B. A scientist
- C. A politician

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: If you have a misunderstanding with your friend, do you prefer talking it over in a public place or in a private place?

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: If your parents have some extra money, how would you like them to spend it?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree that it's better for college students to choose their major after they spend a year or two in college?*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2015 Task 1: *Which one of the following is better to be done alone rather than in a group:*

- A. Studying
- B. Shopping
- C. Doing business

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 2: Some like to share their personal pictures and the events happening in their life in social media. *Do you agree or disagree?*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2015 Task 1: Do you think that students should be free to bring food or other things to eat in classes? *Explain advantages and disadvantages of this idea.* (TPO 14 3)

(4.5 Compare and Contrast type, the advantages and disadvantages of both sides should be discussed)

2015 Task 2: *Which do you prefer?* Getting courses about diverse subjects is better for the future career or getting courses about one specific area is better for the future job.

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2015 Task 1: *Talk about one of your special ways to study.*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: *Do you agree or disagree that it's acceptable for students to disagree with their instructors?*

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2015 Task 1: What activity do you think can cultivate children's sense of responsibility?

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2015 Task 2: *Do you prefer listening to music or doing nothing when you go from a place to another?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2014 Task 1: The most important thing that the government can do in improving health care is to clean the environment.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2014 Task 2: Do you think scientists should be required *to study certain fields or to study whatever that interests them?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2014 Task 1: *What are the advantages and disadvantages of having fast food?*

(4.5 Compare and Contrast type, the advantages and disadvantages of both sides should be discussed)

2014 Task 2: Some people prefer to eat at fast food restaurants, while others prefer to eat at regular restaurants. *Which do you prefer? Why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2014 Task 1: Your friend plans to go to your country to study but has concerns about expenditures; *what is your advice to your friend?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2014 Task 2: *Do you agree with the statement?* It's more effective to work with a group when everyone has their responsibilities and duties.

(Model 2 A/D, both sides of the issue is discussed, but focusing on one item)

2014 Task 1: Your university will sponsor one of the following activities for students:

- A. An outdoor camping night
- B. A musical festival to experience the local culture
- C. A computer game contention in the dormitory

Which one do you think is the best to form new friendships and establish solidarity among students?

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2014 Task 2: Some people prefer to do indoor activities; others prefer to do outdoor activities. *Which do you prefer? Why?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2014 Task 1: In your country, when do people give gifts to each other? Describe the occasion and the types of gifts.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2014 Task 2: Do you agree with the statement: employees should be allowed to listen to music at work?

(Model 1 A/D, generally one side of the issue is discussed, similar to The Explanation type)

2014 Task 1: Students attend different clubs in universities, such as science club, hiking club, etc. *Which one are you interested in?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2014 Task 2: While finding a place to live near campus, *which do you prefer:* a house to share with several other students or an apartment without sharing?

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2014 Task 1: Nowadays, “quiet cars” can be found on trains, in which people are forbidden to use their cellphones and computers, or talk loudly. *What is your opinion on this policy?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2014 Task 2: *Which of the following qualities do you think a good school should have?*

- A. Helpful students
- B. Knowledgeable teachers
- C. Decent facilities

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2014 Task 1: Imagine that you have to give up watching TV for one month. *Would this be difficult for you?*

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2014 Task 2: Describe one case of your using the Internet and how it benefited you.

(The Explanation type, generally one side of the issue is discussed)

2014 Task 1: *Which of the following three do you think is the most important aspect of life?*

- A. Wealth
- B. Education
- C. Health

(The Preference type, three sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)

2014 Task 2: When having difficulty on class assignments, some students prefer to seek help from their professor, others prefer to get help from classmates. *Which do you prefer?*

(The Preference type, both sides of the issue should be discussed, but focusing on one item)