Activity 1. Read the questions below and prepare your own answer. Remember to give a direct answer to the question first, then extend your answer by adding extra information in a couple of sentences.

Activity 2. Read the answers below carefully and highlight expressions, vocabulary or idioms that you wish to remember. Make sure you practice them in your speaking, so that you can make use of them in your speaking test.

Part 2. Historic place

Describe a historic place in your country that has a significant meaning.

You should say:

what the place is

where the place is

How this place looks

and explain why this place is important.

I'd like to describe an important historic place.

It is called Gyeongbok palace in the Korean language and this was the main royal palace of Joseon Dynasty, which lasted for 500 years until the early 20th century. It is located in Seoul. You probably know that Seoul is the capital city of South Korea and it is a megacity with a population of over ten million people. So, it is an incredibly busy city and the palace is located in the heart of this metropolitan area. It looks very beautiful with the Korean signature roof tiles which are dark in colour and unique in shape, and the large, magnificent pillars and the walls, which are colourfully decorated with traditional patterns. The architectural styles of ancient Korea are well-preserved in this palace. Although part of the palace was destroyed intentionally by Imperial Japan in the early 20th century, it has completely been restored to its original form now. The changing of the guards is one of the most popular events held in this palace. I think this place is very important because it tells a lot about the Korean history. So, descendants and future generations will visit here and learn a lot about the particular period of history.

Q: Do many people visit this place?

Absolutely. This is one of the hottest tourist attractions in Korea, so hundreds of tourists as well as locals visit this palace daily.

Q: Do you think it is important for the government to protect historically significant places?

Yes, I do. I don't really know much about history and I'm not a history enthusiast but I do believe it is important for the government to protect historic places. The past is the reason why we are here today, so we have to remember what happened in the past and historic places help us do that. Historic places are related to our identity: who we really are. So, I believe the government should try their best to preserve historic places to the best of their ability.