IELTS-Style Speaking Test Questions and Answers

Transportation

Part 1

1) What kinds of public transport are there where you live?
We do have a **bus service** in my area. It’s fine for people who live in the towns but not so regular for those living in the many small villages. There is also a **train** that goes to the nearest city a few times a day.

2) Do you prefer public transport or private transport?
I definitely like **private transport** best. With my **car**, I can go where I want to whenever I choose to. To make a **journey** on **public transport**, you are not so **independent**.

3) How do you travel to work?
In the winter, when it’s cold and wet, I drive my **car** to work but I always **get stuck in a traffic jam**. As the weather improves, I go by **bike** to avoid the **congestion**.

4) Is a bicycle a good means of transport?
Most certainly, because you don’t **get held up** in **heavy traffic**. Cycling also keeps you fit and is **environmentally-friendly**.

5) Do you think that there should be a separate lane for bicycles?
I think that **cycle lanes** are a very good idea as they help to keep cyclists safe from **vehicles**. Since we introduced them in my country, more people have started cycling to work.
Part 2

Describe a method of transport that you enjoy using.
You should say:
• what kind of transport it is
• how often you use it
• where you travel using it
and explain why you enjoy using it.

One form of transport that I look forward to going on is a train. This is because I only use it when I’m going away somewhere exciting, like on holiday or a weekend break.

We have quite a good rail network in my country so it’s easy to get where you want to go. However, I live in a rural area and there is just one railway station for the whole region and it only goes to the nearest city. You then have to catch another train to go everywhere else. This isn’t very convenient. Many people drive 30 miles to the nearest town on the main line and get on the train there. I sometimes do that too.

I do quite enjoy train journeys. They are more relaxing than driving and you can look at the scenery out of the window. Having said that, the last time I took the train, it was very overcrowded and I couldn’t get a seat so I had to stand up the whole way.

My last few trips have been up to London for a few days away with a friend. It takes about three hours so we can be there by late morning. While we’re in the city, we occasionally use the underground but mostly get around on foot.

I also use the train to get to the airport if I’m going abroad. You get off at a Reading and then catch the shuttle to the airport. It’s so much easier to plan a trip now that you can see train timetables online.

I sometimes travel by train when I’m visiting other countries. It can be the best way to get around and it’s great if you enjoy meeting the local people. I once went on a train in India. It was packed with people but everyone was so friendly and we all shared our snacks.

The only other time I go on a train is when I take a trip on a steam railway. There are two in my part of the country where the old trains, railway line and stations have been restored. There is something very special about them and they are a huge tourist attraction. Everyone enjoys a ride on a steam train.
Part 3

1) How do most people travel long distances in your country?
I’d say that the car is the most popular form of transport for long journeys. My country is quite small so you can reach anywhere in a day and most places within a few hours. You are independent when you drive and you just put your luggage in the car without having to carry it anywhere.

A lot of people use the train, both for long distance pleasure trips and to commute to the cities for work. Our cities have a big problem with congestion and it costs a lot to park your car so it’s more sensible to use the rail network.

There are also shuttle flights between the major cities so a lot of businessmen use these. The only time I travel by plane within my own country is when I’m visiting relatives up in Scotland as it’s a long way away from where I live. A plane is the quickest and easiest way to get there.

2) Do you think that transport problems are worse in urban or rural areas?
That’s difficult to say because transport issues in cities are very different to those in the countryside.

The biggest problem in our cities is congestion. There are just too many vehicles and the traffic jams are terrible. There always seem to be roadworks going on which cause bottlenecks and make things even worse. What’s more, all the cars, lorries and buses sitting in the long traffic queues emit exhaust fumes which leads to air pollution, another major concern in urban areas.

In the countryside, on the other hand, the main issue is the lack of an adequate public transport system. If you live in a small village, you might not even have a bus service so it’s impossible to get around unless you have your own private transport.

There used to be an extensive rail network serving small communities but in the 1960s, hundreds of lines were closed. Now you can only get to the main towns by train.

To weigh it up, I’d say that transport problems are equally serious in both urban and rural areas. There are just different issues.
3) Are too many people dependent on cars as a means of transport in your country? In my opinion, most people rely on their car far too much. Many are too lazy to walk places or to commute by bike and they can't be bothered to take the bus.

Most areas have a real problem with rush hour traffic. Although this is always blamed on people driving to work, it is far less busy on the roads during the school holidays, which suggests that the real issue is parents taking their kids to school in the car. I think that many more should make the journey on foot. This would be better for the children’s fitness as well as cutting down on congestion.

Not all the parents are being lazy. Lots just don’t have time to walk as they are rushing off to work but they could at least set up carpools as this would help to reduce the heavy traffic in the mornings.

If we had better weather in my country then I think that more people would commute by bike and you certainly see more people cycling to work in the summer.

Transportation Vocabulary for IELTS

For an extensive list of transport-related words and phrases for IELTS visit:

www.ieltsjacky.com/transportation-vocabulary.html