

Public Speaking Skills

- 1** Read the task. Who are you? Who will you be speaking to? What is the purpose of the speech? What will you be talking about?


You are running for election to become mayor of your city. Give a speech to local citizens about the problems the city faces and what you would do as mayor to fix them.

Study Skills

Using questions

A question in public speaking always makes the audience pay attention. There are three kinds of questions commonly used in speeches.

- 1 Hook questions** are interesting questions that the audience will want to know the answer to, e.g. *What makes a city great?*
- 2 Rhetorical questions** are questions that do not need an answer, because it is so obvious, e.g. *Who wouldn't want a change like this to happen?*
- 3 Hypophora** is a question that the speaker presents as if coming from the audience, which he/she then immediately answers, e.g. *Why do we need this? Let me tell you ...*

- 2**  Listen to and read the model. Match the underlined questions with the question types in the Study Skills box.

- 3** **ICT** Imagine you are standing against Callum Forrest to become mayor of Winford. You feel the biggest problems the city faces are litter, a lack of housing and the need for high-speed Internet. Make notes about ways these problems could be solved. Then use your notes to give a speech to a group of local citizens.

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you all for coming today. My name is Callum Forrest and I'm running for mayor of Winford. Now, what does it take to be a great mayor? A person who knows their city, loves it, and wants to make it better. I was born and raised in Winford, and I've been elected as a city councillor for the last five years. I have a good understanding of the problems our city faces today, and I'm passionate about fixing them.

We all know that one of the major problems in our city is unemployment. Unfortunately, over 20% of our city's working population is unemployed. It's one of my key aims to lower this number. How do I plan to do this? By attracting new companies to the area, first of all. Also, I will set up unemployment centres in the neighbourhoods, not just in the city centre. By doing this, we save unemployed people a 45-minute journey before they even see what jobs are available!

Another problem our city suffers from is a lack of green spaces. Compared to neighbouring cities, our city has a very small number of parks. Why is this an important issue for me? Well, I believe that green spaces are very important for the happiness of a city's citizens. If we had more parks, then more people would get out of their homes, meet each other and get fresh air and exercise. Wouldn't this make a huge difference to our city? As mayor, I plan to create more parks in the city, and I think that this will make us feel healthier and bring our community together.

Lastly, another problem that I would like to highlight is the air pollution in our city. Do you know where this city stands for air quality compared to others in this region? Last, that's where. Now, I'm not talking about banning cars, but one thing I will do is lower fares for public transport and make buses and trains more frequent. This will encourage people to use public transport, and it will eventually reduce the pollution in our city. Do you want a city suitable for the 21st century? Then vote Callum Forrest for mayor on 26th March. I won't let you down!

