**1. Describe a person you admire**

You should say:

* Who this person is
* How long you have known him/her
* What qualities he/she has
* And explain why you admire him/her so much

One person I truly admire is my high school English teacher, Mr. Thanh. I’ve known him for about six years now, ever since I was in grade 10. Even though I’m no longer his student, we still keep in touch from time to time.

Mr. Thanh is someone who left a lasting impact on me, not just because of how well he taught, but because of the kind of person he is. He’s incredibly patient and supportive, especially with students who struggle. He never raised his voice or made anyone feel embarrassed for making mistakes. Instead, he encouraged us to try harder and believe in ourselves. His passion for teaching and his genuine care for students really stood out.

One of the qualities I admire most about him is his dedication. I remember he used to stay after school to help us prepare for exams, even though he didn’t have to. He always said that teaching wasn’t just a job, but a way to make a difference in people’s lives. That really stuck with me.

**2. Describe a book you have recently read**

You should say:

* What kind of book it is
* What it is about
* What sort of people would enjoy it
* And explain why you liked it
* One of the stories I’ve recently revisited is **"Tấm Cám"**, a traditional Vietnamese fairy tale that I read again not long ago. Although it’s a folk story and not a modern book, it still left a strong impression on me.
* What I really liked about *Tấm Cám* is that, unlike many Western fairy tales, the story goes beyond the “happily ever after.” It’s more complex and includes darker elements, showing that kindness should be strong, not just soft. Tấm’s transformation from a gentle, passive girl to someone who stands up for herself is something I found really powerful. It reminds us that good people also need to be brave and take action when necessary.
* This story belongs to the **fairy tale genre**, similar to *Cinderella* in Western literature. It follows the life of a kind-hearted girl named Tấm, who lives with her cruel stepmother and stepsister, Cám. Tấm is often mistreated and forced to do all the hard work, while Cám enjoys a comfortable life. Despite all the suffering, Tấm is helped by magical elements—like a fairy godmother and animals—and eventually becomes queen. However, the story doesn’t end there, as Cám and her mother continue to harm Tấm out of jealousy. In the end, Tấm is reborn and gets her revenge.
* I think this story would appeal to people who enjoy **folk tales, moral stories, or traditional culture**. It’s especially meaningful for those interested in Vietnamese literature or values, as it reflects themes like justice, karma, and the triumph of good over evil.

**3. Describe a place you have visited which impressed you**

You should say:

* Where this place is and how you traveled there
* What it is like
* Why you went there
* And explain why it made an impression on you

*I’m a hodophile, which means I absolutely love traveling. My past is filled with memorable trips to various destinations. But among all those places, one that really left a deep impression on me was Nha Trang, a beautiful coastal city in the south-central region of Vietnam*. I went there last summer with a group of friends. We traveled by plane from Ho Chi Minh City, and it took us around an hour to get there.

Nha Trang is absolutely stunning. It’s famous for its long white-sand beaches, crystal-clear water, and beautiful tropical islands. The city itself is modern yet still has a laid-back vibe. The combination of natural beauty and urban convenience really stood out to me. We stayed near the beach, and every morning we woke up to the sound of waves and fresh sea breeze—it was like a dream.

The main reason I went there was to relax after a stressful semester at university. We also wanted to explore more of Vietnam’s coastal culture. What impressed me the most about Nha Trang was how diverse and vibrant it was. There were tourists from all over the world, and that gave the city a really international feel. You could see different cultures blending—especially in the food scene. I had the chance to try amazing local seafood, as well as fusion dishes that combined Vietnamese flavors with Korean, Japanese, and even European styles.

Another thing that made a strong impression on me was the friendliness of the local people. They were always smiling and helpful, whether we were asking for directions or trying out something new at a night market. There was a warmth and openness that made me feel completely welcome.

Overall, Nha Trang impressed me not just with its natural beauty, but also with its cultural richness, delicious food, and the positive energy of the people. It felt like a place where anyone could feel at home, and I would love to go back someday.

**4. Describe a cultural festival or celebration you attended**

You should say:

* What the festival or celebration was
* When and where it took place
* What activities or traditions were involved
* And how you felt about the experience

One of the most meaningful cultural celebrations I’ve ever attended is **Tết**, or Vietnamese Lunar New Year. It’s the biggest and most important traditional festival in Vietnam, and I celebrate it every year with my family.

What made the experience truly unforgettable was the strong sense of **family bonding and cultural pride**. It’s one of the few times in the year when all family members come together, no matter how far apart they live. I also loved the peaceful, joyful vibe during those days—people seemed happier, more generous, and more connected.

The celebration usually takes place in **late January or early February**, depending on the lunar calendar. I experienced last year’s Tet in my hometown, and it was truly special. The whole city was decorated with red banners, flowers, and lanterns. There was a festive atmosphere everywhere, with music, food stalls, and people in traditional clothes.

One of the most beautiful traditions of Tet is **“giving lucky money” (lì xì)** to children and the elderly. Families gather to share meals, visit ancestors’ graves, and offer incense. We also make traditional food like **bánh chưng** (square sticky rice cake) and **pickled vegetables**. Another unique part is **“xông đất”**, which means choosing a lucky person to be the first guest in your house in the new year—it’s believed to bring good fortune.

Overall, attending Tet is more than just celebrating a new year—it’s about **cherishing traditions, spreading love, and appreciating the people around you**. It always leaves me with warm memories and a renewed sense of hope.

**5. Describe a time when you helped someone (whom you worked or studied with)**

You should say:

* Who you helped
* Why you helped him/her
* How you helped him/her
* And explain how you felt about the experience

One time that stands out when I helped someone I studied with was during my final year at university. I had a close friend in my class who was really struggling with our Business Management course. He had missed several lectures due to some personal problems, and by the time the final exam was approaching, he felt completely lost and overwhelmed.

I decided to help him because not only was he a good friend, but I also knew that he was capable — he just needed some guidance and motivation. I also felt that since we were all under a lot of academic pressure, supporting each other was the right thing to do.

So, I offered to study with him after class every day for about a week. We went over the key topics, discussed the most important theories, and did some practice questions from previous exams. I also shared my notes with him and explained things in a simpler way, because I had a pretty good understanding of the subject.

In the end, he passed the exam with a decent score, and I was genuinely happy for him. What made the experience meaningful for me was not just his success, but the fact that I could be part of that journey. It gave me a sense of satisfaction and confidence — I realized that I actually enjoy helping others and that teaching someone else is a great way to deepen your own knowledge too.

So overall, it was a win-win situation, and it’s one of those experiences that I still remember very clearly.