

SPEAKING (30 marks)

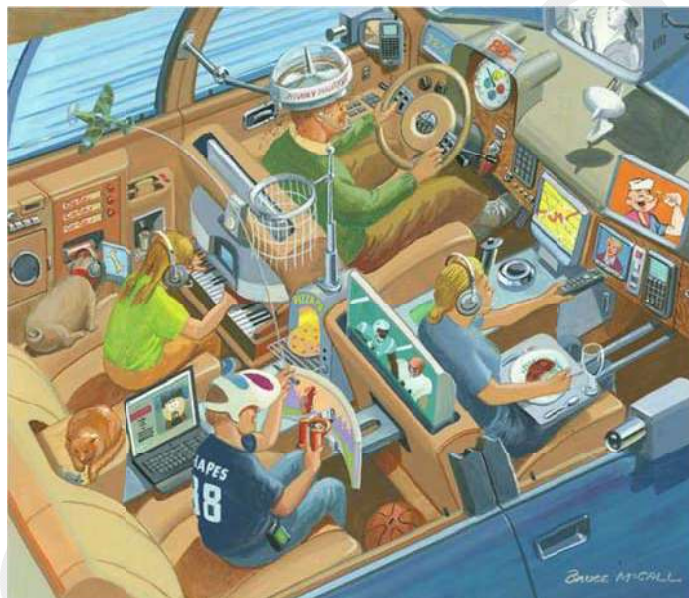
TASK 1: MONOLOGUE

INTELLIGENT CARS

You will have to talk (4-5 minutes) about the issue of INTELLIGENT CARS.

- Read the text and tell your partner briefly which aspect of intelligent cars is being mentioned. You do not need to summarise the text or go into details.
- You might want to mention the situation in your country, give examples, express your opinion, suggest solutions or refer to your own personal experience.

(15 marks)



AUTOMAKERS have long tried to make the car a relaxing sanctuary that eases the stress of overcrowded highways and gridlocked traffic. But while cushy seats and big stereos once defined a sweet ride, consumers today are traveling in veritable living rooms on wheels. From the smallest compact car to the biggest pickup, vehicles are equipped with technology and creature comforts barely imaginable a few years ago. The car has become a cocoon of connectivity, entertainment and convenience, with Internet hookups in the dashboard, D.V.D. players in headrests and refrigerators in the console.

“Customers are expecting their vehicles to keep up with what’s going on in their homes, whether it’s computers, audio equipment or even home theaters,” said Jim Buczkowski, head of electronic systems engineering for the Ford Motor Company.

“The cars out there have become so good in all the traditional ways,” said Karl Brauer, editor of the automotive research site Edmunds.com. “Manufacturers all make cars that are safe, reliable, comfortable and have nice design features. Technology is really becoming one of the last points of differentiation.”

Five years ago, there wasn’t a single car model that could connect to an iPod, according to Edmunds.com. Now there are 257 models that can hook up to Apple’s ubiquitous music player.

TASK 2: INTERACTION

Discuss the topic with your partner (5/6 minutes). It is important to justify your points of view as well as to listen to what your partner says and react (i.e. agree, disagree, add ideas, offer solutions or suggestions...). It is not necessary to describe the photos in detail. Your partner has the same photographs.

(15 marks)

SHOPPING ONLINE



There are very good deals on the web.

This is the end of High Street shopping.

I sometimes buy things on the web.

Security and privacy are a problem.

Buying on-line has advantages and disadvantages:

- Price
- Convenience
- Choice
- Delivery
- Returns
- The cost of using the internet
- Buying more than you intended to