



Stimulus-Based Conversation

Conquering SBC using the SEP model

An example of an SBC question





a) Look at the road sign. Who do you think it is put up for? Why do you think so?

- Do you think it is important for drivers to obey the warning on this sign? Why/Why not?
- What do you think will happen if this warning is not obeyed?

b) Do you think road-safety rules are important? Why/Why not?

- What are some things you must do in order to stay safe on the road?

c) Have you witnessed a road accident? Tell me what you saw.

- How can road accidents be avoided?

Rubrics

		 Demonstrates strongly	 Demonstrates adequately	 Demonstrates to some extent	 Needs improvement
Stimulus-based Conversation	Language	Student speaks fluently and with grammatical accuracy, using a range of appropriate vocabulary and structures.	Student uses an adequate range of appropriate vocabulary and accurate structures.	Student uses basic but limited and mostly inappropriate vocabulary and inaccurate structures.	Student uses very limited vocabulary and gives mostly one-word or short-phrase responses.
	Personal Response	Student expresses personal opinions, ideas and experiences.	Student expresses personal opinions, ideas and experiences with some prompting.	Student gives some personal responses with little development with extensive prompting.	Student gives little or no personal response with no development despite prompts from teacher.
	Engagement in Conversation	Student interacts well and converses effectively with the teacher.	Student interacts reasonably well and has generally good eye contact.	Student is able to interact but depends heavily on examiner for encouragement. Little eye contact.	Student is unable to interact and requires constant assistance to engage in a conversation. Very little or no eye contact.

What does the teacher assess during stimulus-based conversation?

- Language Use
 - Are your sentence structures accurate?
 - Did you make any mistakes in pronunciation/grammar?

What does the teacher assess during stimulus-based conversation?

- Elaboration of Ideas (Personal Response)
 - Were you able to elaborate on ideas using examples/reasons?
 - Were you able to give personal experiences while elaborating?

What does the teacher assess during stimulus-based conversation?

- Engagement in Conversation
 - Were you an interesting conversationalist?
 - Did you have good eye contact?
 - Did you have the appropriate body language and posture?
 - Did you seem interested in talking to the examiner?

Today we will focus on...

- expanding your content in Stimulus-Based conversation

Introducing the SEP model

S	State	State the answer. / State your opinion.
E	E laborate (with explanation or examples)	Give some examples to support your opinion
P	P ersonal E xperiences	Share your own experiences or stories

Example



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- **Look at the picture. Have you ever been to a theme park? Tell me why / why not.**
 - **State**
 - Yes, I have been to a theme park. I have been to the Universal Studios in Sentosa. It is one of the most exciting theme parks that I have ever been to.

- Look at the picture. Have you ever been to a theme park? Tell me why / why not.
 - Elaborate (explanation/examples)
 - I enjoy going for thrill rides like the roller coaster and bumper cars. I also enjoy watching 4D shows. In a theme park, there are many thrill rides. The atmosphere in a theme park is also very uplifting – it makes people feel very happy. Besides rides, there are many different cartoon characters walking around the theme park and we are able to pose for photographs with them.

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- **Look at the picture. Have you ever been to a theme park? Tell me why / why not.**
 - **Personal Experience**
 - Last year, my parents took my sister and I to the Universal Studios theme park in Sentosa. It was a wonderful experience for me! As I had always longed to go to the theme park, I was ecstatic when my parents told us we were going there as reward for doing well in our examinations. When we were at the theme park, we saw many cartoon characters. I saw my favourite character, the Kungfu Panda, near the entrance of the theme park and quickly got in line to pose for a picture with him. My sister rushed in line for a photograph with Frankenstein.

- **Look at the picture. Have you ever been to a theme park? Tell me why / why not.**
 - **Personal Experience**
 - Besides taking pictures with the cartoon characters, we also got to **take many rides**. **One of the most memorable rides I had taken was the flume ride at the 'Jurassic Park' area.** When we first started the ride, we were amazed by the life-like dinosaurs along the sides of the stream we were moving along. Soon after, darkness engulfed us as we moved into a tunnel. Before long, we were lifted upwards, then our float was thrown downwards, moving rapidly down a steep slope. My heart was in my mouth! I screamed loudly! It was thrilling and enjoyable! I hope to visit the theme park again soon.

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- **Which ride do you like the most? Why?**
 - **State**
 - I enjoyed the ride 'The Revenge of The Mummy' most. It was one of the most thrilling rides I have ever taken with some of the best visual effects.

- **Which ride do you like the most? Why?**
 - Elaborate (explanation/examples)
 - ‘The Revenge of The Mummy’ ride is an indoor roller coaster ride. The ride is thrilling because it is indoors and the roller coaster moves in darkness, we are unable to predict or see when the roller coaster is moving upwards or when it is going to plunge. Besides the lights from some of the visual effects during the ride, we are unable to see anything else. This makes it more fun and exciting for us. During the ride, there is a storyline about how the mummy comes to life. There are many visual effects that are captivating and makes the ride more thrilling. It allows us to visualise the story and to understand the story better.

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- **Which ride do you like the most? Why?**
 - **Personal Experience**
 - The first time I went on the ride 'The Revenge of The Mummy', I was a little nervous as I did not know what to expect. My friends had told me it was a roller-coaster ride in the dark and that made me feel a little apprehensive. However, when the ride started, I felt less nervous. There were many visual effects that captured my attention and I did not have time to feel frightened. I was amazed when fire burst from some holes in the ground a few times during the ride.

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- **Which ride do you like the most? Why?**
 - **Personal Experience**
 - The most interesting part of the ride was when the carriage suddenly dipped, then moved at least half a metre backwards, giving us a sudden scare. After that, the carriage plunged into darkness before going up again at top speed. After that first-time experience on 'The Revenge of the Mummy' ride, I always head for this ride first whenever I go to the Universal Studios in Sentosa.

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- **What do you think are some of the safety issues one has to be aware of before taking the ride?**
 - **State**
 - There are a few safety issues that we have to be aware of before taking the ride. First, we have to look at the height restriction. We also have to take note of some of the other restrictions the ride has, which are usually written on the board at the entrance of the ride, before deciding if we want to go for the ride.

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- **What do you think are some of the safety issues one has to be aware of before taking the ride?**
 - **Elaborate (explanation/examples)**
 - We need to take note of the height restriction before taking the rides as some young children may be too short to ride. Sometimes, rides have this height restriction as the staff want to ensure that the child is tall enough and will not slide down his or her seat during the ride. Sliding down the seat is dangerous as sometimes the ride moves very quickly, and the child will not be protected by the seatbelt or the safety bar if they are too small.

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- **What do you think are some of the safety issues one has to be aware of before taking the ride?**
 - **Elaborate (explanation/examples)**
 - Other safety restrictions are also important. Some rides are of high impact and have sharp turns and bends, causing one to feel dizzy. In this case, usually pregnant women and those who have motion sickness are strongly advised not to ride. These safety restrictions have to be adhered to to ensure the well-being of those who are interested in taking the ride.

- **What do you think are some of the safety issues one has to be aware of before taking the ride?**
 - **Personal Experience**
 - A few months back, there was a report in the newspapers about a young child who had narrowly escaped death. The child had sneaked into a roller-coaster ride at a very well-known theme park. According to reports, the staff at the entrance of the ride was not thorough in ensuring that all the riders were in the correct height range before allowing them to take the ride. As the child was at least ten centimetres below the height limit given, he slid from his seat when the roller coaster was moving rapidly. He was flung off the roller coaster but fortunately, he managed to hang onto the railing of one of the carriages.

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- **What do you think are some of the safety issues one has to be aware of before taking the ride?**
 - **Personal Experience**
 - The young child screamed as loudly as he could and this alerted the staff who quickly rushed to the station control and stopped the roller coaster before any damage was done. The boy was found clinging on to the railing for dear life when he was rescued. His face was white and he was trembling in fear. After I had read this report, I realised the importance of adhering to safety precautions for every ride in the theme parks.



How can I help my child?

- Be genuinely interested in his/her work.
- Speak to him/her on different topics and allow him/her to elaborate on answers.
This could be done informally at dinnertime or during car rides.
- Discuss interesting newspaper reports with him/her.

How can I help my child?

- Sit down and conduct OCP with him/her before the examinations. Show your child that you are all in this together.
- Correct any structural mistakes in the language as much as possible when your child speaks.
- Allow for exposure – your child can speak to different people so that they get used to speaking to others and does not get nervous before the examination.

Thank You