

9.2 Opinions, attitudes and connections in listening

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS opinion 观点 • connect 连接 • attitude 态度

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **opinions, attitudes and connections in listening** 观点、态度与联系 — hearing what a speaker thinks, not only what they say.

You must be able to:

- identify a speaker's opinion and distinguish it from a fact they report
- hear agreement and disagreement between two speakers
- follow a speaker who changes their mind

1 Worked examples

■ Fact or opinion

“The new timetable adds twenty minutes to the day. Personally, I think that’s twenty minutes too many.”

The first sentence is a fact; the second is the opinion. A question asking what the speaker **thinks** must be answered from the second.

■ Signals of opinion

I think, in my view, personally, to be honest, if you ask me, what worries me is, the trouble is

■ Signals of attitude

- **Enthusiasm:** *absolutely, definitely, I’d jump at it*
- **Doubt:** *I suppose, in theory, up to a point, we’ll see*
- **Disagreement, politely:** *I take your point, but... / That’s true, although... / I’m not so sure*
- **Reluctant agreement:** *I suppose so, if we have to*

Note that *I take your point, but* is a **disagreement**. Students often hear the first half and record agreement.

■ Changing position

“At first I thought it was a waste of money. Having seen it in use, though, I’ve changed my mind completely.”

If a question asks the speaker’s opinion, it wants the **final** position. Listen for *though, however, having said that, actually, in the end*.

2 Practice

Read this transcript extract, then answer as though you had heard it.

Amina: They’re putting cameras in the corridors next term.

Ben: I’d heard. Honestly, I think it’s a good thing — the bag thefts last year were awful.

Amina: I take your point about the thefts. I’m just not sure a camera stops anything; it only tells you who did it afterwards.

Ben: That’s fair. I suppose I was assuming they’d act as a deterrent, and I don’t actually know that they do.

Amina: They might. I’d rather the money went on lockers, that’s all.

2.1 What is Ben’s opinion at the start? [1]

2.2 Does Amina agree with him? Quote the words that show it. [2]

2.3 How does Ben’s position change, and which words show the change? [2]

2.4 What does Amina think the money should be spent on? [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 For each phrase, say whether it signals agreement, disagreement or doubt. [4]

(a) “I take your point, but...”

(b) “Absolutely — I’d jump at it.”

(c) “In theory, I suppose.”

(d) “That’s fair.”

3.2 A student answers “Ben thinks cameras are a good thing” to a question asking for Ben’s opinion at the end of the conversation. Explain why this is wrong. [2]
