

3. You will now read a short passage and then listen to a conversation on the same topic. You will then be asked a question about them. After you hear the question, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to speak.

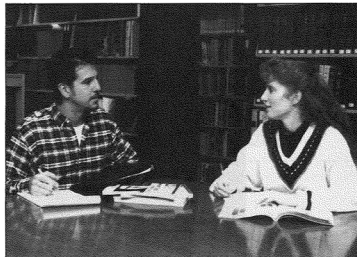
Now play Track 26 on the CD to hear Question 3.



Reading Time: 45 Seconds

Bus Service Elimination Planned

The university has decided to discontinue its free bus service for students. The reason given for this decision is that few students ride the buses and the buses are expensive to operate. Currently, the buses run from the center of campus past university buildings and through some of the neighborhoods surrounding the campus. The money saved by eliminating the bus service will be used to expand the overcrowded student parking lots.



The man expresses his opinion of the university's plan to eliminate the bus service. State his opinion and explain the reasons he gives for holding that opinion.

Preparation Time: 30 Seconds

Response Time: 60 Seconds

Question 3

Track 26 Listening Script

Narrator

The university is planning to eliminate its bus service. Read the article from the university newspaper about the plan. You will have 45 seconds to read the article. Begin reading now.

Narrator

Now listen to two students discussing the article.

Man

I don't like the university's plan.

Woman

Really? I've ridden those buses, and sometimes there were only a few people on the bus. It did seem like kind of a waste.

Man

I see your point. But I think the problem is the route's out of date. It only goes through the neighborhoods that've gotten too expensive for students to live in. It's ridiculous that they haven't already changed the route—you know, so it goes where most off-campus students live now. I bet if they did that, they'd get plenty of students riding those buses.

Woman

Well, at least they're adding more parking. It's gotten really tough to find a space.

Man

That's the other part I don't like, actually. Cutting back the bus service and adding parking's just gonna encourage more students to drive on campus. And that'll just add to the noise around campus and create more traffic . . . and that'll increase the need for more parking spaces . . .

Woman

Yeah, I guess I can see your point. Maybe it would be better if more students used the buses instead of driving.

Man

Right. And the university should make it easier to do that, not harder.

Narrator

The man expresses his opinion of the university's plan to eliminate the bus service. State his opinion and explain the reasons he gives for holding that opinion.

Preparation Time: 30 Seconds

Response Time: 60 Seconds

Important Points

The university plans to eliminate the bus service because it is too expensive to run and too few students use it. The man disagrees with the university's plan. He believes the reason few students take the bus is that the route goes to neighborhoods where students do not live. If the routes were changed, many more students would ride the bus.

The man also disagrees with the way the university plans to use the money it saves on the bus service. Building more parking lots on campus will encourage more students to drive on campus. This would increase noise and traffic on campus.

Sample Responses

Play Track 35 on the CD to hear a high-level response for Question 3.



Rater Comments

The speaker gives a clear and coherent response that is detailed and accurate. He speaks quickly, but this does not prevent him from being understood. He very clearly states the man's opinion and summarizes the man's reasons for having that opinion. He uses complex grammatical structures and a wide variety of appropriate vocabulary. As a result, his speech seems to flow automatically.

Play Track 36 on the CD to hear a mid-level response for Question 3.



Rater Comments

The speaker's first language moderately influences her pronunciation, intonation, and pacing. This requires some listener effort. She provides content that is relevant to the task, but her limitations in language use hinder her ability to accurately convey relevant details. She fills the entire time with understandable speech. However, she incorrectly repeats throughout the response time that students cannot afford to ride the bus. She also says that few students will drive cars and overcrowd the parking lots. This creates confusion for the listener. The speaker never mentions the man's concern about increased noise and traffic on campus.