



**ISTANBUL KÜLTÜR UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Dear Students,

We would like to inform you that the speaking part of the English Proficiency Exam will include group discussion.

- All students take part in group discussion. The groups consist of 4 people.
- Interlocutors provide the necessary instructions for the exam and share the task card on the screen in exam halls.
- Group members are asked to have a 10-minute discussion in total. Students are given 2 minutes to get prepared, and then speak for 10 minutes about the topic and questions in the task card.
- In group discussions, students must use functional language, such as asking for clarification, agreeing / disagreeing, confirmation, apologizing, asking for or giving advice, etc.
- Students must support their ideas with good, relevant explanations and examples.
- Students must use signposting language as can be seen below:
  - ❖ First, ....
  - ❖ Another point is that ....
  - ❖ The most important reason is ...
  - ❖ One of the main effects of X is ....
  - ❖ Above all, ...
  - ❖ Most importantly, ...
  - ❖ For instance, ...
  - ❖ In my opinion, ...
  - ❖ I totally agree with you.
  
- Students must use the rhetorical patterns (cause & effect, comparison & contrast, definition, exemplification, arguing for & against, listing, etc.).
- Students must not include anything out of context into your discussion.
- Students must avoid repetition. In other words, they should not mention the same ideas, explanations or examples over and over again.
- Students mustn't dominate the whole discussion. Instead, they should try to discuss the topic with their group members in natural way.
- It is not obligatory to answer all of the questions. However, we suggest students discuss most of the questions in the task card and add more on it if possible.
- In case of grade objection, each discussion is recorded during the exam.

Below, you can find two sample task cards for practice.

Wish you all the best of luck,

Department of Foreign Languages

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- You are asked to talk to your group members about the questions given.
- You have 2 minutes to think. You can take notes on a piece of paper.
- Then, you will have a discussion for about 10 minutes with your group members.

## **TASK CARD 1: CITIES**

- Is it advantageous to live in a big city? Why/Why not?
- What is your favourite city? What do you like most about it? Why?
- How are city people and country people different?
- What are the biggest problems with living in cities?
- What damage do cities do to the countryside?
- When does a town become a city?
- Which world city do you think would be the best to live in?
- How will cities in the future be different from those today?
- If you were a city mayor, what changes would you make to your city?

## **TASK CARD 2: BODY LANGUAGE**

- What is body language? Define it using your own words. Why is it important in communication?
- How do you use body language in your daily life?
- How does body language help you to communicate?
- Do you think body language is specific to a culture or is it universal? Give examples.
- Suppose that your friend was telling you a lie. How would you understand it? Which behaviour would give him or her away?
- In which jobs is it important to use body language? Why?
- Can we say that people who can use body language very well are more successful? Why/Why not?