

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR AKSARAY UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
SAMPLE YDYS EXAM (SPEAKING SECTION)

NAME-SURNAME:

NUMBER:

QUESTIONS:

Personal & Identity

Q1. What experiences in your life have most challenged your sense of who you are?

***Follow-up:** Looking back, do you think you emerged from that challenge stronger, or simply changed?*

Q2. How much do you think personality is fixed at birth versus shaped by environment?

***Follow-up:** Can you think of a trait of your own that you believe was shaped more by circumstance than by nature?*

Q3. To what extent should a person's past mistakes define how others see them?

***Follow-up:** Do you think society is generally too forgiving or too unforgiving in this regard?*

Q4. How do you decide which of your personal traits to actively change versus accept?

***Follow-up:** Is there something about yourself you've tried to change but found particularly difficult?*

Q5. What role does failure play in personal growth and self-understanding?

***Follow-up:** Can you describe a failure that, in hindsight, taught you something you couldn't have learned otherwise?*

Education & Learning

Q6. To what extent do you think standardised testing accurately measures a student's true ability?

***Follow-up:** What alternative methods of assessment do you think could better capture genuine competence?*

Q7. How important is creativity in education compared to memorisation and rote learning?

***Follow-up:** Do you think current education systems strike the right balance between the two?*

Q8. How has the rise of AI tools like chatbots changed the way students approach learning and assessment?

***Follow-up:** Should educational institutions ban or embrace these tools, and why?*

Q9. What do you think is the ideal relationship between teacher and student in a modern classroom?

***Follow-up:** Has a particular teacher ever fundamentally changed how you viewed learning, and how?*

Q10. To what degree should education systems prioritise vocational skills over academic theory?

***Follow-up:** How might that balance differ between developing and developed economies?*

Work & Career

Q11. How do you think automation will reshape the nature of meaningful work in the coming decades?

Follow-up: *Do you think a universal basic income would be a sensible response to widespread automation?*

Q12. What do you think makes a workplace genuinely supportive of employee wellbeing?

Follow-up: *Have you ever worked in, or heard of, an environment that fell badly short of this standard?*

Q13. How important is it for young people to gain international work experience early in their careers?

Follow-up: *What specific skills do you think are best developed through working abroad rather than at home?*

Q14. To what extent should loyalty to an employer be a two-way expectation in modern labour markets?

Follow-up: *Do you think the gig economy has fundamentally changed what loyalty even means in the workplace?*

Q15. How do you think leadership styles need to adapt for younger generations entering the workforce?

Follow-up: *Can you describe a leadership approach you've witnessed that worked particularly well, or particularly badly?*

Technology & Society

Q16. How has constant connectivity changed people's ability to focus and think deeply?

Follow-up: *What strategies, if any, have you adopted to counteract this effect in your own life?*

Q17. To what extent should children's access to technology and the internet be restricted by parents or schools?

Follow-up: *Where do you think the line should be drawn between protection and over-restriction?*

Q18. How do you think virtual and augmented reality will change everyday social interaction?

Follow-up: *Do you think people will eventually prefer virtual interaction to physical, face-to-face contact?*

Q19. What responsibilities do tech companies have when their products are shown to be addictive?

Follow-up: *Should there be legal regulation forcing companies to design less addictive products?*

Q20. How do you think biometric and surveillance technologies will affect personal freedom in the next decade?

Follow-up: *Is there a level of surveillance you would accept in exchange for greater public safety?*

Environment & Sustainability

Q21. How effective do you think international climate agreements have been in practice?

Follow-up: *What enforcement mechanisms, if any, could make such agreements genuinely binding?*

Q22. To what extent should individuals feel personally responsible for the climate crisis?

Follow-up: *Do you think this sense of individual responsibility helps or distracts from systemic solutions?*

Q23. How do you think future generations will judge our generation's response to environmental challenges?

Follow-up: *What single decision being made today do you think will be most scrutinised in hindsight?*

Q24. What trade-offs are societies willing — or unwilling — to make for environmental protection?

***Follow-up:** Can you think of a recent example where economic interests clearly won out over environmental ones?*

Q25. How might extreme weather events change where and how people choose to live in the future?

***Follow-up:** Do you think climate migration will become one of the major political issues of this century?*

Health & Wellbeing

Q26. How do you think healthcare systems should balance individual patient needs with limited public resources?

***Follow-up:** Who do you think should ultimately make those difficult prioritisation decisions?*

Q27. To what extent is burnout a personal problem or a systemic one created by modern work culture?

***Follow-up:** What changes would need to happen at a structural level to meaningfully reduce burnout?*

Q28. How has the perception of therapy and counselling changed over the past generation?

***Follow-up:** Do you think there are still significant barriers preventing people from seeking help when they need it?*

Q29. What do you think is the relationship between social isolation and overall public health?

***Follow-up:** What practical steps could communities take to reduce isolation, particularly among the elderly?*

Q30. How should society balance individual freedom with public health measures during a crisis?

***Follow-up:** Looking back at recent pandemic responses, where do you think that balance was got wrong?*

Globalisation & Politics

Q31. To what extent do you think ordinary citizens can meaningfully influence government policy between elections?

***Follow-up:** What forms of civic participation do you think are most effective in practice?*

Q32. How do trade relationships between nations affect domestic politics and public opinion?

***Follow-up:** Can you think of a recent trade dispute that had a noticeable effect on everyday consumers?*

Q33. What do you think explains declining public trust in political institutions across many democracies?

***Follow-up:** What single reform do you think would do the most to restore that trust?*

Q34. How should the international community respond when a government violates the rights of its own citizens?

***Follow-up:** Do you think external intervention, in any form, is ever genuinely effective?*

Q35. To what degree should economic interdependence between rival nations be seen as a stabilising or destabilising force?

***Follow-up:** Can you give a historical or current example that supports your view?*

Science & Innovation

Q36. How should society weigh the benefits of medical innovation against the cost of making it accessible to everyone?

Follow-up: Do you think breakthrough treatments should ever be rationed based on ability to pay?

Q37. To what extent do you think automation and robotics will replace, rather than assist, human labour?

Follow-up: Which jobs do you believe are most resistant to this kind of replacement, and why?

Q38. How important is international collaboration in scientific research, particularly during global crises?

Follow-up: Can you think of an instance where competition between countries actually slowed scientific progress?

Q39. What ethical questions does the development of autonomous weapons systems raise for the future of warfare?

Follow-up: Should there be an international ban on fully autonomous lethal weapons, in your view?

Q40. How do you think public scepticism towards vaccines and scientific consensus has developed in recent years?

Follow-up: What approaches do you think are most effective at addressing that scepticism constructively?

Social Issues

Q41. How do you think generational attitudes towards gender roles have shifted, and what is driving that shift?

Follow-up: Do you think these shifts are happening at the same pace across different parts of society?

Q42. What factors contribute most to homelessness in modern societies, and how should it be addressed?

Follow-up: Do you think the solutions lie primarily in housing policy, social services, or economic reform?

Q43. To what extent does access to quality healthcare and education depend on where a person is born?

Follow-up: What single intervention do you think would do the most to level that playing field?

Q44. How should societies respond to rising political polarisation among the public?

Follow-up: Do you think social media is a primary cause of polarisation, or simply a tool that amplifies it?

Q45. What responsibility, if any, do wealthy individuals have towards reducing inequality in their societies?

Follow-up: Do you think voluntary philanthropy is an adequate substitute for structural policies like taxation?

Communication & Language

Q46. How do you think the rise of short-form video content has affected people's attention spans and communication habits?

Follow-up: Do you notice this effect in your own habits, and if so, how do you manage it?

Q47. To what extent does effective communication depend on shared cultural context rather than language alone?

Follow-up: Can you describe a misunderstanding you've experienced that stemmed from cultural rather than linguistic differences?

Q48. How important is it to adapt your communication style depending on who you are speaking to?

Follow-up: Can you give an example of a situation in which you had to consciously adjust your tone or register?

Q49. Do you think emojis and visual symbols are enriching or diminishing written communication?

Follow-up: Is there a context where you think their use is genuinely inappropriate?

Q50. How do you think public speaking and debate skills should be taught, if at all, in schools?

Follow-up: Do you think confidence in public speaking is primarily a skill that can be taught, or an innate trait?

Travel & Global Awareness

Q51. How do you think increased global mobility has changed people's sense of national identity?

Follow-up: Do you think it is possible to feel a strong attachment to more than one country or culture simultaneously?

Q52. To what extent should wealthy nations be responsible for assisting countries facing humanitarian crises?

Follow-up: Where do you think the line lies between genuine assistance and harmful dependency?

Q53. How has remote work changed where and how people choose to live and travel?

Follow-up: Do you think the rise of 'digital nomadism' has had a positive or negative effect on host communities?

Q54. What do you think is lost or gained when someone permanently emigrates to another country?

Follow-up: Do you think it's possible to fully belong to a new culture while still honouring one's origins?

Q55. How do international student exchange programmes affect long-term relationships between countries?

Follow-up: Have you, or has someone you know, had an experience abroad that changed your view of another country?

Media & Information

Q56. How do you think algorithm-driven content recommendations are shaping public opinion?

Follow-up: Do you actively try to break out of algorithmic patterns in your own media consumption?

Q57. To what extent should governments regulate what platforms can and cannot show to children?

Follow-up: Who should bear the primary responsibility: parents, platforms, or the state?

Q58. How has the 24-hour news cycle changed the depth and quality of public discourse?

Follow-up: Do you think this constant cycle makes audiences better or worse informed overall?

Q59. What role should fact-checking organisations play in a polarised media landscape?

Follow-up: Do you think fact-checkers themselves are sometimes perceived as biased, and why might that be?

Q60. How important is media literacy education in countering the spread of misinformation?

Follow-up: What specific skills do you think should be prioritised in teaching media literacy?

Family & Relationships

Q61. How do you think the increasing number of dual-income households has reshaped family dynamics?

Follow-up: What support structures do you think would help families manage this shift more effectively?

Q62. To what extent should adult children be expected to financially support ageing parents?

Follow-up: *How do you think this expectation differs across cultures, and why?*

Q63. How has the rise of dating apps changed the way people form romantic relationships?

Follow-up: *Do you think these platforms have made finding a compatible partner easier or harder overall?*

Q64. What do you think is the biggest misconception younger and older generations have about each other?

Follow-up: *Have you experienced a moment that directly challenged one of those misconceptions?*

Q65. How important is maintaining extended family ties in an increasingly mobile, globalised world?

Follow-up: *Do you think technology adequately compensates for physical distance from family members?*

Consumerism & Economics

Q66. How do you think the rise of subscription-based business models has changed consumer spending habits?

Follow-up: *Do you think consumers are generally aware of how much they spend on subscriptions in total?*

Q67. To what extent is planned obsolescence a deliberate business strategy, and how should it be regulated?

Follow-up: *What incentives could encourage manufacturers to design longer-lasting products voluntarily?*

Q68. How do economic recessions disproportionately affect different segments of society?

Follow-up: *What policy measures do you think most effectively protect the most vulnerable during downturns?*

Q69. To what degree do you think cryptocurrency and digital assets will reshape mainstream finance?

Follow-up: *What risks do you think are currently underestimated by everyday investors in this space?*

Q70. How does the rise of influencer marketing affect consumer trust and purchasing decisions?

Follow-up: *Do you think regulations on influencer advertising disclosure are currently adequate?*

Food & Lifestyle

Q71. How do you think changing work patterns, such as remote work, have affected people's eating and exercise habits?

Follow-up: *Have you noticed changes in your own habits linked to shifts in your daily routine?*

Q72. To what extent should governments intervene in public health through taxes on unhealthy foods?

Follow-up: *Do you think such measures actually change behaviour, or simply penalise lower-income consumers?*

Q73. How has the wellness industry's growth influenced the way people think about health and self-care?

Follow-up: *Do you think this industry is generally based on sound evidence, or driven mainly by marketing?*

Q74. What do you think drives the growing interest in minimalism and decluttering as lifestyle movements?

Follow-up: Do you think this reflects a genuine cultural shift in values, or is it simply a passing trend?

Q75. How important is sleep in modern conversations about health, compared to diet and exercise?

Follow-up: Why do you think sleep has historically received less attention than diet and exercise?

Abstract & Speculative

Q76. If you had the power to implement one global policy immediately, what would it be and why?

Follow-up: What unintended consequences might that policy have that you hadn't initially considered?

Q77. Imagine technology eliminated the need for most human labour. How should society be organised in that scenario?

Follow-up: Do you think most people would find meaning and purpose without traditional work, or struggle without it?

Q78. If you could preserve one aspect of the present for future generations exactly as it is, what would it be?

Follow-up: What is it about that aspect that makes you believe it's at risk of being lost?

Q79. How do you imagine cities and urban life will look fifty years from now?

Follow-up: What current trend do you think gives the clearest hint of that future?

Q80. If you could ask one major global leader a single question and guarantee an honest answer, what would you ask?

Follow-up: Why do you think that particular question matters more than others you might have chosen?

Critical Thinking & Meta

Q81. How do you typically respond when you encounter a strong argument against a belief you hold firmly?

Follow-up: Can you recall a time your initial defensive reaction gave way to genuine reconsideration?

Q82. To what extent do personal experiences distort or enrich our ability to reason about general issues?

Follow-up: Can you think of an issue where your personal experience has clearly shaped a strong opinion?

Q83. How do you evaluate competing statistics or studies on the same issue presented by different sources?

Follow-up: What red flags make you suspicious that a statistic might be misleading or selectively presented?

Q84. In what situations do you think it's more important to act decisively than to gather more information first?

Follow-up: Can you describe a real decision where the cost of delay outweighed the benefit of further analysis?

Q85. How do you distinguish between healthy scepticism and unproductive cynicism in evaluating claims?

Follow-up: Do you think modern media and online discourse tend to encourage one more than the other?