

Topic - Friends

Q. Do you have many friends? [Why/Why not?]

Q. How often do you go out with friends? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Tell me about your best friend at school.

Q. How friendly are you with your neighbors? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Which is more important to you, friends or family? [Why?]

Q. Do you have many friends? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: I have more than 10 friends and I am not sure if I should say this is many! However, I had more than 30 friends in my school days. With the passage of time, the number plummeted. If I count my Facebook friends as real friends, the number would go high!

Alternative Answer: I have a few close friends whom I consider my inner circle, but I wouldn't say that I have a large number of friends. I value quality over quantity when it comes to friendships. Developing meaningful connections and maintaining strong bonds requires time, trust, and mutual understanding. I prefer investing my energy in nurturing a few deep friendships rather than spreading myself thin across numerous acquaintances.

Q. How often do you go out with friends? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: I meet my friends almost twice a week. I love to spend my weekends with them and sometimes I visit different places, watch movies and discuss different topics with them. I do not go out with all of my friends. I mostly hang out with 2-3 close buddies and go out with them almost 3-4 times a month.

Alternative Answer: The frequency of my outings with friends varies depending on our schedules and commitments. On average, I try to meet up with my friends at least once or twice a month. However, there are times when our busy lives and responsibilities make it challenging to find a common time to get together. Nevertheless, I cherish the moments we do spend together, as they offer an opportunity to unwind, catch up on each other's lives, and strengthen our friendships.

Q. Tell me about your best friend at school.

Answer: My best friend at school was John and he was a great friend. He was tall and brave. He taught me how to show courage when we are in trouble. He has had a great impact on my life. Though he lives in Australia now, we regularly communicate via Skype. I specifically liked him because he was more like a brother than a friend to me.

Alternative Answer: My best friend at school was named Sarah. We met in elementary school and instantly clicked. What made our bond special was our shared interests, values, and deep understanding of each other. Sarah was incredibly supportive, trustworthy, and always had my back. We would spend hours together studying, exploring new hobbies, and engaging in lively conversations. She had a great sense of humour and was someone I could always rely on for advice and a listening ear. Despite attending different colleges, we have managed to stay in touch and maintain our friendship throughout the years.

Q. How friendly are you with your neighbours? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: I must say I am quite lucky to have good neighbours who are always supportive and well-behaved. I am quite close to them. We have been living in our neighbourhood for more than a decade and our neighbours have become our close relatives. We have a mutual understanding and an invisible bond that ties us together as good neighbours. I respect their opinion, privacy and try to step forward whenever they need me.

Alternative Answer: I consider myself friendly with my neighbours. I believe in fostering a sense of community and being a good neighbour. I make an effort to greet them, engage in friendly conversations, and help out when needed. Building positive relationships with neighbours creates a supportive and safe environment where we can look out for one another. Whether it's keeping an eye on each other's homes during vacations or lending a helping hand, being friendly with neighbours enhances the overall neighbourhood experience and creates a sense of belonging.

Q. Which is more important to you, friends or family? [Why?]

Answer: To be honest, family comes first. However, there are some friends who become our family members. The bond between family members is often stronger but this does not mean that we do not have friends who are less important in our life. Being with the family makes us who we really are and friends make our life worth living.

Alternative Answer: It's difficult for me to choose between friends and family as both hold immense significance in my life. Family provides a strong foundation of love, support, and shared history. They have been there for me through thick and thin, offering unconditional love and guidance. Family bonds are deeply rooted, and the connections forged with relatives can be lifelong. On the other hand, friends are the family we choose. They offer companionship, understanding, and a different perspective on life. Friends can become our support system outside of the familial realm and bring joy, laughter, and shared experiences. Ultimately, both friends and family play unique roles in my life, and I value and cherish the relationships I have with both.

Topic - People You Study/Work With

Q. Who do you spend most time studying/working with? [Why?]

Q. What kinds of things do you study/work on with other people? [Why?]

Q. Are there times when you study/work better by yourself? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Is it important to like the people you study/work with? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Who do you spend most time studying/working with? [Why?]

Answer: As a university student, I have a couple of classmates, who are also my friends, with whom I spend a considerable amount of time studying or discussing different topics related to our studies or assignments. If I have to single out a person among them, I would say I spend the most time with “Jessica”, who is a very close friend of mine, and a very brilliant student.

Alternative Answer: I work in a software company in our country, and I often have to work with a number of colleagues on different projects and requirements. However, I believe I work most with two of my colleagues, who happen to be also from my university, as we are often in the same team working on the same projects.

Q. What kinds of things do you study/work on with other people? [Why?]

Answer: My major is Business Studies, and I often find myself studying or discussing accounting, banking, technology, finance, management and computer applications-related topics or assignments with the people I study with. If we have important assignments, which are quite frequent, we also discuss how we can approach and prepare to get a good grade.

Alternative Answer: As a software developer, almost always I work in a team. My work nature is such that I have to constantly interact with a group of people ranging from the clients to the project manager, from teammates, subordinates, the design team, the marketing team to the testing team. I work with the clients to understand the project requirements. With other teams and project managers, I mostly discuss the progress of the projects or do formal meetings about the projects. With the testing team, I collaborate in order to solve bugs or improve a feature.

Q. Are there times when you study/work better by yourself? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: I think most of us would agree that group studies are better for understanding comparatively complex topics and it also helps us share our ideas. However, there are some instances, at least this is what my experience has taught me, when we tend to do better if we study all by ourselves. For instance, if I need to write an essay, read a chapter of a book that requires utmost attention, solve a math problem, or do some online research for a small project, I prefer working alone to being in a group of several people. I would like to share my ideas or get reviews on the work I do in such situations, but when it comes to jotting down my thoughts or thinking with rapt attention, I think working solo is sometimes the best option.

Alternative Answer: Well, before starting working on a project, I need to discuss and collaborate with several people. But when it comes to actually writing codes for the software or application, I prefer to

work all by myself. However, during this work, I often need to supervise my subordinates and interact with seniors. I think I prefer writing code in a silent environment without the intervention of others because this way, I can pay absolute attention and produce great outputs.

Q. Is it important to like the people you study/work with? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Yes, it is absolutely important to like the people we study with. Students, most of the time, if not always, create a friendly bond with others they study with. So if they do not like each other, chances are that the group would not sustain in the long run and produce very poor output. As for me, the students who I study with are my dear friends, and this friendship has begun after we started studying together.

Alternative Answer: In my opinion, it is quite important to like and respect the people we work with. Without having a work environment where we have friendly and helpful colleagues, we cannot go on for long. In fact, we spend a significant amount of our day-time in our workplace, so it is imperative that we are surrounded by the people we like to work with and respect each other.

Topic - Food and Cooking

Q. What sorts of food do you like eating most? [Why?]

Q. Who normally does the cooking in your home?

Q. Do you watch cookery programmes on TV? [Why/Why not?]

Q. In general, do you prefer eating out or eating at home? [Why?]

Q. What sorts of food do you like eating most? [Why?]

Answer: I prefer homemade food and am a fan of my mother's recipe. She is an amazing cook and I always enjoy her cooking. Whenever we go to a restaurant, we like to order Chinese menus. Apart from that, I like buttered popcorn, pizza, Indian Masala dosa, Mexican Tacos, doughnuts and sandwiches - a mixture of many foreign food items actually.

Alternative Answer: I enjoy eating a variety of foods, but if I had to choose, I would say that I particularly enjoy eating Asian cuisine. The flavours, spices, and ingredients used in Asian dishes create a unique and delicious taste that I find very appealing. I appreciate the balance of sweet, sour, spicy, and savoury flavours that are often present in Asian dishes. Moreover, the diversity of Asian cuisine offers a wide range of options, from aromatic curries to stir-fried noodles, which keeps the dining experience interesting and enjoyable.

Q. Who normally does the cooking in your home?

Answer: My mother does the cooking in our house and as I have said, she is a magnificent cook. I often compliment her and inspire her to start a restaurant in the city and she always laughs hearing this. Sometimes, my elder sister Emma assists my mother in the kitchen. I, on the contrary, am in charge of the grocery and daily shopping.

Alternative Answer: In my home, cooking responsibilities are shared among family members. My parents and I take turns preparing meals based on our availability and preferences. It's a collaborative effort, and we all contribute to creating delicious and wholesome meals. We enjoy experimenting with different recipes and techniques, and cooking together also provides an opportunity for quality time and bonding.

Q. Do you watch cookery programmes on TV? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Not much, I would say. I am not a big fan of TV programmes and mostly watch movies on my laptop. Once in a while, I watch programmes related to travel and cooking and 'Hell's Kitchen', 'Iron Chef' and 30 'Minute Meals' are my favourites.

Alternative Answer: Yes, I do watch cookery programmes on TV. I find them both informative and entertaining. Cookery programmes offer valuable insights into culinary techniques, recipe ideas, and innovative cooking methods. They inspire me to try new recipes and experiment with flavours in my own kitchen. Additionally, watching these programmes is a great way to relax and unwind, especially when I can learn something new while enjoying the artistry of cooking.

Q. In general, do you prefer eating out or eating at home? [Why?]

Answer: I like to eat at home. Homemade food has better food value and offers a wide range of choices. It is more hygienic and less expensive. However, we like to eat at a restaurant whenever we have special occasions to celebrate. As dining out in a restaurant offers my mom plenty of time to socialise rather than getting stuck in the kitchen, my father and I often insist her to go to an eatery on occasions like wedding anniversaries and birthdays.

Alternative Answer: While I appreciate the convenience and social aspect of dining out, I generally prefer eating at home. Eating at home allows me to have control over the ingredients, portion sizes, and cooking methods used in preparing meals. I enjoy the process of selecting fresh ingredients, cooking from scratch, and savouring the flavours of homemade dishes. Moreover, eating at home provides a comfortable and relaxed environment, allowing me to fully enjoy the meal and have quality time with my family.

Topic – Telephoning

Q. How often do you make telephone calls? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Who do you spend the most time talking to on the telephone? [Why?]

Q. When do you think you'll next make a telephone call? [Why?]

Q. Do you sometimes prefer to send a text message instead of telephoning? [Why/Why not?]

Q. How often do you make telephone calls? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: I do not use a landline that much except for some official purposes, but I use a mobile phone very extensively and daily.

I use the mobile phone to make or receive calls, send or receive text messages and sometimes to use the internet. I often play games on my mobile phone and listen to my favourite music. There is scarcely any day when I do not use it.

Alternative Answer: I make telephone calls quite regularly, although the frequency may vary depending on the circumstances. I find myself making calls when I need to communicate important or time-sensitive information, have lengthy conversations, or when it's more convenient than other forms of communication. However, with the advent of messaging apps and social media platforms, I have also started relying on text-based communication for shorter and more casual exchanges.

Q. Who do you spend the most time talking to on the telephone? [Why?]

Answer: I believe that would be my mom. She is very close to me and starts worrying if she does not hear from me for more than a few hours. She calls me a few times each day whenever I am out and I can tell her virtually anything. For these reasons, she is the person I spend the most time talking to on a telephone or on a mobile phone.

Alternative Answer: I spend the most time talking to my family and close friends on the telephone. These are the people with whom I have strong personal connections and often engage in meaningful conversations. Since we may not always be able to meet in person, telephone calls provide a convenient and immediate way to stay connected, share updates, and have heartfelt conversations. Furthermore, discussing personal matters or seeking advice feels more comfortable and intimate over the phone with people I trust and have a close bond with.

Q. When do you think you'll next make a telephone call? [Why?]

Answer: I will call my mom after I leave the exam hall to let her know that I am fine and my exam went very well. I will call her as I am sure she is eagerly waiting to hear from me and to know how well I performed in the exam.

Alternative Answer: I believe I'll make my next telephone call later today when I need to discuss some work-related matters with a colleague. Since the issue at hand requires detailed explanations and back-and-forth communication, a phone call would be the most effective and efficient way to address it. Moreover, the direct conversation allows for better clarity and avoids potential misinterpretations that can arise from written messages or emails.

Q. Do you sometimes prefer to send a text message instead of telephoning? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Yes, sometimes sending a text message is more convenient and makes more sense than calling someone. For instance, if I'm in a meeting or in a crowded place, I would prefer SMS to phone calls. Moreover, if I need to send an address, a number or an email ID, I would rather send a text message than to call the intended recipient.

Alternative Answer: Yes, there are instances when I prefer to send a text message instead of making a phone call. Text messages are convenient for quick and concise communication, especially when the information exchanged is brief or requires minimal back-and-forth. It's also suitable when contacting someone who may be busy or in a situation where a phone call may be disruptive. Additionally, text messages provide a written record of the conversation, making it easier to refer back to specific details or instructions.

Topic - Living Place

Q. Where do you live?

Q. What kind of place is it?

Q. What's the most interesting part of your town/village?

Q. What kind of jobs do the people in your town/village do?

Q. Would you say it's a good place to live? [why?]

Q. Where do you live?

Answer: I live in (...say your area name...) in (...say your town/village/city name...). I have been living there as long as I can remember as it is our permanent residence.

Alternative Answer: I currently live in a vibrant city called "Memphis Alley".

Q. What kind of place is it?

Answer: This is a large town where more than 2 million people reside in. It's a beautiful town and the people are nice and friendly. The area where I live in is in the north of the town centre and a magnificent place, especially because of the quiet environment and good neighbours.

Alternative Answer: It is a bustling metropolis with a diverse population and a rich cultural heritage. It offers a perfect blend of modern amenities and historical charm. The city is known for its impressive architecture, bustling markets, and a wide range of entertainment options. It is also surrounded by beautiful natural landscapes, including parks, gardens, and scenic waterfronts.

Q. What's the most interesting part of your town/village?

Answer: Well, there are actually more than one interesting part and fact that I can recall about our town and among them, the most interesting part is that the entire town is an island. You have to take a ferry or a launch or cross a bridge on a bus to reach our town. Perhaps the second most interesting fact about the town is that wind power provides all the electricity we need. If I tell about the most intriguing area of our town, it would be the north part of the town which is the hub of the town.

Alternative Answer: The most interesting part of the city is its historic district. It is characterized by narrow cobblestone streets, ancient buildings, and significant landmarks. The district is home to several museums, art galleries, and cultural institutions, which provide insights into the city's history and artistic heritage. Walking through this area feels like stepping back in time and offers a glimpse into the city's fascinating past.

Q. What kind of jobs do the people in your town/village do?

Answer: That would be tough to answer because the types of jobs people do in our town vary to a great extent. However, construction engineers, IT professionals, fishermen and salespersons would dominate the list, I believe. Many young people run online businesses and a few rich people own hotel chains in our town. Since it is a popular tourist destination, many locals are indirectly involved in the hospitality and tourism sector.

Alternative Answer: It is a thriving economic hub, and the residents engage in a variety of professions. The city offers diverse job opportunities across sectors such as finance, technology, healthcare, tourism, and creative industries. Many people work in corporate offices, while others are involved in entrepreneurial ventures. Additionally, the city attracts professionals from various fields due to its universities, research centres, and cultural institutions.

Q. Would you say it's a good place to live? [Why?]

Answer: Having a great neighbourhood where people are nice and the environment is quiet is always preferred by people as a living place. In this regard, our town is a great place to live in. Because it's an island, you can get fresh fish and vegetables, and if you are fond of seafood, you will love our cuisine. Finally, job opportunity in our area is another reason people often move to our town. I am happy to be a resident of this town.

Alternative Answer: Yes, I would say "Memphis Alley" is a great place to live. The city provides a high quality of life with its excellent infrastructure, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and recreational options. It offers a wide range of employment opportunities, allowing individuals to pursue their careers and professional growth. Moreover, the city has a vibrant social and cultural scene, with numerous festivals, events, and art exhibitions taking place throughout the year. The diverse community and friendly atmosphere make it an inclusive and welcoming place to call home.

Topic - Reading

Q. Did you have a favourite book when you were a child? [Why/Why not?]

Q. How much reading do you do for your work/studies? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What kinds of books do you read for pleasure? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Do you prefer to read a newspaper or a magazine online, or to buy a copy? [Why?]

Q. Did you have a favourite book when you were a child? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Yes, I had a favourite book when I was a child. It was a fantasy novel called "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain. I was captivated by the adventurous spirit of the main character and the vivid descriptions of his escapades. The book transported me to a world of imagination and sparked my love for storytelling and reading.

Q. How much reading do you do for your work/studies? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: As part of my work and studies, I engage in a significant amount of reading. Reading plays a crucial role in expanding my knowledge base, staying updated on current research, and gaining insights into various topics. Whether it's academic journals, textbooks, research papers, or online articles, reading helps me gather information, understand concepts, and develop critical thinking skills necessary for my professional and educational pursuits.

Q. What kinds of books do you read for pleasure? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: For pleasure, I enjoy reading a wide range of genres, including fiction, mystery, science fiction, and self-help books. I believe that reading for pleasure allows me to relax, escape from reality, and explore different perspectives and worlds. Fictional stories offer an opportunity for emotional connection with characters and allow me to immerse myself in their experiences. On the other hand, non-fiction books, such as self-help or personal development, provide valuable insights and knowledge that can contribute to personal growth.

Q. Do you prefer to read a newspaper or a magazine online, or to buy a copy? [Why?]

Answer: I prefer to read newspapers and magazines online rather than buying a physical copy. Online platforms provide convenience and instant access to a wide range of publications. I can easily browse through different articles, search for specific topics, and access them anytime and anywhere through digital devices. Additionally, online versions often offer interactive features, multimedia content, and the ability to engage in discussions or share articles with others. It also reduces paper waste, contributing to environmental sustainability. However, I still appreciate the experience of holding a physical copy and sometimes enjoy browsing through magazines or newspapers in print format when available.

Topic: Fast food

Q. What kinds of fast food have you tried? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Do you ever use a microwave to cook food quickly? [Why/Why not?]

Q. How popular are fast food restaurants where you live? [Why/Why not?]

Q. When would you go to a fast-food restaurant? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What kinds of fast food have you tried? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: As I have grown up, fast food is no longer my favourite, but once upon a time I was crazy about them! I tried pizzas, sandwiches, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, tacos, doughnuts, burritos, fried chicken, pancakes, muffins, noodles, chips, milkshakes, and whatnot! However, my all-time favourites are pizza and burritos.

Alternative Answer: I have tried various kinds of fast food, including pizzas, cheeseburgers, fried chicken, hot dogs, tacos, burritos and chicken nuggets. Fast food is easily accessible and convenient, especially when I'm in a rush or craving a quick bite. It offers a wide range of flavours and options, making it appealing to try different types of fast food. However, I do try to consume fast food in moderation and balance it with healthier food choices.

Q. Do you ever use a microwave to cook food quickly? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Yes, we have been using a microwave oven at our house for more than a decade. Though we mostly use it to reheat a food item, we sometimes use it to cook food faster or make an item when it is necessary, for instance, to prepare a homemade pizza. It offers the great convenience of reheating foods and cooking food by saving time and energy.

Alternative Answer: Yes, I do use a microwave to cook food quickly on occasions when I need a fast and convenient meal. Microwaves are efficient in heating or reheating food within minutes, which saves time and effort. It's particularly useful for warming up leftovers or preparing pre-packaged meals. However, I also value the importance of fresh and homemade meals, so I try to incorporate a balance between using the microwave and cooking meals from scratch.

Q. How popular are fast food restaurants where you live? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Fast food restaurants are insanely popular, especially among children and teenagers, in the place where I live. They are everywhere, and you just need to walk a few steps to find a flamboyant fast-food restaurant with many customers. I believe they are popular among children and the young generation

because they are very fond of those scrumptious, sugary and calorie-packed food items that usually satisfy their taste buds.

Alternative Answer: Fast food restaurants are extremely popular where I live. They are widely available and attract a large customer base, especially among busy individuals or those looking for a quick meal option. The fast-paced lifestyle and time constraints of many people contribute to the popularity of fast food. Additionally, the marketing strategies and affordability of fast food chains make them appealing to a wide range of customers.

Q. When would you go to a fast-food restaurant? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: I am more of a person who prefers homemade food these days but it does not deter me from visiting a nice fast-food restaurant once in a while. I believe I eat at a fast-food restaurant around three to four times a month. So there is a good possibility that I will visit one in a week or so with a few of my friends.

Alternative Answer: I would go to a fast-food restaurant when I'm in need of a quick and convenient meal, such as during busy workdays or when travelling. Fast-food restaurants offer speedy service and have a wide variety of options to choose from. They are suitable for times when I have limited time for meal preparation or when I'm looking for a specific fast-food craving. However, I also prioritize balanced nutrition and try to make healthier choices when dining out, even at fast-food restaurants.

Topic: Your Favorite Place

Q. What place do you most like to visit? [Why?]

Q. How often do you visit this place? [Why?]

Q. Why do you like it so much?

Q. Is it popular with many other people? [Why?]

Q. Has it changed very much since you first went there? [In what way?]

Q. What place do you most like to visit? [Why?]

Answer: The place, I like to visit the most, is called the “White Cliffs of Dover” in Kent. I like to visit this stunning coastline, which has been saying ‘hello’ and ‘farewell’ to thousands of people crossing the English Channel for centuries because of its gorgeous geology with dazzling white chalk faces, sharp edges rising 350 feet above the sea level along with the layers of wild and lush grasses.

Q. How often do you visit this place? [Why?]

Answer: I like to visit this place, one of the most famous landmarks in the UK, if not the most, twice a year because visiting beautiful places is one of the few things that I really enjoy out of my very busy work life, and White Cliffs of Dover seems to top the list of those places which helps me relax the most because of its stunning natural beauty.

Q. Why do you like it so much?

Answer: I like visiting this place so much because of its unique feature. In fact, there are very few places on this earth where one can see such a long stretch of coastline which is completely made of white chalk. I like it also because this place, standing tall as the guardians of the island, has witnessed many historical events such as the unsuccessful Roman invasion of Julius Caesar and being on the frontline of the First World War and the Second World War.

Q. Is it popular with many other people? [Why?]

Answer: Yes, it is popular with many other people because Dover Castle is the largest castle in the UK. And the Bronze Age boat as well as the stunning-looking White Cliffs of this place are the centre of attractions to many visiting tourists. In fact, in the past few years, an average of 3.4 million people chose Dover for a day trip, and of them, over 500,000 people chose to stay there overnight.

Q. Has it changed very much since you first went there? [In what way?]

Answer: Yes, it has changed since I visited this place last time as people can enjoy an annual plant fair event now where beautiful flower plants, as well as vegetable plants, are displayed for public view.

Besides, the number of visitors had also significantly increased since I visited there last time.

Topic: Leisure

Q. Do you have any hobbies or interests? [What are they?]

Q. How did you become interested in (*whatever hobby/ interest the candidate mentions*)?

Q. What is there to do in your free time in (*candidate's hometown/village*)?

Q. How do you usually spend your holidays?

Q. Is there anywhere you would particularly like to visit? [Why?]

Q. Do you have any hobbies or interests? [What are they?]

Answer: I have a number of hobbies such as watching movies, gardening and reading story books. While I enjoy having all of those hobbies, depending on my location, mood and weather condition, the most special one to me is “reading storybooks”.

Q. How did you become interested in (*whatever hobby/ interest the candidate mentions*)?

Answer: I became interested in some hobbies in my early high school days. In fact, my school would declare nice “awards” for the best storytellers in order to encourage students like me to take part in the storytelling competition from our favourite storybooks. I became interested in “gardening” rather recently after learning how we could stop the greenhouse effects by planting more trees. As for watching movies, I became interested in it as far as I can remember. This is entertaining, educational and one of the most popular hobbies in our country.

Q. What is there to do in your free time in (*candidate's hometown/village*)?

Answer: During my free time, where I live in, one can visit the Coffee Museum in the Al Fahidi neighbourhood in order to enjoy some of the best coffee in the world, and also to learn about the history of coffee as well as the history-related artefacts. Besides, one can also enjoy public sandy beaches during his/her free time.

Q. How do you usually spend your holidays?

Answer: I usually spend my holidays visiting my parents and relatives who are living outside of my city. I also like to take my family to one of my favourite restaurants in order to enjoy some of my favourite dishes. And finally, sometimes I enjoy sports competitions on TV on holidays.

Q. Is there anywhere you would particularly like to visit? [Why?]

Answer: Yes, I would like to visit many places in the world, given that I have enough money and time. But one place, which I would really like to visit, is “Niagra Falls” in Canada, and the reason is obvious. I want to visit it because it is a geographical wonder and one of the most famous waterfalls in the world.

Topic: Television

Q. How often do you watch television? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Which television channel do you usually watch? [Why?]

Q. Do you enjoy the advertisements on television? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Do you think most programmes on television are good? [Why/Why not?]

Q. How often do you watch television? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: I am studying to pursue a post-graduation degree at one of the leading Engineering universities in China, and I also work at a shopping mall after school hours until 9:00 pm. By the time I arrive home after finishing everything, either it is a bit too late to do anything, or I am just exhausted. Therefore, I don't really get to watch TV often unless there is a valid reason to do so.

Alternative Answer: I don't watch television very often. Nowadays, there are many alternative sources of entertainment and information, such as streaming platforms and online content, which offer a wider range of options and flexibility. I prefer to consume content on demand and choose programmes or movies that specifically interest me. However, I do occasionally watch television for special events, news updates, or to enjoy specific shows or movies that are being broadcasted.

Q. Which television channel do you usually watch? [Why?]

Answer: As I have mentioned earlier, I don't really have much time to watch TV, but when I do get some time and opportunity, I like to watch "Discovery" and "AXN Asia". I watch Discovery mainly because it allows me to learn about some of the most amazing and coolest things in the world, and I like watching AXN because it helps me to improve my English by offering subtitles for the content the channel shows.

Alternative Answer: Since I don't watch television regularly, I don't have a specific channel that I usually watch. However, when I do watch, I tend to explore different channels based on the content I'm interested in at that particular time. I may switch between news channels, documentary channels, or entertainment channels, depending on my mood or the type of program I'm looking for.

Q. Do you enjoy the advertisements on television? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: I don't exactly enjoy watching advertisements on television simply because I think of them as a waste of time. Besides, I also think that most advertisements have poor content and they try to deceive prospective customers into buying something that they don't need.

Alternative Answer: Generally, I don't particularly enjoy advertisements on television. They can often interrupt the flow of a programme and feel repetitive. However, I understand that advertisements play a

significant role in supporting television networks and programmes financially. Some advertisements can be creative and entertaining, catching my attention with their storytelling or humour. Nonetheless, I prefer watching programmes without constant interruptions from advertisements.

Q. Do you think most programmes on television are good? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Well, it depends on what kinds of programmes I am watching. However, having said that, I would say that many programmes on television are not good because they offer very little educational perspectives. Even the news shows these days are not “objective” enough to offer the values of “news” and therefore, are not trustworthy.

Alternative Answer: The quality of programmes on television can vary greatly, and it ultimately depends on personal preferences and interests. While television offers a wide range of content, including news, documentaries, dramas, reality shows, and more, not all programmes may appeal to everyone. Some programmes are well-produced, informative, and entertaining, while others may lack depth or originality. With the rise of streaming platforms and online content, viewers now have more control over the programmes they watch and can select content that aligns with their specific tastes and preferences.

Topic: Money

Q. When you go shopping, do you prefer to pay for things in cash or by card? [Why?]

Q. Do you ever save money to buy special things? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Would you ever take a job which had low pay? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Would winning a lot of money make a big difference to your life? [Why/Why]

Q. When you go shopping, do you prefer to pay for things in cash or by card? [Why?]

Answer: IWhen I go shopping, I prefer to pay for things by card rather than using cash. There are a few reasons for this. Firstly, using a card offers convenience and eliminates the need to carry around a significant amount of cash, which can be risky. Secondly, card payments provide a record of my transactions, allowing me to track my expenses and manage my budget more efficiently. Additionally, paying by card often comes with added security features, such as fraud protection and the ability to dispute unauthorized charges.

Q. Do you ever save money to buy special things? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Yes, I do save money to buy special things. Saving allows me to set aside funds for specific goals or desires that may require a larger amount of money. It gives me a sense of financial discipline and helps me prioritize my spending. A few months ago, I purchased an expensive smartphone for my younger sister with the money I saved. On other occasions, I have also saved money to buy things for myself or for the people I care about.

Q. Would you ever take a job which had low pay? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Taking a job with low pay would depend on various factors. While financial considerations are important, they are not the sole determining factor in choosing a job. If the job aligns with my passion, offers valuable learning opportunities, or provides a chance to gain relevant experience in a field of interest, I may consider it even if the pay is low.

Q. Would winning a lot of money make a big difference to your life? [Why/Why]

Answer: Winning a lot of money has the potential to make a significant difference in my life. The sudden influx of wealth can offer opportunities and possibilities that were previously out of reach. It could allow me to pursue my dreams, fulfil long-held aspirations, and provide financial security for myself and my family. It may open doors to experiences, travel, and personal growth that were previously limited by financial constraints. However, it is important to note that money alone does not guarantee happiness or fulfilment. It is how I choose to manage and utilize that wealth that truly impacts my life.

Topic: Newspapers and Magazines

Q. Which magazines and newspapers do you read? [Why?]

Q. What kinds of article are you most interested in? [Why?]

Q. Have you ever read a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language? [When/Why?]

Q. Do you think reading a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language is a good way to learn the language? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Which magazines and newspapers do you read? [Why?]

Answer: I read the News Express, which is a daily newspaper, every day, and the magazine I like to read the most is “The Week”. I like reading newspapers and magazines whenever I get an opportunity in order to keep myself informed of what is happening in my part of the world as well as the rest of the world. I like reading the magazine because I get to learn about the various subjects of my interest.

Alternative Answer: I enjoy reading a variety of magazines and newspapers, depending on my interests and preferences. I often read magazines related to technology, science, and travel, as these topics intrigue me and keep me updated on the latest advancements and discoveries. Additionally, I like to read newspapers that cover national and international news, providing me with a broader perspective on current affairs. I believe it's essential to stay informed about various subjects, and these magazines and newspapers help me expand my knowledge and engage with different topics of interest.

Q. What kinds of article are you most interested in? [Why?]

Answer: I am into learning important tips about how to remain healthy both physically and mentally, so I read health-related articles. I am also interested in learning about the latest trends in computer technologies since my major is computer science. I try not to miss any important technology-related articles. But it doesn't necessarily mean that I don't like to read other kinds of articles such as those which talk about sports and food.

Alternative Answer: I am most interested in articles that stimulate my curiosity and offer insights into diverse fields. Science and technology articles fascinate me because they shed light on innovative research, breakthroughs, and the impact of technology on our lives. These articles not only enhance my understanding of scientific concepts but also inspire me to contemplate the possibilities and implications of future advancements. Furthermore, I enjoy reading travel articles that provide destination recommendations, cultural insights, and personal travel experiences. Such articles allow me to explore new places vicariously and spark my wanderlust.

Q. Have you ever read a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language? [When/Why?]

Answer: I have always wanted to read and communicate in a different language(s) other than English and Hindi. But, I have found out that it's not really easy. However, I know "Bengali" (the mother tongue of a neighbouring country of India called "Bangladesh") a little which has helped me to read and understand some "Bengali" texts in their newspapers lately. I became interested in reading Bengali newspapers after meeting a Bangladeshi girl who happens to be one of my best friends now.

Alternative Answer: Yes, I have read newspapers and magazines in foreign languages on several occasions. As a language enthusiast, I find it enriching to explore different languages and cultures through their written media. I have read newspapers in French and Spanish during my language studies to improve my language proficiency and expand my vocabulary. Additionally, when I travel to foreign countries, I often pick up local magazines or newspapers to get a better understanding of the culture, current events, and unique perspectives of the locals.

Q. Do you think reading a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language is a good way to learn the language? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Of course, I think reading a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language is an excellent method to learn the language because it helps us to understand the texts of a particular language and their meanings at our own pace and also at a time of our convenience. In fact, English is also a foreign language to me, and I have learnt it by reading English newspapers and journals in addition to following some programmes on the radio and television.

Alternative Answer: Yes, I believe reading newspapers or magazines in a foreign language can be an effective way to learn the language. It exposes learners to authentic written texts, vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and grammatical structures used by native speakers. By immersing themselves in the language through reading, learners can improve their reading comprehension skills, expand their vocabulary, and gain a deeper understanding of the culture and society associated with the language. Additionally, reading in a foreign language helps develop critical thinking skills as learners engage with different perspectives and navigate through complex texts.

Topic: Daily Routine

Q. What would you like to change in your daily routine?

Q. Are all your days the same?

Q. Tell me about your typical weekday and your typical weekend.

Q. What is the balance of work/study and free time in your normal day?

Q. What would you like to change in your daily routine?

Answer: Spending too much time watching too much television after coming back from my work has become like a daily routine to me for the last several months, and I would really like to change it. It is not that only my wife dislikes this terrible routine, I also dislike it a lot because this extra television-watching habit/routine doesn't allow me to have enough sleep at the end of the night.

Q. Are all your days the same?

Answer: No, all my days are not the same just like a day in the winter time and a day during the summer season are not the same. And, as a result, I remain happy some of the days while "not-so" happy during the others. Also, some days, I become very productive at my work while some other times, I only wish that I could be more "productive."

Q. Tell me about your typical weekday and your typical weekend.

Answer: My typical weekday starts with paying little "tribute" to my "Goddess" mother (which I do every day regardless of the weekday or the weekend). Then after taking my shower and breakfast, I hit the road on my motorbike to go to my work and arrive there at around 9 am. I finish my work at around 6 pm and then go to a nearby local marketplace to buy some fresh groceries and meats and fish. By the time, I return home, it is almost 8 pm in the evening. I finish my meal after that and immediately start watching TV and continue watching it until I go to bed after midnight most of the days.

My weekends are pretty much the same as the weekdays except I don't go to work on the weekends. Of course, sometimes, during the weekend, I do take my wife and family out to a nearby park or restaurant to enjoy some quality time together.

Q. What is the balance of work/study and free time in your normal day?

Answer: I like to believe that my work life and free time for leisure and other activities in a normal day are pretty balanced since I almost always have enough time at my disposal, after my work hours, to interact with my family members and attend other important things, and like doing grocery shopping.

Topic: Family

Q. Do you have a large family or a small family?

Q. Can you tell me something about them?

Q. How much time do you manage to spend with members of your family?

Q. What sorts of things do you like to do together?

Q. Did/Do you get on well with your family? [Why?/why not]

Q. Do you have a large family or a small family?

Answer: I have a small family of 5 people which includes me, my brother, my sister, my father and my mother. We all live together, except my sister, who is married and has her own family now. We enjoy our life as caring members of a small family.

Q. Can you tell me something about them?

Answer: My parents are both retired, and they have raised their family and children really well. My father used to work as a Director at the Agriculture Ministry in our country before retiring from his job about a few years ago while my mother has been a school teacher. Both my parents had lived most of their lives in the countryside before moving to (...say the name of the city where you live now...) with us because of our careers. My elder brother is a software developer and married to a lovely lady while my sister lives in another country with her husband. We are a family of great traditional values, and we love and care for each other as best as we can.

Q. How much time do you manage to spend with members of your family?

Answer: In this busy modern life, unfortunately, I don't get as much time as I would have preferred to spend with my family members except during the weekend. Of course, if I ever manage to get back to my home from work earlier than usual, I certainly try to make the best use of the extra time added to my life with my family.

Q. What sorts of things do you like to do together?

Answer: They say that nothing brings a family together more than a great meal. So, as a family, our favourite time also is when we all get to cook some of our favourite dishes and enjoy the food together. And, we do this whenever we get an opportunity, but it happens mostly on the weekends. We also like to enjoy a nice movie, when my sister is around, together during the holidays and at the weekends. By the way, my younger sister has a "bubbly" personality, and she just loves birds. So, whenever she is around, she never forgets to "force" (to put it jokingly) all of us to join her in visiting her favourite "Bird Park" which is home to pretty much all kinds of birds from all over the world.

However, another thing, that we really enjoy doing together, is when we all get to travel to our hometown which is located far outside of the city. We all enjoy being there as this place reminds us of a lot of our memories.

Q. Did/Do you get on well with your family? [Why?/why not]

Answer: We are blessed to have such a family where we all get along with each other very nicely primarily because we all try our best not to “impose” anything on the others. Besides, the mutual respect and appreciation, we have for each other, helps us get on well with each other. On top of that, as a great functioning family, I never shy away from sharing my thoughts and experience with all of my family members which always helps us to put things in proper perspective. Finally, we never stop offering “gifts” to express our love for each other because “gifts” help build a stronger bond among the family members in my opinion.

Topic: School

Q. Did you go to a secondary/high school near to where you lived? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What did you like about your secondary/high school? [Why?]

Q. Tell me about anything you didn't like at your school.

Q. How do you think your school could be improved? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Did you go to a secondary/high school near to where you lived? [Why/Why not]

Answer: Yes, I did attend a high school which was close to where we lived. In fact, it was very much within walking distance which would take me only about 8 to 10 minutes to reach my school at a moderate pace. I attended that high school primarily because of the convenience, safety and security. Having lived close to my high school, it would always be easy for me to commute back and forth from my home without getting tired. Besides, my father had to live away from us because of holding a government service, so living close to high school would provide my father with a greater sense of safety and security for me as I wouldn't need to travel far to attend my school.

Q. What did you like about your secondary/high school? [Why?]

Answer: Getting an opportunity to study in a high school, after passing elementary/primary school, is completely a new experience with new teachers, new books and a new library to be accustomed to. However, one of the best things, which I really liked about my school, was that it had plenty of open space in and around it with a beautiful garden and a lake with crystal clear water for students like us to enjoy during the breaks in between our classes. Another thing that I really liked was our school would provide funds for us to organize picnics every month so that we could travel to some remote picnic spots (not too far from our school, of course), like in a park or forest site, and enjoy the outdoors while enjoying some delicious meals, cooked by none other than ourselves. Of course, the best thing about my high school was the opportunity, I got, to make friends who I still treasure to this date.

Q. Tell me about anything you didn't like at your school.

Answer: Well, my high school was great for me for the most part except for the fact that I didn't exactly like the idea of wearing the same shirt, the pant and the same shoes every day as instructed by the school uniform policy. Neither did I ever like the fact that my school offered us the same "boring" tiffin every late morning. Another thing that I really disliked about my school was that I had to face more "bullies" than I was perhaps ready to deal with.

Q. How do you think your school could be improved? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Again, I liked my high school, for the most part, as it always tried its best to bring the "best" among us academically. But, it didn't exactly encourage us enough to take part in "extracurricular"

activities such as creating a school debate team or culture clubs. So, my high school certainly would need some improvements on those fronts. Besides, some work on fixing and repairing some of the old building structures (by the way, it was a really old high school) of the high school would also go a long way to improve the “looks and sights” of an otherwise great school.