

Ken is a first-year high school student who has always worked diligently to complete his tasks and assignments. Every day he devotes his time to reviewing class materials and understanding the content of each subject, which enables him to score highly in his coursework and tests. Apart from his great achievement in his studies, he is a dedicated participant in the swimming club. Not only does he unite the club as a captain, he is also a lead swimmer in the club and has won prizes in several competitions.

One day Ken is invited to the junior high school from which he graduated and he is given an opportunity to speak in front of the students about his school experience. For his speech, he is asked to mention one of his best accomplishments in high school and give some valuable advice to the junior high school students. Since he greatly values both academic success and extra-curricular performance, Ken finds it difficult to choose which of the two experiences is more meaningful and valuable to deliver in his speech.

(An examinee reads the passage aloud.)

Question 1: What is Ken's dilemma?

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

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

*Reading aloud: (4 marks)

Question 1: (6 marks)

Ken's dilemma is that he is being asked to choose one accomplishment, either his academic success or his extra-curricular performance, as the focus of his speech. However, he highly values both aspects, and therefore, it is hard for him to choose. (41 words)

Question 2: (10 marks)

If I were Ken, I believe I'd at first focus my speech on the importance of academic achievement. This is because the levels of difficulty and complexity of subjects are more challenging than in junior high school. It is much needed to emphasize this point so that junior high students can be more mentally prepared to face academic difficulties that they will need to overcome. Giving strategies such as reviewing, peer support, and time management will be helpful tips for the audience. However, I'd also add that engaging in an extra-curricular activity can be beneficial to developing collaborative and social skills. Swimming is basically an individual sport, however, everyday practices require good teamwork. Even though the swim team faced some challenges, we managed to overcome these difficulties by working collaboratively. (130 words)