

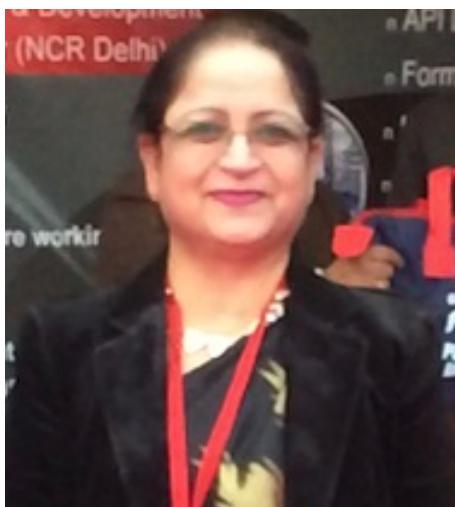
makkarIELTS

PDF Edition

Speaking Guesswork Solved Sep-Dec 2017

Part 1, 2 & 3-Beta Edition (First Version)

Intro, Cue Cards and Follow Up



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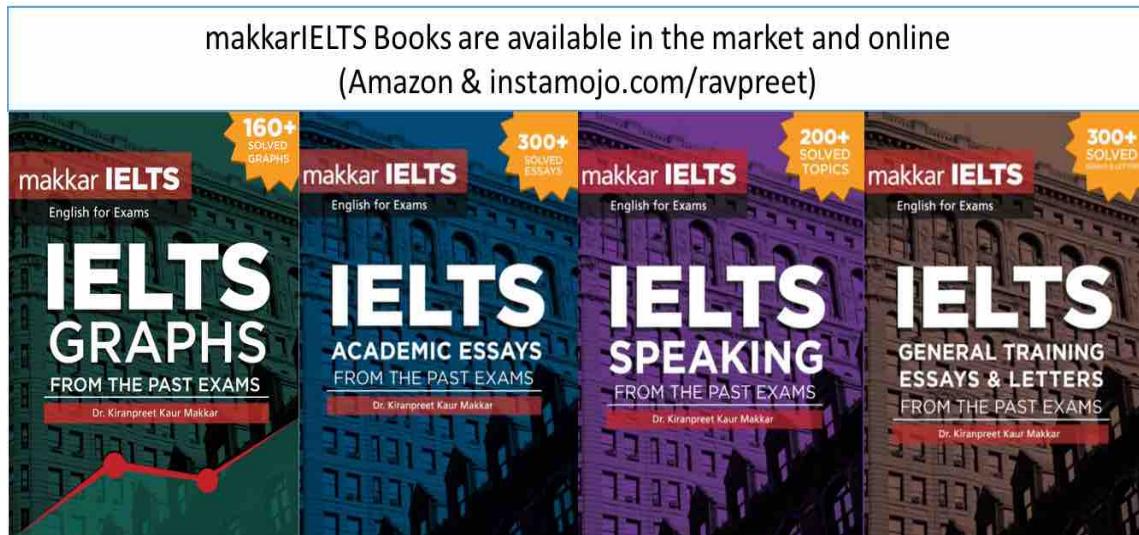
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1. Describe a piece of furniture in your home that you often use

- What it is
 - Where it is
 - What it looks like (or, what it is made of)
 - And explain how or why you use it. **[makkariELTS]**
-
- Furniture is a part and parcel of every home.
 - There is a lot of furniture in my home also.
 - There are beds and sofa sets, chairs and tables, cupboards and dressing tables.
 - But here I would like to talk about a piece of furniture that I use very often.
 - This is a study table.
 - I have this table in my room.
 - This is a special table, which my father got made for me by a carpenter in my hometown.
 - The body of the table is made of pure teak wood.
 - The top is of board, which has a grey mica topping.
 - This is bigger than a conventional study table.
 - It is a rectangular in shape.
 - It is very well designed.
 - There are shelves on the top on which I place my books.
 - There are drawers on one side in which I keep my stationery material.
 - There is a chair, which can be slid inside the table when not in use.
 - I find this table very convenient when I have to study or work on my computer.
 - I have a beautiful table lamp on one side.
 - The light falls on my books from the left side.
 - I just love this table.
 - I remember, when I did not have this table, my books would be scattered all over my room.
 - But now they are in perfect order.
 - My whole room looks neat and clean because of the table.
 - So, this is one important item of furniture in my house.

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2. What is your idea of a perfect home? (Dream Home)

- Where would it be
- How it would look
- When do you think you would have such a home

Sample answer (For those who live in villages) www.makkariELTS.com

- Everybody has some concept in his mind of an ideal home.
- I have also thought of a perfect home many times.
- Presently, I live in a village.
- My house is very big and has many rooms and open space in the front and back.
- But, for every small requirement, we have to rush to the village.
- I would like to have a house in the suburbs of my hometown.
- There I would get the best of both worlds.
- I would be near the facilities of the city as well as be able to enjoy the calm and peaceful atmosphere of the village
- I would not like to live in a big house.
- Big houses are difficult to maintain.
- My house would have three bedrooms, a lobby, a kitchen a small lawn in the front and a kitchen garden in the backyard.
- I am very fond of gardening.
- I would grow coriander, mint, aubergine, okra, tomatoes, green chilly and some other seasonal vegetables. www.makkariELTS.com
- I would use only organic fertilisers, such as home made compost from the kitchen waste.
- I would not use any insecticides and pesticides.
- All the rooms of my house would be well lit and airy.
- The bathrooms and kitchen would have the latest fittings.
- I would have solar panels set up on the terrace to harness solar energy.
- I would like to welcome and entertain friends and relatives in my house.
- I would keep it spic and span.
- I hope to live in such a house one day.
- Sample answer (For those who live in cities)
- Everybody has some concept in his mind of an ideal home.
- I have also thought of a perfect home many times.
- Presently, I live in a city.
- My house is not very big but has three bedrooms and some open space in the front and back.
- But, it is a very noisy and congested area.
- I would like to have a house in the suburbs of my home town. (Rest is the same as above) www.makkariELTS.com

Follow ups

1. Do most Indian people live in an apartment or house?

I think it depends on the region they are living in. In most of the big cities, like the metropolitan cities, people live in apartments, as there is a scarcity of land in such places and to accommodate the ever-increasing population, there are more and more apartment buildings being built. However, in the small cities, towns and the countryside, we can find people mostly living in houses, rather than apartments. www.makkariELTS.com

2. Do young people in your country like to live with their parents or by themselves?

In my country, young people like to live with their parents, unless they have to move to another city or country, for higher education or for better career prospects. It's a part of the Indian culture for children to live with their parents.

3. Do Indian people like to rent a place to live?

No, Indian people do not like to rent a place to live. I think it's the dream of almost every Indian to own his/her own house.

4. Would you live in a foreign country in the future?

Yes, definitely. I would like to live in a foreign country in the future. I plan to pursue my education abroad. I think there are better education facilities and better job opportunities in developed countries. www.makkariELTS.com

5. How is modern home design in your country different to that of the past?

The modern home design is very different to that of the past, in my country. The material being used now in the construction of houses is much advanced, like weather proof paints, insulated walls, soundproof windows, etc. The design of the modern houses is according to the space available. There is better utilization of space in the modern home designs. The homes in the past used to be more spacious and not equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and equipment, like washing machine, microwave, dishwashers & so on.

6. In your country what type of home do most people live in?

India is a vast and diverse country. People live in different types of houses, depending on the region and the climate in that region. For example, in the eastern parts of India, houses made from bamboo are very common. In regions where there is snowfall, sloped houses are common. In plain areas, people design their houses, as per the area and space available.

7. Do people prefer to live in Modern Homes or the older style homes (for example from 50 years ago)

People prefer to live in modern homes rather than older style homes because modern homes are better equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and technology. Also, the material used to build modern homes is better, for instance, weather proof paints, earthquake proof design, etc. The modern homes are planned better to utilize the space properly.

8. How are modern homes different to older homes? www.makkariELTS.com

Modern homes are quite different from the older homes, in terms of the design, material used and the structure of the building. Older homes were more

spacious, with proper ventilation. Modern homes are designed to properly utilize the space, due to the shortage of land these days. These days, people employ interior designers and architects to plan and decorate their homes. Older homes may not be equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and appliances.

9. What do you imagine people's houses to be like in the future?

Future is uncertain and we can never be sure what it might bring. I imagine the houses in the future to be smart houses, with everything mechanized and electronic. There would be sensors for lights and appliances to start working themselves. The locking and unlocking of houses would be remote controlled. All the controls maybe on people's cellphones.

10. Why do people sometimes move to live in a different home?

People move to live in a different home sometimes, due to various reasons. Sometimes it is for better facilities, like healthcare, transport and educational facilities. Sometimes people have to relocate because of better job opportunities or because of transferrable jobs. People sometimes move to a different area or locality because of crime related issues.

11. Do you think moving to a new home can ever create or cause problems for people? www.makkariELTS.com

Yes, I think moving to a new home can definitely create problems for people. Moving their belongings to a new home is a huge task. They have to pack and unpack the things. There could be problems with the facilities they may face, when they move to new homes. For e.g., problems with electricity supply, water supply, bad roads, transport facilities & so on.

12. What are the differences between living in a city and living in a village or town (in the countryside) Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

There are many differences between living in a city and life in a village. There are better facilities available in cities. The public transport system, healthcare and educational facilities are better in cities than in villages. In cities, there are better and more job opportunities available. There is more pollution and traffic in the cities than in the villages. Villages are cleaner, greener and more peaceful than cities. The people in villages are well connected to each other; however, people living in cities may not even know their neighbours.

13. Do people in your country prefer to live in cities or in rural environments?

I think people in my country prefer to live in the cities than in the rural environments. I think that it is quite clear from the ever-increasing population in the cities. People from rural areas move to urban areas for better living standards, better job opportunities and better facilities and services.

14. What are the differences between living in the countryside compared to living in the city? Same as answer#12.

3. Talk about an achievement you are proud of

- What you did
 - When did you do it
 - Why did that achievement make you proud www.makkariELTS.com
-
- Whenever anyone achieves anything, he or she is very proud of it.
 - What may be a simple thing for one person may be an achievement for another.
 - For me overcoming my glossophobia was a very difficult thing.
 - I used to be very stage shy and could never speak in front of an audience.
 - It so happened that once I participated in an environment fair held in my hometown.
 - We were a team of four students – Mohit, Rohan, Ravi and I.
 - We had to make a model on pollution.
 - It was very difficult to collect ideas for the model, but our teacher, Mrs Promilla helped us. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet
 - We collected all data from different sources like the internet, library, magazines and so on
 - We presented all three types of pollution – air, water and noise pollution - on thermocol www.makkariELTS.com
 - In this project we showed the causes, effects and ways to control pollution
 - We had to speak turn wise on our model.
 - I remember I was very afraid to speak.
 - But my other friends gave me the confidence. I felt very good that I was part of that team.
 - I spoke very well that time.
 - Getting over my glossophobia was an accomplishment for me.
 - I felt very good after that.
 - We won the first prize in this competition.
 - The judges specially mentioned that the first prize was mainly because of the verbal explanation of the model. www.makkariELTS.com
 - This fair was covered by the local cable TV and so many people of the neighbourhood congratulated me the next day.
 - Our photograph was also there in the local newspaper Jag Baani.
 - Our school principal also appreciated us
 - I cannot forget that day.
 - All four of us were on cloud nine on that day.
 - So, this was an achievement I was proud of.

Follow ups www.makkariELTS.com

1. How to measure a person's success?

It is very difficult to measure success. Success is a very subjective term. Different people give different meaning to success. For some earning a lot of money means success. For others, leading a life in which they can help others, means success. For a student, passing the exams with flying colours, means success. So measuring success is not easy. www.makkariELTS.com

2. Do you think the way people gain success has changed?

Yes, definitely, the way people gain success has changed. Earlier, people did a lot of hard work and success was limited to a small area. Only politicians and film stars and sportsmen who were in the news or national TV were successful over a wider area. But, nowadays, because of the reality shows, any person with some talent can become successful overnight. People can get worldwide success through the Internet, through YouTube and other such networks. Today, people know of Indian successful businessmen, all over the world, because the world has shrunk.

3. How do you define success? Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

It is very difficult to define success. Success is a very subjective term. Different people give different meaning to success. For some earning a lot of money means success. For others, leading a life in which they can help others, means success. For a student, passing the exams with flying colours, means success. So defining success is not easy.

4. How to reward successful people? www.makkariELTS.com

We can reward successful people by acknowledging their work. Some awards can be given. Some monetary benefits can be given. Sometimes giving promotions is a good way to reward successful people.

5. What's the most difficult thing you have ever done?

I am very stage shy. I remember, in the annual science fair of my school, I had to speak on a model, which I had prepared. The model was on different types of pollution. I found it very difficult, but somehow I managed it. That was the most difficult thing I did.

6. What qualities does a person need to have, to be successful?

The person should be hard working. He should have good communication skills. He should have the courage to take calculated risks. He should have a helping and caring nature.

7. Do you feel terrible when you fail to do something?

I feel terrible, but only for a short period of time. Then, I try to learn from my failure and work even harder to succeed the next time.

8. Is failure a necessary thing in people's life? www.makkariELTS.com

Yes, it is. Without knowing failure, we can never enjoy success. Without knowing about the night, we can never enjoy the day. Without unhappiness, we can never enjoy happiness. The freedom we are enjoying today is also because we have been under the British rule for a long time.

4. Describe a long car journey you went on

- Where you went
 - What you did at this place
 - Who you went there with
 - Explain why you went on that journey by car
-
- I have not been on many long journeys by car
 - Whenever we have to go on a long journey we generally go by bus or train or by air.
 - Here I am going to talk about a long journey, which I had by car.
 - Last year my cousin came from Canada and he wanted to see Rajasthan.
 - My maternal aunt and uncle live in Jaipur
 - So we decided to visit Jaipur in Rajasthan.
 - It was too late for train reservation, as my cousin had come for two weeks only.
 - My uncle has a Toyota Innova, which is a seven-seater car and so my father borrowed it from him for a week.
 - We were six members my father my mother my brother my cousin my uncle and I
 - We started at 6 AM
 - During our journey we halted at many places
 - We first stopped at Murthal, where there is a famous Motel, Jhilmil Dhaba, where we had our lunch
 - Then we stopped at Delhi for tea.
 - We had minor halts at one or two more places
 - Finally we reached my aunt's house by 7 PM
 - She had prepared sumptuous dinner for us
 - The next morning we went for sightseeing
 - We saw many places such as the Hawa Mahal, City Palace, Amer fort, Maharani Palace and so on
 - The next day we went to Chokhi Dhani
 - This place has been the mirror of Rajasthani culture since 1989
 - We learned a lot about Rajasthani culture over there
 - Live dances and music performances went on throughout the evening
 - Dinner was included in the entry ticket, and so we had dinner over there only
 - The next day we did some shopping
 - We enjoyed the hospitality of my aunt and uncle.
 - We returned home after one week
 - This road trip to Rajasthan will always hold pleasant memories for me.

Follow ups**1. Why do people like to have private cars?**

People like to have private cars because of the convenience they offer. Cars take us from destination to destination. Moreover, no time is wasted waiting for the public transport. Cars are also useful when there are elderly or disabled people at home. People also like to have cars because they are a status symbol.

2. What are the differences between bicycles and private cars?

Bicycles are eco-friendly vehicles. These are cheaper and also good for our health. But cars are better when we have to travel long distances. Cars are also better when weather conditions are harsh outside, such as rain or storm. Cars are safer than bicycles. Bicycles are safe only if there are separate lanes for bicycles.

3. Is it a good thing that everyone has his/her own cars?

It is definitely not good if everyone has his/her own car. Already there is too much congestion on the roads. If every person will have own car then there will be parking problems and traffic jams and too much pollution.

4. How to buy private cars in India?

It is easy to buy a car in India. You have to go to a showroom and pay the money and buy a car of your choice. Easy monthly installments are also available. Some people also go for bank loans to buy a car.

5. What's the difference between men's and women's preference on cars?

There are no gender differences nowadays. It is an individual preference. Some people like bigger cars and some like smaller cars. Some people like sports cars and some like luxury cars.

6. What will cars be like in the future?

What the future holds in store for us, nobody can tell, but as far as I can see, there would be flying cars and cars running on water and on solar power.

7. Do many families own private cars in India?

Yes, many families own private cars in India. Now, the car has become very affordable. There is a car to suit every pocket. For example, Tata Nano is called the poor man's car.

5. Talk about some local food, which is common in your country

- What is it
- How often do you have it

- India is a diverse country
- Food varies from the north to the south, and from east to west
- In north India, wheat is the staple food, whereas rice is the staple in the east and south.
- I would like to talk about the chapatti, which we have with almost every meal.
- Chapattis are made from dough made from wheat flour and water, which are kneaded with the knuckles of hand made into a fist, and then left for some time for the gluten in the dough to develop. This is called proving.
- After proving, the dough becomes softer and more pliable.
- Small portions of the dough are pinched off and made into round balls and then rolled out on a circular rolling board with a rolling pin.
- This rolled out dough is then cooked over a hot skillet or tava.
- The chapattis are often topped with butter or ghee.
- The chapatti is eaten with cooked green vegetables or dal or almost any thing.
- Apart from chapatti, many other flatbreads are made such as paratha, kulcha, puri and naan, based on cooking technique, texture and the use of different types of flours.
- The diameter and thickness of chapatti also can be varied .
- I eat the chapatti with atleast two meals of the day.
- My mother makes perfectly round chapattis.
- I am learning from her, but the perfect round shape is difficult for me to achieve.
- So, this is the local food, typical of some parts of India

Follow ups

- i. Does local food draw lots of tourists to the country?

People all over the world love Indian cuisine. I watch many cookery shows on TV, and Indian cuisine is a hot favourite of many people of the west.

- b. Do local people value traditions in food?

Yes, people do value traditions in food, but unfortunately, life is becoming very fast . The influence of the west is also coming in. Earlier, we used to sit around the table and chapatti was served one by one from the kitchen. The fully blown hot chapatti had its own appeal. Now, nobody has the time for this. Chapattis are precooked and stored in a box. M a k k ar IELTS

6. Talk about an English lesson you enjoyed

- Who gave the lecture
 - When did you attend
 - Where did you attend
 - What did the teacher do
 - Why do you think it was enjoyable www.makkariELTS.com
-
- I've attended many English lessons in my life.
 - I studied English till senior secondary and then attended some classes while I was preparing for my IELTS exam.
 - The class I am going to talk about here is on homophones and homographs, which was delivered by my teacher, Mrs Kiran, in my IELTS coaching centre, Makkar IELTS, at Phagwara.
 - I attended this class about two months ago.
 - The teacher told us the methods of increasing our vocabulary,
 - She told us all about homophones and homographs.
 - Homophones have similar sound but different spellings and different meaning, such as a-c-c-e-s-s access, which means to be able to reach something and e-x-c-e-s-s excess, which means too much of something.
 - Homographs have similar spellings but different pronunciation and different meaning, such as live (liv) and live (laive). www.makkariELTS.com
 - For example, we say I live in Phagwara, but a live match is going on.
 - I enjoyed these classes a lot.
 - Mrs Kiran told us very nicely that if we learn two meanings of a word, we learn two words.
 - I learnt a lot in that class.
 - I started giving importance to pronunciation.
 - I also developed a lot of vocabulary
 - I developed a love for words.
 - Now, whenever I see any new words, I try to see their meanings in the dictionary and learn them.
 - So, this is the class, which I found very enjoyable.
 -

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Follow ups

1. Do you think grammar is important in language study?

(Note: I have written a long answer. You may not speak that long but you get ideas in case you get an essay on the same topic.)

Yes, it is very important. Without good grammar, clear communication is nearly impossible. Proper grammar keeps you from being misunderstood while expressing your thoughts and ideas. Grammar, regardless of the country or the language, is the foundation for communication — the better the grammar, the clearer the message, the more likelihood of understanding the message's intent and meaning. That is what communication is all about. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

Unfortunately, as the world becomes more technologically inclined, good grammar has taken a back seat. People, take shortcuts with the help of new technology, also take shortcuts with grammar". For them, grammar is unnecessary as long as what they say is understandable. Nevertheless, this often causes misunderstanding among readers. Therefore, to overcome this problem, teaching grammar should be paid more attention in classrooms.

2. Why people learn a foreign language? www.makkariELTS.com

People learn a foreign language because it helps you connect with more people. As it is, today we do not belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village and to survive in this global village, it is necessary to be multilingual. For example, English is spoken in 86 countries. If you know English you can communicate with people of 86 countries.

3. Why can some people learn languages fast while others learn slowly?

Some people learn language faster than some others because of the teaching methods used to teach them. Interacting more with the native speakers also helps with learning a language better and faster. Also, there may be a motivating factor, like a job that requires them to learn that language, which makes people learn a language faster than others, who don't have any motivation behind learning a language.

4. Does one's age affect their language learning? www.makkariELTS.com

Yes, I think age affects language learning. I think the learning curve goes down with increasing age. Also, at an older age, people try and compare the new language they are learning with the language they already know. That may cause a hindrance in the learning of a language. People also become more hesitant about making mistakes and feel more embarrassed, at a later age, as compared to young learners.

5. What is the difference in people who know two languages and those who know three languages

Those who are multilingual are even better than those who are bilingual in communication. It has been seen that language learning and cognitive development go hand-in-hand. So such people do better in academics also.

6. What makes a good foreign language teacher?

I think a person who knows the native language as well as the foreign language well can be a good language teacher because he/she can teach you by comparing the two languages. Communication with the teacher could be better.

- Describe a piece of art or painting that you saw
 - What is it
 - Where is it
 - Did you like it
 - What did you feel when you saw it www.makkariELTS.com
- India is rich in art of all forms
- I have seen many works of art and paintings in my life
- Here, I would like to talk about a painting, which I saw in a painting competition held in my hometown.
- This painting competition was organised by the Rotary club as an awareness campaign against drugs.
- My friend Jatin made this painting and got the first prize.
- The main message of his painting was "SAY NO TO DRUGS".
- In this painting we can see a cigarette crushing a person, which shows that humanity is in danger due to drugs. www.makkariELTS.com
- The size of cigarette in this painting is very large as compared to the person to highlight the dramatic impacts of drugs on people.
- On the right side of the painting there is a large injection, which is being injected in a skeleton, which shows that excessive use of drugs can turn anyone into a skeleton and can lead to death.
- This painting is very eye catching and his message is clear and loud.
- When the result was declared he was very happy as he got the first prize in the competition. www.makkariELTS.com
- Now this painting is adorning the walls of our school corridor.
- Our principal got it laminated and framed.
- I chose to talk about this painting because it is a matter of great pride for my friend.
- He has no formal training of drawing and painting, but his drawings and paintings looks as if done by a professional.
- He has made many other paintings, but this one came out very good.
- He is an animal lover, and normally he paints animals, like dogs and cats all the time. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

All his paintings look very real.

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Follow ups

1. Do you like art?

Yes, I like art. Art gives meaning to life. Art is what differentiates us from animals. I like all sorts of art. I like drawing and painting. I also like performing arts like music and dance.

2. Do you think art classes are necessary? {Why?}

Yes, I think art classes are very necessary. Art brings out people's creativity. Art preserves our culture and traditions. www.makkariELTS.com

3. How do you think art classes affect children's development?

Art classes affect children's development in many ways. Art brings out the hidden creativity of children. Art is a form of communication. People can convey their feelings through art, like through their paintings or through their songs.

4. What kind of paintings do Indian people like?

Indian people like different kinds of paintings. It is a matter of personal choice. Some people like portraits, some like paintings of landscapes, some like the traditional forms of painting and some like the modern art forms.

5. What can you learn from western paintings?

We can learn many things from western paintings, in fact from any form of art from anywhere. Sometimes it is related to a culture, sometimes it maybe someone's expression of their perspective, sometimes it's a social message and we can also learn about the types of material (canvas, paints, etc.) used to create that work of art. www.makkariELTS.com

6. What benefits can you get from painting as a hobby?

Painting as a hobby can bring out our hidden talent. Painting can relax us. If we have the talent, we can even sell our paintings and earn money. We can also gift paintings to a loved one.

7. What kinds off traditional handicrafts are there in your country?

Many kinds of traditional handicrafts are there in my country. The phulkari of Punjab, the hand knotted carpets of Kashmir, ceramic pottery of Jaipur, terracotta pottery of South India, puppets of Rajasthan are all very popular handicrafts. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

8. Should children learn more about art?

Yes, definitely. Art brings about children's creativity. It develops their imagination. It also brings a respite from the tough academic curriculum. It adds some spice to their life. www.makkariELTS.com

9. Why do some people think it is difficult to understand art?

Some people say so because art is interpreted differently by different people. Secondly, everyone has his or her own interests. Some may like classical music, whereas others may enjoy folk music. Two painters may paint the sunset in different colours. Whatever the differences are, one thing is sure that art is important in our lives. Appreciation of art is the only thing, which makes us the superior most of all animal species.

10. What can we do to make young people pay more attention to traditional art?

We can organise youth festivals on traditional art. When young people will compete in these, their interest will be aroused. Teachers can also stimulate their interest by showing them such art through audio-visual aids. Media can show programs enriched with traditional art. Parents should see to it that all family functions and all festivals are celebrated interestingly in the traditional way.

11. Do you think it's important to cultivate an appreciation of art in children?

Yes, it is very important to do so. Children learn in a fun way from art. They develop their imagination and become more creative.

12. Do you think I should be included in school curriculums? Why?

Yes, definitely. Art should be there in the school curricula. Art brings about children's creativity. It develops their imagination. It also brings a respite from the tough academic curriculum. It adds some spice to children's life.

13. How do you imagine that art will be taught in the future?

What the future holds in store for us, no one can tell. But, as far as I can see, art will be taught through audio visual aids. Very few good teachers will be there, but they will be able to teach to a wider network of students through smart classrooms. www.makkariELTS.com

14. Have you attended any lessons about art?

Yes, there was a drawing period in my school. We learnt drawing and painting in that period. We also had bhangra and giddha classes before our annual functions.

15. What have you learned from these lessons?

I learnt a lot. I learnt about different shapes and how we could make many things from them creatively. I also learnt how new colours could be made by mixing colours. Yellow and blue makes green, red and blue makes purple, red and white makes pink and so on.

7. Describe a product you got for free

- What was the product
 - Who gave it to you?
 - When did you get it
 - What did you feel on getting it
-
- We keep receiving free offers from many shopping stores from time to time.
 - What we don't realise is that these are simply tactics to lure us to buy more and more. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet
 - Here, I would like to talk about a steel dinner set, which I got for free from the 'More' store in my hometown.
 - They had a scheme that if anyone did shopping worth 15,000 in three months, i.e. from Jan 1st to 31st March, there would be this steel dinner set of 20 pieces for free. www.makkariELTS.com
 - I was lured by the offer and started doing all my household shopping of fruits and vegetables and grocery from 'More'.
 - I told everyone in my family to do all purchasing from 'More' and give my phone number while getting the billing done.
 - We did not do any unnecessary shopping and purchased only the things we needed.
 - At first it looked, we wouldn't reach the mark of 15,000.
 - But surprisingly, by the end of March, we had a sale of 15,300.
 - We got the steel set on 15th April for free.
 - It is a beautiful set.
 - We have started using it.
 - There are four plates, four glasses, four spoons and four big bowls and four small bowls.
 - The steel is also of good quality.
 - The MRP on the box is 1600/-
 - We are also otherwise happy with the services of the store.
 - The salesmen are also very helpful and friendly.
 - So, this is the thing I got for free.

Follow ups

1. Do people always feel pleased when receiving free gifts?

Of course, free gifts are always welcome. But, we should also realise that nothing in the world is actually absolutely free. Either we have already paid for it in some way or we have to pay later on. For example, when we get gifts, we also have to reciprocate sometimes. We cannot always be at the receiving end.

2. What do private companies usually donate?

Private companies donate many things. They do a lot for charity according to whatever is needed. For example, Reliance has gifted the people of India with free Jio net connection. Many people have been using it for the last 6 months now for free.

3. Why do companies want to give free gifts to people?

Giving free gifts is a part of advertising strategy. We all know that companies have to spend a lot to make their products known. If their product is good and they want people to know about their product they give a small sample for free. People use it and if they like it they buy it later on. This increases the sales.

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8. Describe a couple who you think have a happy marriage.

- Who they are
- How long they have been married
- How they live their lives
- And explain why you think they are happily married. www.makkariELTS.com

- I have come across many happily married couples in my life.
- Here I would like to talk about one such couple which is none other than that of my own parents.
- My father's name is Manmohan Singh and my mother's name is Iqbal Kaur.
- They have been married 58 years now and are the perfect couple in my eyes.
- Both are in their early eighties.
- Both of them are not very tall but look very good. www.makkariELTS.com
- I have never seen any major quarrels between them and if there were any they have never let us know about them.
- Of course there are minor tiffs every now and then but these are very short lived and in no time they are one again.
- These tiffs just add spice to life.
- Most of these quarrels are because of the remote of the TV.
- Both like different TV programmes. www.makkariELTS.com
- Generally my father has to surrender in this matter.
- They take all major decisions of the family together.
- When my grandparents were alive, they used to look after them very nicely.
- They have always provided me and my siblings the best they could.
- They are liked by all in our family and the society.
- They enjoy being with their grandchildren and have a lot of stories to tell them.
- No one can get bored in their company.
- We celebrated the golden jubilee of their marriage 8 years ago and now we are looking forward to celebrate their platinum jubilee.
- They both are made for each other. Order Books at
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- I pray God to give them a long and healthy life.

Follow ups

1. How do you think celebrations in the past and at present are different?

In earlier times, people had a lot of time. They took days and weeks to prepare for any function. Nowadays, celebrations have shrunk. They have become instant like the cup of instant coffee. Earlier, marriage celebrations lasted at least a week. All relatives gathered in the house of the bride or groom and there used to be too much fun and frolic. Now, we book marriage palaces and even the bride and the groom's family just go to attend the wedding. www.makkariELTS.com

2. Are people celebrating in the same ways?

No, definitely not. Everything undergoes change with time. Celebrations too have changed. In earlier times, people had a lot of time. They took days and weeks to prepare for any function. Nowadays, celebrations have shrunk. They have become instant like the cup of instant coffee. Earlier, marriage celebrations lasted at least a week. All relatives gathered in the house of the bride or groom and there used to be too much fun and frolic. Now, we book marriage palaces and even the bride and the groom's family just go to attend the wedding.

3. Why it is important to spend a lot on birthdays and weddings

Such events are very special should be celebrated with great pomp and show. As it is the youth of today are forgetting their culture and tradition under the influence of the global culture and these days are opportunities to revive such traditions in the minds of the youth. www.makkariELTS.com

Secondly, in the fast paced life of today, it is only on such occasions that friend and relatives take time off to be together. Therefore, to make these days special, people spend lavishly on them. They believe that spending on such events is good to revive the community spirit among people.

4. Why it is considered waste of money www.makkariELTS.com

Such days can be celebrated in simple way with only a few relatives and friends. There is so much poverty in the world and rather than frittering away a lot of money on such events it is better to donate some to charity to make such days special and meaningful. To cite an example, our great celebrity, Amitabh Bacchan celebrated his daughter's and son's wedding very simply with only a few friends and relatives.

Another reason which goes against overspending on such events is that many a time people go into debt in order to keep up with their affluent friends and relatives. This 'one' day may give them stress for many days or even months later on. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

What is more, if we want to be rid of dowry system and female foeticide, then it is very essential that we keep these celebrations simple and easy on our pockets so that there is no stress on anyone.

9. Describe a garden you visited regularly during your young age

- Where it was located
 - How did it look like
 - What kind of visitors came there www.makkarielts.com
-
- There are many gardens, which I used to visit regularly in my childhood.
 - There are many gardens in my hometown, which are maintained by the local authorities, such as municipal corporation and PUDA (Punjab Urban Development Authority)
 - Here I would like to talk about the Rose Garden in Chandigarh, which I used to visit regularly in my childhood and even visit now, whenever I get a chance.
 - Actually, my paternal uncle and aunt live in Chandigarh, and I usually spent my summer vacations with them.
 - I used to go to the Rose Garden with my cousins.
 - This garden is named after our former president Dr Zakir Hussain.
 - It is spread over 30 acres of land.
 - It is Asia's largest garden. www.makkarielts.com
 - It has more than 50,000 rose plants of about 1600 species.
 - Apart from roses it has many plants and trees of medicinal value.
 - Some of the medicinal plants are bel, harar, camphor and yellow gulmohar.
 - Every year a rose festival is held there.
 - The Rose Garden of Chandigarh is a major tourist attraction.
 - The locals can go there daily, but it is frequented by people from all over the world daily.
 - All the plants are laid in carved out lawns and flower beds.
 - The landscaping is superb.

I remember my cousins and I used to go for long walks almost every other day, when I used to go for my vacations.

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Follow ups

1. Do you visit this garden now?

Now my cousins have gone abroad for their higher studies, so I don't visit my aunt and uncle often. Even if I go, I don't go to the Rose Garden, because I have no company.

2. What sorts of natural sites like mountain and lakes are there in your country?

India is rich in natural beauty. There are many lakes, mountains, rivers and seas in India. www.makkariELTS.com

3. Do people prefer more these places now than in the past?

People have always loved all these places. Many tourist places are there around these natural settings.

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10. Talk about a clever decision made by someone to solve a problem

- Who took the decision
 - What was the problem
 - What he or she did
 - Why was it a clever decision
-
- There are many situations in life when we face problems and feel helpless.
 - Some people just give up, whereas others try to solve those problems with whatever they have at hand.
 - My brother, Vinay, is one such person, who comes up with clever ideas to solve things.
 - I remember one such situation when with his clever idea, he saved us all from a very embarrassing situation
 - It was my cousin Sonia's wedding and she was wearing a net lehanga with a very big flare. www.makkarielts.com
 - After she came home from the beauty parlour, and we were all going to the wedding palace, her sandal got stuck with her lehanga and the hem came off from the bottom.
 - We were already getting late.
 - There was no time to take it off and hem it and then wear it again.
 - Sonia was on the verge of tears.
 - Then my brother thought of a clever idea.
 - He ran inside and brought out his stapler and stapled the dress from below very neatly.
 - It didn't show at all and we all heaved a sigh of relief.
 - The whole marriage function passed very well.
 - When we told our other relatives about the whole incident, they were very amazed at my brother's presence of mind.
 - So, this was the clever solution taken by my brother Vinay.

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Follow-ups

1. How to become a smart person?

One can become smart by hard work and determination. Some people are born smart. They have some inborn talent. In some reality shows, we can see 3-5 year olds sing, dance or do comedy in a way that is unimaginable. But some people achieve great heights by sheer hard work. www.makkariELTS.com

2. What can schools do for students' intellectual development?

Schools can do a lot. They can recognise the talented students and can give them training to excel in that field. They can organise quiz competitions and make children participate. They can have extra-curricular activities to search for good talent. www.makkariELTS.com

3. What suggestions will you give schools to develop their potential?

(Same as answer 2, but use the word 'should' instead of 'can'

4. What do you think is more important – Nature or Nurture?

Both are equally important. Nature means what we get from our parents through our genes. If two identical twins are separated right from birth and brought up in different places, they still have common traits. This means nature has a role. Similarly, nurture also has a role. Nurture means the bringing up, the environment etc. It can also shape people in such a way that they may turn up to be the exact opposite of what was expected of them. For example, if two identical twins were separated at birth and brought apart in different places, they could turn out to be the exact opposite of each other.

I believe that both nature and nurture are inextricably linked. Both have important but different effect. www.makkariELTS.com

5. Do you think smart students are happy?

Well, happiness is a state of mind. Smart students are not necessarily happy. They are smart enough to see the dark side of things, which may take away some of their happiness.

6. Why do you think some people are really good at something?

Some people are born talented. They have those genes in them. They may also reach those heights by sheer hard work and determination.

11. Recently bought gift for someone which made you happy

- What did you buy
 - Whom did you buy it for
 - Where did you buy it from
 - How did you feel after buying it www.makkariELTS.com
-
- I have given and received many gifts in my life
 - Here I am going to talk about a gift, which I bought for my best friend on his eighteenth birthday.
 - It was a mobile phone.
 - He had always wanted a mobile phone.
 - But his parents would not buy him one
 - I saved all my pocket money for five to six months to buy this mobile
 - It cost me Rs 6000
 - I bought it from a local store in my hometown.
 - It is a Lenovo A6600 model
 - It is black in colour www.makkariELTS.com
 - It is rectangular with a display of 5 inches.
 - It has 16GB storage
 - It is less than 150 gm in weight
 - It is a smart phone, and he can check his emails on it and also surf the net
 - It has dual sim option, and 4G connectivity.
 - It has many other features like watch, calculator, FM radio, alarm, timer and a memory card to store phone numbers
 - It has 2 cameras, the primary one is 8 mp, and the secondary one is 2 megapixel.
 - I saw an ad of this phone six months before his birthday and immediately started saving money to buy it. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet
 - I get Rs 1000 per month as pocket money.
 - I am very fond of chocolates and candies, but I did not waste money on these things
 - I remember I did not eat a single chocolate those six months.
 - I was overjoyed to see the happy look on my friend's face when I gave him the mobile phone. www.makkariELTS.com
 - I honestly feel that there is more pleasure in giving than receiving.

Follow ups

1. Do you think shopping is an important part of life?

Yes, shopping is an important part of life. Everybody needs things, and they have to buy them from the shops/market. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

2. Do men and women have the same attitudes towards shopping?

Although, gender differences are disappearing, but in some ways there are some differences. Women generally shop for household items and clothes, and men go for electronic gadgets.

3. Why do you think some people are "crazy about" shopping?

Some people are crazy about shopping because they are shopaholics. They are lured by the things available in the markets and cannot resist buying them.

4. Why do you think online shopping has become so popular?

Online shopping has become popular primarily due to two reasons. Firstly, It's very convenient for people to buy anything online by just clicking on a button. They don't have to spend time on going to shops or in finding car parking. Secondly, ecommerce companies offer a lot of discounts online, hence making the products cheaper than their retail prices.

5. Do you think credit cards are a good thing?

In many ways credit cards are good, but there are some disadvantages also.

Advantages www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

- Firstly, you can use them practically everywhere, even overseas.
- They can also boost your purchasing power because they can be used to buy goods and services over the phone, through the mail and online.
- They provide financial backup in the event of an emergency, such as an unexpected healthcare cost, job loss or auto repair. For instance, if a person is on a holiday and has a medical emergency, he will have no problem in paying the hospital bills.
- Credit cards allow you to purchase items and pay them off in monthly installments.
- They also offer discounts and rewards at stores. For instance, when you make purchases using the credit card you can collect points, which accumulate and can be used to get free items, such as airline tickets. Some cards may offer cash back as an incentive to use the card.
- They can help build your credit history. A person with a good credit history does not face problems when applying for a loan for any reason.
- Credit cards also keep a record of your expenses, helping you to monitor your financial activities.

Disadvantages www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

- The most dangerous part of credit cards is not paying them off on time, and once you fall behind by one payment late fees, interest, and penalties build very fast because of which many people find themselves sunk in credit card debt with no way out.
- Another big disadvantage is the hidden costs. There is the start-up fees and processing fees and also the annual fees, which is quite an amount.

6. How is shopping today different to several decades ago?

Shopping today is very different to several decades ago.

7. Which is more popular in your country, shopping in shopping malls or shopping online?

Both are equally popular. Online shopping is gaining a lot of popularity. Malls also lure customers by attractive discounts.

8. In what ways do you think "globalization" is changing shopping (in your country)?

Because of globalization, online shopping has become very popular. Even in malls all foreign brands are available. So globalization has in a way revolutionized shopping. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

9. What changes do you think we will see in the future concerning shopping?

I think online shopping will become even more popular in the future.

10. Which do you think better, buying things online or buying things in real shops?

I think it's really hard to decide which one is better because both of them offer their unique advantages. For example, online shopping provides you the comfort of ordering anything from anywhere in the world with just a click of a button, whereas retail shopping provides you a great experience and the ability to feel the product before making a buying decision.

11. How do people pay for things they buy online?

People normally pay through their Credit Cards or use Online Banking for making purchases. But now days ecommerce companies have also started providing the option of Cash on Delivery, i.e. people can pay when they receive the product

12. Describe an important invention, which has changed our life

- What is it
 - What it does
 - Why it is popular in all ages
 - How people feel about it www.facebook.com/makkarIELTS
-
- The contemporary era is an era of technology.
 - Almost all inventions have changed our lives in some way or the other.
 - Here, I would like to talk about an invention, which has transformed our lives, and today we cannot think of a life without it.
 - I am talking about the smart phone of today.
 - It is like a mini computer, which fits into our pocket.
 - The smart phone can do a lot of things.
 - First, it helps us stay connected with our near and dear ones.
 - We can call anyone, anytime and from anywhere.
 - We can do audio and video chat from our phone.
 - We just have to buy a data plan, which has also become very affordable.
 - Today's phones are also equipped with cameras.
 - We can catch anything on our phone, anytime because usually the phone is with us.
 - We can shop online, pay bills online and even book movie tickets through our phone.
 - There are many apps on the phone, such as Hotstar, through which we can watch TV on the go.
 - You can get the latest news updates through the news channel apps.
 - You can play games, promote business, surf various sites and do so much more.
 - Today, life is unthinkable without the smart phone.
 - It is popular in all ages because it has become very easy to use.
 - These gadgets are especially made to simplify the lives of the elderly.
 - They can call an ambulance, if need arises and also contact their children in case of emergencies.
 - They can video chat with their grand children through the cell phone.
 - We can also get weather forecast through phone.
 - We can set up CCTV cameras in our homes and check from anywhere.
 - Students can make their assignments through these phones.
 - The Google maps app, has made it almost impossible for people to get lost.
 - So, this is the invention which has changed our life altogether.

Follow ups

1. What do you think is the most important equipment in schools?

I think computer is the most important equipment in schools. Children can use it in the computer labs and libraries of schools. Teachers can teach with the help of computers. They can teach through power point presentations.

2. Which invention do you think is the most useful at home?

Television is the most useful invention at home. It is used by all generations in the homes, by which I mean children, parents and grandparents.

3. Do you think there will be no teachers to teach students in the future?

Teachers will always be there. No amount of technology can ever completely replace teachers. A computer can tell you whether you are wrong or right, but only a teacher can tell you where you went wrong. Teachers keep the students focused on study. Today teachers have raised their level of teaching by using the Internet to keep themselves updated with the latest academic knowledge. They then devise their own innovative methods to teach in even better ways.

4. Do you think these inventions make people lazy?

To some extent, yes. Everything is done by machines. All this makes us go towards a sedentary lifestyle. For example, washing machines and dishwashers ease the life of homemakers, whereas online bill payments and net banking facilities make everyone's life easy. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

5. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of these inventions at home?

These technologies have eased the lives of people at home. People can save both time and effort because of technology. On the negative side, technology also makes us lazy. It has impacted face to face communication.

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13. Describe a time when you had to move for work or study

- When was it
 - Where did you move
 - Why did you move
 - How you felt after moving
-
- I've never yet had to move for work or study
 - So, here I would like to talk about a time when we moved into a new house.
 - We used to live in our ancestral home built by my grandfather but that house was very old and needed repair from time to time.
 - That area also was very congested and we found great difficulty in parking our car.
 - So, two years ago my father decided to build a new house in the suburbs of Phagwara, my home town.
 - The construction of the house was completed a year ago and we moved into the house immediately after its completion.
 - It was a dream house for me and my siblings even before it was built.
 - Before moving in we had a traditional ceremony in which we invited all our friends and relatives.
 - I still remember the eagerness and pride with which I showed the house to all of my friends. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
 - My father had spared no expense in its construction.
 - It is a 3 storey house with 7 bedrooms, 2 kitchens and 8 bathrooms.
 - There is also a big kitchen garden in the back.
 - My brother and I had to share a room in our previous house but here we each got our own individual room.
 - My room is on the 2nd floor.
 - The neighbourhood is also very calm and quiet.
 - Our neighbours are also very friendly and nice.
 - I remember when we moved here, they invited us over for dinner and then we became good friends. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
 - I do miss my old house at times but this house is very well built with all the modern facilities and so I love this house.

Follow ups

1. Is it good to live in the same house all life?

It is a matter of personal liking. I think it would be more fun to change houses at least once or twice in life. It would bring some change into an otherwise monotonous situation.

2. What are the difficulties people face when they move to a new house?

People face many difficulties. These are actually challenges. There are new neighbours and new things to know about every area. It has to be seen whether the people around are friendly or not. Facilities, such as medical care and schooling have also to be looked into.

3. Is it easy to change jobs? www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

No, it is not easy. One has to be very careful and apply in time. Then the person may have to face interviews and other such tests.

4. What difficulties people face when they change jobs?

Any new job has its own challenges. There is a new work atmosphere. Every company has its own set of work ethics. Adjusting with new colleagues and employers is also challenging at times.

5. Is it difficult for adults or children to adapt to new environment?

I think children adapt easily. They are not judgmental. They welcome and adapt to any change better and sooner.

6. Does changing jobs have influence on parent children relationship?

Well, sometimes when parents are adjusting with the new job, the stress they face there may affect the parent child relationship. Parents should take care that their work life does not imbalance their family life.

To find out which writing Task came in the exam, please visit our facebook page www.facebook.com/makkarielts after the exam.

14. Describe a piece of clothing that was given by someone (Favourite piece of clothing)

- When you received the clothes
 - What was the piece of clothes like
 - Who gave it to you
 - Explain how you feel about it www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
-
- In our life we all give and receive gifts from time to time.
 - I have also received many gifts in my life, some of which were items of clothing.
 - Here I would like to talk about a traditional suit, which my maternal gave me as a gift on my birthday.
 - It is a bottle green suit with magenta and golden embroidery
 - It also has a multi-coloured stole to go with it which had a golden lace on all sides
 - It is studded with golden beads
 - It has a very traditional ethnic touch to it
 - It is a very beautiful suit
 - The stole is in crinkled silk
 - She gave me matching accessories also
 - She gave me a golden beaded purse to go with it.
 - Whenever I wear the suit, I wear my traditional Punjabi shoes, which match perfectly with the suit.
 - When I wear that suit everyone compliments me
 - I feel very good when I receive those compliments.
 - Actually, my aunt runs her hobby classes of cooking in Chandigarh.
 - I stayed with her during my vacations and helped her.
 - She could accommodate more number of students because of my help.
 - She offered me money, but I refused because I had not helped her for money.
 - So she bought this expensive suit for me on my birthday.
 - I really like the suit and have worn it on many occasions.

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Follow ups

1. What kinds of clothes do people wear after work?

People wear comfortable and casual clothes after work, because usually at work, people have to wear uniforms or formal clothes. Once people come back home, they like to relax and want to be more comfortable.

2. What kind of clothes should people wear at work?

At work people should wear proper and formal clothes. At some workplaces, uniforms are needed, which gives them an identity and develops a sense of discipline. It also depends on the type of work people do. If someone is working as a gym instructor, he or she cannot wear formal clothes to work. They have to wear sports wear. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

3. Do you think students need to wear school uniforms?

Yes, I think students need to wear school uniforms, as they act as a social leveler/equalizer. Uniforms give an identity to the students and also inculcate a sense of discipline among students. Uniforms are also good for the school's security, as if any miscreants enter the school, they can be easily spotted.

4. Where do Indian people buy clothes?

Indian people buy clothes from shops and stores in the local markets and in shopping malls. There are many small-scale stores and boutiques that are run from home, from where people shop for clothes. Also, online shopping is very popular in India. There are many popular shopping websites, like Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal and so on, from where people buy clothes.

15. Rule in school

- What is the rule
 - Do you agree with that
 - What would happen if students break the rule
-
- Rules and laws are made to create a peaceful and harmonious society.
 - If we all obey the rules and laws then we would all be benefited.
 - There are rules everywhere.
 - Schools are the first place where children learn about the rules and codes of conduct.
 - Every school has rules, like wearing the prescribed uniform, coming in time, doing homework regularly and so on.
 - My school also had rules.
 - We had two uniforms.
 - It was navy blue skirt and white shirt on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
 - However, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, we had a totally white uniform.
 - All students and I agreed with this rule.
 - Uniform creates an atmosphere of discipline.
 - Everybody feels connected because of the uniform.
 - If students broke this rule, and didn't come in uniform, they were punished.
 - Our principal used to make such students stand outside on one leg for half an hour.
 - Sometimes there was a fine of Rs 100/- also.
 - Even if a tie, belt or badge was missing we had to pay the fine.
 - So, this was the rule in school, we all had to follow.

A rule in school you disliked (I am not sure if the cue card is in this way)

- Rules and regulations are important part of life.
- They instill discipline in our lives.
- There were many rules in my school also.
- We had to wear uniform and identity card to school.
- We had to be in time and if we were late we had to stand on the bench for one hour as a punishment.
- I liked most of these rules, but there was one rule in my school which I disliked.
- That rule was that every student had to speak the news in the morning assembly turn wise.
- Every day 5 students spoke the daily news for 2 minutes each.
- It was compulsory and I remember very well how I used to be afraid of going up on the stage when my turn came.

- One of my friends was a very good orator and he used to give me the courage every time I had to speak.
- I used to have a sigh of relief when my turn was over.
- Today, when I look back, I realise how important it was for us to speak like that in front of so many people.
- Now I have no Glossophobia (stage shyness) and I have developed good communication skills.
- Because of this rule our school won many trophies in declamations and debate competitions.
- I also took part in a debate competition and won the consolation prize when I was in 10th. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
- So, this was the rule which I did not like in school time.

m a k k a r I E L T S

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16. A successful businessman

- Who is he
 - How do you know him
 - Why do you admire him www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
-
- There are many successful businessmen in my country, such as Anil Ambani, Mukesh Ambani, Rattan Tata, Vijay Malya and so on
 - But here I would like to talk about Mukesh Ambani.
 - He is in his late fifties and looks very handsome.
 - He has a degree in Chemical Engineering
 - He joined his father in Reliance Industries in 1981, at the age of 24.
 - He has a great vision and ever since he joined his company, he took it to new heights.
 - He set up India's first private oil refinery at Jamnagar Gujarat.
 - This refinery can produce 33 million tonnes of oil per year.
 - He made it possible for India to compete at the global level.
 - He also owns the domestic cricket club of IPL known as the Mumbai Indians
 - In 2012, he was ranked the richest man in India and the second richest in Asia.
 - He is the 19th richest man in the world
 - He has a net worth of 21 billion dollars.
 - He lives in Mumbai. m a k k a r I E L T S
 - His house has 27 storeys and is worth 1 billion dollars.
 - He lives there with his wife, Nita Ambani, three children and a staff of 600 people.
 - He believes that businesses should constantly innovate otherwise they will stagnate and wither away.
 - He believes that the main purpose of businesses is to create jobs and wealth.
 - And, he has successfully done so by his various industries.
 - His achievements have made him known not only in India but across the globe.
 - In 2013, he was conferred 'Entrepreneur of the Decade' by All India Management Association.
 - So, I think Mukesh Ambani is a very successful businessman of India mainly because of the way he managed his assets in the petroleum industry.

17. Describe a situation when someone gave positive comments about the work you did for them

- What did you do
 - When did you do
 - What comments did they give
- There are many situations we come across in life when we help others or take help from others.
 - I would like to talk about one such situation, when I helped others and received appreciation for it. m a k k a r I E L T S
 - It was when my neighbour's daughter needed help with her computer exam.
 - She knows that I have good knowledge about computers and programming.
 - She needed help with the basics of using computers.
 - I agreed to give her lessons for one hour every day till her exams
 - I taught her the theory and helped with the practical aspect too.
 - She scored really well in her computer exam
 - She and her family thanked me for helping her.
 - They invited my family and me over for dinner at their house.
 - They praised me a lot in front of my parents.
 - My parents were very proud of me.
 - I felt an immense sense of satisfaction that day as I was able to help someone achieve their goals. m a k k a r I E L T S
 - That day I realised that giving help gives more satisfaction than receiving help.
 - We have developed even stronger bonds with our neighbours after this incident.
 - We had to go out of station for few days. Our neighbours took care of our pet Bruno.

(Another idea)

- There are many situations we come across in life when we help others or take help from others.
- I would like to talk about one such situation, when I helped others and received appreciation for it.
- It so happened that I was going to Ludhiana last month to attend a wedding.
- On the way there is a petrol pump.
- We saw that a lady was lying on the side and there was a lot of blood from her head.
- This accident had just happened 2 minutes before.
- She and her husband were on a scooter and as they were coming out of the petrol pump a speeding car hit them and sped away. m a k k a r I E L T S
- We parked our car on the side and came out to see if we could help.
- Her husband had minor injuries but she was in a bad shape.
- We immediately called 108 for help.

- It is the number of the free ambulance run by the government.
- Within fifteen minutes the ambulance was there.
- We did not move the lady because it could aggravate her injury.
- She was breathing properly but had a lot of pain.
- There was a first aid team headed by a doctor in the ambulance.
- The ambulance people picked her very carefully on a stretcher and immediately rushed her to Phillaur Civil Hospital.
- We took the number of other relatives of the patient from her husband and called them.
- Actually he was also very shocked because of his wife's condition.
- We took him to the Phillaur hospital in our car.
- Only after they were settled, we moved on.
- A few days later the person called to thank us and praised us a lot.
- He said that because of our timely help his wife was doing fine now.

Follow-ups m a k k a r I E L T S

1. Do you like helping others?

Yes, I like helping others. I feel very happy when I can be of any help to anyone. Whenever any person comes to me for help, I do my best to help that person

2. In your view should children be taught to help others?

Yes, children student should be taught to help others. They should be made to realize that if today they will help others, then tomorrow they will get help if they need help.

3. How can we encourage children to help others?

We can encourage children to help others by setting an example. If they see their elders helping others they will automatically learn to help others.

4. Do you think people are less willing to help others these days compared to the past?

Yes, I think so. Today's life is very fast. People have become workaholics. They have become self centered. They have no time to help others.

5. Do people trust others as much as they used to in the past?

No, I do not think so. My parents and grandparents tell me that life was simpler and slower in the past. People trusted each other. Today, it is very difficult to find people whom you can trust.

6. How do people in your community help one another?

People in my community help each other in whatever way they can. Some people help by giving money and some people help by giving their time.

7. How do students such as high school students help each other?

Students help each other by sharing notes. Some help each other by sharing their conveyance.

8. How can charitable organizations help people?

Charitable organizations help people in many ways. They help by giving money or by teaching people some skills which can help them to earn a livelihood. For example, they open free sewing schools and free computer education centres.

9. What are some examples of such organizations in your country?

Being humane is one organization run by Salman Khan. Then there are the Jaycees, The Lions and the Rotary club.

10. What do you think are the benefits of having unpaid volunteer workers?

There are many benefits of having unpaid volunteer workers. Even with very little amount of funding a lot of people can be helped.

11. How do you think the volunteers themselves benefit?

Volunteers themselves benefit in many ways. If today they help for free, then tomorrow they can get a paid job from the same network. They also will get an opportunity to sharpen their practical skills.

12. Should professionals be hired rather than using volunteer workers?

It depends on the work. For example, if free eye surgeries have to be done then it is better to hire professionals. Otherwise voluntary workers can serve the purpose. www.facebook.com/makkarielts

13. Do you think international aid, for example from my national government to another is important?

Yes, I think it is very important. It develops good relations between countries. But I think instead of giving direct financial aid, the wealthy countries should aim to provide jobs and other facilities to the poor countries.

14. Can you give examples of international aid?

Pulse Polio is an example of international aid by the Rotary international club to eradicate polio from all over the world.

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18. Describe a plant/flower in your country

- Where is it grown
 - Why is it important
 - What do you like/dislike about it
-
- There are many plants all around us.
 - Here I would like to talk about a plant, the fruit of which we eat everyday as a vegetable.
 - I am talking about the tomato plant, which is found in all regions of India and the world.
 - There are many species of tomato plant.
 - I came to know all about the tomato plant accidentally as I was watch discovery channel about two months ago.
 - Biologically tomato is a fruit but for culinary purposes it is a vegetable
 - We use tomato in almost all Punjabi dishes to sauté the dish
 - We also eat tomato as a salad
 - I love tomatoes in salad and like it sprinkled with salt and black pepper
 - There are many varieties of the tomato.
 - I have even grown tomato in my kitchen garden.
 - Few people know that leaves and stem of tomato are toxic
 - They contain a substance tomatine, which is toxic and can even cause death if taken in large quantities. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
 - Even the raw or green tomato has a small bit of toxicity
 - The ripe tomato has a lot of advantages, it contains lycopene which is an antioxidant, which helps prevent cancer
 - Tomato is also a rich source of Potassium and Vitamins.
 - It should be eaten but we should avoid consuming leaves and stems.
 - Tomato is known to be toxic to dogs.
 - So tomato is a plant, which is eaten as a vegetable but is a fruit.

Follow-ups

1. What kinds of vegetables are common in the kitchen gardens of your country?
Many vegetables are common in kitchen gardens, such as okra, aubergine, tomato, coriander, mint, fenugreek.
2. Do people like to plant vegetables in your country?
Yes, people like to plant vegetables. In my neighbourhood only, almost everyone has maintained a kitchen garden, and we all feel pride in growing our veges without any insecticides and pesticides.
3. How do people feel when they eat the vegetables grown on their own?
People feel very good when they eat vegetables grown on their own. It gives a feeling of fulfillment. At least we are not eating vegetables on which insecticides and pesticides have been sprayed.
4. Will people grow more or less vegetables in the future?
I think more and more people would grow vegetables of their own. Urban agriculture will become popular in the future.
5. Compared to working in the office, farm work is tiring. What do you think? Do people enjoy doing farm work? www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
People do not enjoy farm work. It is very tiring and on top of that it is very much dependent on weather. Unseasonal rainfall or delayed monsoons may damage the whole produce. That is why the youngsters are not going into agriculture. They like to do white collar jobs sitting in air conditioned offices.

19. Describe a kind of foreign food you have had

You should say:

- When you had it
- Where you ate it
- What it was
- And how you felt about it

(Please check the pronunciation of pizza – peetza - Wrong pronunciation would be a markdown)

- Normally I eat traditional Punjabi food, but I love Chinese noodles and Italian pizza.
- I have had Chinese food many times and also the pizza.
- Here I would like to talk about a time when I ate the pizza for the first time.
- I vividly remember I was in tenth class, and during my summer vacation I went to stay with my cousin in Chandigarh.
- It was his birthday, and he threw a pizza party for his friends.
- His mother, that is my aunt is an excellent cook.
- I was awed by her culinary skills.
- He had invited six friends. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
- First we went to the market and bought 20 Pizza base, Pizza cheese, Pizza sauce, capsicums, onions, carrots, mushrooms and mayonnaise.
- We also bought seasonings, such as chili flakes, basil, oregano and so on.
- That day I enjoyed learning how to make the pizza. I helped in chopping the vegetables and grating the Pizza cheese.
- Then we went to get ready, and by the time we got back, my aunt had started making the pizzas in the oven. m a k k a r I E L T S
- His friends started pouring in, and we all started eating the pizzas.
- The pizza base was very crisp and yet the pizza was melting in my mouth.
- Honestly, when my cousin bought 20 pizza base, I thought he was mad. Who would eat so many pizzas?
- I thought we would have to eat the leftover pizzas in the morning.
- But when I took the first bite, I realized how wrong I was.
- In no time, all the pizzas were finished.
- Now, the Domino's pizza outlet has opened in my hometown and I have tried their pizzas a couple of times, but no one can beat my aunt's pizzas.

Follow Up Questions

1. Do you like to try new food?

Yes, I like to try new food, because by trying new foods I come to know about different cuisines. When I eat Chinese food, it makes me want to know about their culture. I am a food lover and I enjoy different dishes.

2. What kinds of foreign foods are popular in your country?

Chinese food like the Manchurian, cheese chilly, chop suey is very popular. Italian pizza is also very popular. Mexican burrito wraps are very similar to Indian chapatis.

3. Do you like to cook at home? www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

Yes, I like to cook at home. I like trying new dishes everyday. I have learnt a lot of Indian cooking from my mother. She has excellent culinary skills.

4. Is it expensive to eat out in your country?

It depends on where you go out to eat. If it is a roadside dhaba, it can be afforded by most, but expensive restaurants are also there, where one cannot afford to eat very often. m a k k a r I E L T S

5. What's the difference between Indian food and western food?

Indian food is spicier than western food. It is cooked in oil or ghee, which makes it heavier calorie wise. It is more diverse. North Indian cuisine is poles apart from South Indian. Western food does not have so much diversity.

20. A book you would like to read again

- Describe a book you recently read that you would like to read again
 - What book it was
 - What the book was about
 - Why you read it
 - What you learned from this book
 - And explain why you would like to read it again
-
- I have read many books (OR I haven't read many books) but here I would like to talk about the "Wings of Fire" by Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
 - That is a very good book.
 - My friend got this book as a prize when she participated in a declamation contest
 - It is Dr.Kalam's autobiography.
 - It was first published in 1999.
 - This book became popular only after Dr. Kalam became the President of India.
 - He was sworn in as the president of India on 25th July 2002.
 - Mr Arun Tiwari helped Dr Kalam in writing the book.
 - In this book Dr. Kalam says why he wrote his autobiography.
 - This book is very motivating.
 - From this book I came to know all about the life and achievements of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
 - Dr Kalam was born in a very poor family in the southern parts of India at Rameshwaram.
 - The reason why I admire him is that his life shows how an ordinary boy from a deprived class (poor family) could reach the highest level of the nation.
 - He became not only the best rocket engineer but also the first citizen of the nation. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
 - It is true that he described his post as the President as a piece of luck, but his achievement as a rocket engineer was because of sheer hard work.
 - He is a role model for one and all.
 - The success of Dr Kalam depended on the fact that he was willing to grow daily.
 - He learned everything that came to him and was always looking for things to learn. m a k k a r I E L T S
 - The real success of Dr. Kalam is in his application of the discipline, what he learned, in other fields also.
 - That is why he could contribute to the making of the artificial limbs of lesser weight.
 - In him we find a person with insatiable quest for knowledge & great love for suffering fellow beings.
 - Unfortunately, we don't have Dr Kalam with us today, but he will live in the hearts of all Indians.
 - I would like to read this book again, because it is a very motivating book.

Follow Ups

1. Do people in your country like to read books?

Yes, people of my country like to read books. There are bookshops in most towns and cities, which are all doing good business.

2. What kinds of books are most popular in your country?

All types of books are very popular. India is a diverse country. People have diverse tastes in everything, including reading.

3. Do you think reading is important?

Yes, reading is very important. It develops imagination and also develops language skills.

4. Do you think electronic books will eventually replace paper books?

Not completely, but to a large extent yes. E-books have a lot of advantages

Benefits of e-books over traditional books

Easy to carry while traveling – eBooks allow you to bring a whole library with you wherever you go. You can switch between titles with ease and the weight is lighter than a standard paperback.

Need less storage space - Those who own a lot of books know how much space they can take up, but with a reader, your bookshelf is located on a small handheld device, your computer or on both.

Less costly - eBooks are often cheaper in the long run because there are no printing fees associated with them. In fact, you can often find free eBooks online, whereas physical books almost always cost you something. However, you have to spend one time on a reader, such as a kindle or any other tablet.

Immediate purchase - When you buy an eBook, your reward is instantaneous. Whereas if you order a book online you have to wait for it to arrive before the fun begins.

You can do font adjustments. With an eBook, you can instantly change the darkness of the lettering or the size of your font.

You can do night reading. If you read in bed, an eBook may be a good option as many readers come with built-in reading lights.

5. Some people like to collect books. Why do you think they do this?

They do so because they love books. They treat books as collectibles, and are proud of their collection.

6. Is compulsory reading (in school) a good idea?

Yes, definitely. In order for students to achieve in math, science, English, history, geography, and other subjects, reading skills must be developed to the point that

most of them are automatic. Students cannot struggle with word recognition when they should be reading quickly for comprehension of a text. But the ability to read and write develops with careful planning and instruction. Children need regular and active interactions with print.

Reading is a Good Workout

Just like muscles, the brain benefits from a good workout. And reading is more demanding than watching TV or listening to the radio.

Reading Builds Vocabulary

While reading books, especially challenging ones, you will find yourself exposed to many new words you wouldn't be otherwise.

Reading Helps Self Esteem

Another one of the key reading benefits is that the more you read, the more knowledgeable you become. With more knowledge comes more confidence.

More confidence builds self-esteem. So it's a chain reaction.

Reading Improves Creativity

Reading exposes you to new ideas and more information helps to develop the creative side of the brain.

7. What books do children read and what do adults read?

Children read fantasy, fiction and books on supernatural characters like Barbie, Superman and Shaktiman. Adults read biographies, fiction and religious and spiritual books. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

8. Why men and women prefer different books?

This is because they have different tastes.

9. Why some books become internationally popular?

This is perhaps because these receive a lot of publicity.

10. What type of books children read nowadays? What type of books did children like reading in the past and what do you think they will read in the future?

Nowadays, generally speaking, the reading habit of the children is on the decline. Whatever books they read are based on fantasy, fiction and supernatural characters like Barbie, superman and Shaktiman.

50 years ago – Children read a lot. They read moral and spiritual books. They read animal stories.

After 50 years – I do not think they will do any reading. All the time will be spent in front of computers.

11. Do you think children have lost their interest in stories?

No, I don't think that children have lost their interest in stories. However, the stories they read today are very different from those in the past.

12. Can storybooks be an ideal gift for children?

Yes, definitely! Storybooks can be an ideal gift for children. They can help the child imagine the characters in the mind, which is the first step to creativity. Another important benefit is that we can impart the knowledge of culture, tradition, moral values and religion in the mind of the child. This forms the basis of the child's personality. Finally, storybooks enhance the curiosity of the child and enhance their mental growth.

13. What can be done to encourage the habit of reading among children?

A lot can be done to encourage the habit of reading among children. The first and foremost step would be to make books available. There should be good libraries in the schools as well as in neighbourhoods. Story telling competitions could be organised. If children have to take part in these competitions, then naturally, they would be encouraged to read books. Finally, books could be made more interesting by adding graphics.

14. How does reading help a child?

Reading helps to improve concentration. It also helps to improve general knowledge. It also improves the language skills and satisfies the curiosity of children on various things.

15. What sort of books can be suggested to children to read?

Children should be encouraged to read religious and historical books. They should also read biographies and autobiographies of famous people so that they get motivation from them. They should also be encouraged to read books on science and technology. However, these books should be made very interesting by adding pictures.

16. How much should a child read every day?

A child should read half to one hour daily. I think that would be enough considering that they have to go to school and do their homework as well.

17. What is the difference between the books sold in the past and the books sold nowadays?

In the past, books related to culture, tradition, religion and history were sold. Nowadays, books are mostly based on fiction and fantasy. E-books have become very popular nowadays as compared to the printed books.

21. Describe a time you went to a crowded place

- When you went there
 - Where this place was
 - What you did there
 - How you felt about the crowded place
-
- I've been to many crowded places, such as shopping malls, bus stands, railway stations, restaurants and gurdwaras.
 - But, here I would like to talk about a place, which was very crowded.
 - It so happened, two months ago a famous Punjabi actor and singer Diljit Dosanjh came to my hometown.
 - Actually, he belongs to my neighbouring village Dosanjh Kalan.
 - He came for the promotion of his latest music album.
 - Diljit Dosanjh started his career in Punjabi films, but now he has made a place for himself in Bollywood also.
 - So, the people of my hometown and all neighbouring areas bought tickets for the concert in great numbers.
 - The concert was held in Club Cabana.
 - My cousin also bought 4 tickets for the show.
 - We were all very excited about the show.
 - We had expected a lot of rush, but what we saw there was unimaginable.
 - We had to park our car about half km away, and walk to the venue.
 - There was a gathering of more than 5000 people
 - There was a lot of security to ensure the safety of people.
 - There were projectors at various places for the people at the back to get a clear view. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
 - There was a lot of crowd, but everyone was very excited.
 - Normally, I don't like crowds, but I enjoyed the hustle and bustle on that day.
 - Diljit Dosanjh sang many songs and entertained people.
 - People were shouting and singing and clapping.
 - I had never attended a live concert like this before.
 - It was an electrifying experience.
 - He sang my favourite song – A girl, whose name is love, is lost.
 - This song has been written by a famous Punjabi poet Shiv Kumar Batalvi.
 - I can never forget that day.
 - Despite the crowd, we had a great time.

Follow ups

1. Do you like large places?

Yes, I like large places. They are very open and airy. Even if there are many people, it doesn't seem very crowded.

2. What event will attract many people in India?

Events in which some celebrity is there, or some politician, or some spiritual leader attract many people. Events to celebrate special days and festivals and special days also attract many people. www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

3. What places will attract many people in India?

Places of tourist interest will attract many people. For example, people visit Taj Mahal in Agra, Mysore palace, and many other such places. Fortunately, India has a rich historical background and there is no dearth of such places.

People are also attracted to places of natural beauty like waterfalls, beaches and hill stations. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

People also like to visit museums and art galleries.

People also visit shopping malls for entertainment and some window shopping.

4. What do you think is the most important thing of an event?

The most important thing of an event is the proper management. If everything is not managed properly it may result in chaos. www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

5. What problem is better to be solved by group work?

Group work can solve many things. A single person cannot manage everything on his own. Big events need joint efforts of many members of a group.

6. Do people like crowded places in India?

Yes, people like crowded places in India. Actually people form part of that crowded place. But sometimes, if a place gets too crowded, it may cause problems, such as petty crime etc.

22. Describe a city or town you visited that you liked

- Where is the city
 - When you visited
 - Why you liked it
-
- India is a diverse country.
 - There are a number of states and cities in India.
 - Here I am going to talk about a city I visited and liked.
 - It is Chandigarh.
 - I have visited Chandigarh many times. Our relatives live there.
 - I like everything about Chandigarh. It is a very well planned city
 - It is a union territory and also the capital of two states – Haryana and Punjab
 - It is also called ‘the city beautiful.’
 - It has been named after an ancient temple – Chandi Mandir.
 - There are so many things which make it a unique city.
 - It was designed first and developed later.
 - It was designed by a French architect – Le Corbusier.
 - The residential areas are away from the commercial hubs.
 - There are many places to see in Chandigarh such as Rose Garden, Rock garden, Sukhna Lake, Mini zoo and so on. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
 - I have seen all these places.
 - The Rock Garden is made by Nek Chand.
 - It is made of trash. It is a very big tourist attraction now in Chandigarh.
 - 17th Sector is a shopper’s paradise.
 - This city is active culturally, academically and commercially.
 - The traffic moves very smoothly.
 - The roads and public places are well maintained.
 - Local bus service is also very good.
 - It is a city full of life at all hours of the day and night.
 - Many MNCs have also opened in Chandigarh which are a source of earning for the young people.
 - One day I would like to settle there.

Follow ups

1. Why do you think people prefer to live in cities nowadays?

People prefer to live in cities now a days because compared to small towns and villages everything is easily available in the cities. Governments are also spending huge amount of money in upgrading the cities infrastructure instead of villages.

Secondly all new things like fashion or technology related trends are introduced in cities first.

Lastly the life in cities is more fast paced and happening compared to the life in villages which some people find as boring.

2. How does the geography of a place affect the way cities are built?

Well I believe Geography plays a major role in how the cities are built. For example in India most of the buildings in cities are built using bricks and concrete because we don't have abundance of wood in our country whereas in the United States of America most of the cities have homes made out of wood because there are lot of forests in America.

Secondly if the cities have less space, like in case of New York we can see a lot of skyscrapers being built to utilize the land area.

3. What influence does it bring if a city becomes famous?

It brings tourists to the place. It boosts the economy. It also makes more people to move to that city to live permanently. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

4. What is the difference between living in the city and living in the countryside?

There are many differences between living in a city and life in a village. There are better facilities available in cities. The public transport system, healthcare and educational facilities are better in cities than in villages. In cities, there are better and more job opportunities available. There is more pollution and traffic in the cities than in the villages. Villages are cleaner, greener and more peaceful than cities. The people in villages are well connected to each other; however, people living in cities may not even know their neighbours.

23. Describe a popular place where people like to go swimming.

You should say:

- Where is it
 - What it is like
 - Who likes to go there
 - Why it is a popular place for swimming
-
- Swimming is a very relaxing exercise.
 - There are three swimming pools, which are popular in my hometown.
 - One is in the Latitude Gym
 - Another one is in the City Club and the third one is in The J.C.T.Mill
 - Here I am going to talk about the JCT mill swimming pool, which is the most liked by the people.
 - This is the best swimming pool in my hometown.
 - The pool is free for the employees of the mill and their families but outsiders need a special permission.
 - This pool is situated inside the mill, which is in the heart of the city.
 - It is very beautiful.
 - It is very neat and clean. www.facebook.com/makkarielts
 - The water is filtered every week.
 - That is why most people like to go there instead of other places.
 - I also go there with my friends during the summer vacations.
 - There are 5 trainers who teach swimming.
 - The fee for learning swimming is also very nominal.
 - There are shower rooms for people to change and take bath later on
 - The pool has different depth levels on different sides.
 - Beginners are only allowed the shallow side.
 - The maximum depth of this pool is 16 feet
 - There is also diving facility
 - So, this is the swimming pool, which I like the most.

Follow ups

1. Is it important to swim?

Yes, it is very important to swim. Swimming is a great recreational activity. Apart from being fun it is a great way to keep fit. It is a new impact activity that has many physical and mental health benefits.

2. Should children learn how to swim?

I think that boy children should learn how to swim, and that too as early as possible. Water is all around us, even if it is a bath tub. Children should be comfortable with water. Secondly, swimming is a fun activity. If children were given this opportunity, they would do it readily. This will also keep them physically fit. As it is, childhood obesity is on the rise. Many modern schools have swimming pools in their campuses. Swimming also releases endorphins, which aid in decreasing stress and improving mood.

3. Who can teach swimming well? www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

Swimming can be taught by swimming instructors, who themselves know swimming very well. It is important that the instructor is certified by proper authorities.

4. Why can swimming help people become healthier?

Swimming can help people become healthier as it is a low impact aerobics exercise. Swimming also releases endorphins, which aid in mental health. The joint movement made in water has been seen to prevent and cure arthritis

5. Should a city have a lot of sports facilities?

Yes, a city should have a lot of sports facilities, because it would encourage people to come out and do sports. As it is, lives have become sedentary, and so it has become even more necessary to have such sports facilities as stadiums, swimming pools and other playgrounds.

24. Describe an interesting house or apartment you visited

You should say:

- Where this place is
 - What it is like
 - When you want to live in there
 - and explain why you want to live in such a place
-
- I have visited many houses and apartments, and I liked most of them.
 - But here, I would like to talk about a house, which I find very interesting
 - This is the house of my aunt and uncle, who live in Chandigarh.
 - It is a double storey house with four bedrooms, one kitchen, one hall and one drawing room.
 - I find the house very interesting, because the total energy needed to run the house is obtained from solar panels.
 - They have set up solar panels with a cost of twenty lacks and now all their air conditioners and geysers run on solar panels.
 - They also do not have to worry about power cuts because they are generating their own power from solar panels.
 - Otherwise also that house is very energy efficient.
 - During the daytime there's so much light from the windows that they do not need to turn on the lights
 - The house is so well ventilated that they do not need to switch on the fan also at times. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
 - My uncle was telling us that now they have to pay the electricity bill of one thousand rupees per month, whereas earlier it was about 25,000 a month.
 - The maintenance cost of the solar panels is quite less.
 - They have decorated the house with minimalistic approach, and there is no clutter of unnecessary furniture.
 - The woodwork is also very simple, which looks very good and is evergreen.
 - I would definitely like to live in such a house one day.

Follow Up Questions

1. How is modern home design (both inside and outside appearance) in your country different to that of the past?
Modern home designs are very different from the past. Earlier we had single storey houses, but now we have multiple storey apartments. Earlier, there was more emphasis on the utility of the house, but today the beauty and utility what factors are equally considered. Earlier, local materials were used like wood and stone, but today important and prefabricated materials are used.

2. In your country, what type of home do most people live in?
Most people live in single storey houses, but it is difficult to generalize for the whole of India. In metros such as Bombay, tall buildings have become very common. In the eastern parts of India where there's a lot of rainfall, houses have sloped roofs, but in the plains houses have flat terraces.

3. Do people prefer to live in modern homes or the older-style homes (e.g., from 50 years ago)?
People prefer to live in the modern homes, because these homes are made with today's climate in mind. These can accommodate more number of people in less space, which is needed in today's time.

4. How are modern homes different to older homes?
(Same as 1) www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

5. What do you imagine people's houses will be like in the future?
Houses of the future will be very energy-efficient. The focus will be on making tall buildings so that less space is needed

6. Why do people sometimes move to live in a different home?
Sometimes people have to move to a different home because they get a transfer in their job. Sometimes they have to move because of health reasons.

25. Describe a shop that has opened in your hometown.

- What shop it is
 - What it sells (or, what you usually buy there)
 - when you first started going to this shop (or, how you came to know about this shop)
 - and explain why you like (to go to) this shop.
-
- I belong to Phagwara, and it is a shopper's paradise.
 - It is a rich town as many people are NRIs and spend a lot when they come from abroad during vacations.
 - A shop, which has recently opened is the Vishal store
 - It is on the G.T.Road, just opposite the bus stand of my home town Phagwara.
 - It is a one-stop store for all shopping needs.
 - Everything needed in day to day life is available under one roof.
 - The best thing is that it is easily approachable and has a huge underground parking to accommodate about 200 cars.
 - The whole store is centrally air conditioned and has escalators and lifts for the convenience of the customers.
 - There are four floors.
 - The ground floor has grocery and vegetables and fruits.
 - The first floor has garments and accessories such as purses, wallets, jewellery and socks.
 - The second floor has electronic gadgets and other miscellaneous household items. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS
 - The topmost floor has a food court where we can get pizzas and burgers.
 - I go there very often, in fact once or twice a week.
 - Sometimes I accompany my mother for her grocery shopping and sometimes with my friends to do some window shopping.
 - I buy all my clothes from this shop.
 - It has all the leading brands and also some non-branded clothes at very reasonable rates.
 - The thing that impressed me the most is that this store has a membership card system and offers special discounts for the members.
 - The salesmen are very nice and friendly.
 - They are always ready to help if you can't find anything.
 - So this is the shop, which has impressed me a lot and I find very interesting.

Follow ups

Shopping in General

1. Do you think shopping is an important part of life?

Yes, shopping is an important part of life. Everybody needs things, and they have to buy them from the markets.

2. Do men and women have the same attitudes towards shopping?

Although, gender differences are disappearing, but in some ways there are some differences. Women generally shop for household items and clothes, and men go for electronic gadgets.

3. Why do you think some people are "crazy about" shopping?

Some people are crazy about shopping because they are shopaholics. They are lured by the things available in the markets and cannot resist buying them.

4. Why do you think online shopping has become so popular?

Online shopping has become popular primarily due to two reasons. Firstly, It's very convenient for people to buy anything online by just clicking on a button. They don't have to spend time on going to shops or in finding car parking. Secondly, ecommerce companies offer a lot of discounts online, hence making the products cheaper than their retail prices.

5. Do you think credit cards are a good thing?

In many ways credit cards are good, but there are some disadvantages also.

Advantages

Firstly, you can use them practically everywhere, even overseas.

They can also boost your purchasing power because they can be used to buy goods and services over the phone, through the mail and online.

They provide financial backup in the event of an emergency, such as an unexpected healthcare cost, job loss or auto repair. For instance, if a person is on a holiday and has a medical emergency, he will have no problem in paying the hospital bills.

Credit cards allow you to purchase items and pay them off in monthly installments. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

They also offer discounts and rewards at stores. For instance, when you make purchases using the credit card you can collect points, which accumulate and can be used to get free items, such as airline tickets. Some cards may offer cash back as an incentive to use the card.

They can help build your credit history. A person with a good credit history does not face problems when applying for a loan for any reason.

Credit cards also keep a record of your expenses, helping you to monitor your financial activities.

Disadvantages

The most dangerous part of credit cards is not paying them off on time, and once you fall behind by one payment late fees, interest, and penalties build very fast because of which many people find themselves sunk in credit card debt with no way out.

Another big disadvantage is the hidden costs. There are start-up fees and processing fees and also the annual fees, which is quite an amount.

6. How is shopping today different to several decades ago?

Shopping today is very different to several decades ago.

7. Which is more popular in your country, shopping in shopping malls or shopping online?

Both are equally popular. Online shopping is gaining a lot of popularity. Malls also lure customers by attractive discounts.

8. In what ways do you think "globalization" is changing shopping (in your country)?

Because of globalization, online shopping has become very popular. Even in malls all foreign brands are available. So globalization has in a way revolutionized shopping.

9. What changes do you think we will see in the future concerning shopping?

I think, online shopping will become even more popular in the future.

10. Which do you think better, buying things online or buying things in real shops?

I think it's really hard to decide which one is better because both of them offer their unique advantages. For example, online shopping provides you the comfort of ordering anything in the world with just a click of a button, whereas retail shopping provides you a great experience and the ability to feel the product before making a buying decision.

11. How do people pay for things they buy online?

People normally pay through their Credit Cards or use Online Banking for making purchases. But now days ecommerce companies have also started providing the option of Cash on Delivery, i.e. people can pay when they receive the product

26. A café you visited

- Talk about the interiors of the café
 - When did you visit
 - With whom
 - What did you like and dislike about it
-
- I have visited many cafes in my life.
 - Here I would like to talk about Café Coffee Day or CCD as it is popularly called.
 - It is opposite the bus stand.
 - The interiors are very well decorated.
 - There are pictures of different types of coffee on the walls.
 - There is very comfortable cane furniture and there is always some light music playing in the background.
 - I go there once or twice a month.
 - The last time I went there with my friend was last Sunday.
 - She treated me to coffee and donuts as her sister had been blessed with a baby girl. www.facebook.com/makkarIELTS
 - I like everything about this café; their coffees are just superb.
 - They offer Cappuccino, which is a coffee made with hot frothy milk.
 - They also offer latte, which is lighter than cappuccino.
 - Mocha is a very high quality coffee, but is also very expensive.
 - They also have iced coffee and cold coffee.
 - The thing I dislike is that they do not have enough parking and enough seating capacity.
 - As it is opposite the bus stand, it is a very crowded area.
 - CCD is in fact a chain of coffee outlets.
 - They also export their coffee to the USA.
 - Their first CCD outlet started in Bangalore in 1996 and now they have outlets all over India.
 - They make coffee from freshly ground beans.
 - They also make designs on the coffee with cream like smileys and leaves, which look awesome.

Follow Ups

Cafes and Restaurants

1. What kinds of people choose to go to cafés?

All types of people like to go to cafés. Cafés are nice places to hang out with friends.

2. What is the difference between cafe and restaurant?

Cafés primarily aim to sell coffee - good coffee, different types of coffee - and things that go with coffee, like light sandwiches, cakes, breakfasts, and snacks; also, a variety of drinks as well as tea, for people who don't like coffee. Restaurants focus on selling you the whole meal.

3. Which do you think is more suitable for a family gathering?

I think a restaurant is more suitable for a family gathering. Restaurants are generally bigger and have more seating capacity than cafés. They have more choice of food also.

4. Why do some people like to invite others at their home, while some take them out? www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

Some people like to entertain at home because they feel more comfortable at home with their guests. It is also cheaper at home. People can also show off their culinary skills. Some like to entertain outside in cafés and restaurants because they feel that at home they would not be able to give enough time to their guests, as they would be busy in the kitchen all the time.

5. Apart from eating meals, what are the other things people do together at home? People watch sitcoms and movies together, they play cards and other indoor games and enjoy each other's company.

6. Do you think it's suitable to talk in a café?

It is perfectly suitable to talk in the café, but it is not suitable to gossip, because other people are also sitting very close to each other, and can overhear you.

7. What are some of the disadvantages of going to cafés?

The main disadvantage is the cost. Most cafés are overpriced.

8. What do people do in a café?

People sit in the café, talk to each other and enjoy their tea or coffee and snacks.

9. Do you often go to a café?

No, I don't often go to a café. There is a CCD in my hometown, but I go there once in two or three months.

10. Did you ever go to a café when you were a child?

No, I never went to a café in my childhood. m a k k a r I E L T S

11. Why do some young people prefer to go to a café instead of going to a restaurant?

Some people prefer a café to a restaurant, because the service is faster in a café. Besides, they don't want to eat the traditional food, but enjoy the snacks and beverages offered in a café.

12. Do young people prefer to go to cafés or fast food restaurants such as KFC and MacDonalds? (Why?)

Young people prefer to go to all these places equally.

13. What types of people choose to go to a restaurant instead of a cafe? OR Which place do you think would be more suitable for a business discussion, a café or a restaurant?

Businessmen choose the restaurant instead of a café, because they can discuss things over lunch or dinner with each other. Cafés are noisier, because mostly the young people frequent them. In a restaurant, you have more privacy than a café.

14. What do you think of the decor (the inside appearance & furnishings) of most cafés?

The inside appearance and furnishings of most cafés are very important. The décor, if done in soothing shades, gives peace of mind.

Socializing at Home versus Socializing in a Restaurant

15. Do you often invite friends to visit your home?

Yes, I often invite friends to visit my home. My mother is an excellent cook, and my friends enjoy the snacks and the food prepared by her.

16. Do people in your country feel that they don't really know someone until they have eaten together? (Why?)

I don't think so myself. I am not aware if other people of my country think like that. www.facebook.com/makkariELTS

17. Why do you think eating is such an important part of socializing?

Socializing over food may have some of the following benefits:

It prevents eating on the go in a stressed state, which improves digestion. Secondly, it helps us become open to new experiences and eat outside of our comfort zone. It also helps children learn the importance of taking time to enjoy food. Moreover, it allows us to bond with others over a pleasurable event. It helps us feel as though we belong, due to our common interest in food with others. Then, it takes our mind off what we did before sitting down to eat and what we need to do after and encourages us to be present in the moment.

18. Where do people generally arrange to meet new friends, at home or in a restaurant or some other eating-place?

It's a matter of personal choice. Normally, people don't entertain complete strangers at home, but sometimes one has to look at one's pocket also.

Entertaining outside could be very costly.

19. When people are entertaining visitors or friends etc. in your country, do they usually prefer to go out to eat in a restaurant or to eat at home?

It depends on the length of stay of the visitors. If the stay is long, then most meals are at home, and only a few are at some restaurant. If the visitors have come for a very short time then they can be taken out, so that you get to spend time with them.

20. In what circumstances do you think it is more suitable to entertain guests at home? OR When do people in your country usually choose to entertain guests at home?

Sometimes the guests prefer to have simple home cooked meals. Sometimes, they may not be able to tolerate the spicy food of restaurants. Sometimes, they may not be in very good health. In all these circumstances, it is better to entertain them at home.

21. When people have family gatherings in your country, do they usually go to a restaurant or eat at home?

During family gatherings, usually people hire professional cooks for a few days in their homes, so that any number of guests can be entertained at any time.

22. Why do some people prefer not to entertain guests at home?

Some people do not want to entertain guests at home because they do not want to go into the hassle of cooking, and they want to be able to spend time with their guests.

23. In your country, how is the restaurant bill usually paid, when a group of people eat in a restaurant? Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

Mostly, the host of the party pays and sometimes people share the bill

27. Describe a country in which you would like to work for a short time

- Where you would like to work
 - What kind of job would it be
 - When would you like to go
 - Why you want to work there
-
- I am planning to go abroad for my higher studies.
 - My dream country for my further studies is Canada.
 - I would like to work there for the time that I am there.
 - I have heard that students can work part time while studying over there.
 - My friend went to Humber College Canada for his Business Management course.
 - He told me a lot about the education system there.
 - He is working part time in a pizza outlet.
 - He gets 10 Canadian dollars an hour. m a k k a r I E L T S
 - He can work 20 hours per week but he can be flexible with the number of hours he can work per day.
 - So he works 5 hours on Saturday and 5 on Sunday and two hours per day on weekdays. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet
 - In this way his study is not disturbed.
 - He is managing his overhead expenses very nicely.
 - I intend to join him soon.
 - He has promised to help me find a job there.
 - I would like to work in the library.
 - Part time jobs in the library get filled up very fast.
 - If I don't get a job in the library, I would like to work in a restaurant or a fast food outlet.
 - I think it would be a very good way to learn about the culture and to meet new people and make new friends.
 - Canada is a beautiful country.
 - My friend is in Toronto and he has told me that he has visited many places there.
 - He told me about the CN Tower and the Niagara Falls.
 - So, I would definitely like to work in Canada for a short time

Follow Up Questions

1. What kinds of jobs are easy to get in a foreign country?

My cousin who lives in Canada tells me that there are many jobs that are easy to get for students studying there. The most common ones are the jobs in restaurants or fast food outlets like McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, and those in the college campus itself, like jobs in the library, etc.

2. Should young adults work abroad?

Yes, young adults should work abroad because of several reasons like, taking care of their overhead expenses, taking the financial burden off their parents' shoulders, they become more independent and responsible and they gain experience about the work culture, which would help them in their future. It is also a good way to learn about the culture of that country and to meet new people and make friends.

3. If they don't work abroad, would it be helpful for them to travel in a foreign country? Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

Yes, travelling is definitely helpful. They would come to know about the culture, meet new people, see new places, and make new connections. However, if they don't work, they may not be able to afford travelling.

4. Do Indian parents encourage their children to work abroad?

Yes, Indian parents encourage their children to work abroad. They prepare their children well before they travel abroad, about the situations and hardships they may have to face and the importance of working while studying there, so that they can cover their expenses and also gain work experience.

5. If you had an opportunity to live abroad, which country would you like to settle down in?

If I have an opportunity to live abroad, I would like to settle in a developed country, like Canada, Australia, the USA, etc. I have heard from my friends and relatives living abroad that life there is very comfortable, with better facilities and infrastructure. They also tell me that the standard living is very high there, as compared to India. Also, there are a lot of job opportunities available there.

28. Describe a quiet place

- Where it is
 - When you like to go there
 - What you do there
 - Why you like to visit there
-
- It is very difficult to find quiet places in the fast paced life of today.
 - However, I would like to talk about a place where I go quite often and I find great peace there.
 - The place I am referring to is a Sikh temple in my hometown, GurdwaraSukhchainana Sahib.
 - I go there once a week, sometimes with family and sometimes with friends.
 - Sometimes we walk to the gurdwara, and sometimes we go by car. It is about 3 km from my home.
 - It is away from the main road, so it is very quiet there.
 - Whenever, I go there, I do circumambulation of the holy book inside the main hall, and pay obeisance to the almighty.
 - There is a well-maintained fishpond in the gurdwara, which has many species of fish.
 - I just sit on the steps of the pond and listen to the holy chants going on all the time there. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet
 - It gives me great peace of mind.
 - Sometimes I take some bread from home and feed the fish.
 - There are two catfish among the other many, who seem to be talking to me.
 - I know it is all my imagination, but I love it over there.
 - I feel that the tempo of life has slowed down a bit.
 - It is so relaxing to watch the movements of the fish in the water.
 - This activity takes away all the physical and mental tiredness away from my body.
 - I feel very light-hearted after that.
 - Even though there is always a great rush in this temple, yet one can find peace and quiet over there.
 - Sometimes, I offer voluntary services in the community kitchen over there.
 - Free food is offered to one and all in the community kitchen and this service is round the clock.
 - I generally go there on weekends and spend a good two hours over there.

Follow Up Questions

1. Why do some people not like quiet places?

Some people do not like quiet places because they want fun and frolic all around them. They want activity and noise all around them.

2. Do you know other quiet places?

There are many quiet places in the countryside. Many of my friends live in villages. Whenever I go to their homes, there is no noise of traffic, and you can hear the chirping of the birds and the rustling of leaves, which is very soothing to the ears.

3. Do you need a quiet place when you are working?

Yes, I do appreciate a quiet place when I'm working, but unfortunately it is not always possible. So I've got used to some amount of noise around me.

4. Why do people like to spend time in quiet places?

People like to spend time in quiet places because sometimes they want to be with themselves, then they go to temples or quiet places, and feel relieved of their stress. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

5. Do you know anyone who likes noise?

I have many friends who like listening to loud music. They say that it kills the background noise of the vehicles.

29. Talk about a wish that you couldn't accomplish for a long time

- What was the wish
 - When you wanted to achieve
 - Why you couldn't achieve
-
- Everyone sets goals in his or her life.
 - Some are short term goals and some are long term goals.
 - Here, I would like to talk about a goal I took a very long time to achieve.
 - Actually I was very fat.
 - I wanted to lose around 10 kg weight.
 - I wanted to do it by exercise and not by restricting my diet.
 - I joined a gym and started exercise regularly.
 - But, I took my normal meals and didn't put any control on the munching and nibbling in between.
 - By the end of one month, I had not lost even half a kg, but my clothes started fitting better.
 - My instructor at the gym told me that I was losing fat but putting on muscle.
 - That is why it was inch loss and not weight loss.
 - I was not at all happy with my progress.
 - Then I thought of following a diet chart.
 - My gym instructor made a diet chart, which was so difficult and timed that I gave up after 2 days. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet
 - One of my gym mate was losing weight very fast.
 - I asked him what he was doing to lose weight.
 - He told me that he didn't do any dieting, but he watched what he ate and when he ate.
 - He had reduced artificial sugars altogether.
 - He ate fruit, which has natural sugar, but didn't take any sugar in tea or coffee.
 - He had also changed his dinner time. Earlier he had dinner after 9 pm, but now he has it before 7.
 - I followed his advice and started losing weight.
 - It took a long time, but finally I managed to get my dream figure in about 8 months.
 - Now, early dinner and one hour of gym has become part of my life.
 - I feel fitter and more energetic than before.

Another version

Talk about something you have wanted to do for a long time but haven't done yet

What is it

Where do you want to do it

How difficult it is

Why you want to do it

There are many things, which I have planned to do in my life, but haven't done yet.

I have many things in my bucket list, such as bungee jumping, paragliding, mountain trekking and so on

But here I would like to talk about an outdoor activity, which I would really like to do in the near future.

This activity is bungee jumping.

It is an adventure sport.

My cousin went to Rishikesh 6 months ago and he tried this activity over there.

He showed me his video.

I am really fascinated by this activity.

My cousin told me that a company of New Zealand by the name of Jumping Heights has set up a bungee jumping centre in Rishikesh.

They charge Rs. 2500/- and make you do this activity.

They have a very good set up.

It is done from a height of 83 metres.

No special skills or equipments are needed.

You just need a medical certificate that you are not suffering from any heart ailment or asthma. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

All other equipment is provided by them.

He told me that there is a huge queue of people who go in for this activity.

Mostly youngsters try this activity.

He told me that he was a bit nervous but they guide you very well and all the people over there boost your morale.

He told me that it was a stupendous feeling and he enjoyed it very much.

He would go there again with me and do it once more.

We have to register one month in advance.

They take all the safety procedures and so no accidents have been reported so far.

I would like to do this activity in April or May because it is very cold nowadays.

I am really excited for the day to come.

Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think Goals play an important role in a life?

Yes goals are very important for people. These are necessary for people because if they are not ambitious they would not work hard. Young people should be ambitious and set goals for themselves. Then they should work hard to achieve those goals. Lack of ambition may make them lazy.

2. Too much ambitiousness leads to disaster what you think about that?

That is also true. We must know where to draw the line between ambitiousness and over-ambitiousness. When we try to harm the others to attain our goals then it is bad. When we use unfair means to attain our goals even then it is bad. An over ambitious mother may neglect her family and children to reach the top in her career which may prove very harmful in the long run.

3. Do you think that today's generation can run without setting their goals.

(Same as answer 1) Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet

4. What should be good measures to encourage young generation to follow and set their goals?

Many measures can be there. First, the older ones can lead by example. Children are good apes. They follow what they see. Secondly, they can be given examples of those who have reached great heights by setting goals and achieving them.

5. Which skills are helpful to pursue our goals?

Hard work, determination, courage to accept failure and start all over again are required to be a winner ultimately.

30. Describe an occasion when you needed to arrive early

- When and where it was
 - Why you needed to arrive early
 - What did you do after your arrival
 - How did you feel after arriving early
-
- I am very punctual by nature.
 - I don't like to keep anyone waiting for me, and I also don't like it when anybody makes me wait.
 - Here I would like to talk about a situation, when it was very important for me to arrive early.
 - It was my cousin Rohan's 10th birthday in February, and my aunt and I had planned a surprise party for him.
 - We had to do everything when he was in school.
 - I reached their home two hours before his arrival and decorated the house with balloons and bunting.
 - My aunt baked the cake and made some snacks.
 - We had invited his friends, but had told them to keep it a secret from Rohan.
 - I bought some cold drinks and some readymade fritters and cutlets.
 - Before Rohan came home, we had done all decorations and had laid the table.
 - I felt very happy about arriving early because my aunt and I could do everything nicely as we had planned earlier.
 - When Rohan came home, we welcomed him with a loud birthday greeting song and gave him some hugs.
 - He was very happy. Order Books at www.instamojo.com/ravpreet
 - I had bought a storybook for him as a birthday gift.
 - It was a book on tales from Panchtantra.
 - My aunt also gave him a box of chocolates.
 - Then his friends started pouring in one by one.
 - He cut the cake and we all wished him.
 - Then we all ate the snacks and had the cold drinks.
 - After that we played musical chairs and danced to our favourite music.

Follow ups

1. Have there been any other occasions when you have to arrive early?

Yes, many times. We have to arrive early for school classes. We also have to arrive early for examinations. When you have any family function in a marriage palace, you have to arrive earlier than the guests.

2. When do you think people should arrive on time?

People should be on time always. It wastes a lot of time and any function or event can be a big flop if people are late.

3. Why do people need to be on time?

People need to be on time because it is the right thing to do. Time is precious. We can buy gold and diamonds, but we cannot buy time. Being in time saves time. Things, which start on time, end on time. It saves everyone's time.

4. In India, being late seems to be a privilege for girls. Why do you think it is so?

I don't think it is the case everywhere in India. Some girls may think it is their privilege, but I think they need to learn the importance of time.

5. Do you think technology is a reason that makes us late?

Well, maybe. People keep chatting online and lose all track of time. So, they can get late. But I don't think technology is the culprit. It is we ourselves who are to blame. In fact with the help of technology, we can finish our work faster and be in time, but we don't value time and get late.

6. Do you think doing nothing is a waste of time?

Sometimes, we need to do nothing and relax. Relaxation is as important as working. So, doing nothing is not always a wastage of time.

31. Describe an activity you would like to do in your leisure time near the sea

- What is the activity
 - What requirements will you need
 - Why would you like to do that
-
- I belong to Punjab.
 - It is not a coastal area.
 - If I ever get a chance to visit a sea, I would like to do many activities
 - I would like to sit near the sea shore and hear the splashing waves.
 - I would enjoy the cool breeze of the sea side.
 - I would also love to stand at the sea shore and feel the waves touch my feet
 - I would also like to go in the water till it is safe
 - I don't know swimming, so I would like to hold hands of my family members or my friends, who so ever are with me.
 - I am sure it would be a great experience.
 - I don't think any special requirements are there for this activity.
 - I would just need a towel and an extra set of clothes, in case I get too wet.
 - I would like to visit with my parents (friends)
 - I am sure it would be fun
 - My friend visited her relatives in Mumbai last year.
 - She went to the Juhu beach m a k k a r I E L T S
 - She told me her experiences.
 - She said that all her family members went waist deep in the water.
 - Then they sat at the shore and their clothes dried because of the wind.
 - I would love to spend my vacations in a place near the sea, so that I can get that experience for a few days.

Follow ups

1. What activities would you do if you were spending some leisure time at the beach near the ocean?
If I were spending leisure time at a beach I would try some water sports, like skiing or surfing, I would play volleyball on the beach, I also would enjoy reading at the beach or I would make castles out of the sand.
2. Why do some people like water sports?
Some people like water sports because it is very refreshing to play in and to with water. Some people pursue it as a career or a profession. It is also a very good form of exercise.
3. Do you think the government should spend money in developing facilities for water sports?
Yes, government should spend money on developing facilities for water sports. It will encourage many people to pursue it as a career and earn name and fame for the country. It is also a very good form of exercise and will promote it as a way for many to remain physically and mentally fit and would further lead to a healthier society. Such activities also act as stress busters, which are much needed in today's fast paced world.
4. Do you think that human activities are posing a threat to the oceans of the world?
Yes, human activities are definitely posing a threat to the oceans. The pollution being caused by the ships, boats, and oil drilling machinery used in oceans is harming the marine life to the extent that many aquatic plants and animals are on the verge of extinction. In case of accidents of oil carrying ships, it leads to oil spills, which is extremely harmful for the marine life. Many developing and developed countries are dumping garbage on the ocean beds, which has become a major cause of water pollution. Excessive fishing is also leading to many fish species being on the verge of becoming extinct.
5. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of traveling on the ocean?
Talking about the advantages first, traveling on the ocean is a very good way to learn about the marine life. It is very relaxing and acts as a stress buster. It is a good way to spend quality time with family and friends. We can explore more places when travelling on the ocean. m a k k a r I E L T S
At the same time there are also some disadvantages of travelling on the ocean. In case of a natural calamity like a storm or a tsunami, the chances survival are less and rescue work is very difficult in such situations. The same is the case if there is an accident when traveling on the ocean. The pollution caused by the ships is also hazardous for the aquatic animals and plants. It is more time consuming than other forms of transport. It may also be more expensive, especially when people go on a holiday on cruise ships.
6. Do you think it's important for children to learn how to swim?

Yes, I think it is very important for children to learn how to swim. It is not only a good form of exercise, it can also be pursued a career. It is a good recreational activity, as it relaxes our mind and refreshes us. It is also a very good skill to learn for children, as it may help them in case of emergencies when travelling on water, not only to save their own lives, but they can also save others' lives. Also, I think childhood is the right age to learn this skill, as children are very receptive and learn new skills easily.

7. Do you think it is best for a child to be taught to swim by a parent or by someone else?

I think it depends. If the parents know how to swim well, they can teach their children to swim and children too will learn easily from their parents. However, if the parents themselves don't know how to swim or can't swim very well, then it is best to get professional help and have a good coach teach them how to swim.

8. Do you think that it is important to learn about the oceans and why?

I think it is very important to learn about the oceans. The oceans directly or indirectly influence us. Ocean waters serve as a source of food and valuable minerals such as salt, which we use daily in our food. Oceans also are used for commerce. For example, pearls taken from oysters are used in jewelry, and shells and coral are used as building materials. They also provide a place for recreation. Each year more people are attracted to the sports of swimming, fishing, scuba diving, boating, and waterskiing.

9. Do you think the oceans should be protected by international agreement?

Definitely, oceans should be protected by international agreement. Without oceans there would be no life on Earth. The oceans directly or indirectly influence us. Ocean waters serve as a source of food and valuable minerals such as salt which we use daily in our food. Oceans also are used for commerce. For example, pearls taken from oysters are used in jewelry, and shells and coral are used as building materials. They also provide a place for recreation. Each year more people are attracted to the sports of swimming, fishing, scuba diving, boating, and waterskiing.

10. Do you think the environmental problems can affect the oceans?

Yes, the environmental problems can definitely affect the oceans. Because of global warming, ocean water is also getting heated up and this is affecting marine life. People and big industries are dumping their effluents in the oceans and this is a cause for alarm.

32. Talk about a pet you, or someone you know once had

- What kind of animal it was
 - What kind of care it needed
 - What you liked/ disliked about it
-
- Many people are animal lovers and own pets.
 - I also had a pet once.
 - It was a white Pomeranian named Bruno.
 - I remember I was 4 years old when my father brought this new member in our house.
 - It was a white dog, which changed my life altogether.
 - I was very excited and I used to play for hours with it.
 - My father and mother also loved Bruno a lot.
 - Bruno needed a lot of care.
 - I remember, my father used to take him to the vet for his vaccinations.
 - Sometimes I also accompanied him.
 - My mother used to feed Bruno milk and chapatti twice a day.
 - Then she and I would take Bruno for a walk.
 - Bruno was very playful.
 - Bruno used to sleep in my room on the mat, but in winters it would snuggle in with me in my quilt.
 - When I used to go to school, Bruno would accompany me to the gate.
 - It knew that it wasn't allowed to go outside.
 - It would jump all around the place, when I used to come home.
 - Because of Bruno, I never felt the need of any friends.
 - I used to play fetch the ball with Bruno.
 - I would throw the ball and Bruno used to fetch the ball.
 - When I felt low, Bruno would try to sit close to me as if to console me.
 - I liked everything about Bruno. m a k k a r I E L T S
 - The only thing which troubled me was that sometimes his hair would be all over my clothes and I had to brush my clothes before going out anywhere.
 - I remember, when I was in 10th Bruno started getting health problems.
 - Visits to the vet became a regular event.
 - Then one day, Bruno left us peacefully in his sleep.
 - It was a very sad day for all of us.

33. Describe a teacher who has greatly influenced in your academic life

- Who is the teacher
 - What subject he/she taught
 - How she/he taught
-
- Teachers are called nation builders.
 - Children are the future of any nation and teachers shape the children into good human beings.
 - All teachers influence students in some way or the other.
 - Some teachers have a very strong and long lasting impact.
 - I can never forget the contribution of my maths teacher, Mrs Promilla, of 5th class
 - Mrs Promilla, was in her forties when I was her student.
 - I met her accidentally in the market a few days ago, and she just looks the same, except that her hair has started graying.
 - She is very tall and beautiful.
 - She generally wears Punjabi suit, but I have seen her in sari also many times.
 - She is very well liked by all students.
 - She has her own innovative ways of teaching.
 - She comes down to the level of the students and never gets mad at them even if they are slow learners.
 - I remember, I was very weak at maths.
 - I tried my best, and gave it a lot of time, but my calculations always went wrong.
 - Because of this one subject, I started doing badly in others too.
 - Mrs Promilla, gave me special time after school hours.
 - There were three more students with me.
 - She started clearing our concepts from scratch.
 - We all started showing improvement.
 - Our phobia of maths disappeared altogether.
 - I remember, how happy I felt when I got good grades in maths that year.
 - In fact, I improved in all subjects.
 - So, Mrs Promilla is the teacher who influenced me a lot in my academic life.

34. Describe a building/structure with architectural interest.

- What is it
- What is the historical significance of it
- Why should we preserve it
and describe the building/structure in details
- India has a rich historical background.
- There are many buildings, which are the pride of India.
- Here I would like to talk about the Parliament House in New Delhi.
- It is not only important historically, but also architecturally, so such buildings need to be preserved as our heritage.
- It was designed by two famous architects – Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker.
- They were responsible for the planning and construction of New Delhi.
- The architecture of this building depicts Indian traditions and culture.
- For instance, the use of features of Indian buildings, like parapets (Chhajjas) on windows and doors, and the varied forms of mesh (jaali) in marble are reminders of craftsmanship, displayed in ancient monuments and memorials.
- Parliament House is one of the most magnificent buildings in New Delhi.
- Visitors to Delhi generally pay a visit to this building
- The two Houses of Parliament—the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are located within its walls.
- It is a huge circular building with a diameter of 560 feet and a circumference of 1/3rd of a mile.
- It is spread over 6 acres of land
- The building has twelve gates among which Gate No. 1 on the Sansad Marg is the main gate.
- The Central Hall is circular in shape and its dome, which is one of the most magnificent domes in the world.
- The Central Hall is a place of historical importance.
- The transfer of power on the 15th August, 1947 from British to Indian hands took place in this Hall.
- The Indian Constitution was also framed in the Central Hall.
- At present, the Central Hall is used for holding Joint Sittings of the two Houses.
- The Chamber of the Lok Sabha is semi-circular in shape and has seating accommodation for 550 Members.
- Rajya Sabha Chamber is smaller in size and It has a seating capacity of 250.
- The Reception Office opposite Gate No. 1, is a friendly waiting place for large number of visitors who come to meet Members, Ministers, etc. or to witness the proceedings of Parliament.
- The building is fully air-conditioned

35. Talk about an occasion you had a cake that was special

- What kind of cake it was
 - Why did you have it
 - With whom did you have it
-
- I've enjoyed many types of cakes in my life.
 - We mostly celebrate birthdays, weddings and anniversaries by cutting a cake.
 - Here I would like to talk about a cake, which was very special because it was baked for me, on my birthday, by my cousin.
 - My cousin Neeti has excellent culinary skills.
 - She lives in Chandigarh, but she had come to spend a few days with us.
 - By chance, my birthday fell in those days.
 - She and my mother planned a surprise party for me.
 - They invited a few of my close friends.
 - She baked a pineapple cake and did beautiful pink and yellow icing on it.
 - She wrote Happy Birthday on it with mixed fruit jam and decorated it with gems of different colours.
 - I remember, when I came home from school that day, the whole house was decorated with bunting and balloons.
 - I felt very happy.
 - She had made many snacks too, like cutlets and fritters.
 - Then my friends started pouring in.
 - I cut the cake at around 6 pm.
 - I enjoyed the whole party with my family and friends.
 - The cake looked so beautiful that when my mother told me that Neeti had made it, I was really surprised.
 - I could never imagine that such beautiful caked could be made at home.
 - Later on we played a few games like musical chairs and bursting the balloons.
 - Then we danced a lot to our favourite music.
 - It was a day to remember.

Follow Up Questions:

1. Have you ever made cake yourself?

No, I have never made a cake myself but I have seen a lot of videos on how to make a cake. I am planning to make a chocolate cake for my mother on her next birthday. One of my friend knows how to make a cake and she has promised me she will help me in making a cake for my mother

2. Do people have to pay a lot for food for a special occasion?

Yes in our country people pay spend a lot of money on food during festivals or marriages. People normally gift expensive sweets to each other during festivals. During other special functions like birthdays or marriages people organize buffet parties in which there are many different dishes are served. Nowadays people also spend on different cuisines such as Italian and Chinese during special functions.

3. What kind of special food do Indian people like to eat in special festivals // special occasions//public holidays?

India is a diverse country. People like to eat various things on special occasions. They eat various types of sweets on Diwali, rice pudding on Lohri, sweet rice on Basant Panchhmi and so on. People make fritters in rainy season and on birthdays and anniversaries they enjoy many types of cakes.

4. What is the difference in the foods northerners like to eat and southerners like to eat?

In northern part of India, wheat is the staple food, whereas in the southern parts rice is the staple food. Chapati, green veges and pulses are popular in the north, whereas idli, dosa and sambar are popular in the south

36. Talk about a sport in your country you like watching

- What sport is it?
 - Is it well developed in your country?
 - What is the most popular sport there? Why?
-
- India is a diverse country
 - There are many sports played in India such as cricket, hockey, football, volleyball and so on
 - Here I would like to talk about a sport which I love watching and has its origins in India.
 - This sport is Kabaddi.
 - Kabaddi was developed about 4000 years ago to help Indian soldiers develop their self-defense skills
 - Kabaddi is a beautiful game.
 - It is a game of speed strength, strategy and lung power.
 - It is not the most popular game here.
 - Cricket is the most popular game here because people just love it and many TV channels are dedicated to cricket.
 - Now Kabaddi is again gaining popularity.
 - There is also an American Kabaddi team.
 - It is well developed in India.
 - It is known by different names in different parts of India.
 - All it requires is a big open space and a bunch of people.
 - The Punjab government is doing a lot to promote this game.
 - The 2012 world Kabaddi cup was the 3rd kabaddi cup organised by the government of Punjab.
 - A prize money of 2 crores was given to the winning team and 1 crore to the 1st runner up.
 - 15 countries participated in the tournament.
 - The final match was played between India and Pakistan in Guru Nanak Stadium
 - I went to see this match with my friends.
 - India won the match and made our day.

(Note: This can come as a sport you liked and enjoyed – In that case the tense has to be changed)

Follow ups

1. Are you interested in sport? OR Do you like sport?

Yes, I am interested in sports. I like watching cricket and hockey on TV.

Sometimes I play badminton with my brother, on the terrace of our house.

2. What sports do you like? (Why?)

I like cricket, hockey, badminton and many other sports. I like watching these on TV. But I play only badminton.

3. Do most people in your country like sport?

Yes most people in my country like sports. Cricket is the most popular sport.

People also like hockey and football.

4. (Similar to above) What sports do people in your country like to play?

India is a diverse country. People like to play all types of sports, but cricket is the most popular sport. These days there are many sports played in the Premier league format, like football, cricket, hockey and kabaddi.

5. What benefits do you think sport can bring us?

Playing sport and bring us many benefits. We remain physically and mentally fit. By playing competitive sports, we learn competition, and by playing team sports we learn cooperation. Through sports we can learn leadership skills and sportsmanship spirit.

6. What benefits are there for children (and/or young people) in playing sport?

Children have a lot of benefits of playing sport. Firstly, it develops them physically. Secondly, it also leads to mental development. We all know that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. Sports also teach children many virtues of life. They learn competition, cooperation and sportsmanship, which means winning with modesty and losing with grace.

7. What sports do you think are most suitable for children?

All types of sports are most suitable for children. They learn competition from competitive sports, which are played alone, and they learn co-operation from team sports, which they play in a group.

8. Do Indian people like to play indoor sports or outdoor sports?

Indian people like to play both, indoor and outdoor sports. It depends on their individual preference and interest. Some popular indoor sports are Badminton, Swimming, and Table Tennis. There are also many outdoor sports, like cricket, hockey, football, etc. which are liked by many people.

37. Describe a time when you moved to a new school or home

(You may get ideas from the two cue cards below)

A time when you moved into a new house

- We used to live in our ancestral home built by my grandfather but that house was very old and needed repair from time to time.
- That area also was very congested and we found great difficulty in parking our car.
- So, two years ago my father decided to build a new house in the suburbs of Phagwara, my home town.
- The construction of the house was completed a year ago and we moved into the house immediately after its completion.
- It was a dream house for me and my siblings even before it was built.
- Before moving in we had a traditional ceremony in which we invited all our friends and relatives.
- I still remember the eagerness and pride with which I showed the house to all of my friends.
- My father had spared no expense in its construction.
- It is a 3 storey house with 7 bedrooms, 2 kitchens and 8 bathrooms.
- There is also a big kitchen garden in the back.
- My brother and I had to share a room in our previous house but here we each got our own individual room.
- My room is on the 2nd floor.
- The neighbourhood is also very calm and quiet.
- Our neighbours are also very friendly and nice.
- I remember when we moved here, they invited us over for dinner and then we became good friends.
- I do miss my old house at times but this house is very well built with all the modern facilities and so I love this house.

A time when you moved into a new school

- I have been to two schools in my life.
- My primary school was different from my secondary school.
- I have vague remembrances of my primary school as I was too small then.
- Here I would like to talk about my secondary school in which I studied from 6th to 12th class.
- My school's name was SD Model Senior Secondary School
- I vividly remember I was very nervous on the first day.
- This school was much bigger than my primary school.
- I was afraid of getting lost there.

- I was a little bit excited also.
- I just walked inside with the other students and went where they were going.
- I was a new face for them so many of them were staring at me.
- I asked one student about where 6th class was.
- Coincidentally she was also in 6th class.
- She took me to her class.
- That was the beginning of my new friendship.
- Her name was Harleen and till today we are the best of friends.
- She made me feel very comfortable.
- All my nervousness vanished.
- We attended the classes before lunch break and during the recess she showed me the whole school.
- I was awed by the infrastructure of the school.
- There were separate labs for physics, chemistry and computer science.
- There was a huge library also.
- Badminton and volley ball courts were also there.
- The canteen was the most impressive.
- All the teachers were also very nice.
- I studied 7 years in that school.
- Those were the most memorable years of my life.

Follow ups

1. Do people like to live in big or small houses?

I think mostly people prefer spacious and comfortable houses. However, it also depends on the family size. If it's a big family, then a bigger house is needed and for smaller families, a small house is comfortable to live in. These days bigger houses have become a luxury because of scarcity of land.

2. Where do old people like to live, in the city or the countryside?

I think that older people prefer the countryside because it is quieter than the cities and there is less pollution there. Also, there is usually more greenery in the countryside, than in the cities; so older people prefer that to the cities. The only downside to that is that there are better medical and transport facilities in the cities than in the countryside areas.

3. Do you like to move house frequently?

No, I don't like to move houses frequently because it is a very tedious and tiring thing to do. It is a big hassle to move the furniture and other things to a new house and then setting up the new house. It takes up a lot of time and energy.

4. Is it easy to move house in India?

Yes, these days because of the packers and movers facility available in every city, moving has become easier than before. These companies not only transport the stuff, but also help with the packing and unpacking of the furniture and all the other things. This has made moving a little less tiring for a person or family moving to a new house.

38. Describe a time/situation when you saw lots of people smiling

- When did you see them
 - Where did you see them
 - Who you were with
 - Why people were smiling
-
- A smile can brighten our day and lighten any situation
 - In today's fast paced life we are forgetting the importance of smiling
 - Today I will talk about a situation when I saw many people smiling
 - It was when I was travelling with my cousin to Chandigarh on a bus
It was around a month ago
 - There were around 50 passengers in the bus and of all age groups.
 - People were doing different activities- some were talking to each other, a few were reading, children were busy playing games on the mobile phones and some were sleeping.
 - After about half an hour into the journey, a passenger sitting in the middle of the bus started talking on the phone.
 - He had a very loud voice and I could hear him even though I was sitting in one of the front seats.
 - I couldn't help hearing his conversation because of his loud voice.
Apparently he was talking to his wife
 - From his conversation it seemed that he had forgotten their wedding anniversary
 - He was apologizing profusely to his wife and was saying that he was ready to buy her anything she wished for.
 - That conversation lasted for more than 10 minutes, before his wife finally accepted his apology.
 - After the call ended, the person heaved a sigh of relief.
 - My cousin and I exchanged a few smiles during that conversation
 - And I happened to turn around and saw that everyone in the bus was smiling.
 - Everyone in the bus had overheard his conversation and had enjoyed it.
 - Even the person talking on the phone looked relieved and was smiling.
 - Thinking about that journey still brings a smile to my face.
 - I think that we should smile more often, like when we greet someone or thank someone.
 - It can make someone's day.

Follow Up Questions

1. Why do people smile?

People smile because of many reasons. Some people smile to express feelings of happiness, gratitude, affection, etc. Starting our day with a smile help brighten our day and other people's day too. Sometimes people smile to lighten a tense situation and sometimes its because they remember a happy event or something funny.

2. When do people smile?

People usually smile when greeting others, when thanking others, while remembering happy moments, when enjoying with family or friends, when they receive good service, and many other such situations.

3. What's the difference between a fake smile and a true smile?

I think we can make out the difference between a fake and a genuine smile by the facial expressions, especially the eyes. When a person is genuinely smiling, even his/her eyes seem to be smiling.

4. Why do people smile when they take photos?

People smile when they take photos because smiles bring a charm to our face and make the photos more memorable and beautiful. Photos are reminders of memorable events and smiling faces bring back happy memories.

5. Who smiles more, men or women?

I think smiles have nothing to do with the gender. People smile due to different reasons.

6. Do you think people should control their moods?

Yes, I think people should control their bad moods, as it can have a negative effect on the other people around them. It can spoil someone else's day.

39. Describe an interesting conversation with someone you didn't know

- When this happened
 - Who you were talking to
 - What you talked about
 - Why did you find this conversation interesting
-
- Man is a social animal and conversations are a part of life.
 - I've had many conversations in my life, but here I would like to talk about a conversation, which I found very interesting and it was with a stranger
 - It so happened, that about three months ago I boarded a bus for Ludhiana to see my uncle and aunt, who live there.
 - The bus started and when the conductor came near my seat, I opened my bag to take out money for the ticket.
 - To my shock, I had forgotten to put my wallet in my bag, as I had changed my bag.
 - I was very nervous and was thinking what to do, when an elderly person sitting next to me offered to pay for my ticket.
 - It was not a huge amount, so I accepted and in this way he saved me from an embarrassing situation.
 - I started chatting with him. m a k k a r I E L T S
 - He was a retired army officer.
 - To my surprise he turned out to be from my hometown.
 - He told me many stories about his army life.
 - He told me that army life is very disciplined.
 - After retirement he got the job of security officer in a bank in Ludhiana.
 - He commuted daily from Phagwara for his job.
 - He has two daughters and both of them were studying in Canada after their senior secondary education.
 - He told me that they took the IELTS and got a good band score and then got admission in Humber College Canada.
 - I found all that conversation very interesting.
 - The one hour journey to Ludhiana seemed to pass in a few minutes.
 - He motivated me to take the IELTS and study abroad.
 - He told me that his daughters were doing very well in studies and were also doing part time jobs.
 - I requested him to come to my home and motivate my parents to send me abroad for higher education.
 - He visited us with his wife, the very next weekend and had a long chat with my parents.
 - He succeeded in convincing them.
 - Today, I am taking the IELTS because of him.

Follow Up Questions

1. How do friends communicate with each other?

Friends communicate with each other in many ways. They communicate face to face, through phone and also through the Internet.

2. What's the difference between having a conversation with a man and having a conversation with a woman?

There are no gender differences nowadays. Both, men and women, can talk equally well on any topic they are interested in, be it sports, or politics, or fashion.

3. Do you think women like to chat more than men?

I don't think so. Gender has nothing to do with the preference of chatting. It is a matter of individual choice.

4. When men chat with other men do they usually talk about the same things that women do when they chat with other women?

The topic of conversation among men or women is a matter of individual taste. Mostly men talk about sports, business and politics. Whereas women talk about fashion and family matters. But then individual variations are always there.

5. What is the difference between chatting and gossiping?

Chatting is general talk on various topics, whereas gossiping is talking about other people behind their back. Chatting has a positive connotation, whereas gossiping has a negative connotation.

6. Who do you prefer chatting with - your parents or your friends?

I prefer both equally. I talk to my parents about my day to day's happenings, whereas I discuss studies, sports and movies etc. with friends.

7. Do most people have just a small number of friends, or many friends?

It is very difficult to generalize. Some people have few friends and some like to have a lot of friends. Mostly, face to face friendship is limited to a few close friends, but people have a huge network of online friends these days on Facebook or Whatsapp.

8. How do most people make new friends in your country?

Most people make new friends in schools and colleges, while attending family functions or other social functions or while travelling in public transport.

9. Do you think people's abilities or intelligence is a factor when people become friends?

Yes, definitely, when people make new friends, they look for the person's abilities. Small children, however, have innocent friendships. They do not look into any such qualities.

10. What qualities do you think a good friend should have?

A good friend should be reliable. You should be able to open your heart's innermost secrets with him without having the tension that he will disclose them to anyone. Secondly, a good friend should be intelligent. He should be able to guide you from time to time. He should have a good sense of humour. He should be able to turn any tense situation into a happy one.

11. Do you think it's possible to determine how sincere a person is the first time you meet him?

No, it is not possible to do so. Appearances can be very deceptive. So, we should think twice before trusting a complete stranger.

12. Do you think it is important to share your problems with others?

Yes, of course. It has been well said that problem shared is problem halved, whereas happiness shared is happiness doubled. Other people may suggest solutions to your problems. They may make you see things from a different perspective.

40. Describe an event/happy experience from your childhood that you remember.

Please say

- What was the event?
 - How old were you then?
 - Why do you still remember it?
-
- There have been many happy and sad events in my childhood.
 - Here I would like to talk about a happy childhood event, which I still remember.
 - It was my 12th birthday.
 - I remember that birthday because I received my own personal computer as a gift from my parents.
 - When I came home from school that day, my mother told me that a surprise was waiting for me in my room.
 - I ran into my room and saw this beautiful monitor, CPU, keyboard and mouse – all set on my study table.
 - My father had got it assembled from a local computer store.
 - I was so happy, I couldn't believe my eyes.
 - I hugged my mother real hard.
 - She also baked a cake to celebrate my birthday.
 - I ran out to invite all my friends of my neighbourhood.
 - In the evening, when they all came, I proudly showed them my PC.
 - I remember how I enjoyed the look of jealousy in their eyes.
 - I received many other presents that day, but this was the best.
 - I used to take good care of my computer.
 - I used to play games on it.
 - I learnt the basics of computer such as using the word and the paint feature from that computer.
 - Every year I got that computer upgraded.
 - Even today I have that PC but now it works slower than the latest versions.
 - Many times I thought of selling it as I have a laptop now which has an I-3 processor and is very fast.
 - This computer has my fondest childhood memories and so I cannot think of parting with it.
 - When my niece and nephew come to our home, I allow them to play games on it.
 - In my childhood, I never used to let anybody touch my computer.
 - So, this is the event of childhood, which I still remember.

Follow ups

1. What should adults remember?

Adults should remember important appointments, names of people, things to do and many other things.

2. How can we improve our memories?

We can improve our memories by playing challenging games, such as crossword puzzles, Sudoku etc.

3. What can help us to remember our childhood memories?

Old photographs, visiting old places, meeting people from our past can help us remember our childhood memories.

4. Why do you think some people can remember things easily?

Some people have a sharp memory. Some people do effort to remember things. They can set reminders on phones etc.

5. What should you remember to bring when you go out?

We should always carry our cell phone, some money and an ID card.

41. Talk about a company around your city which employs a lot of people

- Where is the company
 - What does it do
 - How do you know about it
-
- I know of many workplaces in and around my home town such as industries, banks and educational institutes
 - Here I am going to talk about a work place, which is in my hometown and employs a lot of people.
 - It is the JCT mill, which stands for Jagatjit Cotton and Textile Mills
 - It is on the G.T. Road
 - This mill was established in 1946.
 - The chairman of the company is Mr M.M. Thapar
 - My uncle works in their HR department of this Mill.
 - He tells me a lot about the Mill.
 - Many people, nearly around 30,000, work in this Mill and they are proud to be part of this Mill. m a k k a r I E L T S
 - The employer employee relation is very good.
 - They provide many facilities to their employees.
 - They provide housing at very low cost to their employees.
 - Their housing colony is called Thapar Colony.
 - They also provide healthcare facilities for their employees.
 - They have a school where the children of their workers can study free of cost.
 - This school is affiliated to the Punjab School Education Board.
 - The employees live in a world of their own inside the Thapar Colony
 - There is 24 hours power supply.
 - They give bonuses and perks to their employees from time to time.
 - The Mill manufactures cotton fabric.
 - Even big names like Raymonds and Siyaram buy fabric from here and sell it under their own tag.
 - They have even started manufacturing organic cotton
 - They also export their cloth
 - Recently they started their readymade garment section in which they have mass production of Men's shirts under the brand name of Tyrock
 - So, this is the workplace where many people work.

Follow ups

1. Is it easy to find a job in India?

No, definitely not easy. India is a diverse country and has a population of more than 120 crores. Obviously, there is a lot of competition in getting jobs.

2. What should the government do if there is unemployment?

The government should encourage self-employment and also set up cottage industries, so that more and more people can be employed. MNCs should also be encouraged, so that the problem of unemployment can be mitigated.

3. Is high salary important?

Yes, a high salary is very important. Money is of course the most important motivation to work. But sometimes, it is OK to get a job one loves, even if the salary is a bit less.

4. Is it ok to do a job you like with a low salary?

If I have to choose a job with a slightly high salary, but I don't like it, then I wouldn't do it and choose the job of my liking. However, if the difference in pay is very high, then I would go for that job even if I don't like it much.

5. Are there many big companies in your country?

Yes, there are. India is a fast developing country. There are many Indian companies, which are very big such as Tata, Mahindra, Godrej, Reliance, Onida and so on. There are also many multinational giants which have opened branches in India, such as Samsung, LG, Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and so on.

6. How can a small company grow big?

Small companies can do so in many ways. They can work hard, employ skilled workers, focus on quality and employ good marketing strategies.

7. Should big companies donate more to charities?

Yes, they should. I believe that anyone who has enough should help the needy on humanitarian grounds. Many big companies help the NGOs and NPOs. This is a win-win situation for both. When they get publicity for their charity work, they are getting advertisement for free.

8. Should big companies be punished more seriously if they break the law?

No, they should not. Law should be the same for all – big as well as small companies. Usually, big companies have big connections. So, they try to get away with their wrong doings. This also should not happen. Punishment should be equally serious for all law offenders.

42. Describe a group activity you successfully took part in (for example, at school, university or work).

- What the activity was
 - Who was with you
 - How easy or difficult it was
 - And explain how you felt about being part of this team.
-
- I have done many group activities when I was in school such as playing games like cricket and volleyball.
 - But here I am going to talk about a group activity which was making a model for participating in an environment fair.
 - This fair is held every year in December in my home town
 - This model was on the topic of pollution
 - We were a team of four students – Mohit, Rohan, Ravi and I.
 - It was very difficult to collect ideas for the model, but our teacher, Mrs Promilla helped us.
 - We collected all data from different sources like the internet, library, magazines and so on
 - We presented all three types of pollution – air, water and noise pollution - on thermocol
 - In this project we showed the causes, effects and ways to control pollution
 - We had to speak turn wise on our model.
 - I remember I was very afraid to speak.
 - But my other friends gave me the confidence. I felt very good that I was part of that team.
 - I spoke very well that time.
 - Getting over my glossophobia was an accomplishment for me.
 - We won the first prize in this competition.
 - The judges specially mentioned that the first prize was mainly because of the verbal explanation of the model.
 - This fair was covered by the local cable TV and so many people of the neighbourhood congratulated me the next day.
 - Our photograph was also there in the local newspaper Jag Baani.
 - Our school principal also appreciated us
 - I cannot forget that day.
 - All four of us were on cloud nine on that day.

(also can be asked as a project you did in school)

43. Describe an occasion when you received a good service from a restaurant or a shop

- What the service was
 - When and where you received the service
 - Whom were you with
 - And explain why you think it was a good service
-
- I am a shopaholic and I love to purchase things.
 - Here I would like to talk about a situation when I received a very good service from a shop in a shopping mall in Jalandhar.
 - Last month I went there with my cousins to buy some clothes for myself.
 - I wanted to buy a pair of jeans and I had heard about this shop in Viva Collage, which sells jeans of all top brands.
 - We went straight to that shop and the salesmen welcomed us with smiling faces.
 - They started showing us various varieties and allowed us to try them on.
 - We were very happy to know that Levis Company was offering a deal.
 - We picked out the colours of our choice and happily made the purchase.
 - Two jeans needed slight alterations in length, which they got done within an hour at no extra cost.
 - We were very happy with their prompt service.
 - Later on we enjoyed at the mall and had lunch there at a food outlet.
 - In the evening we watched a movie in the same complex.
 - When I came home and showed my jeans to my family, they also liked it a lot.
 - I refer that shop to all my friends and relatives because of their services.

(Another idea)

- I am a shopaholic and I love to purchase things.
- Here I would like to talk about a situation when I received a very good service from Dell company, which deals with computers.
- Last year I made an online purchase of Dell laptop.
- I bought the latest version with an i5 processor and 500 GB hard drive.
- It was the first time I had bought anything online.
- When I received my laptop, I was very happy.
- It was very nicely packed and delivered to me.
- It came with a one-year warranty.
- It worked very well for the first ten months, but after that it started giving problems.
- It would hang very often and the battery back up became very less.
- Fortunately it was within warranty period.
- I called the Dell Support and told them about my problem.

- They assured me that within 24 hours, their representative would come and do the needful.
- The very next day, their person came and checked my laptop.
- He replaced my laptop's battery and also sorted out the other problems.
- He advised me to use the laptop with a cooling pad if I have to use it for long hours.
- I did not have to pay a single penny.
- I told about this to my friends and they were also surprised at such good after-sale services.
- Now my laptop is as good as new and I am not facing any problems.
- I would definitely recommend everyone to buy Dell laptops.

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Follow ups

1. What jobs require staff to get in touch with many people?

There are many jobs which require their staff to be in touch with people, such as the jobs of salesmen, some jobs related to go field work, jobs in banks and malls, teaching jobs and so on.

2. What qualities does the staff need? Why?

The staff needs good communication skills. They need to be polite all the time, and also have a lot of patience. They need to have good knowledge of what they are selling/offering.

3. What's the difference between services in big shops and small shops?

In big shops, things are displayed, and you can pick up what you need, but in small shops, the salesmen guide and personally show you what you ask for. They even guide you about the products. The return policies of big shops are better than those of smaller shops. Big shops offer more variety of products, whereas small shops have less variety.

4. What should people do when they get bad service?

People should complain if they get bad service. They can complain to the store manager or the company of which they have got the product.

5. Why do some people not know what service is good?

Some people do not know what service is good, because they have not compared it with the other stores or the other brands. Sometimes it is also because people are not aware of the concept of customer service.

44. A website which helped you to do something

- Which site is it
 - How did you know about it
 - How it helped
-
- I surf the internet very often, in fact daily.
 - There are many websites which help us to do many things.
 - Here I would like to talk about a website through which you can find videos to do almost anything
 - It is youtube.com
 - Whenever I have to do something, which I have not done before, I search a video on this site, and believe me ma'am, there are many to choose from
 - My friend sent me a video of 3D origami once, and I was amazed to see the clear instructions.
 - It has helped me in many ways.
 - I have done many school assignments with the help of youtube videos.
 - If I like any channel on youtube, I subscribe to it and then get that channel's updates in my e-mail.
 - Recently, I baked a cake by watching a you tube video.
 - It turned out perfect.
 - It was an eggless chocolate cake.
 - I bought all the ingredients, such as self raising flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, condensed milk, vanilla extract.
 - Once my mother was not at home.
 - I made rice by watching a video.
 - That too turned out perfect.
 - Videos are better than oral or written instructions.
 - So this is the website, which has helped me many times to do something.

Follow ups

1. Who in your family use the site?

My siblings use this site. Sometimes my father also uses it. (Give your personal answer)

2. Can internet help children in their study?

Yes, definitely. The Internet is an ocean of knowledge. Children can take the help of many educational sites on the net.

3. Will the internet replace the teacher?

I don't think so. The teacher will always be there. The teacher can keep the student focused on study. The Internet cannot do so.

4. Will downloading music or movies for free cause a problem?

Yes, it can cause problems. It can affect the sale of this music and the movies also. But it cannot be stopped. People will always find ways of doing so. This has also made many amateur singers and actors famous overnight.

45. Talk about a traditional object of your country

- What is it
 - How is it made
 - When did you try it for the first time
 - Why do you like it
-
- India is rich in tradition and culture
 - It is also very diverse.
 - Traditional products are different in different parts of India
 - Here I would like to talk about a traditional product which is of Punjab
 - Jutti is an urdu word for shoe with a closed upper attached to a sole
 - These are traditionally made of pure leather.
 - Then it is beaded, threaded and embroidered in different eye-catching colours.
 - It is made by skilled craftsmen.
 - Some designs are very intrinsic and delicate
 - Some are just plain or coloured leather
 - I have many Punjabi juttis
 - I wear them very often
 - I remember, the first time I wore Punjabi jutti was on my cousin's wedding, two years ago.
 - After that I liked it so much that I started wearing in routine.
 - It is very comfortable
 - It is the most versatile footwear.
 - It is popular among both genders.
 - It can be worn everyday, on weddings, parties and on festivals
 - It was first introduced by the Mughals and was very popular among the royalty
 - First the raw hide is processed
 - Then it is dyed
 - Then the cobblers make the juttis
 - Final stitching and embroidery is done in the end.
 - I like it because, it looks beautiful and is also very comfortable to wear.

46. A time when you teamed up with old person to teach something to a friend /relative

- What did you teach
 - How did you teach
 - Did friend/relative understand what you teach
 - How well they know about what you taught
-
- Well, learning and teaching are a part of life.
 - I have learnt many things from people around me, and I have also taught what I know well to my nears and dears.
 - I taught my grandfather how to surf the net and chat with my cousins abroad.
 - Once my cousin came with her children, Gia and Tanay to spend her summer vacation with us.
 - Gia wanted to learn Giddha and Bhangra, which are the traditional dances of Punjab.
 - I know some contemporary dance, but my cousin wanted Gia to learn Giddha.
 - So, my grandmother and I teamed up to teach her Giddha.
 - We downloaded some Punjabi songs and started giving her lessons.
 - I was awed with my grandmothers dancing skills.
 - She is a natural.
 - My mother told me that Grandma used to be the star of every family function because she dances so well.
 - Gia enjoyed learning from her.
 - Even I picked up a step or two.
 - Gia picked up every step very fast
 - We made her learn four steps and made her do a whole dance in a week.
 - It was great fun.
 - My cousin told me that Gia was learning western dance in the US, but she didn't enjoy it much.
 - Now, my cousin tells me that Gia keeps practicing Giddha back home also, and has taught it to many of her friends.
 - So, this is the situation, when I teamed up with my grandma to teach Punjabi folk dance to my niece.

Follow ups

1. What should older people learn from younger people?

Older people can learn a lot from young people. They can learn about technology, and the use of these modern gadgets. I taught my grandfather to use the whatsapp and now he is more busy on it than I am.

2. What attitudes and behaviour should older people learn from younger people?

Older people know a lot about the ways of life, but sometimes they forget that times have changed a lot. What was considered routine and OK in the past is not considered good today. Today's youngsters have adopted the good points of each culture and follow the global culture, in which vices like dowry and female foeticide have no place. The old people should adapt with the times and learn from today's children.

47. Describe an activity you do to keep fit

- What the activity is
- When and where you usually do it
- How you do it
- Explain why it can keep your fit

(Sample answer)

- I do a lot of things to stay healthy such as morning walk, yoga, cycling and so on but here I would like to talk about the morning walk.
- Every day I get up early in the morning and go for morning walk.
- I go with my grandfather, who is 95.
- He has never missed his morning walk in his life.
- In fact his secret of good health is the morning walk.
- I joined him about a year ago and ever since I also have been very regular.
- We go to a park near our home.
- There is a jogging track in the park which is full of activity in those early morning hours.
- My grandfather and I both wear our track suits and walking shoes while walking.
- During our walk, my grandpa tells me a lot of stories.
- He has a lot to tell and sometimes I am surprised at his memory,
- Morning walk has a lot of benefits,
- I used to be very fat, in fact a couch potato, but now I am very fit - all because of the walk and all because of my grandfather who made me do it,
- Morning walk also improves the blood circulation.
- It is a good exercise for all age groups.
- The young can do a brisk walk and the elderly can do a leisurely stroll.
- There is a laughter club in my home town.
- Sometimes they too are there in the park at that time.
- They come there to laugh out their stress and worries.
- Their laughter is so infectious that when they laugh we also can't help laughing with them.
- So a morning walk is the activity which I do to stay healthy.

Follow ups

1. What do old people in your country do to keep fit?

Old people do a lot to keep fit. They do yoga, go for walks, eat healthy food, avoid junk food and take proper food supplements.

2. What kinds of sports are popular in India?

India is a diverse country. All types of sports are popular such as cricket, hockey, football, volleyball, tennis and so on.

3. Do you think young people should play dangerous sports?

Yes, they should if they want to. However, they should do so under proper supervision and after undergoing proper training from licensed companies.

4. What else people can do to keep fit besides sports?

People can avoid fast foods and eat healthy and balanced diet.

5. What can parents do to make their children like sports?

They can make them join sports classes. They can act as role models. If they themselves play outdoor sports, their children will automatically follow them. Even if they don't play themselves, they can go out with their children and watch them play.

48. A change in your life

- What was it
- When did it happen
- Are you happy with the change

- Change is the law of nature.
- We all make changes in our life from time to time.
- I have also made many changes in my life.
- Here I would like to talk about a positive change that I made in my life recently.
- This change is that I have started managing my time very effectively.
- Earlier I used to procrastinate a lot.
- I was a real cunctator. (You may skip this line)
- I used to do everything at the 11th hour.
- Most of my work was left undone.
- One day I read an article in The Tribune on Effective Time Management.
- The writer had very nicely explained the importance of time management.
- Everybody on Earth has the same 24 hours in a day.
- The only difference between success and failure is effective time management.
- Time is the most important commodity on Earth.
- We can buy gold and silver but we cannot buy time.
- The writer had also given simple ways to manage time.
- I started making a list of to-do things before going to bed.
- I try my best to fulfil it the next day.
- This has brought a sea change in my life.
- Now I have time for everything.
- I have time for my hobbies and even for visiting neighbours and relatives.
- It has also reduced stress in my life because not a single important work is pending.
- Earlier, I used to be very tense about my pending works, but now I complete all my work in time and so feel relaxed all the time.
- I feel very good about it.
- I feel I am a new person.

Follow Up Questions

1. Is your country changing rapidly?

Yes, my country is changing rapidly. India is a developing country and is changing day-by-day for the better. With the advancement of technology it is stepping fast from a developing to a developed country. Change has always been happening, but technology has hastened the process of change.

2. What can smart phones do these days?

Smartphones are very smart. They are mini computers that fit in our pockets. They do everything, which was earlier possible only on computers. They have risen above the basic purpose of phones that is communication. They provide information, entertainment, as well as connectivity.

3. Since most people do work on their computers, why do they still need to go to the office?

They still need to go to the office because there are still many jobs, which require face-to-face interaction. Furthermore, doing all the work from home through a computer can be very boring, as the office atmosphere is missing. Internet connectivity is still a problem in many places.

4. Do you think people's work in the future will be heavily affected by technology?

Yes, people's work will be heavily affected by technology. Those who will use technology can develop a wider network of customers or clients and will consequently do better at work.

5. Compare the pace of technological progress in the past and in the present?

Technological progress was much slower in the past as compared to the present. For example, when there was any new invention in the past, it took time to reach the people, but today the information of any new thing in the market can be reached to the people instantaneously, because of the Internet.

SPEAKING PART 1

INTRO QUESTIONS

Although we have provided 56 Intro Sets but the following are more important

Celeb
Dreams
Daily routine
forget things
history
housework
jewelry
letters emails
mirror
music/music instrument
politeness
robots
school
shoes
Sunny days
sunshine
teacher
television
time management
transportation
veges and fruits
watch
work
studies
home
hometown
ads
birthdays
indoor games
newspapers and magazines

Set 1 – First set of questions, asked to almost all students

1. May I know your full name?

My full name is Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar.

(Note: Full name means given name + middle name if any + surname. Mostly students will speak the name given in the passport, which may not have the surname. So, you must speak your full name in answer to this question)

2. How may I address you?

You may address me as Kiran.

(Note 1: Here you may even speak your nickname. It just means that while asking the next questions, the examiner will call you by that name.

Note 2: Many students start speaking their address here. Here, the word ‘address’ has been used as a verb, which means ‘call’. In other words, the question is - How may I call you?)

3. May I see your ID?

Here is my passport. (Note: open the first page of the passport and show it to the examiner. You don't need to say 'Yes')

4. Where do you come from?

I come from Phagwara. It is a small town between Jalandhar and Ludhiana.

Set 2 - Work or Studies

(General Training students are likely to be asked job questions. A comprehensive list of job questions has been added in the end. Please note that everyone is doing different job. So it is not possible to answer these questions. If you want customized answers, you may call 9646044322. Explain your job profile and get sample answers for them)

WORK

1. What work do you do?
(personal answer)
2. Why did you choose to do that type of work (or that job)?
I chose that work, because I was interested in it.
3. Do you like your job?
Yes, I like my job. It is very interesting.
4. Is it very interesting?
Yes, it is very interesting.
5. Do you miss being a student?
Yes, I miss being a student. Now, when I look back I realize that they were the happiest days of my life.

STUDIES

1. What subject(s) are you studying?
I've just completed my senior secondary in commerce stream. Now I wish to go abroad for my higher education.
2. Why did you choose to study that subject/those subjects?
I chose these subjects because I was interested in them.
3. Do you like your subject? Why/Why not?
Yes, I like my subjects. I think they're very interesting.
4. Is it very interesting?
Yes, my subjects are very interesting.
5. Are you looking forward to working?
Yes, I'm looking forward to a part-time job when I go abroad to study.
6. Do you prefer to study in the mornings or afternoons?
I prefer to study in the mornings because at that time I feel very fresh and I can concentrate on my studies.

Set 3 – Jewellery

Have you ever purchased jewellery for someone?

Yes I recently purchased a gold necklace for my mother. It's a designer necklace and looks really trendy. It also has a diamond pendant attached to it.

My mother loves to buy jewellery, she thinks investing in gold is a good way to save money.

What kind of jewellery do you like?

These days jewellery is immensely popular among all people. As per me, I love to wear fashionable and trendy jewellery.

I don't like to buy jewellery that is too expensive, instead I like to buy artificial jewellery. I also like jewellery made from gemstones or pearls.

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Set 4 – Fruit

What is your favourite fruit?

My favorite fruit is apple. It is very healthy and is available all year long.

Why do you like it?

I like it both for the taste and nutritional value. Apples satisfy my need to eat something crunchy too. Because it takes a while to munch on one, I can control my appetite. Apples are one of the world's healthiest foods.

Set 5 – Sunshine

1. Do you like sunny days?

Yes, I like sunny days, but only in pleasant and cold weather. I do not like sunny days in summers and hot weather.

2. Do you like going (or, being) outside on sunny days?

Yes, I like being outside on sunny days. However, not during the summer season.

3. What do you like to do on sunny days (or, when you go outside)?

On sunny days, I sometimes like to sit out in the sun and read. Sometimes I go out and meet my friends in a park. Sometimes we plan a picnic on a nice sunny day.

4. What benefits can (or do) people get from sunshine? OR What benefits can (or do) we get from the sun?

There are many benefits of getting sunshine. We need sunshine to get the essential vitamin D. Vitamin D is essential for Calcium absorption and can cause several medical problems.

5. Do you think there are any downsides (or dangers) from sunshine?

Yes, certainly. There are some downsides of too much sunshine or being exposed to sunshine without the protection of sunscreen. It may cause skin burns or heat stroke or sometimes even skin cancer.

6. What do you do (when you are outside) and the sun is too strong?

When the sun is too strong and I am outside, I usually look for some shade or a cool place to sit and drink lots of water.

7. If you wanted to go to a place that has lots of sunshine, where would you go?

I would go to a place where the weather is pleasant and has a lot of sunshine. It would probably be a hill station.

8. Would you like to go, as a tourist, to a place that has little sunshine? OR Would you ever go, as a tourist, to a place that has little sunshine?

I like travelling and visiting new places. And given an opportunity I would definitely like to visit a place that has little sunshine.

Set 6 – Weekends

1. How do you usually spend your weekends? What do you usually do on weekends?

I spend my weekends in different ways. Sometimes I just relax at home. Sometimes I go out with my friends for a movie. Sometimes I finish my pending work. Sometimes I help my mother in household chores.

2. In your country, do men and women usually do the same kind of things on weekends (or in their free time)?

Gender differences are disappearing nowadays. Mostly men and women do the same kind of things on weekends.

3. When do you spend time with your family?

I spend the evenings with my family. We watch TV together, have dinner together and go for walks together.

4. What did you do last weekend?

Last weekend I went for a movie with my friends. We also had dinner at a restaurant. It was great fun.

5. What do other people in your hometown (or in your country) usually do on weekends?

People do a lot of things on weekends. Some go for outings; some people spend time at home with family; some people visit relatives. So people do different things on weekends.

6. What are you going to do next weekend?

I have not yet made any plan for the next weekend, but maybe I go out with my family for a movie.

7. Is there anything new that you would like to do on weekends?

I would like to learn some new language on weekends. As a plan to go to Canada, so French would be a good option for me. My relatives live in Montréal and it is a Francophone area. So learning French would help me.

8. Do you like working on weekends?

No, I don't like working on weekends. I prefer to spend time with my family and friends on weekends.

9. Do you think employees should have to work on weekends?

No, definitely not. I think there should be no compulsion on employees to work on weekends. It should be their choice. If they want to earn more, they should be allowed to work.

10. Do you think that weekends now are more important to you, than when you were a child?

Yes, weekends now are more important to me than when I was a child. When I was a child, all days were like weekends. So I did not give importance to weekends. But today, I look forward to weekends.

Set 7 – Activity near water

1. What activities would you do if you were spending some leisure time at the beach near the ocean?
- If I were spending leisure time at a beach I would try some water sports, like skiing or surfing, I would play volleyball on the beach, I also would enjoy reading at the beach or I would make castles out of the sand.

2. Why do some people like water sports?

Some people like water sports because it is very refreshing to play in and with water. Some people pursue it as a career or a profession. It is also a very good form of exercise.

3. Do you think the government should spend money in developing facilities for water sports?

Yes, government should spend money on developing facilities for water sports. It will encourage many people to pursue it as a career and earn name and fame for the country. It is also a very good form of exercise and will promote it as a way for many to remain physically and mentally fit and

would further lead to a healthier society. Such activities also act as stress busters, which are much needed in today's fast paced world.

4. Do you think that human activities are posing a threat to the oceans of the world?

Yes, human activities are definitely posing a threat to the oceans. The pollution being caused by the ships, boats, and oil drilling machinery used in oceans is harming the marine life to the extent that many aquatic plants and animals are on the verge of extinction. In case of accidents of oil carrying ships, it leads to oil spills, which is extremely harmful for the marine life. Many developing and developed countries are dumping garbage on the ocean beds, which has become a major cause of water pollution. Excessive fishing is also leading to many fish species being on the verge of becoming extinct.

5. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of traveling on the ocean?

Talking about the advantages first, traveling on the ocean is a very good way to learn about the marine life. It is very relaxing and acts as a stress buster. It is a good way to spend quality time family and friends. We can explore more places when travelling on the ocean.

At the same time there are also some disadvantages of travelling on the ocean. In case of a natural calamity like a storm or a tsunami, the chances of survival are less and rescue work is very difficult in such situation. The same is the case if there is an accident when traveling on the ocean. The pollution caused by the ships is also hazardous for the aquatic animals and plants. It is more time consuming than other forms of transport. It may also be more expensive, especially when people go on a holiday on cruise ships.

6. Do you think it's important for children to learn how to swim?

Yes, I think it is very important for children to learn how to swim. It is not only a good form of exercise, it can also be pursued a career. It is a good recreational activity, as it relaxes our mind and refreshes us. It is also a very good skill to learn for children, as it may help them in case of emergencies when travelling on water, not only to save their own lives, but they can also save others' lives. Also, I think childhood is the right age to learn this skill, as children are very receptive and learn new skills easily.

7. Do you think it is best for a child to be taught to swim by a parent or by someone else?

I think it depends. If the parents know how to swim well, they can teach their children to swim and children too will learn easily from their parents. However, if the parents themselves don't know how to swim or can't swim very well, then it is best to get professional help and have a good coach teach them how to swim.

8. Do you think that it is important to learn about the oceans and why?

I think it is very important to learn about the oceans. The oceans directly or indirectly influence us. Ocean waters serve as a source of food and valuable minerals such as salt, which we use daily in our food. Oceans also are used for commerce. For example, pearls taken from oysters are used in jewelry, and shells and coral are used as building materials. They also provide a place for recreation. Each year more people are attracted to the sports of swimming, fishing, scuba diving, boating, and waterskiing.

9. Do you think the oceans should be protected by international agreement?

Definitely, oceans should be protected by international agreement. Without oceans there would be no life on Earth. The oceans directly or indirectly influence us. Ocean waters serve as a source of food and valuable minerals such as salt which we use daily in our food. Oceans also are used for commerce. For example, pearls taken from oysters are used in jewelry, and shells and coral are used as building materials. They also provide a place for recreation. Each year more people are attracted to the sports of swimming, fishing, scuba diving, boating, and waterskiing.

10. Do you think the environmental problems can affect the oceans?

Yes, the environmental problems can definitely affect the oceans. Because of global warming, ocean water is also getting heated up and this is affecting marine life. People and big industries are dumping their effluents in the oceans and this is a cause for alarm.

Set 8 – Transportation

- What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?

The most popular means of transportation in my hometown is the bus. My hometown is on the national highway, and there is bus service to different places every two minutes.

- How often do you take buses?

I take the bus pretty often, in fact three or four times a week.

- Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?

Trains are cheaper than planes, but planes are much faster than trains. In trains you can take as much luggage as you want to, but in planes there is a restriction. Railway stations are there in almost all towns and cities, whereas airports are there in only a few places.

- Is driving to work popular in your country?

Yes, driving to work is popular in big cities, and in places where transport facilities are not so good.

- Do you think people will drive more in the future?

It is difficult to say about the future, but at the rate at which traffic congestion is increasing on the road, I think people will use public transport more.

- Would you ride bikes to work in the future?

No, I don't think I would ride bikes to work, as I think they are not very safe.

- What will become the most popular means of transportation in India?

I think road transportation will remain the most popular means.

- Do you prefer public transportation or private transportation?

I prefer private transportation for short distances and public transportation for long distances.

Set 9 – Music

1. Do you often (like to) listen to music?

Yes, I often listen to music. I like listening to film songs and Punjabi folk songs.

2. When do you listen to music?

Whenever I'm free I listen to music. I have downloaded a few songs in my cell phone. Listening to music relaxes me.

3. How much time do you spend listening to music every day?

I spend an hour or two listening to music every day.

4. What kinds of music do you like to listen to?

I like Hindi film songs. I also love Punjabi folk music.

5. What's your favorite kind of music?

My favorite genre of music is folk music. I also like film music.

6. Have you ever been to a concert?

Yes, I have been to a concert once. There is a village near my hometown where a famous Punjabi singer comes once a year to perform for charity. Last year I went with my friends. He performed live. He always has his tambourine in his hand. It was an electrifying performance.

7. Do you like to listen to live music?

Yes, I do like to listen live music. It is a different experience. In many restaurants and also in marriage functions, they have live music going on, which is very enjoyable. Concerts are also live music.

8. When did you start listening to this type of music?

I remember, I specially went for Gurdas Maan's live performance in a concert last year. Before that I had never been for a live music show.

9. Where do you listen to it?

Concerts may be held in concert halls, which are built for the purpose, or they may be held in any other suitable large building such as a school hall, or a large house. Some concerts are given to very large audiences in the open air. They may take place in a field or in a stadium. The music for these "open-air", is usually amplified by loudspeakers, so that large audiences can hear it.

10. How do you feel when you listen to this music?

I feel very relaxed when I listen to music. I feel as if all my worries and tensions have flown out of my body. I forget everything for sometime.

11. Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument?

Yes, I tried learning the guitar. My cousin has a guitar, and once I stayed with them a few days in my vacations. But, I found it very difficult.

12. Is music an important subject at school in India?

Unfortunately, it is not. Music is an optional subject in some schools, but all schools don't have it.

13. Did you often listen to music when you were a child? (If yes, give details.)

Yes, I listened to music as a child. Mostly I listened to film music.

14. What kinds of music are (most) popular in India?

India is a diverse country. All kinds of music are popular. Some like folk music, some like classical, some like sufi music, some like film music and some like fusion music, which is a blend of Indian classical and western music. A.R.Rehman plays fusion music.

Set 10 – Home/Accommodation

1. Do you live in a house or flat? Or What kind of housing/accommodation do you live in?
I live in a house. It is a two storey brick house.

2. Please describe it a little.

It is a two storey brick house. There're four bedrooms with attached bathrooms, a kitchen, a living room and a drawing room. There is a small lawn in the front and a kitchen garden in the backyard.

3. What's your favorite room in your home?

My favorite room is my own room, because I've decorated it according to my taste.

4. What have you done to your room to make it look nice?

I keep my room spic and span. The walls are painted light pink because it is my favorite color. There are floral curtains.

5. Who do you live with?

I live with my parents and brother.

6. Which room does your family spend most of the time in?

My family spends most time in the living room. We have our meals there. We watch TV together and also entertain informal guests in that room.

7. How long have you lived there?

I have lived there since my birth.

8. Do you plan to live there a long time?

Presently I plan to go abroad for my studies. But, but I love my home and would like to come back there.

9. (If you answer you haven't lived there long) What's the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?

10. What do you usually do in your house/flat/room?

I do many things in my house. I spend time with my parents, eat there, sleep there, Study there and entertaining guests in my house.

11. Are the transport facilities to your home very good?

Yes, the transport facilities to my house are very good. The bus service is ready frequent and the railway station is also very near.

12. Do you plan to move?

I plan to go abroad for higher education. Apart from that I do not plan to move.

13. Would you like to move to another place to live? (Why/why not?)

I plan to go abroad for my higher education. If I like it there, I might think of settling there.

14. Are you prepared to move?

No, I am not prepared to move.

Set 11 – Hometown

1. What's (the name of) your hometown?

I belong to Phagwara, which a small but beautiful town between Jalandhar and Ludhiana.

2. Is it a big city or a small place?

It is a town with a population of about 1.5 lakhs. It is on the national highway.

3. Please describe your hometown a little.

My hometown is very beautiful. All facilities are available here. There are good educational facilities, good hospitals, good job opportunities and already good shopping center.

4. How long have you been living there?

I have been living there since my birth.

5. Do you like your hometown?

Yes, I love my hometown.

6. Do you like living there?

Yes, I like living there.

7. Would you say it's an interesting place?

Yes, I would say it is an interesting place. The shopping center is very nice. In fact it is called a shoppers paradise. There are many historical places. There are three Sikh temples.

8. What do you like (most) about your hometown?

I like everything about my hometown, but what I like the most is that it does on the main road and so it is well connected by roadways and railways

9. What's your favorite part of your hometown?

My favorite part of my hometown is a park, where I go every morning for my morning walk.

10. Is there anything you dislike about it?

As such there is nothing I dislike about my hometown, but yes, the drainage system could be improved. Whenever there is rainfall there is a lot of water logging on the roads.

11. Do you think you will continue living there for long time?

Yes, I think I would continue living there for a long time. I wish to go abroad for sometime for my higher education, but would definitely like to come back here.

12. Are there any tourist attractions in your hometown?

Yes, there are two Sikh temples, dedicated to the sixth guru of Sikhs. There is an ancient Shiva Temple and there is a famous hotel Haveli, which is very popular among the tourists.

13. Did your friends also grow up in the same place as you?

Yes, most of my school friends grew up in the same place.

14. Would you like to live there in the future?

Yes, I would like to live there in the future because it's a beautiful place.

Set 12 – Watch

1. How often do you wear a watch?

I don't wear a watch very often. I check the time on my cellphone. I wear watches occasionally.
OR I wear a watch every day, to check the time.

2. What was your first watch like?

My first watch was a basic children's watch. It was a gift from my parents on my 5th birthday. It was digital and was pink/black/blue in color.

3. What kinds of watches do you like to wear?

I like to wear watches that match my outfit and also on which, it is easy to check the time.

4. Do people still wear watches in your country?

Yes, people in my country still wear watches. There are many national and international brands available in my country.

Set 13 – Visitors

1. Do you often invite friends to visit your home?

Yes, I like to invite friends to visit my home. Sometimes we have get-togethers at home and sometimes when we have to study or make a project, I invite my friends over.

2. Do you like visitors coming to your home?

Yes, I like visitors coming to my home. Its good to have relatives and friends come over and we can spend quality time with each other.

3. Do people often visit you at your home?

Yes, people visit me at home quite often. We have an extended family system that we follow and a lot of my relatives live in the same city. Also, sometimes my friends and neighbors also visit us at home.

4. How often do visitors come to your home?

Visitors come to my home very often, in fact twice or thrice a week.

5. When do visitors come to your home?

When someone has to visit, they usually call ahead and come. There are no specific times when people visit us at home.

6. Do you prefer to have friends visit you, or relatives?

I like having both my friends and relatives visit me. These days everyone is busy on their routines and so, when anyone visits me, it's a good way to spend quality time with them.

7. What do you usually do together with your visitors?

When we have visitors over, we usually sit and chat, discuss the day's happenings or any social or national issues. Sometimes we share jokes and have a good laugh and all this happens usually over of a cup of tea or coffee and some snacks. Sometimes we also have visitors over for lunch or dinner.

8. When someone visits you, how do you usually show hospitality (or, entertain them)?

Hospitality towards visitors is in our culture. In India, guests are treated like God. We show our hospitality by making them feel comfortable and offering them drinks and snacks or food, depending on the time of the day.

Set 14 – Dream

1. Do you often have dreams at night?

Yes, I often have dreams at night. Sometimes I have very pleasant dreams, and sometimes I have bad dreams. But I'm not really superstitious about these dreams.

2. Have you had a bad dream before?

Yes, many times I have bad dreams. But I have never seen them turn into reality.

3. What was the strangest dream you have had?

The strangest dream I had was that I am going for my exam, and things are going wrong and I can't reach, and then I get up and feel so relieved that it was a dream.

4. What do you usually dream about?

I dream about weird things. Sometimes I am in Canada in my dreams and sometimes in America. My relatives have told me a lot about Canada and USA, and I keep picturing them in my dreams.

Set 15 – Colours

1 What colours do you like?

I like all colors but red is my favorite color.

2 What is the most popular colour in India?

India is a vast country. It is difficult to generalize one color as the most popular color. I think all colors are equally popular, but the three colors off a national flag are the most popular. Green stands for prosperity, saffron stands for sacrifice and white stands for peace.

3 Do you like to wear dark or bright colours?

I like to wear dark or bright colors in winters, but in summers I like to wear light shades.

4 Do colours affect your mood?

Yes, colors affect my mood. When I see you bright colors I feel energetic, but light shades make me feel calm.

5 Did color matter to you when you were a child?

Yes, colour mattered to me when I was a child. My mother tells me I always wanted things in red colour. My school bag was always red and my clothes also had shades of red.

6 Does color matter when you buy things?

Yes, definitely. Colour is very important while shopping. I like my clothes in light pastel shades but household items like bed sheets and dinner sets in bright shades.

7 Which color you don't like to have in your home?

I like all colours but I wouldn't like grey on the walls of my house because I find grey to be a dull colour.

8 What is the difference between men's and women's preference on colours?

There are no gender differences nowadays. Both men and women wear on types of colors.

9 Have you ever seen a rainbow?

Yes, I have seen a rainbow many times. It looks very beautiful. Generally, it is seen in the rainy season. There are seven colors in the rainbow – violet, indigo, Blue, Green, yellow, Orange and red. I feel really happy when I see a rainbow. In Hindu mythology, it is called Indradhanush, or the bow of the Lord indra, the Lord of thunder and lightning.

Set 16 – Family

1. How often do you meet with your family?

I stay with my family. I meet my family members every day.

2. How do you spend the time with your family?

I spend time with family in many ways. We eat together, cook together, watch TV together and do many things together.

3. Do you want to live with your family in the future?

Yes, definitely. My family is my life Even though I go to some foreign country temporarily, I finally want to be with my family.

4. Are you close to all of your family members?

Yes, we are a very close-knit family.

5. How has your family influenced you?

My family has influenced me in many ways. We depend on each other for many things. We guide each other from time to time and we do many things together.

Set 17 – Friends

1. Do you have many friends?

Yes, I have many friends, but only a few close friends.

2. How often do you talk to your friends?

I talk to my friends every day. My best friend is also my neighbour. We are together most of the time.

3. How do you communicate with your friends?

I communicate face-to-face and also through cell phone and apps like Whatsapp.

4. What do you think makes people have a long friendship?

Mutual understanding makes people have a long friendship. If people can tolerate each other's shortcomings and be simple and straight forward, then friendships can be for a long time.

5. Does it make things easier in a friendship if you have similar interests?

Yes, definitely. With similar interests friends can spend time together and not get bored. They will also have similar topics for discussion. In a lasting friendship it is very essential that your likes and dislikes are similar.

6. How do people make friends now?

Nowadays, people make friends through internet by joining social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter and Whatsapp.

7. Do you think we meet new people differently now than in the past?

Yes, definitely. Nowadays, we meet new people through internet by joining social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter and Whatsapp. Earlier, people had lots of free time and they made friends by meeting personally.

8. Is friendship (= are friends) important to you? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, friends are very important for me. I can share all my feelings with them, and they understand me very well because they are mostly my age.

9. Do you prefer to spend time with friends or spend time alone? (Why?)

I prefer to spend time with my friends. I love their company and I enjoy being with them.

10. What kind of people do you like to have as friends?

I like my friends to be honest, trustworthy, helpful and intelligent. I also like friends with a good sense of humor.

11. Do you like to spend time with friends? (Why?)

Yes, I like to spend time with friends because I enjoy their company. I like to go out with them for movies, for shopping and for walks.

12. What do you and your friends do together?

We study together, go for walks together, watch movies together and sometimes eat out together.

13. What do your friends think of you? (Do your friends think that you are a good friend? Why?)
I think my friends like me. We spend a lot of time together and they never seem bored. I am honest and straightforward with them. So I think they like me.

14. Are friends more important than family? (Why?)

Friends and family both are important. But, I think Family is definitely more important than friends. Friends can turn out to be fair-weather friends but family is always with you in your good times and bad times. It has been rightly said that in prosperity your friends know you, but in adversity you know your friends.

15. How do Indian people make friends? (= where, in what situations, e.g. at school & at work.)
Indian people make friends in schools, colleges, while travelling, during family get-togethers, during outings and in many other ways. Nowadays making online friends has also become very popular.

16. Do adults and children make friends in the same way?

Adults and children do not make friends in the same way. Children are very innocent and make friends from the heart. They don't judge a person before making friends. Adults, on the other hand, are very calculative. They make friends after judging whether that person could be helpful to them or not.

Set 18 – Advertisement

(also refer to the follow ups of the cue card on advertisement)

1. Are there many advertisements in your country

Yes, there are too many advertisements in our daily lives. In fact advertising has become an industry. It has become the backbone of many economies of the world. Ads are ubiquitous nowadays. We see ads on TV, newspapers, hoardings and flyers. We also get ads through the radio, cell phone and the Internet.

2. Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?

There are so many advertisements because there are many products, and the manufacturing companies are competing with each other. They have to advertise to stay in the race. So we have an advertisement for almost each and every product that is available.

3. What are the various places where we see advertisements?

Advertisements are all around us. We have advertisements in newspapers, magazines, on TV, on radio and on the Internet.

4. How do you feel about advertisements?

I feel that advertisements are a necessity. Apart from telling us about products they are also telling us about the working of these products. Ads also touch social issues. However, I also feel that ads are very disturbing at times.

Set 19 – Art

1. Do you like art?

Yes, I like art. Art gives meaning to life. Art is what differentiates us from animals. I like all sorts of art. I like drawing and painting. I also liked performing arts like music and dance.

2. Do you think art classes are necessary? {Why?}

Yes, I think art classes are very necessary. Art brings out peoples creativity. Art preserves our culture and tradition.

3. How do you think art classes affect children's development?

Art classes affect children's development in many ways. Art brings out the hidden creativity of children. Art is a form of communication. People can convey their feelings through their paintings and through their songs.

4. What kind of paintings do Indian people like?

Indian people like different kinds of paintings. It is a matter of personal choice. Some people like portraits, some like paintings of landscapes, some like the traditional forms of painting and some like the modern art forms.

5. What can you learn from western paintings?

We can learn many things from western paintings, in fact from any form of art from anywhere. Sometimes it is related to a culture, sometimes it maybe someone's expression of their perspective, sometimes it's a social message and we can also learn about the types of material (canvas, paints, etc.) used to create that work of art.

6. What benefits can you get from painting as a hobby?

Painting as a hobby can bring out your hidden talent. Painting can relax you. You can even sell your paintings and earn money. You can also gift your painting to someone you love.

Set 20 – Bags

1. Do you like bags?

Yes, I like bags. I have different bags for different occasions. I carry a backpack to my school/college/classes, as I can easily carry my books in it. I have special bags for formal occasions, shopping and everyday use.

2. What types of bags do you like?

I like bags that are easy to carry, like backpacks, sling bags and totes, and I can use such bags to easily accommodate the things I need. I also like bags that have a few compartments, so that I can keep my things organized. m a kk ar IELTS

3. Do you usually carry a bag (when you go out)?

Yes, I usually carry a bag when I go out, however, the type of bags I use for different occasions vary.

4. What types of bags do you use (in your everyday life)?

5. (Similar to above) Do you have different bags for different occasions (or, different purposes)?

Yes, I have different bags for different occasions. I use a backpack when I go for my classes, for formal occasions I have formal bags, for shopping I use totes and sometimes I use a sling bag when I don't have to shop and the occasion is not formal.

6. What do you put in these bags?

For my classes or when I go to school/college I usually carry books and stationary in my bag. When going for shopping I carry my wallet, cellphone, and a bottle of water and when travelling I also put medicines and a book or a magazine in my bag. On formal occasions I carry only my wallet and my cellphone.

7. What sorts of bags do women like to buy?

I don't think it can be generalized, as it depends on the individual choice of the women. Some women like big bags and some like smaller ones, some always use a sling bag and some like a particular color or material of bags. Some women also choose bags from a particular brand.

Set 21 – Books

- How often do you read?

I like to read quite often. I read magazines and newspapers and my textbooks. Apart from that I have read a few novels by Amrita Pritam. I have read her Pinjar, which means skeleton.

- Do you have many books at home?

No, I do not have any books at home. I only have my textbooks at home.

- Do Indian people do enough reading?

Yes, Indian people do a lot of reading. They read magazines, newspapers, fiction and nonfiction such as biographies and autobiographies.

- Do Indian people like to read?

(similar to above)

- What kind of people like reading and what kind of people don't like reading very much?

People who are literate like to read. Many people don't like reading because they don't have interest in reading.

- What type of books children read nowadays?

Nowadays, generally speaking, the reading habit of the children is on the decline. Whatever books they read are based on fantasy, fiction and supernatural characters like Barbie, superman and shaktiman.

50 years ago – Children read a lot. They read moral and spiritual books. They read animal stories.

After 50 years – I do not think they will do any reading. All the time will be spent in front of computers.

- Do you think children have lost their interest in stories?

No, I don't think that children have lost their interest in stories. However, the stories they read today are very different from the past.

- Can story books be an ideal gift for children?

Yes, definitely! Story books can be an ideal gift for children. They can help the child imagine the characters in the mind which is the first step to creativity. Another important benefit is that we can impart the knowledge of culture, tradition, moral values and religion in the mind of the child. This forms the basis of the child's personality. Finally, story books enhance the curiosity of the child and enhance their mental growth.

- What can be done to encourage the habit of reading among children?

A lot can be done to encourage the habit of reading among children. The first and foremost step would be to make books available. There should be good libraries in the schools as well as in neighbourhoods. Story telling competitions could be organised. If children have to take part in these competitions, then naturally, they would be encouraged to read books. Finally, books could be made more interesting by adding graphics.

10. How does reading help a child?

Reading helps to improve concentration. It also helps to improve general knowledge. It also improves the language skills and satisfies the curiosity of children on various things.

11. What sort of books can be suggested to children to read?

Children should be encouraged to read religious and historical books. They should also read biographies and autobiographies of famous people so that they get motivation from them. They should also be encouraged to read books on science and technology. However, these books should be made very interesting by adding pictures. Ma kk ar IELTS

12. How much should a child read every day?

A child should read half to one hour daily. I think that would be enough considering that they have to go to school and do their homework as well.

13. What is the difference between the books sold in the past and the books sold nowadays?

In the past, books related to culture, tradition, religion and history were sold. Nowadays, books are mostly based on fiction and fantasy.

Set 22 – Celebrity

1. Who is your favorite celebrity in India?

My favorite celebrity in India is Amir Khan. He's an actor par excellence. Recently I saw his movie Dangal, which I liked very much.

2. Do you like any foreign celebrities?

Yes, I like some cricketers of Australia and South Africa.

3. Would you want to be a celebrity in the future?

No, I would not want to be a celebrity in the future. I am happy with the quiet and peaceful life of a commoner.

4. Do you think we should respect famous people's privacy?

Yes, we should respect famous people's privacy. They have a right to their privacy. It can affect their performance if anyone invades their private life. Mak kar IELTS

5. How do celebrities influence their fans in India'?

Celebrities are role models for their fans. People like to follow their celebrity, and do what they do.

Set 23 – Chocolate

1. How often do you eat chocolate?

I do not eat chocolate very often. I eat chocolate once or twice a month. Usually I like dark chocolate, which is not very sweet.

2. What's your favorite flavor?

My favorite flavor is Cadbury's dark delight.

3. Is chocolate expensive in India?

Yes chocolate is expensive in India, especially the chocolate of foreign brands, which is available here.

4. When was the first time you ate chocolate?

I don't remember exactly, but I have been eating chocolate since I was very small.

5. Is chocolate popular in India?

Yes, chocolate is very popular in India. We can get all varieties of Indian and imported chocolate.

Set 24 – Outdoor activities

1. What do you do in your spare time?

I do many things in my spare time. I watch TV, listen music and do a little bit of gardening.

2. Do you like outdoor activities?

Yes, I like outdoor activities. I go for walks in the morning. I play badminton at times and I also do some gardening.

3. What outdoor activities do you (most) like to do?

(same as above)

4. How often do you do that?

I do these activities almost everyday.

5. What outdoor sports do you like? (Why?)

I like many outdoor sports such as cricket, hockey and football, but I play only badminton.

6. How much time do you spend outdoors every week?

I spend about 30 to 40 hours outdoors every week.

7. How often do you do outdoor activities?

I do these outdoor activities very often, almost everyday.

8. What (types of) outdoor activities are popular in your country?

India is a diverse country. All types of outdoor activities are popular. But, I think cricket is the most popular outdoor sport.

Set 25 – Photography

1. Do you like to take photographs? (Why?)

Yes, I like taking photographs. Photographs are the memories of good times and special events. We can capture special moments, interesting things or beautiful sceneries through pictures. They are reminders of good times.

2. Do you prefer to take photos yourself or to have other people take photos? (Why?)

I prefer taking photos myself, as everyone has a different way of looking at things. Another person may not like what I find interesting.

3. How long have you liked taking photographs?

I have liked taking photographs since I was a child. We used to take our camera to all our vacations and I used to be very fascinated with it. Now I mostly use my cellphone to take pictures.

4. How (why) did you become interested in photography?

I became interested in photography because my father was very fond of taking pictures and he always had a good camera. We used to take a camera to all our vacations and take pictures.

5. How often do you take photographs?

I take photographs very often, in fact almost everyday.

6. In what situations do you take photographs?

I take photographs in many situations. Sometimes its during friends or family get-togethers, sometimes it is a beautiful scenery, like of the sky or the sunset or when I travel to another city, I take pictures and on many more such situations.

7. What kind of photos do you like to take? (Why?)

I like to take photos of different things. Sometimes it is a beautiful scene, which can be of the clouds, sky, sunrise, sunset and so on. Sometimes I take pictures of plants and animals. I also like to capture the different expressions on people's faces.

8. Do you prefer to take pictures of people or of scenery?

I do not prefer one to the other. I like taking pictures of various things, sometimes it's scenery and sometimes I like capturing a person's expressions.

9. Who do you take photos of?

I take photos of family, relatives, friends, my dogs, other animals, etc.

10. How do you keep your photos?

I save pictures mostly in online albums, like Google photos. Sometimes, I get them printed also.

11. Do you keep your photographs on your computer?

Yes, I keep my photographs on the computer. I always backup my phone photos onto the computer.

12. Are there any photos on the walls of your home?

Yes, there are photos on the walls of my home. We have pictures of all special family events, like birthdays and weddings and also of all of us growing up and at different stages of our lives.

13. Do you frame (or have you framed) any of your photos? (If yes, which? & why?)

Yes, I have a family photo framed. It is from my sister's wedding. All five members of my family are there in this picture together and everyone is looking cheerful and happy. It is one of my favorite photographs.

14. Do you prefer to send postcards to people or to send photos that you took yourself? (Why?)

I prefer to send photographs I took myself, as they are a way to share your experiences with your near and dear ones and letting them know that you are thinking of them.

Set 26 – Television and Radio

1. What kind of entertainment do you prefer, TV or radio? (Why?)
I pay for TV to radio because TV is both audio as well as visual. I listen to radio only while traveling.
2. How are radio programs and television programs different?
While listening to radio you can do other things such as cooking and driving. This is not possible while watching TV. Radio programs are cheaper as you do not have to subscribe to radio channels. Watching television is costlier in comparison. Radio programs have only the audio component whereas TV is audio as well as visual.
3. What programs do you like to watch/listen to?
I like to watch sitcoms like comedy night with Kapil. I also watch some daily soaps, some sports channels and news programs.
OR
I listen radio Mirchi and other such radio channels from where I can listen to the latest songs.
4. When do you watch TV/listen to the radio?
I watch TV mostly in the evenings. At that time we all family members sit together and watch some sitcoms or news channels.
I listen to radio only when I'm traveling with my parents in our car.
5. In India, has television/radio changed much in recent years?
Television has changed a lot in the recent years. Many new channels and programs have been added. High-definition TV has become very popular. You can also watch some TV shows of other countries almost at the same time.
In the radio also many new channels have been added. So there is an improvement in both TV and radio.
6. How do you think TV/radio broadcasts in India could be improved?
Some new shows on education could be added. Otherwise I'm quite happy with the TV programs and the radio broadcasts.
7. Do you prefer TV news or news on the radio? (Why?)
I prefer news on TV to news on radio. This is because TV has both the audio as well as a visual component.

Set 27 – Teacher (More questions with sample answers in the end)

1. What kind of teachers do you like best?

I like teachers who are friendly and have patience; who do not get mad at me when I don't understand anything. I like teachers who have depth of knowledge of the subject, and who have good communication skills to teach well.

2. Who was your favorite teacher when you were young?

When I was young Mrs. Promilla was my favorite teacher. She used to teach me maths. I remember I used to be very weak at Maths, but Mrs. Promilla taught us so well that Maths became my favorite subject.

3. Would you want to be a teacher in the future?

Yes, I would definitely want to be a teacher in the future. I think I have the patience. Moreover, teaching is a very lucrative profession nowadays.

4. Have you ever had bad teachers before?

No, I have never had bad teachers in my life. All my teachers have been very nice.

Set 28 – Newspapers

1. Do you often read newspapers?

Yes, I often read newspapers. I read the newspaper every day. I come to know what is happening around me and in the world.

2. Which do you prefer reading, magazines or newspapers?

I prefer reading newspapers because I like to know what is happening around me.

3. What kinds of (types of) newspapers (or magazines) do you usually read?

My father has subscribed to the Tribune. So I read that daily. It is a National newspaper, but has a maximum circulation in Punjab.

4. How old were you when you first started to read newspapers?

I remember I was 10 years old when I started reading the newspaper. I started from the sports section.

5. Do you think it's important to read newspapers? (Why?/Why not?)

It is very important to read newspapers. We feel connected with the whole world.

6. Why do (you think) people read newspapers?

People read newspapers to know what is happening around them. They also read newspapers for the international news. They also read newspapers for the employment advertisements and matrimonial.

7. What different types of newspaper are there in India?

There are broadsheets and tabloids. There are newspapers in English, Hindi, Punjabi and other regional languages.

8. Do you care about the news?

Yes, I care about the news. I think news is very important. We should be aware of what is happening around us and in the whole world.

9. Is the news important (to you)?

(same as above)

10. What kinds of news do Indian people read in newspapers?

Indian people like to read all types of news. They read local news, National news, International news, Sports news and many other news.

11. Do you prefer to read about domestic (or local) news or international news? (Why?)

I like to read domestic news as well as international news.

12. What are some methods that newspapers use to attract readers?

Some newspapers use colourful graphics. Some use very bold headlines. Some newspapers add puzzles like Sudoku and crossword puzzles to attractive readers.

13. What influence do you think newspapers have on society?

Newspapers have a lot of effect on society. They shape people's opinions. Through letters to the editor they are a link between the government and people. They also entertain us.

14. Do you think the Internet is a good way to get news?

Yes, the Internet is a really good way to get the news nowadays. People subscribe to the e-newspapers. There are many apps off the TV News channels, which help the people to be updated all the time.

Set 29 – Mirrors

1. How often do you look at yourself in the mirror everyday

I look at the mirror at least once a day when I go out for my work. Apart from that whenever I get a chance I flatter myself by looking at the mirror. I think if you are a confident person, looking at the mirror always boosts your confidence

2. Have you ever bought mirrors?

Yes, I bought a beautiful mirror when I went to Jodhpur last month, it has a nice wooden frame and a clear mirror to look at. It also has carving on the frame

3. Would you use Mirrors to decorate rooms?

Yes I would like to use Mirrors to decorate the rooms. Mirrors add space to the room and also enhance the lighting effect. My interior decorator friend also recommended it for my study room recently.

Set 30 – Robots

1. Do you like robots?

Yes I like robots as they can do so much for you these days. There are simple robots to clean the houses and sophisticated ones to perform surgeries.

2. What kind of robot would you like to have

Recently I have heard about a robot that cleans your room I would like to process one. It is like an automatic vacuum cleaner that picks up the dirt from all the looks and corners

3. Will robots change society significantly?

Yes, robots will changes in society. In fact they have already done so, most of the jobs that were done manually earlier are performed with the help of robotics and with more precision.

No I don't think robot will change the society it will only changed the way we work

Set 31 – Gifts (also refer to follow ups of cue card on gifts)

1. What is the importance of gifts?

Gifts are gestures of love. They strengthen bonds of friendship. Gifts make the recipient feel special.

2. Is there any pressure on us to buy presents?

As such, there is no pressure on us to buy presents. But sometimes when we receive costly presents then there is a pressure to reciprocate in the same way. Then it may cause pressure. I believe that gifts should be just gestures of love. Too costly gifts should not be there.

Nowadays, we belong to a consumerist society. There are so many choices of gifts. This may seem good to some, but I often get confused when it comes to selecting a gift.

3. How often do you buy others gifts?

I buy gifts very often. I buy gifts for my friends and siblings, but I don't buy expensive gifts. I am not earning yet. So, my budget is restricted to my pocket money only.

4. Do you like to send expensive gifts?

No, I don't buy expensive gifts. I am not earning yet. So, my budget is restricted to my pocket money only.

5. What kinds of gifts are popular in your country?

All sorts of gifts are popular in my country. People buy gifts according to their choice and pocket.

6. Why do people send gifts?

Gifts are tokens of love. They give happiness to the giver and receiver both.

Set 32 – Shoes

1. How often do you buy shoes?

For me comfort of shoes is more important than the looks, so whenever I find a pair of shoes that are very comfortable I don't miss the chance to buy .As a matter of fact I end up buying a pair of shoes every month.

2. Have you ever bought shoes online?

Yes, online shopping these days offers a wider range of products, than conventional shopping in the stores. So I prefer to buy shoes online these days. I just bought a pair yesterday.

3. Do you know anyone who likes to buy a lot of shoes?

Yes I have come across many people who like to buy a lot of shoes. My sister, my aunt ,my mother all of them have a good collection of Shoes in all colours .

4. What's your favourite type of shoes?

As I just mentioned my favourite type of pair of shoe is the one that offers comfort rather than good looks only. I like shoes that are simple in design and polishable.

Set 33 – Forget things

1. What kinds of things do you have to bring when you go out?

When you go out you should have your purse with some money, an ID card and your cell phone.

2. Did you ever forget to bring something?

Yes, once I had to go to Ludhiana by bus. I forgot my wallet at home. Fortunately, I knew someone in the bus, who helped me. Otherwise, I would have had to get down midway.

3. How do you remind yourself?

I have become very forgetful. I try to repeat things in my mind and sometimes I set reminders on my cell phone.

4. Do you carry different things in the morning and in the evening?

It depends on where I have to go. In the morning, it is generally to school or college. So, I carry my bag and books. In the evening, I may have to go shopping. So, I carry my purse and shopping bag.

Set 34 – Indoor games

1. Do you play any indoor games?

Yes, I play carom board and cards with my siblings and parents.

2. Do you prefer to play indoor games or outdoor games?

It depends on the weather outside. In hot summer afternoons, I play indoor games. But, when the weather is good, I play cricket and badminton outside with my friends.

3. What indoor games did you play when you were a child?

I played carom board, ludo and snakes and ladders as a child.

4. Is there any particular indoor game that you liked (when you were a child)?

I liked ludo and snakes and ladders.

5. What sorts of indoor games do children play now?

Nowadays, children are of the digital era. They play electronic games on the computer.

6. Do you play video games?

Yes, I play Mario and tetris sometimes on my phone.

7. What kinds of video games do you like to play?

I play Mario and tetris only. Sometimes I feel I have wasted a lot of time on these two games.

8. Is it good for young people to play video games?

Yes, video games are good, but only if played in a limit. These introduce children to computer technology, and teach strategy building skills.

Set 35 – City Life

Do you live in the city or the countryside? (countryside = village)

I live in the countryside. (----Then go about talking about your village)

I live in the city. (----Then go about talking about your city)

Is it good for young people to grow up in the city?

Yes, it is good for young people to grow up in the cities because cities provide many facilities. There are good education facilities, recreational (entertainment) facilities, and health facilities. There are also good job opportunities in cities.

Is your city/village a good place for young people to grow up?

Yes, my village is a good place for young people to grow up. First, it is very near to the city. It is as good as being in the suburbs of the city. We can enjoy all the facilities of the city as well as the clean and pollution free atmosphere of the village.

OR

Yes, my city is a good place for young people to grow up. There are good education facilities, recreational (entertainment) facilities, and health facilities. There are also good job opportunities in my city.

Have you ever been to the seaside?

No, I have never been to the seaside. My cousin went to Goa last year. He told me that beaches are fun places. I would like to go there whenever I get a chance.

OR

Yes, I have been to the seaside once. I went to visit relatives in Mumbai. They took us to the Juhu Beach

Do you often eat out (go to restaurants)?

I eat out very often, in fact two or three times a month.

What food do you like?

I like traditional Punjabi food, such as dal roti. I also like Chinese Manchurian and cheese chilly. I love eating Italian pizza and pasta.

Set 36 – Collecting

Do you collect anything?

Yes, I collect newspaper articles which are related to health. I love reading about good health. I have a good collection of health related articles.

OR

I collect pictures of my favourite actors and actresses. I have a good collection of these pictures.

OR

I collect coins. Numismatics has been my hobby since I was 5. My father has a good collection of coins. I developed this hobby after being motivated by him.

OR

I collect stamps. Philately has been my hobby since I was 5. My father has a good collection of stamps. I developed this hobby after being motivated by him.

Unfortunately, now we don't receive many letters from which I can collect stamps.

Why do you collect(that/those things)?

It is just my hobby. I get happiness by collecting these things. I am proud of my collection. I show it to my friends and relatives with pride.

Is collecting a popular pastime in India?

India is a diverse country. People have various pastimes. I think many people do collect things according to their interest.

What items are considered collectibles in your country?

Coins, stamps, jewellery, antique pieces, photographs and marbles are some examples of collectibles. Nowadays, young people have a good collection of songs in their digital devices.

Does anyone in your home collect anything?

My father collects coins. Now, I too have started collecting coins. My mother collects jewellery. She has a huge collection of junk jewellery.

Do a lot of people in India collect things and what do they collect?

(answer same as of question 3)

What are the benefits of collecting? (= Why do people like collecting?)

There are many benefits of collection. First, it is great fun to collect. Secondly, these collections can fetch you a lot of money. My uncle has a huge collection of stamps. He was telling me the other day that many of his old collections are in great demand by philatelists and he is thinking of selling them for a huge sum.

Set 37 – Foreign language

1. Why do you think it is important to learn a foreign language?

It is important to learn a foreign language because it helps you connect with more people. As it is, today we do not belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village and to survive in this global village, it is necessary to be multilingual. For example, English is spoken in 86 countries. If you know English you can communicate with people of 86 countries.

2. How is it helpful to you to speak a foreign language?

I know English which is a foreign language. It is very helpful for me. Knowledge of English makes me feel more confident as it increases my communication skills and also it helps me in surfing the net because most websites are written in English.

3. What is the most difficult part of learning a foreign language for you?

I find some pronunciations very confusing at times. For example bough is pronounced 'bo' whereas tough is 'tuff'.

Sometimes the spellings which have silent words also confuse me. For instance 'b' is silent in doubt and debt.

4. What is the best way to memorize new words?

The best way is to start using them in daily life so that they become part of your natural spoken English.

5. Is it better to learn a new word from translation or by definition?

I think both ways are equally good. Sometimes some words are learnt best by translation and some by definition.

6. Why don't some people know the language of the society they live in?

This is perhaps because they live in their own shell and don't intermingle with those people.

7. What do you think of children learning a foreign language?

I think children should learn a foreign language. It is very easy for children to learn a foreign language as they are very receptive and they are not hesitant about making mistakes. They also have a benefit of not knowing any other language too well, to make comparisons and assumptions about the difficulty of language learning. In this era of globalization, knowledge of a foreign language is very beneficial for a better career and a brighter future. It opens more avenues for the students for higher education and good jobs.

8. Why are some language classes boring?

Some language classes are boring because of the teaching methods used. If there are no interactive and fun activities involved in teaching a language and only textbook teaching methods are followed, students become bored easily. Incorporating technology in classrooms, keeps the students interested in learning and they learn it easily. For example, there should be audio-visual means used.

9. Some students hate to learn foreign languages, what can teachers do to develop their interest?

Some students hate to learn a foreign language mainly due to lack of interest and uninteresting

teaching methods used. Teachers play an important role in developing students' interest. Interactive and fun activities should be included to keep the children involved and interested in learning. If students are taught only from text books and there is a pressure of examination, it leads to students becoming bored or disliking language classes. Teachers should also use contexts and examples to which the students can relate in their day-to-day life. If they understand how the language can help and benefit them, students would be motivated to learn that language.

10. Some people travel for learning a foreign language, what do you think?

I think that traveling is a very good way to learn a foreign language. It is true that the more we use a language, the better we get at it. So, if we travel to a country/region where that language is used, we will interact more with the local people in that language and learn its nuances better. Also, language is related to the culture. If we travel, we learn more about the culture and can learn the language better.

11. What's the best way to learn a foreign language?

I think the best way to learn a foreign language in a classroom environment, from a teacher who has in-depth knowledge of that language. The teacher should preferably be a native speaker of that language or should have a high proficiency level in that language. It is very important to incorporate technology and audio-visual methods to teach that language. Also, travelling to that country/region where the language is spoken is also a good way to learn it. These days learning a language through videos and online classes has become very popular, as the students get a chance to interact with the teachers and also with native speakers of that language, through the internet. There are many apps also available, which can be downloaded on smartphones, which help learning a foreign language in a fun and interactive way. For example, the Duolingo app.

12. Why can some people learn languages fast while others learn slowly?

Some people learn language faster than some others because of the teaching methods used to teach them. Interacting more with the native speakers also helps with learning a language better and faster. Also, there may be a motivating factor, like a job that requires them to learn that language, which makes people learn a language faster than others, who don't have any motivation behind learning a language.

13. Does one's age affect their language learning?

Yes, I think age affects language learning. I think the learning curve goes down with increasing age. Also, at an older age, people try and compare the new language they are learning with the language they already know. That may cause a hindrance in the learning of a language. People also become more hesitant about making mistakes and feel more embarrassed, at a later age, as compared to young learners.

Advantages for children to learn languages – Why it is good to learn languages at younger age

1. When children learn multiple languages at a younger age, they develop a lifelong love of communicating with others.
2. It is much easier to learn foreign language when young. At a later age it becomes harder to become fluent.

3. Learning a foreign language helps a child's mind develop. Such children do better in other subjects. It helps their intellect to develop more
4. Learning a foreign language helps children to expand their knowledge of the world. They want to know about other people and other countries. They would want to understand them instead of being afraid of them.

Advantages for the adult learner of a foreign language

He has his own language to compare with the second language. So new terms or concepts are easily understood.

They have a strong motivation to learn a new language especially if it is connected to an employment opportunity.

Most adult learners have participated in study earlier, so they know what method of learning works best for them.

Set 37 – Birds

- How do you feel about birds? (Why do you feel that way?)

I feel that birds are very special. They are beautiful creations of God. They add diversity to nature.

- How do Indian people feel about birds?

India is a diverse country. Everyone has different feelings. Some love birds, and keep them as pets. Others just admire them flying in the sky. Some even eat birds.

- Are there many birds near your home?

Yes, there are birds near my home. I can see pigeons, crows, sparrows and even the cuckoo bird occasionally.

- Have you seen many different kinds of birds? (near your home)

Yes, I have seen many different birds. Apart from the birds I see routinely around my house, I have seen peacocks in my neighbouring village. I have also seen some rare birds, in the Chhattbir zoo. There were different varieties of parrots and the ostrich and emu over there.

- Do any birds have any particular significance in India? For example, does India have a national bird?

Yes, peacock is our national bird. It is a beautiful bird. The male looks very beautiful with its plumes spread out.

- Do you think birds should be protected? (Why? / Why not? How can they be protected?)

Yes, definitely. They are beautiful creations of nature. They add diversity to our environment. Apart from that, they are the best pollinators. Also, birds eat insects. That is why crops are protected. They are part of our ecological chain. We all know that if any link of our ecological chain is not there, then the whole ecology can collapse.

Birds can be protected by having strict laws against catching and selling birds. The NGOs like SPCA, which means Society for prevention of cruelty to animals, and the PFA, which means people for animals can also help in this matter.

- Do Indian people like raising (keeping) pet birds?

Yes, they do. Some people keep birds as pets. They keep colourful parrots and pigeons as pets.

- Have you ever raised (kept) a pet bird?

No, I have never raised a pet bird. There is a lot of work involved.

Set 38 – Boats

1. Do you often travel by boat?

No, I don't often travel by boat. I don't live in the coastal area and where I live people do not travel by boat. Boating is done only in places with water such as the Sukhna Lake.

2. Have you ever been on a boat while you were on holidays (on vacation)?

No, I have never traveled to a coastal area for holiday. I never got a chance.

3. (Similar to above) Have you ever been on a boat tour while you were on holidays? (Same question as above. Can be answered differently)

No, I have never been on a boat tour, but yes, I did boating once then I went to Chandigarh to visit my relatives. They took me to the Sukhna Lake.

4. Would you like to go on a boat tour? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, I would definitely like to go on a boat tour. I think it would be great fun. My relatives live in USA. They told me that there's a cruise to Alaska. One day I would love to do that cruise.

5. (Similar to above) Would you like to have a holiday on a boat?

6. Where in your country do people most often use boats? (or, travel by boat)

India has a long coastline. The coastline is more than 7000 km. People living near the coast use boats very often.

7. Do many people in your country own their own boat?

Maybe people living near the shores have their own boats, but people living off shore do not have their own boats.

8. Would you like to buy a boat?

No, I would not like to buy a boat. I think it would be a waste of money.

9. If you had your own boat, what would you do with it?

If I had my own boat, I would buy a house near the beach and do boating everyday.

Set 39 – Relatives

1 Do you often visit your relatives?

No, I don't often visit relatives. I visit them once or twice in six months.

2 What do you do when visit them?

Whenever we visit relatives, we have lots of fun. We visit some historical places, eat out, watch movies and do lots of other activities.

3 Do you prefer to spend time with your relatives, or your friends?

I prefer to spend time with my friends. I like the company very much. We have lots of fun together.

4 (Possibly the question above is this) Do you prefer visiting your relatives, or your friends?

5 (Similar to above) Who is the more important to you, your relatives / your family, or your friends?

Both are important for me, but my friends are more important than my relatives. Of course, my immediate family is more important than friends.

Set 40 – Shopping

- 1 Do you like (going) shopping? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, I love going shopping. I love doing window shopping. I come to know about the latest trends on fashions going on. I feel like buying so many things, but I'm not earning yet, and so my pocket doesn't allow me to buy everything.

- 2 What do you think is the most difficult (or, unpleasant) part about shopping?

The most difficult part about shopping for me is selecting things. The markets today are flooded with choices. I find it very confusing. I also don't like to go to the shops, which are not fixed price shops. I hate bargaining.

- 3 Is there anything you don't like (or, dislike) about shopping?

I don't like bargaining. That is why I generally go to fixed-price shops.

- 4 What don't you like about shopping?

- 5 Do you prefer shopping alone or with others?

I do not like to go shopping alone. The market is flooded with choices, and I find it very confusing to select things on my own.

- 6 Who do you (usually) go shopping with?

I usually go shopping with my mother. Sometimes I go with my friends.

- 7 Do you prefer to go shopping with family members or with friends?

It depends on what I have to buy. If I have to buy costly things then I like to go with my family, but for stationery items and other small things I go with friends.

- 8 What do you usually buy when you go shopping?

I buy clothes, shoes, cosmetics, stationery items and many other such things when I go shopping. Sometimes I go with my mother to do the grocery and buy vegetables.

Set 41 – Sports

1 Are you interested in sport?

Yes, I am interested in sports. I like watching cricket and hockey on TV. Sometimes I play badminton with my brother, on the terrace of our house.

2 (Similar to above) Do you like sport?

3 What sports do you like? (Why?)

I like cricket, hockey, badminton and many other sports. I like watching these on TV. But I play only badminton.

4 Do most people in your country like sport?

Yes most people in my country like sport. Cricket is the most popular sport. People also like hockey and football.

5 (Similar to above) What sports do people in your country like to play?

India is a diverse country. People like to play all types of sports, but cricket is the most popular sport.

6 What benefits do you think sport can bring us?

Playing sport and bring us many benefits. By playing competitive sports, we learn competition, and by playing team sports we learn cooperation.

Set 42 – Daily routine

- 1 Do you like to plan what you will do each day? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, I like to plan what I do each day. If I do not plan I tend to procrastinate and then all my work piles up and I start getting stressed.

- 2 Please describe your typical daily routine.

I get up at around six in the morning. Then I freshen up and go for a walk. I walk for around 5 km every day. If for some reason I do not go for a walk, then I feel something is missing from my life. After coming home I help my mother in household chores. Then I go to school/college. In the evening, I hang out with my friends for about an hour or so. Then I study for sometime. We are family members have dinner at around eight. We all watch TV together for about an hour. I go to bed at around 10.

- 3 What's your favourite time of the day? (Why? What do you do at that time?)

My favorite time of the day is evening time. We are family members have dinner together. We share our day's happenings with each other. We watch TV together. Sometimes we go for walk after dinner. So this is my favorite time of the day.

- 4 What do you usually do at this time of day?

(same as above)

- 5 Do you usually do the same things at the same time each day?

No, my timetable is not that fixed. Dinner time is more or less fixed. Sometimes I go to bed late, if I have to complete an assignment or prepare for some test.

- 6 How do you plan (organize) your study time?

I plan my study time very meticulously. I'm usually very diligent and try to study for 2-3 hours on school days, and 5 to 6 hours on weekends.

- 7 Do you ever (or, do you often) change these plans?

Yes many times, I have to change my plans. Sometimes there are guests at home and I have to help my mother. Then my timetable gets disturbed, but I usually make it up the next day by studying more.

Set 43 – People's ages

- What do you think is the most important age in a person's life? (Why?)

(Similar to above) In India, what's the most important age in people's lives?

I think the most important age is eighteen in India. At this age adulthood starts and with it a lot of legal rights, like the right to vote, legally obtain a driving license for four wheelers, making independent financial decisions and many more.

- Are birthdays important in Indian culture?

(Similar to above) Do people in India celebrate birthdays?

Yes, birthdays are important in the Indian culture. Birthdays are celebrated but in different ways by different people. Sometimes it's a party with the relatives and friends, sometimes people celebrate with only their family and eat out and sometimes it's a movie and a meal with friends.

- What birthday is most important in Indian culture? *

The most important birthday in the Indian culture is the 18th one. (rest can be the same as in the answer to Ques.1).

- What age in life is the most difficult? (Why?)

Every age has its own challenges and joys. I don't think that we can call any particular age the most difficult. Teenage years may be a little challenging, as in those years of adolescence children undergo both physical and hormonal changes, which may be a little difficult to deal with. They are neither children nor adults at that age.



Set 44 – Punctuality

1 Do you wear a watch?

(Similar to above) Do you think everyone should wear a watch?

Yes, I wear a watch and I think that everyone should wear one too, or keep a check on the time. These days please check time on their cell phones, however, the point is to be on time and not waste time.

2 In your country is it important to be on time (= be punctual)? (e.g., for meetings, work, classes)

Yes, it is very important to be on time to meetings, classes or for work. Time is valued a lot in India, as unlike money, time once gone doesn't come back.

3 Do you like to be on time?

(Similar to above) Is being on time important to you?

Yes, being on time is extremely important to me. I ensure that I am never late for my classes and other appointments and meetings. I understand that time is much more important than any other material thing or money.

4 How do you feel when others are late?

When others are late occasionally, it maybe due to a genuine problem, however, if someone is late very often, then it's definitely a habit that I do not appreciate or like.

Set 45 – Names

- 1 Does your name have any special meaning?

Yes, my name has a special meaning. My name is Kiran. It means a ray of light. My name is very significant for me. It has been my identity for the last 56 years. It is a gift given to me by my parents. It brings out positive feelings from within me. I am proud of my name.

- 2 Is your surname very common in India?

My surname is Makkar. I think it is very common. I know many people with this surname.

- 3 Do you like your name?

Yes, I love my name. It is my identity. It is the meaningful name. It is my parents gift to me.

- 4 Would you like to change your name?

No, I would never like to change my name. I love my name as it is.

- 5 Do people in India ever change their names?

Yes, sometimes people change their name. Sometimes, when a girl gets married, her in-laws give her a new name and start calling her by that name. However, it is a very cumbersome process to change one's name in papers.

- 6 What name do people at home (your family members) call you?

My nickname is Mohini. At home everyone calls me by that name.

Set 46 – Birthdays

- How do children celebrate birthdays in your country?

Children celebrate birthdays in different ways. Some children invite friends and cut the cake. Older children take their friends out for a party. Some people celebrate by donating for charity.

- How did you celebrate your last birthday?

I took my friends out for dinner at Rangla Punjab, a famous restaurant in the suburbs of my hometown.

- What kinds of birthday gifts do you like to receive?

I like to receive clothes, books, flowers as gifts. I take gifts as gestures of love. So I happily accept anything that anybody brings for me.

- Is there a difference between the way you celebrated your birthday in the past and the present?

When I was younger, my mother used to make snacks at home and bake a cake. I used to invite my friends, but now I prefer to take them out for lunch or dinner.

Set 47 – Computer

1. Do you use computer very much?

Yes, I use computers a lot. I have a laptop I use for my studies, to stay connected to my friends and relatives living far away, to research on various topics, for entertainment I watch movies and play games.

2. When do you use a computer?

I use the computer everyday at home, usually in the evenings and after dinner. I use it to research for my assignments and to check my emails, check Facebook updates and post messages and sometimes I use it to watch movies or play games.

3. What do you use computer for?

I use it to research for my assignments and to check my emails, check Facebook updates and post messages and sometimes I use it to watch movies or play games.

4. What was your impression when you used a computer the first time?

I remember the day when I used the computer the first time. I was in class 6 at that time. I vividly remember how fascinated I was with the computer.

5. How did you learn to use a computer?

I learned to use a computer through school lessons. Later I got my own personal desktop at home and I learned a little more by using it more at home. Now I have a laptop that I use regularly.

6. Have computers changed your life in anyway (if yes, How)?

Yes, definitely. Computers have changed my life. I am well connected with all my friends and relatives, irrespective of which part of the world they are in. It has made the research work for my assignments very convenient. I think it's a very good source of entertainment and with the Internet it is a boon for the humankind. Many everyday tasks can be done in a matter of a few clicks and in a few seconds, be it banking, shopping, etc.

7. Are computers used much in your country?

Yes, the use of computers has increased greatly in my country. It is a common household electronic equipment and almost all the workplaces make use of a computer, like in a grocery store, bank, coffee shop, school, post office, etc.

8. Do you think computer are useful in everyday life (how)?

Yes, computers are very useful in everyday life. We can pay our bills, book tickets, shop for anything, set reminders, connect with relatives and friends, research, entertain ourselves, create new things and do umpteen other things by using a computer.

9. Computers are now used a lot in education. What do you think of this?

I think it is the need of the day to make use of computers in education. It not only makes the lessons more interesting, it also helps make the children more techno-savvy, as technology is used in almost all fields.

10. Do you play computer games?

Yes, sometimes I play word games, puzzles or card games on my computer.

11. Do you think computers are perfect now or do they still need to be improved?

I think the computers technology, in terms of both hardware and software keeps changing and there is always something new that needs to be added as time passes. So, in the future I can foresee a lot of changes and improvements that are made to the computers.

Set 48 – Being in a hurry

- When was the last time you did something in a hurry?

The last time I did something in a hurry was two months ago. I remember my exams were going on. I slept really late because I was studying and in the morning I did not hear the alarm. So I got ready in a hurry, and forgot my wallet at home.

- Do you like to finish things quickly?

If I don't like what I'm doing, then I like to finish things quickly. But, if I am enjoying what I'm doing then I take my time.

- What kind of things you would never do in a hurry?

I would never drive in a hurry, or cross the road in a hurry.

- Why do people make mistakes more easily when they are in a hurry?

It is easy to make mistakes in a hurry, because the mind is preoccupied and so it is easy to forget certain things. That desire it has been rightly said that haste makes waste.

Set 49 – Museums

1. Are there many (or any) museums in your hometown?

No, there are no museums in my hometown. That is one museum of our great martyr Bhagat Singh, which is 30 km away. There is another Sikh museum in Amritsar in Golden Temple.

2. Do you think museums are useful for visitors to your hometown/country?

Yes, museums are very useful for the visitors. Museums provide knowledge and information. They also provide entertainment. Museums preserve a collection. Museums inspire people to do things.

3. Do you often visit a museum?

No, I don't often visit museums. I visited a science museum about a year ago. This museum is also near my hometown.

4. Did you go to any museums when you were a child?

Yes, I saw the Sikh museum in the Golden Temple when I was a child. I also saw the Bhagat Singh Museum during my school days. Our school organized an educational tour to this museum.

5. When was the last time you visited a museum?

The last time I visited the Museum was about a year ago.

6. Do you think museums are important?

Yes, museums are very important. (as answer 2)

7. Do you think it's suitable for museums to sell things to visitors?

No, I do not think museums should sell things to visitors. If museums start selling things then the whole purpose of museums would be lost.

Set 50 – Dance

When was the last time you went to a place where people go to dance in your country? I have never been to any such place where people specially go to dance. In my country people specially go to dance in discos, pubs and clubs. But there are no such places in my home town. I love to dance on family functions.

When was the last occasion when you danced a lot?

The last occasion I danced a lot was last Sunday. It was my friend's birthday. He invited us to his home. We danced a lot on that day.

Do you like dancing?

Yes, I love dancing. I dance on all family functions like marriage parties and birthday parties.

Have you ever learnt dancing? Why? / Why not?

No, I have never learnt dancing. Unfortunately, there are no places in my hometown where dance is taught. All the steps I know, I've learnt from TV programmes and movies.

OR

Yes, I've learnt dancing. There is a very nice centre in my village which teaches Punjabi folk dances like Giddha and Bhangra.

Did you learn to dance? Why? / Why not?

No, I did not learn to dance. Unfortunately, there are no places in my hometown where dance is taught. All the steps I know, I've learnt from TV programmes and movies.

OR

Yes, I learnt dancing in my childhood. There is a very nice centre in my village which teaches Punjabi folk dances like Giddha and Bhangra.

Why do you think people love to dance?

People love to dance because they can express their joy. Dance is a form of expression. Dance is a good way to relieve tensions and worries. It also keeps the body fit.

Do you think children love to dance?

Yes, children love to dance because they can express their joy. Dance is a form of expression. Dance is a good way to relieve tensions and worries. It also keeps the body fit.

Do you see dance on TV?

Yes, I see a lot of dance reality shows like Dance India Dance, Nachh Baliye and Dancing Superstars.

Set 51 – Hats

Do you like to wear hats?

No, I don't like to wear hats. I find them very uncomfortable.

OR

Yes, I wear hats when I go out in the sun, or when watching a match in the stadium.

What kinds of hats do you have?

I have a baseball cap, woolen caps for winters, a beret and some fashion hats.

Where do you like to buy hats?

I usually buy hats at a store where such accessories are available and some such stores are there in a nearby mall. I have also bought a couple of them online.

Is wearing hats popular in your country? M a kk a r IE LTS

Yes wearing hats is popular in India. In different states of India there are different types of hats that are a part of the traditional attire. These days hats are very popular among the young generation. They wear them as a fashion accessory.

Set 52 – Singing

1. Do you often (like to) sing?

Yes, I like to sing, but as my singing abilities are not pretty good so I sing only in the bathroom.

2. When do you like to sing?

Whenever I'm alone I hum some songs to myself.

3. How much time do you spend in singing every day?

Not much, a few minutes perhaps.

4. What kinds of music do you like to sing?

I mostly like to sing film songs. I like Punjabi folk songs also.

5. Is it difficult to sing well?

Yes, it is difficult to sing well. I think only talented people can do it.

6. Do you want to be a singer?

No, I would not want to be a singer. I know I don't have the abilities.

Set 53 – Noise

1. How is the noise level in your city?

My city is an industrial city and on top of that it is on the national highway. So, the noise levels are very high.

2. Where does noise in urban areas come from?

The noise in urban areas comes from pressure horns of vehicles, industries and loud speakers.

3. Do you think it is important to be alone sometimes?

It is very important to be alone sometimes. Everyone needs to introspect at times. One needs to know about ones likes and dislikes and everyone needs time for one's personal work which can be best done in solitude.

4. What is the importance of belonging to a certain group?

There is a lot of importance of belonging to a social group. Man is a social animal and cannot live alone for long. One needs to share one's happiness and sorrows with others. That is why we join social groups and feel part of these groups. Social groups are a sort of support system. They give us support when we are low in life. It is mentally unhealthy to be alone for long.

5. What are problems you could have if you go out together in big group?

There could be a lot of problems in a big group. It is difficult to organise a big group. Mismanagement can lead to conflicts. It could end up in a lot of wastage of time. It has been well said that "two is a company and three is a crowd".

Set 54 – Bus or Taxi

1. How often do you take the bus?

I take the bus everyday. I go to school/college by bus.

2. When was the first time you took a taxi?

The last time I took a taxi was about two months ago. I went to Delhi to visit my relatives. I hired a cab from the railway station to their home.

3. What are the advantages of taking a taxi compared with buses.

The advantages of taxi are that you don't have to wait for the bus. You can start at anytime. A taxi takes you from one destination to the other whereas the bus will drop you at the bus stop.

4. Is it convenient to take the bus/taxi in your city?

The bus service in my city is very good and frequent. The taxi service is also very good, but I normally take the bus as it is much cheaper.

Set 55 – Mobile phones

1. How often do you use your mobile phone?

I use my mobile phone very often, in fact every day.

2. Can you describe your mobile phone?

I have an iPhone 5s. It is in golden color. It is rectangular in shape. It has two cameras. It has a 8GB Space. It has many features. It is like a mini computer in my hands.

3. What was your first mobile phone?

My first mobile phone was a Nokia phone. I don't remember the model but it was a very basic phone.

4. Would you buy a new one in the future?

I don't have any plans to buy a new phone in the future. I'm quite happy with my iPhone.

5. How has your mobile phone changed your life?

My basic mobile phone was it enough to change my life. It kept me connected with my family all the time, but my iPhone is a smart phone and is much more than a phone for mere connectivity. I can check my emails on my phone. I can surf the net on my phone. I can play games on my phone. I can do calculations on my phone. I can do so many other things on my phone.

SET 56 HISTORY

1. Do you like (to learn about) history?

Yes, I like to learn about history. It is through history we come to know about the important events that gave way or shaped the way to progress or changes in any country. Also, history teaches us important lessons and we can learn from the achievements or mistakes of our ancestors. Everything in this world has its history. It's through that we value what we have today. For example, we value our independence today because of the knowledge of the independence struggle.

2. What historical event do you find most interesting?

The historical event I find the most interesting is the day India became an independent nation, on 15th August 1947.

3. Do you think history is important?

Yes, I think history is very important. We can learn a lot from history. We come to know about the way of life, culture and traditions of the past times. We can come to know about the important historical events that paved way for progress and development, like the Industrial revolution. We can get motivation by learning about the achievements of some people and we can also learn from the mistakes of our ancestors.

4. Do you like to watch programmes on TV about history?

Yes I like to watch programmes on TV about history. In fact, the History channel is one of my favourite TV channels. It has some great shows about history of different parts of the world.

5. Do you think you can really learn history from films and TV programmes?

Yes, definitely. TV programs and films make learning about history interesting and easy. Reading about history may become very boring after a while. Children also learn history better if an audiovisual medium is used.

6. Do you think the Internet is a good place to learn about history?

Yes, Internet is a good way to learn about history. It is a vast source of knowledge. We can search about any topic related to history and get all the information we need. There are also videos, documentaries, podcasts, e-books etc. also available on the Internet.

7. Can you name a person from history whom you would like to learn more about?

I would like to learn more about martyr Bhagat Singh, who was a freedom fighter in the struggle for Independent India.

8. Why would you like to learn more about him/her?

I would like to learn more about him because he is a motivation for the youth of today. I do not know much about him, but I know that his role in India's freedom struggle was integral and the British rulers hanged him at a very young age of 23 for the assassination of a British police officer.