

Hiroko is currently in the second grade at high school. She hopes to develop new medicine in the future, so she wants to study Chemistry at a leading university in America known for its excellent research.

To improve her English, Hiroko joined the debate club and became the strongest member of the team. Last year, the debate team was placed second in a national debate competition. Therefore, the team has been practicing diligently to win first place at the next contest in September. This will be the last opportunity for the team to win.

Hiroko has always been interested in science since she was a child. Her Chemistry teacher recognized her potential in science, so he has asked her to present her experimental work at this year's national science fair. She thinks it will help her college application essay to stand out.

The science fair is also on the same day in September as the national debate competition. Now, Hiroko has to choose which event to attend. She knows the science fair will help her in her future studies and the debate team is relying on her, so she does not want them to lose confidence or let them down.

(An examinee reads the passage aloud.)

Question 1: What is Hiroko's dilemma?

Question 2: If you were Hiroko, what would you do?

English Language Skills Test [Speaking Test] **Sample Answers**

*Reading aloud: (4 marks)

Question 1: (6 marks)

Hiroko's dilemma is that she has two very important events that coincide on the same date. She has to choose between giving a presentation at a science fair, which will help her in her future studies and a debate contest in which the team is relying on her.

Question 2: (10 marks)

If I were Hiroko, I would choose to attend the science fair and present my experimental work. I would recognize that the chance to participate in the fair, on recommendation by my chemistry teacher, would help me to achieve my future goal of studying at the university of my choice and working in the medical field.

Regarding the debate contest on the same day, I would explain to my team members the unique opportunity that the science fair would provide and I am sure that they would understand. Furthermore, I would offer to compromise and continue to practice with the debate team and perhaps coach them to perform at their best during the contest. I would feel that a team is more than merely one individual and that they could build the confidence to succeed.