

Tom has played several instruments since he was a small child. Playing the guitar is his favorite. He has been practicing the guitar in a band at his high school and also attending lessons with his private tutor, Ms. Smith. He is now a final year student and wants to study at a famous music college.

Tom really enjoys playing the guitar and spending time with the members in the club because they are hard-working and supportive. Therefore, Tom is currently practicing very hard to perform in the school festival, which will be the last big event for him to perform with his band.

One day, Ms. Smith asked Tom whether he could participate in an open school event at the music college to which he plans to apply. She added that the college would offer an opportunity for prospective students to attend the classes of one of the college's famous guitar professors on that day. It would be a good chance for Tom to experience what lessons at the music college are like. Tom was glad to hear the news, but later he found out that the open school event and the school festival would take place on the same day.

(203 words)

(An examinee reads the passage aloud.)

Question 1: What is Tom's dilemma?

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

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

\*Reading aloud: (4 marks)

Question 1: (6 marks)

Tom's passion is music and in particular, playing the guitar. He intends to study music at college. He plays in a school band and also takes music lessons privately. Tom is practicing with the band to perform one last time at the school festival but on the same day, his music teacher has offered him the chance to attend an open day at his chosen college. He obviously cannot do both so he must make a difficult decision between them.

Question 2: (10 marks)

Tom faces a difficult choice between his commitments with his band members and the opportunity from outside to see the college music classes. If I were Tom, I would politely decline Ms. Smith's invitation to attend open school at the music college. I have several reasons for this as at first it may appear that attending the open school would be the best opportunity for Tom. On reflection, he should definitely honour his commitment to his band and perform at the school festival. As a band, they have been practicing hard and Tom enjoys the work-ethic and support he gets from the members. The festival also represents the last time he can do this and I feel that school is about creating memorable experiences that go beyond private opportunity. Schools and colleges offer open days more than once and I am sure that Tom will get other chances to see the classes at the college. I would explain to Ms. Smith with gratitude my feelings and I am sure that she would understand.