

**Prompts for Part One of the AE1 Speaking exam**  
**SZTE Institute of English and American Studies**  
**Spring semester 2018**

1. Szeged is a magnet for foreign students. But some of them complain that their Hungarian counterparts are not very open to them, while some Hungarian students actually say the same of the foreign students. What do you think lies at the heart of this lack of connection? Why do you suppose it would be important for both sides to connect? What ideas do you have to get these two groups to get to know each other better?
2. Beyond the classes you have taken, in what other ways have you taken part in the life of the university? Have you attended events, clubs, or showings? Have you tutored others, met in a study group, or done research on your own? How have these things benefited you? How else could the university encourage students to take an active part in university life?
3. Some instructors require homework to be submitted in handwriting, whereas other instructors ask students to hand in homework in a printed form or electronically. What are the advantages of different kinds of homework and class assignments? What kinds of projects are the most helpful for your individual learning style and personality?
4. Some students work while studying at university, while others focus only on their studies. Which is true for you? What are the drawbacks of working while studying? What are the benefits?
5. Some people feel that competition is an important part of adult life and that children should be exposed to competitive activities at a young age. Others feel that competition is harmful to young children. Do you agree with the importance of an early exposure to competition? What kinds of competition were you involved in your early childhood and school years? What benefits/drawbacks did they have for you?
6. Studies have shown that Hungarian university students tend to experience various degrees of anxiety when communicating in a foreign language. Have you noticed this phenomenon among your peers? What do you think the roots of this anxiety might be? How do you think it can be reduced?
7. Education systems in Europe have been criticised for not developing students' 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills. These include creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and other skills that enable us to adapt to a fast changing world. In what ways do you think your university classes have aimed to develop those skills in you? In what ways could they do more? What can you do to develop those skills yourself?
8. The University of Szeged does not have a campus (in other words, one compact area of land owned by the university where the majority of students work, live, study and eat), like other universities abroad do. What are the (dis)advantages of the university being spread around the city? What would the advantages of a Szeged campus be?
9. Over the course of your educational experience, you've had many teachers. Talk about a teacher who had a strong impact on you. What lessons (academic or otherwise) did you learn from him or her? What was it about his or her teaching that was particularly effective for you?
10. What motivates people to learn foreign languages? What is your relationship with English (or another L2)? Has it changed during the years?