

Prompts for Part One of the AE1 Speaking exam
SZTE Institute of English and American Studies
Spring semester 2024

1. When students from outside of Szeged come to university here, they usually have to find accommodation in a student hostel or a rented flat. Which do you (and/or your friends) prefer? Why? What are the many benefits and drawbacks of each? Are there alternatives? If so, what? How are those better or worse?
2. According to one survey, the figure for young people in Hungary (those between the ages of 15 and 34) who succeed in learning English is only 23.87% – a relatively low figure in the EU. Why do you think this percentage is so low? What do you think teachers, schools, publishing houses, the media and other players can do to improve this number? How did you manage to learn English? Do you think this could work for others?
3. In many English-speaking countries, a traditional 'gap year' is the activity of taking a year out before university during which year people can engage in a number of activities, for example, travel, volunteer or work abroad. What would you do for a year if a 'gap year' was obligatory before starting university?
4. Think back to when you first decided to study at university. What were your expectations, both about university and about yourself? How have your experiences matched or differed from what you expected? What are your expectations about the years ahead?
5. If you could design a NEW course for BA English or American Studies majors/minors or English teacher trainees, what course would you design? Give details, including the course title, topics to discuss, type of activities in class, type and amount of homework, etc.
6. The COVID-19 pandemic forced a rapid shift from face-to-face to remote learning for students. Teachers adopted technologies that enabled more interactivity. How have you benefitted from adopting new classroom learning technologies during the pandemic? What classroom tools would you like to see more in use? What barriers do you see in using learning technology for classwork?
7. Learning apps and artificial intelligence (AI) are part of the learning experience of the 21st century. How can modern technology e.g., various apps and AI help your university studies? Give examples of what and how you have used and what you would like to try out in the future.
8. Some universities abroad provide distance learning degree courses or blended ones (where you can combine distance or e-learning with conventional face-to face study). Do you think that Hungarian universities should introduce such degree courses? Give reasons to support your opinion.
9. What is the greatest difficulty experienced by first year university students, including those at this Institute? What can students themselves do to overcome this difficulty? What should the Institute and the instructors do to assist?
10. How can regular sport activities benefit students' academic career? How would you encourage students to do more physical activities? What do you do to stay mentally and physically active?