



Interuniversity Test of Academic English

ITACE FOR STUDENTS: ORAL TEST

Task 2: Argumentation (5 minutes)

Prepare to talk coherently about ONE of these two topics for about five minutes. Briefly explain the statement and give your own opinion. Try to come up with various arguments or specific examples to support your point of view.

Positive discrimination

Positive discrimination implies giving priority to members of minority groups in college admission or in hiring decisions (e.g. by implementing racial or gender quotas). Proponents see it as a fair way of compensating past injustice. According to them, positive discrimination is an effective method to address the discrimination that members of minority groups still regularly encounter. Opponents argue that positive discrimination automatically leads to negative discrimination against members of majority groups. How would you position yourself in this debate? In which circumstances do you think positive discrimination is acceptable?

Standardised tests

The Belgian educational system does not make use of national tests identical for all institutions like e.g. the French Baccalauréat or the British GCSE examination. Even though such standardised tests are presented as a fair and objective measure of student ability, some say they promote a narrow curriculum and drill-like 'teaching to the test'. Moreover, excessive testing might make a country less likely to produce innovators and critical thinkers. Do you think standardised tests are beneficial to the educational system?