IELTS Speaking: Answer Frameworks for Parts 1–3

How long to speak, how to structure it, and the language that lifts your band

Part	Length	Framework	Avoid
Part 1 (4–5 min)	2–3 sentences	Answer → reason → small example or detail	One-word answers; memorised scripts
Part 2 (1 min prep, 1–2 min talk)	Keep going to 2 minutes	Who/what → why it mattered → how you felt → what happened next	Stopping under 90 seconds
Part 3 (4–5 min)	4–6 sentences	Position → reason → example or comparison → short conclusion	A bare opinion with no reason

Part 3: the four question types

Type	Sounds like	Give
Opinion	"Do you think…?"	A clear position plus a reason
Comparison	"How has X changed…?"	Past vs present, or two things directly
Speculation	"What might happen…?"	A prediction with hedging
Evaluation	"What are the pros and cons…?"	Both sides, then an overall view

Language toolkit

Purpose	Phrases
Hedging	I suspect… · It's hard to say for certain, but… · Possibly… · I'd imagine that…
Comparing	Compared to the past… · Unlike before… · Whereas previously… · These days…
Weighing	On the one hand… on the other hand… · That said… · Having said that… · Overall, though…
Buying time	That's an interesting question… · Let me think about that for a second…
Part 2 story	What I remember most is… · The reason it stuck with me is… · Looking back now…

Golden rule: if your answer could be a single word, it is not finished yet. After every opinion, silently ask "why?" and say the answer out loud.

Weekly practice

- Record eight Part 3 answers, two of each type, and check that every opinion has a reason.
- Record three Part 2 talks with a timer; reach two minutes every time.
- Replay one recording and note fillers ("umm", "like") to reduce next time.

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