Speaking

Part 1 · Individual presentation

PART 1 · SITUATION

Budget 2027 will be announced in October, and many Malaysians are talking about the cost of living. You have to give a presentation to your group members. You have 2 minutes to prepare and 2 minutes to talk.
Candidate A: Talk about how students can manage their money wisely.

Four ideas you could develop:

- **A simple monthly budget** – separate needs (food, transport, books) from wants (snacks, games, outings).
- **Track spending** – a notes app or expense app reveals "small leaks", such as a daily RM8 drink adding up to over RM200 a month.
- **Spend smarter** – compare prices, buy second-hand textbooks and use student discounts.
- **Save a fixed amount** – even RM50 a month builds a habit; be careful with "buy now, pay later" offers.

Practise the other prompts too. B: Talk about why living costs worry young workers. C: Talk about ways to earn extra income responsibly. D: Talk about what you hope the budget will include.

Part 2 · Group discussion

PART 2 · QUESTION

Many Malaysians feel that their incomes are not keeping up with living costs. You have 3 minutes to prepare. Discuss the ideas below, support or oppose each other's views, and try to decide on the best suggestion.
Which measure would help ordinary Malaysians most with the cost of living?

Idea (mind map)	Point for	Point to weigh
Cash aid	Fast, and can be targeted at those in greatest need.	Temporary, and costly for the government every year.
Higher wages	A lasting rise in income that gives workers dignity.	Some firms may raise prices or hire fewer people.
Affordable housing	Housing is often a family's biggest expense.	Takes years to build, and location matters.
Better public transport	Cuts spending on petrol, parking and car loans.	Only helps where good services exist; lines take years to build.
Skills training	Opens the door to better-paid jobs.	Results take time and must match what employers need.

MODEL ANSWER · CHOOSING THE BEST OPTION (sample by our team)

"After listening to everyone, I'm convinced better public transport would help the most people. For many families, running a car is one of the largest monthly costs after housing: the loan, petrol, tolls and parking. Reliable trains and buses would cut those costs for students, workers and elderly people alike, and the savings would continue year after year, unlike cash aid. It would also ease traffic jams and pollution, which benefits everyone. Affordable housing is important too, but good transport links are what make cheaper homes further out practical. So, can we agree on public transport?"

Common mistakes on this topic:

- **Economic vs economical:** economic = about the economy ("economic growth"); economical = saving money ("an economical car").
- **"Prices are expensive":** prices are high; goods are expensive. Also write "the cost of living", not "cost of living is high".
- **Unrealistic solutions:** "the government should just give everyone money" ignores cost. Show you understand trade-offs.

312 words

Speaking

Part 1: Individual presentation (2 minutes to prepare, 2 minutes to talk)

PART 1 · QUESTION

Situation: Malaysia and China have close links in trade, tourism and education. More young Malaysians now travel, study and work across borders.
Candidate A: You have to give a presentation to your class. Talk about the benefits of learning a foreign language.

- **Careers:** companies in trade, tourism and logistics value staff who can deal with foreign clients in their own language.
- **Understanding:** a language opens a window into another culture and reduces misunderstandings.
- **Travel and study:** you become more confident and independent abroad, and you can apply for exchange programmes.
- **Personal growth:** learning a language builds memory, patience and the courage to make mistakes in public.

Practise the other candidates' prompts too. **B:** Talk about why Malaysia is popular with foreign tourists. **C:** Talk about the benefits of foreign investment. **D:** Talk about how local small businesses can compete with big online platforms.

Part 2: Group discussion (3 minutes to prepare, 8–12 minutes to discuss)

PART 2 · QUESTION

Situation: Malaysia hopes to welcome more visitors from China during Visit Malaysia 2026. In your group, discuss how the country can best attract more tourists from China. At the end of the discussion, try to decide on the best way.
Mind map, "How can Malaysia best attract more tourists from China?": more direct flights · digital payments · Mandarin signage · food promotion · shopping events

Option	Point in favour	Point someone may raise against it
More direct flights	New daily routes, e.g. to Shenzhen and Changsha, make Malaysia easy to reach from more Chinese cities.	Airlines only add flights when demand is proven, and fuel costs are high this year.
Digital payments	Visitors can pay with the apps they use at home, so spending is easy.	Small traders may need help and time to set up new payment systems.
Mandarin signage	Clear signs make visitors feel welcome and help them move around confidently.	Many Malaysians already speak Mandarin, so the gain may be small in big cities.
Food promotion	Durians, seafood and street food are strong attractions and are easy to show on social media.	Food alone rarely decides where people go on holiday.
Shopping events	Big sales can draw visitors during holiday periods such as Golden Week.	Neighbouring countries offer similar sales, so we have no clear advantage.

MODEL "BEST OPTION" JUSTIFICATION · sample for practice

"We have agreed that **digital payments** are the best option. Flights bring visitors in, but a smooth experience makes them spend and come back. If a tourist can pay at a hawker stall, book a ride and buy souvenirs using familiar apps, every business benefits, from big malls to small stalls. It is also quicker and cheaper than opening new routes, and Malaysia Airlines itself has just signed agreements with Chinese digital firms, including Weixin Pay."

Common mistakes on this topic

- **Country vs adjective:** write "Malaysia–China relations" and "Chinese tourists", not "Malaysia–Chinese relations" or "China tourists".
- **Currency slips:** the trade figure is in *US dollars* (US$132.50 billion), not ringgit. Always keep the correct unit.
- **Politics and stereotypes:** keep to trade, travel and business evidence. Generalising about any nationality loses marks for tone and task fulfilment.

Extra practice (try these on your own)

- **Task 1:** A student from China who will join your university next semester asks for advice. *Notes: Welcome him · Suggest what to bring · Describe campus life.*
- **Task 2:** "Learning a third language should be compulsory for all Malaysian students."
- **Task 2:** "Online shopping from overseas platforms harms local businesses."
- **Part 2 mind map:** "How can local small businesses best compete with large online platforms?" Lower prices · better service · social media · unique products · faster delivery.

MODEL ANSWER · CHOOSING THE BEST OPTION (sample by our team)

"To sum up our discussion, I believe teacher training is the best way forward. More practice and learning apps can help, but only if the lessons behind them are clear. A confident, well-trained teacher can spot why a student is stuck and explain the idea in a different way, and that benefit multiplies across every class the teacher teaches for years. Real-life problems are also important, but it is teachers who have to design and lead them. So training teachers strengthens almost every other idea on the mind map. Shall we choose teacher training, then?"

Common mistakes on this topic:

- **Wrong facts:** "Malaysia's PISA scores all fell" is incorrect. Only mathematics fell; reading and science rose slightly.
- **Treating PISA like SPM:** PISA tests a sample of 15-year-olds to compare education systems; it is not an exam that decides individual students' futures.
- **One-sided attacks:** "our education system is useless" is too sweeping. Give a balanced view with specific strengths and weaknesses.

MODEL "BEST OPTION" JUSTIFICATION · sample for practice

"After weighing all five ideas, our group agrees that **better coaches** is the best way forward, because every other option depends on it. A sports school is only as good as the people who train its students. Sponsors invest in athletes who keep improving. Sports science is useless unless a coach knows how to apply the data. More competitions only help if someone analyses each performance afterwards. So, although good coaches are costly, investing in them gives the greatest return for every ringgit spent."

Common mistakes on this topic

- **Grammar of "esports":** treat it as a singular field. Write "Esports is growing", not "Esports are growing", and avoid switching between "e-sport", "E-Sports" and "esports" in one essay.
- **Vague praise:** "very good" and "very popular" earn few marks. Use precise words such as "highly competitive", "thriving" and "widely followed".
- **Wrong or undated facts:** do not write that Malaysia "won the Asian Games". Say "Malaysia was eighth on the medal table on 23 September". If you are unsure of a number, use careful wording such as "several gold medals".

Extra practice (try these on your own)

- **Task 1:** A friend emails to say she wants to try out for the state netball team but feels nervous. *Notes: Encourage · Suggest how to prepare · Offer to help.*
- **Task 2:** "Young athletes should be allowed to put sport before their studies."
- **Task 2:** "Hosting major sporting events is a waste of public money."
- **Part 2 mind map:** "How can schools best encourage students to be more active?" More PE lessons · inter-class games · sports clubs · fitness apps · rewards.

MODEL "BEST OPTION" JUSTIFICATION · sample for practice

"We have finally agreed that **better transport links** are the best way. Social media can make a place famous overnight, but if visitors face a six-hour drive on narrow roads, most will change their minds. Once a destination is easy to reach, the other ideas work better: festivals draw bigger crowds, homestays fill up and travel packages become cheaper to run. It is the most costly option, but it is also the one that lasts."

Common mistakes on this topic

- **Word forms:** "tourist" is a person and "tourism" is the industry. "Travel" is uncountable, so write "a trip" or "a journey", not "a travel".
- **Made-up figures:** do not invent full-year totals. Quote what is known: "21.1 million international arrivals in the first half of 2026".
- **One-sided answers:** essays that only praise tourism look shallow. Mention overtourism or damage to the environment, then answer it.

Extra practice (try these on your own)

- **Task 1:** An exchange student asks which Malaysian festival she should experience and what she should wear. *Notes: Suggest · Describe · Offer to go with her.*
- **Task 2:** "Tourism does more harm than good to the environment."
- **Task 2:** "Every year should be treated as Visit Malaysia Year."
- **Part 2 mind map:** "What is the best way to make tourists feel welcome in Malaysia?" Friendly locals · clear signage · clean public toilets · fair taxi fares · tourist information centres.

MODEL "BEST OPTION" JUSTIFICATION · sample for practice

"Our group believes **paid internships** are the best way. They bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace, so young people learn exactly the skills employers want, including digital skills. Many interns are offered permanent jobs by the same company. Because they are paid, students from low-income families can take part too. We agreed that the government could give small firms incentives so that they can afford to take interns."

Common mistakes on this topic

- **Median vs average:** RM2,940 is the *median* (the middle value), not the average. The mean for citizens was RM3,803. Mixing them up makes your evidence wrong.
- **Overgeneralising:** "All graduates are jobless" is false. Hedge instead: "a significant proportion of young graduates are underemployed".
- **Collocations:** write "a well-paid job" or "a high salary", not "a high salary job", and "apply for a job", not "apply a job".

Extra practice (try these on your own)

- **Task 1:** A friend asks whether she should take a part-time job during the semester. *Notes: Give your opinion · Suggest a suitable job · Warn her about …*
- **Task 2:** "Employers value experience more than qualifications."
- **Task 2:** "Young people should be willing to start their careers in low-paid jobs."
- **Part 2 mind map:** "What is the most important factor when choosing a career?" Salary · passion · job security · location · work–life balance.

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MUET 2026

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