

Making Time

The IELTS examiner does not expect you to give instant answers, you are not a robot! However, they do expect you to respond in a natural way. It is completely normal for native speakers to use certain words and phrases in order to give themselves time to think. You can use these phrases to start your answers:

That's a very interesting question, let me think.

That's a difficult question, let me think for a second.

It's very difficult to know exactly, but I think/but I believe/perhaps....

It's difficult to say, I think....

What can be done to alleviate poverty?

That's a very interesting question, let me think for a second... I think that political leaders should create well-paying jobs for poor people. For example, the government could start large infrastructure projects that provide many poor people with construction jobs. These jobs would allow families to pay rent and eat well. Once their basic needs are met, these people can then focus on other things that may help them to escape poverty. For example, they could use any additional money to provide their children with a better education.

How important is it to get advice from other people when making decisions?

It's difficult to say, I think it is important to get other perspectives when you make a decision. There are many things that you can overlook. The people around us can mention things that we might not have noticed. For example, I recently had to decide what major to study at university. I had set my heart on studying computer science, but my friends and family felt that I wouldn't like it. After I listened to their concerns, I decided to study business management instead.

Use the phrases when answering these questions.

How can people protect the environment?

What jobs do you think are most valuable to society?

What makes a good doctor?