

2026 Preliminary Exam Topics – English Oral Exam

The themes in this practice resource were compiled and distilled from a Facebook crowdsourcing survey conducted by Articulate Intelligence. Parents shared the topics, picture stimuli and questions that their children recalled from their 2026 Primary 6 preliminary oral examinations.

Similar responses have been grouped into broader themes. Based on these reported themes, Articulate Intelligence developed the practice stimuli and oral questions in this resource. The questions generally follow a three-part structure:

1. Responding to the picture stimulus
 2. Sharing a relevant personal experience
 3. Expressing and explaining an opinion
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The topics and questions in this resource are not official examination materials. They may not reproduce the original preliminary examination questions exactly, and the eventual PSLE oral examination may cover entirely different topics.

This document includes model answers that use a varied sentence structure and moderate level vocabulary. They are not meant to be memorized, but for students to read and be familiar with the sentence structures and vocabulary used so they could use it themselves in the exam.

Due to the large size, the document has been split into two. This document has Themes 1 to 3B.

These practice sets have also been added to Articulate Intelligence's AI Oral Examiner. This real-time conversational AI allows students to practise speaking, respond to follow-up questions and receive a personalised performance report.

Practise these questions with the AI Oral Examiner:

<https://articulate.com.sg/ai-oral-exam-practice/>

Thank you and best of luck for your exams!

- Meng Aun (Founder, Articulate Intelligence)



Theme 1: Kindness, Consideration and Civic-mindedness

Picture stimulus: A schoolgirl gives up her seat on a public bus to an elderly man with a walking stick.

Oral questions

1. What do you think of the girl's actions? Why?
2. Tell us about a time when you helped someone in need or saw someone helping another person.
3. Do you think people in Singapore behave considerately when using public transport? Why or why not?

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Theme 1: Kindness, Consideration and Civic-mindedness

1. What do you think of the girl's actions? Why?

Personally, I think the girl's actions were thoughtful and considerate. She noticed that the passenger needed the seat more than she did, so she offered it without being asked. **This shows that** she was aware of the needs of the people around her.

I also believe that her simple act of kindness might encourage other passengers to behave in the same way. **As a result,** public transport can become a more pleasant and caring environment for everyone. **Overall,** I admire the girl because she showed that even a small gesture can make a meaningful difference.

2. Tell us about a time when you helped someone in need or saw someone helping another person.

I remember helping an elderly woman at a supermarket last year. She was carrying several heavy bags and appeared to be having difficulty opening the door. **When I noticed her struggling,** I quickly held the door open for her and offered to carry one of her bags.

At first, she said that she could manage, but I politely offered again. She eventually accepted my help, and I carried the bag to the taxi stand for her. **As a result,** she did not have to struggle with everything on her own.

Although it was only a small act, she thanked me warmly and seemed very grateful. **This experience taught me** to pay closer attention to the people around me. **In the end,** I felt happy that I had made someone's day a little easier.

3. Do you think people in Singapore behave considerately when using public transport? Why or why not?

In my opinion, many people in Singapore behave considerately on public transport, although there is still room for improvement. **For instance,** I have seen commuters give up their seats to elderly passengers, pregnant women and people with young children. Some passengers also move further into the train **in order to** make space for others.

However, not everyone behaves thoughtfully. **For instance,** some commuters block the doors or rush into the train before other passengers can alight. Others may speak loudly or become so engrossed in their phones that they fail to notice someone who needs a seat.



This is why the government continues to promote kindness and considerate behaviour on public transport. These reminders encourage more people to think about how their actions affect those around them.

In the end, I think everyone should be more aware of their surroundings. **If each person makes a small effort to be considerate**, travelling on public transport will be safer and more comfortable for everyone. **Overall, I believe** most Singaporeans behave well, but we can still do better.



Theme 2: Environment, Recycling and Community Service

Picture stimulus: A group of students work together to pick up litter during a beach clean-up.

Oral questions

1. **Why do you think the students are taking part in this activity?**
2. **Tell us about a time when you participated in an activity to help the environment or the community. How did you feel?**
3. **How can young children contribute to protecting the environment?**

Theme 2: Environment, Recycling and Community Service

1. Why do you think the students are taking part in this activity?

Firstly, I think the students are taking part in the beach clean-up because they want to protect the environment. The litter on the beach could pollute the sea and harm marine animals. **For example,** a sea turtle might mistake a plastic bag for food and swallow it. Or a bird might get entangled in a plastic bag or string and end up being unable to fly.

Secondly, the activity teaches the students to be responsible for their surroundings. Though they might just be one student, and only able to pick up maybe a full bag or two of trash, if they all work together, they could actually clean up a large section of the beach. **As a result,** they may become more environmentally conscious and realize that every little bit helps.

Overall, I think they are taking part because they want to protect the beach while learning to care for their surroundings.

2. Tell us about a time when you participated in an activity to help the environment or the community. How did you feel?

Last year, my classmates and I took part in a recycling activity organised by our school. We collected used newspapers, cardboard boxes and plastic bottles from our homes. After that, we sorted them into different recycling bins **so that** they could be recycled correctly.

At first, I thought the activity would be tiring and uninteresting. **However,** I began to enjoy it because my classmates and I worked well as a team. **On top of that,** I was surprised by the large amount of recyclable waste we managed to collect.

Because of this experience, I realised that we often throw away items that can still be recycled. **In the end,** I felt proud that our efforts had helped to reduce waste. **It also taught me that** everyone can contribute to protecting the environment.

3. How can young children contribute to protecting the environment?

In my opinion, young children can protect the environment by developing simple habits in their daily lives. **For instance,** they can switch off the lights and fans when they leave a room **in order to** save electricity. They can also turn off the tap while brushing their teeth to avoid wasting water.

Besides that, children can use reusable water bottles and food containers instead of disposable plastic items. They should also separate recyclable materials from general waste **so that** these items can be recycled properly.



Although children may be young, their actions can still make a difference. They can also remind their family members and friends to be more environmentally responsible. **As a result,** more people may adopt eco-friendly habits. **Overall, I believe** that small actions, when carried out by many people, can create a cleaner and greener future.



Theme 3A: Technology and Family Time

Picture stimulus: A family is having dinner together while the boy uses his mobile phone instead of joining their conversation.

Oral questions

1. What do you think of the boy's behaviour during dinner? Why?
2. Tell us about a time when you played a digital game or a board game with your family. Which type of game do you prefer? Why?
3. Do you think children spend too much time using digital devices? Why or why not?

Theme 3A: Technology and Family Time

1. What do you think of the boy's behaviour during dinner? Why?

Personally, I think the boy's behaviour is inconsiderate. Instead of joining his family's conversation, he is concentrating on his mobile phone. **This shows that** he is more interested in his device than in spending time with his family. His parents may feel ignored or disappointed because he is not paying attention to them.

From the picture, the rest of the family seems to be talking to one another, while the boy is looking down at his phone. He may be playing a game, watching a video or chatting with his friends. **As a result,** he could miss an opportunity to learn more about what is happening in his family members' lives.

Overall, I think he should put his phone away during dinner **in order to** join the conversation. Family meals are a valuable opportunity to communicate and strengthen family relationships.

2. Tell us about a time when you played a digital game or a board game with your family. Which type of game do you prefer? Why?

I remember playing Monopoly with my family during the school holidays. Since it was raining heavily, we decided to stay indoors and play a board game together. At first, I was doing well because I owned several properties. **However,** my luck soon changed, and I had to pay my family members whenever I landed on their properties.

Although the game became quite competitive, we laughed and enjoyed teasing one another. **In the end,** my younger sister won the game, even though none of us had expected her to win.

Personally, I prefer board games because everyone sits together and interacts face-to-face. **On top of that,** we have more opportunities to talk and laugh while playing. Digital games can also be enjoyable, but each person may become too focused on the screen. **That's why I think** board games are better for bringing my family closer together.

3. Do you think children spend too much time using digital devices? Why or why not?

In my opinion, many children spend too much time using digital devices. They may use their phones and tablets to play games, watch videos or communicate with their friends. **As a result,** they have less time for exercise, outdoor activities and face-to-face conversations with their families.

For example, some children continue using their devices late at night instead of going to bed. This may cause them to feel tired and lose concentration in school the following day. Spending long periods looking at a screen may also affect their eyesight and posture.

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However, digital devices are not entirely harmful. **For instance**, children can use them to conduct research, complete schoolwork and learn new skills. They can also remain in contact with family members and friends who live far away.

Therefore, I believe the main problem is not the devices themselves but how children use them. Parents can set reasonable screen-time limits **so that** their children have enough time for schoolwork, exercise and family activities. **Overall**, digital devices can be useful, but children should learn to use them in moderation.



Theme 3B: Technology and Behaviour in Public

Picture stimulus: Two students are using their phones and laughing loudly on a train while nearby commuters look annoyed.

Oral questions

1. What is your opinion of the boys' behaviour on the train?
2. Tell us about a time when someone's behaviour disturbed you in a public place. What happened?
3. How can people avoid disturbing others when using digital devices in public places?

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Theme 3B: Technology and Behaviour in Public

1. What is your opinion of the boys' behaviour on the train?

Personally, I think the boys are behaving inconsiderately. There is nothing wrong with using their phones on the train, but they should avoid laughing and talking too loudly. **From the picture,** the nearby commuters look annoyed because the boys are disturbing what should be a peaceful journey.

Furthermore, the boys seem unaware of how their behaviour is affecting others. Some passengers might be tired after a long day at work, while others may be trying to rest or concentrate on something. **As a result,** the loud laughter could make their journey unpleasant.

Overall, I think the boys should lower their voices and be more aware of their surroundings. They can still enjoy themselves without disturbing the other passengers.

2. Tell us about a time when someone's behaviour disturbed you in a public place. What happened?

I remember being disturbed by a group of teenagers while watching a film at the cinema. They kept talking loudly and making jokes even after the film had started. **On top of that,** one of them repeatedly used his phone, and the bright screen distracted the people sitting nearby.

At first, I tried to ignore them and concentrate on the film. **However,** they became even noisier as time went on. Eventually, another audience member politely asked them to keep quiet. They apologised and stopped talking for the rest of the film.

Although their behaviour was irritating, I was glad that the other audience member remained calm and spoke to them politely. **This experience taught me that** we should always consider how our actions might affect the people around us. **In the end,** I was able to enjoy the rest of the film without further disturbance.

3. How can people avoid disturbing others when using digital devices in public places?

In my opinion, people should keep the volume of their devices low when they are in public places. **For instance,** they can use earphones when watching videos or listening to music **in order to** prevent the sound from disturbing others. However, the volume should not be so loud that it can still be heard by nearby people.

Besides that, people should speak softly when making phone calls. If they need to have a long or private conversation, they could move to a less crowded place. They should also place their phones on silent mode **so that** notification sounds do not repeatedly interrupt others.

Most importantly, people should remain aware of their surroundings. They should not become so engrossed in their devices that they block a walkway or fail to notice other people. **Overall, I believe** that digital devices can be used in public as long as everyone behaves responsibly and considerately.

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