

## New Questions

### 1. T-shirt?

#### 1.1. Do you like wearing T-shirts?

Yeah, I love T-shirts like V-neck and striped 有条纹的 tees. They go with everything and I prefer that simple, casual style with some details like the necklace 项链. It's fun to spend a little time building my looks together.

Word: V-neck, striped Tees 条纹衫, go with everything 百搭, simple casual style 简单随意的风格, build one's looks together 打造造型.

#### 1.2. How often do you wear T-shirts?

I probably wear T-shirts every day in summer. The pure cotton ones are my favorite because they are comfortable to wear. And they don't smell awful after workout. I just wear Tees on my weekdays and also on my days off.

Word: pure cotton (纯棉) , be comfortable to wear (穿着舒适)

#### 1.3. Do you like T-shirts with pictures or prints?

Well, I love the T-shirts with pictures and things that are not standing out. It's because they make the Tees look so tacky. And small prints like the badge design can be better.

Word: standing out (醒目) , tacky (俗气) , badge (徽章)

#### 1.4. Do you think older people who wear T-shirts are fashionable?

Actually, it depends on the outfits and how they look on different people.

If a senior citizen that is overweight wears a baggy 宽松 T-shirt, this person is gonna look like he or she is in low spirits. If the person wears the Tee that is body conscious and goes well with the trousers or the accessories 配件 kind of things, then he or she definitely looks fashionable.

Sure, why not, not all of them, but definitely they can look fashionable. In fact, I'd say not only can they look pretty trendy, but it can also make them seem younger as well.

Many of the older generation tend to wear the same thing: guys wear dark short-sleeve shirts in summer, so you know, they all kind of look the same and so you can spot them a mile away or older women might wear gaudy 俗丽的 type clothing, so if somebody older puts on a T-shirt, a pair of jeans, nice shoes, then yeah, it suggests that they have a sense of fashion and care about their looks, and most probably, they look good.

Word: outfits (穿搭) , baggy (宽松的) , be in low spirits (无精打采) , body conscious (贴合身形) , accessories (配饰)

#### 1.5. Would you buy T-shirts as souvenirs on vacation?

Yeah, I'd like to buy the Tees as souvenirs coz they're like the reminders of the experiences. What's more, some Tees are co-branded or designed by some doodle artists. I just feel like I can't miss them. Sometimes, the slogans and paints on the Tees really have a calming effect.

Word: reminders (提示物), co-branded (联名款), doodle (涂鸦), slogans (标语), have a calming effect (很治愈)

#### 1.6. Do you usually wear T-shirts?

Yeah, I do, in fact, I only wear a T-shirt when I'm at home and on weekends on warm days. Compared to other clothing, they are much more comfortable to wear, easier to clean, and can go almost with anything, jeans, shorts, skirts, and pants. I like casual 休闲的 clothing.

## 2. Weekends

### 2.1. What do you usually do on weekends? Do you study or work?

On weekends I do a variety of things. I rest, I read, I go out with friends to a park or go to the cinema. Occasionally I go have dinner in a restaurant – there are lots of new restaurants opening up in my city so I often go with a group of friends to a restaurant, usually a hotpot restaurant. I like eating out with friends and family – it's a popular communal 公共的 activity in my country, actually.

Well, the things I do on weekends, there's nothing special about it. I mean, in most cases, I hang out (闲逛) with friends, like to get a kebab (撸串) and have a heart-to-heart talk (说点知心话) . That being said, once in a while I have to do some extra work on my days off.

At weekends, I spend most of my time studying and sleeping in my room. Sometimes, we watch films in the living room. On Sundays, we usually clean the house and do some laundry.

### 2.2. Would you say weekends are important to us?

I think they're very important. It's when we get time to spend with family and friends and kick back 平静下来 and relax and forget about work or the hassles 激战 of daily life. Weekends are when we can wind down,

recharge our batteries and relax a bit after a working week. I think everyone should have free weekends.

### 2.3. What do you plan to do for next weekend?

Next weekend I have no real plans to be honest. I think I will relax at home, try to motivate myself to study a little bit, maybe watch a TV series I'm enjoying at the moment (a detective thriller) and go out for dinner with my family. I'll try to rest too – I've had a busy week.

### 2.4. Do you make plans for weekends?

It really depends. Sometimes yes, sometimes no. It totally depends on my workload and whether I have made any arrangements to meet friends, or go out and see a movie or something like that. Sometimes my friends and I plan a basketball game, but recently we've been a bit lazy about that.

Well, if I have an appointment with friends, I need to arrange a schedule (安排日程) in advance. If I'm not going out, I don't make any plans. I just stay at home and do something I enjoy to relax.

Yes, I make some small plans every day to arrange the to-do list. I will write down on my list how long each thing will take. Some things on my list will take 15 minutes or less. I will group those things together. This

step takes me a few minutes, but it helps me set daily goals and priorities.

### 2.5. What did you do on last weekend?

Last weekend I celebrated the birthday of a good friend of mine, with a group of old classmates and some of our new friends. We went to a hot pot restaurant, and then we went to a bowling alley 小巷 – you know, ten pin bowling – that was fun.

I just stayed at home last weekends coz I was exhausted (筋疲力尽) . I slept in and spent the whole afternoon binge-watching TV series (刷剧) . I ordered takeaway (点外卖) , took a shower and went to bed very early.

Last weekend, I just watched a fantastic science fiction movie called Avatar. This is a movie I have been looking forward to for a long time, and I am happy to watch it with my friends in the cinema. It's got a brilliant cast and the special effects are spectacular. I recommend this film to friends around.

### 2.6. Do you like weekends?

Yeah, I really look forward to weekends because I can deal with some personal stuff. And more importantly, I have got the chance to sleep in (睡懒觉) . It's helpful to recharge my batteries (养精蓄锐) .

### 3. Stay up late

#### 3.1. Do you often stay up late?

Yes. I often stay up quite late at night. Usually after midnight – either because I am studying or because I am lying in bed reading on my phone, chatting or watching TV series.

Yeah, sort of (算是吧) . I'm a typical night bird (典型的夜猫子) and you know, just force of habit (习惯了) . It happens (常有的事) if the deadline's coming up (快到截止时间) on weekdays. The thing is, when it's been the daily routine (日常), it's gonna be really hard for me to sleep early on my days off (在休息日) .

#### 3.2. What do you do when you stay up late?

I sometimes just stay awake chatting to friends on my phone, reading novels, or following my favourite TV shows. Occasionally I stay up late because I'm out with friends on the weekend – you know, at a bar, or club or KTV or something like that.

Sometimes, I have a lot of work to catch up on (赶着做) , like the prep work for the presentation or going over the notes (复习笔记) for the coming exam. By the way, on New Year's Eve (在除夕夜) , I usually

watch the Spring Festival Gala (看春晚) with family members. It's a kind of tradition in China, you know, to say farewell to the old and welcome the new (辞旧迎新) .

3.3. How do you feel when you have stayed up late the night before?

I usually feel okay if I've had a good lie in bed in the morning. But if I have to get up early the following day I feel over-tired, bleary-eyed and not mentally sharp enough. It can take me too long to properly wake up. I don't like this feeling, so I tend to only stay up late if I know I can have a long lie in bed the following day.

3.4. Did you stay up late when you were a kid?

Well, I'm not so sure about that coz it's really a long time ago. I guess, I kept early hours (早睡早起) when I was little. After all, back then I wasn't overwhelmed by (忙得不得了) the work or had to burn the midnight oil (开夜车) on weekdays.

3.5. What does it feel like the next morning if you stay up late?

If I continue the pattern, I mean, staying up late for more than three days, I probably feel sleepy (感到昏昏欲睡) the next morning and wanna some caffeine (咖啡因) to cheer me up (使某人振作起来) . The interesting thing is, if I just stay up late once in a while(偶尔), you know,



to prepare something important for the exam day or something like that,  
I'm gonna in high spirits (精神抖擞) the next morning and even excel  
myself (超常发挥) .

## 4. Happiness

### 4.1. What made you happy when you were little?

When I was a kid, lots of simple little things made me happy. Playing outside in the summer with my friends, drawing, having a laugh with my father playing imaginary games. All sorts of things like this were sources of great happiness for me.

I guess I could be psyched (特开心) to go to the amusement park when I was a kid. That's because I've always been extroverted (外向的). I still remember Corsair (海盗船) was my favorite.

### 4.2. Is there anything that makes you feel happy lately?

Recently, I've been feeling a bit down and stressed to be honest. Not much has made me feel particularly happy. I suppose I feel happy to be healthy, to feel I have a good supportive family and friends. General appreciation about life. But I haven't had any specific moments that made me feel elated, no!

Yeah, I received the garage kit (手办) from my friend last week. It's the present I've longed for (心心念念), so that's a big surprise. It definitely puts me in a good mood (让我心情好).

4.3. What do you think will make you feel happy in the future?

The one thing that will make me happy is if I can get a good enough score in my IELTS tests, and if I pass the interview and get a place in the university of my choice for next September. That will make me really happy!

Being healthy is probably the thing that is gonna make me happy in the future. That is so obvious, you know, health is the top priority (最重要) . Without it, I can't enjoy life or do what I wanna do to realize my dream.

4.4. Do you think happiness is important?

Of course, happiness is important, because if you are happy you are motivated, and if you are motivated you achieve things, and you become a positive person who spreads positivity to other people around you. Positive, happy people are great to be around and make us feel life is really worth living, even in hard times.

4.5. Are you happy when you buy new things?

Not especially. Well... maybe momentarily 短暂地. I think buying things does make people happy for a short time, but isn't a huge source of happiness for me. I get more joy from human communication and fun with family and friends.

Yeah, I feel happy when I've bought new things especially the limited edition (限量版). I'm not exaggerating (我没有夸张). Sometimes, it just offers great sense of achievement. And when I'm in low spirits (心情不好), the new stuff is gonna cheer me up straightaway.

#### 4.6. When do you feel happy at work?

I feel happy when a project is coming to an end and I see that it's really rather good and has the potential of being successful, and my colleagues and managers sharing this same feeling.

Well, if I don't need to work over time, that absolutely makes me forget all the worries. It's because nothing can be better than like, finishing work at five or six on the dot (准时). And, the positive feedback from the leader will also make me happy because that means my work is recognized (认可) by others, which is a kind of encouragement.

#### 4.7. Do you think people are happy when buying new things?

Yeah, I guess so. Some people are shopaholic (购物狂) and they enjoy the whole shopping process. And in most cases, shopping itself is a way for people to unwind (放松), even though they're just browsing (随便看看). It's understandable when they buy the things they like in the end.

## 5. Jewellery (jewelry)

### 5.1. How often do you wear jewellery?

I'm not a big fan of jewellery 珠宝 to be honest. I wear earrings pretty much every day but they are quite simple earrings. They're not a very ostentatious or prominent style. They're quite simple but tasteful, and good quality. I sometimes wear a thin silver necklace, a simple chain, with a little heart shaped stone on the end. That's about it really.

### 5.2. What type of jewellery do you like best?

I like earrings, a nice watch, and a simple silver 银 chain 链 necklace, mainly. If I go to a fancy party or a company dinner then I wear something that stands out more and that's more eye-catching.

Personally, I'm gonna say no to the type that is way too fancy (太花哨) . I prefer silver rings (银戒) coz they're chic (时髦的) . I can also use two of them as a kind of pendant (挂件) hanging from the necklace, then it must be the accessory (配饰) that is one of a kind (独一无二) .

### 5.3. Have you ever given jewellery to someone as a gift?

I have on several occasions, to my friends. I went on holiday to the Shanghai a few years ago and bought some nice items of jewellery for my

friends from a factory outlet. I think that was the last time I gave jewellery to someone as a gift.

5.4. Why do you think some people wear a piece of jewellery for a long time?

I think that a good piece of jewellery can be worn for many years, and even passed down through the generations – ideally, anyway. So, yes, I believe that some jewellery can at least be kept for many decades, and worn from time to time on special occasions. Some people wear the same piece of jewellery all the time, I guess – like a fancy watch or a ring.

5.5. Do you often wear jewelry?

No, I rarely wear jewelry in my daily routine. That's because choosing the piece of jewelry to go well with (搭配) clothes is like a headache (头疼的事) for me. That can backfire (适得其反) if I'm not doing right. That being said, wearing jewelry really helps to improve personal charm (提升魅力), so I'm gonna learn something about it soon.

5.6. Do you usually buy jewelry?

As a rule (一般来说), I don't usually buy jewelry. After all I know nothing about it (一窍不通), but things change once in a while (偶尔) when I find the design having great originality (独具匠心). By the way,

I love the same jewelry of my idol (爱豆同款) , which is gonna cost me an arm and leg (下血本) , so it just happens sometimes.

- know nothing about it
- design having great originality
- love the same jewelry of my idol

5.7. Why do you think some people wear a piece of jewelry for a long time?

I guess one of the reasons is the jewelry is like the lucky charm (幸运符) to them. It's a kind of tradition in China, you know, people wear zodiac pendants (生肖挂件) from childhood (从幼年起) . Another thing is, the jewelry may be given by someone who means a lot (很重要) to some people, so it is of great sentimental value (情感价值) .

## 6. Outer space and stars

### 6.1. Have you ever learnt about outer space and stars?

Yes, in school we learnt the basic things about space and the solar system. Also, I've seen a number of documentaries about the universe on television. I find the topic quite inspiring.

Yeah, I have taken the intro courses (基础课) of geography and there are some unites in the textbook about outer space and stars. It's interdisciplinary (跨学科) and I have learnt something about the Galaxy (银河系), the beginning of universe (宇宙起源) and the solar system (太阳系).

### 6.2. Are you interested in films about outer space and stars?

Yes, I'd say so, yes. I enjoy sci-fi films, although I don't think there are many really good ones. I also have seen a few TV series set in space which I've enjoyed.

When I was a kid, there were always some space-related picture books brought by my mom in my bookshelf. Whenever I felt bored, I randomly picked one and started to read, which later made me interested in anything related to space, including movies and everything.



Also, space is an immensely 非常 interesting thing to learn about but also beautiful to look at. Since I'm not an astronomer and cannot be one, yet with the imagination of space exploration, why not sit comfortably on my sofa under a blanket and binge-watch some space documentaries and sci-fi?

6.3. Do you want to go into outer space in the future?

Haha, no I don't think so. I've heard that some millionaires have actually signed up to go into the lower regions of space in space crafts, or orbit the earth, but I don't really have much of a fascination with this. To be honest, I think I'd be scared! I don't like heights!

Yeah, I'm definitely looking forward to that. Actually, I dreamed of being an astronaut (宇航员) when I was a kid. Although it's just a dream, thinking of travelling in the outer space is super cool. Maybe it can be realized one day when I save enough money (攒够钱) .

Yes, I would choose to visit space if I had the chance. I've always wanted to see what the Earth looks like from far away, and very few people have ever actually been able to witness it. Although it might be a bit dangerous, it would truly be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

6.4. Do you like science fiction movies? Why?

Yeah, I love sci-fi movies to pieces (太爱了) coz they've never disappointed me. It's like, the directors create the fantasy world (幻想世界), making people escape from the mundane (平凡乏味) in life. What's more, the special effects (特效) in the movies give people lots of visual impacts (视觉冲击) .

6.5. Do you want to know more about outer space?

Yeah I do because I'm curious about everything about outer space. There are so many unresolved mysteries (未解之谜) , like whether alien beings (外星人) exist in the universe, so I'd like to watch documentaries in my spare time. Staying tuned on (持续关注) the topic is fun.

## 7. Music

### 7.1. Do you like music?

Yeah of course I do, I'm a huge music fan, in fact I think I can say I've loved music all my life, ever since I was a kid, for as long as I can remember. Music is an important part of my life and I listen to it every day, even when I'm at work, I've always got my headphones on.

### 7.2. What kinds of music do you like to listen to?

I'm not sure that I have one specific 'favourite type' of music to be honest, I'm quite into a variety of styles and genres, but generally speaking I think I tend to prefer songs without lyrics 歌词 or vocals 声乐, you know like instrumental music, I listen to quite a lot of classical, film tracks, ambient 背景音乐 or even electronic music... As long as it's relaxing, atmospheric music, it doesn't really matter what genre 类型 it is.

### 7.3. Do you enjoy the same kind of music with your friend?

Pretty much, yes, I listen to a lot of the same music as my friends – at least some of them. There are a few friends I have that have quite eclectic music tastes, like myself. We tend to recommend bands and tunes to each other, share them and discuss them.

### 7.4. Which singer or musician would you like to see in the concert that is

going to be held in your city?

I'd love to see Eason Chan in concert, live. I hope he can come to my city to do a concert. Although I like a variety of different genres of music, his kind of pop music I find is really dynamic and inspiring when you see him live on stage performing.

7.5. What music do you like?

I love every type of music that is pleasing to the ear (悦耳的) . Actually, it can be light music (轻音乐) , powerful ballads (抒情歌) and the ones with fast rhythm (快节奏) , you name it (什么都有) . Listening to music is like the thing I do everyday, which always puts me in a good mood (让我心情好) .

7.6. What music do you dislike?

Well, perhaps rock and roll is the one that I don't like so much. Don't get me wrong (别误会) ! I'm not saying it's not good. The point is, I lack the ability to appreciate it (没有能力欣赏) . And to be honest with you, feeling the strong beat (很强的节拍) after work even sets my nerves on edge (心烦意乱) .

7.7. Do you often listen to one type of music?

No, I'd like different kinds of music after work, actually. If I'm doing the

aerobic exercise (有氧健身操) , I definitely choose the pop music with fast tempo (快节奏) . On the other hand, before I go to bed, I'm gonna listen to some soothing music (舒缓的音乐) .

7.8. What music do your friends like? Do you enjoy the same type of music?

I really have a thing for (非常喜欢) pop music and the same goes for most of my friends. By the way, some of them are crazy about rap music, which I had no special feelings about (无感) . Things changed after I had watched the live performance with my friends. It was awesome and I was totally taken by (被吸引) that.

7.9. What's the most popular type of music where you live?

Nowadays, the music that wins people's heart (受人们喜爱) is more or less the same in different regions because of the Internet and hit TV shows (热播剧) , you know. The music online or the soundtrack (配乐) itself is just like the brainworm (洗脑神曲) . Then many people can hum quietly to themselves (轻声哼唱) .

7.10. Which singer or musician would you like to see in person?

I look forward to seeing Zhou Shen in the future coz I've been a big fan of him since his debut (自出道以来) . He is charismatic (有人格魅力)

and down-to-earth (接地气) in the interview. I'm gonna be psyched (高兴) to meet him in person.

## 8. Small businesses

### 8.1. Are there any famous small businesses in the area you live in?

Oh, let me think... There are a couple, yes. The two that spring to mind are two little restaurants, actually. They are famous in my area – one is a roast lamb leg eatery 饭馆, which is a family place that's been there for generations. The other is a dumpling place – again, a family business that's stood the test of time!

### 8.2. Do you prefer buying things from small or big companies? Do you prefer buying things in big companies or small businesses?

In an ideal world I'd purchase things from small businesses to support families and the local economy. But, big companies usually have better prices and a wider range of products.

I love both. I mean, I'm a loyal customer (忠实客户) of some skin care products from certain big brands. Also, I love the niche brands (小众品牌) of small companies. That's because it's less likely for me to wear the same clothes as (撞衫) others.

### 8.3. Have you ever worked in small businesses?

I have worked in a few small businesses actually. I did a lot of summer work in a family-run restaurant in my home town, for example, and I also

have done two internships at graphic design companies.

No, I went to a large company after graduation and have worked there for many years. I've learned a lot, you know, things from school of hard knocks (社会的历练) . Another thing is, I've got to know many colleagues, who are also my good teachers and helpful friends (良师益友) .

8.4. Have you ever thought about starting your own business?

I most certainly have – and I still want to – in fact, a friend and I were discussing this the other day. About getting together and starting an online platform to sell designer sportswear sourced from Vietnam. So, yes, very recently I've been thinking about this.

Well, it never crossed my mind (没想过) , I mean, for the moment (就目前而言) . Pioneering in a business (创业) needs courage because the owner has to bear risk (承担风险) . For me, I prefer to work freelance (自由职业) . In this way, I can balance my life and work better.

8.5. Do you know many small businesses where you live?

I'm afraid I know very little about (知之甚少) small companies. It has something to do with brand awareness (品牌知名度) , you know, I've



never heard of those companies' names in the commercials. Maybe they are startups (创业公司) , and don't have the hottest-selling items (热销产品) , or, the businesses specialize in (主营) something that I know nothing about.

## 9. Art

### 9.1. Do you like art?

Yes, I love art. I like many different types of art, actually. I love traditional Chinese paintings and calligraphy 书法, but I also really enjoy looking at western art, art from different periods in history, as well as abstract art, sculpture and even performance art. I'm a big fan of all types of culture and so I enjoy visiting museums and art galleries when I go to another country or when I visit another city in China. Art is an important part of life and children who learn about art usually end up being thoughtful, creative and innovative people when they get older.

Yeah, I'm really into art coz it helps to release my stress (减压) . It's a good way to get it out of my system (发泄) from singing or painting. And art makes me be able to perceive the world (感知世界) better, like to discover beauty in life and to improve my aesthetic level (提高审美) .

### 9.2. Have you ever visited an art gallery?

I've visited lots of art galleries, in my city, Shanghai, as well as in other cities. I enjoy modern art galleries the most, but I also like to see painting and artwork from history as well. There are quite a few different art galleries in my city and I sometimes go to the temporary exhibitions at one gallery in particular that is in the famous art district in Beijing, 798. I

know the manager of that gallery too, so I enjoy going there, chatting to her and perhaps taking a coffee at one of the boutique 时装店 arty coffee shops nearby.

### 9.3. Do you want to be an artist?

No, I don't want to be an artist. I'm not good enough at art, to be honest, and I think you've got to be either excellent at art, or have deep connections in the art world to really succeed in the field. So, no, although I enjoy art, I see it more as an interest or hobby and not something as a life vocation.

Well, my answer is no because most of the artists are in limbo (前途未卜) . I mean, it's very hard for a person to make a name for him or herself (成名) in the industry. I know it sounds utilitarian (功利) , but that's the truth. If that's the case (如果是这种情况) , it's impossible for an artist to support him or herself (养活自己) .

### 9.4. Do you like modern art or traditional art?

Both. I appreciate all types of art. I don't have a specific type that I like, really. If something is beautiful, at least in my view, I can appreciate it, whether it is old-fashioned or traditional, or modern and abstract.

Honestly, I'm an outsider (外行) to art, but I should say, I just love both because each has its strong points (各有千秋) . To my understanding, traditional art provides a basis for (提供基础) esthetic level, showing people the details of the artwork. And modern art is sort of like breaking the mould (摆脱条条框框) and reflecting the artists' thoughts.

#### 9.5. Do you like visiting art galleries?

Yeah, I love to go to art galleries on my days off coz it's cool to take snapshots (拍照) there and put them on my moments (发朋友圈) . More importantly, I have the chance to know different genres (流派) and listen to the stories told by the guides.

## 10. Keys

### 10.1. Do you always bring a lot of keys with you?

Yeah, I take keys with me every day, but not many. I have a key ring (钥匙圈) with a home key and a locker (锁柜) key on it. They are kind of like the daily necessities (日常必备) for me and by the way, they're portable (便于携带) .

Not these days, no. Today so much is electronic, whether it's the office door or the door of my home – codes and finger prints and stuff like that. We hardly use physical metal keys for anything these days.

### 10.2. Have you ever lost your keys?

Yes, I once lost the keys for a locker at work, and it had a laptop in it. It was a real pain getting a new set from the building management office. I had to fill in lots of forms and complete all sorts of ID procedures and get signatures from my line manager. It was a pain.

No, I haven't experienced that so far. That's probably because I'm not a scatterbrain (马大哈) . I have the habit of checking my bag before leaving in case I've left anything behind (落下) .

### 10.3. How can we avoid losing keys?

Many people avoid losing keys by keeping them on a key ring on their belt. However, that's not so easy for girls or people who don't wear traditional trousers with belt loops. So, I guess it's a case of keeping your keys in a safe place or a pocket or purse you can zip up 拉上拉链.

10.4. Do you often forget the keys and lock yourself out?

No, that's rarely happened to me (很少发生在我身上) , but one of my best friends experienced that thing and shared it with me. She said she had to call the police (报警) and let the locksmith (锁匠) deal with the problem. That really caused her a lot of trouble.

10.5. Do you think it's a good idea to leave your keys with a neighbor?

No, I don't think so. In most cases, neighbors are sort of like casual acquaintances (泛泛之交) , so it's not safe to leave my keys with any of them, who can be unreliable (不靠谱) . I probably keep them all by myself.

## 11. Library

### 11.1. Do you often go to library?

Rarely these days. I used to go in my first year at uni – mainly to study and do bits of research. This past two years I've not really been to the library – I rely on a lot of online resources for my studies now, and I have my own study room, so I work there.

No, I just go to library if I have to, maybe once a week. That's because there are always some people doing things that are really annoying, like making a big noise of page turning (翻书声音大) or talking in whispers (交头接耳) all the time. And it's very hard to grab a seat (找个座位) in the library coz most seats are saved (占座) by the people who never show up.

### 11.2. What do you usually do in the library?

Well, I don't go to the library these days, but when I did, I usually just took out a couple of books and sat in a quiet corner and read them and made notes in preparation for essays.

For the most part, I check out the books (借书) I need and flick through (翻阅) the papers in the reading area. By the way, I probably spend the whole afternoon in the library cramming for the exam (考试抱佛脚). It's

helpful to be absorbed in (心无旁骛) the work itself with my earphones on.

11.3. Did you go to library when you were a kid?

Not really, no. There were not really any libraries with kids books in my town when I grew up. So, I almost never went to the library. Apart from the school library, of course.

Actually, that's a complete blur to me (完全记不清) . I guess I did coz parents always hope their kid can do well in school and succeed in life (望子成龙) . My parents are no exception (不例外) , you know, to take me to the library checking out some books and tell me bedtime stories.

11.4. Do children in your country often go to library?

Not very often these days. They go to book corners and libraries in their schools, but that's about it really. People buy kids books now, online or from bookshops. They don't really go to libraries.

11.5. Do Chinese kids often go to library?

I guess the answer is no because most kids are crazy about amusement parks (游乐场) , but it's hard to say (很难说) . If parents have the habit of reading every day, their kids are more likely to be unconsciously



influenced (潜移默化影响) and become the library goers (爱去图书馆的人) coz they love books so much.

## 12. Chocolate

### 12.1. Do you like eating chocolate? Why/Why not?

I love it! I absolutely love eating chocolate, although I know it's not really good for the teeth or the physical health really... I don't care – I enjoy it. And I don't have many vices, so I don't feel too guilty about it. Cakes and chocolates – I love them!

I think I have mixed feelings about (又爱又恨) chocolate. That's because the silky smooth texture (丝滑口感) makes me feel like, I just can't get enough of it (怎么吃也吃不够). The point is, it also makes me gain weight (长胖) so easily, so every time, I only eat a little to tickle my sweet tooth (解馋).

### 12.2. Did you often eat chocolate when you were a child?

I didn't often eat chocolate. In fact, where I grew up, which was a fairly small town outside Qingdao, there wasn't really any chocolate available. Mainly because it just wasn't in demand. People ate other kinds of sweets and confectionary, not really chocolate. I do enjoy chocolate now, though, I've developed the habit since moving to the city, and also it has become marketed more in my country and more popular all-round since I was young.

### 12.3. What's your favorite flavour?

I like milk chocolate and white chocolate. I don't really like chocolate that has nuts or fruit in it. Except a certain type of chocolate that has a strawberry cream filling – I love that!

The flavour I like the most, well, that must be the nut chocolate (坚果巧克力) . Honestly, it's really moreish (欲罢不能) . When I have a bite (咬一口) of it, it's like the hazelnut (榛子) and the chocolate are mixed together. I should say, I am hooked on (非常喜欢) its layered taste (丰富口感) .

### 12.4. Do you think it is good to give others chocolate as gifts?

Yes, chocolates are a nice gift, and you can buy lovely boxes of chocolates presented really well with a variety of different flavours of chocolates in them. Those make great gifts.

Yeah, it's always a good idea to get people for chocolate gifts. Some young people use it to tell someone how he or she feel (表白) , maybe on Valentine's Day. And it's also great to give a blind box (盲盒) of chocolate as a gift to the friend, who happens to be a chocolate addict (特别爱吃巧克力的人) . The process is gonna be fun.

12.5. Why do you think chocolate is popular around the world?

I think chocolate is popular for two main reasons. Firstly, because it is universally a taste that people like – it's neither very strong or very sweet, or very distinct in flavor in a way that would turn people off. But it's also nice, easy to eat and not that expensive (depending on the type you buy). Secondly, it's marketing. Big companies realized they could make money by advertising and marketing chocolate all over the world, and they did so, and it seemed to work!

12.6. How often do you eat chocolate?

I eat chocolate occasionally to refresh (提神) myself, especially when I'm tired out and hungry in the afternoon. It's like a few times a month. I have a small bit every time, because I don't want to gain weight.

12.7. Did you often eat chocolate when you were a kid?

Frankly speaking, I don't remember that clearly. I guess I did coz no kid can resist the temptation (抵挡诱惑) from chocolate. And it was probably my favorite snack in my childhood.

12.8. Why do you think chocolate is popular around the world?

Well, the first reason is about its flavor. It tastes good with many flavors like milk chocolate and truffle chocolate (松露巧克力) etc. Another

things is, it can always put people in a good mood. That's really magical.

### 13. Schools

#### 13.1. Where is your school?

I've been to several schools in my life! The one I remember the most is by the Confucius temple in Beijing. That was a lovely little school. It's a famous area in the hutongs not far from the Lama temple.

My school is Southeast University (SEU), located in Nanjing, the ancient capital city of six dynasties, is a prestigious 有威望的 institution of higher learning renowned 有名望的 both at home and abroad.

#### 13.2. Do you like your school?

I liked this school at the time yes. I had quite a few friends and most of the teachers were pretty friendly and kind. I quite liked it.

#### 13.3. Are you content with the learning atmosphere in your school?

Again, I have to emphasise that I haven't been to school for many years – but the school I went to that I remember the most, the one by the Confucius temple in Beijing, I really did feel content with the learning atmosphere there.

Certainly. All the students' eyes are staring at the blackboard, everyone is concentrating on listening to teacher carefully, no one to do chores, the

classroom learning atmosphere is very good.

13.4. Is there anything you want to change about your school?

If I could go back in time and change anything, then I suppose I'd change the sports facilities and sports classes – I think these classes were regimental and old-fashioned and we had bad facilities. I'd definitely upgrade them. Maybe they've done so already for the pupils, since I left 20 years ago!

13.5. Where do you go to school? (以学生的身份回答)

I'm studying at the school named... (学校名称) . It's a boarding school (寄宿学校) . It also the school with a long tradition.

13.6. Do you go to a good school?

I think I do coz my teachers are lively and easy-going. They offer students various ways to explore things all by themselves. That's inspiring. What's more, my classmates are also smart and friendly, so this school has good vibes (氛围好) .

13.7. Do you like your teachers?

Yeah, I definitely love my teachers because of their classes and charisma (人格魅力) . I used to hate maths. The unexpected (意料之外) thing

is our maths teacher is very patient and is always able to explain profound theories in simple language (深入浅出) , so I'm not afraid of maths any more. And the English teacher is a gem (宝藏) coz she is versatile (多才多艺) . I just hope to be the person like her in the future.

13.8. Do you like your current learning atmosphere?

Yeah, that's for sure. The straight A students (学霸) in my class are always willing to give a hand to others (帮助别人) . And the teachers are conscientious (尽责的) , but not too strict with students.

13.9. What are the differences between your school and other schools?

Honestly, I'm not so sure about that coz I'm not very familiar with the students of other schools. I guess the only difference I can think of is the location. You know, unlike many other schools that are in the city, my school is in the suburb (郊区) .

13.10. Is there anything you want to change about your school?

Yeah, the first thing is about the school uniform coz it looks not so fashionable. Another one is the food in the dining hall. I mean, the dishes are too salty and greasy (油腻的) . It's not good for students' health.



## Essential Questions

### 1. Study or work

#### 1.1 Do you work or are you a student?

Well, I am a full time student, studying computer science in Southeast University, and this is my second year, in saying that, at the moment I'm learning English because I hope to do a Master's degree overseas.

I'm a student at Southeast University in Nanjing.

-Right now, full time student

-studying computer science in

-which is located in Nanjing

#### 1.2 What subjects are you studying?

I'm studying for a Master's degree in Southeast University, specializing in the field of computer science and technology. There are two parts of my studies, integrated circuit design and code programming. As for the former, we mainly focus on the optimization of digital logic in digital integrated circuits, netlist 网表 implementation, writing of register transfer level hardware description language code, verification, simulation and timing analysis of logic functions, distribution of circuits in hardware, placement of operational amplifiers, electronic filters and other devices in analog integrated circuits and mixed signal processing. For the latter, we study the process of making a computer solve a problem

by writing code, specifying a certain operation method for a certain computing system, so that the computing system runs according to the computing method, and finally obtains the corresponding result.

-Well, two essential parts of

-computer architecture module, mainly focus on hardware components that make up a computer.

-foundations of programming module, learn to solve a problem by writing code.

-These subjects are normally a lot difficult, but I still find them very interesting,

### 1.3 Why did you choose to study that subject?

When I was applying for universities, I chose to study integrated circuit design and code programming because I was always strong in computer science. I chose to learn them because when I was young, I had a strong passion for both electronic circuit and coding so I wanted to develop my design skills. I would like to develop a career around circuit design and computer programming so a good understanding of its composition principle and development will be very useful for my future. For those reasons I thought integrated circuit design and code programming are good choices for me to study.

-was applying for universities

- chose to study computer science
- because when I was young, I had a strong passion for both electronics and coding.
- develop a career around computer programming.
- so a good understanding of its ... will be very useful for my future.
- For those reasons I thought ... was a good choice for me to study.
- I was always strong in ... and ... .
- I did some research on career opportunities, and it seemed to be a subject with a promising future.

#### 1.4 What would you like to do in the future?

I would like to be a teacher in the future. I think it is wonderful to get to change people's lives by what I say or do on the stage. It requires a person to be responsible and caring, and I want to be such a person.

#### 1.5 What are the most popular subjects in China?

It's hard to say nowadays. You know, due to the globalization, our country is much more developed than ever. Every subject has something to offer to the society. Students just choose their subjects based on what they are interested in, which then, in turn, can become a trend.

1.6 Do you think it's important to choose a subject you like?

Definitely! I think interest is the best motivator 动力, if I choose something I'm keen on, I will be willing to sacrifice my leisure time because it is a worthwhile sacrifice to me. In addition, when I face some difficulties, I will do my best to overcome the problems. Quitting in the middle will never be an option. We should consider carefully our choice from the start, rather than carelessly choosing the wrong path, then regretting 后悔 it.

1.7 Are you looking forward to working?

I have been wanting to work full time, that's for sure. I can now imagine myself waking up early in the morning, getting my business attire on and sitting behind my office desk. I wonder how it feels to work with other professionals and with the boss always around... It could be stressful but interesting, I guess. The best part I would say would be to finally receive a salary and spend my own money. I would not have to bother my parents then. But, like most things in life, it really depends on what the job is and whether the environment is positive or not.

1.8 Do you like your subject? (Why? / Why not?)

Honestly, I don't. I am halfway through my college career. But reality struck me when the material we learned in class was much more difficult

and the assignments weren't fun. I'm thinking about changing my own major now.

1.9 Do you prefer to study in the mornings or in the afternoons?

I am not a morning person, I'm afraid. But to be honest, studying in the afternoon is even worse. I get really sleepy from one to four in the afternoon. So, actually, my brain is at its best in the evening. It works better then. I can stay sharp even until very late at night.

I would study best in the morning, which I believe most people usually do, as we are the most lively and active in the morning. I would absorb the most in the morning. I am usually tired in the afternoon and would take a nap just an hour before dinner. After dinner, maybe would do an hour of leisure or two, then its time to cool down and study again, if in the mood.

-As for me, I prefer to study in the mornings, which I believe

-as we are lively and active

-then I have a lot of energy and motivation

-I find myself more distracted in the afternoons and it is hard for me to work when it is dark outside.

1.10. Is your subject interesting to you?

Absolutely. I find computer science really stimulating 使人兴奋的.

Imagine creating something useful just using codes and numbers. It requires a good level of imagination and quite a good level of number skills, critical thinking and logic skills as well as a keen ability to solve problems.

Yes, it is the most interesting subject from my perspective as it provides us information about everything around us, living and nonliving. Studying science helps to understand the world conceptually.

-definitely yeah

-I find what I study very interesting

-One of the perks of my study area is that it is based on the scientific facts.

-I also have very wide range of coding, every lesson has fresh and interesting material for me to study.

1.11 What technology do you use when you study?

There are lots of websites and apps that can quiz 问答 you and test your knowledge. All you have to do is input your terms and then you can use online flashcards. I've used a couple of them to memorize important terms before an exam. They're definitely a life-saver when you're in a rush to catch up on some class content.

I depend on electronic devices like computers when I am studying. For example, I always take notes by typing on computers, which is very convenient. Besides, I use my laptop to view lecture videos and search for additional information I need. I also read papers on iPad.

- rely on electronic devices like computers when

- write my articles by typing on computers, convenient

- laptop to view lecture videos

- read papers and take notes on my ipad.

1.12 Is there any kind of technology you can use in study?

For studying I use a computer and my phone. I often download research papers and read them on my phone and make notes onto the notes section of my phone too. I use my computer to actually write essays and do other homework tasks.

## 2. Hometown

### 2.1 Has your hometown changed much these years?

Absolutely! Take traffic as an example, the most common transport facility used to be buses, it could be really crowded sometimes since people didn't have any other options. However, today, BRT and subway systems have made people's lives easier than ever.

### 2.2. Is that a big city or a small place?

This city is so huge. I often get lost here. Like the other day, I travelled to a new neighborhood that had this restaurant people were raving about. I made a wrong turn and it took me 20 minutes to figure out where I was.

Well, actually, it's a big place but not as big as Beijing. It is a coastal city of Shandong province. I like it because there're many famous tourist attractions in the city, so sometimes I can go around there to enjoy going hiking with relatives and friends.

### 2.3. How long have you been living here?

I was born and raised there. Besides, I've lived here for many years. It's about twenty years. I never really had to move until I moved to university. My family still lives there, so maybe one day I'll go back.



For about half my life, so that is about 10 years. I went to school here, and now I'm working in the same city. In fact, time has gone by really quickly because so there's so much to do here and I've been so active.

2.4. For you, what benefits are there living in a big city?

Well, first of all, there are a great number of opportunities for both education and job-hunting in big cities, which explains why people from small cities, towns and villages are flooding to big cities nowadays. Plus, the fact that cities offer more modern facilities and conveniences makes them even more attractive to people.

2.5. Is there anything you dislike about it?

Unfortunately, this city has a huge problem with pollution, especially air pollution. The air is so contaminated that we all have to wear masks every time we go out of the house. This problem has escalated 升级 to a serious level that it's been catching the attention of the international community. I hope that the government will be able to save this city before the problem gets worse.

However, living in a top-tier city makes me under tremendous pressure. The pace of life is faster compared with other cities. The traffic is a nightmare, especially during peak hours.

2.6. What do you like most about your hometown?

My favourite site in our hometown is Zhanqiao Land Stage, which is in the gulf 海湾 of Qingdao. It is 10 meters wide and 440 meters long. Standing on the south end of bridge in the sea is a two-story pavilion 阁 called “Huilangge”. Zhanqiao witnessed the history of Qingdao and is one of the most famous scenic spots.

What I love the most about it is the mystery. I mean there are so many places inside this city that I have yet to explore. I could spend years checking out every restaurant and attraction Beijing has to offer.

7. Where in your country do you live?

I live in Nanjing. Well, I sad Nanjing is the ancient capital of the Six Dynasties, which means that Nanjing has a very rich history and culture. With the rapid development, Nanjing is also a modern metropolis 省会 of Jiangsu Province, is a rich historical culture and modern civilization of a high degree of integration of beautiful city.

I live in Beijing. However, since the city is so big, it would take hours to even scratch the surface, but to sum it up, Beijing is the political and cultural heart, and one of the major economic centers of the world today.

### 3. Accommodation

#### 3.1. Are the transport facilities in your city very good?

Honestly, I wish they were better. I have to walk 20 minutes to the bus stop, and the subway takes another 30 minutes when I get to work. My dream home is a house located right next to a bus stop or subway terminal.

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

My family loves to stay in the living room as this is the only place in the flat where we can do a lot of things together. We play board games, watch films and TV programs. We play cards sometimes and we spend time working on huge puzzles together.

#### 3.3. Do you live in a house or a flat?

Because I am currently a student at school, I live in the school's apartment dormitory.

-(As I mentioned before), I am currently a student at (the) university  
-so live in a dormitory with three classmates which is comfy and cozy.

I live in a flat, and my flat is situated in a quiet little neighborhood on the

north side of city. My parents first moved there in 2000 when they wanted to start a new life and raise a family.

3.4. Do you plan to live here for a long time?

Not really! I want to blaze 展现 my own trail and live in a place that forces me to reach out and meet new people. I was thinking about moving to Shanghai for a few days to gain a bit more cultural experience of the world.

3.5. Do you live alone or with your family?

I'm a student at the moment and I am currently living in a school dormitory with four roommates.

I'm a student at the moment, and I live with my parents. Actually I quite like it, because my mother is the best cook that I know - it's always wonderful to have a tasty meal after a day of school work. We also talk about our days with each other while we're enjoying dinner, it just feels good.

3.6. How long have you lived there?

I have been living in the school dormitory for more than a year.

I've lived there for two years and I really love my place. Since it's on the 8th floor, it's well ventilated 通风的 and there is plenty of sunshine. I love to sink into the soft sofa to watch TV and eat snacks. There's a large shopping centre within 5 minutes' walk so it's very convenient for me to go shopping, watch movies and eat out. I wish it was my apartment.

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

At weekends, I spend most of my time studying and sleeping in my room. On weekdays, I spend time in the kitchen, baking some cakes or sweet stuff for my mother. Sometimes, we watch films in the living room. On Sundays, we usually clean the house and do some laundry.

### 3.8. Which is your favourite room in your home?

I think it must be my bedroom. My bedroom is not that big but quite neat. There are some posters of Kobe Bryant on the wall because he is my favorite basketball player. My room is kind of a private space for me - I usually play some video games, do my homework and play the guitar in it.

### 3.9. What's the difference between where you are living now and where you lived in the past? (If you want to say you have not lived elsewhere)

I have not moved home at all. I have lived in the same flat since I was

born. I love our small place. I have a lot of good memories here, and I treasure them. I'd happily stay here for many more years?

3.10. What can you see when you look out the window of your room?

I can see the whole community from my window. In the morning, people are going to school or work, everyone is in a hurry. However, in the evening, it is not that fast-paced anymore. I can see parents taking a walk after dinner and children playing games in the neighborhood.

3.11. Would you be willing to live in the countryside in the future?

In the future, probably. There is a peacefulness I enjoy when visiting the countryside. People there are friendly and always willing to start a conversation. I think when I retire, living in the countryside is a nice option to me.

#### 4. The area you live in

##### 4.1. Do you like the area that you live in now?

I do like the area I live in. My living place is in the city's downtown area. Well, there are several tasty restaurants around my apartment, which is great for a foodie 美食家 like me. And we also have a giant grocery 巨大的杂货店 store across the street and the well-known Xuanwu Lake nearby. So I have to say it's a pretty livable place.

Yes, I like the area where I live. Since I have lived there for a long time it makes me feel comfortable. There is a saying: "Home is where the heart is". My family lives there and we enjoy each other's company so my heart is there. I like the phrase from one old movie: "There's no place like home."

##### 4.2. Do you think the area you live in now is suitable for people of all ages?

Yes, most certainly. I think that I am very lucky to be living in a very central area of my city, close to great public transport facilities, and quite a few entertainment and leisure options too. There are a few malls nearby, with fantastic restaurants in, lots of shops, a gym, which I go to every day almost, a swimming centre which I attend with my family on weekends, and there's quite a few nice parks within a short walking distance too. So,

yeah, it's a great area. In addition, the community I live in has a nice garden too.

#### 4.3. Are people in your area friendly?

I wouldn't say people in my area are especially 特别 friendly, or unfriendly, really. They are alright, I suppose. I thought they were relatively friendly, before I went to Nanjing on holiday and found how friendly and happy people seemed to be in service interactions, in the streets, on public transport, and so on, there in Nanjing. When I came back to my city and my area, I started to think that people were a bit rude, grumpy 脾气坏的 and not so helpful when you need them to be. So, I have a sort of neutral stance on this – I guess it depends on what you compare my area, my city or my culture with, as to whether you assess that the people are friendly or not.

#### 4.4. How has your area changed in recent years?

Well, a lot of changes are taking place nowadays in my city. I can see more and more skyscrapers 摩天大楼 having been built and the public transportation system is becoming more diversified and completed. But for me, the most fantastic change is that there is greater diversity in restaurants! Now I can taste genuine foreign food in my city. How marvelous it is.



Some positive changes are that the pollution is getting better. It was a lot worse a few years ago. Recently, the government has made some changes to the factories nearby you see. This has had a positive effect on the air quality. Some negative changes are: first, there are too many public bikes such as OFO and Mobike. They clog the sidewalks and there isn't enough room for pedestrians to walk sometimes. Secondly, there are not enough taxis. It is very difficult to get a taxi if you are in a hurry or it is raining.

4.5. Do you know any famous people in your area?

Actually yes. I am aware that a lot of movie stars come from where I live. I feel very proud every time I see them in a fantastic film. Also, there are some poets and writers who are living in the area that I come from. So, I suppose my city is an artistic and poetic area.

In my district of my city, I don't know any famous people. I think famous people tend to live away from the crowds in China, in places where they will be left alone and not bothered by people or the press.

4.6. Where do you like to go in your area?

I like to go shopping and hang out with my friends. When the weather is nice, I like to go to the park and enjoy the nature. It makes me feel

refreshed. When my friends go with me it is even better.

I like to go to the well-known Xuanwu Lake that sits near our university. It is an important part of the Nanjing landscape. It is AAAA national tourist attraction, collects many places of interests and historical relics 遗迹. Historical litterateur 文人 figures as Li Bai and Wang Anshi set foot here and left behind many poems in admiration of the lake. On the isle, there are rockeries with falls. We can see both the ancient wall of Nanjing, along with the modern skyscrapers in the background.

## Reservation Questions

### 1. Singing

#### 1.1 Do you like singing? Why?

Yeah, I love to singing after study because I'm a music fancier. You know, I hum the song along with the music and sometimes I just feel my singing skill is terrific. And another reason is, singing is a great way to unwind and bond with my friends. I often sing the high notes with them using some kind of apps. And singing to our hearts' content really makes us feel like we're on top of the world.

([https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1DB4y1g7Lz/?spm\\_id\\_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd\\_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1DB4y1g7Lz/?spm_id_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40))

Yes, of course. Although my friends sometimes call me tone-deaf, I still prefer singing songs with them after exhausting study at weekends. It is a golden opportunity to release my pressure and lighten up my mood.

Yes, I do. I enjoy singing. In my opinion, singing is the most effective way to alleviate my pressure. You know, when I singing, I would forget the daily hassles, which is also good for my mental health.

I love singing. I thoroughly enjoy going to KTVs and singing on my own at home to music, too.

Word: music fancier, hum the song along with the music, unwind=relax, bond with my friends, sing the high notes, singing to our hearts' content,

be on top of the world.

### 1.2 Have you ever learnt how to sing?

No, I haven't taken any singing lessons so far because I don't plan to be a professional singer in the future. Well I should say I'm definitely gonna know the singing techniques like how to make melodious sounds and how to avoid singing out of tune, but the point is, I've already been used to singing songs on my own way. Thinking about the skills in the whole process is really annoying.

No, I've never learned to sing. I just sing a song as I like. Well, sometimes, I will imitate a singer's way of singing a certain song, because it will make me feel proud of myself if I can sing the song like the singer.

No, I have never taken any formal training. Singing is more like some form of entertainment in my spare time, and I do not want to invest too much time and energy into it. In fact, I do not even care if my singing is mellifluous or not. After all, I do not make a living from it.

Word: singing technique, make melodious sounds, singing out of tune, annoying.

### 1.3 Who do you want to sing for?

Well honestly, I totally have no idea about who I'm gonna sing for because I have social anxiety. And it's a little bit awkward to sing in public or sing for someone. In most cases. I just sing on my own and the bathroom is really perfect for singing because the sound effects are so amazing.

I have never thought about this before. I guess the answer will be myself. I singing to dispel boredom, abreact feelings and entertain myself rather than to please others. So at least at the moment, I do not want to singing for anyone else.

Word: I have social anxiety, sound effects, be a little bit awkward to

#### 1.4 Do you think singing can bring happiness to people?

My answer is definitely yes. If someone has a talent for singing, he or she will probably feel great sense of achievement to finish the whole song. And when somebody's stressed out, singing is like a way to blow off some steam. And the same goes for everyone who is in bad mood. Singing the songs with bouncy tunes is likely to lift the spirits.

Yes, definitely. Singing helps us to express emotions when we're uncomfortable doing so in conversation. This can be done by humming a tune or by singing lyrics that resonate with us. Though not all the

emotions are 'happy' ones, releasing them through songs helps us feel better.

Word: have a talent for, be stressed out, blow off some steam, be in bad mood, bouncy tunes, lift the spirits.

## 2. Writing

### 2.1 Do you write a lot?

Yeah, kind of. You know, as a student I take notes in class and I've got a lot of written homework to do after that. Then during the exam, it takes me hours to fill in the answer sheet using my gel pen. I guess that's the reason why I'm a regular customer of the stationer's.

([https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1Re411T7nV/?spm\\_id\\_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd\\_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1Re411T7nV/?spm_id_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40))

I don't write much at all, actually. Now that I've graduated I no longer have to write endless essays and assignments, like I've been used to for the past three or four years. So, I don't write much – I write job application letters, and emails, but I don't have to write a lot at the moment.

Not really, I am too busy to find a period of time when I can totally cool down and focus on writing. In my fragmented spare time, I prefer to do some other things to entertain myself. Only when I have too many feelings to express, will I sit down and write something.

### 2.2 What do you like to write? Why?

I don't really like to write much these days. I write emails to my family,

and text messages to friends, and that's about it at the moment. Like I said, I'm enjoying having a break from years of having to write assignments.

Well in my spare time, I love to keep accounts in a notebook, trying to manage money well, you know, to be accurate in calculation. And I'm also interested in practicing calligraphy and writing the words of blessing on the postcard. It's of great sentimental value.

The only thing I would like to write is probably my own experience. I used to write diaries, which I believe was quite an effective way for me to reflect on myself. Nowadays, I still write something about what I've been through every now and then.

### 2.3 Do you think the things you write would change?

Yeah, everything's changing and the things I wanna write is not the exception. Well actually, I used to write articles after school, dreaming of being a writer in the future, but what I actually write about now has nothing to do with it at all. Perhaps I'm gonna regain the passion for writing novels someday, or become curious about something new.

Sure. I mean, with the growing age, my views towards the same things may change greatly. Even just about the same travel experience, I may



use different words to describe it than the ones I used at a younger age.

#### 2.4 Do you prefer typing or handwriting when you are writing?

Most definitely typing, I think - to be honest, my handwriting now is awful – I'm just not used to writing by hand anymore.

Well to be honest with you, my preference 偏爱 just varies in different circumstances. If I'm pressed for time, typing is obviously much more convenient. On the other hand, I tend to choose handwriting if I just write something at home because looking at paper is better than staring at the screen for a long time, you know, when it comes to protecting eyes.

I would definitely opt for typing. Nowadays, I can't live without my computer. Typing is so easy and smooth for me to record my feelings. After that I can also post them on my social media.

### 3. Taking photos

#### 3.1. Do you like to take photographs?

I love to take photographs. Sometimes I will take up to 30 photos of exactly the same item, but in different modes, angles and settings. The real fun starts when I manipulate 摆布, crop, edit and Photoshop them. After many hours, I upload my selected ones to my Wechat moments.

#### 3.2. Do you ever take photos of yourself?

Well, call me a narcissist 自我陶醉 but, I'm kind of obsessed with taking selfies 自拍. It is just the quickest way to show where I am, who I am with, what I am doing and how I am feeling. It would take a lot more time to describe that in texts.

#### 3.3. What is your favorite family photo?

My favourite family photo is one with my whole family, my parents, grandparents from both sides, cousins and their neighbours, at my auntie and uncle's house in Qingdao, in Shanxi Province. The photo brings back great memories of the Spring Festival that we spent there on my uncle's courtyard outside the town. It was a fantastic occasion, and the last photo that we took featuring my 98-year-old grandmother before she died.

#### 3.4. Do you want to improve your picture-taking skills?

I think I already take pretty good photos. I've always been into photos, and care a lot about portraits 肖像 and getting a photo to look good and balanced. So, I don't think I need or want to improve really – I'm not aiming to be a professional photographer – I think I'm more than good enough for my needs!

## 4. Birthday

### 4.1 What do you usually do on your birthday?

Not much really. I'm a pretty low key (low profile) guy. I don't really like to be the center of attention, so I don't make a big feast out of my birthday. I don't have a huge party. On my birthday, I often celebrate it in a simple way with a few best friends. Usually, I will treat my friends a meal in a restaurant and they will bring me gifts and a birthday cake. Then I make a birthday wish and blow out the candles. And that's pretty much enough for me.

On my birthday I usually have a dinner with my parents, usually at a nice restaurant in the city. Then I might go out for drinks with my friends, or to the cinema or something like that. That's been the habit, anyway, for the past few years.

(I just get together with a few friends have a nice meal, some tasty food and chat. And that's pretty much enough for me.) (Sometimes, after the meal, we may go to karaoke where we can sing songs and play some small games, such as dice games or werewolf.)

My parents and friends celebrate the birthday to me every year. On that day, I usually hold a small birthday party at a nice restaurant and invite

my friends to come for a feast (with a fancy birthday cake). I make a birthday wish and the icing on the cake is that I can get lots of gifts. I am very happy because they always know what I want and need. Then we chat or hang out together that we really enjoy ourselves.

#### 4.2 What did you do on your birthday when you were young?

When I was a kid, what I remember most was that my parents would take me to an amusement park on my birthday. We went to sit on the pirate ship. When it launched, we fasten the safety belt and heard the screams of the tourists. In addition to this, we would also ride the carousel 旋转木马 and watch an acrobatic show.

When I was younger... a child... we would just have a dinner at home, and I would receive some presents. And in school the class would sing a birthday song and I'd have a cake. That's about it really. I found my birthday quite exciting as a child, as most kids do, I think.

When I was a kid, my birthday celebration was simpler. My mom would make me a bowl of birthday noodles and a rich dinner. My families would sing Happy Birthday to me. Often, I could get a gift from my parents and some red packets from my grandparents. If my birthday met a holiday or weekend, my parents would take me out to have fun in an amusement

park.

I think the younger we are the more we care about our birthdays. So when I was a kid, I would have some very extravagant parties and usually there would be like a theme. There was one time when I was really interested in dinosaurs. So together with my friends, we had like a dinosaur themed party even the cake was the shape of a dinosaur. So when you're a kid, you do lots of fun things and you get together with lots of people. As you get older, you care a little bit less about your birthday.

4.3 Do you think it is important for you to celebrate your birthday?

I think it's fairly important. It's a milestone... a turning point in the year, and in life, and it is symbolic of the years passing, us getting older and more mature, so yeah, I think it's important.

A lot of people attach great importance to their birthdays, including myself. It marks the beginning of a new year or even a new stage in my life and offers a great chance for me to reflect on what I've achieved so far and what I'm planning to accomplish in the near future. And I think it is also important for improving the relationship between family members.

Yes, I think so. The birthday celebration can be simple but is necessary.

My birthday makes me feel that I'm special that day. It is a special festival that belongs to me only. It marks the beginning of a new stage in my life. So on that day, whether I'm alone or with my families or friends, I will say "Happy birthday" to myself and make a wish.

Yeah, sure. I think it's important. I think we should we should celebrate in life anytime that we get the chance to celebrate. Life's filled with ups and downs. If there is a time of the year or a day of the year where people want to give you gifts and want to spend time with you and want to spoil you. I think you should enjoy it. So I think people should always no matter what age they are celebrate their birthday.

4.4 Whose birthday do you think is the most important to celebrate in China?

Well, this is a hard question to answer. In my mind, everybody's birthday is important because everyone is special. Celebrating birthday is a way to remind ourselves that we're special and we're important. So, I remember birthdays of important people in my life, my families, my relatives and close friends. I want them to know that there is someone out there that cares about them.

For Chinese people, the birthdays of children and the elderly are the most

important. According to Chinese tradition, birthdays in China aren't much of a big deal unless you are turning a specific age. The most important birthdays for Chinese people generally are the First, the Second tenth, the Sixtieth, and then each decade after.

I think this depends on who you are in China. I mean there's 1.4 billion people living in China, so it depends on who your friends are. Some people will think that their birthday is the most important birthday, they are the center of the universe. Other people will think that their loved one or their spouse or maybe one of their best friends is a very important birthday. So depends you are.

4.5 Do you receive lots of gifts on your birthday?

Definitely. All of my family and friends know that I am a big fan of electronics. So they all buy me electronics as birthday gifts when my birthday comes such as sports bracelet 运动手环.

4.6 With whom do you like to celebrate your birthday, family, friends or alone?

I prefer to celebrate my birthday with my relatives and close friends. I am a family guy, so I love to enjoy this precious time with people we love. After all, I can hang out with my schoolmates or colleague all the time,



but a birthday is a once-a-year thing.

Words: celebrate birthday, eat out, make a birthday wish, birthday cake, throw a birthday party, candle, long life noodles, birthday noodles, longevity noodles, mark the beginning of a year, a new stage of my life, a chance to gather together, a special festival that belongs to me.

## 5. Geography

### 5.1 Do you like geography?

I do, actually. I find it quite interesting – especially physical geography. I'm interested in things related to the natural environment and the planet. And I am concerned about climate change and environmental issues facing us today, so I find geography relevant as well as interesting.

Yeah, I love geography because it gives me the chance to have a look at the places I've never been to. It's amazing. And this compulsory course 必修课 in high school also explains how different islands and volcanoes form and things like that. It has solved tons of mysteries, which is really like an eye-opener.

Nope, geography is just not my thing. I find it boring because it is an isolated subject. But when I travel to a new place, I sometimes feel the importance of knowing a bit geography.

### 5.2 Have you ever studied geography at school?

I did study geography, yes. Physical geography, like plate tectonics 板块构造论 – volcanoes and things like that, as well as land formation, and farming and the water cycle, and all of that type of stuff. We also studied human geography as well – population, demographics and things like

that.

Yeah, geography has been a compulsory subject since middle school. It seems back then I took geography classes three times a week. Honestly, I was quite interested in it, but things became so complicated in senior high school, you know, things like the melting glacier and earth rotation, etc.

Well, geography was a compulsory subject at my primary school, so I think I started to learn it in Grade Three. I have learned both national geography and world geography. I just remember that at that time there were a great deal of names to memorise, the mountains, the rivers and etc, not a pleasant experience for me.

### 5.3 Are you good at reading a map?

Well, I don't think I'm skillful in reading the paper map. It's because I'm awful at directions and reading the map is really doing my head in. But I should say, the navigation app in the smartphone is my savior 救星. You know, it shows my starting point, the route and even the arrival time. So it helps me to find the places everywhere I go.

([https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1cg411S7zr/?spm\\_id\\_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd\\_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1cg411S7zr/?spm_id_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40))

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5.4 Would you visit a country because of its geographical location?

Yeah, I'm always curious about the places I'm not very familiar with and the special geographical location makes it more mysterious. And Egypt must be the one. The desert there is so impressive. And apart from that, if I go to the country near the sea like Thailand, then I just have the chance to taste the local delicacy.

Actually, the other day while I was doing the IELTS reading practice, I happened to read an article about geoglyphs in England, and it did arouse my interest in these places. These geoglyphs have been there for more than three thousand years, very amazing, I would like to have a look at them myself.

Word: volcano, solve tons of mysteries, eye-opener

5.5 Do you want to travel to a country because of its geographical conditions?

Yes, I think so. At least it is one of the reasons I would choose to travel to a country, yes. For example, I am interested in lakes – I would like to spend some time in Sweden at the lakes – I heard they have a lot of lakes and it's common to spend holidays at the lakes, go in boats and things like that. So, yes, I would choose a country with lots of lakes and water.

## 6. Puzzles

6.1 Did you do puzzles in your childhood? Did you like doing puzzles when you were a kid?

Of course, I was a puzzle lover when I was a kid. Actually in school, we had some games on the computer that were actually puzzles that would help us to kind of develop our critical thinking skills so I was a big puzzler when I was a kid.

([https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1JG411n7iM/?spm\\_id\\_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd\\_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1JG411n7iM/?spm_id_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40))

Yes, when I was a kid there were lots of puzzles we could do – with string, and wood, and jigsaws and all sorts of little stuff like that. Now, there isn't so much – there's a lot of puzzle games, and games involving cryptic thinking on apps on phones and tablets, though. Those are popular today.

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Yeah, I did puzzles when I was little, like when I was a primary school student. I remember it was a kind of word search. My English teacher just

liked to give us a kind of homework, trying to help us to memorize the new vocabulary. It was fun to circle the required word, so I really enjoyed the whole process. I was quite keen on solving puzzles back then, it gave me a sense of achievement when a puzzle was solved.

Actually, I started to love them when I grew up, because when I was little, I didn't have much patience to deal with those annoying pieces. I still remember my father bought me a puzzle of a famous painting called starry sky by Vincent van Gogh. And you know the whole picture is full of similar stars and light, OMG, which was my nightmare during that period.

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6.2. When do you do puzzles, during trips or when you feel bored?

I usually play such puzzle games on my phone when I'm on the train or on a bus, or something like that. I also fiddle 不停摆弄 with my phone in bed too, like a lot of people, and yes, sometimes I play games which you could call 'puzzles' I guess.

I do puzzles whenever I want to, mostly in leisure time. You know, when I'm on the train, like traveling to another place, I love to do the crossword to kill time. It's good to relax. And when I feel bored, I also do the same thing because it's like the stimulus to my brain.

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If you are talking about that big jigsaw, then definitely no. I don't even have enough space for my clothes and skin care products. Who's going to take a puzzle. What's more, what if you finish it half of the way, how are you going to keep them.

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6.3. Do you like doing word puzzles or number puzzles?

I prefer number puzzles – I am really good at math, and I like solving little math problems. There are plenty of games which involving solving number puzzles and I enjoy doing these. I get a great sense of satisfaction from getting the answers right.

I prefer number puzzles – I am really good at math, and I like solving little math problems. There are plenty of games which involving solving number puzzles and I enjoy doing these. I get a great sense of satisfaction from getting the answers right.

I definitely prefer word puzzles because they are my strong suit and they just give me great sense of achievement. But number puzzles are killing me, which is like the tough 艰难的 job for me to do. It's probably because I'm not good at numbers and learning maths is just like the most traumatic experience in my life.

I would say word puzzle can be my preference, only if I must choose one. I really have no patience and interest in numbers. Whatever related to numbers drives me crazy.

I prefer number puzzles. I am really good at math, and I like solving little math problems. There are plenty of games which involving solving number puzzles and I enjoy doing these. I get a great sense of satisfaction from getting the answers right.

6.4. Do you think it is good for old people to do puzzles?

Yes, most certainly. I think old people should do these things to keep their minds active – a lot of research shows that older people remain mentally sharp for longer if they keep engaging their brains in puzzles and activities that involving thinking and solving things.

Yes, most certainly. I think old people should do these things to keep their minds active – a lot of research shows that older people remain mentally sharp for longer if they keep engaging their brains in puzzles and activities that involving thinking and solving things.

Yeah, I definitely agree that doing puzzles does a lot of good to senior citizens. Technically speaking, they are just designed to train the brain which helps to delay the brain's aging process. And some of them, like the jigsaw puzzle is good for hand-eye coordination which is beneficial to the elderly. I've read some journals and I've read some studies that show that older people doing puzzles can help to fight against some diseases

like dementia or alzheimer. My dad always does crossword puzzles at home and he always has a very sharp mind for an older fellow so I think it's very good for older people to do puzzles.

Sure. You know, doing such a thing does need full concentration and strong sensitivity, which can help to distinguish and complete it efficiently. And all of this may help to improve old people's reaction speed and adjust their moods.

Yes, most certainly. I think old people should do these things to keep their minds active – a lot of research shows that older people remain mentally sharp for longer if they keep engaging their brains in puzzles and activities that involving thinking and solving things.

## 7.Names

### 7.1. Does your name have a special meaning?

Not really. I am named after my grandfather who was from Gansu, and apparently I have a name that goes back many generations in my family. I also share a character of my Grandmother's name as well. Apart from that, no there is no special meaning to my name.

Yes, most Chinese parents would find some words that have good wishes for their children, and so did my parents. My name does have some special meaning. My family name means 'a sharp tool', and my first name is a kind of bird called a wild goose, which means ambitious and full of wisdom. My English name Harold was given (to me) by one of my high school teachers, and it does not have any special meaning really.

In my name, Hong means "swan goose", which means that my parents want me to have great ambitions, and Zhi means "wisdom and intelligence", which means that I should be knowledgeable and full of wisdom. I like my name because it's unique and I have never met anyone whose name is the name as mine.

Yeah. Most Chinese parents would find some words that have good wishes for their children, and so did my parents. When I was born, they

wanted me to grow up healthily into a beautiful and elegant lady, that's why they named me that.

Yeah, my name was given by my parents and it really means something. Actually, my first name is ... They just hoped that I could ... and I could be a person with brilliant prospects in the future.

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## 7.2. How do people choose names for their children?

Some people seek the advice of a fortune teller or a wise person! Most people discuss it with their family and think about it for quite a long time, and choose something that means something to them, sounds lucky or is simply nice-sounding.

## 7.3. Does anyone in your family have the same name with you?

Yes, several people have the same two characters in their name as mine. I have three characters in my name. One of them is specific to me. The others are related to my grandparents and parents. I think this is pretty much the same for many people I know.

Certainly no, I am pretty sure they don't. It's almost impossible to find a

person who has the same name as me in a Chinese family. Unlike the culture in western countries, where naming the children the same names as their grandparents may be a way to show respect and love to them, the Chinese may even try their best to avoid choosing the same one. In Chinese culture, it is disrespectful to name children after others.

No, I don't think so. I mean, my name is not exactly the same as other family members like cousins. But the point is, as a kind of tradition, we might share one of the characters in our names because of the seniority in the clan.

7.4. Are there any differences between how Chinese name their children now and in the past?

I am not sure to be honest. I think people are a bit less traditional in their choices of names than before, and young people try to think of more original and special character combinations. But, pretty much, in general, I don't think there have been big changes in naming customs and habits.

Yeah, there are many differences and to my knowledge, the first one is about the word selection itself. You know, more parents tend to choose rarely used characters as the names for their children, trying to make their names sound like one of a kind. And another one is whether the names

are mysterious. Unlike the ones many years ago, it's very hard to identify the gender from their names nowadays.

Sure. In the past, the second character of Chinese people's names may be fixed and the same as their siblings, just to show their seniority in a family. But now parents just tend to pick whichever characters they want without many limitations.

Yes, there are. Decades ago, Chinese people's names tended to reflect the feature of the era 时代. For example, when the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, they normally named their children Jianguo or Aiguo, which meant patriotism 爱国主义 or the establishment of the country. But now, Chinese parents prefer to turn to classic literature to find an appropriate name.

7.5 How would you choose names for your next generation?

Well, this question is beyond me because I haven't thought about it so far. But I guess I'd probably like the name that is easy to pronounce and also not very corny 粗野的. After all, names are just symbols.

Well, some people may ask some experts who are professional at name-choosing to do it, while some just open the Chinese dictionary and

seek for the characters that either are beautifully pronounced or have special meanings.

7.6 Are there any names that are more popular than others in China?

Yes, there are. They really depend because different people have different tastes. But I guess for the majority of people, they prefer to use 'xue' which means snow in English for girls and prefer 'shuai', which means handsome for boys. Those are some common and popular names in China.



## 8. Public Transport

### 8.1. What kind of public transport do you usually take?

I usually take the subway and a bus on a daily basis, to go to work, and on the weekends I grab a taxi, to go out to meet friends in town – to go to a restaurant or a bar or so. So, I take a few different modes of transport usually – I don't own my own car, so I rely on public transport most of the time unless a friend gives me a lift somewhere.

I take the metro on a regular basis because it's very punctual 准时的. And if I wanna transfer from Line One to Line Two, I just need to wait for no more than 2 minutes. Another good thing is, it's incredibly time saving. You know, it only takes about 20 minutes to commute from the city center to the suburb.

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I usually take public transportation, such as bus, subway and shared bike. Because public transportation is much more convenient for me and friendly to environment.

Most of the time I use the subway system for getting about in the city as it's cheap, reliable and isn't affected by traffic jams or other unforeseen

delays. Also, the number of lines and stations means the metropolitan area is pretty well covered by the network. Now and again I'll take a subway if it's absolutely necessary. They tend to be cramped, stuffy and can easily get stuck in traffic jams during rush hour, so they aren't my first preference.

## 8.2. Did you take public transport when you were a kid?

I took public transport with my parents yes. We always used to go on the bus in those days, because there weren't many subway lines in our city, and none near to where we lived. Now, however, there's a lot more public transport.

Well, it seems I didn't take public transportation when I was little because the school was within walking distance of my home. Honestly, I really miss the good old days. You know, there was no need for me to get up early to catch the bus.

Seldom. My parents had their own car, so when I was a kid, my parents drove me to and from school almost every day. I only took public transport when I was with my grandparents, as we used to go shopping in different markets.

### 8.3. Do most people prefer public transport?

Well... not really. I think most people find public transport in Chinese cities a bit overcrowded. Everyone would prefer to have their own car, in an ideal world. Though, public transport is very cheap, it's not always convenient.

I guess the answer is yes because there are so many people queuing up to go through security and get on the metro during the rush hour. In most cases, the compartment is jam-packed with people and even part of their bags are shut in the door.

Well, not really. I think most people find public transport in Chinese cities a bit overcrowded. Everyone would prefer to have their own car, in an ideal world. Though, public transport is very cheap, it's not always convenient.

I'm not sure. But, most of my friends and most young people would choose public transportation to get around because as we all know, a lot of cities in China are very congested and it is difficult to find a place to park.

### 8.4. When do you usually take public transport?

I usually take public transport each morning and evening on weekdays, to go to the office to work. And, on weekends I take public transport if I need to go somewhere to meet family and friends – I'll take a taxi if it's not convenient to get a bus or subway. Occasionally I take a hire-bike from the street if the distance isn't too far.

I take the metro to work every day because the metro station is not very far away from where I'm living right now. Yeah, it's sort of like to enjoy the benefits of a favorable position (近水楼台先得月). And I can sleep some more on weekdays, which is really amazing for a corporate slave(社畜) like me.

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Well, both. I usually take public transport on weekdays to commute. I'll take a taxi if there is no traffic jam in the morning. As for travelling, I use anything available because while traveling I don't have much of a choice. Some people could rent a car, but I can't drive, so I will check some of

the bus or subway lines in advance, and be prepared when in a new city.

8.5 Will there be more people taking public transportation in the future?

Well, I'm not so sure about it. The fact is, many subway lines are under construction and shared bikes bring people great convenience. That being said, there are also some people who look private cars more, so it just varies from person to person.

Yes, certainly. I think that taking public transportation can save people a lot of money. You know, usually driving people own vehicle 车辆 to commute would cost enormous amounts of money because of high oil prices. Therefore, people will be more likely to choose public transportation that is cost effective and environmentally friendly.

## 9. Technology

9.1. What technological products do you often use, computers or mobile phones?

I use both - computers, mobile phones, and I have a tablet. I use all of them for both work and social communications. Today, pretty much everyone needs a phone, at least, and most people who work in my field will have a tablet and a computer too.

Well, my answer is both because I use them every day. I use my laptop to take notes on the classes, complete essays and reports assigned by my teachers and attend online courses. In contrast, my cellphone is mainly used for entertainment, like scrolling through social media and short video platforms and chatting with my friends. (Cellphone is obviously like the daily necessity for me, and I use it to send voice messages, bring watch video clips and there are so many apps helping me to solve different problems in life. But it's not so convenient when it comes to word processing, so when I'm at work making an excel spreadsheet, computer is really helpful.)

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Actually I use both quite often. I use my laptop for many purposes, like taking online courses, working on my assignments and essays, watching movies, and so on. I use my smartphone mostly for social purposes, like chatting with family and friends on wechat, posting photos and short videos on social media, things like that.

Well, my answer is both because I use them every day. Cellphone is obviously like the daily necessity for me, and I use it to send voice messages, binge watch video clips and there are so many apps helping me to solve different problems in life. But it's not so convenient when it comes to word processing, so when I'm at work making an excel spreadsheet, computer is really helpful.

9.2. What electronic devices have you bought lately?

I haven't bought any electronic devices this year. Last year I bought a new tablet, because my old one was several years old and the memory was full, which meant it had slowed down to the point where it was no longer efficient to use. But since then, I've not bought anything else electronic.

I bought the latest generation of fitness tracker released by Huawei two months ago. It can monitor my sleep and heart rate, track the calories I

have burnt, and remind me to stretch my limbs after sitting for too long. I think it would help me develop a healthier lifestyle.

I bought an ipad last month. I used to take my laptop to class for note taking, but it was too bulky. Sometimes I feel like doing some sports after class and it's really inconvenient to carry something so heavy. Ipad is a perfect alternative, because it's much lighter and more portable.

Well, I've bought a video gaming console. I'm actually quite new to gaming and one of my students recommended it to me. And you know what? One of the games called Super Mario has won my heart. I believe it's gonna be my good company after work in the future.

9.3. Are there any technological devices you want to buy?

I'd like to buy a really good pair of noise cancelling headphones. I have a small pair of headphones that come with my mobile phone, but they don't block out 挡住 the noise of people and traffic when I'm commuting to work. So, I want to buy a nice quality pair of headphones that are great for sound, but block out the outside noises really effectively.

Yes, I want to buy the iPhone 14 pro released by Apple. It is a symbol of fashion and cutting-edge technology. Unfortunately, its price far exceeds



my affordability. I have to save money for another half year to bring it home.

I've long set my eyes on a Leica digital camera. I'm really into photography and it's so fun to capture all these wonderful moments and small details that make up my life. The camera I'm currently using has got a few problems, like the photos can get pretty blurry sometimes, so I'm thinking about getting a new one.

Yeah, there's one I wanna buy. It's a transparent stereo box, using some kind of technology to allow the lyrics to float on the screen. What's really amazing is, it can recognize the emotion the music trying to convey, and choose the suitable ways to match the lyrics presenting.

#### 9.4. What benefits does technology bring to us?

Technology brings us a host of benefits. It would take too long to list them all! But, in short, the main things technology offers to society is fast, effective communication which enables us to streamline business and personal interactions and communications and get things done quickly.

#### 9.5. Is technology important in your life?

Yeah, technology means a lot because it brings much convenience to my

life. And the robot vacuum 真空 cleaner is one of the domestic appliances that saves me the trouble of doing the cleaning after work. Plus, wearing three dimensional glasses when watching the film makes me feel like, I'm completely in the environment and forget the worries in life.

Yes, I think so. Technology has benefited my life in various ways. The laptop has substantially boosted my efficiency. The cellphone has facilitated my communication with my friends and families and enriched my entertainment. And all the white appliances, like the washing machines, robot vacuums, microwave ovens, and air conditioners, have made my life more comfortable.

Yeah, technology means a lot because it brings much convenience to my life. And the robot vacuum cleaner is one of the domestic appliances that saves me the trouble of doing the cleaning after work. Plus, wearing three dimensional glasses when watching the film make me feel like, I'm completely in the environment and forget the worries in life.

9.6. Is there any technology you don't like?

Twitter. Very few people are sufficiently brilliant to say anything worthwhile in 140 characters. It breeds an ego that most people are not

worthy of. It's sadder still when politicians use it to make a stand on a nuanced issue.

9.7. What do you think are the trends in technology today compared to when you were young?

Devices and gadgets 小配件 that we use today were radically different in the past. Some of the first gadgets or devices were simple, so big, controversial 有争议的, or only a few people had access to that gadget, but in this century technologies become simple and everyone has access to it. Mobile Phone. In 1973 Motorola researcher Martin Cooper made the first mobile telephone call using a device weight 1.1 KG and measured 23 centimeters long. It had a talk time of 30 min and took 10hr to recharge. Smart Phone. There are nearly 150 mobile phone manufacturers in the world. You purchase the latest desertion of this device which is small, light, thin, and you can use it as a computer.

9.8. What are the benefits of technology? / Do you think technology is important in your life?

Technology has brought tremendous 极大的 changes to our lives and we also benefit a great deal from its development. For one thing, we are able to contact our family and friends anytime and anywhere on social apps or through phone calls, unlike previous generations who contact others

mostly through letters or fax. On top of that, the convenience of life has greatly improved thanks to the proliferation of various apps.

## 10. Social media

### 10.1. Do you like social media?

Yes, I most certainly see and enjoy the benefits of social media. Although I can also see the downsides of it too – there's a lot of gossip 闲聊, misinformation and nonsense on social media, as well as informative discussion and communication. So, like most things, it's a double-edged sword. But I like it yes – it's predominantly great for communicating with work, friends and family.

### 10.2. Do you think your friends spend too much time on social media?

YES! Some are really obsessed 着迷的 with social media – constantly posting on their weibo pictures of their dinner, or parties, or days out. It's a bit excessive to be honest. I think a lot of my friends are a bit over the top about it. I am not so passionate 狂热的 about such things, personally. I use it mainly for practical communication.

### 10.3. Do you want to work in a social media company?

No, I don't. Today there are too many rules and regulations governing social media and it's a minefield 布雷区. I'd prefer to work in a more relaxing field that is not so connected to public information sharing, gossip and stuff like this. I am not a very public-facing kind of person really!

#### 10.4. Do you or your friends like using social media?

Yeah, we are all obsessed with social media. We catch up with the latest news and current affairs 事务, find entertaining content and have a chit-chat with friends and families. It really plays a big part in our life.

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Yes, we do. Social media allows us to connect with other like-minded individuals more easily, and at a faster pace, than ever before. It also helps us find new interests, while realizing that we might not be alone in our love of some particular topic or hobby. You might be the only fan of a particular band or TV show in your local, physical community (or, so you think), but social media can help you discover entire communities of fans with which you can connect. Plus, it gives you the ability to discover more opportunities for serving your community and others.

Yes, we do. It is pretty trendy among youngsters. We use it to stay in contact with our friends, especially those living in another city, keep track of the latest news, follow celebrities we are interested in, and learn about fashion. It is not exaggerated to say social media has become an integral part of our lives.

10.5. Do you think you or your friends use too much social media?

Yes, I think so. Whenever we get free time, we will grab our cell phones and scroll 滚屏 through social media to see if anyone has posted something interesting. And the platform will automatically recommend relevant content. Before we can realize we still have tasks on our hands, half an hour may have passed.

I guess so. We spend at least 5 or 6 hours on the phone and most of the time we check on social media. Every morning, the first thing I do is to grab my phone to look at Weibo to see what's new. While commuting, I would immerse myself in all sorts of videos on Tik-Tok.

10.6. Do you want to work in social media? Why?

Well, it is hard to say. It is said that employees of social media are provided with decent salaries and excellent welfare packages. But they are also under tremendous pressure and have to work overtime frequently. I am not sure I can adapt to this kind of life.

10.7. What's the most popular social media in China? Why?

Undoubtedly, it should be WeChat, where you can post pictures, videos, music, and texts and interact with friends. I guess this platform dominates

social media because it has integrated 合并 so many functions, like payment, instant messages, voice and video calls, and entertainment. You just cannot live without it.



## 11. Snacks

### 11.1. What snacks did you eat when you were young?

When I was a kid I used to love all kinds of street snacks – there were lots of little stalls selling pancakes and all sorts in my road. When I was a little older, fast food joints started to open and become popular, and I loved those, and thought they were a real novelty. There we ate burgers and fried chicken and things like that.

Yeah, because no one is gonna resist the temptation(抵挡诱惑) from those yummy food, especially the chips(薯片) and those lovely sweets. I still remember the flavor of a kind of sweet, which tasted extremely sour, like preserved plums(话梅). Well, I should say, back then I was totally obsessed with it.

Yes, when I was a kid, I had a sweet tooth. I used to eat a lot of candies, chocolate bars, cakes and et al. As a result, I had serious tooth decay, and I remember what a nightmare it was every time when I went to the dentist.

### 11.2. Do you often eat snacks now?

I still eat local snacks actually, and there is quite a strong street-snack culture still existing in China, and occasionally I go to fast food outlets

with friends – which are more expensive, but more comfortable and convenient.

### 11.3. Do you think eating snacks is healthy?

Certain snacks are healthy, yes, indeed. Fried street snacks and fast food are not so healthy though; at least if you eat them often. One has to be careful what one chooses in the way of snacking – a lot of sweets, chocolates, fries and burgers and deep-fried food is definitely not healthy. Everything in moderation, as they say!

### 11.4. What snacks do you like to eat?

Actually, there are many kinds. You know, nuts(坚果) and cereals(麦片) are my favorite. I just can't say no to the pistachios(开心果), cashews(腰果), walnuts(核桃) and something like that, so sometimes I choose the bag of mixed nuts. And I just prefer to have cereals with some yoghurt(酸奶), like two or three times a week.

I like to have some yoghurt, nuts or fruits between meals like blueberries, mangos, oranges. I don't eat sweets or cakes much because they're high in calories. Too much intake of these snacks will lead to obesity easily. I don't want to put on too much weight.

### 11.5. When do you usually eat snacks now?

In most cases, I eat some nuts before I go to the gym because it's said that almonds(杏仁) are good for muscle recovering and building. And I also eat some dark chocolate(黑巧) when I don't have time to eat meals. It can put my mind at ease and I really love its bitterness(苦味).

Normally in the late afternoon when I feel groggy and lack of energy, I would have some refreshments to recharge my batteries. And also after working out in the gym, I'll eat a protein bar or have some carbs.

It depends what I've been eating and what my schedule is like, but my blood sugar issues can require me to eat something every two to three hours. I'm more likely to need a snack between breakfast and lunch than between lunch and dinner.

### 11.6. Do you think it is healthy for you to eat snacks?

Well to my knowledge, most snacks are over processed(过度加工), so it's definitely not so healthy for me to eat a lot of them or eat those kinds of food frequently. I tend to have some in my spare time, just eat in moderation. After all, snacks taste good and they can also put me in a good mood.

Most snacks people eat are high in calories in sugars, and they often contain substantial amounts of preservatives and additives. You have to be really careful to choose snacks that are healthy if you want a balanced diet.

11.7. What is your favourite snack?

A snack I really enjoy (although not the healthiest) has to be salt and vinegar 醋 chips. Honestly, anything generally sour is wonderful, as a kid I used to eat lemons right off the tree. Apart from this, I love hummus 豆泥 and crackers 咸饼干, fresh veggies 蔬菜, and anything baked or homemade.

11.8. What kind of snack is popular in your country?

Well, there are loads of snacks and street eats in China. Trying Chinese snacks will bring you a great eating experience. There are some popular names of Chinese snacks that won't let you down is baked sweet potatoes, stinky tofu 臭豆腐, duck neck, etc.

## 12. Housework and cooking / Housekeeping and cooking

### 12.1. Do you like cooking?

I love cooking. Well, if I have time. Cooking well can sometimes take quite a bit of time and energy, so I mainly enjoy cooking on the weekends, when I don't have to go to work. Especially in winter, I like to cook in winter because we spend less time going outside and more time focusing on things to do in the home.

### 12.2. Do you do some cooking / help your family cook at home now?

Well, I'm not very experienced in cooking actually, but I do help my mom with some cooking sometimes, you know, just acting as assistant. All I need to do is some prep work, like, rinsing the veggies, peeling the potatoes and slicing the carrots etc. I just love it because mom knows the kitchen things inside out and I can learn a lot from her.

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Yeah, I often do cooking at home because cooking at home can even take less time than eating out. There are plenty of quick, simple, and wholesome meals I can cook at home in less time than it takes to travel to a restaurant or wait for a delivery.

Yes, I do. Since the outbreak of covid, I have started to help my family cook at home. You know, it's relatively safer and cheaper to eat at home, and I have more free time because I don't need to go to school quite often than in the past, which ceates many opportunities for me to cook.

12.3. Would you like to learn how to cook?

I already know how to cook! I love cooking. I learnt to cook from my grandmother. She is a really excellent cook and she can cook anything from traditional Chinese dishes to western cakes and pastries 点心. I enjoy cooking all sorts of different foods, and today you can find a lot of recipes online. So, I'd say I am already a pretty decent cook, and I constantly try to learn new dishes.

12.4. Do you want to learn how to cook well?

Yeah, I'm quite interested in cooking, but my skill is sort of mediocre 平庸的. I know nothing (little) about the duration and degree of heating, so if there are some kind of classes for me that would be great. Then, I can cook some tasty dishes for myself on weekends and exhibit this new skill to my friends.

Yes, I do. Learning to cook will help me understand world cultures,

customs and flavors 风味调料. I will also learn life skills like eating healthy, budgeting money, and cleaning. Save some cash. Cooking is less expensive than eating at restaurants, fast food joints and school cafeterias.

12.5. Who normally does the cooking in your family?

My mother does most of the daily cooking, but my father cooks on occasions or helps out in the kitchen. Both my mother and father are good cooks, and both enjoy cooking, but my father is the one who likes to experiment with different recipes 食谱 a bit more.

12.6. Do you think your home is clean and tidy?

I'm not sure. It depends on who you ask! I think I am quite tidy to be honest, but my mother thinks I'm really messy! She's very fastidious, I must say...perhaps way too clean and tidy, actually. My friend, in my view, is completely messy and I've no idea how she can study in her room. I'd say I'm in the middle!

To be honest, I have to say my home is not always clean and tidy. On weekends, our home will be cleaner and tidier because my mom has enough time to do housework, including vacuuming 吸尘 and mopping. During weekdays, she is too busy and just does the basic cleaning.

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Yes, I do. Because I pay attention to my tidiness as much as I can. For instance, I make my bed and clean up my room on a daily basis, and make sure that everything in my room is in order. So I think my home is clean and tidy.

12.7. Did you do some house cleaning when you were young?

Yeah, I remember I did some when I was a primary school student. I helped my parents to do some general cleaning in the house on New Year's Eve. It's kind of tradition in China, including cleaning the windows, removing the dust on the walls, and washing the articles of daily use etc.

Yes, I did. When I was little, my mom would teach me to make my bed and fold my quilt. I was told to wipe my desk regularly every week. This helped me develop the habit of keeping things neat and tidy from a young age.

I did a little, but not very much really. I cleaned the house a bit, and my mother encouraged me to help, but I must say that I didn't do a lot and wasn't expected to do much. My mother said she didn't want me to grow



up to be a housewife just like her!

12.8. Do you have breakfast at home everyday?

Yeah, in most cases, I finish my breakfast at home because I have my own eating habits. Honestly, the food served in the restaurants is more less the same and most of it is stodgy so I just prefer to cook some breakfast at home which is much healthier. And porridge 燕麦粥 and chicken breasts are my favorite.

Yes, I do prefer breakfast at home. I believe breakfast should be at home. After that you can plan other things from outside resto. I think the perfect breakfast with family members is a great idea and everyone likes it. I prepare many different items. Generally we had breakfast together and then chat and go for work.

12.9. What housework do you like or dislike doing?

I dislike washing dirty dishes. That's one thing I hate. I love cooking, and preparing meals for people, but I hate washing up afterwards. I don't mind doing clothes washing, hanging the clothes up to dry in the balcony, or even cleaning the floors. But I hate washing the dishes.

I don't like doing any housework. All of them can be time-consuming and

tedious. Well, the one I dislike the most must be washing the dishes. It is too oily and boring. I will definitely buy a dishwasher in the future.

I have to say I hate cleaning the toilet because the toilet is really germy. And I hate the smell of toilet detergent, it's very pungent.

12.10. What do you have for breakfast?

If I'm in a rush (赶时间), I probably go to the street stalls (路边摊) and grab a bite to eat (随便吃点). And scallion pancake (葱油饼) is my favorite. If I don't sleep in (睡过头), I just eat something at home, like some whole wheat bread (全麦面包) together with beef, an omelet (煎蛋) and an apple.

-breakfast is the most important meal of the day and it is of great significance to my body.

-I would love to have ham and eggs for breakfast every morning or maybe a bottle of milk.

-because they can boost my brainpower.

-If I am in a rush, I probably only eat a piece of bread

-the truth is that I just do not have much time to cook

12.11. Do you eat fast food?

Yeah, I do have fast food, you know, it tastes good. The thing is, I just eat

this kind food occasionally (偶尔) because it's very high in calories (热量很高) and is not so good for health. After that, I have to work out in the gym to burn off the calories (燃烧卡路里) .

-of course, I eat fast food sometimes

-you know, it tastes good.

-The thing is, I just eat this kind of food occasionally because it's very high in calories and not so good for health.

-After that, I have to work out in the gym to burn off the calories.

12.12. What are the different kinds of fast food in China?

There are many kinds actually and I wanna talk about two of them. The first one is Luosifen, river snails rice noodle (螺蛳粉) from Liu Zhou. It smells awful but tastes great (闻着臭吃着香) . Another one is ham sausage(火腿肠). It's a good choice to have it with congee(粥) or instant noodles (泡面) .

-There are many kinds actually, talk about two of them

-The first one is stinky tofu which is famous fast food in Hunan, and it smells awful but tastes great.

-Another one is fried bread stick, it's a good choice to have it with congee or soup.

### 13. Morning time / Morning Routine

#### 13.1 Do you like getting up early in the mornings?

Well not quite, because I just love to get up when I wake up naturally. However, in most cases, especially on weekdays, I have to get up at six otherwise I'm gonna be late for work. Then I usually sleep in on Saturday to refresh myself.

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Absolutely I am a morning person. I get up early in the morning in every working day and my overall mental wellness is just a lot better. I have to get up at 6 am and memorize hundreds of English words. After having the breakfast, I go to the classroom to study before 8 am.

Not really. I'm not a morning person... but I'm not a night person either. I guess you could say I'm an afternoon person? Or more precisely, a person who "loves to sleep" kind of person!? Either way, it's a daily struggle to peel myself out of bed, so I need all the help I can get.

Yes, I am a morning person, since I feel extra power in my body in the morning, and I usually get up at about 7, or slightly earlier than that. But if it is a weekend, I might wake up a bit later so I can relax a bit.

Well, yes, I do. I used to stay up very late and sleep until midday, but I decided to lead a more healthy life last year. Now I wake up with the chirping of birds outside every morning and watch the colour of the sky changes as the sun rises. Getting up early allows me to get more things done before lunch and also makes me more energetic during the day.

Yes, I wake up early in the morning as I like to give myself enough time to get ready and have breakfast before I go to my college. If I don't get up early, I have to rush in the morning and sometimes miss my bus.

Well, (no,) I'm (not) a morning person. Since I was a child, getting up early has been fairly (miserable) to me, which means (normally I would take 10 or 15 minutes to rise from my bed) after the alarm clock ringing. On top of that, this habit may contribute a lot to (my lateness for school and work). (However, I can do nothing about it.)

13.2 What do you usually do when you get up early?

I'd like to watch one episode of the Big Bang Theory while having my breakfast because it's an effective way to lift my spirits. Then I take the metro to my workplace to start my daily routine. As a rule, there are many things I need to do like, reading an essay and writing code etc.

After getting up, I have a shower first and then prepare the breakfast. Before leaving home, I would like to remember the English words or enjoy the news on the TV.

### 13.3 What do you usually do in the morning?

I usually study in the morning. After a night's sleep, I normally feel very energetic and my concentration level is also at its peak, which enables me to absorb knowledge and memorize things more easily.

After waking up, I usually get out of bed, of course, and i go into the kitchen and prepare my breakfast. If it is still early, I might cook an omelette, which is my favorite, but it is a bit time-consuming And then I'll catch up with the recent news while having my breakfast. I do all this before I jump in the shower, clean myself and get ready for the day.

The first thing I usually do when I wake up is meditate for a few minutes. I would sit on my yoga mat with my legs crossed and try to focus on my breath. Practicing meditation gets me prepared for the new day both physically and mentally. After that, I'd make myself a nice breakfast, as a good day starts with a good meal. Another thing I do before setting out to work is I'd note down the important things I'm going to do for the day on

my memo.

I like to start my morning with a cup of tea. I also play with my dog a bit and then get ready for college.

The first thing after getting up is (definitely serving myself a cup of coffee). Then (attending lectures would be) the regular routine for school days. Besides, on weekends and vacations, I would (stay in bed and chat with my friends online until lunch time).

13.4. What is your morning routine?

I wake up around 6:00am when my alarm goes off, and snooze 小睡 for a few minutes. When I finally roll out of bed, I take a shower, quickly put on my makeup, blend 混合 my daily smoothies, then I am out of the door. If it's a non-working day, I'll hit the gym, or I'll just chat with my friend for a bit, before taking a shower.

13.5. Which one is your favorite morning in the whole week?

My favourite morning is Saturday morning because I don't have to get up for work and I can lie in bed for hours reading or watching TV series. Saturday morning is most certainly my favourite morning and it always has been.

13.6. Do you want to change your daily routines in the future?

If there's one thing I could change it would be having a lie-in in the morning. I always wake up really early and get out of bed as soon as I wake up which means I never really have a lie-in. Sometimes I get a bit tired in the afternoon and I think it's because I get up too early. So yeah I'd like to be able to have a lie-in sometimes.

13.7. What did you do in the morning when you were little? Why?

I guess when I was a baby, I would probably sleep all day long like many other infants 婴儿. It's because babies need more sleep than the adults do. And when I grew older, like going to the kindergarten, I just did morning exercises with other students and take some lessons after that, like fine art and science to know about the world.

Well, when I was a small kid, I needed to get up really early to go to school. So in the morning, it was like a battle. I hurried to get up, to clean myself, and to have breakfast, very chaotic 混乱的. But at that time, we also went to bed early, so fair enough.

I remember I liked drawing when I was a little girl and I would spend a lot of time drawing on my sketchpad when I get up. Sometimes my mom



would send me to my grandparents' place on her way to work. My granddad is good at Chinese calligraphy and we would spend long hours practicing it together.

There is no surprise here but (going to school). From Monday to Friday, I got up at (6:30 in order to attend the morning class in time). In addition, there were some (extra curriculum courses on every weekend morning), which (I have to admit that it was not my own intention).

13.8. Are there any differences between what you do in the morning now and what you did in the past?

Oh yes. When I was in high school, I had to get up very early in the morning, because our first class started at 7:10. After getting into university, I have more time at my disposal, so I can do whatever I wanna do after I get up. Sometimes, I'd go to the sports field for jogging because it's always so empty at that time and I could have the whole place to myself. And sometimes, I would read some interesting books in my dorm room or go to the library for study.

Yeah, there are many difference actually, and the most obvious one is related to transport. You know in the past, the school was not very far away from where I was living, so it was a five minutes' walk. But now,

our family moved to a new place, so I need to spend more time on the metro in the morning. And another one is about clothing. When I was in junior and senior high school, there was no need for me to think about it in the morning because I used to wear school uniform every day. But now it usually takes me some time to choose what I wanna wear before the classes.

The major difference lies in preparing breakfast. I used to live with my parents, and they would make breakfast for me, while now I live by myself, so I have to make meals for myself.

Yes, of course. The most significant variation of morning routine is (the first hour after getting up). When I was a child, I would (directly go to school and have classes). Mind you, nowadays, (browsing some news online on a cup of coffee) is the regular activity I have in the morning in order to (wake myself up and catch up with this eternally changing world).

13.9. Do you spend your mornings doing the same things on both weekends and weekdays? Why?

Sort of, some routines are the same but on weekends I do sleep an extra hour and try to avoid deep-working sessions 研讨 because I think that

only when I have a good weekend rest, can I be more productive next week.

## 14. Weather

### 14.1. Do you prefer hot or cold weather?

I much prefer it when the weather is nice and hot. Obviously, I don't like it when it's extremely hot, but I like it pretty hot. Perhaps around 25 is a good temperature for me. However, I prefer it when it's a dry heat and not a really humid heat.

My favorite season is winter. I usually enjoy snowflakes and play snowballs. I like to take a hot spring bath or make a massage in winter. Well, that would be fantastic. Summer sucks here because of the stupid hot weather; you can't play sports without sweating buckets.

If I have to make a choice, it will be the hot weather. That's because it's gonna be awesome to take a snapshot near the beach or in the rose garden. I don't know why. Perhaps when sweating, I'm sort of like photogenic and full of beans(元气满满).

### 14.2. Do you prefer dry or wet weather?

I prefer dry weather, but it's nice to have a shower of rain from time to time. It clears the air and is good for the plants – I don't like it when it's months of hot dry weather with no rain. So, ideally, I like pretty hot weather, with a good shower of rain once a week or so.

For me, I like wet weather more because it's good for skin. I'm not exaggerating. You know, all I need is some kind of basic skin care products. Honestly, that saves me the trouble of putting on a facial mask. On the other hand, dry weather can cause many skin problems and even constipation.

I prefer the wet weather. In my hometown, the weather is pretty wet, and it always rains in summer. So I think I've adapted to this climate. So being hot and humid weather does not bother me and it means that I can appreciate the beauty of rain and the lovely sound it makes. Furthermore, dry weather can also be often unbearable which I do not like.

#### 14.3. What is the weather like in your hometown?

In my hometown it is hot and very humid for about 6 months of the year. It's unbearable when it's too hot and humid to be honest – it's hard to breathe and you sweat profusely as soon as you leave the house. Like I mentioned before, hot and dry weather is my favourite, with the occasional rain shower.

#### 14.4. What kind of weather is typical in your hometown?

In my hometown, the weather is always very dry 干的 no matter in

which season. In summer and fall, you won't feel wet even after raining.

14.5. Do you have the habit of checking the weather forecast?

I check it fairly often actually. For no particular reason really, just because it pops up 突然出现 on my phone every morning when I wake up, so I look at it. Where I live in China the weather is highly predictable all year round, so we don't really need to be checking the weather forecast all the time, like people do in the UK, for example.

14.6. Are you in the habit of checking the weather forecast?

When/How often?

Yes, I am. Yeah, I formed the habit of checking the weather forecast when I was a primary school student, so now, every day before I go to work, I just check the updating info on my cellphone. And when I hang out with my friends on weekends, I will definitely attach much importance to the weather forecast. You know, it's gonna be a disappointment if we are soaked.

14.7. What's the weather like where you live?

Well, Nanjing is nicknamed as furnace 火炉 and it's true to its name. Sometimes you can notice there might be some white stuff, which is actually salt on the black T-shirts of people who work outdoors. And it's

really dank in winter and even people who love fashion just wear thermals 保暖内衣裤.

([https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1X14y1a7Sy/?spm\\_id\\_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd\\_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1X14y1a7Sy/?spm_id_from=333.337.search-card.all.click&vd_source=b6f9180a3a9b8306ba5753c1cc988f40))

Where I live has pretty consistent weather. It's usually warm in the summer and cold in the winter. Sometimes there can be dry spells, but we get a normal amount of rain and snow. I like that we go through all the seasons. It's nice to have a change every once in a while.

14.8. What do you think are the effects of climate change in recent years?

A key effect of climate change is extreme weather. Rising temperatures cause heatwaves droughts 干旱, and wildfires. They also warm the atmosphere, increasing moisture 潮气. Higher average global temperatures are also melting ice at the polar 极地的 regions and in glaciers in mountainous regions.

14.9. Would you like to visit other cities that have different climates from where you live?

I would not. Because if the climate in other cities is too different, it will take me time to get used to it. I've adapted to one climate where I live and it's hard to adapt to a different climate quickly.

14.10. What kind of weather do you like most?

My favorite weather is snowy weather. I just love seeing the white snow pouring down and everything being covered by white, just like a fairy tale 神话故事 world. I think the most fun part of snowy weather is that I get to have a snowball fight with my friends. We can also build snowmen or go sleigh riding. All the funny activities make my life in winter colorful. So I like snowy weather most.

My favorite kind of weather would definitely be a warm spring afternoon with a light breeze. I like weather that is temperate and mild, the kind of weather you can lay down in and relax. I prefer such weather to wind, rain and snow. Because I like to spend my time outdoors and there kinds of weather prevent me from doing that.

14.11. Do you think the weather can affect people's moods?

Yeah it definitely can. Some people have a thing called seasonal 季节性的 depression where for example, during the winter months they are depressed throughout that whole period but they get better when spring comes along.



14.12. What's your favorite season?

I like summer most. For me, summer means bright sunshine, beautiful beaches and various outdoor activities. There are a few really amazing beaches in the city I live. Spending a day building sandcastles, swimming or reading a book while basking on the beach sounds pretty awesome. By the way, when summer time starts, I can wear lighter clothes, which can be much more comfortable.

## 15. Sports

### 15.1. What kind of sport did you do when you were young?

I did quite a lot of sports, actually. I'm a pretty sporty person and always have been. When I was young I mainly played football and basketball, and took part in school physical education – like ball control games and things like this. I love sport, especially team sports and competitive sports, moreso 尤其如此的 than running or jogging and individual sports, I'd say.

### 15.2. What's the most common sport in your country?

For most Chinese, I would say football. People both watch it and play it. For one thing, it's pretty easy to do since all you need is a few players, a ball and a field. Also, the rules are simple, even little kids can handle this. In addition, football really brings people together for fun, and so it is a great way to make friends in a relaxing social atmosphere.

### 15.3. Do you like outdoor activities?

Well, if I'm completely honest, no not really, I don't actually enjoy doing things outside, I'm quite a homely person so I tend to prefer staying in, but I know it's important and healthy to be active and get involved in some outdoor activities, so I do actually do some. I just wouldn't really say I like doing them.