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Topic I Why go to university?

I strongly believe that everyone should attend university. Entering university is at the same time a so much promising step into a world of opportunities as long as it is accompanied by a strong will and desire for distinction. The quality and diversity of opportunities and the spread spectrum of choices higher education can provide us is the core motive for everyone intending to attend university. I will try to examine below the speciﬁc reasons for entering university according to which I think are the most common viewpoints nowadays.

First let us look at what a person can typically gain from a successfully study at a university. It is a diploma and/or a degree. This is by default leading to a more distinct, respected, well-paid profession. Nowadays unemployment crisis is troubling not only the poor countries but the developed westem countries as well, so that the ease of ﬁnding a job may play an important role in the decisions people are making.

Another important reason is that people want to get more education. University provides a higher level of education and has all these resources and facilities for people who crave knowledge. Leaming is the key to everything that we want to improve. So, higher education helps us widen our understanding and increase our intellectual ability.

Apart from the points I made above there is also a well known fashion all over the world that is called career preparation. Many people attend university in order to seek either a career in science and technology or a career in business. It is believed that the ideas, opportunities, qualiﬁcations, in-depth knowledge and expertise in science areas often make attending university imperative. Many times a four-year study at a university may only be the beginning of a sequence of moves someone can make in order to accomplish what he thinks best for his career.

Finally, I cannot oversee the fact that many times studying at a university also means living in a city far from home. New responsibilities always appear but they do not become serious drawbacks. In contrast, the new sense of freedom and independence a young man can experience or thinks he will is thought of as something of great importance. One thing is for sure though, there is chance for everyone in the community of a university to meet people, make new friends and know individuals of great importance.

Last but not least I wish to say that the purpose ofuniversity is to harvest knowledge and to being educated, so it is obvious that everyone can ﬁnd a reason for attending university.

Topic I Why go to university?

University is no longer a fresh word to people nowadays. Since the beginningof this century, more and more youngsters choose to enter university after theyhave completed the study in high schools rather than to join the army orbecome an apprentice. Therefore, it is kind of interesting to ﬁnd out the reasonbehind.

First of all, students can only leam fundamental knowledge during high schoolwhile they are able to focus on their own interested majors in universities. Thisperiod is the key to knowledge accumulation, which will contribute a lot to thefuture of an individual. Moreover, university is no doubt the symbol of higheducation. It offers more than pure knowledge. A degree from a universitygives people certain identity that makes them stand out among theircompetitors. It can be seen from the fact that most intemational companies willonly hire those who have at least a Bachelor's degree in China.

But, as far as I know, sincere dreams might also be the reason for university orcollege. For instance, in the 60s and 70s, people in China experienced hardtimes. Many of them had to give up advanced education and take up theburdens of life at their early age. Now, as they became parents or evengrandparents, their dream for university education had no doubt realized bytheir younger family members. Those young people, as reported, often studyvery hard in order to fulﬁll the expectations of two generations.

There is no doubt that university can be the tuming point of one's future,because higher education will provide people with not only knowledgeprepared for their careers, but also the fulﬁllment of their life goals. Meanwhile,the society has improved its strength to sponsor higher education. Comparedwith the past, people now attend universities also because they are able tosecure various scholarships and supports from different channels. A very goodexample is that many Chinese students are now studying in the U. S. Theirincentive for application should be attributed to not only to their ownperformance but also the comprehensive education frameworks in the U. S.

Broadly speaking, people who study in universities have their hopes: to fulﬁllthemselves. At the same time, our society generously provides such anenvironment for people to achieve such goals. Therefore, when we see moreand more fresh smiles on the campus ofuniversities, let us just wish them apromising future.

Topic I Why go to university?

People attend college for various reasons. Some people consider college as a challenge and others take it as a new experience. In my opinion, I think that people attend college to increase knowledge, meet new people and develop a career. Studying at a college can beneﬁt a person greatly since it augments a person's knowledge, aids in developing a career and gives a chance to meet new people of different backgrounds.

Knowledge is such a powerful tool that possessing it can diminish nearly all life problems. A college or a university is the place where one can gain knowledge and become valuable to the society. An individual can acquire knowledge about a wide variety of subjects. When my brother was in college, he leamed about bacteria and viruses. He had leamed that at high school a little bit, but in college he studied it in depth. In addition, he also leamed how deal with life problems in college.

Developing a career is a very important stage in our life. Most students, after graduating from high schools, go to colleges or universities to be trained and educated. Some major in various subjects while others go for professional degrees. Universities help students in achieving their goals by preparing them for the career they have picked. IfI go to a medical school, I know that the school will prepare me well enough for me to become a successful medical doctor.

Interacting with new people is always a challenge. A university is a place where people from different backgrounds get opportunities to interact with each other. Information about different cultures, different life styles and certain types of food is shared among students. My father used to study at a university, and he told me about all the different cultural backgrounds of the students there.

A college or a university is the place where dreams can be fulﬁlled. The subjects such as how to deal with life, how to interact with people and how to become independent are taught and experienced there. A college or a university makes an individual complete and help him/her to lead a successful life.

Topic I Why go to university?

A university degree often helps a person achieve his goal with more ease.However, do we attend university just in pursuit of a degree? Does a universityonly provide us nothing beneﬁcial besides a paper-made diploma? As far as Iam concemed, we enjoy university education in the following aspects:

Firstly, with the knowledge leamed at a university, we will have a deepunderstanding of our society. It is true that genuine knowledge comes frompractice, but it cannot be denied that genuine knowledge tells us how topractice. A systematic study in a college or a university, of course, enables us torealize how the society works and how to cope with certain problems arisingfrom it in a more efﬁciently, and more skillful way.

Second, a university education usually makes it possible that we get hold of adecent job. As a result of the accomplishment of a four-year study, it is notdifﬁcult for us to ﬁnd a good job in most cases. How can we imagine that agraduate majoring in astronomy has to be a vendor in the street! No doubt,he/she should sit in his/her laboratory, doing research on aircraft science beforea computer. Obviously, a university education assures him/her a decent job.

Last, but not the least, we can help others much better ifwe put what we haveleamed at a university into practice. A university education fortiﬁes our values,enhance our skills, and broaden our horizons. With those, we are more capableof giving a hand to those who are in need of help than ever before.Knowledge is power. When achieving a degree at a university, we can get abetter understanding of the society, ﬁnd a decent job in an easy way, and helpothers better. All of those are due to the knowledge leamed at a university.

Topic 2 Are parents best teachers?

Obviously, the first teachers we have in our lives in most cases are our parents. They teach us to walk, to speak, and to have good manners before we reach “the real world. ” More than even the professional teachers that we have at school, parents are generally the most involved in the development and education of children.

Almost for sure our parents are the best teachers at the beginning of our lives, which actually corresponds to the parents‘ role in nature. Parents are most committed and involved in teaching their children; they have a kind of instinct to sacrifice a part of themselves for the betterment of their children. They love us and have great patience while passing down their knowledge to us. They wish us a success and thus will not teach us bad things. And of course, implicit learning occurs when children unconsciously copy some of their parents’ habits and styles of behavior.

During the second stage of child development, adolescence, parents can still be in the best position to offer advice even though the children might not accept it. In this case, perhaps the child's friends would be the best teachers. Adolescents are notoriously rebellious in many cultures and may automatically reject any advice from their parents. My first marriage for instance, was solely a matter of doing the opposite when my parents tried to intrude in offering their advice. So in such matters, parents should be much more flexible and be rather the partners with their children. So we can see that being a teacher of growing child become more and more complicated case as the time passes and many parents are simply not able to meet the increased demands.

On the other hand, I would say that parents are not professional teachers and they tend to be very biased by their love of their children. So wishing good things and an easy life may prevent children from maturation. In any case, parents usually can present only one viewpoint of the world, while good teaching should be based on different attitudes. Thus, when children go to school and have a great diversity of teachers, they learn much more than their parents could probably give them. Furthermore, once our parents get older, they become more conservative and cannot always be objective in regard to modem trends and fashions. Thus we need to take their advice with caution during that period. However, some kind of intuition that I believe shared between relatives

about what everybody needs and great love that exists in families still makes our parents very good teachers and advisers at any time.

In conclusion, while parents are not the ideal teachers, and well-rounded children will generally need a great diversity of teachers in their lives in order to have a more accurate view of the world, parents are generally the most committed of all teachers and have the greatest emotional investment in their children and their future.

Topic 2 Are parents best teachers?

Our entire education system is based on what we accumulate each day of our life. In spite of the fact that school teachers are those who give us lots of information in a variety of fields, our parents are still the best teachers; they start their educational process as soon as we were born and never stop teaching us.

In the initial years of our life, our parents are involved in guiding us, in modulating our personality and making us understand the differences between right and wrong. When I was five, my parents bought me a dog; they taught me how to take care of him, feed him, play with him and bath him. Thus, I learned that we all have responsibilities.

Even if parents are not specialized in education, their role in teaching the children to be aware of the need of improving their knowledge at school is tremendous. Our parents are not supposed to teach us Math, Chemistry or Biology, but they are very much involved in giving us lessons about being independent, strong and confident in ourselves. As my mother said to me, "fight your own battles because I will not be always able to protect you." Teenagers have to be informed about all the negative effects that can occur if using drugs, drinking alcohol, or smoking. Regarding this issue, parents have to cooperate with school teachers to make children aware of those possible risks.

I believe that parents are the best teachers because their lessons last forever. My parents are old now. Even when I am a grown up person, I consider that they can still give me very good advices when I need them, based on their life experience. My parents have the most important role in my education during my life and I will always be grateful for everything they have taught me.

Topic 2 Are parents best teachers?

Throughout all the years in my life, I was influenced by my parents in many fashions, from the way of thinking to the trifle everyday habits. No doubt, we inherit the gene from our parents and get basic knowledge and norms from them. What we learned from our parents in the early years will be encoded in our mind and be reflected in nearly every aspect of our behaviors. But in terms teaching, I do not think it's our parents who are the best teachers.

As is known to all, a child will be better trained with a systematic education. However, except those parents who are schoolteachers themselves, few parents grasp the systematic way of teaching. On the one hand, children can only learn a large scope of knowledge step by step from formal education at schools. On the other hand, the parents can only teach their children sporadic knowledge. It is obvious that the young will be better equipped through formal education in classroom.

From the emotional angle, the bond between child and parents are so tight that the parents cannot give a more objective instruction than a schoolteacher can. Some parents tend to spare their children from hard working and, to the extreme, some even spoil their children to do everything they want. All these are resulted from parents’ love toward children. But from an objective angle, hardworking is sometimes a necessary step toward success. Parents should not be blamed for loving their children but such love may become obstacle for objective instruction.

With the coming of the knowledge economic, we may find that our parents’ knowledge is becoming obsolete. In a changing world, the young are always the first to fashion the news ideas and technology. The elderly, however, are always not used to such rapid changes. Thus, conflicts are inevitable between parents and their children. Accordingly, the young are no longer willing to commit to their parents ideas. To catch the tide of such changes, it is of the best interest for the young to learn from the open world instead of from the obsolete knowledge of their parents.

All this is not to say that to learn from parents is useless. In fact, even in the rapidly changing world, the scope of parents’ knowledge still has great influence on their children, especially on young children. But for the young to get the most needed knowledge, they should not solely rely on what they learned from their parents.

Topic 2 Are parents best teachers?

Nowadays, some may hold the opinion that parents are the best teachers. But others have a negative attitude. As far as I am concerned, I agree with this statement because, obviously, the first teachers we have in our lives in most cases are our parents. They teach us how to walk, how to speak, and what are good manners and bad manners before we reach the real world. Therefore, parents are the people who influence their children most, and children will carry on qualities of their parents. More than even the professional teachers that we have at school, parents are generally the most involved in the development and education of children. The reasons are presented below.

One of the primary reasons is that our parents are the teachers at the beginning of our lives, which actually corresponds to the parents‘ role in nature. First, parents are most committed and involved in teaching their children and have a kind of instinct to sacrifice a part of themselves for the betterment of their children. Second, they love their children and have great patience while passing down their knowledge to us. They wish us to become success and thus will not teacher us bad things. Surely, children will unconsciously copy some of their parents‘ habits and styles of behavior. Besides, parents will become their first role models.

There is also a more subtle point we must consider. During the second stage of child development, adolescence, parents can still be in the best position to offer advices even though the children might not accept it. In this case, perhaps the child's friends would be the best teachers. Adolescents are notoriously rebellious in many cultures and may automatically reject and advice from their parents. In such matters, parents should be much more flexible and rather be friends with their children. However, many parents simply are not able to meet the increased demands, being teachers of their growing children.

What is more, I would say that parents are not professional teachers and they tend to be very biased by their love of their children. As a result, wishing good things and an easy life may prevent children from maturation. Frequently, parents usually present only one viewpoint of the world, while good teaching should be based on different attitudes. For this reason, children may learn probably more if they have a great diversity of teachers other than the parents.

Furthermore, technology develops very quickly; and parents may not always be objective in regard to modem trends and give children proper advices. However, I believe that the care and love among family members still makes our parents very good teachers and advisers at any time.

Taking into account of all these factors, we may reach the conclusion that parents are obviously the most committed of all teachers. Although well- rounded children will generally need a great diversity of teachers, parents can provide them the greatest emotional support in their lives without a substitute.

Topic 2 Are parents best teachers?

Are parents are best teachers? Different people will give different responses to this question from their own characters, emotional concerns and even educational backgrounds. However, when it comes to me, I believe that parents are our best teachers for the following reasons.

In the first place, parents are the people who are closest to us and who understand our real needs best. From infancy on, our parents have witnessed every step in both our physical and mental development. They share every hint of happiness or unhappiness with us and they even know what a little gesture of us might indicate. Based on such a deep understanding, our parents will teach us what we are interested in and what we are not. For instance, they can often buy books on our favored topics such as sea animals and astronomical objects. Little by little, we can mature our minds and broaden our horizons in our favorite fields. (Or are we prospective artists, scientists, teachers, or even businesspeople? Our parents might tell that at our early ages. Consequently, they will give us specific encouragement and abundant resources in our favored fields. Sometimes, our parents can even point out a direction to our future professional goals. Will other people do that for us based on such a solid understanding of us? )

In the second place, our experienced parents are our best teachers of today's complicated society. From our teachers at school, we can learn sophisticated knowledge. But how can our teachers tell us how to communicate with others, how to deal with strangers, how to behave in different occasions, and how to make important decisions of our daily life? Only our parents, who will spend their whole life loving us, caring us will tell us how to steer our own boats in the ocean of life without selfish consideration.

Admittedly, our friends and school teachers could provide us with valuable advice now and then, and maybe it will be easier for us to follow their suggestions. Their effects on us cannot be neglected or replaced by our parents. And parents might spoil their children or even interfere with children's privacy because of love. To be honest, the roles of these two kinds of people cannot be replaced by each other. However, it seems to me that only our parents, who will spend their whole life with us, will be our best teachers, not only for now but also for our whole life.

All in all, if all the factors are contemplated, we can easily reach a conclusion that, parents are not only our first teachers but also our best teachers. Let's be carefully aware of this point and take better care of our parents to repay their efforts to teach us.

Topic 2 Are parents best teachers?

Parents are the most committed, the most influential, and almost the best teachers any child can have. The amount of time a child interacts with parents makes them the most influential force in a child's life. The child gets to learn the most basics of things like walking, speaking and interacting with others. It is under the protections of parents that a child learns to behave in society and to comfort him or herself.

Although parents are the most influential teachers in their children's life, they may not be regarded as the best teachers. Parents generally provide a biased view of the world; they always favor their child, and thus they cannot provide a complete panoramic view of the society. Also parents may set a bad example for their child by abusing and fighting amongst themselves. Psychologists and recent crime charts have proved that young outlaws generally come from disrespectful families, and have grown up in extreme environments.

A child interacts with many kinds of teachers at schools and colleges. Although these teachers, being professionals, have limited time to devote to a child, they provide a complete and diverse view to their students. They provide unbiased guidance to a child.

During the years of adolescence, children tend to be aggressive and non- conforming to others‘ views. So the parents need to act like friends rather than teachers to get their experiences through to their children. Eventually, it is the parents who provide an environment for a child to develop and mature, and thus have the capacity to be the best teachers to their child. What is important is to provide an unbiased view to their child, to motivate independent thinking and actuate timely maturation.

Topic 3 Has the ease of cooking improved life?

People work hard to fulﬁll their principal necessities, and food is the one thingthat is really important to their survival. Although sometimes belied by otherthings that seem important, food is the core objective that drives all people towork. But the outcome of the efforts of these people is not a direct supply offood; rather it is in the form of money. Thus these people use the money theyobtain to prepare their food.

In old days, preparing food was cumbersome and time-consuming work forthose who do it solely for eating purposes. This kind of preparing food in duetie could not comply with the kind of life people lead today. The use oftechnological advancement makes preparing food practical even for theclumsiest person. This helps a great deal for those who work against time tomake their living. It also avoids the waste of considerable amount of moneyfrom hiring a cook.

The development in the preparation of food is highly effective for those peoplewho have no know how of it. A person who does not know how to preparehis/her own food would go to a restaurant or some other place where food isserved everyday. But with the advanced food preservation technology, now heis free, completely independent of restaurants and other places. He can preparehis own food and enjoy the feeling of "home, sweet home".

For people at work, life has just become easy for them. They will not have toworry all day long about what they are going to prepare for their supper. Theycan fully concentrate on their jobs, and work with a mind full of peace.In general this new way ofpreparing food has helped those who are concemedabout their daily meals -- almost everyone. Not only that, it would enlightenthose who are frustrated with their jobs just because of the worry of thattiresome work -- preparing food.

Topic 3 Has the ease of cooking improved life?

Food has always been the one of the greatest wants of humankind. It hasinﬂuenced almost every step that humankind has taken. The search for food isthe essence of life. Therefore if food is easier to get and prepare it is a real boonto humankind.

Food is the most important of the three basic amenities of life (water, food and shelter). Though it can be argued that water is the sustenance for any life form, food is more important because if you do not have water you will surely die. But if you are left with a scarcity of food it will lead to a very sickly and torturous life. Nutritious food is very essential for life, food has been the cause of many a battle. Thus if food was easier to prepare it will take away from the mind of the humankind a great burden.

Though the preparation of food becoming easier is considered a great blessing for humankind. The sudden rise in processed and canned food and all the junk food that one gets over the counter is not totally a boon. People who are so busy that they are not able to spend time to prepare their food, develop a liking for these ready-to-eat junk food. Though it might be thought of as a great way to save time, this is a shortsighted idea that could actually lead to a world of harm. Because one must understand that even though junk food saves us a lot of time, the nutritional value of the food is not so good. In reality the preservatives used in these foods are often found to be toxic in nature. Hence it defeats the purpose it is supposed to serve i.e., to provide nutritional value.

Moreover since people do not take time to prepare food, the art of cooking is slowly vanishing. Actually cooking is a good way of releasing pressure that builds up from our professional commitments. Cooking can easily provide relief from all the tensions that prevail in our life. In the past family weekend get together was considered to be a good time to know each other and they used to spend time cooking food for the entire family. They used to exchange recipes and it was a way of rewinding after the hard weeklong labor. Thus this junk food has denied the human kind of one of humankind's oldest arts. It could even be termed as a retrograde step in human culture.

Therefore I believe though the processed food has made the preparation of food much easier, it is not a good step for mankind.

Topic 3 Has the ease of cooking improved life?

Recent technological advancements have changed the way people live radically.They have also made food easier to prepare - fast foods and preserved foods areeverywhere. The days when cooking of food was a major errand of the dayhave long become the past. Nowadays it's only a matter of minutes to cookfood. However this improvement does not come without a price.

The most important loss we suffer due to these fast foods is quality. These fastfoods are lower in nutritional value and contain less minerals and vitamins.Further they have high calories that result in weight gain, and that in tum leadsto heart diseases and other problems. Further, they have added ﬂavors, colorsand preservatives that are not always very helpful to our health.

These preserved food have also taken away the natural taste and beneﬁts offresh foods from our lives. We now depend upon artiﬁcial ﬂavorings to make aﬁsh taste like a ﬁsh. However we cannot get the natural taste of fresh foodsfrom preserved foods.

We have lost the fun of cooking because of these fast foods. Cooking used to bean art and people enjoyed cooking and the satisfactions they got by cooking atasty meal. Further, cooking is the time when family members gathered andenjoyed their time together. However with less time devoted to cooking, thechances for such meals are now rare.

All these illustrations point out that although fast foods and preserved foods areunavoidable in today's busy world, we must not totally neglect the advantagesof fresh foods. We must sometimes take time with our families to prepare adelicious meal and enjoy it together with the ones we love the most.

Topic 4 Experience is the best teacher

Books are considered to be the source of all knowledge, but all that one leamsthrough a book is only of theoretical nature in the form of ideas and concepts. Itis essential to utilize them in a real environment and experience the knowledgethat is leamed from books.

Leaming is nothing but understanding the world around us. Books, no doubtare a great source of knowledge as it gives us an idea about a particular subjectin detail. But all that one could leam from it is limited to the level ofknowinghow a certain phenomenon occurs, or how a certain concept works. Theknowledge gained through books alone cannot help anyone, because what oneleams through the books should be put in to use to harvest the beneﬁts. Forinstance, a person who wants to leam driving can go through various manualsand guides that teach people how to drive, but all this knowledge is useful onlywhen you are actually driving the car on the roads. It would be an utter waste oftime ifone just reads the books and does not use them for practical purpose.

Leaming through experience is always a lot different from leaming throughbooks. Let us consider the same example of a person wanting to leam to drive:even ifhe goes through every book that is available on driving, still it cannotqualify him as an expert driver. This is because of the fact that books aboutdriving can only teach people trafﬁc rules and provide solutions on how tohandle certain situations. The situations faced by a driver could be totallydifferent from what he had leamt from a book. Sometimes we ﬁnd that the realenvironment is quite different from the one perceived by us through readingbooks. This is the very reason why, even in educational institutions, alltheoretical classes are followed by practical sessions.

Leaming through experience can also be more effective than leaming throughbooks because one does not envision everything on his own, but is given achance to experience the reality. The art of driving can be enjoyed only whenwe are behind the wheels and not when reading it in books. Moreover, anybook is actually an account ofpast experiences, i.e. it is based on theexperiences of people who tried to develop a new idea. The books are theirexperiences, telling us what they already have tried. Thus from theirexperiences we can correct ourselves and thus save valuable time and resources.It helps us to concentrate on their failures and to correct them, but they alonecannot teach us everything we need to know. The knowledge leamed throughbooks alone cannot help us to face all the exigencies that we would face in reallife situations; we have to practice on our own.

Books are like a guiding light in one's pursuit for knowledge. But it is left toeveryone ofus to experience it ﬁrst hand and leam new things for thebetterment of their lives. So the notion "experience is the best teacher" isperfectly true.

Topic 4 Are books more important than experience?

It is true that "Not everything that is leamed is contained in books." A personcan leam a lot and retain what he leams through experience. In my opinionlife's valuable lessons are leamt from experience and so the knowledge gainedfrom experience is more important.

Books are a great source of information. A person in his lifetime cannotexperience everything, but by reading a book on a particular subject he can gainknowledge over that subject in less time. There are books available on anysubject that one needs. However experience seems more important to me.

Suppose a person living in the United States wants to leam about India. He hastwo options: he could visit India and leam about the people and places there orhe could just pick up a book about India and read it. The ﬁrst option will beexpensive and time consuming, but at the same time it gives one ﬁrst handinformation and a sense of satisfaction while the second option is lessexpensive and saves time.

A person can gain knowledge and leam many valuable lessons through his/herown practical experiences and also the experiences of others. The knowledgeleamt from experience is very likely to be retained in our memory for a longperiod of time. The conclusions that we draw from what we leam would befrom our practical experience instead of accepting the conclusion drawn in thebook by the author.

So in my opinion knowledge can be gained both by reading books and byexperience but the knowledge gained through experience is more important.

Topic 4 Are books more important than experience?

Nowadays, most people appreciate leaming at school, where a number of booksare the source of knowledge. However, from my point of view, leaming fromexperience is much more important than learning from books since our reallives concem more about knowledge from experience than knowledge frombooks

Firstly, knowledge obtained from books is more abstract. As weenthusiastically study in classroom, we have leamed several mathematicequations, or a number of science theories. Of course, they all are necessary forsome professional occupations, such as scientist, engineer, and doctor, but notfor all careers.

In addition, knowledge from books is rather logical and exact. The result of amatter is always follow-concemed theories. For example, a person who hasleamed science can know how long that an apple falls to the ground takes.Certainly, the answer can be obtained by using Newton's formula.

Nevertheless, I think that the most signiﬁcant lessons cannot be taught; theyhave to be experienced. No one can teach us how we can get along with otherswell when we have to change to a new society. Books cannot teach us how toadjust behavior to satisfy others, and think optimistically when we confront atrouble.

In contrast to books, knowledge from experience is adjustable; it does notdepend on any theory or equation. A solution from experience is alwaysdepending on the situation and other factors inﬂuencing the problem. This isbecause living experience is so ﬁne and complex that cannot be determined bytheories or equations.

In conclusion, although both books and experience can give us a variety ofknowledge, in my view, the knowledge from experience is more important. Thereason is that in everyday life we must face with a lot of situations, eitherextremely hard or easy to cope with, that cannot be handle by just knowledgefrom books.

Topic 4 Not everything that is learned is contained in books

Leaming, as the name indicates has lot many meanings as to which source one wouldchoose to understand things of his own interest. Books have always been an inevitablepart of one's life as they have the ability to make people aware of the different thingshappening in our world. It is said that not everything that is learned is contained in books.This is in fact true because books can offer us knowledge regarding the things that havehappened and sometimes the ways to deal with a situation that one can encounter in hislife. I would appreciate the fact that the knowledge gained from experience is much moreimportant than that we receive from books. I would like to further illustrate my reasons asfollows:

Everyone would admit the fact that knowledge gained from experience is one thatremains in our mind forever. It is correctly said, "Experience is the teacher ofman."Being a science student, I have gone through different books where we come acrossdifferent reactions and experiments, where the results will be shown in the form ofdiagrams or may be expressed in a simple language. Unless we conduct that experimentwe will not know the problems or the difﬁculties we will have to overcome during theexperiments. Textbook knowledge is merely a description of facts and outcomes, whereasthe same knowledge when gained through experience teaches us a lot, right from the starttill the end and its a joumey through the various aspects of one process which one mightnot be aware of and might not be described in the books.

During my undergraduate years I had only knowledge from books and I used to wonderhow the experiments are designed and how they are carried out. But, during my postgraduate days I had to do a two month nutritional trial on ﬁshes where I had to cope upwith everything like procuring tubs and ﬁshes, arranging aeration facilities, preparationof food for the ﬁshes, daily water exchange, samplings, analysis and so on. Now, I amconﬁdent of carrying out similar works and the experience that I have gained will remainwith me as long as I live. When similar instances occur, we will have more self-conﬁdence and when such aspects are passed on to our juniors, they would also feelhappy and conﬁdent.

Needless to say books are also very important. What I have mentioned is from myviewpoint as a science student. There are many different subjects where the conduct ofwork is tough and in such circumstances we gain information from books. Some aspectswould be time consuming and tedious and performing such a work with a limited periodof time would not be feasible. In such cases, books deﬁnitely open a person's eye towardsvarious aspects and give him ﬁrst hand information about what he wants to know.

A person who has leamed from experience never forgets what has happened and ifit wasproved a bad thing then he would certainly try to avoid that situation in the future. Ifsomething good has happened then he will put his best to further improve it; that in tumwill enhance his skill and boost his self-esteem. Knowledge gained by experience can bepassed over to others who also are supposed to face the same situation and that helps theperson to be aware ofwhat he intends to do. He can even avoid those factors that canaffect his performance.

In fact I would rather say that knowledge gained from experience lingers in our mindsforever and that boosts our conﬁdence when taking up a similar task. On the other hand,the fact that books are knowledge providers cannot be ignored, because books provide uswith lot more information about the different things that are very difﬁcult to beexperienced. Hence it can be concluded that knowledge gained from books is secondhand knowledge whereas knowledge that are gained from experience is ﬁrsthand and ittakes a person through the different hidden intricacies of the task and makes him leam theknowledge in a practical manner.

Topic 4 Are books more important than experience?

To my opinion, books and real experience are two completely different sourcesof knowledge. It is really difﬁcult to determine which of the two to be of muchgreater importance, because normally knowledge gained from experiencecomplements that acquired from books, but not substitutes it. Comparing thefeatures of the two sources, I would stress the following points of differences.

First, the knowledge gained from books is, to a certain extent, of abstract natureBooks are normally the collections of facts and general rules. Books give us themost complete overview of a subject in a more or less structured manner,covering all known details and exceptions. In some way, books areconcentrations of knowledge and experiences of many generations of people,given in a concise and comprehensive way. Obtaining such knowledge justfrom the personal experience would take an immense amount of time or evenwould not be possible at all. The practical experience, gives us not generalknowledge, but particular skills. Without these particular skills, all theknowledge gained from books might be just a useless collection of facts andrules. The best example of the importance of practical experience that comes tomy mind is leaming a foreign language. One can leam a lot ofvocabulary andgrammar rules, memorize many exceptions, but without actual applying of allthis knowledge in real life conversations, writing letters and listening to realspeeches, one can hardly be proﬁcient in the language. The importance ofhaving practical skills is also proved by the fact that most employers appreciateworking experience above all grades and diplomas.

Another point of contrast between books and experience is that for somesubject, such as economy of sociology, a book may represent a point of view ofits author or authors. The conclusions given in the book might be out of date, ormight be biased by the personal attitude of the authors. In this case, practicalexperience helps to build up personal perspective on the matter, to bring thematter up to date.

On the psychological grounds, leaming from experience is much more efﬁcientthan reading books. Reading books is in most cases a passive action, which canbe done without much effort. Despite the fact that there are people who canmemorize thousands ofpapers, for a normal person, such work does not resultin a deep, comprehensive knowledge base. On the contrary, doing things inpractice, people have to overcome various difﬁculties, get through unknownareas, and pay attention to small details. The reward for these efforts is muchmore comprehensive and profound knowledge.

Summarizing the said above I want to admit that both books and practice isimportant in the process of leaming. While none of the two can be consideredas absolute substitute for the other, I would place the practical experience in alittle bit advance position in terms of importance.

Topic 4 Are books more important than experience?

We gain our knowledge about the world and our life from two sources: from experience and from books. These two resources are both important, but which of them is more important?

Knowledge from books forms a very important part of our knowledge structure. In schools and colleges, we learn knowledge that is fundamental to our future career. We learn knowledge from books in order to make our contributions to this society in the future. A student learns mathematic equations and other scientific knowledge and become a scientist or engineer. We will be illiterate

and ignorant without learning knowledge from books. Moreover, we acquire knowledge about life and the world by reading books, magazines and newspapers. This is also very important, as we cannot experience everything all by ourselves. Therefore books are a very important source of knowledge.

On the other hand, we cannot learn everything from books. "Experience is the best teacher" is an old cliche but I agree with it. The most important, and sometimes the hardest lessons we learn in life come from our participation in situations. We learn how to get along with others or how to gain self-respect from our experience, not from books. We cannot learn emotional feelings, such

as love and care, through books; they come from our real life experience. Knowledge from experience is also a very important supplement to knowledge from books.

Needless to say both leaming sources, books and experience, are very important to us. But in my opinion knowledge from experience is more important, because without knowledge from experience, it is impossible to get a real understanding ofknowledge from books, and how to apply this knowledge to real world situations.

Topic 4 Are books more important than experience?

Upon the question “not everything that is learned is contained in books”, different people have different opinions. From my point of view, I believe knowledge gained from experience is more valuable than knowledge gained out of books. In the following paragraphs I will try to explain my position more clearly.

Firstly, life's valuable lessons are learned from experience. Can you forget important lessons learned from your childhood years, such as jumping down from a high place and broke your arms? From that accident you knew the importance of self-protection. Knowledge gained from experience is likely to be retained in our memory for a long period of time, although most of the time we have to pay a price for it.

Secondly, knowledge that is gained by doing things can provide you withfirst hand information. If you don’t have the chance to experience on your own,you can only obtain second-hand knowledge and you will feel a lack of self-confidence.

Moreover, many skills and knowledge can only be leamed through practical experiences. You cannot leam swimming by just reading from books on how to swim. You have to actually get there and jump into the pool. Experience is the best way to develop your personal abilities.

However, just as an English proverb goes “a coin has two sides,” reading books is also helpful. After all, you will not have the chance to experience everything by yourself. For instance, to travel to foreign countries is expensive and time- consuming, while reading a book about different cultures provides you with plenty of valuable information in a short period of time.

To conclude, knowledge gained from experiences is more important. Life requires knowledge, and experience is the key.

Topic 5 Should a factory be built in your community?

I strongly oppose to the plan that a large factory be built near my community. My arguments for this point are listed as follows.

The ﬁrst and foremost reason lies in the virtually inevitable pollution that a large factory is bound to bring about. Considering the limit of the present technology, hardly any kind of factory is able to secure its mass production without the slightest pollution to the environment. Once a factory enters my community, and embarking on its continuous activities, even a tiny element of pollution will by all odds accumulate to a dangerous degree that will eventually cause a serious damage to the environment of my community. To think of the exhaust gas or water and the noise given off by a factory will help you fully understand this idea. Cities have already suffered from those nightmares of modem industry that shows no signs of ceasing to emerge. No one would like to behold the air of his or her community is no longer clean, or to ﬁnd his or her community totally removed of hush.

Besides pollution, which is to some extent an invisible but deadly threat to my community, there is an immediate problem that a large factory will force to confront with: it will occupy a large area near or of my community, which should be more likely exploited as a public site that beneﬁt all residents in the community. For example provided a suitable area is available, it is more worth a gymnasium that will enhance the standard of health of every resident in the community, than a big factory leading to disgusting noise and suffocating gas. Perhaps, some people would like to vote for such a plan of building a factory simply on an economical ground that a large factory will probably stimulate a prosperous future of the area around. But unfortunately, history has witnessed

numerous counterexamples. Many factories neither attain an economical success nor left the environment intact. So I doubt this declaration.

Taking into account all these factors, I ﬁnd the disadvantages weigh much heavier than the possible advantages. Therefore I strongly disagree the establishment of a large factory near my community.

Topic 5 Should a factory be built in your community?

As the company has announced to build a factory right here in our community, I am so eager to say a few words toward this issue. I really think that ifthe plan is carried out in the near feature ﬁnally, there will be much more disadvantages than advantages to be brought to the quality life of our social community.

Of course, during these years’ high unemployment rate, introducing of such a large factory will consume unemployed workforce in some respects. A family may increase their income by taking account of its new employed father during or after the construction of the factory, local govemment can increase its tax income and retail dealers of our community may sell a little more because of the increasing of population that may be the result of the new build factory. However, all these beneﬁts may seem to be so small when compared with all those disadvantages the new build factory may lead to.

The most hateful thing is that you may not able to smell the fresh air in the sunny Sunday momings because this huge industrial monster will probably deliver a great deal of waste fume and waste materials every day, far more than the amount you can imagine. And far more disappointed than this, those rumbling, non-stopping stream lines in the factory can make noises loud enough to bereave people of our tranquil town out of sweat dreams.

And you will no doubt feel uncomfortable to drive your family to the camping place because maybe the establishment of the new factory will bring more than 20% increases in population as well 30% increases in using ofprivate cars and trucks, imaging how could it be in the street in rush hours, or even in the holidays. So, you can see clearly that increasing in population is not always

good news for a small community like ours.

Basic food prices may probably rise and public transportation will burden more, which usually means poor services, public schools and community facilities which once made us feel so convenient living in this small town may get harder and harder to be attended or utilized as the increasing of population, upon all those disadvantages, why should we give applauses to the announcement of the company?

Topic 5 Should a factory be built in your community?

I support the idea that a factory to be built near our community. I list my reasons as follows.

Firstly, a new factory near our community helps to improve the living standard of people in our community. The factory will employ a lot ofworkers. As a consequence, the unemployment rate will drop signiﬁcantly. Many people in our community will ﬁnd a job in the factory. As people's income increases, they will be able to spend more money on their food, clothing and leisure, and the quality of life will be increased.

Secondly, a new factory will bring prosperity to our community. The tax collected from a factory is an important source of revenue for our town. As people have higher income, income tax collected will also be increased. With the increased amount of tax dollars, the town will be able to spend more money on infrastructures and other development. Moreover, in order to accommodate

more workers, more homes and stores will be needed. This will boost real estate development in our community.

Some people say that a factory would bring smog and pollution, and destroy the quality of the air and water in the town. While this is partly true, modem technologies have made today's factories technology intensive and brought pollutions to the minimum. There are also worries that the social structure of this community will be changed and the traditional life will be affected. We should understand that our society needs to evolve and we cannot always stay in the old time.

Of course, there are some drawbacks ofbuilding a new factory here. But in my opinion, the beneﬁts outweigh the dangers. Therefore I strongly support to build a factory here, and hope that others feel the same way.

Topic 6 What would you change about your hometown?

Today, everything seems to change in split seconds. But, there is something that still lacks among every soul that resides in my hometown. And, I think you have got what I meant, cleanliness. These ideas of cleanliness in my opinion are divided into two types: external and internal cleanliness.

I was born in Kuala Lumpur and have lived here all my life. The city that I see today is way too advanced and developed compared to when I was in primary school. Kuala Lumpur is well known for its magnificent and the most luxurious airport in the world. But, what is the use of having all these advancements when the sense of cleanliness among the citizens is still below average. In example, I have actually witnessed a man spitting on a beautiful pavement when there was a dustbin right next to him.

Apart from what I have mentioned above, I would like to emphasize on internal cleanliness. Most people in Malaysia treat foreigners with good respect and hospitality. But, there are some people who would take advantage of these foreigners. For instance, shop owners raise the price of goods when foreigners visit their shops. I have actually witnessed a cab driver bargaining the ride fare with a foreign lady who was extremely tired after a daylong shopping with her young kids. I am trying to wonder, what has happened to the moral and the culture of our fellow Asians that we used to be so proud of?

I understand that the government has taken lots of steps to improve the state of cleanliness within fellow Malaysians. I just hope that these steps were more comprehensive. We should cultivate the sense of cleanliness among each and every citizen in order to promise success to the planned manifesto. Last but not least, every citizen should willingly contribute to the efforts of maintaining

cleanliness in their surroundings. We should not be self-centered when it comes to the matter of cleanliness because cleanliness ensures a healthy living. Think your deeds of maintaining cleanliness as a charity and start it from the steps of your home. At the end of the day, you will experience self-satisfaction towards your contribution to your hometown, as a wise person once said, "The greatest gift of charity is to give what is in your heart."

Topic 6 What would you change about your hometown?

I am from Arroz e Feijao, a small town in the northeast of Brazil. If I can change one thing about my home town, I would like to build a factory here. Building a factory in there will bring a lot of advantages and disadvantages, but I believe that Arroz e Feijao will mostly benefit from the building of a new factory because it is largely populated by poor people and the factory would bring many benefits to this small town. However, of course, a factory has disadvantages as well.

As you know, factories usually bring pollution. If this factory is not managed very effectively and efficiently according to specific rules, it's prone to polluting the local air and water. What's more, factories usually make noise. Beside clean drinkable water and fresh air, an ideal community should be quiet. If the factory cannot maintain this standard to the community, it will not last long. A factory that is too noisy or pollutes too much will eventually be relocated to a new area.

On the other hand, a factory could bring a lot of benefits to the community. So I would support the plan to build a factory to my community for all the reasons I will describe below.

First of all, the construction of a factory will surely improve the local infrastructure. To run smoothly, the factory will have to have a steady, reliable supply of water and electricity. Some old pipes will be changed, and some facilities will be renovated. The residents‘ living standard get improved as a result of these widespread changes, an important benefit in Arroz e Feijao, where many people do not have access to clean water.

Secondly, to make sure the shipping of materials and products and the employees‘ commute more convenient, the local roads will have to be rebuilt and broadened, resulting in improved public transportation. The town's residents can take a public bus to go shopping or go to work. As a result, air pollution and fuel consumption might be reduced.

Most important, a factory's establishment will bring up a lot of employment opportunities for the community. A factory needs experts from various fields. The residents can take just a few minutes to go to the factory to work. So, the local residents can benefits from this factory.

Generally speaking, I would like to build a factory near my community if I have a chance. If the factory can be managed successfully, the factory and the local residents can have benefit mutually.

Topic 6 What would you change about your hometown?

If I could change one important thing about my hometown, it would be air pollution problem, and I will give the following reasons to explain why I want to solve the problem.

The first and most important reason is that I hope that my hometown can become a beautiful city. As an old industrial city, my hometown has made a great deal of contribution for the count1y’s economic development. At a result, the natural environment of the city has been badly damaged. The forest has disappeared; the mountains have become bald, and the most awful thing is that the air quality becomes more and more worsen. People seldom see the blue sky during most time of year.

Another reason why I want to change my hometown’s air pollution situation is that the city’s development needs clean and tidy environment to attract investors. Nowadays people have come to know that the city’s environment, which is so called “software facility of the city”, plays an important role in the city’s future. For example, due to the fact that the environment of the city is

very poor, many local students who pursue their study out of the city would rather find themselves a job in other cities than coming back to their hometown after they graduated.

In addition, nowadays people have paid more and more attention to their health If the air pollution problem cannot be solved as quickly as possible, people’s requirement for a healthy body will never be realized.

In my mind, changing air pollution will apparently be my first choice if I can change one important thing about my hometown. Fortunately people in my hometown are gradually aware of the serious problem and start doing something about it.

Topic 7 How do movies or TV affect people?

"Reel life is based on real life," they say. But how far it is true is left to the judgment of the individual's intelligence. The impact that movies and television have on our lives can never be over-emphasized.

Nowadays television and movies are the only sources to keep in pace with the latest trend in the global environment. Every part of our lifestyle is somehow inﬂuenced by what we see in the television or in movies. The advent of the motion picture has been one of the greatest inﬂuences of the cultural activities of the humankind. It does not require great intelligence to ascertain this fact. If we just give a glance to see hanging or posted on the walls are the photos of our favorite celebrities from the tinsel world, mounted on the table are things from our favorite T. V. show, the music blaring out of the system of the latest excuses for musical excellence, in your wardrobe are outﬁts last seen on our favorite stars, the hair cream, shampoo, paste, and what not, the list is endless. This does not stop with just what we wear and own it also extends to the way we behave in our peer group.

Some time back, my friend and I were at the cafeteria near our college when were suddenly mobbed by a group of students who were dressed up as people straight out from prehistoric age. They were carrying contraptions that resembled like weapons for a battleﬁeld, which made us wonder whether they were struck in a time warp. And what followed actually bemused us completely, the group started speaking to each other in a very laboriously slow manner in a language which sounded nothing of this world. My friend and I were not able to understand a single word of it, we left that day with a really confused mind and were in the same state for quite some time. But it all ended on the day we decided to watch the movie "Lord of the Rings" Peter Jackson's adaptation of J. R. K. Tolkiem's novel of early 1900s. We understood the costumes and the weapons were the ﬁlm's souvenir collectibles, and the language they spoke was that of the elves originally created by the great author.

Thus we see people talking about ‘molecular disintegrators', ‘laser swords‘, ‘elves’, 'hobbits' etc., and also tend to act and perform like what they have seen in movies and television. We also see that big FMCG companies bringing in newer products inline with the latest movies. There are several institutions, which glorify such attitude. Those who dare to ignore are considered archaic and become the butt of all jokes. This can be easily acknowledged by the fact the elves language has already been recognized as part an ofﬁcial curriculum in a British university.

Thus the line between real and reel life is fast becoming a blurred one. The whole behavior and cultural activity of the human race is left to the mercy of the next big moviemaker.

Topic 7 How do movies or TV affect people?

Movies are popular because people are great watchers. They like to watch other peoples‘ lives. They like to live vicariously. By going to movies, we can escape our own lives, share other people's emotions, and imagine ourselves as someone else.

Many of our lives are not as adventurous or glamorous as the lives in movies. We do not battle evil all day long and then go back to our luxurious penthouse apartment. We just go to school, do our homework, eat, talk to our friends, and sleep. We need a little excitement in our lives and we ﬁnd excitement at the Humans are very emotional people. We all like to cry and laugh. Fortunately, there is not much to cry about in my life so I like to go to sad movies where my heartstrings can be tugged. I also like to go to comedies so thatI can laugh. I tend to cry and laugh more in a dark movie theater than I do in broad daylight. Now I am a student, but I know someday I will be a scientist or a politician or a famous model. When I go to the movies, I can see my role models. I see how they act, what they wear, how they talk. I can prepare myself for the day when I will be like them.

Even though my life is quiet, I can go to the movies and watch someone else's life. I can share their emotions and their everyday life. I wonder if they would like to share mine.

Topic 7 How do movies or TV affect people?

Every human being tends to take some time off from his or her chores for relaxation. There is no doubt that movies and television play a major role in get tiredness and boredom away from us. Though primarily intended for entertainment, these media do inﬂuence the behaviors of human beings. I would like to discuss the effect of the media on the demographic divisions of children, teenagers and the adults.

No doubt that children are the most fascinated and fond ofwatching movies and television. Though parents are temporarily relieved from baby-sitting their children who are indulgent in watching television, they are certainly worried about the inﬂuence of this media. Today's movies are ﬁlled with violence. Heroism is being portrayed as the capacity to destruct (the enemies). This easily inﬂuences children. The fondness of children to watch WWF wrestling on television bears testimony to it. This proclivity towards violence tends to show up at schools, where they start to bully their classmates.

While teenagers tend to show some maturity over the issue ofviolence, there are separate gamut of factors in the media that inﬂuence them. Teenage is the important period during which one choices his career and subsequently his direction of life. This media greatly inﬂuence the choice of ones career. Today's rock concerts and music televisions create an impression that becoming a rock star or a video jockey is the best profession in the world. Numerous teenagers are drawn into this whirlpool and it becomes too late when they come to realize the reality in life.

Adults watch this media mainly for entertainment and to relax themselves. However they too are relieved from being bitten by the media bug. The constantly running television advertisements have a negative bearing on the adults. The ostentatiously displayed by a Porsche car driving by the hero in our favorite ﬁlms inadvertently propels our instinct to go for a similar car. Seldom do we think about the aftereffects and get entangled in the spider web. We tend to sink our ship by the exorbitant interest rate, mortgage and the overﬂowing credit card bills. Once overloaded with these, we tend to become peevish losing our natural gregarious behavior.

Hence I feel that the media has an inﬂuence on each one of in what ever above said categories we are in. While there are also many things which positively inﬂuence people's mind, I have purposefully chose to deal with negative aspects as understanding these problems instigates us to seek a suitable solution We as a parent, a teacher and a good friend can help some of our friends who need help to get themselves out of these problems.

Topic 7 Movies inﬂuence people

It has been noticed that movies and television inﬂuence people's behavior. The inﬂuence appears in different forms such as the way of eating, the kind of food and general attitudes.

Recently, there was a show called "Super Star" on Arabic Television networks where it showed how the actors are in their normal life situations. I have seen mature people as well as yang children imitating the actor’s behavior. They started eating pasta and kind of foods that won't increase the fat in the body. Also, they took more care to eat in a prestige manner such as using the spoons and forks. On the other hand, people started wearing clothes that doesn't ﬁt the society standards. The actors in the show were wearing short and sexy clothes. This attitude reﬂected on the teenagers. They started wearing similar clothes since they feel that those actors are the models to follow.

A research done by Ohio State University at 1998 has indicated that people go into four stages when being inﬂuenced by a movie or Television. First, the model: the model is a person that wakes up people’s awareness for something. For example, super Star actor’s new attitudes. Second is selective attention: people selectively start to imitate the model behavior. For example, the way of

eating and kind of foods or clothes used. Third, selective retention: people still selectively repeat the model attitude even though he/she is no longer their. For example, the show ended but still some people retain the behavior. Forth, feedback: it is the information perceived by people wither what they are doing is acceptable or not. Here people decide wither to continue or stop the model’s

behavior based on the standard norms.

In conclusion, movies and televisions have great inﬂuence on people. The inﬂuence can be in form of learning new attitudes, wither it is good or bad. It could be good behavior ifit ﬁts the standard norms or improve the daily behavior such as eating healthy foods and practicing sports. Or it could be bad behavior such as wearing clothes and performing unethical attitudes that contradict social standards.

Topic 7 How do movies or TV affect people?

Our life has gone through great changes since television and movies came into being, which provides a totally new and different way of using our spare time to the traditional way. As a matter of fact, with the wide spread of this mass media such as movies and television all over the world, people's behavior and thoughts have been changed a lot since it has become an inalienable part of our daily life. Movies and television inﬂuence people's behavior by altering their views of value, beauty, and the world.

People become more conﬁdent and seldom give up after watching the movie Forest Gump, they stop smoking and begin to do exercises after watching the TV program about smoking ruins one's health, and girls try hard to lose weight after actresses in movies and television tend to be thinner and thinner. All these changes, indeed, has much to do with mass media. It is obvious that, teenagers talk a lot when gathered together about sports games or newest Hollywood movies, whereas adults discuss the world's political situation or social problems when having time in their ofﬁces. The topics that they focus on, in most cases, are acquired either from television programs or from movies, and so forth.

Movies and television inﬂuence people's behavior by satisfying their imagination. Heroes and heroines achieve great success of their business, attain sweet love of their life, and gain high respect of their fame so easily within a two-hour long movie. When watching it, audiences can experience the same evens, share the same feelings, and this whole process would fulﬁll their fantasies, as a result, cause them to ﬁnd balance in their lives, or, to some degree, lose the balance, which depends on not only the movies but also the audiences themselves. All in all, mass media, including movies and television, has a signiﬁcant correlation with people's behaviors. To put it differently, tasks are arduous for mass media to bring people laughter, joy and relaxation, and at the same time some pedagogic meanings.

Topic 8 Has TV destroyed communication?

To agree or disagree with the statement that television has destroyed the communication among family and friends is a matter of balancing its pros and cons. However, if one considers the following reasons, he or she may disagree with the title statement as I do.

First, some people may hold the view that friends and family would easily ﬁght with each other for the programs on the television that he or she wants to watch For example, the child may be likely to switch to the cartoon channel while the father wants to see the news program, and the mother prefers a romantic movie. However as far as I am concemed, the scenario is an exaggeration. I do not think such a trivial quarrel would destroy anything important, and as friends or family, the one result is to attribute to the communication. Each person would present their reasons for watching the program, so that next time they would not argue for the same thing again. They know the taste of each number of the family and they will probably try to avoid such conﬂicts.

In addition, television offers us numerous topics to talk about. Television informs us of what is happening around the world. Everybody has his/her own reaction towards these events. Without television, we may hold the idea that no one would have the chance to share. When the friends and the whole family sit tighter in front of a television, a nice and intimate atmosphere is provided for

communication. Through such kind of communication, family members can understand each other better. A small example may give some light to this point Once I had some disagreement and had not talk to my dad for several days. One night, when my dad and I were watching television together, we found an interesting topic that both of us wanted to say something about it, so we said a little ﬁrst and talk much later and all the unpleasant disappear out of existence.

So, in my point ofview, nothing has been destroyed by television. On the contrary it might improve our communication.

Topic 8 Has TV destroyed communication?

There are always good and bad consequences following technological developments. Television has served many needs of people. But, unfortunately, it has destroyed communication among friends and family. The reasons are that people are getting maximum information, entertainment and time pass through various channels. I will explain these reasons in detail further in my essay.

Though there are many sources of gathering information we rely on people for information most of the times. This is gradually replaced by countless advertisements coming up in television. They show different products, their prices and their availabilities in stores. They even give phone numbers to order by calling. Certain products which, we don’t even know the purpose is also explained these days. For example, I have seen an ad about a hair dryer stand 2 days back. Initially, I didn’t even understand its purpose but as it continued, I could easily make out and so I bought it the very next week without even bothering to ask any of my friends.

Man is a social animal. He likes to be in society among people, which keeps him entertained by gatherings with friends and family. In television, different serials and movies are played. There are thousands of channels offering variety of programs. Once we get used to watching these programs, we don’t see any point in going out and meeting friends. For instance, when I was a child, our family members and friends used to gather every weekend and watch a movie in a theatre. But now, everyone watches movies in their own homes as there are some paid channels where we can watch latest movies. It saves time and money.

People are anyway busy these days with personal and professional works. On top of this, some channels like discovery, BBC, CNN, ESPN keep people occupied with all the knowledge they need. They don’t see any time to meet friends or family. For example, they are even having dinner watching television There are advantages and disadvantages of everything created on earth. It depends on human beings to utilize or exploit them.

Topic 8 Has TV destroyed communication?

An invention of the new technological era, many people have deemed television as an obstacle for the normal communication in family and among friends. Although there may be some negative effects of television's presence in our lives, the positive ones are incontrovertible and even more compelling. TV is an acknowledged medium of communication that broadens our knowledge, thus providing more topics of conversation among friends and family.

Though the indiscriminate watching of TV programs tends to create inhumane zombies, addicted to the screen and incapable ofnormal communication, few people actually come down to this state. On the contrary, the discriminating choice of TV programs could enrich people's view and make them feel more informed. Through specialized broadcasts, people usually become more knowledgeable in their ﬁelds of work, thus getting capable of a more fulﬁlling communication with others.

At home, television can always create a warm atmosphere. Imagine a family in front of the TV watching a favorite funny show, laughing, and sharing a common enjoyment. At Christmas and the New Year's Eve, for example, there are shows that contribute to the celebratory atmosphere at home.

Although television is said to take up much of the time that we are supposed to spend with our friends, it does not, in fact, spoil communication between friends. It can even provide diverse topics for conversation, help friends share opinions and interests, and, if those are not enough - help to ﬁnd friends.

In brief, television has proved to be a plentiful source of information for people of different tastes. Consequently, it has much contributed to the more enriching and fulﬁlling communication among family and friends. And although some "enemies" of the technological world try to dismiss it, television has become an inseparable part of our everyday life, making communication more enjoyable.

Topic 8 Has TV destroyed communication?

I strongly agree with the statement that television has destroyed the communication between family and friends. This is a very interesting and thought provoking statement, and I have speciﬁc reasons for agreeing with it, which are explained in the following paragraphs.

In today's world television occupies a very important place in our lives, more than it ever has. Before the television was invented people used to spend their free time in many different ways. Keeping close contact with family and friends meeting new people, and playing sports outdoors are a few such things that used to be on the top of their lists. Even for a long period of time after the television was invented, people used to spend only limited and speciﬁc amount of time watching television. But with the advent of satellite television and the introduction of hundreds of channels, we are now spending a good amount of time just to decide what to watch.

These days an average family's typical day starts with watching television and ends with it. Add to that, different people in the family have different tastes that results in more than one television in a household. I know many of my friends who own at least three televisions that are on all the time airing a variety of programs. Among all these, where is the time for people to communicate with

each other on a regular basis? I can give a very good example of this: I had an appointment with a friend of mine last Sunday at my house. But he did not show up. His reason was, "I was watching something interesting on TV and forgot about our meeting."

There is nothing wrong in watching television. There are so many good programs to watch, but there are equally bad programs that do nothing but waste our time. The secret is to balance our priorities in life. As much as it is important to watch television, friends and family are more important. Communicating with them on a regular basis is a very healthy thing and it should never be overlooked because of television.

Topic 8 Has TV destroyed communication?

I do strongly support the statement that television has destroyed communication among friends and family. This I support with the following reasons.

First let me describe the role of television today. Nowadays people spend a tremendous amount of time in front of the television. Thus communication among friends and family has become much more difﬁcult in the 21st century. Because television always keeps you up to date, gives you a good laugh and a lot of handy tips for life, people do not need their friends and family members anymore to support them in achieving their goals.

Sadly enough the likelihood of becoming addicted to television nowadays is tremendously high. Once you start to communicate less with your friends and family members because you prefer to watch television you will get lonelier and lonelier. In this case people will start to replace their own family members and friends with talk shows and comedies. In some dramatic situations people believe they are a part of the families shown on TV and therefore entirely lose their feeling for reality.

Last but not least I wish to say that I consider the television as a very useful information tool nevertheless it should be used like everything within some borders.

Topic 8 Has TV destroyed communication?

Nowadays, television plays an important role in people's life. It is the maininformation source and its popularity is still growing.

Every day many new technological inventions are introduced. Almost all activities at home have already been mechanized. We use machines for everything. For example, we use microwave ovens to prepare food more quickly than we used to do it before; we order food, books and anything elsewe need just by clicking on a few buttons on the computer keyboard. Also we use mobile phones to be always in touch with our family, friends and the rest of the world.

This is the good side ofusing technology. A few centuries ago people used to read newspapers and ﬁnd out everything that had happened all over the world. Today newspapers are almost completely replaced by a newly invented gadget. This innovation is called television. It has been the most popular information “supplier” since its invention.

Every evening family members sit in front of the TV set and watch programs such as talking shows, news, and movies for hours, sometimes without even saying a word to each other. Instead of sitting around the dining table and telling each other about what happened earlier that day they sit on the sofa and gaze at the TV screen.

Is that right? Apparently, it is not. Everybody has to think for himself whether he and his family want to become ‘couch potatoes’ or they should continue to communicate with each other and avoid using television and all other technological achievements so much. We should ask ourselves whether we want to lead such a life with no real contact with other human beings. Is it really worth it?

Topic 8 Has TV destroyed communication?

What do you usually do to relax yourself and have some fun after a whole day's work? How do you spend most of your spare time with a lowest cost of both money and energy? Most of us will give the same answer: watching TV As promoted by the development of modem science and technology, television programs today attract a vaster group of audiences by tremendously enriched contents and a 24-hour rolling schedule than ever before. The fact that television seems to control our choice of leisure and entertainment has recently brought a problem to focus: whether has television destroyed communication among friends and family? Those who agree with the statement insist that such lack of communication should attribute to television. However, I hold just an opposite point of view and I will demonstrate my opinion as followed.

First of all, the advantages of television will speak for itself. As known to all, what we ﬁnd in television is not only some enjoyment or recreation to kill time but also an important source of knowledge and information. Imagine how television makes us familiar with the miracle creatures in the deep ocean that is unavailable otherwise. Undoubtedly television is an indispensable channel for us to leam the world outside.

As far as the interpersonal communication is concemed, television also plays a key role in improving, but destroying like someone thinks, the relationship and understanding among friends and family. A good case in the point is that television often focuses the attention of public by broadcasting current events, social news and popular teleplays. It is always easy to ﬁnd interesting topics with friends and colleagues ifyou have watched the same TV program lately and want to share your ideas about it. Besides, in my own family, my parents and I enjoy the time when we are sitting together and watching tele-ﬁlms. Because it is the moment for us to feel and enjoy the peacefulness and happiness of family life.

I do not deny that there may be some cases that people are so addicted to television or some other habits that he/she will probably ignore communication with friends and family. Yet it is the wrong attitude of the person him/herself that results the problem but television. Thus, for the reasons above, I shall say: television, like many other important inventions of human beings, beneﬁts our life with both enjoyment and knowledge.

Topic 8 Has TV destroyed communication?

Has television destroyed communication among friends and family? Different people will give different responses to this question from their own characters, emotional concems and even educational backgrounds. However, when it comes to me, television has severely affected our contact with our friends and family for the following reasons.

In the ﬁrst place, watching television will obviously take up our leisure time that can be otherwise spent staying with our friends and family. In fact, the television has provided us with a variety of shows, which can easily catch our eyes. An example is that, a very hot television play will eat much of our free time magically! Many people will admit that the glamour of television is irresistible! So, how about talking with our old friends? Let us watch another hot television soap opera instead! Without television, we will obviously have more time to share with friends, namely, playing tennis, swimming, playing football etc. These activities are all good entertainment and improve our physical ﬁtness as well! Do you expect getting in a good shape or having ﬂoppy muscles when sitting in front of television?

In the second place, programs on televisions have some negative effects on us in terms of violence, illusion and even brain malfunctions. People who are infected with long exposure to television will indulge themselves in a world full of illusionary love, violence or even pessimistic views of life. How can those people have good time with their friends or other family members? Without television we will have more chances to realize this world realistically, cherishing people who are loving me, paying more attention to social problems and leading an optimistic life! From this point of view, television seems to be the source of all these tragedies!

Admittedly, television is obviously a tool for us to broaden our horizon and entertain ourselves. And such positive effects of television should not be neglected. However, it seems to me that the disadvantages brought by television have outweighed its advantages.

All in all, if all the factors are contemplated, we can easily reach a conclusion that television has destroyed our communication with our friends and family and is not as effective as we might expect. Let us give up tonight's soap opera and pay a visit to our old friends instead.

Topic 9 A small town vs. a big city

I grew up in a small town and then moved to a big city, therefore I have experienced the good and bad sides of both. I never thought that I would like living in a big city, but I was proved wrong. After ten years of living in one, I can't imagine ever living in a small town again.

Small towns and big cities both have some problems in terms of transportation, but in different ways. In a small town, you have to own a car to ensure a comfortable living. You can't get around without one because there isn't any kind of public transportation. Big cities generally have heavy traffic and expensive parking, but then you have a choice of taking public transportation. It's not free, but it's often cheaper than driving when you consider gas and insurance. Especially if you don't have a car, you're better off living in a city.

I love the excitement of big cities. Small towns have a slow pace. Large cities mean you have to adapt to a variety of situations, like finding a new route to work or trying a new restaurant. I enjoy that challenge very much. Another aspect of the excitement of city living is the variety of cultural activities available. There is a wide assortment of theatres, music and dance performances available in big cities. These things are rare in small towns.

The final thing I like about large cities is the diversity of the people. The United States is made up of people of different races, religions, abilities, and interests. However, you seldom find such a variety of people in a small US town. Living in an area where everyone is just like me would quickly make me bored.

Of course, security is a concern, and that's one area where small towns are superior to big cities. Still, I would rather be a bit more cautious and live in a large city than to feel secure but bored in a small town.

Topic 9 A small town vs. a big city

In English, there is a well-known fairy story about a poor country boy, Dick Whittington, who goes to London because he believes that the streets of that city are "paved with gold.“ The story is a tale of "from rags to riches." Dick eventually becomes the Lord Mayor of London. Like the hero of that story, I always find wonder and adventure in cities.

Cities contain a great assortment of people. Whenever I walk around a shopping precinct at midday on a weekend, I am fascinated by all the different types of people hurrying around the shops. Sometimes, I just sit on a public bench and simply watch the variegated streams of shoppers. Today, in the age of globetrotting transport and communications, city life is more mixed than it has ever been. Capital cities are not cosmopolitan, and eager to attract foreign trade and currency. There is a contemporary English joke that tells, "You can never find an Englishman in London."

Whether rightly or wrongly, governments and local authorities usually build public amenities in the big cities. Money is invested in transport, libraries, parks and museums. Often, countries will compete with each other for the best "show-case" building. Malaysia has built a skyscraper that is taller than is anything in New York. In large countries, region will compete against region: New York against Chicago, Shanghai against Hong Kong and Beijing. All of this is good for the citizen. The magic of the Dick Whittington story is rekindled in me when I enter a library in a magnificent building. If a person is at university studying art or music, a large city usually offers galleries and

public performances. Even as a teenager, I appreciated the worth of living in a city because two or three times a year there was a rock concert by a favorite band.

Architecture is the urban landscape. If a person has an appreciation of architecture, a city can be as visually exciting as the Himalayas. A modem metropolis is a mountain range of height, light and solidness. And then there are the old buildings: the quaint, unspoiled side street or shops and homes from a distant age. If a person lived all of his life in one large city, he would continue to discover its architectural secrets into his old age. Man is a ‘social animal‘. He talks, mixes and creates. Cities offer the libraries, universities and cafe bars for him to meet others of his kind.

Topic 9 A small town vs. a big city

Where shall we live? Some may choose to live in big cities, while other like the natural and quiet surroundings in the countryside. As far as I am concerned, I would like to live in a big city because living in a big city has more advantages than living in the countryside.

To begin with, the city is the symbol of human civilization and there are a many facilities for living, recreation and health care. Therefore, living there is more convenient than living in the countryside. For example, we can find a plenty of malls around our neighborhood, where we can buy everyday necessities at a low price. Furthermore, people concern more about their health and safety than other things in their lives. In big cities, medical facilities and emergency services are easily accessible than in the countryside. Big cities also have convenient transportation and utility systems. They also offer faster Internet connections. These all make our life easier in big cities.

In addition, we can take part in a variety of events in big cities. Human being likes to live together and need to interact with each other. In a big city, the population density is high therefore there are always plenty of social activities, sports events and concerts. There are more recreational places in big cities, such as opera houses, movie theatres, clubs, and swimming pools. You will have many kinds of entertainment in big cities, and meet many people. In countryside, however, the life may be dull and quite, and you may only have a few neighbors. Living alone with few activities can easily cause mental diseases.

Some may argue that the pollution in cities makes people sick. However, with automobiles and modem highways we can easily take a break to expose to fresh air in the countryside and sunshine on the beach.

In conclusion, I strongly hold that living in big cities is much better than living in the countryside because of the advanced facilities and social activities in cities. Moreover, the autos and highways enable us to enjoy the natural and quiet surroundings in the countryside.

Topic 9 A small town vs. a big city

The environment where a person grows up and lives molds his personality to a greater degree. He becomes a part of the culture of that community where he lives and the ideals, the line of thinking, the way people dress, the way they speak, the types of food they like, all of these are influential and somehow makes the person what he is. Taking this into consideration, I would prefer living in a big city.

I would like to be aware of a lot of things. I would like to be up to date as to the current technologies that would help lighten up activities of daily living, such as the Internet, washing machines, microwave ovens, cable television and the like. I would like to experience the benefits of living in the era where high technology is the trend and make total use of it. I would like to be exposed to things that would make me an achieving professional in order to succeed in life. It is not that I belittle those who would prefer to stay in a little town. I think they have the advantage of having a peaceful life, free of noise, air, and water pollution, live abundantly with fresh fruits, vegetables, milk and meat.

Also, the intimacy of having a small community far outweighs the crowded city. But they are deprived of what is new or if it comes to them, like television, people in the city are using far more advanced tools and gadgets, such as palm top computers or watching through their cell phones already. For example, it is very difficult for electricity to reach far fetched places and so how can they make use of the Internet over there. Nowadays, it is very easy to travel publicly, especially with the metro rail train in the city. In a matter of minutes, you are already in your destination without the hassles of traffic. But in a small town, one has to walk by feet or if they become lucky, some improvised moving carts made of plywood are the means of their transportation.

I would not prefer living in a situation where I think I would not grow as a person; where if ever I would learn things, those are still way behind those of the urban people. I want diversity. I want an evolving environment. I want to be at pace with the challenges of the place I am living at and not stay drowned in the stunted growth I may have if I choose to stay in a little town.

Topic 9 Country and City

People are always wondering whether the country or the city is the ideal place to live. If there is one preference-which I take leave to make a conclusion-then it is the country rather than the city that provides people with optimal living conditions. There widespread testimonies for it and the primary ones are listed as follows.

The foremost reason for dwelling in the countryside is the soothing and comfortable life provided by the pastoral view. Hardly anyone could resist the clean atmosphere, the friendly neighbors, the closeness to nature and the gentle pace of living. Those who have enjoyed the first cock crow in the morning, the twittering of birds in the tress and the breathtaking sight of the rising sun would go into rapture at only mere mention of the idyllic life. Relaxed and suburban dwellers are able to hold a more positive attitude for life and achieve more accomplishment.

Oppositely, the obvious things brought about by noisy and flashy city life are more pressure and forever-lasting anxiety, agonizing and torching people's mind day in and day out. Another subtle explanation rests on the fact that country habitants are fortunate enough to enjoy the cozy and pleasant ambience of the family without exhausting social life. How satisfactory and refreshing it must be to have dinner together with your loved ones in the spacious and pastoral surroundings after a frustrating day! Furthermore, nothing can be compared with the joy of watching heart warming TV programs, playing convivial games and sleeping in the tranquil and relaxing atmosphere.

On the contrary, it would be far more difficult to acquire such pleasure for those urbanites. Consecutive and excessive recreations not only thrift money but also deteriorate people's health, which is the last thing one would like to encounter. Naturally, it is possibly to reckless to assert that nothing beneficial combines with city life since several accompanying merits also come along with it. Living in the metropolis means having more accesses to various people involved in multiple attractive cultures. Living in the metropolis also provides plentiful opportunities, both in career and studies.

Nevertheless, the fact that city life makes it more convenient to purchase a job does not prevent us from concluding that country life is more enjoyable as well as healthful and placing a certain amount of reliance on the notion that country life is always the sensible choice.

Topic 10 The importance of hard work

That hard work is a key to success is a well-known adage. Parents, teachers as well as others guide a child to work hard so that he can achieve good scores. Though a little bit of luck plays a positive role but I believe that hard work is the key to success. In fact if only luck is to be considered, no one would work but just wait till their luck shines up.

But this is not the case. Today we see that technology has improved to such an extent that a person can have a lunch in Paris and a dinner in New York on the same day. There lies great contributions from people like the Wright brothers and Henry Ford to invent these means of transportation, which were the result of their hard-work and great efforts. If these people had waited for the D-day probably we could still have been using ﬁre and wood to cook instead of using electrical ovens, and the globalization would not have taken effect.

A person can excel in his career due to hard work. If he sits at home, no one would offer him a job unless he initiates the job searching process. Also if you are working in a company you will be promoted only because of working hard; luck does not lie in the picture.

A student stands out ﬁrst only ifhe studies hard. Many students after the graduation say that probably they were not lucky enough to get good marks, or the evaluators must have marked their papers strictly. But again these are merely reasons that can't be given preference.

Today science has developed so much that hand shaking can be virtually done between any two countries. This is due to the tremendous amount of researches accomplished by scientists. All achievements in science and technology are because of hard work contributed by people in different ﬁelds.

Thus a young individual has the potential to do something and crave in reaching a particular acme. Whether your luck prevails or not condition being hard work and efforts, which will pick you up wherever you are.

Topic 10 Luck and hard work

There is a humorous saying in English "The grass is always greener on the other side of the valley." The saying is used ironically to point out that there is a temptation in us all to insist that others are more fortunate than we are. This is nowhere more true than on the question of luck and hard work. When faced with the "bad times", we often ﬁnd comfort in the idea that we are special in our degree of misfortune. I feel that such an attitude is negative, and that it can bring only further misfortune.

Many famously successful people have begun from small origins. Mao was the son of a (modestly prosperous) peasant; the explorer Captain Cook was so poor that, as a child, he had to work by day and study by night; many of the afﬂuent Americans of today are the children of the poor immigrants of yesterday. Beethoven, it should be remembered, became deaf before the end of his career. There are many, many more people who have also made genuine, though Jess spectacular, successes against the odds.

Within his own terms, a person who is bom into poverty in India is a great success ifhe manages to own a house in later life. Poverty cannot be reduced by merely complaining and blaming others: no matter how guilty other people are, each individual must reach out to success for himself. Indeed, some economists believe that the world operates by what they call "the rule of the jungle." They believe that in economics a person always attempts to gain proﬁt from his neighbor: that given the chance the poor man would quickly make himself rich by trading to his own advantage.

Also, it is presumptuous to judge another according to his or her apparent fortune. No man can ever truly understand the sufferings of his neighbor. A man who appears comfortably rich may have suffered elsewhere in his life - through the death of a loved one, for example. Retired businessmen have often worked long hours in their youth. Surely, it must be wiser to respect achievement than to deny that anyone has achieved good in the world.

To rely on notions of luck - to believe that life is a kind of lottery - is an attempt to escape reality. Paradoxically, the only time a person can claim that luck is more important than work is when he reﬂects on his own success. Because of that modesty, the great man then becomes even greater.

Topic 10 Does luck has anything to do with success?

Some people believed that they achieved success by their own ability, whereas other people believed that they did it by luck. As for me, I would like to side with the former people. I am willing to discuss it by proposing two main reasons.

First, As for the genuine meaning of the term ‘success’, luck is not the dominant aspect to gain success. What is success? I like to say that success is a great integration of a good motivation, a good procedure, and a good result. That is, success means not only the self-realization or economic abundance, but also enduring endeavor or ﬁrm belief. Being a rich man or powerful man without hard work is never a ‘success’.

Second, for the social cohesion, I support the former point of view. If we acknowledge that a person who becomes a rich man due to luck as a successful man, we would lose the moral principle that makes our community safe and harmonious. That is because most people are willing to buy lottery or play gambling instead of work hard. ‘No pain, No gain‘ is not fallacy.

As for me, I would like to live in a society where there is no luck for success. I believe that hard labor and great endeavor rather than luck is the origin of human happiness and success.

Topic 11 Sports or library?

When it comes to the issue of the arrangement of the university budget, somepeople suggest that universities should spend more money on their librariesrather than on student's sports activities, while others maintain the oppositeview. As far as I am concemed, the former point carries more weight. I take thisview on account of the following reasons.

First of all, libraries are the places that maintain records of traditional theories,which are priceless treasure of human being. To keep these important materials,a lot of special devices have to be purchased. For example, a vacuum chamberthat is used to keep a book printed hundreds of years ago may cost a fortuneand constant budget has to be applied for its maintenance.

Second point to take into account is that libraries need more money to meet theneed of the increasing development of technology. With the exponential leapsof the information technology in the recent years, massive amount ofinformation can be easily and instantaneously obtained through computers andthe Intemet. Libraries also have to purchase such equipment, which may bevery expensive, to meet the student's acquirements.

Last not least, the quality and quantity of the library indicate the level of auniversity. Therefore, ifone university wants to achieve a better recognition, itmust spent more money to improve the overall situation of its libraries.

Just as the English proverb goes, "a coin has two sides" those who take theopposite view are partly reasonable that more sports activities and betterphysical conditions will greatly promote student's health. But with the factors Ioutlined, I still believe that applying more budget on university libraries ismuch more important than sports equipment.

Topic 11 Sports or library?

I disagree strongly with the idea that the same amount of money should go touniversity sports activities as to university libraries. Although playing sports isa wonderful way to leam about teamwork, strategy and reaching your goals, itshould not be the principal focus of a university education.

Students need the most up-to-date library facilities available to get the besteducation. Many of those facilities are very expensive to buy and maintain.These include computerized programs and access to Intemet research databasesthat students can use to ﬁnd information all around the world. If a university isonly offering its students resources of a decade ago, it's depriving thosestudents of a tremendous amount of information.

Even the book and magazine budget ofuniversities has gone up tremendouslyin the last decade. More is being published on every subject, and everyuniversity wants to have this information available to its students.

It also costs money for universities to keep their libraries open. Students needto have access to all the libraries‘ research tools as much of the time as possibleBecause students are young and can stay up all night studying, manyuniversities are starting to leave their libraries open all night during examperiods. This costs money, because the staff has to be paid extra to be there. Italso costs money to run the building (electricity, heat) during that time.

Students at universities are only going to beneﬁt from their education iftheycan get to all the tools they need to leam. Sports are secondary to the resourcesthat students need from university libraries. For this reason, libraries shouldalways be better funded than sports activities.

Topic 11 Sports or library?

Many universities offer their students a lot of facilities for engaging in sportsactivities besides their normal academic programs. There is a gym and aswimming pool on almost every campus. There are also many other groups likeswimming or jogging societies for students to join and enjoy sports during therespare time. On one hand this is a good chance to help students maintain theirphysical health and ﬁtness, on the other hand it takes up a lot of the universities'resources.

“A healthy mind lives in a healthy body.” This is one of the main reasons whyuniversities investment big money into their sports facilities. A lot of researchconceming the relationship between physical ﬁtness and mental abilities cometo the conclusion that a good physical condition creates a strong mental power.One must emphasize that the investment on sports facilities is worthwhile andbeneﬁcial.

The opposite opinion is that it is a waste of money and resources to investmentin sports facilities for students. Many people think that students shouldconcentrate on academic issues. It is more important to spend money on buyingbooks and computers for libraries, because libraries provide students anessential environment for their course studies and research.

In my personal opinion, when the ﬁnancial resources are limited, it is moresensible to spend money on improving research and teaching facilities likelibraries and computers, which are the key issues of a successful universityeducation. Students can always ﬁnd their own ways to do physical exercises,such as utilizing the facilities in the community. Nevertheless, after satisfyingall the academic needs, ifthere is still some money left, the money should beinvested into sports facilities.

Topic 12 Why people go to museums?

When people travel to new places, they often choose the local museums as amust-see place. Sometimes the museums are even more attractive than the mostfamous place of interest. This phenomenon can be easily explained ifthefunction of museums is taken into account. As we have known, museums canhelp us understand the history, the customs and the most representative arts andcrafts of a place.

Different place has different history. And the most convenient way tounderstand the history is to visit the local museum. Last year when I traveled toXi'an, an ancient city of China, I went to the history museum to explore thecourse of the city's development. With the background knowledge provided bythe museum, I found that it was much easier for me to understand the city. Sothe museum can take away barriers between the tourists and the city by help thetourists to be familiar with the city's history history. To a tourist, the mostinteresting aspect of a new place is usually its customs, which can bedemonstrated by the local museum. The Beijing Custom Museum vividlyshows the real life, the traditions and customs of typical Beijingnese. A visitorcan satisfy his curiosity by leaming about the origin and characteristics of thequart-yard - the traditional residential building style of Beijing. Thus, with thehelp of museums, tourists can have a deeper understanding of local people's lifeand their customs.

Every place has its own representative arts and crafts. Tourists can have theaccess to a wonderful show of these arts and crafts in the local museum. Forexample, in the town of Jing-De-Zhen, which is famous for its pottery-making,tourists can be excited by the beautiful pottery products and the complicatedmaking process exhibited in the pottery museum. It will be a pity ifa touristmissed the wonderful show of the local arts and crafts in the museum.

In a word, museums serve as a bridge between tourists and the place they visit.That is why people are so eager to visit museums when they travel to newplaces.

Topic 12 Why people go to museums?

As a tour guide for a Japanese woman in the city of Beijing three years ago, Iwas amazed that she would be interested in the Chinese Culture and HistoryMuseum, which even Chinese pupils does not like to visit. Museum in my eyesused to be a really boring place, which could only display items that are dulland motionless. I thought Museums were dead. Until after I traveled to someplaces myself did I start to realize the life of museums.

A place consists mainly of its past and present in terms of time. When you arevisiting one place, the existing scenery, streets and buildings give you chancesto understand its present easily. But when it comes to the past of a place, thingsare different. With time going by, the past is always staying in the past.Sometimes with the new constructions, a place‘s past can even be bumt intoashes.

In most cases, museums preserve part of the original appearance of a certainplace and present plenty of information in terms of objects and pictures that onecannot obtain from the present. Only when information from the present andthat from the past are combined could one obtain a relatively integrate image ofthe place. That is why the Japanese woman insisted that she visit the Cultureand History Museum in Beijing. Like most of other cities, Skyscrapers, glasswalls and the modem street scenes are all over the place in this city. The redand gray walls, the palaces and small courtyards, which were typical scenes inthe past, can only be found in the vintage photographs in the museum.

Thus, visiting museums is a very effective way to understand a place‘s past,therefore one can get a whole picture of a place that one visits.

Topic 12 Why people go to museums?

It is an interesting phenomenon that, when traveling to new places they havenever been to before, many people choose to visit museums. Why museums arepeople's common choice? Based on my personal experience and according tomy observations, I think this is because museums tell people a lot about theculture of those places and provide them with entertainment.

It is easy to ﬁnd out many ways to obtain knowledge about the culture of theplace where people visit for the ﬁrst time. You can go to a theater, a church or anightclub. Another option is to sit in the park and watch the people around you.Among various options, visiting museums might be the most efﬁcient way.Museums show you the history and art and those things that the locals thinkimportant, some of the exhibits might be unique in the world. On the other hand,the museums themselves are part of the landscape of a place. Many museumsare designed and built based on the historical and artistic characteristics of theplaces where the museums are located in. The Forbidden City Museum is themost favorite tourist site because not only it contains a large variety ofhistorical treasures and art works but also it is the representative of the Chinesehistory and the highest achievement of Chinese ancient architecture. As a result,people are willing to choose museums as their ﬁrst destination to understandculture of the place that they visit.

Museums also give people entertainment. Even ifyou are not interested in artor history, there is always something to catch your attention. Many museumsnow have what they call “interactive” exhibits. The “interactive” activities wereoriginally designed to keep children occupied while their parents were lookingat the exhibits. However, the interesting thing is that adults are keen to theseactivities as well as their children. It is fascinating to create your own work ofpainting at an art museum or to design an appearance of a robot by yourself in ascience museum. People can be really pleased through performing the“interactive” works in museums, as well as gaining related knowledge.

Both local people and visitors welcome museums because museums are anessential part of our life. They reﬂect our history, our art, our values, ourcreations and our dreams. No matter who you are and what you like,somewhere there is a museum that will amaze and interest you.

Topic 13 Do you prefer to eat out or eat at home?

Nowadays, some people like to eat at home and prepare food by themselves,but others prefer to eat out side in restaurants or at food stands. As far as I amconcemed, I prefer to eat at home.

Of course there are some advantages to eat out. Firstly, restaurants offer a morecomfortable environment to eat and the food there tastes more delicious thanhome-cooked meals. In addition, eating at restaurants is a good way of gettingtogether with friends. People also do not need to worry about washing dishesand cleaning. For people who are too busy to cook, eating out is certainly anideal choice. Furthermore, for people do not know how to cook and do not havesome one to cook for them, eat out seems to be the only choice.

However, I prefer to cook and eat and home. The main reason is that at home,family members can prepare their meals and enjoying their food together,which can enhance their relationships. Family members can talk, make jokesand exchange feelings on current affairs with each other while preparing a mealParents have a chance to communicate with their kids and keep track of whatthey are thinking and doing; while children can leam to help with somehousehold tasks and develop intimacy with their parents. Image that you andyour brothers and sisters help your mother to cook on a weekend, and enjoy thefood later on, and you feel everything is so nice.

Another reason is that eating at home can save money. The same amount ofmoney that you spend on a meal in a restaurant can buy a lot more foods from asupermarket. You can use the money saved to buy a new cloth, or attend aconcert.

General speaking, eating out side is comfortable and convenient, but eating athome has more beneﬁts. I prefer to eat at home.

Topic 14 Should university students be required to attend classes?

The extent to what level of efﬁciency modem education system could performin teaching students is always a hot topic. Among many developing suggestionsthat could improve leaming efﬁciency, the necessity of attending class has beenargued frequently in recent years. When it comes to whether giving studentsfreedom of attending class as an optional choice or not, tradition has it thatclass is a ﬁrm part of the school life. Nevertheless, in my part, I prefer havingthe rights as individuals to make our own decisions about attending a class.

I believe that studying out of class does certainly save our time and makeleaming more comfortable. Take e-leaming at home as an example: studentsmay leam at home via "visual classes", which are powered by computer and theIntemet installed at home instead of pens & paper and white board in aclassroom. Being connected with professors in different locations, leamers donot need to battle rash-hour trafﬁc for going to campus. Indeed, students coulddo their research at home or even at a vacation hotel. With modem technology,people could choose to leam any topic no matter what they are doing - drinkingeating or even listening music, at anywhere and any time. Therefore, studyingwithout a real class attending requirement will save our time, and offer acomfortable leaming environment.

Another advantage of making class an optional choice is that people couldcustomize their leaming process according to their own interests andcapabilities. While classic class leverages leaming speed and depth to satisfyevery student in the class as a whole, leaming out of class means self-control.Students choose to attend one class because its topic is just suitable for hisstudy plan, and discard another class because he had leamed it in advanceduring the weekend at home. He may then accelerate his studying speed and goon to the further topics that interest him.

Admittedly, attending class at regular time has its own advantages. Students ina real class may be regulated by a teacher to concentrate on their study.Teachers, who are well trained, could also give leamers professional guides andinteresting demos. Moreover, some special programs such as physical exercisesand experiments may only be conducted at real classes.

All in all, from what I have been discussed above, I suggest granting studentsrights of making their own decisions for attending classes. To make classesoptional in universities will certainly bring advantages for learning and beneﬁtthe whole society.

Topic 14 Should university students be required to attend classes?

Should university students be required to attend classes? There are twodifferent opinions. Some people claim that attending classes is a must tostudents. Other people, however, argue that it should be up to the students todecide whether they need to go or not. As far as I am concemed, no matterwhether students like it or not, they must attend classes.

Students who do not like to go to classes have their reasons. The main one is,they can leam knowledge by themselves. Ifthey were asked to attend the classin which the professor teaches something they already have known, it would bea pain. By not attending class, students can control their time more freely andare likely not to waste time.

Although I agree that there are maybe one or two advantages of not attendingclasses, I insist that the advantages of attending classes far overweigh that ofnot attending. In the ﬁrst place, professors can teach students a lot of things thatare not written in the books, such as the way of thinking. In the dictionary, auniversity is deﬁned to be a place where teachers lecture what they know tostudents. Books normally offer just concentrated knowledge. How the authorsdeveloped their ideas and reached their conclusions is usually not written in thebooks. How to answer these questions? Go to the classes. The professors willnot only teach you knowledge, but also teach you methodologies and answeryour questions, face to face.

In the second place, students will beneﬁt from seminars and group discussionswith their classmates when they attend classes. It is a society that emphasizeson the importance of communication and listening to other people's opinionsand ideas. It is very important to share your ideas and knowledge with otherpeople. In a class, the professor often gives some topics for students to discuss.In the discussions, a student will be surprised that he/she can get so many freshthoughts and ideas from his/her fellow students.

In conclusion, I believe that students should attend classes not only becauseprofessors can teach you knowledge and methods, but also because studentscan leam from each other in the classes. In short, one must attend classes if onechooses to attend university.

Topic 14 Should university students be required to attend classes?

Some people may believe that going to classes should be optional, but I reallydisagree with them about it. I do not understand how a university student canexpect to leam much knowledge ifhe doesn't attend classes. Although self-study is a good way to acquire knowledge, students, I believe, need to be inclass.

In classes students receive the beneﬁt of the teacher's knowledge. A teacherdoes more than just going over the material in the textbooks; she draws herstudents into discussions that may lead further understanding of the teachingmaterial. She not only teaches acknowledge and theories, but also presentsopposing opinions that help students think and absorb what they have leamed.Additionally, she may invite guest speakers to give her students extrainformation from another prospect, or play some documentary ﬁlms on certainsubject.

Besides teaching knowledge, a teacher impart her students the right method ofstudy. In that way, the students can understand how to study efﬁciently, how toﬁnd information from proper resources, and how to apply what they haveleamed into practice. In other word, ifthere is no teacher to lead them to theright way, the students may go into a roundabout and waste lots of time.

The last reason for attending classes is that going to classes can train students tobe more responsible and have good sense of teamwork. In classes, the studentsmay be given some group assignments. To achieve assignments, they can knowwhat is their respective responsibility and how to cooperate with others.Meanwhile, they can leam from each other because each student has his strongpoints, different background and experience.

In short, going to classes give students more knowledge, help them to becomemore responsible, cooperative and thoughtful. I believe that attending classescannot be optional, but should be a essential part of university education.

Topic 15 What are the qualities of a good neighbor?

When I think about my childhood years, I my ﬁrst friends come to my mind,those who were the ﬁrst people besides my family I got to know, who becamemy friends and grew up with me. Most of them were classmates, relatives andof course, neighbors. Neighbors are those people who share the street, blockand fences with us. Their existence has always been taken for granted, and theyhaven't been given the importance or attention that they deserve.

For some people, neighbors can mean “troublesome” or “annoyance.” Forothers, neighbors are considered as relatives, and they enjoy having a good andclose relationship with their neighbors. Of course, the opinions depend onpersonality of individuals, culture, type of housing (house or apartment), place(a big city, a small town, or the country) among others. But both points of viewmay come to an agreement when determining “what makes a good neighbor?”

In the ﬁrst place, a good neighbor should be considerate. Knowing that youshould treat others the way you expect to be treated is a quality that makespeople respect boundaries (physical, social and emotional). For instance, aneighbor who can tell when the noise of his stereo makes may bother thepeople next door, and is able to turn it down taking into consideration of hisneighbors‘ needs.

In the second place, being sympathetic is another characteristic that a neighborshould have. Putting yourself in someone else‘s shoes makes you understandbetter the feelings of somebody who is in trouble, and consequently, offerappropriate help. An example could be a situation where you know that yourneighbor divorced recently and is going through a hard time. Maybe you willbe more understanding when you see her in a bad mood, and avoid anunnecessary conﬂict, because you can see the way she feels.

Finally, good manners and a polite way to address your neighbors can polisheven the toughest relationship. When a neighbor is rude, even ifwe excuse himor her by saying, “that's the way he/she is”, we feel a little rejected. A nicesmile or a “Hello” helps a lot to start a friendly conversation, and to avoidmisunderstandings such as “He never speaks to me, so he must be mad at me orsomething." Manners do help to start friendships.

There are so many more characteristics that we could list, and there are manyways we could make a more accurate picture of the perfect neighbor we allwant to have. But I guess the best way to “edify” our neighbors is by beinggood neighbors ourselves. We cannot demand others to do something for usthat we cannot offer to do for them. We should stop complaining about whatour neighbor always does that bothers us; we'd better start analyzing what weare doing to make the relationships with “the people next door” ﬂourish. Let usstart setting the example.

Topic 15 What are the qualities of a good neighbor?

Human beings are social animals. It is therefore their instinct to live together.This factor has contributed towards civilization that gave rise to splendid citiesand towns. However the basic unit of all these grand cities, and for that matterany human settlement is a neighborhood. Since we are social animals, we haveto interact with each other and develop social relationship. In this regard, it isimperative to develop warm convivial relationship with our neighbors. For thispurpose, it is also very important to have good neighbors as neighbors play avery important role in one‘s life.

There are many attributes of a good neighbor. First of all, a good neighborshould be a responsible person, mindful of others‘ rights, which include privacy,peace and security. A good neighbor must therefore avoid unnecessaryintrusions into his or her neighbors‘ personal matters. Also, a good neighbormust avoid practices that are likely to disturb the peace of his or her neighbors,like creating noise, organizing congregations at odd hours, indulging inaltercations with them that are likely to cause tension in the neighborhood.

Secondly, a good neighbor must be caring towards others and be ready to helpthem in time of need. This is especially true when there is a emergency, like aﬁre, an earthquake or other calamities. In such a situation, neighbors are theﬁrst ones who can provide help to those unfortunate ones who have been struckwith the adversity, and must do so in a selﬂess manner. Also there may beinstances when one may have to leave his or her family, especially children athome due to unavoidable circumstances. In such a situation a good neighbor isrequired to take care of their needs and help them in all ways possible.

There may be cases where there are neighbors who are not ﬁnancially well off.In such cases a good neighbor is required to be helpful towards the unfortunateones in all possible ways, like sharing one‘s food with them, or providing themwith gifts.

It is said that one has the liberty to choose friends but one may not have theluxury to choose neighbors. Having good neighbors is thus a blessing and onemust value good neighbors, while trying to be good neighbors towards them.

Topic 15 What are the qualities of a good neighbor?

Neighbors are the people who live near us, and their behavior inﬂuences ourdaily life. Good neighbors can make us feel comfortable and give us many helpand everyone will beneﬁt from a good relationship among neighbors. In mypoint of view, these are three conspicuous aspects of the qualities of a goodneighbor.

One of the most important characteristics of good neighbors is that they have agood living habit and are friendly to others. A person with bad habit will affectyour daily life. For example, children are most likely to be inﬂuenced by badneighbors and carry on bad habits. On the other hand, being friendly is also animportant nature of good neighbors. If neighbors are unfriendly, they are hardto approach and difﬁcult to get along with.

Another important aspect of good neighbors is that they should be willing tohelp others. In our daily life, emergency situations may happen, and we mayencounter difﬁculties that cannot be resolved by ourselves. At this time, thequickest help we can get is probably from our neighbors. To some degree,neighbors are as important as relatives to us, because they could provide theimmediate help. In the same way, a neighbor who likes to help others will gethelp in retum. Help each others can form a friendly and harmoniousrelationship among the neighbors.

All in all, a good neighbor is someone who has a good living habit, is friendlyand is willing to help others. Taking into account of all these factors, we mayreach the conclusion that a good relationship among neighbors need themaintenance from us.

Topic 15 What are the qualities of a good neighbor?

Speaking of the word ‘neighbor’, it arouses different responses among people.Some people may frown upon it, others might nod their heads at it with theirwhole-hearted smile on their faces. No matter which category you belong to, asa person, especially as a person who has to live next to a neighbor, the concemon the qualities of a good neighbor is always a popular issue to bring about andto desire for. In my opinion, a good neighbor must be a friendly person, whileat the same time, a person who is willing to offer help to you when you needthe most.

As an important and fundamental quality of a good neighbor, she or he must bekind and nice. Neighbors are those persons we meet in every day life when wego in and out of the building. They are usually the people we meet at the verybeginning of the day, and whom again we will encounter at the end of the day.A nice and sincere smile on their faces, or a simple ‘hello’ as a warm greetingon the way, may bring us a joyful mood for a start of a day. In a very same way,a caring ‘how was your day?‘ on your way home might be treated as a bigcomfort on your tiredness at the end of your working day. As nice neighbors,they have provided us a very cordial living environment through their care andfriendship.

Other than that, being able to help you out when it is necessary is alsoconsidered as a signiﬁcant trait of a good neighbor. Through our entire lives,there are numerous difﬁculties or troublesome situations that we have to dealwith. When those particular moments come into life, the ﬁrst person come intoour mind is often our best friend or one of the relatives. However, most of thetime, they cannot be the real person who we can rely on at those hard times. Wewill soon realize they are either too far away or they are unavailable right now.We all have once had these similar experiences. Then here is the moment wheregood neighbors should begin to play their helpful roles so that we canimmediately tum to them for help and useful advice for dealing and solving theemergency, and so that we do not have to lose our minds in trying to ﬁndeveryone‘s phone number.

These are the precious and indispensable qualities of good neighbors. They arefriendly and nice, and they will always be there ready for you when you needsomeone‘s help. Living with such a neighbor, you may start to sway at your oldimage ofneighbor, and you may no longer frown upon that topic at the time wetalk about it.

Topic 15 Qualities of a good neighbor

It seems, among so many qualities such as reliability, honesty, helpfulness, andpatience, very difﬁcult to prefer one to another because each of them has itsunique advantages. Yet that does not mean that they are of the same weight tome. To be frank, I would prefer reliability and helpfulness.

Why I vote for reliability? I stand behind it because I can trust my neighborsonly if they are reliable people. That makes me feel safe to associate with them.Imagine if your neighbor is not reliable, will you put your worries to rest to letyour neighbor look after your children even when she offers to do so? Do youdare leave your key to your neighbor when she says she will keep it for you?Will you lend your car to her when your neighbor promises that she will retumit within two hours? Obviously, reliability is not only a quality of a goodneighbor, but also a quality of a good person, and it is the foundation of a goodrelationship.

Being helpful is another quality that I have chosen to illustrate here. A neighborshould be kind and helpful, because they live close to you, and you never knowwhen you might need help. For example, when you go for a vocation, yourneighbor can help you water the plants, and pick up the mail. It is always goodwhen you know that if something happens, your neighbor is there to help.

Of course, other qualities such as honesty and patience are also important tosome extent, but everybody has his or her own preferences. I chose reliabilityand helpfulness as the qualities of a good neighbor because reliability helps usdevelop a good relationship and helpfulness keeps the relationship remainingfor a long time.

Topic 16 Should a new restaurant be built in your neighborhood?

What do you think if there will be a restaurant built near your neighborhood?People may have different opinions. Some people will be against it because oftoo much noise, potential pollution, etc. Other people, however, will welcome itvery much. As far as I am concerned, I like to have a restaurant built in myneighborhood.

In the ﬁrst place, a restaurant will make my daily life more convenient. As weknow, cooking is a very important thing in people's life and it is also very time-consuming. When I come home from work and feel tired, I normally want toeat out. If a restaurant is very far away from my house, I have to give up thatidea because I do not want to waste my time and energy on the road. As a result,I have to cook myself. What a pain! If there is a restaurant nearby, it will makea difference. What I need to do is to take a leisure walk to the restaurant, sitdown, make an order, enjoy my dinner and then, the most important thing, andleave without cleaning the mess.

In the second place, I have another good place to meet my friends. Sometimes,meeting friends at home is tedious, especially meeting some friends that I amnot very familiar with. If there is a restaurant nearby, I can invite them to go tothe restaurant. While drinking and eating, we will have more topics to talkabout. And the beautiful environment of the restaurant will make the talk morepleasant.

In addition, I can make more friends in the restaurant. A restaurant the bestplace to meet new people if you are not shy. If the restaurant is just withinwalking distance of my home, I will be there more frequently and have morechances to know more people.

In conclusion, I will support the plan of building a restaurant near my home notonly because a restaurant can make my life more convenient, but also becauseit can be a ideal place to meet friends.

Topic 16 Should a new restaurant be built in your neighborhood?

A new restaurant in my neighborhood would be the most exciting event for me.I personally have positive feelings towards this proposal and also believe thatthe people of my neighborhood shall also feel excited about such an event.

Life in the fast lane today has turned out to be so hectic and tedious to us that attimes we feel exhausted and therefore unwilling to prepare our food. We alsofeel a strong urge towards a change in the type and ﬂavor of food that we eat. Anew restaurant at such times near by shall make a difference to our lives.

In occasions of happiness, get-togethers and enjoyment, having a restaurantnearby is always a convenience for people here. For example, the restaurant canbe a convenient place to hold a wedding reception, or a birthday ceremony.

A new restaurant shall certainly add lots of enthusiasms and excitements topeople here and people who have the greatest amount of enjoyment would bethe younger people. They can relax in a new environment with the experienceof a new atmosphere and people around and most of all, tasting something new.On the other hand, a new restaurant in our neighborhood gives hope to youngpeople who would like to make money through a part time or full time job.

In conclusion, a new restaurant will bring convenience to our community. So Ipersonally welcome such a plan.

Topic 17 Do you learn better by yourself or with a teacher?

Some people prefer to leam by themselves. They think they can leam better inthis way because they have more freedom, independence, and pressure in theirself-study. There is some truth in their way, but they fail to see the manyadvantage of leaming with a teacher. Especially, when you leam somethingmore complicated, it is always best to have a teacher. My arguments for thispoint are listed as follows.

First, a teacher can act as a guide to lead you to success. When you grope forknowledge, you need help and advice. A teacher, who treats you as if you werehis own child, will give you a hand when you encounter difﬁculties; he willrender his advice when you are in a dilemma. Without a guide, you would besearching in darkness without a torch to light the way for you.

What is more, a teacher exerts real pressure on you. If you study by yourself,you must be strong-minded enough to keep on. You may become indolent forlack of a strong will. Studying under the guidance of a teacher, however, youwill feel there is always someone to supervise you. The teacher may assign yousome books to read or some homework to do. You must complete theassignments, or you will not pass the course. You are urged to go no by yourteacher.

Last but not least, studying with a teacher will receive the beneﬁt of theteacher's knowledge. In class, the best teachers do more than just go over thematerial in the textbook. They teach students how to leam, how to absorbinformation and then apply what you have leamed to other situations. Theyguide all of you on classroom to develop discussion of the material and provideextra materials to broaden the scope of the topic. Without the help of teacher, itis nearly impossible to get these skills just by reading the textbook yourself.

In short, I prefer go to class, studying with teacher to guide and urge me. Ichoose to leam in a big family----my school. If I was obliged to leam by myselfwithout a teacher or classmates, I would feel very sad and lonely. There wouldbe no fun, no pressure, and no motivation. I could not learn well in such dulland depressing circumstances.

Topic 17 Do you learn better by yourself or with a teacher?

Leaming is a lifelong theme of every person. How brilliant your achievementwill be to some degree depends on whether you can leam anything efﬁcientlyor not. Some people prefer to leam by themselves. They think that they canleam better in this way because they have more freedom, independence, andless pressure in their self-paced study. There is some truth in it, but they fail tosee the many advantages of leaming with a teacher. As far as I am concemed, Iwould like to leam with a teacher.

Firstly, when you are a beginner to a new subject, a teacher is able to provideyou with a lot of fundamental knowledge, which is ready to become a solidbasis for your later knowledge system. As we all know, entering a brand newarea of knowledge usually demands sharp altering of minds and a gradualaccumulation of new information. Without a teacher as a guide, you could stillmarch along this road but at the cost of large amount of time and unpleasantexperience. However, equipped with a certain amount of basic knowledge,which resembles a map, you will easily steer clear the obstacles barring on thebeginning of your long joumey. And that knowledge is what a teacher will helpyou gain without troubles.

Secondly, The storage of concrete knowledge is one matter, whileunderstanding how to leam a certain subject of knowledge is another. As manystudents confess, it usually takes them quite a long time to ﬁnd a way ofleaming suitable to a special subject. Again, a competent teacher is the key tothis problem. The teacher will equip the students with some insightful viewsover the whole subject and much rewarding experience in overcomingdifﬁculties of the subject. For example, a teacher of a Computer ProgrammingLanguage will certainly let you know lots of rules in programming that isprobably hard to accumulate by yourself.

Some people may argue that to leam with a teacher will lose some kind offreedom. For instance, heavy load of assignments will eat up too much time.But a good teacher will take control over such assignment so that the load isonly sufﬁcient for students to strengthen what they have leamed. It seems thatthis tums out to be another advantage of a teacher.

In short, I prefer go to class, studying with teacher to guide and urge me. Ichoose to leam in a big family - my school. If I was obliged to leam by myselfwithout a teacher or classmates, I would feel very sad and lonely. There wouldbe no fun, no pressure, and no motivation. I could not leam well in such dulland depressing circumstances.

Topic 18 Important qualities of a good supervisor

Though everyone will work in different places such as a company, a college oruniversity, a factory and so on, I think there are the same standards judging agood supervisor in several aspects.

Firstly, a good supervisor treats his/her staff fairly. He knows how to balancethe workload. He will not let some members of his staff do many things whileothers only do a few things. If he gives you a task, he will tell you in advance.Moreover, he will not ask you complete a project in a few days that actuallyneeds half a month to do. A poor supervisor never considers his employee'sfeelings. A poor supervisor is usually not a good planer, so he is very nervouswhen a project comes to its deadline, and he will use his fault to punish his staff.A supervisor like this would certainly not beneﬁt the company.

Secondly, a good supervisor praises or criticizes in a straightforward way. Ifyou do very well, he will praise you, and encourage you to do better. If youhave made a mistake, he will criticize you face to face, and he will notcomplain to your co-workers. He will also analyze how to improve your workand point out the ways to do thing right. Furthermore, he will encourage youand trust that you will do well next time.

Thirdly, a good supervisor cares for his staff. He is aware of your feelings andemotions. When you are sick, he will send you ﬂowers or visit you, or he willarrange other members of staff to see you if he is busy. He treats his staff likefamily members. He is gentle and cheerful. Smile often appears on his facewhen he greets you. On the contrary, a poor supervisor often pretends to beserious. He never understands what his subordinates are thinking. His staff willnever have a good mood when he is present at work.

Finally, a good supervisor must set a good example to his staff. He must workhard, and has a strong sense of responsibility about his company. He mustunderstand the operation of the company, and can do every staffs job in hisdepartment when necessary. That way he will win respect from his stuff and hisspirit can motivate them.

In short, a good supervisor treats his workers fairly, cares for their feelings,treat them as family members, and set a good example for them.

Topic 18 Important qualities of a good supervisor

When asked what are the important qualities of a supervisor, different peoplehold different perspectives, due to their different experiences. After ponderingthis question on many occasions, I sum up three vital qualities that a supervisoror a boss should possess.

In my understanding, the most essential trait of a boss is that he or she shouldbe able to do what is required of his or her subordinates. As an English proverbsays," Example is better than precept." If a boss wants the employees to behardworking, he or she should be diligent himself or herself. The dean of mydepartment, for example, is a very conscientious man. He is never late in themorning and never leaves earlier than the rest of the staff. By setting himself asa good example, he teaches us what is a right attitude to work.

Another crucial feature of a boss is communication skills. The duty of a boss isto give instructions and directions to his or her employees. Ifthe purpose andthe means are not clearly explained, people may feel at loss as to what to do.Again, our dean is an expert in explaining a task. He usually not only lets usknow what and how we should do, he also stirs up our interest and enthusiasmin the job to be done.

The last but not the least vital feature of a boss is that he or she should be anunderstanding or considerate person. Ifan employee made a mistake, the bossshould not rush to criticize him or her. Instead, the boss should ﬁrst ﬁgure outthe reasons behind the wrong deed. By saying that, I do not mean that a bossshould always be lenient. What I mean is that a boss should consider himself orherself equal to the employ as a human being. In that case, both parties canreach an understanding on the basis of mutual respect.

In short, a supervisor should be a person who is self-disciplined, expressive andconsiderate and who does not deem him or herself a superior being to others.

Topic 19 Highways or public transportation?

Transportation is among the most important factors affecting the living conditions of people in the society. A prosper transportation system has different components, among which the roles of public transportation facilities, highways and roads are prominent. But if a government finds itself in the stage of defining its priorities in transportation, should it place higher importance on public transportation facilities, or should it prefer to invest more on highways and roads? There are many advantages in investing on roads and highways, however these advantages cannot surpass the advantages of investing on public transportation systems.

The most important advantages of investment on roads and highways include higher potential for the transportation of goods, reduction in costs pertaining to problems caused by low-quality roads, and notable effect on the thriving of the whole region and country. If a government invests on roads and highways, the quality and quantity of roads and highways will increase, so that the potential of the region for transportation of goods will be improved which will result in booming of the economy and higher income for the government. Furthermore, problems such as accidents, and gradual damages to vehicles that are caused by low-quality roads and highways will be reduced. So, the roads and highways will be safer and fewer damages will be caused on drivers. Finally, a country with vast number of high-quality roads and highways is more apt to prosperity. Because there will be more opportunities for the people of the country to have access to various resources. If the system is organized and managed well, it can lead to greater development.

However there are also many advantages in investment on public transportation facilities. A well-designed and managed public transportation system can eliminate traffic congestions in cities. Less traffic problem means the less air and noise pollutions, and can provide society with more physically and mentally healthy people. In addition, prosperous public transportation can save lots of our valuable time that otherwise is usually wasted in heavy traffic. Prosperous public transportation can also lower the huge amount of costs consumed on private vehicles including fuel, service and insurance costs. This saved money due to a good public transportation system can compensate the money spent on public transportation facilities. Finally, public transportation will increase people's contact with each other, while private cars may to some extent isolate them from the society.

In conclusion, although there are many advantages in investing on roads and highways, there are more advantages in investing on public transportation. So, government should consider public transportation as its first priority in any transportation investments.

Topic 19 Highways or public transportation?

In this modem society, govemments always confront the dilemma whetherspending more money on improving roads and highways or on improvingpublic transportation. This problem is a much-debated one in that it affectseverybody in his or her daily life. Personally speaking, I would be one of thosewho argue that govemments should spend more money on improving publictransportation.

Though it is quite rational for average people to choose roads and highwaysbecause of the obvious reason that a better road condition could suspend morevehicles and accelerate the speed of them. A close scrutiny of the potentialbeneﬁts of choosing roads and highways would reveal how ﬂimsy it is to stickto the propensity. A better road condition would bring with it more vehicles,thus a much more crowded trafﬁc. Have you ever been caught in a trafﬁc jam?Then how could just spending more money on improving roads and highwaysdo?

Besides, putting the discussion in a wider context, a further reason why Iadvocate the later lies in the fact that improvement ofroad condition wouldstimulate more people to use cars and hence more energy would be used andmore pollution would be exposed. This would be the last thing that everyonewould like to see. But ifwe choose to improve public transportation, a quitedifferent result could be. This can be demonstrated by the undeniable fact ofour city. We have greatly improved the bus network and reduced the parkingplaces since several years ago. Now more and more people shift from cars tobuses and other public transportation, and an azure sky can be highly savoredagain.

Finally, frankly speaking, there is also a more practical reason why I choose toimprove public transportations. Public transportation encourages a sense ofcommunity. People who travel to work together all the time get to know eachother better while cars isolate us from neighbors. An improvement in publictransportation would make it ﬁt more people's schedules and more peoplewould choose to take public transportation to enjoy communicating with eachother.

When taking into account all these merits and drawbacks I have numerated, wemay safely arrived at the conclusion that we should put more money andconcems more about public transportation. We would experience moreconvenience when traveling as well as an appreciable nature environment.

Topic 20 Should children grow up in the countryside or in a city?

There are advantages and disadvantages for a child to grow up in the country orin a city. It's hard to say which is better. Growing up in the country means acertain degree of isolation. You're in a small town or on a farm with few peopleIn addition, the people you meet everyday tend to be just like you. Most havethe same background with you, and go to the same schools with you. In the citypeople you meet are all different. People come from different culturebackgrounds.

City people tend to come from a lot of different places and move around a lot.So, there is not a sense of community in the city like what you have in thecountry. People in the city can live in the same apartment building for twentyyears even without getting to know each other. In the country, however,everybody knows everybody. A child can get lost or hurt in the city and haveno one to tum to. In the country, everyone is a neighbor, and people feelconnected to each other.

A child growing up in the city has a lot of interesting and exciting places tovisit. He or she can go to a zoo, museums, art galleries and concerts. There area lot ofrestaurants with different kinds of cuisines. It's easy to see new moviesthat come out. Children in the country don't have a lot of these activities to goto.

To my opinion, a childhood in the city is better because it prepares a child morefor what real life is like.

Topic 20 Should children grow up in the countryside or in a city?

Where is a better place for children to grow up, the countryside or the big city?The answer to this question differs from individual to individual. As far as I amconcemed, it is better for children to grow up in a big city.

Some people argue that the countryside is an ideal place for children to grow upFor one thing, it is less polluted than the city. The air is fresh in the countryside.The sky is bluer and the water is clearer. Living in such a place is good to thechildren's health. For another, as children like playing, only the countryside canoffer them a big playground. They can run everywhere, play games in the ﬁeldsswim in the river. On the contrary, the city cannot provide such places forchildren. They can only stay at home and watch TV

Although I do agree that growing up in the countryside has one or moreadvantages, I insist that it is far better to choose the city as the right place forchildren. To begin with, living in the city can broaden children's horizons. Theycan meet a lot ofpeople and hear a lot of things that will never happen in thecountryside.

In addition, a city means more chance to receive better education. In mostcountries, it is no doubt that the level of education in the city is higher than thatof the country. As a result, children can meet better teachers and receive highquality of education in the city.

Last but not least, children can also develop many hobbies in the city. They canleam to play the piano, painting, and dancing, to name a few, which areimpossible in the country.

In conclusion, I believe that it is better for children to grow up in the city notonly because it can broaden their horizons, but also because they can receivebetter education and have a chance to develop many hobbies there.

Topic 20 Should children grow up in the countryside or in a city?

I think that it is better for children to grow up in a big city because living thereand getting use to it will prepare them for the real life. Living in the countryside,for instance, in small towns or villages may prevent children from ﬁtting intothe society.

As a child bom in the countryside (in a small town) I thought life is wonderfuland people are always kind as they were in my hometown. When I grew up andI had to think about my further education. The best altemative was to go tostudy in a language school in a big city ﬁfty kilometers away from my town.The school I chose was a leading institution in the whole country. It was a greatopportunity for me to meet new people and to get better education.

I arrived for the school opening day. Everything was absolutely perfect. I metmy new classmates and they were great. In a few weeks I understood that lifewas not as ideal as I thought it was. Students in the school were competing witheach other for being the ﬁrst in everything. It was strange for me and I wasdrowning in the puddle of cruelty and selﬁshness. My grades were not as goodas these of the other students in my class and at the end of the ﬁrst semester theheadmaster informed me that if I did not improve my grades during the secondsemester I would be suspended from school.

The idea of being suspended was an unacceptable one. I could not let it happen.I became like my class-fellows - brutal and egotistical. The ﬁght for the ﬁrstplaces in the school's rank list was merciless. At the end of the academic year Iwas ranked number 5 (ﬁve) of one thousand students in the school.

Today I am at eleventh grade and I am still one of the best disciples in theschool. I realize that now I can afford dreaming. For example, now I want toget a university degree in the United States and I have real chances to beadmitted.

However, before I came out from my hometown I did not even think of suchfundamental things. It was just an issue regarding the geniuses, not me. Butnow I can say that I am ready to face the challenges of real life and nodifﬁculties can deter me because this big city taught me how to overcomeobstacles and to be one of the best.

Topic 20 Should children grow up in the countryside or in a city?

Nowadays, technological development is directed to such people-crowdedplaces such as big cities, resulting in signiﬁcant differences of lifestylesbetween people living in the town and in the countryside. It is said that bigcities are no longer suitable for bringing up children. In my point ofview, Istrongly agree that children should grow up in the countryside. Being close tonature, children in the countryside are likely to improve both physical andmental behaviors better than those who are in the city. In the rural areas,children are endowed with real nature that affects to the development ofchildren.

First, fresh air in the countryside provides children with good health. Researchhas it that more and more children in the town nowadays are exposed to allergyon account of pollution from both vehicles and factories. On the other hand,children living far away from any high technologies are liable to be muchhealthier. Polluted air is a main cause to destroy the health of everybody,especially children.

Another beneﬁt of living in the countryside is that a majority of children spendtheir free time wisely. After coming back from school or during vacations, mostof the city-dwelling children waste their time by watching TV or playing videogames. Big cities have limited areas and hardly fumish people in thecommunities with public places for relaxing such as park and playgrounds.Therefore children in the cities are limited to conducting useless or evenharmful activities. In contrast, rural children devote their leisure time playingwith others in large open ﬁelds or helping their parents look after their cattle.As a result, not only be rural children so strong from everyday exercise, butthey also spend their time in a meaningful way by helping their parents dosome work.

Finally, children in the countryside may become more considerate man thanthose who are in the big city. In the cities, there are very high rate of rivalry.

Topic 21 Why are people living longer?

It is a common phenomenon and an indisputable fact that people are livinglonger now. There are many reasons of this phenomenon. Generally speaking, itis due to the better living conditions people enjoy, the improved medicaltreatment people receive, and the healthier lifestyle people adopt.

With the development of science and technology, people's living conditionshave been improved considerably. They have foods sufﬁcient enough to keepthem alive, clothes warm enough to protect them against cold, and housesstrong enough to shelter them from danger. Hunger, cold, and danger no longerthreaten the lives of the human beings. When facing with nature disasters,people can use all available means to survive.

To human beings, diseases may well be another killer. They took away lives ofa large number of people, some being very young. But things are quite differenttoday. The quality of medical care has been improved. Doctors know more nowabout what causes diseases and how to cure them. Many diseases that wereused to be incurable can be cured now. Patients who get timely and effectivetreatments may recover in a couple of months, or even weeks. It is estimatedthat today's deaths are mostly caused by unexpected accidents.

In ancient times, people did not care much about their way of living for lack ofknowledge and shortage of daily necessities. Now, thanks to the progress menhas made and the civilization men has built, the present-day people can affordtime, money, and energy to consider their living habits and lifestyles. They areeagerly seeking healthier ways of life to live longer, such as giving up smoking,doing physical exercise, and eating low-fat foods such as vegetables and fruits,which are now available year-round.

It is announced by scientists and doctors that human life expectancy will beextended to over 150 years. Men and women of longevity, say 100 years old,are increasing in number. Senior citizens already dominate many cities indeveloped countries. Although it may present some problems, living longer is ablessing to human beings.

Topic 21 Why are people living longer?

With the development of human society, people are living longer now. Manyfactors interact together to enable a longer life. There are three most importantcauses: the quality of food has been greatly improved; people could have accessto medical services; more and more people realize that regular sports beneﬁttheir health.

The improving quality of our food is the most important factor of the longer lifeWe could have not only enough food as we want, but also more healthier food.When we preparing food, we no longer consider the cost, but pay moreattention to the nutritious value of the food. With the development oftransportation systems, inland people now could also enjoy seafood andtropical fruit.

Furthermore, govemments are paying more and more money on medicalestablishments. Citizens could have access to medical services more easily.Because of the convenient medical service, more illnesses could be detected atan earlier stage. Also, many illnesses that had been considered fatal could becured today. The better detection and cure enable people's longer life.

Last but not least, people care more for their own health. Every moming youcould see people doing sports outside. More and more people have realized thesaying “life is in motion." Regular sports build up a strong body. Naturally,people with stronger body could resist more diseases.

To sum up, the development of our society ensures that people have longer life.People now enjoy better food and better medical services, and they spend moretime on sports and exercises to build up stronger bodies. As we could predict,people are going to live even longer in the future.

Topic 22 Important qualities of a co-worker

We spend more time with our co-workers during weekdays than we do with ourfamily. Thus, it's important for our co-workers to be the people we can getalong with. In my opinion, there are certain characteristics that all good co-workers have in common. They are cooperative, considerate and humorous.

We no longer observe now a time that worships individual merits with greatenthusiasm. Everyone should cooperate with each other. Teamwork is curial toa business. A good co-worker is willing to contribute to the ofﬁce communityand not too stubbom to accept advice. He realizes the fact that ifone‘s work isleft not done in time, it may hold up everyone else.

Besides, a good co-worker is very considerate. He may change his ownschedule to accommodate another‘s emergency. He may be a sympatheticlistener, comforting others when they are miserable.

What is more, a good co-worker should have a sense of humor. His positiveattitude may create a pleasant environment. When we are under the great stressof work, what we need most is not a delicious meal but merely a few goodjokes to relax our nerve cells.

What I have listed is not the complete set of characters of a good co-worker,however, we can feel how comfortable it is to get along with a good co-worker.Being a good co-worker is not difﬁcult but really very necessary. Suchexperience of being a good co-worker will deﬁnitely contribute to other aspectsof life such as friendship and a healthy lifestyle.

Topic 23 Should teenagers work while they are students?

In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Afterthinking about it from several aspects, I do not believe it is a good idea. Thereasons are presented below.

Part-time jobs may affect students‘ academic studies. Working several hours aday consumes a lot of time and one might be too exhausted to study. The mainpurpose of school life for teenagers is to leam scientiﬁc knowledge andtechniques in preparation for their future. It is generally suggested that in orderto master what they have leamed at school, students must spend at least 3 hourseach day on their homework. It would be impossible for a student to work part-time while maintaining a high standard of academic leaming. As a result, theymay ﬁnd it hard to adjust to what the school and society expects from them aswell as what their employers expect them to perform on the job.

Another reason why I do not approve teenagers to work part-time is thatworking while studying will deprive their time of sleep and will do harm totheir health. Teenagers are in the process of building up their body. They needtime to do exercises and engage in other activities, and they also need plenty ofrest. Ifthey work, they may sacriﬁce their time for sleep, club activities,exercise, and recreation. Sometimes, teenagers have jobs that consume morestrength than they can afford. This will be deﬁnitely harmful to their health.

Finally, working part-time and making extra money may contribute to their badhabits. Teenagers are not mature enough to spend money wisely. However withpart-time jobs they make money that allow them to spend whatever way theylike, such as playing electronic games, smoking, drinking, and even gambling.

Based on the above discussion, I do not think it is a good idea for teenagers towork while they are still students. Compared with their whole lifetime, schoollife is a short period. Teenagers should value their school life and make full useof the time. Only by working hard during school life can they ﬁnd their properjobs in their future life.

Topic 24 The advantages about living in my city

It is almost always the case that a person who has been living in a rural area fora while confronts certain conveniences and inconveniences of living in a city.One convenience is the number and diversity of stores and shops available in ashort distance in a city. A big inconvenience is the trafﬁc congestion that takesplace in many places.

One big thing I remind my foreign friend who is planning to move to my city isthat there is cultural diversity, or even conﬂicts. My friend is an internationalstudent from Japan who is living in a small town in Califomia. As a foreigner,he confronts with cultures of local people everyday. On the other hand herealizes that there are few stores and restaurants that are native to his culture. Itis very normal that such a person gets homesick and starts missing people andfoodstuffs from his own country. Moving to a big city will satisfy such needs ofhim because there are many stores, restaurants, and supermarkets that are runby Japanese companies so he will less likely to be homesick any more.

However, there is one big inconvenience about living in a city, which is trafﬁc.Especially people who drive often feel stressed on the streets that are alwayspacked with cars lining up in the streets. It is always difﬁcult to ﬁnd parkingspots either in the parking lots or on the street. Furthermore, apartments do notalways provide sufﬁcient parking spots to their residents. A lot ofpeople wholive in city feel less convenient to keep cars and choose to use publictransportation. However, unfortunately, the public transportation system is notperfectly great around my neighborhood.

My city satisﬁes and dissatisﬁes my foreign friend who drives. The availabilityof stores and shops that are native to his country soothes his dissatisfactionabout being surrounded by different cultures. However, on the other hand,trafﬁc jam that is always the problem in big cities gives new stress that he iscurrently free from. It is a matter ofbalance between the two features that heneeds to settle in.

Topic 25 Does the neighborhood need a new shopping center?

There are both advantages and disadvantages of establishing a shopping mall inour neighborhood. I am worried about the trafﬁc and how it will affect ourcommunity. However, I believe it will beneﬁt local businesses and increaseappreciations for our local area. Overall, I think it is a good idea.

For those that I am worried about, trafﬁc congestion and parking problem areobvious. First of all, trafﬁc congestion is always a concem when buildingsomething new. Our streets are narrow, with parking on both sides. A shoppingcenter will certainly bring more trafﬁc than ever before, and heavy trafﬁcmeans big congestion. At the same time, parking is also a problem in this area.There are few garages attached to houses. Most ofresidents depend on ﬁndingspaces on the street for parking. If a shopping mall is built, we must competewith customers and patrons for those parking spaces. Furthermore, iftheshopping center offers valet parking service, it would be even worse becausevalet parking works in terms to grab every possible space available in street.

On the other hand, building up a shopping center will give this neighborhoodmore opportunities and beneﬁts. Residents in this area could certainly take thejob that shopping center offers. People would eam more money and spend onother businesses, such as entertainment and education, which are operating inour neighborhood or adjacent communities. As a result, not only localbusinesses but also inter-community businesses are boosted up and aprodigious amount of fortune will be accumulated to our neighborhood. Ashopping center can also attract people to visit our community. When theydrive to the shopping center, they will see what a nice place this area is to live.Therefore, we would have an increasing number ofresidents in the next coupleof years. It is very important to introduce new population because we have lostmany residents to suburbs during recent years.

In a short, there are several details to consider when planning a shopping centerIn my part, I support to have a new shopping center in my community becauseits advantages outweigh disadvantages.

Topic 26 Should a new movie theater be built in your neighborhood?

There will be a hectic debate about whether to build a new movie theater nearour region or not. Building a new movie theater will cause some problems suchas trafﬁc jams, noises, pollution, but based on the speciﬁc case andenvironment near our community, my point ofview is to bolster the scheme.

Living in a small town far from the prosperous city, people in our communityalways complain about the boring life during the weekends. Ifwe wish toentertain ourselves with some new movies, we have to drive all the way to atheater far away. Although digital cable and satellite TVs are available, theycannot totally replace the enjoyment that a movie theater brings. So it is notsurprising that many people including me support the plan.

Besides, a new movie theater will provide more career opportunities. Thetheater has to employ people to work in it. In the meantime, some newrestaurants and shopping centers will be built around the theater for people toeat and shop before or after they see movies. All those new commercialfacilities will offer more job opportunities to people hunting for jobs during theeconomic depression.

The ﬁnal aspect that makes the choice reasonable is that a new movie theatercan encourage people to go outside rather than watching senseless TVprograms all night. People will meet each other, and exchange information andideas. People can use the new movie theater as a place to communicate andsocialize with each other.

From what we have been discussed above, we may safely draw the conclusionthat it is positive to build a new movie theater in our neighborhood.

Topic 26 Should a new movie theater be built in your neighborhood?

Some people will say that a new movie theater in our neighborhood would be abad thing. However, I fully support the plan to build one. I feel that a movietheater would bring more opportunities for recreation, reduce teenagedelinquency, and lead to several improvement in the town.

As it stands there is little to do in my town. There are no parks here, and thereis certainly no nightlife. Additionally, the nearest movie theater is more thanthirty minutes drive away. That is inconvenient for anyone here. Many moviesend late at night. Who wants a long drive at 11:30 p. m. or midnight? A newmovie theatre near our homes will certainly welcomed by people living here.

Building a new movie theater here will reduce juvenile delinquencies. Likeevery one else, teens here are bored. They need activities to keep them busyand out of troubles. The jobs that the theater will provide will help teens, too.We also need more businesses that are willing and eager to employ youngpeople.

Overall, the new theater will bring many improvements to the town. Forexample, it will help other business. The movie theater will attract customersfrom neighboring towns. Those neighbors do not have a reason to come to thistown now. However, ifthey are coming here for a movie, they will be morelikely to spend time and money here. Ifwe get more visitors, we will needmore roads. While this may be costly, it will also make travel easier for peopleliving here. We will be able to get around faster. Safety will be improved withthe new roads, because they will be in better conditions than many that we havenow.

I believe that our town needs a new movie theater. Again, I support it fully. Ihope that others in our community will join me to convince residents and localgovemment.

Topic 27 Should people do things that they do not like?

When it comes to the topic should people sometimes do things that they do notenjoy doing, optimistic and pessimistic people have different attitudes towardthis topic. For me, a person who likes changes a little, I would prefer to dosome different things sometimes even ifI do not like them. There are manyreasons why I should sometimes do things they do not enjoy doing.

The ﬁrst reason is that I could get more experiences from the things I am doing,no matter I enjoy it or not. There are pros and cons for every experience. WhatI leamed from doing something I dislike is to conquer the similar situation andtake the advantage of good changes I may encounter again in the future. Inaddition, I will see such a disagreeable thing as diversity to my routine life.

Secondly, many things which I do not enjoying doing can actually do well tome. For example, I do not like to sweat because it makes me uncomfortablewith those sticky clothes and bad smell. But for exercise, the activity will causeme to sweat, surely keep me in good shape and beneﬁt my health. Besides, Ifeel happy whenever I see my ﬁgure become more slender. Moreover,Overcoming displeased things gives me a sense of achievement.

All in all, it is not bad for me to do something I do not enjoy doing. Therefore, Iagree that people should sometimes do things that they do not enjoy doing.

Topic 27 Should people do things that they do not like?

Should people sometimes do things that they do not enjoy doing? Many peoplestrongly oppose this idea, while others insist that although people naturallyfavor doing what they enjoy doing, under certain circumstances people maywell be advised to act against their interests and it would beneﬁt people inmany ways. Personally, I would side with the latter.

For one thing, it usually takes quite some time for people to discover theirinterest. My personal experience serves as a typical example. From mychildhood, I leamed a lot of time to discover my interest. I tried to play anelectronic organ, draw oil paintings, and even leam ballet. Superﬁcially, itseems to be a sound solution to ﬁnd out what my interest is, but when carefullyweighing in the mind, I ﬁnd that it has wasted me plenty of time. A scrutiny ofthese arguments would reveal how unnecessary they are.

For another, many things that people instinctively hate to do will actuallybeneﬁt them in the long run. A basketball star's personal experience is a goodexample. He likes running when he was a child. When he was in high school,he joined the track and ﬁeld team. By a chance, he met a basketball coach andwas asked ifhe wanted to become an occupational basketball player. Althoughhe was not interested in playing basketball, nevertheless, his parents told himthat doing something he hated to do might change his whole life in a good way.By taking the advice of his parents, he went to the basketball team and now hetumed out be extremely successes! For another example, we are not alwaysinterested to move to different places. In fact, we will have more opportunitiesof improving our lives by moving around. As President Kennedy pointed out,"Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past or the present arecertain to miss the future."

Still some people might list other reasons to explain why people should dosome things that they do not enjoy doing. However I assume the points I havediscussed in the above analysis are the most relevant!

Topic 28 Has the media paid too much attention to celebrities?

In this global information age where newspapers or magazines are alwayshandy and TV has already tumed so many people into couch tomatoes, fewpeople concem about what these mass media has brought to us; we just acceptit anyway. While I think the current focus on personal lives of famous peopleby these media requires further consideration.

Admittedly, it is reasonable for those media to continuously pay great attentionto celebrities, the present ﬁerce competition of the various media, the hard-to-pleased audiences‘ taste, the bombastic effect of coverage of these shiningﬁgures. No surprise sometimes that we feel we just know more than thosefamous people than themselves.

However, the consequence of such intense coverage on public ﬁgures‘ personallives not only violate those being-focused on a certain level, but also do harmto us being-informed in some ways. Firstly, the privacy of those celebrities isineluctably encroached from time to time. Sometimes the result is sad - do notforget the tragedy of Princess Diana. Secondly, our attention is certainly beingdiverted by such tide of craziness about celebrities. What about those viewerswho want to see something about ordinary people‘ lives? How can mass medianot concem more about those people suffering from pain and poverty?

Furthermore, one of the signiﬁcant results of the current fad on famous ﬁguresis that their behavior is so inﬂuential while at the same time the media havelittle guarantee to ensure what the say and do will not mislead the mass publicand even cause more problems. For example, if a famous ﬁgure is being askedabout his or her point of view in a ﬁeld he or she is not quite acquainted, thewords presented to the audience may be misleading. This is especially harmfulto those young people who are more likely to watch those programs of theiridols, and also are mostly vulnerable to inﬂuential but harmful sayings.

In a sense, I don not quite appreciate the coverage ofpeople in the center ofspotlight, maybe once the mass media tum a little bit from their current focus toother aspects of the society, they may ﬁnd out that the world is wonderful allthe same.

Topic 28 Has the media paid too much attention to celebrities?

With the prosperity of both science and culture, people are accustomed with anabundant supply of information. Modem media, such as television, newspapersmagazines, reinforce our accesses to news and information of all kinds, themost prevalent t of which are those about public ﬁgures and celebrities. Nowthere is a growing awareness that media now pay too much attention to thepersonal lives of famous people. As far as I am concemed, I cannot agree morewith the statement and my point of view is well founded.

Nowhere in the history has the condition been more visible that reports aboutfamous people, like music stars, movie actors/actresses and sports ﬁgures areeasily available and unusually in details. When we tum on the TV, we may beled to the new apartment of a fashion star; when we glance at the paper, wemay see dim pictures of an actress and her new boyfriend; especially when weget online, it is almost impossible for us to get ride of the latest affairs of atalented football player. It seems that the personal lives of public ﬁgures weighmuch more important than the contributions they make to the society. All thoseabsurd attention paid to their privacy is a waste of resources and degradation ofpublic interest.

Another equally important aspect is that most of reports on lives of famouspeople are always focused on brilliant achievements and extravagant enjoymentwhich overstate the gorgeous part and understate the painstaking part.Therefore, young people are often biased and tend to pursue such kinds of livesbut with little endeavor. In addition, since the teenage are inclined to adore theiridols with such a passion that mass of negative news and information ofpopular ﬁgures may even twist some youths‘ view of life.

Besides, public attention excessively paid to individual privacy of celebritiesnot only deteriorate social morality, but also derive the regularity andpeacefulness of daily lives from those ﬁgures. Furthermore, tragedies aresparked in some extreme cases. One of the most well known examples is thedeath of Princess Diana of Britain.

Certainly I do not deny that some decent habits or features of the famousindividuals add to his/her attraction and help to characterize him/her better. Butour interests and curiosities should be properly controlled. All I want to asserthere is a rational attitude to public ﬁgures and respect for individuals.

Topic 28 Has the media paid too much attention to celebrities?

Some people feel that television, newspapers, magazines, and other media paytoo much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public ﬁguresand celebrities, although others have different opinion about that. As far as I amconcemed, I fully agree with that. Safe to say, more than 70% lights are focusedon those famous people and all kinds of stars. This is because common peoplelike to watch, to know about and to become famous guys.

Let us look at the television ﬁrst, when you tum on the television, there aremore than 60 channels in United States, but almost all channels are eithertalking about celebrities, movie stars, or showing some TV soap programs inwhich some movie star is in it. There are daily programs such as "E-Talk","Access Hollywood", and "Entertainment Tonight" which concentrate on livesof famous stars. You can tell from their names. Not to mention there are a lot ofawards such as Oscar award, Emmy award, Gold Globe, and so on. They are allabout famous people. For the program of talking show, such as the Opera Show,or the Larry King Show, most guests that are invited to these programs arecelebrities or politicians. And people love to watch that.

As for magazines or newspapers, it is the same situation. The ﬁrst front page,second page and Headline are very often about famous people in different areas,even sometimes discussing the private life of famous people. It looks like ifthere are no celebrity photos on the front page, the subscription will decrease.People love to read stories about these stars or celebrities.

Especially, there are so many photographers who want to take pictures of thesefamous people's private life. They do not care how this will invade thosepeople's privacy, because they know these photos of celebrities may help themget rich. Think about how Princess Diana died in 1997. Nobody can say that ithas nothing to do with those paparazzis. The fact that people love to knoweverything about Dianna, one of the most famous celebrities in the world, killedthe princess.

In conclusion, TV, newspapers and magazines need these celebrities to attractpeople's eyeballs. Otherwise, they cannot survive. And the average people seemto enjoy these personal lives of famous people or celebrities. So it is quitenormal for media to pay so much attention to these big guys in the world.

Topic 29 Has human harmed the Earth or made it a better place?

The Earth ‘our home‘ is a planet with a wide range of inhabitants. This diversityhelps to maintain the balance of the life cycle on the Earth. We humans have akey role to play in maintaining this ecological system. But today, even amidstthe huge cry from environmentalists, we seldom recognize the importance ofthe environment. Some of the changes on the Earth like deforestation are aresult of industrial and automobile emissions and nuclear activities. They beartestimony to our negligence towards the environment.

Right from our school education we have been taught about the key role playedby the forests in maintaining the ecological balance. Forests attribute to releaseof oxygen and absorb the toxic carbon dioxide exhaled by the humans. Thus theforests act as the natural recycling agents balancing the life on this planet.Deforestation has been taking place for many reasons like manufacture of paperfrom wood pulp and timber, and for inhabitation by humans. Ifthis trendcontinues there is no doubt that in the years to come the Earth will become adry planet.

If deforestation is plundering the gift of God, the pollution of environment byautomobile and nuclear emissions is a man made menace. Metropolitan citieshave been so congested that we are getting used to everyday trafﬁc snarls.Though there has been a worldwide awareness in controlling the automobileemissions in terms of imposing the emission norms on the automobilemanufacturers, there is still much left to be done. One step could be to imposethe law, to get the vehicle owners check their vehicles for emission norms, oncein six months and obtain a valid test certiﬁcate.

No one can deny the fact that nuclear emissions are more vulnerable to damagethe environment than any thing else. But we are always at the threat of a nukewar, despite the strong efforts of the intemational organizations like UN. It is apity that most of the goveming nations of the Un are the major threats withnuclear weapons.

Not but not least, the knowledge and the responsibility of safeguarding theenvironment is seldom seen in the individuals. The fact that all of us have beentaught about the importance of environment in our education system makes nodifference. The govemments should organize more effective campaigns toeducate everyone across all demographic levels. Only a socially responsiblecitizen can make a difference towards the environment our descendents have tolive in.

Though I feel that with all above references, we humans damage the earth, Ifeel that I have dealt superﬁcially some of the solutions that help to make theearth a better place to live. Let us hope that in the coming years futuregenerations become socially responsible in safeguarding the earth. After all, wehave just one planet (right now!) to live in.

Topic 29 Has human harmed the Earth or made it a better place?

Some people believe that the Earth is being harmed by human activity. Othersfeel that human activity makes the Earth a better place to live. In my opinion,human activity is damaging the Earth. There are many reasons for myperspective as follows.

First, human activity causes many kinds of animals and plants to disappear.Today many species of living beings died out or near died out. We only can seesome animals in the zoo because in nature they have disappeared. Humanbeings have been using their brains and machines to remake nature for manythousands of years. We use the habitats of animals and plants. We eat their foodand eat them as food. Because animals and plants cannot grow fast to satisfyhuman beings, we cannot see them today. If some animals are dangerous to us,we kill them with our weapons. If meats of some animals are delicious, we eatthem. No animals can copy with human being.

Secondly, human beings cause pollution to the Earth. I remember when I wasyoung; I drank water from the river and stream. Today we can only drinkbottled water bought from the market, because natural water is polluted byhuman activities. Air in some countries is polluted very badly, so many peopledied of lung cancer. I saw some reports that says in London people could notsee each other clearly in a short distance in the moming because of muchsmoke and fog.

Finally, population on the Earth exacerbate rapidly. Human beings need morefood and shelters because of increased population. More food and houses meanmore needs from the Earth. Thus people need to cut more trees to build houses.People need to plant more vegetables and feed more cattle, so they demandmore lands from the nature. Thus people are destroying more forests andnatural lands. The living beings are losing their habitats.

Take into account of all factors I think the earth is being harmed by humanactivity. Today we cannot breathe fresh air and drink natural water. We have notenough places to live. We worry about our health because of pollution.

Topic 29 Has human harmed the Earth or made it a better place?

When it comes to what human activity made the Earth, tradition has humanactivity that damaged the Earth. Nevertheless, although human activity hascaused some damage to the earth, our Earth has certainly been tumed into amuch more beautiful world than it was centuries ago.

First of all, due to the development of human productivity made possible byscience and technology, we now enjoy living conditions that our ancestorscould never dreamed of. Nowadays, we use machine to plant crops, usesynthetic fodder to feed livestock, use water conservancy project to generateelectric power and so on. In term of substantive level, no other reasons in mydecision is more crucial than the one above.

Furthermore, the use of machines has greatly improved our working conditions,enabling us to enjoy more leisure and entertainment. Tape recorder‘s inventionserves as a typical example. They are small and have well sound quality. Wecan take it everywhere with us and the tape recorder has a valuable argumentthat it enabled me to listen to my favorite music wherever I want in a variety ofdifferent formats.

Of course, it should be admitted that human activity has resulted in theenvironmental crisis, which I believe we could overcome with the help ofscience and technology. The majority holds the opinion that human activitycarries lots of pollution, which made the air quality worse, and endangeredspecies increases everyday. On the surface, these seem to be terrible. However,people are taking a fresh look at it that they can be improved sooner because ofscience and technology development.

In short, human activity makes the Earth develop. It is difﬁcult to imagine howthe world will be without human activity. Similarly, a person who does not usemachine in peacetime that cannot get anything done. Therefore, after ponderingthis question on many occasions, I believe that human activity makes the Earthbetter and beautiful and a great place to live!

Topic 29 Has human harmed the Earth or made it a better place?

People have leamed how to tum wild natural areas to farm land, how to exploitminerals to adapt their needs, how to build roads and houses to expand theirterritories. People continuously improve their knowledge and developtechnologies to improve their lives. It is undeniable that these activities ofhuman beings make their lives better than ever before. Nevertheless, thoseactivities also cause side-effects to the Earth because of pollution, deforestation,and exaggerated natural resource exploitation.

Nowadays, pollution becomes one of the most concemed problems. Because ofthe increasingly expanded factories, the industrialized areas, the buming ofpopulation etc, too much pollutant spills out everyday. Consequently, all ofthese things cause bad effect to the Earth. The purity of atmosphere is reducedseriously, the Earth is continuously warmed up, and ozone layer is holed.

Additionally, forest is asking for help in desperation. For last few decades, theforest areas have been reduced to 50 percent because of human deforestation.Green forestland of the Earth can be compared to the lungs of human. Howhealthy you are if their your lungs are trespassed. I am sure that you will getmore difﬁcult with aspiration; as a result, your health will be affect badly. Fromthis example, we can infer that how serious problem our Earth has to face with.I wonder how long it can endure.

Researchers show that the natural means is limited, but today, they areexploited so increasingly to adapt inﬁnite human needs that someday, allmineral can be ended up. Because of serious pollution, alarming deforestationand progressive mineral exploitation, the ecosystem becomes unbalance.Consequently a lot natural calamities happen each year such as ﬂood,hurricanes. A lot wild living creatures are exposed to narrow place of shelterand lacking foods. For these reasons, the Earth will become unhealthy.

In conclusion, the human beings harm the Earth. Human beings as well as theirdear planet, the Earth, have been badly suffered by what caused by humansthemselves. I hope that humans are soon aware of those problems so that theycan have suitable policies in order to not only improve their lives but also keepand maintain the Earth fresh and green.

Topic 29 Has human harmed the Earth or made it a better place?

Although the quality of life has improved over the past decades due to newtechnological advances but the damages made to the earth weigh more.Damages include increase in pollution and change in climatic pattems.Irreversible damage to earth can include depletion of natural resources.

As the technology advances more factories are built. These factories disposewaste material into natural water, which could be harmful to aquatic life.Emissions from the factories and automobiles pollute the air, which we breatheNuclear waste and radiation from power plants are harmful to our health.

There can be drastic changes in the climatic pattern due to the increase in thecarbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, which is the main cause of globalwarming. Global warming would increase the temperature of earth and make itinhospitable. We are cutting more and more trees for fumiture‘s, and wood.Trees purify the atmosphere by absorbing the carbon dioxide from theatmosphere and releasing the oxygen. Furthermore, the roots of tree hold thesoil and prevent ﬂoods.

Resources of petroleum, oil, and minerals are not endless. There is shortage ofwater all over the world. Once depleted of these resources, our life would bedifﬁcult. Killing elephants for their teeth, and other species for their furs disruptthe food chain. For example killing of camivorous animals would causeincrease in the number of herbivores, which would consume more plants. Wealso depend on plants for food so there can be shortage of vegetables andcereals for us.

We should preserve the earth and respect all its valuable resources. Pollutionand climatic changes can make earth inhospitable. Our future would not begood without sustainable development.

Topic 30 Should a high school be built in your community?

I oppose having a new high school built in my neighborhood. Although I knowthere's a real need for a new facility, I have to say that I don't want one built soclose to me. I think it would cause a lot ofproblems.

First of all, there are very few teenagers in this neighborhood, or in oursuburban subdivision, for that matter. Most of the residents here are eitherretired or are just starting out with young children. This means that the kidscoming to the new high school wouldn't be walking to school. They wouldcome on buses or would be driving to the school. Either way, this would meana lot more trafﬁc on our streets.

In addition to the trafﬁc on school days, there also would be trafﬁc wheneverthere was a sporting event, such as a basketball or football game, or activities atthe school. Would there be enough parking in the school lot for everyoneattending those events? Probably not. Consequently, those extra cars would endup parking in our neighborhood.

My neighbors and I would also be upset about the loss of the park, which is thesite that's been selected for the high school. Mothers with young children gatherthere every moming for their kids to play together. People my age like to take awalk after dinner. On weekends, that park is a place for picnics and relaxation.We'd be sorry to lose our neighborhood park.

I also have some concems about all those young people being in ourneighborhood. Would there be problems with drugs or ﬁghts? Could the schooldistrict guarantee us that security would be apriority? These are concems that Idon't think can be addressed sufﬁciently for me to support a new high school inmy neighborhood.

Topic 30 Should a high school be built in your community?

I support the plan of building a new high school in my community, as currentlythere are no high schools in my community and the nearest one is almost threemiles away from the community.

Students in my community have to travel a long distance either by anyavailable conveyance or independent transportation. As all of them cannotafford to have their own transport and the parents are also ﬁnding it difﬁcult todrop their children daily at the school that is far away from their work places.As the high school is far away and many children have to take either autorickshaws or buses, there is a trafﬁc problem caused in the route during theschool days. There are also potential dangers as the auto rickshaws tend totransport more children than it can carry, therefore there is a risk of accidentscausing by these overcrowded autos.

Also the land that was allocated for high school construction is beingencroached by private people. Our community mostly consists of middle classpeople, and they cannot afford to send their children on school buses and thereis a lot of time being wasted on transportation to the school. Our communityconsists of other facilities like a university and a hospital, but lacks a highschool. It would also be comfortable for small children to go to the school ifitis made in our community and the parents would not worry about dropping offtheir child at school.

Finally the high school that is going to be built in the community can alsoprovide employment opportunities to college graduates who are unemployed inthe community and ready to take up the teaching profession. In sum, I supportthat a new high school should be built in my community.

Topic 31 Do you prefer to stay at one place or move around?

Staying in one place or moving in search of another place? Some people preferto living in one place because they enjoy a harmonious relation with theirneighbors and environments. While others prefer to moving from one place toanother because ofvarious reasons, a better job, house, community, or evenclimate. Looking back to my education and looking forward to my future career,I have been and will be moving a number of times. But considering mypersonality, I would rather live in one place when I am old.

For a student, a good education opportunity is the most important concem.Students leave their homes for good university education. Different schoolshave different teaching styles. It is very common for students to choose amongdifferent schools to ﬁnd a most suitable one. I did pursue my bachelor's degreefar from my hometown, and I am pursuing my master degree at anotheruniversity, and would like to pursue a ph. D abroad.

Career development is another important issue. In order to have a strongexperience and to get a fulﬁlling job, people would work in a number ofcompanies. In different companies, we could experience different cultures andways of doing things. The variety ofpeople and culture will do much good toour future career development.

However, frankly speaking, I am not an aggressive person. I would rather enjoymy live in a stable pace. When I am old and without the pressure to struggle fora better job, I would prepare to stay in a peaceful and quiet place, where I couldchat with my old friends everyday.

Taking into account all these factors, I would like to present myself such asolution: To try a number of places for better education and job opportunitieswhen I am young; to stay in a peaceful place to enjoy live with my wife when Iam old.

Topic 31 Moving vs. staying at one place

Living in one place all your life may seem very convenient. For my part, I aminclined to believe that not everyone is bom in the place that is best for him/her,and thus one should take the chance and move to a place that is more suitable.For me at least, in this particular time of my development I ﬁnd it better to stayin a place for a while, and then move on, to another place. However, as I wouldgrow old I do believe my opinions in this matter will modify.

When I had decided for a career in art history, in a way, I had also chosen for alife on the road. I had always seen myself traveling from one place to another,organizing an exhibition here and there, and moving from one university to thenext. In the ﬁve years before I started my undergraduate education I had beenenrolled in four universities in three different countries. At a ﬁrst glance, such away of living seems really appealing. It is always exciting to see new places,and meet new people.

Also the idea of moving in order to ﬁnd a more interesting and challenging jobseems to be quite legitimate. However, one needs to consider that not everyonemoves during his/her life because he/she wants to, but on the contrary becausehe/she have to. There are people that are running away from their pasts, or forone reason or another they simply cannot stay in the place of their choice.Moreover, moving from here to there have disadvantages even for those whoenjoy moving. Family and friends are often left behind. Most likely, they missthe places that they have left. A piece of our soul remains in every place wespend a considerable amount of time. And what are we left with in the end?Probably with nothing more than the pain of being away from so manyrelatives, friends, and places we love.

Best thing to do, in my opinion, is travel all around the world, see as manyplaces and cultures, make friends, but always keep a special place to retum to,even if this place is not the one where you were bom.

Topic 31 Is it better to move around than to stay in one place?

With the development of the transportation system and some residence facilitiesthe world is getting smaller and smaller, and people are not restricted to live inonly one area. In addition, since there are different places with diverse cultures,living standards, education environment and others, people are inclined tomove from one place to another. Is it better to move around than stay in oneplace? I believe there are no uniform answers, but in my opinion, I do agreewith the claim that to move around is better than to stay in one place.

Most people's growth comes with the transfers in their life. As for me, when Iwas young I lived in a small county. Because the school in there was notsuitable to me, I transferred from my little county to a city to get a bettereducation. As soon as I got to the city, I was amazed that the world was sodifferent here compared with my hometown. IfI were still living in myhometown, it was impossible for me to make the wildest guess at what the realworld looked like. The ﬁrst transfer has made me to imagine my own life andurge me to go further. With conﬁdence, I went into a university that is locatedin a different city so that I have to come into another world. Compared with myliving city, the new one is more complicated in which there are different people,more convenient transportation system, and more competitive environment. Ilove all of this very much. By communicating with different students andteachers, I have leamed much from them, and the experience will beneﬁt methroughout my life and inﬂuence my lifestyle. Now I am in a graduate schooland I will never regret my choice of leaving my hometown because the transferhas given me a splendid life.

Also, like us students, there are many adults transferring their work place inorder to seize better opportunities. No matter in industry, in agriculture or inservice, workers have rights to choose the companies that they work for. Manyof them work from place to place and then they accumulate precious experienceand skills to excel others.

People not only move within their own country, but also go abroad to geteducation, work or live. We can see that many students want to go to foreigncountries to further their education, and that many parents send their little sonsor daughters to foreign countries to study. After all, diverse circumstances givepersons new experiences and broaden their views, and even help them get morecomprehensive understanding of the world, the society and life itself.

However, some people may say that if people move around, they will spendmoney, time and energy. It is right to say that it takes one person some time toget use to his or her new environment, new personal relationship, workefﬁciency and stability of the society and family. I have to admit that peopleshould make extensive plans before changing their places and may not moveaimlessly and frequently.

Topic 32 Do you spend money or save them?

Some people say that it is better to enjoy your money as soon as you eam itwhile others prefer to save the money for later. It's a difﬁcult choice faced bylots of people because of the different attitudes they hold towards money. Asfar as I am concemed, I vote for the former choice, which is that it is better forone to enjoy his or her money as soon as it is eamed. Spending money as soonas possible is my preference because of three reasons as follows.

First, we can observe easily in the modem society that the dominant philosophynowadays is ‘enjoy your life when you are still young‘. Most young adults liketo work for a period of time and then go on for a trip to visit some places theyhave never been to. Those trips not only helps them to keep in shape but alsoprovides them different kinds of knowledge and new perspective in looking attheir environment. Other people spend the money for their leisure, which helpsthem to relax and go back to work with enough energy.

In the old days, it is said that people who save money in a bank understand thephilosophy of thrift. Actually, economists say that in the modem world savingmoney in a bank is the quickest way to lose it. Moreover, none of the richpeople became rich by getting interests from the bank. Living in a constantlychanging world, we should adjust ourselves to accept the new ways ofinvesting our money to different areas in order to get the most of it. That isprobably the reason why most of the people nowadays put their money intobusiness to get a better payback.

The third obvious reason why I prefer spending money rather than saving themis that it is part of the contribution for the economic growth in our country. Ifnobody has the needs to buy stuff from others and the market, nobody willthink about how to produce useful products and sell them to make the mostproﬁts. Some countries continue to lower the interests in order to force peopleto spend their money and therefore beneﬁt the society as well as the peoplethemselves. In this broad view, I prefer spending money rather than savingthem.

In conclusion, I prefer spending money because it beneﬁts ourselves as well aspeople around us. It's also important for kids to know how to save money as asense of thrift. Nevertheless, spending money is still the best way to make ourlives enjoyable and worthwhile.

Topic 32 Do you spend money or save them?

When I am economically independent, I will choose to enjoy the money I eaminstead of saving it for some time in the future. Life is a process of consuming;and we are growing old day after day. So why not taking advantage ofbeingyoung to enjoy yourself fully, deeply and truly with money - which really cangive you many things although we say that money cannot buy all?

No one would deny that we are all in pursuit of happiness. And this happinessshould belong to today but not tomorrow. Imagine a person, who saves all hecan save in the hope of living better in his later life or making use of the moneywhen necessary, suddenly dies from a trafﬁc accident one moming, leaving allhis savings without enjoying a pit of them. Since no one will know what willhappen in the next second, we had better enjoy what we own now, thus at leastnothing regrettable left in our life if something does overtake us. Money is justwhat can provide us most of the enjoyments. In this highly commercial world,nothing can be done without money - seeing movies, watching a game, eatingat a fancy restaurant, and so on. Money itself indeed cannot give us happiness,but at least it can offer us such opportunities to seek happiness in certain aspect.

For the young, youth is such a valuable period that none ofus should leavesomething regrettable in this golden age. Ascetic-like life is not I want to lead. Iam a person who thinks material things the most important because I likecommodities of famous brand, I like eating in expensive restaurants instead ofsnack bars, I want to traveling all over the world, things for which money isindispensable. I eam money to fulﬁll what I look forward to but not put aside toprepare for something that may happen.

Furthermore, in view of the nowadays economy situation, govemments in allcountries encourage people to consume but not save. Economy in manycountries is down and down, the most distinctive indication ofwhich is thepoor consumption. If every person saves instead consuming, how could thesituation be better? Enjoying what you eam cannot only bring you your ownhappiness but also contribute to the economy of your country, why not?

In one word, I myself choose to spend what I leam and enjoy in time but notsave my money for some time in the future. And I believe that is better both foryou and for the society. So, never hesitate, buy what you want to buy ifyouhave enough money, and enjoy yourself as much as you like.

Topic 33 A piece of jewelry vs. a concert

Depending on personal experience, personality type and emotional, we ﬁnd thatsome people hold the idea of enjoying a concert ifa gift of money has beenreceived, but others choose to buy a piece ofjewelry and that is also my point.My arguments for this point are listed as follows.

The main reason for a piece of jewelry I like is that it has a great value ofcollection. With the resistance of fading, erosion and alteration, jewelry isprobably the ﬁrst durable omaments humans possessed. In addition, owing torareness, costly jewelry is regarded as particular merchandise and left behind tothe offspring. Furthermore, its value will not depreciate like paper currencybecause of turbulent society and economy. According to the three points above,we can reach the investment value of choosing a piece ofjewelry.

Another reason can be seen by every one is that jewelry can make people pretty,and always symbolizes something. For example, through the centuries, ringshave perpetuated the talismanic role of the diamond. In the Middle Ages andRenaissance period, every ring that was set with a precious stone was not somuch a piece ofjewelry, but an amulet that conveyed the magic powers of thestone upon the wearer. On the other hand, “A diamond is forever” isinternationally known to men and women of all ages and may very well meansomething different for everyone. Aside from its status as the ultimate symbolof love, diamonds have been around for millions ofyears, thus in their ownright symbolizing, “forever.” So, it is a good present that you buy a piece ofjewelry for your love.

Admittedly, listening to a concert also has advantages, but the inﬂuence isshort-lived. So, taking into account of all the factors that I have discussed in theabove analysis, I believe that it is more advisable to buy a piece ofjewelryrather than a ticket to a concert.

Topic 33 A piece ofjewelry vs. a concert

People make money for living ﬁrst and then use the money for other things thatlead them to a happy and healthy life, such as buying something they like,watching a movie, or eating a big meal. In my opinion, ifI have received a giftof money, I would like to buy a ticket to a concert.

For me, music is always attractive. When I have completed a whole day's studyor ﬁnished the discussion on some academic problems, my spirit will be eagerto relax for a while. When people want to relax, it is a wonderful thing to go toa concert: the music playing on the concert is the best thing to set your mindfree. If you spend the money to listen to a concert, you will fell that the cost isvaluable.

In addition, you can attend the concert with your friends. It is a good chance tobuild up the relationship between your friends and you. People are always busywith their work and study, losing many occasions of communicating with eachother, a splendid concert and link us together. The music, the conductor and allthe musicians on the concert can offer us a common topic; we can discuss thosethings together.

Furthermore, listening to a concert let me leam more about music and all kindsof instruments, it also culture the appreciatory ability. To think that I spend themoney to buy a piece of jewelry, I can acquire nothing but being a little bitbeautiful at one of my friend's birthday parties. In that case, I just fell that themoney has gone.

Money, even a little money, can make your life more valuable, for this reason, Iprefer to buy a ticket to a concert than to a piece of jewelry.

Topic 33 A piece of jewelry vs. a concert

Some people believe that attending a concert may enrich their culturalexperiences, whereas others may agree that jewelry can be permanent andperpetual, therefore a good item to invest. As far as I am concemed, I prefer thelatter point of view to the former. I would like to substantiate my conclusionfrom the following perspectives.

First of all, buying a piece of jewelry is an excellent investment. Once you buythe jewelry, its price tends to be higher and higher due to the limited number ofprecious gems. Besides, you can sell it for liquidity, when you are ﬁnancially introuble. Conversely, you cannot keep a ticket to preserve its value or resell itfor money. If you believe “save it for rainy days”, you must invest in jewelryother than a concert ticket.

What's more, jewelry symbolizes perpetuity. You must have heard of thefamous commercial slogan from De Beers: "Diamond is forever". A piece ofjewelry is always a good item to memorize some important days, such as awedding anniversary. In addition, you can win the heart of the girl youappreciate at the critical moment by buying her a diamond ring! That is exactlythe way I used to conquer my current wife.

Finally, a piece of jewelry, like a bracelet or an ear ring, cannot only deliveryou fashionable aroma but also provide you with a luster of elegance. You maywear luxurious jewelry when you attend your friend's wedding party. Likewise,you can put it on for more formal social activities. Wearing suitable and decentjewelry may distinguish you from the others, thereby making you feel moreself-conﬁdent. In general, you will look totally different with the jewelry.

Admittedly, it might be true that attending a concert may satisfy your taste oredify your cultural sense. However, purchasing a piece of jewelry tums out tobe more practical and helpful for most of people according to the above reasonsConsequently, I agree that if I have money I will buy the jewelry rather than aconcert ticket.

Topic 34 Should business hire employees for their entire lives?

In the modem society, people are taking a fresh look at whether companiesshould offer employees job security for their entire lives, since many businessesare now realizing that job security make employees less motivated to work andthis leads to less proﬁt for the company. Even though job security also has itsown merits, it is becoming a conspicuous obstacle to develop businesses.Consequently, after pondering this question on many occasions, I believe thatoffering job for entire life is not a wiser choice for the development of acompany and the society. My arguments for this view are based on thefollowing points.

The main reason is that job security has an obvious disadvantage to motivateemployees‘ work attitudes. Further, it leads to decreased productivity forcompanies. Workers who are certain that they can never lose their jobs tend towork less efﬁciently. Many govemment workers are so indolent that it can takethem days and months to complete a task that should only take a few days toﬁnish. Moreover, it is not uncommon to walk into a government ofﬁce and seeemployees ﬁling their nails, making personal calls on the ofﬁce‘s telephone, orsurﬁng the Interment for fun.

The above reason is but one of many factors, in addition to, for the employees,there is a growing awareness that job security is not absolutely beneﬁcial. Withimprovement of the society, workers are more eager to choose a better job,because a new job means a higher salary as well as challenges. Even somecareer consultants are starting to recommend that employees should ﬁnd newjobs every three to ﬁve years.

Admittedly, job security has its own advantages, as a proverb says, "Everythinghas two sides." The most extreme manifestation is the fact that employeerepresents an investment because of the number of hours of training requiredand the company will continue to have a retum on this investment. However,we have no complete evidence to agree that businesses should hire employeefor their entire lives.

Generally speaking, taking into account of all these factors, I do stronglydisagree that companies should offer their employees jobs for entire life. Jobsecurity was regarded as an outmoded way of conducting businesses.Nevertheless, the temporary professional jobs are proving to be the mosteffective way to raise the standard of living of a country.

Topic 34 Should business hire employees for their entire lives?

Whether businesses should hire employees for their entire lives is relatively asubject of discussion as hiring employees for the lifetime increases the level ofcommitment and an undying loyalty and gives the feeling of security toemployees whereas hiring new employees brings fresh blood into anorganization.

I personally believe that businesses should hire new employees from time totime as this process brings new ideas, new expertise, new motivation, newenergy, new technology, new beliefs, new culture, motivated spirit and othersimilar features which is very necessary for an individual and organizationgrowth.

The inculcation and stirring of fresh blood in an organization keeps thecompany/organization/business going towards achieving more sales and moreproﬁts as new employees are better motivated to take new challenges with apositive attitude and proactive approach. They embrace new culture and offertheir values, they bring potential ideas for the intemal and as well as theextemal employees. Rejuvenating new employees helps the company frommany perspectives as after certain period of time old employees becomes lesscontributing because of the same monotonous work, same environment, samerelationships and no new challenges and risks to take on.

If you look at all the new multinationals i.e. Microsoft, HCL, HP, etc., they areachieving stunning annual growth and proﬁts because their policy is to bringthe best in an organization and keep hiring new employees. Employees are theback bone of every organization and pumping fresh blood to it after certainperiod becomes evitable for growth.

My advice to all will be to adopt a policy to inculcate fresh employees fromtime to time and investing time and money on them to help them deliver theirbest and also to retain some amount of old employees because it is said “OLDIS GOLD” to get the ship going through hard times and conquers at last.

Topic 34 Should business hire employees for their entire lives?

Should business hire employees for their entire lives? My answer is no. Abusiness has the responsibility to take care of the right and interests of itsemployees; therefore it should keep them as long as it can. But it is not realisticthat a business can hire its employees for their entire lives.

Firstly, on the business side, in order to survive and thrive, a business, like ahuman body, needs to constantly bring in new ideas and fresh minds into thecorporation, and eliminate those positions that are not needed any longer.Although this might sound cruel, but it is for the survival of the business. Ifthebusiness itself cannot continue, every employee will lose his/her job. Peoplegenerally think big companies like IBM or Wal-Mart are the kind of placewhere people can keep their jobs forever, but these days we often hear aboutthe news that these companies also lay off hundreds and thousands ofpeopledue to economic depressions.

Secondly, on the employee side, securing a lifetime job in one company isalways not good for his personal advancement. He tends to be satisﬁed with hiscurrent job, and make no plans for the future career advancement. This isharmful for both the company and himself. In fact, it is those hop aroundamong different companies who can get a big increase in terms of salary andbeneﬁts, and bring new experiences and skills to their new employees.

In conclusion, I believe it is not a good idea to hire employees for their entirelives. It is both harmful to business and its employees, and therefore, alsoharmful to the society.

Topic 35 A live performance vs. television broadcast

I do not agree with the statement that attending a live performance such as aplay, concert or sport event is more enjoyable than watching the same event onTV, because there are many disadvantages in attending a real performance.

Firstly, there is too much trouble in attending a real performance. You have tobuy tickets, sometimes stand in a long queue; you have to plan the trip and setout a few hours before the show started. After arrival at the theatre or stadium,you will have great trouble ﬁnding a parking place. During a sport event, yourpersonal safety might be jeopardized: the sports funs might get too excitedabout the event, and become a mob. Many people might have heard the newsthat a girl was killed by a puck during a hockey game. If you take publictransport or a taxi home after the show, you might ﬁnd it very difﬁcult to catcha bus or ﬁnd a cab.

Secondly, the seating arrangement can greatly affect the comfort of watchingthe show. Ifyour seat is far from the stage or playground, you cannot even seethe show clearly. People's heads and cheers will distract you from viewing theshow, and in the end you do not even know whom you have seen in a play, orwho wins in a sports event!

Thirdly, there is no ﬂexibility in a real show. After you have been through somuch trouble and eventually start to enjoy the show, you might ﬁnd that youare quite disappointed about the show after all. Unlike watching TV programs,you neither simply change channels nor leave the theatre in the middle of aconcert or play. You might spend a lot of money to suffer from a show that youdo not like.

On the contrary, watching TV at home, where you can make yourself a cup ofcoffee, sit back comfortably and relax, watch the show closely, and enjoy therealistic image and sound from your SONY home-theatre system. Besides, youcan watch programs whatever you like, and go to bed right when the show hasended.

Although many people enjoy the excitement of watch a real show, I thinknothing is more convenient and comfortable than watch TV at home.

Topic 35 A live performance vs. television broadcast

Some people like to attend a live performance while others think that watchingthe same event on television is more enjoyable. To me, I choose watching anevent on television because it is easier and not limited and you have choicesand can know more details of the event.

Watching an event is easier than attending it. You need only a TV set in yourroom. You do not have to buy a ticket or drive to the place where the event isperformed. You can drink some coffee or tea when you want. But if you attenda concert or a play, you have no freedom to drink or do something else. Inaddition, at home, you do not need to worry about the trafﬁc jam and being latefor the event, so you have a light mood to enjoy the event.

The other advantage of watching an event on television is that you can enjoy it

at any time and you can choose what you like from many channels. But ifyou

attend a real event and ﬁnd you have no interest on it, you would regret that

you have wasted the time and money. Watching it on television can avoid it. If

you are interested in the play, you can stay on it; if you are bored, you can

change the channel to ﬁnd some programs that are interesting.

Watching an event on television has another advantage in that you can get more

details of the event from the interpretation. You can understand the background,

the present situation and such information of the event. But ifyou attend it, you

cannot get these information.

I choose watching an event on television. I think it is more enjoyable than

attending a live performance.

Topic 35 A live performance vs. television broadcast

To many people, attending a live performance, such as a melodrama, a concert,

or a sporting event is so incredibly attractive that they will go all out to get a

ticket, regardless of the expense or the difﬁculty involved. But why not enjoy

the performance on television while you can comfortably lie in your sofa or

couch with popcom at hand? That is because attending a live performance

provides you with far more enjoyment than watch it on TV

In a live performance, you will feel that you are in the company of many

friends who are indulged in the same interest, who can share your sorrow or

pleasure or excitement. This kind of resonance at heart is so rarely sensed in

our daily life that this one reason itself is sufﬁcient enough for many people to

attend a live performance. While watching it on TV, we certainly ﬁnd it hard to

feel the emotion sharing, and our loneliness is hardly mitigated.

Furthermore, attending a live performance gives you a sense of participation

that cannot be replaced by watching on TV Live performance is an interaction

between the audience and the performers, and both parts of the performance

decide whether it will be a wonderful one. In this way, you may lament or

laugh, may sob or smile as you are so inﬂuenced by the misfortune or

happiness of the characters. You may fall into the indescribable intoxication

while listen to a favorite piece of music. And correspondingly, the performers

will receive the response of their audience and act accordingly. So the ﬁnal

success of the performance results also from the participation and interaction of

the audience, of which you are a member.

With these foregone advantages, we may say that attending the live

performance is deﬁnitely much more enjoyable than TV watching.

Topic 36 Which transportation vehicle has changed people's lives?

The ancient Chinese people dreamed of flying to a place thousands of miles away within minutes by utilizing the force of a special wind. In many ancient mythologies, deity heroes who had the magic power of traveling a long distance in minutes were highly admired by the common people on earth.

The invention of airplane, which I think is probably one of the greatest achievements of mankind, has helped people fulfill such dreams. In the past, it was a very difficult and daunting task for a person to go far away. Confucius, the great ancient Chinese scholar, once said that a man should not travel a long distance while his parents were still alive. By this, he not only stressed the importance of interpersonal relations among family members but also indicated the difficulties and the time spent on going far way. In ancient books, we can find numerous descriptions of the hardness and risks travelers often faced, not to mention the long time they had to spend on the road.

However, the invention of modem transportation means, airplane in particular, has greatly transformed people's way of traveling. Now, they can easily go within hours to places thousands of miles away, a distance which people would have taken several months to go in the previous time. Besides, airplanes make traveling much safer and comfort. Sheltered from sunlight, rain, hot or freezing temperatures, people can now fly in the air and avoid being exposed to bad climates and strong winds.

Another advantage of airplanes is that they can transport people as well as goods swiftly to other places. For instance, airplanes play an important role in sending rescue teams and goods to an area damaged by an earthquake, as a result of which the lives of thousands of people are saved. Now, in the global anti-terrorist war, military forces can be dispatched and deployed in a short time to areas where an terrorist attack occurred.

Airplanes have undoubtedly changed people's lives. The earth has become "smaller" now because of the convenient exchanges of people and commodities made possible by airplanes. We can accomplish many things that could never have been done by the ancient people.

Topic 36 Which transportation vehicle has changed people's lives?

An airplane is a form of transportation that has changed people's lives. Thanks to the plane, our lives are now faster, more exciting, and more convenient that before.

You cannot deny that a plane is fast. For example, the Concorde flies at supersonic speed. A businessman can leave Paris at 11 a.m. in the morning and arrive in New York at 8 a.m. the same morning in time for a day's work. Many business people in Europe will fly to London for a noon meeting and then return home to Rome or Madrid for dinner.

It is always exciting to take a plane trip. When you take a trip by plane, you know that you might cross many time zones, many oceans, and many countries. When you get off the plane, you could be in a place that speaks a different language. A plane is like a magician‘s trick. You get in a box and you come out somewhere totally different.

Nothing can beat the convenience of a plane. In the old days, it might take you days to do what the plane can do it an hour. Boats, for example, only leave on certain days of the week and take a long time to get to their destination. Planes give you the option to leave several times a day and get you to your destination quickly.

Although other forms of transportation may be more comfortable, none has changed the way we do business and live our lives more than the plane. Thanks to the speed, excitement, and convenience of the planes, our lives are richer.

Topic 37 Is progress always good?

Is progress always good? Scientiﬁc progress brings us many conveniences and

advanced machines, such as computers, automobiles, and so on. Progress seems

to have made life simpler and more comfortable. But ifwe analyze it carefully,

we will ﬁnd that progress is not always good.

Modem industry brings us many conveniences. But at the same time, some

problems emerge. For example, “the green-house effect” is a very serious

problem that scientists try to solve. It increases the earth's temperature, causes

icebergs to melt and the ocean level to become higher and higher. Maybe

someday the oceans will swallow some big cities nearby them.

Progress enhances the efﬁciency of industrial production, but it also brings us

another serious problem -pollution. Pollution in some countries is so serious

that ecological balance is damaged and many animals and plants lose their

living environment and become extinct eventually. The air is polluted and it is

not suitable for people. The water is also polluted and people are facing

deﬁciency of drinking water.

Progress makes the pace of life faster and faster because of the application of

computers and automatic machines. People have to work faster than before and

it makes them nervous. More and more physical and psychological problems

disturb people's life. Many people do not have time for recreation.

From the above statements, it can be concluded that progress is not always

good. It has its own negative inﬂuences on our life. Let hope those problems

can be solved by more progress.

Topic 37 Is progress always good?

With the evolution of civilization over the past several thousand years, man has

made tremendous progress in all aspects of human society. While enjoying all

the convenience and happiness brought about by this progress, we cannot deny

that it has also caused severe problems. Scientiﬁc advance is always praised

and extolled by many as the most essential cause of social development.

However, we shall not forget that on the other hand, major scientiﬁc inventions

and technical advancement sometimes also form big threats to human society.

The two world wars happened during the past century witnessed the blood

shedding battles that cost millions of lives. Weapons made with modem

technology have brought about such large casualties and devastations that could

never been done by people in the previous time. Environmental problems have

attracted more and more attention of the people around the world. With the

development of modem industry and farming, global environment has kept

deteriorating. Scientiﬁc researches indicate that the green house effect has

contributed to the warming of the earth.

We live in a much worse surrounding than our ancestors: polluted air and water,

extreme high temperatures in summer, etc. which are all harmful to our health.

The world now is undergoing a globalization process that has caused divided

opinions among different people. I think we should be highly aware of some of

the problems it may cause. For instance, globalization would eliminate the

differences between different people. The languages and unique customs of

some ethnic nations are on the verge of extinction.

What a world would be if we see people everywhere speak the same language,

wear similar clothes, live in houses of the similar styles, and use the same brand

of products? We do beneﬁt a lot from the progress of human civilization, but

we must pay closer attention and be highly alert of the problems it brings about.

Progress is not always good if we neglect its side effects.

Topic 38 Is learning about the past useful?

It is often argued that spending much time on studying history is unreasonable, since the information people obtain lacks the practical implementation. However, after careful thought, I have come to disagree with it. I believe that history provides valuable sources for understanding different people and societies, predicting future trends and building a person's identity. History generates past experiences and formulates the steps of development. It provides us with numerous examples of “cause-effect” events, which help to understand different social mechanisms.

Everything that is happening today stems from the past and will have direct effect on the future. Being aware of our history helps to avoid old mistakes and make right decisions. The majority of all the political conﬂicts have a long history, for instance the Middle East or Russia-Chechnya tensions. A closer study of their deeper reasons and the measures taken beforehand can prove to be invaluable in ﬁnding the right solution today. It can save thousands of lives. At the same time, studying history of our own country or region builds up our identity, gives us a feeling of belonging to a certain group of people. Therefore, if we face a problem of communicating with a person of other culture, the basic knowledge of his history can prove absolutely necessary for a successful and productive interaction.

To sum up, I strongly believe that it is highly beneﬁcial for modem people to posses a good knowledge of the history, because it assures a profound understanding of social mechanisms, helps to avoid many mistakes and promotes a better communication between different nations.

Topic 38 Is learning about the past useful?

Every country, every nation, even every person has its own past, present and future. Events from our past reﬂect on our present. Events from our present will reﬂect on our future. The time-line is unbreakable. Therefore no one should live only for today isolated from the past or without any connections to the future.

Every one of us is a member of the society. Living without leaming about our history is the same as building a house without foundations. Furthermore, everyone is strongly connected with his past even when he does not comprehend it thoroughly sometimes.

Our life is a result of a series of events from our past. Our success today is a consequence of hard work or some victory in the past. Our present failure is maybe a result ofnot taking our chances in time or not making a proper decision in the past. I truly believe that everyone makes his own destiny and fate has nothing to do with it.

In my opinion, leaming about the past is of great importance to all of us. Even if we are completely devoured by our present existence we should look back to the past as carefully as we can. Thus we can avoid our previous mistakes or to ﬁnd an easier way to success. In this case history is our best teacher. And if we leam the lessons of the past we will make progress much faster in the present. We have made our history step-by-step and day-by-day. Those ofus who live only in the present and only for today are like trees without roots-so easily ‘fragile’ in a stormy day. The past is the base on which countries; nations and communities build their present. That is why I think leaming about the past has really no value because leaming about our history is invaluable. So let us take a look back to leam a little more about ourselves.

Topic 39 Can new technologies help students?

“With the help of technology students nowadays can leam more information and leam it more quickly." I agree with this statement. Technology has helped a student cross national boundaries, open up new views and increase the speed at which he imbibes information.

New technology in the form of Intemet has helped breach the limitations of a country's frontiers. A student sitting in a small town of India can access the latest course material released by MIT on his topic of interest. He can gain access to the latest info that his happening in physics and thus improve his existing warehouse of knowledge. He can browse through the previous papers in physics and dwell deeper and deeper in his specialized study. And how long does this all take? A click of a mouse. Compare this with searching through the mazes of his small hometown library, only to ﬁnd some outdated articles and consuming a great part of his daily activity.

Technology has helped open up many new avenues that previously were considered impossible. Take for example the simple LCD projectors. They give a visual feel of the subject that the student is studying helping him to leam not only quickly but also effectively. Or for that matter video conferencing. A student can ask questions and clear his lingering doubts when he interacts with a professor considered as the authority in his ﬁeld.

An overlooked aspect of technology is the transportation. With rapid advances in transportation, a student in Japan does not think twice before signing up for a program in the US. Would this have been possible 100 years back? Certainly not.

In concluding I would like to say that technology has played a major role not only in increasing the speed at which students leam but also in bringing a radical change in the way they leam it.

Topic 39 Can new technologies help students?

The information technology is developing so rapidly that nearly all families in Hong Kong have at least one computer. Not only can students surf on the net and search for information at home, but they can also use computers at schools, at cyber centers and even in certain fast food restaurants. No doubt, the convenience in accessing information on the Intemet helps students to leam more knowledge and leam it more quickly.

In the past, students can only leam from traditional books. In addition to the school curriculum, students might be able to leam from the extra-curricular books. They can go to the library and search for information. But this is much inconvenient than just sitting in front of the computer and leaming things from websites from all over the world. In comparison, the information from the traditional books is so limited. By surﬁng on the net, students can get a wider horizon about any kind of information and have a deep understanding on each ﬁeld.

On the other hand, students can never have such a quick way to search for information that they required. In a library, students might have to spend a whole hour in searching for a single book with relevant information. Yet, with a computer, students can search for an entire page of links with a search engine such as Yahoo. The whole process involves just few clicks and several seconds. Moreover, information from books in library might be outdated. On the net, students can leam the ﬁrst-handed information. With the help of technology, students can get information much quicker.

However, searching on the net for information has its disadvantages too. It is difﬁcult to ensure the information is accurate or not, as the publishing of website do not have the controlling policies as that of publishing books. Yet, in general, it is still true that information technology help students to leam more and leam more quickly.

Topic 40 Never, never give up

Continuous exertion may sound very exhausting and thus, it is understandable even if some people suggest it should be better to give up sometimes. It is true at some points because the human race is not almighty creature. However I would say it is not about giving up, but just changing a goal. Recognizing life events as a sequence, I think even when giving up something, it is just adjusting the goal to more reachable level and processes for previous goals always play a role in reaching next goal.

In the ﬁrst place, I would like to emphasize that this is not only about the youth becoming competent, but also about all the people making their own lives more comfortable and enjoyable. For instance, both following examples I present can be seen as continuous exertion: a young person trying to become a professional musician and a person on the verge of death exercising hands in order to move them better than the previous day. If their goals are too high for them, the young person may have to change it to be working in a related ﬁeld such as becoming a commentator, a voice trainer or so, and the dying person may have to change it to exercise ﬁngers instead of hands. That is, people naturally keep trying in any case until the last minute they accept death.

Furthermore, there are also two advantages of indomitable attitudes. Firstly, some different approaches to a goal are necessary, other than blind efforts. Such a contrivance activates brain and makes human beings more alive. I do not think it is exaggerative to say.

Secondly, this attitude is also important when trying to achieve something extraordinary, because chances and right ideas do not always lie all together. Other chances and ideas never show up ifit is given up. Totally different idea or better chances sometimes appear after groping in the dark.

From what I have been discussing above, there is no doubt about favorable inﬂuences of continuous exertion. Whether agree or disagree with the statement of this topic, people keep trying by nature and it does make us alive. When I have no energy left to keep trying, I simply keep it on my mind so as not to miss any possibilities. In other words, it is possible to keep trying even when

feeling like giving up. Thus, I strongly believe that we should never give up.

Topic 40 Never, never give up

My English teacher always want us to remember Churchill's famous speech near the end of Second World War “Never, never give up. ” This brought people in many countries extremely strong courage in front of blood and death and helped them overcome the most serious difﬁculties in the human history. "Never, never give up because I can always see the coast and it brings me courage all the time." This is what the girl who swam across the English Channel successfully answered when the reporter asked what had made her reached her goal. She said that she chose a very sunny day to make sure that she can see her hope and just went for it. To be able to see the goal helps us a lot when we feel ﬁustrated somewhere and even almost lose our conﬁdence. In the long term to success, hope is our belief and it can make us be very strong when we face great difﬁculties and even want to quit. Some people failed simply because they lost their sight of their "coast" although they are very qualiﬁed and capable.

Never, never give up and always give yourself a second chance. We may fail sometimes but it absolutely does not mean that we will fail very time. Thomas Edison, one of the most famous inventors in the 20th century, tried more than one thousand times before he found out that tungsten was the right material for the electric bulb, and so as most of the great scientists in many ﬁelds. When the Curie couple faced failures they never gave up and always told themselves to stick to what they were doing. It's not likely to achieve a great success by the ﬁrst try. The real success is always based on a great deal of failure.

Psychologists tell us that the inﬂuence of what we strongly hold in mind is so important to our career. First we have to make sure that our goal is achievable and practical then just go for it no matter how difﬁcult it is and we will never lose our passion and will always be positive. The characters in The Lord of the Rings have thousands of chances to tum back. However they kept going because they were holding on to something -- There is some good in the world that worth ﬁghting for. "Never, never give up" is always the secret to success.

Topic 40 Never, never give up

To me personally the expression "never, never give up" sounds pretty optimistic but not terribly encouraging anyway. No matter how good this nice piece of advice is, it would not always be easy to do exactly what it tells you, that is, to brace up and to keep your head above water no matter what happens. I am not sure it is worth discussing whether this happy-go-lucky motto is in the right or in the wrong. I simply believe that for different people placed in different situations it may mean totally different things.

It goes without saying that for some this expression may sound like their personal life slogan. In my view, category of people has the whole life planned out for them in advance. They are very likely to have a set of short-term and long-term goals and to do their best to achieve them all. They would work hard, try many different ways to get to their aim and ﬁnally, they would most certainly succeed. Which at ﬁrst may seem to be a fairly natural run of things. Their second favorite expression may be at ﬁrst you failed, try, and try again. This is what they do and this is something they are good at. Sometimes it may also seem that they are just awfully stubbom and even stupid, not being able to see that some of their goals are just beyond them. But they still prefer to try to work for their so-called goals, regardless. No one wants to be a loser.

At the same time, I have the impression that once in a while? And quite good once in a while it is? it might be useful to be able to face up the facts and realize that some ofyour goals are too much of a job for you. I don't think it means being pessimistic, by no means. This can be called realism though. If you have already tried to do some particular task a hundred of times and it still didn't get you anywhere, what's the use of trying? Wouldn't it be more reasonable to admit the hard truth, rather than to go on with the same senseless grind for ages? I believe that this capacity to admit your own failure is a highly important, but incredibly difﬁcult thing to do.

Anyway, I suppose that giving up is not a part of the human nature. Because if it were, the rate of suicide will be incredibly high, because as I understand that is the greatest giving up ever. But well, things don't happen this way. So, ifyou don't succeed, you try again because ﬁrst of all you don't have much choice left Ifyou failed the second time and the third time and then over and again. You

just realize that you failed. And even ifyou did fail, what are you left with? You just have to put up with that and start getting by it. It's the easiest way, after all. The one many people go for.

Topic 41 Should we save land for endangered animals?

In the past, there have been many endangered animals. Now they are extinct. Does it matter? Has our environment been affected by their absence? Has the quality of our own life been changed? The answer to these questions is "Yes. It does matter if we destroy an endangered species habitat to develop more farmland, housing or industrial parks. There is a delicate balance of nature. If one small part is removed, it will affect all the other parts. For example, if certain trees are cut down, bats will have no place to roost. If they cannot roost, they cannot breed. If there are no bats, there will be no animal, or bird to eat certain insects that plague our crops.

Our environment has been affected by the absence of certain animals. Certain ﬂowers are pollinated by butterﬂies that migrate from Canada to Mexico. Some of the breeding grounds of these butterﬂies were destroyed. Now these ﬂowers are disappearing from certain areas. We will no longer be able to enjoy their beauty.

The quality of our life has been changed. America used to be covered with giant trees. Now we have to visit them in one small park. Rainforests around the world are being cut down to make room for humans. We will never be able to see or study this fragile ecosystem.

I would encourage us humans to look for other altematives for our farmlands, housing, and industries. We have altematives; the animals do not.

Topic 41 Should we save land for endangered animals?

Human beings tend to put their needs in the ﬁrst place all the time. It is obvious, that we all need shelter, food and clothing to survive. For some people possession of mentioned above things is not enough and they start to build houses and industrial institutions all over the world. In my view, this way we put the wild life of our planet in jeopardy. I deﬁnitely do not agree with the statement that our need for farmland, hosing and industry is more important than lives of endangered animals.

We all know that industry provides not only necessary things for people, but also destroys our environment. Of course, every person in the world needs such things as food, clothes and home. People already has built abundance of mega polices, small towns and villages with all kinds of industrial institutions. Human‘s activity inﬂuences our environment dramatically every single day. For example, people cut forests, throw garbage into the ocean and create pollution all the time. Many species of animals are already endangered because of our poisonous activities. Do we need to destroy our picturesque world even more, or it is time to stop now? I believe that people should decrease the development of industry, hosing and farms where there are wild forests and animals.

Also, I would say that everything in the nature is connected so strongly that by killing one kind of animals and destroying one type of wild plant, we can destroy many other species. As an example, Panda bears eat only bamboo trees and leaves. If people cut bamboo forests where Panda live, they would disappear too, because of the luck of their favorite food.

Et the end, I would say that the land should be saved for wild and endangered animals. People should start thinking not only about their goods, but also about saving our planet.

Topic 42 What is a very important skill a person should learn?

Success has been an issue broadly discussed and deﬁned by different approaches. Some say that being successful means being wealthy. Others associate success with popularity and power. A third approach would relate success with social and emotional well-being. So we come to the questions:

“When can be someone considered successful?” and “What skills make success easier to achieve?"

In order to answer the second question, we should have a point of view about what success is. I consider that someone is really successful when that person is able to handle and enjoy social relationships. A leader can be powerful and recognized, but if he is unable to enjoy his leadership and feels lonely because he cannot establish a deep friendship, can we really say such leader is successful? On the other hand, a wealthy person may have all the possessions money can buy, but again, what if he cannot manage a marriage or a friendship This person is likely to feel lonely and unsatisﬁed.

Developing social abilities may be a very helpful skill for a person to leam, in order to be successful in the social-emotional side of his or her life. One ability to develop could be effective and assertive communication. Many misunderstandings and conﬂicts can be prevented if we express our ideas clearly and respectfully, and if we leam to ask for clariﬁcation when we feel threatened or offended by something someone told us. Another ability could be leaming to handle teamwork. We need to leam to work with others at work, at home, at school, in our community. Getting into an agreement with our parents, children, coworkers and friends is a situation that can become hard to handle sometimes. Dealing with teamwork can be really helpful. Finally we could add the ability to deal with conﬂicts with others and conﬂicts with our own wishes or decisions. We will always ﬁnd obstacles in our paths; it can be quite useful to know how to overcome them.

In my opinion, I would deﬁne success as being able to enjoy what you have, what you do and who you deal with everyday. And to achieve success, you should have skills that help you handle relationships with your peers. We are social creatures; we need each other to succeed, and to enjoy our success.

Topic 42 What is a very important skill a person should learn?

“It is never too late to leam” is an English proverb meaning that people should never stop leaming all his life. In other words, life is a process of constant leaming, which enables an individual to make continuous progress to perfect him or her as a human being. Therefore, I deem the ability to leam is the most important skill of a person in the world today to achieve any accomplishments. We are living in an era of knowledge explosion. There are too many skills to be grasped by a single individual within a comparatively short period of time. Skills considered necessary nowadays include English, computer, driving, etc. It is not very likely for a fresh college graduate to be proﬁcient in all these skills. The most possible occurrence is that a person ﬁrst chooses his ﬁeld of profession and then starts to master those required skills in his ﬁeld. Thus, I argue that the ability to leam new skills is more essential than the skills themselves.

Another reason for my avocation for the leaming ability is that if a person is capable of acquiring new knowledge soon, he must be a smart, trainable and adaptable person who is what the rapidly developed society needs. In a society fraught with new difﬁculties and problems, a quick-witted person, when faced with them, will come up with solutions more easily than those who only know

“the skills." That is why I believe the capacity to acquire knowledge carries more weight than “the knowledge” itself.

In short, in a time teeming with many unprecedented events, the problem- solving ability or new knowledge-acquiring skill is the most crucial one necessary for a person who wants to be successful.

Topic 42 What is a very important skill a person should learn?

Two years ago, if you ask a person what do they think is the most important skill to be successful in the world, you will get a variety of answers. If you ask a person who is about my age the same question, presumably, eight out of ten will give the same answer as mine - the computer skill is the most important skill a person should leam.

Why I think computer skill is the most important skill? First, computer skills such as operating a word processing software package or typing are convenient and efﬁcient. For example, I am writing this essay by using a computer. If I do not have computer skill, I cannot make a composition as quickly as possible; maybe I can only write on paper. Another example is that many colleges is offering online classes for student to choose from, which means the students can study in the comfort of their homes and acquire their knowledge by means of using computers at home.

Secondly, computers are an important tool for teaching and communicating between teachers and students. Recently, school teachers have an increasingly demand on students to tuming in their papers or school works, and the teachers can score on line. If the teacher has a assignment, they just send an e-mail to the students. In addition, many young people use computers to communicate

with each other. They use online chat rooms, ICQs and messengers. They even play online games through the Internet. Therefore computer skills are important for students to communicate with their teachers and fellow students.

Last but not least, computer skill helps a person to ﬁnd a good job after they graduate. As we open newspapers and search for a good job, we can ﬁnd that computer skill is a required skill for nearly every job. Indeed, whether you work as a receptionist, salesperson, warehouse manager and ofﬁce clerk, you have to operate a computer and therefore computer skills is absolutely necessary for these jobs and most others.

Although there are many other important skills for a person to succeed in today's world, judging from what I have mentioned above, I think my point of view is solid and sound. Having computer skills is one of the most important things in today's world.

Topic 42 What is a very important skill a person should learn?

Nowadays people say that we have stepped into “The Information Age”, therefore computer skills are one of the most important skills in today's society. Being able to operate a computer is an advanced technique and can increase one‘s work efﬁciency and simplify many works.

Using a computer can help people do many complex works. You can calculate a very complex arithmetic problem. Many arithmetic problems in engineering are too complex to work out by hands. A computer can do these works conveniently and easily. You can also look for some references from a foreign country from a computer ifyou login in the Intemet. You can save your

documents in some discs on a computer no matter how large they are and you do not need to take a lot ofpaper.

Using a computer can increase your work efﬁciency. With its help, you can book plane tickets and hotel rooms for a business trip. You can easily compile your ﬁles in a shorter time and retrieve them whenever you need. If you are an engineer, you can control machines automatically with the help of a computer. The products are more precise than those controlled by hands and the product

efﬁciency is higher. You can save a lot of time to consider other things and this is important for your success.

If you can operate a computer, you can sit down in your own home and control distant work. All you need to do is pressing some keys. With the help of a computer, your work can be simpliﬁed. You also can use a computer to communicate with your friends by e-mails and it is quicker and safer than ordinary means.

There are many other skills a person should leam to be successful, but I think that being able to operating a computer is the most important.

Topic 42 What is a very important skill a person should learn?

Upon the question that what is the very important skill a person should leam in

the world today, different people have different opinions. In my point ofview, I

prefer to think that communication is the most important skill for almost every

person. There are many reasons to support my view.

Firstly, communication is a bridge between people. Nobody is omnipotent;

people depend on one another in their daily lives. We all hope we can be

become the person who masters every skills and can complete every kind of

work by ourselves. However the real world tells us that this just is a dream.

Therefore, people are interdependent; no one can say that he does not need

other people's help. The society requires cooperation among people.

Communication is the link. Communication is the ﬁrst step of successful

cooperation among people. By communication, we exchange thoughts and

information, and get other people understand our needs and ideas. For example,

in a company, big or small, a manager always has to communicate with his boss,

colleagues and subordinates.

Secondly, communication can help us keep friendship and make new friends.

Friends need to communicate to each other, so that they know each other‘s

needs and feelings. Indeed, one of the most important qualities of a friend is

communication and understanding. Ifyou are a good communicator, it is very

easy for you to keep your friendship and make new friends. Ifyou do not

communicate with your friends, you will not only feel lonely, but also can

eventually loss your friends.

From all above, I think that communication is the most important skill for

people to survive in this society. I hope everybody works hard to get the skill.

Topic 43 Why are people attracted to a dangerous sport?

Have you experienced the fear of bungee jumping? Have you ever enjoyed the excitement of car racing? Nowadays, more and more people are attracted to such dangerous activities, especially the young people. Wondering why? After thinking about the lifestyle of those people, the reason goes as follows.

While the world is becoming more and more competitive, the tasks on each person's shoulders become heavier and heavier. People's everyday activities are very intense. The best way to relax and get relieved is to go in for dangerous activities, because while you are doing something dangerous, you have to concentrate on it, and you cannot think about anything else. Hence you relieved all the unhappiness and the troubles you had in the daily work.

In addition, to take risks and try out new things is one of human being‘s basic instincts. People always like to do something new, especially when something is popular as well. According to some statistics, the dangerous activities are becoming extremely popular among young people. If you do not try some dangerous activities, people will think that you are a coward and you are afraid of doing it. So it is reasonable enough for them to do dangerous sports to show their braveness.

However, I do not like dangerous activities and I believe the phenomenon that people are attracted to dangerous activities is just a whim. After realizing countless disadvantages of them, people will reconsider about them. Some safer activities to help people to get relieved will be developed afterwards.

Topic 43 Why are people attracted to a dangerous sport?

I think some people get attracted to dangerous sports or other dangerous activities for diverse reasons. There are many dangerous sports or activities, but for the purpose of this discussion, I will just mention a few of them. These are: Car racing, Bull fighting, Skiing, Horse racing and Mountain climbing. Some people are attracted to dangerous sports/activities based on the following reasons I will present in the next three paragraphs.

First, some people engage in dangerous sports/activities for recreational purposes. Often, they derive pleasure from such activities, and they believe it's fun. For example, horse racing is dangerous, accidental fall from the horse back during the race could lead to death or serious injury. Nevertheless the fun and excitement of horse riding cannot be replaced by other sports/activities.

Second, some people get attracted to dangerous sports/activities for economic reason. Some earn their living through their participation in dangerous sports/activities. For example, there are two famous mountain climbers in my country that earn a lot of money through this dangerous activity ‘mountain climbing‘. Unfortunately, one of them can no longer participate in the activity because of his predicament. He missed his step and fell from the peak of the mountain and broke his spinal cord.

Lastly, some people are attracted to dangerous sports to get attention from the people or to prove that they are brave. Such people may engage in bull fighting, they want to show people that are fearless and can face any challenge that might seem inevitable.

In conclusion, people have different reasons for engaging in dangerous sports/ activities .I believe with the above mentioned reasons you can see why some people are attracted to dangerous sports.

Topic 44 Travel with a companion vs. travel alone

Traveling is a very pleasant thing. Some people like to travel with several friends. Other people, however, would prefer to travel alone. As far as I am concemed, traveling with my friends is better.

Why do some people like to travel alone? For one thing, they can experience more freedom. They do not need to discuss the itinerary of travel with others. He/she can just go whenever he/she wants. For another, they do not need to keep an eye on how to get along with friends.

Although there may be one or more advantages to traveling alone, I insist that traveling with friends is better. In the ﬁrst place, the trip will become easy. Traveling is not a very easy activity. For example, you need to ﬁnd transportation, hotels and restaurants in new places. Several friends can share these tasks so that everyone has a chance to enjoy the joumey.

In the second place, you can get help when you need. There will be many unexpected things that could happen during the joumey. Such as, someone gets lost, gets sick, or cannot wake up early for the moming ﬂight. It is very tough for people to handle these situations by themselves especially when they travel to a new place. Friends can give you a hand to overcome all these difﬁculties. Everyone needs the help from others.

In addition, you can have more fun by traveling with friends. Enjoying the scenic spots is wonderful, while traveling on the road is boring. How to spend this boring time? Talking with friends, playing cards will help.

In conclusion, I prefer to travel with friends rather than travel alone not only because the trip will be easier with friends, but also because I can have more fun by with friends‘ company.

Topic 44 Travel with a companion vs. travel alone

Traveling is a favorite recreation for many people, especially for young students. It can enable us not only to accumulate our knowledge about history, culture, geography and local tradition, but also to edify our minds and spirits greatly. However, upon the question, which is better, traveling alone or together with several friends, people seem to have different opinions. As far as I am concemed, I like to travel with friends.

When traveling to other places, the most important thing for us to consider is safety. In China, many famous scenery spots with Buddhist temples or shrines are situated in deep mountains or remote areas. Travelers sometimes have to go on a tiring and even dangerous road before they can arrive at these places: crossing rivers with rapid currents, climbing high mountains, walking along a narrow path on deep cliffs etc. If a person travels with others, he may receive aids or lend a hand to his companion in time of needs. Several years ago, I traveled with some other people to Wuyi Mountain, a famous scenery spot in Fujian Province. When climbing a high cliff, one of the people slipped, but he was grasped by hand almost instantaneously by a man at his side. If he had

traveled there alone, he would have fallen down the high cliff and injured himself.

Another reason why I prefer to travel with others is that we can ease the feeling of loneliness and nostalgia by talking with each other. When traveling to far away and unfamiliar places, we may easily fall into a low spirit and have strong nostalgic feeling. There are numerous ancient Chinese literary works, poems or essays etc., which describe such feeling on road. A man sat in an empty hub, facing a small lamp, seeing the dumping rain outside the window, etc., all constitute a typical picture of a lonely traveler. But if at this time, the traveler had a companion to chat with him, his sad feeling would be much lessened.

In a higher sense, life is like a traveling, most of us need someone to accompany us to go through the road. I think those who have to live alone are unfortunate ones in human society.

Topic 45 Getting up early vs. staying up late

Some people prefer to get up early in the moming to start the day's work; while other people like to get up later in the day to work until late at night. Which option do you prefer? I would choose to get up early in the moming. This view is based on the following reasons.

By getting up early in the moming you can enjoy a lot of good things that the nature offers. You can breath fresh air, smell aroma of ﬂowers, listen the birds singing in the moming. What a beautiful world! In the meantime, these can refresh our brains and quickly get ready for the day's work. We can immediately concentrate on the work, and solve the problems with great efﬁciency. For example, when I was in senior middle school, I got up early in the moming everyday to go over my lessons and prepare for the courses that I would have that day. I found it was so efﬁcient and I memorized my study material so deeply. On the contrary, people who get up late and go to bed late tend to leave all the day's work to the night, and tend to go to bed until the ﬁnish the day's work. This is not a good living habit and also not an efﬁciently way of working.

Another reason why I would like to get up early to start a day's work is because I believe that it is good for our health. The body's cycle follows the nature: when the sun rises, it is time to get up; when the moon rises, it is time to go to bed. Besides, by getting up early we can have time to do some exercises such as jogging, hiking and swimming, which will beneﬁt our health. Many statistics show that most people who live a long life get up early and go to bed early. While getting up late and go to bed late violates human biology and therefore will do harm to the health. And people who get up late never got a chance to do momrng exercrses.

In a word, getting up early in the moming to start a day's work is a smart choice for people; it can beneﬁt both people's work and health.

Topic 45 Getting up early vs. staying up late

Some people prefer to get up early in the moming and start the day's work. Others, however, prefer to get up later in the day and work until late at night. As far as I am concemed, getting up early is a good habit because it is good for health, and it is easy for people to take care of everyday work.

In the ﬁrst place, everyone knows that getting up early is a very good habit for our health. You can enjoy the fresh air in the early moming, and also you can get a good night's sleep during the quiet midnight. Moreover, if you get up early, before go to work, you still have enough time to do some exercises, such as walking, running and riding the bike. Without doubt, all of the exercises can help your to stay healthy.

In the second place, it is easy to take care of everyday work if people get up early. For example, if everyone in the family gets up early, the wife will have enough time to prepare the breakfast for the whole family, the children will have enough time to catch the school bus, the husband will never forget to change his dirty shirt. Everything is in order.

Admittedly, some people who work until midnight and get up later in the day claim that working in the midnight is more efﬁcient for them and they can concentrate on their work without distraction. However, the advantages of getting up early carry more weight than those of getting up late.

To sum up, from what I have discussed above, we can safely draw the conclusion that getting up early can beneﬁt us not only because it is good for our health but also it is easy for us to take care of everyday work. Therefore, I prefer to get up early in the moming and start the day's work.

Topic 45 Getting up early vs. staying up late

Meng Haoran, an ancient Chinese poet, wrote in one of his poems his happy feeling when wakened by the chirping of birds in a spring moming. It seems that he did not get up early and waked "naturally" after a sound sleep. What kind of timetable a person should follow depends on the character and habit of him and even on the job he does. I think it is important to arrange our life in such a way as to ensure high efﬁciency of our work and good to our health. Some people prefer to work until late at night because they feel that they can concentrate their mind in a quiet environment when others are in sleep.

For instance, many writers like to write at night. It is said that a famous French writer who lived in a small house on a hill at seaside was accustomed to working so late at night that the lamplight from the window was perceived by the sea crewmen as a signal leading their ships into the harbor. In China, people are encouraged to follow a regular living habit, which requires early sleep and

early rise. For a long time in the past, China has been a traditional agricultural society, in which people lived a life that progressed slowly with the change of trme.

As an old Chinese saying goes, "a man should get up early so as to clean the house to prepare for the day's work." Even today, we can see many old people do exercise early in the moming in parks or open areas of cities. However, with the rapid social and economical development, people are now forced to some extend to abandon such a living style based on the progress of the time.

Nowadays, we are living in a fast changing society, sometimes we have to following a rhythm or timetable according to the need of our work instead of our own will. But however we arrange our life, we should try to take into account of our own conditions in order to do our work well.

Topic 46 Important qualities of a good son or daughter

Both sons and daughter are a blessing for the parents. It is a fact that the strongest and themost sincere love exists in the relation of the parents and their children.

No child is bom good or bad, it is the qualities he adopts with the passage of time thatmake him stand good or bad. A good son or a good daughter would be obedient to hisparents. It is a religious obligation, a social norm and an indication ofreﬁned behaviorsand a peaceful family set up for the children to be obedient to their parents.

Such a son or daughter would be dutiful. He would know his duties as regards his parentsand would always try to fulﬁll those in time. In the age when a son or daughter can eam;they would eam and instead of taking money from their parents they will try to give themmoney. This will make them feel proud and think that they are getting back for what theyhad spent on their children.

Not only this good son or a good daughter would be caring towards his/her parents. It is afact that as children grow to their youth, parents start their joumey of old age. And in theold age they demand as much care and attention as children need when they are veryyoung. It is obligatory for the children to remain caring, dutiful and pleasant to theirparents and make them feel as part of family. It is often seen that children start feelingthat their parents in the old age are no more than a burden. This is a very wrong attitudeand in my religion this is strongly condemned. Instead it is advised that when in the oldage, parents should be taken care of by the children as children were taken care of in theirearly age.

A good son or daughter would look after all the needs of his / her parents. And by noaction of his/her will make them feel as if he/she are fed up of them. Also they will berespectful to their parents and would always give thought to their suggestions and wouldalways try to act upon those. Since the advices given by the parents are the result of theirexperiences which children in their arrogance often ignore. They should think that thereis no altemate to the experience and parents would never give a bad opinion to theirchildren.

It is a pity that with the passage of time the children don't give the parents their due rightsnor do they look after them in the right manner. This situation has resulted in theformation of many old houses where old parents are trying to pass the remaining days oftheir lives. they can not enjoys the joys of their children because their children don't wantto keep them with because of their busy schedules.

Islam lays a great importance on the respect of parents. Islam says that Heaven lies underthe feet of one‘s mother. Like wise there is a great status of father in ISlam too and one isasked to act upon the advices of their parents always unless they order him to change hisreligion.

In our culture too, we see that with the passage of time the children have developed thehabits of not obeying their parents. This has with the passage of time played a vital role inweakening the family bonds.

The unit of any society is a home in the very basic perspective. When the basics wouldnot be strong how can the building be strong which is developed on those basics. This isthe very same situation in modem societies, the family bonds are not that strong as theyused to be resulting in the weakness in the society as a whole and a frustrated youthwhich can not play its part productively towards national growth.

Topic 46 Important qualities of a good son or daughter

It is commonly known that parents expect to see their children behavingdecently and respectfully. It is extremely important for parents to provide totheir kids a clear explanation of what is bad and what is good. Hence, byhaving parents‘ support and advices, children could achieve the importantqualities that later their parents could be proud of. In my opinion, the basicqualities of a being a good son or daughter have been remaining the same overyears.

The most important quality, I think, is that we should respect our parents. It wasour parents who brought us into the world and brought us up. They provided usfood and clothes, and send us to schools to be educated. They tried their beststo make our life happy and comfortable. Accordingly, it was our responsibilityto respect our parents, including their efforts and opinions. We should not spendtoo much money on useless items because the money comes from parents‘ hardwork. At the same time, we must listen to the right advices from parents anddon't act according to our own wishes and desires despite the objection of ourparents.

The second quality for a good son or daughter is that we should take care forour parents when they become old. Nowadays we have already attended theuniversity, usually far away from parents. So we should keep in touch withthem by telephone, letter and e-mail, not making them feel lonely. We may talkabout their life at home, such as their work and their health. In fact every timewhen I give a call to my parents, I may feel that the call bring them happiness.The reason is that not only can they know that I am doing well, but also theyknow that their son cares about his parents.

A good son or daughter should have many merits. From my point of view,respecting the parents and caring for them are the most important for everyone.What's more, these values cannot be changed with the development of thesociety because they are the fundamental qualities of a good son or daughter.

Topic 46 Important qualities of a good son or daughter

In Chinese culture, a person who is ﬁlial and obedient to his parents is regardedas a good son. Confucianism, an ideology that had great effect on the Chinesesociety, stresses the importance of harmonious interpersonal relations betweenfamily members, particularly that between parents and children. Judgment on aman is often based on his attitude toward his parents.

Confucian classics contain many principles regarding the "right" conductspeople should have to handle the relation with their parents. For instance,people in the past were required to pay respects to their parents everyday in themoming. Children should follow whatever orders or instructions their parentsissued. A person who was most respectful to his parents was highly praised andoften set up as a model in the society.

The ancient Chinese thought that there was a connection between the relationswithin the family and political institutions of the country. They extended theformula of administering a family to social and political affairs. In other words,the Chinese people ran the country on the principles based on family life. Theemperor was respected by his subjects as a father was by his children. Anofﬁcial faithful to his lord was often compared to a son ﬁlial to his father.

However, China has undergone great changes over the past century. Inﬂuencedby westem thoughts, the Chinese people have revised and transformed manytraditional ideologies and ways of thinking. Parents have no longer hadabsolute authority over their children. Now young people may stand on anequal relation with their parents and they stress more personal freedom andindependence. But the traditional ideology remains to be very inﬂuential, agood son who is respectful to and takes cares of his parents is considered byothers as one of high moral character.

Topic 4 7 A large company vs. a small company

Some people show special interest in working for a big company, while otherare more willing to work for small ones. Of course, every individual has hisown opinion about the strengths and weakness when it comes to serving in abig ﬁrm or a small one; for me, my choice is deﬁnitely to work for a bigcompany.

Now let's use the analysis of "SWOT", which was always employed in the ﬁeldof economics to get the problem solved. Here, S stands for "strengths", W for"weakness", O for "opportunities" and T for "target".

Working for a big company will have many advantages for your developmentin your career, because a big company usually provides more competitions andit demands its employees to be self-educated at the very beginning of becomingone member of the group, or he or she will be dismissed without hesitation. Foras a big company, there is always a pool of talents waiting for a position to beﬁlled.

Besides, in a big company, you will deal with different kinds ofpeople, who arefrom different provinces or even different countries, having various education,thus you will be inevitably inﬂuenced by "multi-culture", which is of greatimportance to a person with the hope of tailoring himself to be an intemationaltalent.

Finally, in a big company you will be given more opportunities to be chargedup either at home or abroad and be endowed with more chances to contact withmore elites in the speciﬁc ﬁeld.

When speaking of the weaknesses, every thing is a double-edged sword.Working for a big company, there might be little chances for many people tostick out due to the bulk of talents, but compared with the strengths and theopportunities mentioned above, it can be ignored.

When it comes to the target, you, as a member of a big company, will be morelikely to motorize your target because of the plentiful resources includingmaterial resources, as well as human resources.

All that I have said above boils down to the conclusion that ifyou are a personwho craves for competitions and desires to be an international or inter-provincial talent, you should choose the big ﬁrms for your future development.

Topic 4 7 A large company vs. a small company

Each year, millions of students graduate from schools and join the army ofpeople seeking for jobs. Many of them aim at getting a position in a large andoutstanding company that often means higher income on average and goodfame. Walking in and out the high buildings in downtown areas and wearingprofessional clothes and attires, those lucky people working in big companiesare admired by others. They are often referred as "white collars" or even"golden collars" that rank high in the society.

A large company offers many advantages that are helpful to a person's careerdevelopment. I am now working in a company that is one of the largest ones inChina and ranks among Fortune top 500. Our ofﬁce building is located at themost prosperous downtown area in the city. Staff members of our companyhave higher income than those of many other companies. In recently years, ourcompany is aiming at proceeding into the world market and has establishedbusiness connections around the world, which provides us with opportunities towork abroad. In short, working in a large company may enable us to gainvaluable experience and have broader views in a competitive environment.

But not everyone is suited to work in large companies. For those who like towork independently and enjoy more personal freedom, a small company maybe a good choice. People in a large company may feel stable and be less likelyto be dismissed, but they are also subjected to many restrictions imposed by theregulations of the company. A small company may require their employees todo more comprehensive works and give them more free choices.

In business, stagnation equals retrogression. Wherever we work, large or smallcompany, it is essential to work hard to make progress. In a fast changingsociety, if we always stay where we are, we will face the risk of beingsurpassed by others.

Topic 48 Why people work?

When talking about working, some people always complain a lot about it. Theyregard working as afﬂiction that means hardship, vapidity and low eamings.They may even dream that they can also live a happy life without working. Butas we all know, that won't come true. Everyone needs to work for manydifferent reasons. I believe the three most common reasons are to acquireknowledge, to seek fame and to enjoy life.

In the ﬁrst place, we work to practice our skills and we have to leam manyaspects of knowledge to solve the problems and to overcome difﬁculties. Soworking makes us skillful and effortless. The experiences we leam fromworking are the most important wealth. They are the major sources of wisdom.Ifwe don't work, how can we improve our intelligence and then how can weexpect a wonderful life?

In the second place, we work to realize our value by producing large amount ofgoods and serving others. A farmer is not a farmer until he plant corps, ateacher is not a teacher until she teach classes. They all have theirresponsibilities and they also win our respects because of their contributions tothe society. That's the meaning of life, which gives us courage and conﬁdenceto exert our powers to build a happy home.

In addition, we work to keep us healthy. We can communicate with each otherduring work. Meanwhile, we are helped and encouraged. We have to work torelieve our pressure. When you do something you are very competent to, youwill view it as a kind of entertainment. You even ﬁnd joy from them. If wedon't work, we will become torpid and fat.

In conclusion, I believe that working is a tool by which we can make a key tothe gate of knowledge; it is a road that leads to tomorrow, and it is aprescription that can keep us ﬁt. All in all, working provides us so much that Ilove work.

Topic 48 Why people work?

At the outside, it might seem obvious that jobs are just to eam our daily bread.But as we explore the facts beyond the selection ofjob, there are myriad offactors that go together in selecting a job. Eaming money might be a prioritybecause no one likes to live in penury, but it is not the only determining factor. Ifeel that the selection of a job based on remuneration might be a priority forentry-level aspirants who are in searching for their ﬁrst job. But once peopleclimb up the corporate ladder there are other factors one looks for. Going bymy own experience I would say job satisfaction, recognition in society andrealization of a long dream or vision will become the deciding factors as weprogress.

With the information technology (which is the most human resource dependentindustry) growing at an exorbitant rate, Human resource managers have a toughtime to understand what is really needed to retain the cream of talents in theirorganization. Recent studies show that job satisfaction and recognition are theprime factors that matter to the best talents, of course not to mention acompetitive compensation package.

Every man has a vision, and continuous progress in the realization of theirvision give a great feeling of satisfaction and moral boosting. I believe thatwithout this vision we would never have our soldiers sleeplessly safeguardingour country. ‘Serve with honor‘ is the mantra which keeps them going strong. Itis the same sense ofresponsibility and pride in serving the humankind thatpropels the doctors to serve the people without looking at their watches.

Every job is important and has their pros and cons. But it is still our socialstigma to weigh a person based on their profession .It is this stigma whichinstigates the people to be ﬁnicky in the selection of a job when it comes tosocial recognition. Even in a social gathering the treatment given to a so-calledexecutive is totally contrast to that of an ordinary low proﬁle truck driver. Yes,people love to be recognized and it does matter to have a job worthy of it.

There is a never-ending list to follow in addition to what is said above, likeﬂexible working timings, Proﬁt sharing policies, free insurance, and others thatlure the aspirant to take up the job. But, in my view I would priorities that jobsatisfaction and sense of recognition are the prime factors in a person choosingto retire (of course only after serving their life time) from a company.

Topic 48 Reasons for work

Though people work primarily to eam money, there are some other reasons thatthey work: enjoyment, honor, assistance to others, etc. For some people, towork is to produce something to enjoy themselves and others. Musicianscompose songs and melodies that give pleasure to listeners. Writers createnovels and stories that arise deep emotions in readers. Painters producebeautiful artistic works that appeal very much to the people who see them.

But on the other hand, these people, musicians, writers, and painters, are oftenbeside themselves with joy in their work. Some people work for honor. Militarymen devoted to battles to safeguard the freedom and dignity of themselves andtheir nations. In human history, many people would rather sacriﬁce their livesthan submit to foreign rules. Sports people contest with each other for the honorof championship. To get a gold medal in the Olympic games is a dreamcherished by many athletes around world. There still some other people whowork to help others. It is the responsibilities and duties of doctors and nurses torelieve the pains and strains of their patients.

Wherever an accident occurred, we can see the relief team rescue and giveassistance to the people in need. Teachers, who often referred as "the engineersof human souls", work to help students not only in their study but also in theirmoral progress. No wonder that teachers are highly respected in a civilizedsociety. Socrates, the ancient Greek scholar, once said to his disciples, "I eat towork while others work to eat." Most people work to get money for a living,but money is not the sole reason for many to work.

Topic 49 Face-to-face communication vs. emails or phone calls

Many people hold the view that face-to-face communication is better than othertypes of communication, such as letters, e-mail, or telephone calls. As far as Iam concemed, I do not agree with that view. There are many reasons thatsupport my point of view, and I would explore a few of the most important oneshere.

The main reason is that people live and work with a fast pace nowadays. Theyare busy with everything. However, they also need to communicate with theirfriends or relatives. The result is that they have no time to set an appointment.This situation is very common. The best solution is to communicate by letters,e-mails or telephone calls. We could write letters or e-mails in our leisure timeand send them out immediately or call somebody and talk for a few minutes.These things would not take up a long time and can be scheduled quite easily.

Another reason is that it is too time and money-consuming for two friends thatlive far away from each other to schedule a face-to-face meeting. In thissituation, using letters, e-mail or telephone calls will be a better way. People bythis means could communicate with each other conveniently no matter how farthey apart. Take one of my friends for example, he communicates with one ofhis friend in Germany by using emails.

Furthermore, I believe that sometimes people will ﬁnd it difﬁcult tocommunicate face-to-face. They need to talk about something that is hard forthem to confronting each other. At this time, letters, e-mail or telephone callsare better ways of interaction.

Given the factors I outlined above, we may reach the conclusion thatcommunication by letters, e-mails, or telephone calls is better than face-to-facecommunication.

Topic 49 Face-to-face communication vs. emails or phone calls

Since the beginning of time the most important method of communication hasbeen the face-to-face communication. In fact for a long time, face-to-facecommunication was the only method used. As time progressed new methodscame along with the use of letters, telephone calls, and emails. Even with theseimprovements in communication, nothing has been able to replace the face-to-face method.

One reason that face-to-face communication is better than newer methods isthat it allows one person to see the facial expressions of another. When a personis talking about good news they usually smile and their eyes light up. Or whena person is having a serious conversation, their eyebrows are usually lower andthey keep a straight face on while talking. Without these facial expressions itcan be tricky to ﬁgure out a person's meaning behind what he says.

Another reason why face-to-face communication is important is that you cantell whether the person is telling the truth or not. When people communicateover the phone or through an email it is impossible to tell when a person islying. But when it comes to personal communication it is not as easy to getaway with a lie. Many people in business prefer this face-to-face methodbecause it helps them to ﬁgure out ifthe person speaking is honest enough togo into business with.

When it comes to face-to-face communication there is one more reason why itis better than other methods of communication. When a person is expressingfeelings of love or sympathy, no other method of communication will expressthem perfectly. When a person is showing his/her love for someone, he/shemust do it face-to-face so that the other party can see how much he/she meanwhat he/she says. Also when it comes to expressing sympathy for someone,using any other types of communication is just not enough. By calling someoneor emailing him/her to express sympathy, it just shows that you do not have thetime or care enough to go over and say it in person.

For the reasons listed above, face-to-face communication will always be betterthan other types of communication. But while face-to-face communication isbetter, newer methods cannot be ignored. These methods have helped to carrycommunication over through long distances around the world; therebyexpanding the world we live in and bring everyone closer together. Through theuse of letters, telephone calls and emails, a person living in New York can nowcommunicate with his/her loved one as far away as South Africa.

Topic 49 Face-to-face communication vs. emails or phone calls

With the rapid growth of high technology, computer, telephone and othercommunication tools have become more and more important in our daily life,so what people have gradually ignored face-to-face communication.

If I were asked whether face-to-face communication is better than other formsof communications, such as email, phone calls or letters, I would choose emailand phone calls. Here I am going to enumerate some reasons to support mychoice.

The main reason is that communication by telephone or by e-mail is moreconvenient. There is no need to make appointment with friends before meetings;all you need is just to remember their phone numbers or email addresses.Wherever you are and whenever it will be, communication is as easy as face-to-face talking. Moreover, it is more efﬁcient for people to communicate.Another important reason is that the way people connect by email can makemore friends. I have many friends on the Intemet and we communicate witheach other regularly, so I have gained more information and knowledge inmany other ﬁelds.

Last but not least, indirect communication such as emails and phone calls canavoid direct confrontation and embarrassment. Sometimes we may not feelcomfortable to borrow something or ask for a favor from our friends, becausewe are afraid of being rejected. At this time, an email or a phone call can bemore convenient and can avoid embarrassment.

If all these factors are contemplated, the advantages of communication throughemail or telephone carry more weight than those of face-to-face communication.

Topic 50 Doing same things vs. trying new things

I have to say that keep doing the same thing all the time is boring, and Icertainly do not like being bored. In the real world, there are uncountable thingsfor you to do; so, why not try them when you still have the chance?

There will be no future if no one tries new things no more. Human beingswould not have gone this far without trying new things. Our ancestors had doneso much in doing so: they made tools for hunting, created communicationlanguages and introduced many other techniques that we are still using today.All of these were new to them, and they tried the new instead of doing the old.Without their hard trying, we would still eat raw meat even at this time.

Some people may say, “I do not like to try new things because, sometimes, theycould be risky. ” I cannot deny that. However, there is nothing that never has arisk. You may get hurt even when you keep staying at the same spot, and whenthat happens, you are probably going to get more pain. The reason is simple: ifyou failed in the domain that you are not familiar with, you may not get toodepressed because you knew it was new to you, and you can gather somethoughts, and then, try it again; on the other hand, ifyou did not do well in thearea that you are good at, then, there is a great chance that you would lose yourconﬁdence because it was not as good as you thought it would be.

Thus, ifyou come to think of it, trying new things is not as bad as it sounds.Moreover, those risks hidden in the process of trying new things are oftenworth to take. Once you tried them out and got them right, the rewards you areabout to get are often surprisingly good. That try new things, legal andharmless, is always good. Even ifyou failed or got hurt, as long as you are stillok, you have gained some experiences out of trying them. The whole world outthere is for you to explore. Therefore, you should do so to make your lifevaluable. Conceming the topic, I prefer to try new things and take risks.

Topic 50 Doing same things vs. trying new things

When asked about the approaches to life, many people have the idea thatchange and new experiences bring us a meaningful life. However, others takethe view that staying the same and not changing the usual habits is the betterway of the life. In fact both approaches have its advantages and disadvantages,which are listed as follows.

Some people believe change and new experiences provide us a meaningful lifebecause when we adapt to the change and new environments, we must face thedifﬁculties and try our bests to overcome them. This process not only buildsour personality, but also gives us an exciting and meaningful life. What's more,the change around us improves our spirit of adaptation and independence. Theybeneﬁt us in competing for survival in the society. Let us suppose we alwaysstay the same and do not change the environment. Then if someday we have tostep into another environment, how can we adapt to it?

On the other hand, people who hold an opposite view consider that sticking tothe usual habits is the better way to life. They point out that the longer you keepthe same habits, the more adaptive you are and you may live comfortably. Theypoint out that usual changes make you acquaint with nothing, and then it isimpossible for you to have a happy life. In order to see this point clearly, theygive us a good example: If you change your environment every month, youhave to always change your habits and customs. Then how can you live happily

As far as I am concemed, the advantages of change carry more weight thanthose of staying the same because I need to improve my adaptation. Only inthis way, can I survive in the society.

Topic 50 Doing same things vs. trying new things

Without Christopher Columbus‘s global navigation ﬁve hundred years ago, wecan never know the existence of the American continent. Without the ﬁrstbrave man who tasted the poisonous "love apples" which are called tomatoestoday, we can never have the delicious tomato & pea soup on our dinner table.And to a person, without jumping into the water, he can never become anexcellent swimmer. So, when it comes to doing only what you already do wellor trying new things and taking risks, I appreciate more the latter one.

While, the idea of doing what you have already been good at is withoutadvantages. Probably, the most reasonable beneﬁt of this behavior is that, onecan make sure to be successful and never lose face. Success is important. Forexample, if you are an employee of a large competitive company, are youreluctant to drop every precious promotion opportunity to show your failure toyour department manager? Or will you be tolerant to losing a job because of anunintentionally tiny error? The answer is possibly not. And doing the thingsone has already done well can also become a protection to a sensitive self-esteem. This may account for why a considerable number of people seldomspeak a foreign language to the native speakers.

Nonetheless, pound for pound, I reckon that trying new things has moreadvantageous. First of all, there is no doubt that this is a sufﬁcient way toperfect one a lot. It is just the failure that points out where he is inadequate andnot developing well. And it is also the experience of failure that teaches himwhere to avoid making the same mistake as before.

Second, a little forward step always leads to a meaningful important discovery.In science, physicists insist on researching to explore the unknown mysterioussubstance cosmos and chemists seek out new useful materials through theresults of millions of thousands of chemistry experiments. To some extent, wecan say that stop exploring stop progressing.

Although there may be tremendous risks and masses of difﬁculties waiting uson the exploring way, we can really not stop our forward step. Given the factorsI have outlined, I believe that a person who is full ﬁlled with the courage to trysomething he doesn't do well is more likely to overdo himself and enjoy a moreand more colorful world.

Topic 50 Doing same things vs. trying new things

Doing something already done well is really easy for almost everyone, it'sreasonable to choose this other than try new things and take risks. But for me, Iﬁrmly stick to do something I haven't done before, for these sorts of things canreally prove my ability, give me more experiences, and make my life full of funand excitement.

First, choosing a different thing to do needs a person's courage. When we cometo a completely new thing, almost everyone will feel hard to start, which iscommon but it strengthen our wills and determinations. In fact, the beginningof a task is a real challenge for everyone, and its importance may directly bringabout the result. At this very moment, courage is the thing we really need, but itis also the thing we do not always possess. To conquer the difﬁculties alongwith the risks will certainly bring you courage and pride that you never havebefore.

Second, the things you have already done successfully are of less interest andexcitement than that of the new thing. Here's a simple example. Getting theright answer of one plus one, compared to working out an untaught new mathproblem, which means more to you? Deﬁnitely it is the latter! Or you mayrather stay at a certain level without try to achieve any higher and beingoutstanding.

Lastly, to the human being, standing at the side of the society's evolution, thewhole world needs new things to be invented, new areas to be explored, newways to be tried out, and all these are the right things to make progress andbuild a better tomorrow.

I chose to try new things, and I will continue to make my new days in the future

Topic 51 Taking risks vs. planning

Once upon time, a man pleaded a piece of land from a tribe chief. The chiefgave the man a pole and told him that ifhe could insert the pole in a place fromwhich he could come back before the sunset, the land between tribe station andthe pole would belong to him. The man was so greedy that he exhausted todeath on the way back. From this story we can see that although the man hadhis goal and action, he had no plan. A good plan is essential for success. It canquantify the task and make it possible for a man to arrange his time effectively.

First, by means of planning a man quantiﬁes his task. He divides his ﬁnal targetinto several periodic ones. Thus, he could average the pressure and see hisprogress during each period. A good plan encourages a man to fulﬁll hisdestination positively rather than passively. Actually, all successful people havetheir careful plans. For example, an excellent student must have a studyschedule that include how to leam new knowledge and how to review oldcontents; an outstanding businessman needs a rational marketing plan thatdeﬁnes the best avenues to reach his target customers and then assigns areasonable budget to his efforts. If one could execute his periodic targetsuccessfully every time, he could easily achieve his ultimate target. Moresigniﬁcantly, during this process a man will acquire a lot of qualities that areessential to success.

Secondly, the advantage of good planning is that one can dispose his time andenergy more effectively. It occurs very often in life that one should do a lot ofthings simultaneously. To take care of his children, to work, to spend enoughtime with his family and friends, only by a careful planning can a manaccomplish his several targets in a short time.

Let us come back to the former story. If the man were a coward he wouldalways fear that he could not come back before the sunset. The answer must bethat he got much less than what he could have. Therefore success, to someextent, needs risk. But I think a careful plan is more important because itchanges success into a routine and it helps a man use his time more effectively.

Topic 51 Taking risks vs. planning

According to the words of Salustius “One is a creator of his own fate." Somepeople believe that success in life always comes unexpectedly and that's why itis only due to taking risks or chances. On the other hand, others are moreinclined to planning their own lives. In my opinion, planning is the betterapproach for one who strives for success in life because it gives him anassurance in his future success and makes it possible for one to use his timemore efﬁciently and to be more cautious regarding the difﬁculties that mayappear on the way to success.

Success in life comes from careful planning and hard-working. To plan meansto pursue some aim and to be conﬁdent that it will come some time inevitably.In this way, one acquires a bigger faith in his own abilities and become moreurgent in pursuing that aim.

Another important priority of planning is that one can predict some of thedifﬁculties that may arise during his work and in this way he can be betterprepared for them. For instance if one desires to gain a better assignment withinhis ofﬁce he must clarify his aim and plan everything in advance before takinggreat pains in pursuing it.

Other advantage of planning is that one can dispose of his time in the mostappropriate way in order to fulﬁll everything that is related to his views ofsuccess. It occurs very often in life that one should do a lot of thingsconcomitantly - to look after his children, to work, to spend enough time withhis dears and relatives, to ﬁnd time for rest, etc. Thus only careful planning canmake it possible for one to complete many tasks in a short time.

Of course, both careful planning and mere taking risks have their strong andweak points but the former is more likely since it gives one more conﬁdence infuture success in his work, it helps one to overcome every impediment moreeasily and use his time in full value.

Topic 51 Taking risks vs. planning

Every day, new businesses are created. Some of these businesses will succeed,but many will fall by the wayside. Some ventures may be on shaky ground atthe start, but with perseverance and careful planning, they will prevail in theend. Hopefully a careful plan will not lead to a surprise but rather an expectedresult and success.

There is a tide in the affairs of men

Which, taken at the ﬂood, leads on the fortune

Omitted, all the voyage of their life

Is bound in shadows and in miseries.

----By Shakespeare

Admittedly, chance can sometimes help a man to succeed. But on the otherhand, not everyone will have such luck. How can a businessman who succeedsby taking risks sustain his dealing with his business when he is suddenly out ofluck? Most likely, their company will be out ofbusiness ifthey have not madean all-rounded plan.

Nevertheless, chance favors a prepared mind. The opportunity is equal to all thepeople. The key to success is not waiting for a chance, but seizing it. Obviously,careful planning will guide a man deﬁnitely, from which, he cannot only ﬁnd adestination and prevent him from aimlessness, but also assist him to grip thechances on his way to success. For instance, an entrepreneur should understandthe power of a cautious plan which may help him deﬁne his business concepts,estimate costs, predict sales, control risks, and even increase the chances ofsucceeding. The plan may tell him what he should do and how to do it. Goinginto business without a plan is just like having an expedition in the extensiveocean without a compass.

In the second place, a comprehensive plan is also a reliable backup. Althoughthe original plan is followed, suffering may come for some unpredictableoccasions. In that way, a well-considered plan that mentions all the possibilitiescan be very helpful.

From what has been discussed above, chances and taking risks may beunavoidable, but success results primarily from careful planning. Acomprehensive schedule, similar to a guide in explorations, is a necessity forachievement.

Topic 51 Careful planning

Gorge Barton, the famous American general in the Second World War, waswell-known for his bold plan and his ability to grasp chances to strike theenemy in an unexpected way. However, few people know that Barton was alsovery careful with the battle plans, taking into consideration all the details andmaking preparation for any sort of accidents. I think in a modem societysuccess often comes from taking risks or chances, but careful planning is vitalfor us to attain our goals.

No matter what good ideas or big ambition we have, we need to make carefulplans in which every step is to be considered. Otherwise, these ideas orambition will remain "something in the air" which may never be realized. InChina, a person who likes to take risks and is hasty in making his decisions isoften criticized by others as one who is bold and immature. From earlychildhood, we are encouraged to take careful considerations before doing anything important.

Confucius, the ancient Chinese scholar, told his disciples that he would think itover for many times before making any decision. However, on the other hand,in today's fast changing world, we should try to ﬁnd new ways and come upwith new ideas in our work. Ifwe are contented with what we have and alwaysfollow the same routine everyday, we may face the risk of being surpassed byothers.

As an old Chinese saying goes, "a wise man should have a careful mind as wellas a bold spirit." In order to achieve success, we should not be afraid of takingrisks and try to grasp chances, but at the same time our efforts must be based oncareful planning.

Topic 52 What change would make to your hometown?

Teenagers nowadays live in an environment that is exposed to high technology. This includes the prevalent access to the Internet, the use of special gadgets such as the cellular phone, palm top computers, electrical organizers, and the like, all of which makes communicating with each other so much easier. Aside from this, youngsters like to hang out in clubs where they can dance the night away and listen to the their favorite music being played by a live band. This is the missing link in my hometown province, Balayan, Batangas.

Though Batangas is just a four-hour drive away from the capital city of the Philippines, which is Manila, it is still considered a far province. With that, the technology and the places where young people like could hang out are very scant. Being a province where the culture is very much tight and conservative, the old natives of the land do not like their children being influenced by what they connote as "urban living." They would still like to have the peacefulness and the early ways of girls being timid, shy and quiet type and boys being courteous and gentlemen in nature. Therefore, any deviation from these norms would appear to them as major acts of disrespect, whereby it would reach a point that elder people disgrace and disown any of their younger relatives who try to lead a life likened to that of city people. I think open-mindedness should solve this problem. It is just a matter of acceptance that it is not really too bad and that it does have some benefits as well.

Take for instance, going to clubs and parties develops camaraderie and meeting people increases ones circle of friends. No man is an island. One will never know that the person he may meet today would help him out in the future. With this, I think a nice club with a live band, nice food and drinks would be a place to be for teenagers to hang out every night. As a compromise, it should not open until the wee hours of the morning, so the elders would not see it as so much as detriment to their children. Putting up Internet cafes would also be good. Having Internet connections helps province-based people to keep abreast with current events in the city or even international news. In this manner, they would not get bored. They would have a lot of topics to surf about in the Internet. Mobile telecommunication companies could also extend their services into to far-off provinces in order for every cellular phone to have a signal wherever a user may be. Loss of signal in certain places hinders teens from going to the provinces since they know they will have a hard time with communication.

Overall, it all boils down to two things-fun and entertainment. A certain place, which is not only limited to my hometown, should develop itself into becoming more appealing to the youth of today by bringing in things that could keep up with their level of thinking, with the way they do things and counteract their very short attention span.

Topic 52 What change would make to your hometown?

Everything in the universe is in constant change. And everything needs continual improvement if the ever changing and increasing demands of humankind are to be met. If I were ever given the chance to change one important thing about my hometown, it would be the Internet service. Needless to say that nothing generally revolutionized the way we live as the Internet in the past decade. Thus, an improvement in this vital service would mean an even more, unheard betterment to the people in my hometown.

It is said that information is power. True saying indeed! I can envision how everything in my hometown could improve dramatically if the Internet service in it were made free, fast and staying out there like electricity, telephone or water all the time. One thing, a fast free and reliable Internet service could improve the way people work in my hometown. With this service people in my hometown do not need to commute to a far place to do their job. This in turn would mean less traffic jams, spacious work place, more time for family and recreation and so on.

The way people learn would be another important thing that a fast, free and reliable Internet service could be useful for my hometown. People will have the chance to go through tremendous amount of information resources in a very small amount of time. This assures a more fulfilled life for my hometown people.

Since its advent, Internet touched every part of our life. It in a dazzling way improved the way we do business, learn and communicate. A change in Internet service implies good way of living for everyone in my hometown.

Topic 53 Is money the most important aspect of a job?

These days, someone may hold the opinion that the most important aspect of ajob is the money a person eams. It sounds like true, because with a lot of moneY,one can live a better life materially. Admittedly, no one can deny the importantrole money plays in his daily life. But, when you take other aspects of a job intoconsideration, such as the precious skills and experiences one gains from thatjob, the prospect of the job and the social status, you may doubt: Is money themost important? Isn't this attitude too narrow? As far as I am concemed, I don'tagree with the statement, I doubt whether it can bear much analysis.

We live in a big society that is composed of people from all walks of life.Different jobs have different functions in this society. For example, the functionof cleaners is to keep the city clean and tidy; the function of soldiers is tomaintain the safety and peace of the society. Maybe they eam less money thanthose businessmen, but they still work heart and soul on their duties. I believe itis the contributions they make to society that makes them work that hard!

Now, let's take a close look at the scientists. Some of them spend their wholelives inventing new things, exploring the mysterious things and innovating newtechnology. The scientists, such as Edison, Einstein and Madam Curie, will beshining like the stars in everyone‘s heart! We can say, it is the spirits they have,contributions they have made to all human beings, great ﬁndings andinventions they have left to us that makes them giants! Thanks to them, thesociety is developing faster and faster. Can we say what they do is for the sakeof money?

Furthermore, if everyone in this society worked only for money, what can ittum out to be? Severe competitions may make people become cold-blooded,force them to use illegal means in order to make proﬁt, or even commit somecrimes. For their own beneﬁts, no one would like to help others in the sameindustry. And the relationships among people might become estranged. Toconclude, I think money cannot be the most important aspect of a job. Money isnot everything! As a saying goes: Money can buy a house but cannot buy afamily, money can buy blood but cannot buy one‘s life, money can buy a wifebut cannot buy true love." So, don't stress too much on the money one eams. Infact there are other highlights of a job waiting for you to feel, to ﬁnd.

Topic 53 Is money the most important aspect of a job?

Most people have some sort of bias against money, thinking that everythinglinked to money, no matter what the thing is, is evil. Ifmoney is really evil initself, it must follow that money should never be a consideration in choosing ajob. The validity of this argument, however, is seldom questioned. Only whenwe notice that money is merely a means of exchange and does not lead to anymoral judgment in itself, we can then study the issue impartially.

The crux of the issue here is why we should take any job at all. Surely there aremany reasons for taking a job, such as for professional respect, for the passionto serve the society, for some kind of social status---and, for money. In veryrare cases do people ever choose their jobs for merely one of these reasons.Most of the times people work because they want to achieve a number of theirpersonal goals. The most important aspect of their jobs will hence vary fromperson to person. Of course it is perfectly possible that a person may choose ajob largely because of the generous pay that the employer offers. Everyone hasto get enough money to survive. Hence if a person is currently living in amiserable condition and, out of his desperate desire for money, he accepts a joboffer, the most important aspect of his job is most probably the money. Andthere is nothing morally wrong with that. The demand for money should surelyprevail in this case.

However the need for certain minimum level of salary is only one of theconsiderations that people make when choosing jobs. It is hence also possiblethat the person is already rather rich even without a job, but he chooses to workto make himself happier. The pleasures of his career life may emerge from hispassion for the profession or the social recognition he may get thereby, but nomatter why he feels happy after taking the job, in this case money may onlyplay an insigniﬁcant role, if any, in his job.

What have now been presented can actually be seen as the two extreme ends ofthe issue. Most likely is still that a person works both for his basic needs andfor the pleasure speciﬁcally derived from the career life. Whether money willcome out as the single most important determinant is hence dependent on thevarious possible cases, or more particularly, on the importance of the wages tohis living standard. It is therefore rather ridiculous to give a general yes-or-noresponse to this question and it takes person judicious considerations before hedecides to take a job.

Topic 54 Should one judge a person by external appearances?

What do you feel when a handsome gentleman or a beautiful lady passes by?Then how about a fat short person wearing a dirty shirt? You feel differently?Yes, most people do. It's very common for people to judge a person by extemalappearance, because it's easy and direct, and it's instinctive. Appearance is avery important aspect of a person and reﬂects one‘s personalities. Sometimesyou can tell the person's characteristics from his appearance. However, in mostcases, you cannot tell exactly what the person is like just from the extemalappearance, and ethically, we should not judge a person just by one glance athis extemal appearance.

"Beauty and beast" and "Snow white and seven dwarves" are two stories thatare almost known by everyone. Although there are fables, there are deepmeanings inside them. What you can leam from them is that people that are notso good-looking can be very good people intemally. And actually there are tonsof examples in reality. Napoleon is a very short guy, but he was one of the mostfamous people in the history. Theodore Roosevelt, former US president duringWorld War II, is handicapped; but he is one of the most successful presidents inAmerican history. So how can you tell about the people from their extemalappearance?

Moreover, there are other undeniable facts that show that a beautiful personmay be rotten inside. There are many prostitutes on the busy streets. It'sobviously that they are very beautiful, but are they really righteous people? Abeautiful appearance is a good thing, but a righteous heart is more valuable.Finally, as we can see, it's out of question that we should not judge people justfrom their extemal appearance. The most important standard is their intemalpersonality.

Topic 54 Appearance

Lincoln, one of the greatest American presidents, was said to be very badlooking. Once when his rival accused him to be a "two sided" person, Lincolnreplied by saying to the audience, "If I had another face, would I wear thisone?" Now what we remember about Lincoln is his character, his deeds, hiscontribution to the country, no one would care about what he looked like.

I agree with the title statement because a person's inner quality is much moreimportant than his extemal appearances. Whether a person looks good or badcannot be decided by himself. A man's extemal appearances are bom andgenerally cannot be changed. But everyone can improve his inner quality by hisown efforts. By reading books, leaming from others and working hard, we canmake progress and achieve success. It was said that Napoleon was very short,but he was respected and admired by people as an outstanding military andpolitical leader. It is the dream of every man to have a pretty wife, yet it is alsowidely acknowledged that a beautiful woman does not necessarily equal a goodwife.

Many men would rather choose a woman with a common face than a good-looking one. Because they know that the virtue of a woman is more importantthan her outer appearance. A great deal of couples who go hand in hand fortheir life attribute their happy marriage to loving the other‘s inner qualityinstead of loving a pretty face. In business, a boss would never judge hisemployees by their extemal appearances; instead what he concems would betheir capability, their assiduity, and their performance. A person with badappearances but good performance will more likely be promoted than anotherone with good appearances but bad performance.

Above all, if a person has good appearances, he should not rely on thembecause he will unlikely achieve success ifhe does not work hard. However, onthe other hand, ifhe looks bad, he should not feel depressed because he canmake others respect him through his own efforts.

Topic 55 Should one make an important decision alone?

Decision-making is a common phenomenon each one of us undergoes in our daily life. Its magnitude varies from trivial issues like choice of a daily wardrobe to making a crucial corporate decision involving millions of dollars. A decision may have its implications ranging from a single person to the entire universe. Hence it is very important to making a correct decision. But I have a mixed feeling when it comes to the choice of making a decision collectively or as a single person. I feel that the decision making process cannot have its hard and fast rules but has to be tailor made to suit a situation. Hence a decision may have to be personally made or in consultation with others as demanded by the situation.

I would like to analyze the decision-making methodology in its two ramifications, one involving personal interests and the other for common issues involving business, political or environmental significance.

Every person is different and has the rights to make his own destiny. It is this quality of uniqueness which makes the mankind so special. We are the best judges when it comes to making personal decisions, for no one can understand a person better than himself. There are many things in life such as selection of a life partner, or choosing a career that are specific to the taste and likings of an individual. It is always useful to hear the opinion of our well-wishers regarding the deciding issue. However the individual should take final decision after carefully weighing all options. It not only gives us the self-confidence, but also institutes the responsibility in us to live by our decision.

Things are quite different when it comes to decision making involving business, political or environmental issues. The decision made in these cases has serious consequences than that of the personal issues. It puts at stake the wealth, safety and future of many others directly or indirectly involved in these issues. It is here the concept of teamwork, Special knowledge etc come into picture.

When taking decision on a business activity, it is always better to have a brainstorming session of all the involved persons to discuss about the issue. It gives the best possible decision after carefully analyzing all the possibilities, with the concurrence of the team. Also all the members involved in the decision-making are clear about their individual roles in contributing to the success of the decision.

There are some cases, where expert knowledge and experiences required in taking the decisions. In such cases one can resort to the help of the experts or the consulting agencies for the correct solutions. The decision suggested by the consultants can be expected to be more suitable, since most decisions suggested by the experts/consultants are either by scientific methods or based on a reliable statistical data of the past. Consultants are available in almost all fields such as engineering, finance, law, insurance etc to name a few.

Also when it comes to taking decisions that are of international importance, the governing bodies such as the United Nations Organization insist on a Veto for decision- making. This method of decision-making ensures that the decisions are in the interests of the member countries.

Hence going by the above decisions, one can take the liberty to chose by self when it comes to personal issues. However when it involves decisions beyond the individual, one should always be a part of the decision making team constructively facilitating the decision, which lies in the best interests of everyone involved.

Topic 55 Decision

Napoleon once said that an ordinary military commander would perform better than two excellent ones. By this he meant that a military commander should exercise his power independently and make his decisions without the interference from others, which could ensure high efficiency in military operations. Napoleon is a genius and his words might be true in military struggles. However, for most people, it is essential for them to consult other people before they make any important decision.

Young people need to seek advice from elder ones in the matters of their life and careers. Sometimes the opinions of the old people are so valuable that it plays a very important role in helping young people make decisions. Each year, millions of young students attend a national entrance examination for higher education. When deciding on the subjects and schools, the students often receive opinions from their parents, teachers, friends or those who took part in the examination in the previous years. When running the government, officials need to consult experts and the masses before they make any important decisions. "A wise ruler should gather opinions from all sides", this is an epigram held by generations of Chinese rulers in the past. In the seventies and eighties of the last century, some local governments in east China constructed many chemical plants to facilitate the development of the economy, without hearing the opinions of environmental experts.

As a result, the wastes and gases discharged from these plants have brought about serious pollutions to the local environment. As an old Chinese saying is, "three cobblers with their wits combined equals Zhuge Liang, the master mind." A person may benefit a lot from the opinions of experienced people: he can avoid the similar mistakes and learn valuable lessons. The successful people are often those who are able to utilize the opinions of others.

Topic 56 Arts or environment?

In my opinion, a company should give money to protect the environment.Although art is one of the best forms ofrecreation that can touch the soul withits myriad forms, and can calm emotions, the present situation calls forprotecting the environment. We all are aware of the harmful damages thathuman race has inﬂicted on earth. It is time for us to rectify these damagesbefore it is too late and humans are completely wiped out from the face of theearth. Only ifhuman exist, will art forms exist, as they are directly proportionalto each other.

Humans are considered the most intelligent of all species primarily due to theirvery developed and complex brain. But they are also the most selﬁsh of allcreatures. We have done a lot of damages to the environment due to our selﬁshreasons to live comfortably and luxuriously. Deforestation has happened on alarge scale to build urban and rural dwellings. Forests, once upon a time,occupied about 60% of the earth's surface. But today they are just conﬁned to afew places. Active deforestation has lead to the loss of habitat for a number ofspecies of ﬂora and fauna. This has lead to the extinction of a variety ofanimals leading to an imbalance in the ecosystem.

The other issue of concem is the depleting ozone layer above Antarctica. Thisis also a direst result of human interference. In order to make our lives morecomfortable, refrigerators and air conditioners using chloroﬂuorocarbons orCFC‘s as they are commonly referred to be produced in huge quantities. Thedamaging effects of these chemicals are visible on the ozone layer. Due to itsdamage, harmful UV rays of the sun can reach the earth surface causing skincancers and other ailments.

In view of the above concems, the organization should promote the protectionof our environment by donating funds generously and organizing campaigns. Infact all the industrial organization should come together and put in sincereefforts to undo the harmful actions that we have done. This is only possible bycreating mass awareness among the general public .For this the company musthelp with both its technical and ﬁnancial support.

In conclusion, I think the company should choose to protect the environmentfor the above reasons. Art is of no use ifmankind dies. Our future is dark ifwedo not take steps to protect our environment.

Topic 56 Arts or environment?

Frankly speaking, both arts and environment are important to human being.However, ifI were the CEO of a company, I would rather give the money toprotect the environment than to support the arts. Because environmentprotection is quite urgent and matters the future of our globe, while arts is acontinuous process to improve the quality of life.

First of all, environment protection is very urgent. Global warming is becomingmore and more serious. Many spices are dying, the ice in South Pole is melting,and many rivers are being contaminated. Now it is time for us to do somethingto save our earth and our own future.

Secondly, environment protection is very important for all, including humanbeing, plants, animals and the Earth. When I was a little boy, I often played inthe river that is located beside my village. The water was so clean that we couldjust drink it directly. There were also many kinds of ﬁshes in the river. It wassuch a beautiful place that I often played for a whole day. Now things aretotally different, the water became brown in color due to pollution fromfactories, very few ﬁshes can live there. Those small children can never enjoythe fun that I once did.

Thirdly, the art is a continuous process to improve the quality of life, which isnot as urgent as environment protection. In addition, there are many ways bywhich funds can be raised for arts, such as exhibitions and auctions of artisticworks. Environment protection needs money more urgently than arts do.

Although both arts and the environment are important, I prefer to give themoney to support environment protection, due to the three reasons mentionedabove.

Topic 56 Arts or environment?

Guan zhong, the ancient Chinese politician, once said that people would knowrites and courtesy only after their granaries were full. By this he meant thatpeople would ﬁrst try to improve their living conditions before they couldengage in any artistic activities or improve their behaviours. The environmentis closely related to people's living conditions. If a company is going to dosomething for the people, I would recommend it to give the money to protectthe environment.

With the rapid economic development in recent years, China is now facing veryserious environmental problems. According some news reports, Yellow River,the "Mother River" of the Chinese nation that nurtured generations of Chinesepeople over the past thousands of years, has been polluted by industrial wastesand has much less stream of water at present than in previous times, which hasimposed great problems on the life and work of the people living along thebanks. What these people urgently need is not artistic works hanging on thewalls for enjoyment but rather clean water for their daily use.

In some areas in China, though people are much wealthier than before, theylive in a much worse environment due to their negligence of environmentalprotection in the process of developing the economy. Several years ago, I wentto a small town in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, to visit some of the chemicalplants there that have business connections with our company. The town wassurrounded by green mountains and there was a river running across it. Whatsurprised me was that the chemical plants there had adopted no measures toprotect the environment. Due to the chemical wastes discharged without anytreatment, the river tumed into a blue colour and the mountains looked likemen's faces with scars on them. I wondered that even though the local peoplehad eamed enough money, would their life be happy in such a pollutedenvironment?

China is still a developing country now. A large proportion of the population isstill leading a poor life. Even in those areas where the economy has developedto a high level, the people have to face the environmental problems thatsometimes are detrimental to their health. I think we can beneﬁt more frominvesting money into environmental protection than imputing it in artisticactivities.

Topic 5 7 Serious movies vs. entertaining movies

In this busy world ﬁlled with hectic activities, it is up to a human being to takesome time away for relaxation. Relaxation helps to quell away the tiredness andrejuvenate our spirits .One way of relaxation is watching movies. The ubiquitousmovie theatres in each city can witness the fact that watching movies is the mainform of entertainment for people. However, how people make the choices on themovie? Well I feel most people have a proclivity towards an entertaining moviemay it be on an action, love or a comedy, rather than a serious one.

People's inclination towards entertaining movies can be strengthened by analyzingthe factors behind why people watch movies. Most people visit cinema halls onlyfor relaxation and naturally tend to choose a light subject. It is most common foryoungsters to use cinema halls as meeting places and they make watching a moviea part oftheir weekend holiday plan. That is the reason why all the box ofﬁce hitmovies fall in the entertainment category, whether thrill or action. More over,children are always fascinated by entertaining and fun cartoon movies. Childrenplay the deciding factor in pulling their busy parents to the cinema halls, even iftheir parents have an inclination towards serious subjects.

However, I would like to see beyond public acceptance of a particular movie,whether it a serious movie or an entertaining one. Filmmaking has beenfunctioning as an industry by itself. I would also like to analyze which movie,whether serious or entertaining will help to boost the growth of the movie industry.As discussed, the main reason of success of an entertaining movie is the widerange of audience who can accept the movie and enjoy it. Hence making anentertaining movie imposes a lesser risk on the capital invested in the making of amovie. However ﬁlm producers hesitate to spend more on a serious subject withthe trepidation over the chances of the movie not making a good performance.This limitation of budget on the serious movies can be witnessed by lack of lusterin these ﬁlms.

The fact that the movies handling a lighter subject make a good business does notnecessarily go against making movies with no themes or thought provocation. Amessage or a subject, when it goes hand in hand with entertainment or amusementis well received invariably by people. Also there are many other avenues toaddress serious problems, such as books, campaigns, and advertisements etc.However I feel that watching movies is the best way to enjoy action andentertainment. It helps to bring out the exact feelings as conceived by the director.Some of our favorite ﬁlms tend to linger in our memories for ever and just a littlethought about the ﬁlm unleash the entire sequence of actions in the ﬁlms drawingus back into its virtual world.

Hence there is no doubt that given a choice I would prefer to watch an entertainingmovie rather than a serious one. I am unable to discuss much in detail, for I amrunning out of time and my friends are already waiting for me. We are going towatch ‘Lord of the Rings‘ by Jack Peterson.

Topic 5 7 Serious movies vs. entertaining movies

It makes me sensitively to think of Hollywood place where movies were ﬁrstmade before World War I. In those days, Hollywood movie was like a magnet,drawing ambitious young men and women form all over the world.

Up till now, there is nothing that can substitute the position of movies that is themost efﬁcient way to relax us. I prefer movies designed to make the audiencethink. As far as I know, most movies are supposed to be made from the sourcematerial that mirrors a part of the social events. That means there is anothermethods to force us to think about what we have done for our country, what isour responsibility in the society and so on. In fact what kind of information weneed can be gain from different medias including television, the Intemet, radio,newspapers, especially from some movies.

Tracing back to my childhood, I like watching the ﬁrst work directed by AlfredHitchcock, Rebecca. So young though I was, it did make me sunk intocontemplation. Not only did the plot make me a little confused, but also itreally told me the truth that whoever is right or wrong, no one can live in theshadowy place and everyone must live his or her own live, enjoy the sunshinebelonging to their own.

A movie worthy thinking about should conquer everything, including one‘sheart, which never fade with time going by, even be possible to change ourlrves.

Here I can not help siding with the other view, however it does not mean thatwe should totally ignore it, this is not a matter of making an "either-or"judgment. What we want to clarify here is what is primary and what issecondary.

If permits, a movie primarily designed to make audience think add someamusement and entertainment, just like tasting a cup of cappuccino.

Topic 57 Serious movies vs. entertaining movies.

This is a very ﬂexible topic to argue upon. Both sides have their own pros andcons. But I would like to argue on the fact that the movies are to amuse andentertain the audience rather than fomenting their emotions and causing them tothink. In the following paragraph, I have supported my argument with someexamples.

Think of a person who has been working the entire day. When he retums home,he will be completely exhausted and will start feeling that he leads a very hecticlife. At that situation, if he watches a movie that is full of lively pranks andjokes, he will be revitalized like a battery that is being recharged. This is whateveryone wants, especially when they are dejected and doomed.

On the other hand, when a person watches a movie that is very serious andemotional, it will only increase his tiredness. He will be having a lot ofthoughts in his mind, like, what to do next? What is my ﬁrst job when I go towork tomorrow? What are my assignments tomorrow? What is my accountbalance? Among all these numerous things, when he watches a movie thatcontains serious dialects, he will start thinking about those things. This is notthe thing that should have come to his mind.

Moreover, a movie can be made to convey a subject in an entertaining wayrather than in serious ways. This will do more good for children too. We wouldhave seen many kids who will be imitating their favorable characters. Forexample, the American kids are greatly moved by the cartoon character calledthe ‘Bamey‘ , after seeing which they try to talk in the same accent and style. Soa child can be molded through their favorite character. The movies can be madeto convey a good moral through their famous stars, which will inculcate a deepemotion in them in the right way. On the contrary, when a serious movie isplayed to the children, they are left confused and soporiﬁc, and they willneglect it even when there is a good moral in it.

Hence, I conclude that, the movies that are ﬁlled with amusement andentertainment will be appreciated by most of the people of all categories. Afterall, movies are a virtual world were impractical things can be put intopracticality and ideology.

Topic 58 Can business do anything they want to make a proﬁt?

Nowadays, merchants tend to strive for remaining in existence by all meansdue to the extensive competition and burdensome pressures. However, I amalways amazed when I hear that it is necessary for businessman to do anythingpossible to make a proﬁt. It may be as highly laudable and exemplary a thing asit is held to be by those who are addicted to money.

Apparently, I strongly object to it due to various factors that weigh heavilyagainst the notion. The foremost reason is that merchants would be rewardedby nothing but distrust and even hatred from the customers ifthey hardly careabout anything but money. It is widely known that nothing can be comparedwith the good reputation of a company, which attracts more upright and loyalcustomers. Suppose we are facing the dilemma ofwhich brand of shampoo topurchase. It is ofno surprise ifyou decide to take the one produced by P&G orother reputable large companies. As a result, what assures the buyers most isthe credit of the service suppliers?

Another subtle explanation for my point of view rests on the fact that variousappalling results would in some cases, be caused by the immoral and evenillegal businesses. It is decent to make proﬁts and receive the repayment ofdiligent work and continuous efforts. Nevertheless, producing unqualiﬁed oreven deleterious commodities, which possibly lead to detriments ofpeople'shealth or security, is never the sensible method to operate a company. Whatimpressed me most is the tragedy happened several months ago in some part ofChina. Hundreds of infants died because of the nonnutritive milk powdersproduced by some merchantmen without ethics. Therefore, it is never too rigidto denounce the immoral and irresponsible behavior. The third point I wouldlike to mention is that the merchants themselves would not be reassured toenjoy the property acquired in improper ways.

In most cases, it is the essential satisfaction ofbeneﬁting the public, rather thanthe material items, which inspires people profoundly. What a pleasant thing itwould be to receive repayment ofyour diligent work and continuous efforts!On the contrary, few people would go into rapture even ifthey possess a massof wealth eamed through indecent ways. Thus, only by obeying commercialdisciplines could a businessman obtain supreme success and maximumpleasure.

Taking into all the reasons above into account, it is barely too arbitrary toconclude that only by descent and good Intentioned business activities could acompany achieve respectable and decent success.

Topic 58 Can business do anything they want to make a proﬁt?

Can businesses do anything they want to make a proﬁt? That is a complex andcontroversial issue. Some people think that businesses should do anything theycan to make a proﬁt, while other people believe that businesses should behonest while making a proﬁt, not only for themselves but also for thecommunity. I agree with the latter point of view and in the followingparagraphs I will try to explain my position more clearly.

First of all, I truly believe that one of the foremost important qualities of asuccessful business is honesty. Businesses should be honest because it can helpto expand a client base and maintains a long-lasting partnership. No one wantsto conduct business with a dishonest company.

Secondly, not every business is ethical. For example, computer games are avery successful business, but they often impact children's behavior, andincrease the cases ofviolence on the playground. Another example iscompanies like McDonald's that sell fast food to children. According to theCanadian Pediatric Society, a quarter of the children living in North Americaare now obese, a rate that tripled between 1981 and 1996. Therefore, somebusinesses can destroy our health, with only one goal in mind, and that is toincrease proﬁt. I believe it is an unacceptable situation and steps must be takento make drastic changes.

Thirdly, businesses should be beneﬁcial to the community, because the proﬁtthey make comes from the community to begin with. A percentage of the proﬁtshould be retumed to the community. Businesses should support and encouragethe construction of playgrounds, schools and parks.

Given the reasons discussed above, the conclusion, which may be intertwinedat the beginning of the discussion and thus become more persuasive, may besafely reached that businesses should not only do what they can to make aproﬁt, but also support and develop the community, with integrity and honor.

Topic 58 Can business do anything they want to make a proﬁt?

It is claimed that the only aim of business is to make a proﬁt. Moreover, it isthought that running a business without making beneﬁts makes no sense.Actually, from an economic point of view, the statement "businesses should doanything they can to make a proﬁt" is thoroughly true. However, from amoralistic and legal point of view that statement seems not quite well sustained.

I consider that to make a proﬁt means that a person deals with business to be asﬂexible as possible. It means to put new technologies in application or toexplore new scientiﬁc areas. Furthermore, to invest in individual improvementof the employees’ professional skills and to be awake of the global markettendencies are things absolutely necessary for the modem management ofbusiness.

Unfortunately, business is not a quite fair game. It is well-known thatsometimes businesses have their own "dark" sides such as tax evading, illicittrade or disloyal competition. In addition to this, many employers make theiremployees get overworked without any extra payment.

Another point worth mentioning is that businesses do not care enough about theenvironment and they frequently pollute it. Laws in most countries prosecutethese actions, although some businesses keep breaking it without anypunishment.

I consider that businessmen sometimes forget about utter limits in theirambitions to make a proﬁt. Generally speaking, I do agree that businessesshould do anything they can to make a proﬁt but do not forget that anythingdoes not mean everything.

If I ran my own business I would do it in a way that would neither ruin myname nor corrupt my conscience.

Topic 59 What's your hurry?

Life is short. Haste makes waste. What's your hurry? These three sayingscharacterize the way I manage my day-to-day chores. I don't want to rushthrough things; I prefer to take my time.

Life is short. You never know what may happen tomorrow so it is important toenjoy today. Of course, some people will say that's why it is important to crama lot into a day. But then, how would you possibly have time to enjoy all ofthose experiences. By doing a few things slowly and doing them well, you cansavor the experience.

Haste makes waste. We are not machines. We can't rush through thingsmechanically. If we do, we might forget something; we might take shortcuts.By taking our time, we can do a chore carefully, completely, and correctly.

What's your hurry? Where's the ﬁre? I don't see any need to rush to the nextexperience. There's still a lot to see and leam from the chores around you.Taking care ofyour baby brother for instance can be very rewarding. You couldsimply keep him near you while you watch TV and write a letter and talk on thephone. Or you could devote your whole attention to him and observe hisreactions to his environment. You can observe carefully, ifyou are trying to dofour things at the same time.

To twist a common saying, "Don't just do something, sit there! " Take life easyand savor each minute. Life is shorter than you think.

Topic 59 Get things done

People are different in many aspects. Some people are always in a hurry to goplaces and get things done as fast as they can, while others prefer to take theirtime and live a life at a slower pace. Either way is good, but I choose the ﬁrststyle due to two reasons: extra time and more chances to do other things.

In the ﬁrst place, my personality makes me do things fast and go to places in ahurry. I always keep one thing in mind: ifI save some time, I could do morethings. From my experiences, I used to ﬁnish all my homework after classes inorder to have more of my own time at home. I will read novels or I will doextra exercise for Math or English. I ﬁnd it is better to my study, and my lifewill be more interesting. This is the major reason that I prefer to get things donefast.

In the second place, I have many experiences that let me understand that thefaster pace, the better effects. For a long time, I feel secure at a faster pace,since it will leave me a chance to go over my work and correct my mistakes. Ithink it is useful in many cases especially when writing a test. And even when Iam going to see a movie, I prefer to get there earlier for a better seat. There aremany examples in daily life that show the advantages of getting things donefast.

Of course, for those who prefer to take their time, they will have some goodreasons too. But I like to live life at a faster pace. It is not only because of mypersonality, but it also because of my experiences.

Topic 60 Are games important to adults?

Some people think that games should play an important role in the life ofeveryone including adults; others think that games should be left for children.There are many arguments for and against both positions, but in my opinioneveryone should have a hobby and playing games is good.

One of the most cited reasons against playing games in adulthood is the lack oftime. Most games are very time-consuming, and to play games most adultshave to sacriﬁce time they spend with their family. I have a friend who wasfascinated by recreating great historical events especially battles. He spent allhis free time on studying old uniforms and rules of conduct. Even on work hesearched for information about ancient wars on the Intemet. His productivitydeclined sharply. As soon as his boss found out about his passion, he was ﬁred.

On the other hand, many games are good for entertainment in spare time. Forexample, it's much better to play in role-playing game, than spend timewatching numerous soap operas on TV Some games are very good for people'shealth, for example followers of Tolkien spend a lot of time leaming how to useswords and bows.

Some games are very good at improving brainpower. For example manyexperts agree that chess, reversi and other intellectual games enhance thinkingand concentration. Also a person who actively play chess stand less chance toget Alzheimer's disease comparing to average people.

Also it is easy to bridge a generation gap by playing games. Games help tobring people together. Many families I know that like to play games are verywell-knit families. Parents spend much more time together with children iftheyhave similar interests.

Adults should not spend all their time thinking of and playing games, theyshould balance time they spend at work and with their families. Ifthey havechildren, sharing their interest with their children is extremely recommended.In conclusion, I want to say that playing games is a very good hobby for adults.

Topic 60 Are games important to adults?

Playing games has always been thought to be important to the development ofwell-balanced and creative children; however, what part, ifany, it should playin the lives of adults has never been researched that deeply. I believe thatplaying games is every bit as important for adults as for children. Not only istaking time out to play games with our children and other adults valuable tobuilding interpersonal relationships but is also a wonderful way to release builtup tension.

There's nothing my husband enjoys more after a hard day of work than to comehome and play a game of Chess with someone. This enables him to unwindfrom the day's activities and to discuss the highs and lows of the day in a non-threatening, kick back environment. A close friend received one of my mostmemorable wedding gifts, a Backgammon set. I asked him why in the world hehad given us such a gift. He replied that he felt that an important aspect ofmarriage was for a couple to never quit playing games together. Over the years,as I have come to purchase and play, with other couples & coworkers, manygames like: Monopoly, Chutes & Ladders, Mastermind, Dweebs, Geeks, &Weirdos, etc. I can reﬂect on the integral part they have played in our weekendsand our "shut-off the T. V and do something more stimulating" weeks. Theyhave enriched my life and made it more interesting. Sadly, many adults forgetthat games even exist and have put them away in the cupboards, forgotten untilthe grandchildren come over.

All too often, adults get so caught up in working to pay the bills and keeping upwith the "Joneses‘" that they neglect to hamess the fun in life; the fun that canbe the reward of enjoying a relaxing game with another person. It has been saidthat "man is that he might have joy" but all too often we skate through lifewithout much of it. Playing games allows us to: relax, leam something new andstimulating, interact with people on a different more comfortable level, and toenjoy non-threatening competition. For these reasons, adults should place ahigher priority on playing games in their lives.

Topic 60 Are games important to adults?

I agree with the statement "Playing games is important for adults." In thischallenging world, adults work very hard to eam a better living and thus do notget time to keep their body and mind ﬁt. By playing games, adults not only canremain ﬁt but also can enjoy life. Games can be of two types: physical andmental. The former keeps the body ﬁt, whereas the latter keeps the mind ﬁt.

Physical games include indoor games like table tennis and outdoor games likefootball and basketball. These games not only increases blood circulation butalso bums the excess fat present in our body. These games keep us fresh andthus improve the quality of our life. These games also teach discipline, co-operation, respect for others, build our self-conﬁdence and teach us how to facedefeat bravely, both in games and in real life.

Mental games include chess, puzzle, quiz and IQ tests. These games increaseour mental ability and thinking power. They teach us how to make decisions,increase our knowledge, improve our way of thinking and our memory, thuskeep us mentally alert and allow us to make the right decisions in life.

By looking at the above reasons, I conclude that games, whether they arephysical or mental, indoor or outdoors can improves our lifestyle and help usachieve our goals. Therefore, playing games is important for adults.

Topic 60 Are games important to adults?

Some people assert that playing games is important for adults. In my opinionthe importance ofplaying games depends on the types of games considered.While some games may beneﬁt to health, mental abilities, working capacity, orhelp to relax, others may harm the person playing in different ways. I think thegames that are important for adults to play include those requiring action,intensive thinking and teamwork. It has been medically proven that physicaltraining is extremely important for adults. It helps not only to maintain ﬁtness,but also enhances the capacity of thinking and working. Therefore participatingin sports games, such as basketball, football, tennis and other action games isessential.

Games that require intensive thinking develop logic, attention andunconventional approach. Among this type of games are puzzles, crosswords,and strategy games. Games that involve team work are important to developabilities to make correct decisions with consideration of opinions of differentpeople , because these skills are often used in everyday situations.

Still there are other types of games that may be harmful. These are mainlycomputer games, which cause severe eye-strain and exposure to radiation.Moreover, computer games not only harm our health, but also have a negativeimpact on our working productivity. Many companies have stringent rulesagainst their employees playing games during work-hours.

There is also one category of games that I believe can be both harmful andbeneﬁcial. These are games played for money. On one hand, winning such agame the player feels happy, which have an overall positive inﬂuence on theplayers‘ health and ﬁnancial situation. On the other hand, loosing the game candrive the person playing into disappointment and even into depression, thusharming his health, not to mention the loss of money.

Thus, in my opinion, the importance of adults playing games can be evaluateddepending on the level of positive or negative inﬂuences that those game mayhave on the person involved.

Topic 60 Are games important to adults?

The young of most mammals, including humans, likes to play. Scientists claimthat with lions, for example, play ﬁghting prepares the cubs for their future lifeas a hunter and killer. The question is whether games teach humans about life.Many people believe that games accustom the player to life-skills such asperseverance and competitiveness.

However, I disagree with the title statement because I consider games to bemainly for children. In childhood, we do not have responsibility for the world.The child is always eager to grow up - to become a year older or to reach thelegal age of an adult. Children ﬁnd happiness in games by pretending to be anadult in the real world. The problem is that games are optional; they contain toomuch happiness and too little hardship to ever be real. An adult, by contrast,ﬁnds meaning in his life by accepting that there are greater things in the worldthan his own happiness.

One of the dangers of games is that some people attempt to translate the rulesof a game onto reality. The modem example of this problem is television andcomputer games. People in the West are now growing concems that childrenand teenagers occasionally imitate violence that they see on the screen. Death isfun on a computer game; and unstable teenagers who kill people in computergames can forget the value of life. American ﬁlms are often accused of makingviolence glamorous.

This is not to say that games did not deceive people before the invention oftelevision and the microchip. Success as a sports-star can lead a player to self-importance. If a football player is made captain of his team and receives praisefrom the local press, he might be tempted to assume that he is the boss in otherareas of his life, such as within friendships. Also, he might be surprised to ﬁndthat sport is simply not important.

Finally, gambling should also be mentioned as a dangerous game. Althoughgambling and the acceptance of luck are acceptable features of many cultures, aselﬁsh gambler can neglect his ﬁnancial duties towards his family. Eventually,gambling can become a drug that destroys life.

To an extent, life for most people is precarious enough to include some degreeof winning and losing, and of adventure. Also, an unexpected opportunity orlucky ﬁnd is one of the joys of life. But sooner or later we have to settle downand face the grind of adult life.

Topic 61 Should parents make decisions for their teenage children?

The issue ofwhether parents or other adult relatives should make importantdecisions for their teenage children arouses much controversy among peoplewith different perspectives and backgrounds. Some people believe thestatement is legitimate, because children are not mature and have not enoughexperiences to determine the optimal choice. On the other hand, people claimthat no body can control other's life even their parents. People should beresponsible for their own behaviors and determine their lives. As far as I amconcerned, I would like to refute the former and support the latter. In thefollowing discussing, I would like to address some evidence to substantiate mypoint of view.

In the first place, the most important reason for me to choose this position isthat old teenagers have their own thoughts and ideas. The fact that the thoughtsof children are not perfect and logical dose not mean their parents have right toeliminate their decision without considering the children's intentions. In the eraof rapid social and technological changes leading to increasing life complexityand psychological displacement, the good decision in parents‘ time would beout of data.

In the second place, the job ofparents is not to make decision for their children,but to help them to choose. In this period of 15 to 18 year-old children, they arealways radical. Iftheir parents make decisions instead of themselves, they willnot obey these decisions. Parents had better told their kids about their opinions,worries and experiences as friends. Give much more room for their kids tothink and decide. Respect and believe their kids will choose the better one andwill face the result directly.

In sum, considering the aforementioned reasons I support the statement thatolder teenagers had better make decisions by themselves. Admittedly, ourparents are our best and most early teacher. They would give us more importantadvices to help us choose the best decision.

Topic 61 Should parents make decisions for their teenage children?

First of all, it is not easy to define ifpeople at the age of 15 to 18 are adults orchildren because they are physically grown up and intelligent enough to carryout general work like adults do in a company, while a lot of them are undertheir parents‘ control. I believe that they should be able to make importantdecisions by themselves, no matter how hard for them.

Needless to say, the recognition of age and maturity is not universally identical.There were some times that 15 to 18 years old were recognized as adults andsupposed to think and act independently. It was usual for women at the age of15 to get married in my grandmother's generation in Japan. Even in the presentdays, it is still a common thing in some developing countries. Thus, I guess itdepends on whether the community is wealthy enough for 15 to 18 year-oldchildren to be children or not. Women in my grandmother's generation neededto get married as soon as possible and have about 10 children in order to getenough labor forces for their family business and have them taking care of theirparents and grandparents. In those days, children must have grown up withprediction of earlier age they had been supposed to become independent.

These days, women in developed countries do not need to have so manychildren anymore and they can go on to higher education, by comparison withearly times. It has enabled mothers to get a job as well as fathers in order tomake their family wealthier and keep their children beside them longer. Aschildren are not expected to be important labor forces for their family anymore,it may not really matter ifthey are mature enough to make important decisions.Then how do children predict themselves to be independent at the age of 15 to18 in such a situation?

I strongly believe that this phenomenon has made today's adults more immatureand immoral. I could not believe that a lot of 20 year-old Japanese peopleattended the ceremony for Coming ofAge Day with their parents this year.Unless adults stop treating young people like children, future adults willbecome even more immature. They still need parents‘ and other adults‘ adviceto make important decisions but I cannot agree with the title statement: parentsor other adult relatives should make important decisions for their older teenagechildren. I would say that it is no more than spoiling children.

Topic 62 What do you Want most in a friend?

A lot of characteristics make a good friend. However, in my opinion, having afriend who is intelligent can do you good in many ways.

An intelligent friend can share your problems and help you solve them properlyYou are overwhelmed with stuff? He can show you the order to finish them onschedule. You are having problems with someone? Tell him and he will find outthe appropriate way to satisfy you and the other friend ofyours. Let's imagineyou were stuck in an elevator for instance. You could be very upset and unableto get out of it. The situation could change dramatically ifyou had anintelligent friend beside. He could calm you down and quickly find the way torescue you.

An intelligent friend is also a good example for you to learn from. In fact, youcan get a lot of interesting and invaluable things from this knowledgeablefriend. You can better yourself by learning his unique way of thinking andhandling things. My friend is very intelligent, not only in his study, but also inhis everyday life. He can solve problems in the way that I can never think of.Having him my close friend for ages, I have learnt a lot of things from him thatmay help me much in my life. He taught me the way of finding and solvingproblems, and even changing unchangeable situations in some intelligent ways.

Indeed, having an intelligent friend can give you the motivation to keep ontrying to be equal to him. This makes you become competitive, or emulative insome positive ways. You may have a thought: "Why could he do that butcouldn't I ?" And you will try your best in order not to be inferior to your friend.You then will change your old and conservative way of thinking and doingthings, becoming open-minded to grasp new things and develop your truepotentials.

All of these fabulous things an intelligent friend brings to you can be a stablebasis for a long-lasting friendship. However, friendship requires a thorough andmutual understanding. So, you, yourself, also play an important part to make itlast forever, with whoever friends you have.

Topic 62 What do you want most in a friend?

Almost every person in the world needs friends. Different people hold differentopinions in choosing friends. Some consider intelligence as the most importantcharacteristics in their friends; others regard a sense of humor as the mostsignificant personality. As far as I am concerned, reliability, which means faith,confidence and trust, is ofvital importance. The reasons go as follows.

Firstly, based on reliability, friendship can be lasting. On the one hand, whenyour friends are faithful, you would love to get in close touch with them. Forinstance, you could reveal your secrets to them without worry about beingbetrayed, and tell them your pleasure so as to double the joys. On the otherhand, when you are loyal to your friends, they would also like to keeprelationship between each other. Undoubtedly, you will be frequently invited tofriends’ get-togethers and discussions, in which your opinions will be fullytaken into consideration since your friends respect you and know yoursuggestion does good not only to yourself but also to them as well. Thus,willing of both your friends and you to continue the formed friendship will leadto your perpetual friendship.

What's more, reliability makes real friendship more solid and deeper. Takeborrowing money as example, it is almost completely sure that, probablybesides your family, people you ask for money are your most reliable friends.You turn to them because you trust their sincerity to give you help, and, at thesame time, they exert themselves to meet your need because they are confidentof your attitude to your friendship, to be more speciﬁc, your promise to returnmoney. Friendship between those friends and you, thereby, gets furtherdevelopment and ﬁnally becomes really invaluable friendship just in coincidewith the old saying- a friend in need is a friend indeed.

In conclusion, reliability can be a norm to exam the real friendship andmotivate people to deepen their friendship. When I choose my friends,reliability is the foremost factor to be considered. Not only should my friendsbe reliable to our friendship, but also I should too.

Topic 62 What do you want most in a friend?

What is the most important quality in a friend? Is it intelligent, humorous, orreliable? As far as I am concerned, I think it is reliable. Among countlessfactors that inﬂuence the choice, these are three conspicuous aspects as follows.

To me, reliability is the most important quality of a friend. A friend is personwhom we know, like, and trust. We may know and like a person who isintelligent, or who has a sense of humor, but we cannot call him a friend unlesshe is also faithful and trustworthy. Perhaps we all know the famous novel byVictor Hugo, Noire-Dame cle Paris, and wish that we had a friend likeQuasimodo. Although he is ugly, the man has a kind heart and a very loyalnature. He seems dedicated to anyone who will show him true kindness. Evenif someone we know who does not have a sense of humor, or does notintelligent enough, he can still be our friend because he is the one who we cantrust.

Another reason is that a friend must be a person whom we can depend on. He iswilling to listen to us, give us supports, and lend a helping hand to us when weare in need. "A friend in need is a friend indeed. " A friend is a person whomwe can trust our feelings and inner thoughts with, and do not fear that he willbetray us. It is hard to imagine that anyone will share his thoughts with a personwho afterwards will spread the content of their conversation to everyone else inthe world.

Of course, intelligent and humorous are also important qualities of a friend. Afriend who is mentally acute can give us sound judgment and rationality whenwe face problems; a friend who is funny can give us an enjoyable time, and addspice to our life. But for me, I still think that the most important quality of afriend is being reliable.

Topic 62 Friends

Friends are as precious as priceless treasures sent by angels. Every individualare longing for sincere and congenial friends. Among various virtues thatcontribute to an ideal friend, I believe that it is honesty that I value most.

The foremost reason for an honest friend is that I can always count on himwhenever I am involved in some trouble. As the saying goes? A friend in needis a friend indeed? Come what may, the loyal friend always gives me a feelingof security and warmth. What is more, it is my sincere friend that inspires meand shows me the courage to carry on. Some so-called friend may draw back inthe case of a serious adversity while the honest friend would reach out hishands to me, unconditionally and sincerely.

Another subtle explanation is that an honest friend always laudable andexemplary. It is a great honor and fortune to own such a convincinglyhonorable friend and, definitely, following his step as an honest person is nevertoo excessive a thing to do. Honesty is, most ofus believe, the indispensablepart of a person's valuable traits/peculiarity. Never can a person achieve manyaccomplishments nor have a high prestige without the conspicuous sparklingquality: honesty. There are numerous instances closely fit the notion, just likethe American president George Washington. His bravery to be honest wasacknowledged by the story readers and it was ofno accident that he laterbecame one of the greatest American presidents.

In addition, the third reason I would like to mention is that a truthfulcompanion points out my shortcomings and it is definitely a tremendous helpfor me. Unaware of the innate defects, I am apt to make the same mistake againand again unconsciously. Friends, some ofwho are more or less sophisticatedand artful, are reluctant to rectify my mistakes in fear of irritating or offendingme. Things would be completely different ifI am fortunate enough to have atruthful friend. By his hearty advice, I am persuaded to go the right way; by hispertinent blame, I am able to be free form making repeated mistakes; by hisgood intentional warning, I am alert to the conceivable danger.

All in all, it would not be too hasty to determine that honesty is the enormouslysignificant virtue of friends. A genuine friend is, without doubt, always a greathelper, a responsible teacher and furthermore, an instructive advisor.

Topic 63 Are difﬁcult experiences valuable lessons for the future?

Some people argue that most experiences in our lives that seemed difﬁcult atthe time, can later become valuable experiences. I cannot agree with them more.There are numerous reasons why I hold conﬁdence on this opinion, and I wouldexplore only a few primary ones here.

Difficulties are beneﬁcial to our personal growth. In the course of our life, weare going to face numerous difﬁculties and obstacles, and each difﬁculty willhelp us grow up, and become a valuable lesson for the future. A toddler fells offthe ground for many times before he knows how to walk, and a child learnshow to swim after he drinks water in the swimming pool. In addition, only afterwe experienced failures, we know the value of success. We will neverappreciate anything that comes so easy. Difﬁculties can make us feel strongerand be more conﬁdent for the future obstacles.

Furthermore, difﬁculties in our work can help us gain more experience andknowledge. Most of the times we can gain knowledge and experiences fasterthrough experiencing difﬁculties in our life and trying to ﬁnd a solutions to theperplexities that we face. There is a famous saying, "no pain, no gain." Forexample, when we take on a new job that we do not have much experience in,the ﬁrst few weeks can be extremely painful and we may feel enormouspressure and difﬁculties. And we will try our best to adjust, to learn and tothink, how to do this job better. The more difﬁculties we feel, the harder we tryto acquire the skills and knowledge to overcome it. Learning and this stage isextremely efﬁcient and our problem-solving skills well increase. After weovercome more and more problems, we can become an experienced worker inthis ﬁeld and will be able to take on more challenges. We will never fear thatwe will face the same kind ofproblem again. This means that we haveaccumulated valuable experiences for the future.

In a word, a difﬁcult experience is a gift that life gives us. We should appreciateit and take it as a precious opportunity to gain knowledge and experience aboutour study, work and life.

Topic 63 Are difﬁcult experiences valuable lessons for the future?

No one in the world can escape some kind of difﬁculties for perhaps they aregiven by fate and they will accompany us for a whole life. Success is one of themost important life goals for everyone, but every mature human being has toadmit that success will be a blank dream without difﬁculties.

From childhood, my parents and teachers told me that there is no ﬁat and pavedroad for me and I have to explore the road by myself. I do not know what arewaiting for me in the unknown future, but what I know is that ifI withdrawwithout courage to face difﬁculties, I will never reach my success. Every timewhen I met difﬁculties, I always felt upset and sometimes I felt so hopeless thatI think the world is closing the door on me; but looking back afterwards, mylife experience always tells me that what I felt at that time was wrong. Lifeconsists of all kinds of difﬁculties and these difﬁculties are the most usefullessons given by life.

We bring about most of the difﬁculties by ourselves. It's a rule that makingmistakes will result in difﬁculties, and by dealing with difﬁculties we willreduce mistakes. I think that is a process of making progress. At the same time,difﬁculties can teach us how to face life and help us to gain courage. Once youhave courage and deal with all difﬁculties with a healthy mood, you will reallyknow what life is like and to some extend, you have achieve a kind of success.

All in all, difﬁcult is the best teacher for us.

Topic 63 Are difﬁcult experiences valuable lessons for the future?

Life experiences deﬁnitely come in many different forms and shapes. They canbe really sweet and really painful just as well. There is an opinion that sooneror later all of the above mentioned experiences would turn into valuable lessonsof some kind.

I think it is a little naive and somewhat childish approach. This is the waypeople want it to be, not the way it actually happens in real life. I am convincedthat, unless some supernatural powers interfere, no experiences will startturning into anything of value. It seems to me that some efforts must be applied,because experience is not the sort of things that can come naturally, so to speak.To give an obvious example, if a student ﬂunks his or her examinations one day,and gets into big trouble with the faculty and the dean put together, how likelyis this student to do well on the exams next term? It remains to be seen, unlessthe student in question had given the whole thing some thought and decided todo everything possible not to get in such a jam over again. I suppose that ifhehadn't done that, he would simply repeat the whole mess once more.

Quite naturally, things don't work out this way all the time. There are peoplewho do learn from their mistakes. The bad part about this very peculiar kind oflearning is that it always hurts, one way or another. If one has the habit oflearning only after some ﬁrst-hand experience, he will most certainly sufferfrom it. I personally can tell from my own experience that it's way morereasonable to stay on the safe side and avoid unpleasant experiences. Becausewhen you have to deal with some of them you rarely think about all of the goodthings that can come with it some time in the remote future. What you reallythink about in such moments is how uncomfortable, upsetting and painful thewhole experience is and how much it hurts to go through it.

Still I have to admit that it can do you some good later on. But it's necessary towork on the difﬁcult experiences that happen to you once in a while, ifyoureally want them to turn into valuable lessons in the future. Gain is how welearn, said C.S. Lewis. That's the way things go. But not always, unfortunately.Sometimes people happen to die ifthe pain is too big. And therefore they don'tlearn anything anymore.

Topic 64 Self-employed vs. employed

There are many advantages for people to work for themselves and have theirown business. For example, you do not need to worry about getting up too latefor work; you do not need to worry about the relationship between you andyour boss; you may go to work at any time you want, because you are the bossof your own business. You may lead a more spontaneous and free life. In spiteof this, personally, I would like to work for someone else.

No matter what kind of business you own, a domestic or international company,or a small one like a snack shop, you have to take care of many things such as alicense, rent, your employees, your competitors, product marketing, even theweather if you own an umbrella shop.

That is what I do not like. I do not like a complicated life. I am just a normalfemale who hasn't much ambition either in my life or in my career. I am used tohaving a simple life, a regular life with discipline, without much risk. What ismost important for me, besides work, is that I can still have free time for thingsI enjoy doing, and do not need to think about business all the time. For me,being a business owner might have too much risk and stress.

Of course, being an employee, you are subject to discipline, and pay attentionto your boss, but that's a part of life, just like for others, paying attention totheir own business, earning a lot of money, and having risk are parts of theirlives.

In a phrase, I would rather work for someone else. I just want to have my ownsimple and regular life!

Topic 64 Self-employed vs. employed

My friends and I always talk about our jobs. Whether to work for ourselves,own a business or work for an employer is one of the hot topics we discuss.Some prefer to work for themselves or own a business. While others prefer towork for an employer. As far as I am concerned, I would like to work formyself. My arguments for this point are listed as follows.

First of all, perhaps one disadvantage to work for others is that we could notplan our time freely. We have to work from 8 to 5 according to the employer'sschedule. No matter what the weather is like and no matter whether it isnecessary, we have to go to our ofﬁce on time. We have no choice but to obeythe rules set by the employer. Suppose we work for ourselves, we could decideour own timetable. We could ﬁnd the best time for us to work and improve thework efﬁciency.

Another reason for my inclination for working for ourselves is that we earnwhat we deserve. Our wages would be very clear to us. We know what weshould earn. That's fair and we would work harder to get better result. However,when we work for others, the boss decides what we earn. It often occurs thatwe get less than we could earn.

In addition, working for ourselves, we try our best in our work to reach ourgoal, thus we would be faster to succeed in life. Ifwe work for others, theenthusiasm to work may not be so high. I heard many enterprisers who workfor themselves succeed earlier than people of the same age.

In a word, in spite of the fact that there may be a couple of disadvantages towork for ourselves, I feel that the advantages are more obvious, that is we couldplan our time for work more freely, earn the amount of money that we deserveand get early success in life. Taking into account of all these factors, I wouldchoose to work for myself.

Topic 64 Self-employed vs. employed

Although the idea of owning a business is an exciting and admirable one, it isnot always a realistic option, especially for a new graduate like me. On thecontrary, I would like to work for someone else after my graduation. Thereasons for my view go as follows.

The most obvious reason is that I can learn plenty of practical business andadministrative knowledge as an employee. IfI were given the opportunity towork at an outstanding company such as Mckinsey & Company or IBM, Icertainly would absorb its ﬁrst hand management skills accumulated for years.I would also beneﬁt greatly from its various valuable training programs. Withthe help like that I can avoid many unnecessary trials and failures that may beinvolved in my own business path.

Another positive aspect ofworking for someone else lies in the development ofmy broader social contact network. As I just step into adult society, I am stilltimid and lack of communication skills. Working for others will offer meopportunities to get access to all kinds of clients, customers, and employers.Undoubtedly, adequate exposure to them will teach me how to communicatewith one another, how to deal with socializing problems, and how to establishmy own personal social network.

Moreover, working for an employer, to some extent, can build up nicepersonalities that are essential for my future career. As we all understand,management knowledge itself does not lead to success without a combinationof broad social network and nice personality. Working with colleague helps meto cultivate nice dispositions-cooperative, responsible, caring for others,outgoing, etc.

All in all, working for an employer suits my situation perfectly. Therefore, fromwhat has been discussed above, I would rather choose to be an employee andprepare myself in all ﬁelds, ifpossible, for my future self-employed.

Topic 65 Should a city preserve or destroy its historic buildings?

The issue here is whether old, historic buildings in a city should be preserved orreplaced by modern buildings. In my opinion, buildings of historical valueshould deﬁnitely be protected rather than destroyed. I base my point of view onfollowing reasons.

Firstly, each historical building is precious property of human being. Like anantic, the value of an old building cannot be measured by money. We will losethose valuable historical buildings permanently ifwe don't preserve them. Oncea historical building is destroyed, we can never restore it; even if it is restoredto its original look, the new building is only a fake replica; the historical valuewill never come back to us.

Secondly, a historic building always represents history and has educationalfunctions. Each one of them can tell us a story. For example, some buildingsare evidences of foreign invasion, others are signs ofvarious religions existedin past decades. People nowadays can always obtain historic or culturalinformation through visiting these old buildings and sites. Although we canlearn the past from books, pictures and by visiting museums, nothing cancompare with the actual historical buildings themselves, which can bring vivideducational material to us.

Thirdly, historical buildings are a symbol of a city and a valuable touristresource; therefore a city cannot go without historical buildings. Beijing isrepresented by the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, which are all historicalrelics. It is hard to imagine that someday the City of Beijing decides that allthese buildings should be destroyed and modern buildings be built on their sitesBecause those historical relics and buildings are too important to the city andcan generate profound tourist income. A city will beneﬁt more by protecting itshistoric buildings than by replacing them with modern buildings.

For all reasons given above, I will strongly suggest a city municipal shouldpreserve the old, historic buildings.

Topic 65 Should a city preserve or destroy its historic buildings?

Whether the city should try to preserve its old, historic building or destroy them?I believe that different people will have different opinions. According to myexperiences, I think that we should preserve these old, historic buildings. I liketo use following reasons to explain why I think so.

The ﬁrst and important reason is that every old building represents an importantpiece of history. Undoubtedly, they can reﬂect contemporary culture, customand life style, etc. For example, the former Imperial Palace in China, whereancient emperors have ever stayed, has had a longstanding history as long asover 2,000 years. Through it, we not only can remember many famoushistorical events, but can also know that ancient people have grasped veryadvanced architecture techniques and methods.

I believe if we demolish these valuable buildings, we will destroy a signiﬁcantpiece of history. More seriously, we will not be able to rebuild them. Whatpeople need is not the duplication or copy. In many old cities, there are someold houses at where there were many important meetings hold. When wevisited old sites, we seemed to go back to that turbulent and exciting time - as ifwe can hear what those important historic characters were talking.

I admit that some old buildings have become a bit dilapidated and unsightly,and have not generated any revenue. But ifwe can refurbish them, I believethat they could start to attract visitors again. From what has been discussedabove, I can safely draw the conclusion that we should preserver these historicbuildings.

Topic 65 Should a city preserve or destroy its historic buildings?

Every culture has its special features. Buildings, as symbol of architecturalheritage, are an important part of the history of any countiy or city. Moreover,they could help us ﬁnd the answers of many questions about the historicaldevelopment of our society. Therefore, I truly believe that every city-administration should try to preserve the old, historic buildings.

All over the world many buildings are preserved in their authentic appearances.Furthermore, many of them have unique constructions and are really beautifuland impressive. In my opinion, the destruction of such remarkable pieces ofarchitecture and their replacement with modern buildings can be called‘barbarity’. Therefore, a lot of old buildings belonging to the historical heritageof the world are protected by UNESCO.

It is a fact that cities, which have their old, historic buildings, are favoriteplaces for holiday and tourism. The reason is that these cities keep their specialatmosphere and could offer us a magniﬁcent journey through their cultural andarchitectural history.

The only reasonable argument to destroy some historic buildings and replacethem with modern ones, is when there is a risk of self-destruction, which couldendanger human lives. But again the safety standard can be achieved byrenovation or restoration of old buildings.

In conclusion I would say that preserving old, historic buildings could beconsidered as a sign of our respect and regard to the previous generations. I amaware that it is an expensive initiative. But who can evaluate the worth thehistoric buildings have, for those who will come after us. And I would dare toask — who gives us the right to destroy what the centuries have kept for us? AndI would answer ‘Nobody‘!

Topic 66 Are classmates a more important inﬂuence to a child?

I strongly agree that classmates are more inﬂuential to a child's success atschool than parents. This I support with the following reasons.

A child spends so much time with his classmates at school. They study together,play together, and write exams together. Psychologists agree that during theirﬁrst years at school, children are more inﬂuenced by their classmates on theiremotional and mental growth.

In addition, a child has nothing to hide with his classmates in terms ofacademic performance. For instance, a child who does a bad job in a mathexam will be revealed on his grades; a child who wins the ﬁrst prize in oraldebate contest will be rewarded before the whole group of students. So hisclassmates know both his good and bad sides. However, It is easier for a childto conceal something to his parents while describing his conduct at school--often limit to those good points.

Finally, classmates are of similar age with a child. They share so many interestsin common. So a child is more attracted by his classmates‘ activities. Ifhe is ina group of children who are interested in creative activities, he will more likelyto think of inventing something. So classmates are very helpful in a child'ssuccess at school.

From the above discussed, I agree that classmates will inﬂuence a child more inhis success because they spend more time together, they understand him betterthan his parents, and they have so much common interests together.

Topic 66 Are classmates a more important inﬂuence to a child?

Children's success at school depends on a lot of factors, excellent classmates,qualiﬁed teachers, good parenting and so on. Among all the factors, classmatesplay an important role in determining children's success.

First, classmates are a great help in the academic studies of our children.Children spend most of their time at school with their classmates, sharinglearning experiences among each other. No only are they competitors, but alsothey are learning pals as well. When someone face difﬁculties in the learningprocess, he can seek immediate help from his classmates especially whenteachers are not available at that moment. In some cases when courses relatingto language teaching demand that students practice speaking in groups,cooperative classmates will be a great assistance to achieving the goal ofeffective learning.

Second, children acquire communication skills during their encounter with theirclassmates. Children who are able to establish good relationships with theirclassmates are more likely to achieve in their future career. Since a classroomconsists of a group of people including teachers and students, they are just likea small society. Ifchildren can deal with everything appropriately with theirschoolmates at school, they are more likely to keep good terms with theircolleagues in the future workplace. A Good relation with others is part of theirsuccess.

Finally, children have also obtained a great deal of life experience from theirclassmates. Being of the same age, children are easier to communicate withtheir generation than with their parents. As a result, they learn more from theircounterparts than from their parents.

From those reasons, we can safely conclude that classmates are too important afactor to ignore and they are a more important inﬂuence than parents onchildren’ success at school.

Topic 67 Inexperienced, cheap Workers or experienced Workers?

When it comes to whether an employer should hire workers with lessexperiences and lower pay, or to hire experienced workers with a higher salary,since there are always advantages and disadvantages of the two, and there arealways different situations, my personal option is that different strategy shouldbe applied for different situations.

For situations where basic and simple jobs which requires less training, andcutting down cost is vital for the survival of the business, I would prefer to hiresomeone who has less experience and willing to work under a lower pay. Forexample, a factory should hire more inexperienced laborers to work on the partof the plant where less skill but more physical strength is needed; and arestaurant owner should hire a cheaper kitchen hand rather than more chefs tocut down the cost of operation.

On the other hand, for situations when more knowledge and skills is crucial fora job, I would tend to hire someone who is more experienced and would ratherpay more salary. Training an inexperienced person for an advanced position cancost a great deal of money, and a mistake an inexperienced makes sometimescan bring disaster to a company. Therefore an experienced personnel is avaluable asset for a business. Sometimes the value cannot be measured bymoney. A company may lost millions of dollars ofrevenue when someimportant positions are vacant and it has to look for someone who is qualiﬁedor take a lot of time to train a new person.

In conclusion, when we decide whether to hire a inexperienced, cheaper workeror an experienced, but more expensive worker, it is always depend on thenature of the business and the position, the amount of training required, and ofcourse, the employers‘ personal preferences.

Topic 67 Inexperienced, cheap Workers or experienced Workers?

To hire an inexperienced worker at a lower salary or an experienced worker at ahigher salary, this is an interesting question for an employer. As far as I amconcerned, a good employer will choose the latter without hesitation, becausehe knows an experienced worker deserves what he is paid.

Qualiﬁed workers play the most important role in any business. The directorscontrols the business, the managers operate the business, whereas, it is nobodyelse but the workers who are expected and responsible to produce qualiﬁedproducts. Without those products the business will be a castle in the air. Thusqualiﬁed workers are indispensable for an employer.

What makes a qualiﬁed worker? Undoubtedly, experience is one of the mostvalued merits. Experience means quality and efﬁciency; both of whichguarantee a well-run business. It is true that the employer has to pay more foran experienced worker, but what such a worker brings to the employer is muchmore than he is paid.

Admittedly, no one is born to be an experienced worker. A rookie is inevitablya rookie at his debut, and he needs opportunity to obtain the requiredexperiences. Hence there must be some employers who are willing to providerthem with such opportunities.

In a word, for an employer, it is proﬁtable to hire an experienced worker at ahigher salary than to an inexperienced one at a lower salary. However, somewise employer may want to hire inexperienced workers with potential.

Topic 68 Is daily homework necessary?

It is commonly known that students could increase their values of knowledgeby absorbing all necessary information given by their teachers during thelessons and by practicing and analyzing a broad variety of assignments, knownalso as homework. I ﬁrmly support the necessity to assign as much homeworkas possible since students could improve and understand given lessons moreeffectively.

Every year, ﬁustrated and upset students complain about having too muchhomework assigned by their teachers. It is understandable that unwillingness todo their homework could be resulted due to many temptations attracting youngstudents in every day life. After intensive learning provided at schools, studentsusually want to relax and enjoy watching interesting movies, playing videogames and spending the leisure time with their friends. Hence, doing assignedhomework is usually postponed for later time or ignored at all. This tendency ofnot doing homework could result in poor and negative students’ results on latertests and would probably destroy the willingness and important habits to studyat home.

As far as I am concerned, daily homework should be assigned within differentnumbers of exercises according to the overall interest and enthusiasmdemonstrated by students during the lessons. An enormous amount ofhomework should not be given ifmost students tended to be discomforted bynot understanding given lessons. In this case, teachers should focus onproviding more accurate and elaborate explanations of their lessons unless thestudents are showing potential interests for getting further information. Hence,students, who are completely satisﬁed and fascinated by provided learningmaterials, could polish and improve the gained knowledge at home by doingtheir homework enthusiastically and effectively.

Finally, I would like to say that daily homework could give students theopportunity to improve and enhance their knowledge gained during the schooltime. Also, students‘ results of daily homework could show many teacherswhether their learning materials were well introduced and explained. Moreover,it could be interpreted as an important source of information for teachers tomake the crucial decisions of whether to begin new learning objectives orrevise previously discussed lessons by assigning more homework.

Topic 68 Is daily homework necessary?

There's much controversy about the necessity of daily homework for students.Some say homework is necessary since only practice makes perfect, whileothers disagree because they believe a student should have the freedom to studywhatever in whatever forms just as he/she likes to.

In my opinion, daily homework is necessary for students. First, a teacher couldassign homework as a measure for the students to study. A student needsguidance from a teacher because he/she does not have an overall understandingof the knowledge he is going to study from the teacher. This means, at thebeginning, a student could not well plan his/her study, just as a kid who is forthe ﬁrst time in a swimming pool could do nothing but to play with water. Ateacher could make a good study plan for him/her, so that he/she could learnefﬁciently.

Secondly, even when a student has already understand what he/she should do inorder to master some skill or knowledge, he/she is still unwilling to do this forthe lack of motivation. Hey, do not tell me that you have never been lazy at allwhen you were young. Some homework could function as a task for the studentto perform which is helpful to motivate him/her.

Thirdly, homework is an important form of feedback for a teacher to understandthe effectively of his/her teacher. As I have mentioned before, a teacher makesa study plan for the students; but does it really work? Or does it work for all thestudents? It's not difﬁcult to know this only ifthe teacher pays some attentionto the homework of the students. Then he/she may be able to ﬁnd ifthere'ssome problems in his/her teaching, and make corresponding adjustment ofhis/her teaching, either for all the students or for a single one. Without somefeedback, it is impossible for the teacher to do this. A test is also a good formof feedback, but obviously one or two tests are not enough, and sometimes thiskind of feedback just comes to late.

However, This conclusion might be misleading that one may believe all formsof homework are necessary. Actually, only proper amount of homework inproper forms is acceptable; some homework may not only fail to help thestudents, but on contrary bore them, so much so that they may lose their innateinterest to study. "Proper" homework, in my opinion, should vary in its forms;it might be some extensive reading, a paper, or even just a game, as well asother ordinary exercises. And it should leave enough freedom to the students sothat they could do things they really like to do with self-motivation, rather thanunwillingness. We should always remember that homework is something for usto guide the students, rather than drive them. Only ifa teacher keeps this inhis/her mind, the homework could be of most help to the students.

Topic 68 Is daily homework necessary?

Most students in this world struggle daily with their homework. Many teachersbelieve that daily homework is the key to education and school success. I agreewith this opinion. Here are my reasons.

First, daily homework can reinforce the knowledge students learned at school.A student cannot concentrate every minute, and remember everything that ateacher taught in class. Daily homework is the best way for students to reviewwhat he learned during the day, study on the problems that he does notunderstand, and prepare for the next day's work.

Second, daily homework is the bases of success in exams. This is especiallytrue for those students who are not so bright, and the only way to succeed atschool is doing homework each day. Whenever the homework ﬂags, the classbehavior dips, the learning is muddled, and the grades take a nosedive. Nomatter what the ability of a student is, daily homework is the key to students’school success.

Third, daily homework can help students develop good learning habits.Learning is not always an enjoyable experience and students always need tospend hard time on it. Daily homework can form a kind of habit of learning forstudents. Once a habit is formed, learning is not such a painful thing and astudent can ﬁnd it more and more interesting. Obviously this will greatlybeneﬁt to a student.

In conclusion, daily homework is crucial to students‘ success. Life requires usto keep learning in order to catch on with this fast pacing society. A goodlearning habit and method that we developed when we are students can beneﬁtus for the rest of our life.

Topic 69 What subject will you study?

If I could study a subject that I have never had the opportunity to study, I wouldchoose computer programming, because computer programming is so vital intoday's society.

Firstly, computer programming is important to our daily life. With the advanceof technology, we are practically facing an information age; every piece ofinformation today is stored in the information highway, which consists ofcomputers and networks as hardware, operating systems and software. Withoutsoftware installed in these systems, the computers are like bodies without soul,and will not be able to function at all. Only with programming languages,information can be retrieved and stored into the information highway. Whetherwe hook up a phone line or television cable, book a ticket, travel to a foreigncounny, apply for a passport, an operator will immediately check ourinformation from the computer network. Ifthe computer systems are down, wecannot go anywhere or do anything. We can safely say that computerprogramming languages are ubiquitous in our daily life.

Secondly, computer programming is important to technological success. Withthe skill of computer programming, scientists can write programs to monitortheir scientiﬁc research and experiments, to analyze the trend of technologicaldevelopment, and to forecast the future. Computer programs can simulate ascientiﬁc experiment in a much cost-effective and timely manner, thus can savescientists a lot of time and money, therefore it can greatly expedite the pace ofthe development of technology. For example, a civil engineer can use amodeling program to simulate the water ﬂow of an urban area; when there is astorm, he can quickly know which parts of the city have the danger ofbeingunder the water and dispatch his crew to that area to prevent the disaster.

Last but not least, computer programming techniques can help us earn highersalaries in our future jobs. Since computer programming is important to oursociety and daily life, programmers can usually have a higher salary than otherprofessionals. Many people have shifted to computer programming from othercareers during the economic boom, and even when the economy is going low atthe moment, programmers and computer engineers can still live a better lifethan others.

From all above, I can safely draw a conclusion that ifI have a chance to study, Iwould not hesitate to choose computer programming.

Topic 69 What subject will you study?

If I could study a subject that I have never had opportunity to study, I wouldchoose to study how to use the Internet. There are a lot of advantages that theInternet can bring to us. For example, it can get us informed timely, expose usto a lot of chances of knowing other peoples and their cultures, and help usobtain the materials for our studies conveniently. IfI know how to use it, I cantake the advantages of it.

The Internet can get me informed timely. There is always a lot of news on theInternet that is broadcasting 24 hours everyday and updating timely. I can readthe headlines, the ﬁnancial news, the sports news, and the weather reportsevery time when I connect my phone modem with my computer. From readingthe news on the Internet, I can know everything happening around me. It isvery important for me to deal with my daily life with this information. It givesme a lot of chance to know different people. I can know what they are thinkingabout and how they are living their lives. The World Wide Web includes everycount1y's information. I can travel internationally on the net without going outof my house. That is helpful since people in the world should understand eachother to make sure that we could live together peacefully.

The Internet gives me the convenience of getting almost any useful materialsfor my study. I can just type a few letters and click the search engine to getthem. I can do them in the early morning in my pajama while having mybreakfast at the same time. Nothing could be more convenient than the Internetin doing research work like this.

In short, if I could choose one subject to study, I would deﬁnitely choose tostudy the Internet for its timely updating news and its convenience. I wouldalso like to travel to new worlds and meet other different peoples. That will bereally helpful for me to live a life successfully.

Topic 69 What subject will you study?

There are so many subjects that I wanted to take while I have a student but Inever had the opportunity to. The most, I wish I would have taken a course incultural management. Most likely, one day I will follow my desire and enrollprobably in a MA program in cultural management.

Why pursue a cultural management program? Firstly, a program as such isrelevant for my future career as an art historian. It would be essential for myintellectual development to learn how to organize effectively an exhibition, acultural study trip, or any other type of cultural activity.

Moreover, a MA in cultural management would provide me with the theoreticaland practical skill I will need in order to contribute substantially to theRomanian cultural development. My country needs cultural managers, but theyhardly exist. There are no schools to teach cultural management, and one canhardly ﬁnd a person to have a proper training in this particular type ofmanagement.

On the personal level, I strongly believe that such a course would be of greatbeneﬁt to me. Like any other management class it will help me organize myselfbetter, and thus gain much time and much conﬁdence in myself.

Overall, a cultural management program would be quite beneﬁcial form mypersonal and academic development. I know that by studying this ﬁeld not onlyI would improve my life, but also I will be able to contribute to the revival ofmy country's culture development. This is why I would choose to study culturalmanagement.

Topic 70 Have automobiles improved modern life?

I support the statement that automobiles have caused serious problems. Whileautomobiles have brought us many conveniences, they surely have brought usmany undesirable consequences, of which three can be singled out: trafﬁccongestion, air pollution, and highway accidents.

Automobiles have congested city streets. The problem is more obvious whenthe masses of motor vehicles enter or leave cities at peak trafﬁc hours. Theconstantly growing number of automobiles throughout the world has made thecongestion problem worse and worse because planners and engineers simplycannot ﬁnd a solution to keep up with the increasing volume of trafﬁc growth.The widespread use of automobiles for business travel has also led in manycities to a decline in public-transit systems, which result in more and more useof private cars, and exacerbate the congestion problems.

Air pollution is another program caused by the automobile. Automobileexhausts commonly contribute half the atmospheric pollutants in large citiesand even more in cities where atmospheric and topographic conditions causethe smog formation. Although many cities require the installation of catalyticconverters and other controls on motor vehicles to restrict the emission ofpollutants, the concentration of many thousands of motor vehicles in largecities has given the problem a new dimension.

Highway accidents create a distressing toll of fatalities and injuries whereverthere is widespread use of automobiles. Each year there are hundreds ofthousands of motor vehicle fatalities worldwide and about 50,000 in the UnitedStates alone. The social and economic costs of such accidents are enormous.Efforts to improve highway safety have been successful in most countries, but areduction in the ratio of fatalities and injuries per distance traveled is oftenoffset by increases in numbers of accidents because of the ever-growing use ofmotor vehicles.

In short, automobile has brought us more bane than boon. We should takepublic transportation whenever possible, and reduce the number of cars runningin urban streets.

Topic 70 Have automobiles improved modern life?

Since the ﬁrst automobile was introduced to our life, we can notice that thereare a lot of changes happened around us. As a modern transportation, it notonly brings convenience to our daily life, but also enhances the efﬁciency.

One of advantages ofusing automobiles is that it can give the users much moreconvenience compared with other transportations, such as bikes or buss. For meI like to go to the supermarket once per week and normally buy many foods atone time. Can you imagine that I need to carry a lot of foodstuff and maybetake a crowded bus to reach home? How inconvenient it is! Suppose that I havea car, and then I will feel very easy because what I need to do is to put all mystuff at the back of the car. I can go back with nice music and happy mood forthe shopping.

On the other hand, automobiles can save our time and energy. Driving theautomobile, we can go wherever we want to go. We can decide the destinationand reach there faster than other transportation means. Assuming that a traintakes about two hours to reach Suzhou from Shanghai, but a car only needsabout one hour. We can use the saved one hour to enjoy the views or doanything that we want. After all, time means a lot to modern people. It canmean money to businessmen, knowledge to school students and proﬁt tocompanies. By means of cutting time with the help of automobiles, we canincrease the efﬁciency of our society.

Of course, I must admit that automobiles bring a lot ofproblems such as trafﬁcjam and air pollution. But these outcomes cannot be avoided during thedevelopment of a society. I believe we will have a better solution to solve allthese problems.

Generally speaking, I would like to say automobiles have improved modern lifethrough providing more convenience to people and increasing efﬁciency. Weshould encourage the society to support the automobile industry and developdifferent kinds of automobiles to meet various needs.

Topic 70 Have automobiles improved modern life?

When Henry Ford manufactured the ﬁrst automobile, he didn't realize how hewould affect our life. Now expanding road systems and thousands ofautomobiles are playing an important role in our society. But every thing hastwo aspects. Some people think that the automobile has improved modern life.Others think that the automobile has caused serious problems.

The automobile has a very close relation with industrialization. It is a part ofindustry itself. Industrialization is a symbol of a modern society. Automobilescarry all kinds of goods and people from one place to another. They function ashuman's blood. Without automobiles our country would return to a completelyagricultural society. No one likes to live without modern conveniences such aselectricity, cars and so on. It is sure that the automobile brings convenience.

But automobiles also bring some troubles. Each year many people are injuredin trafﬁc accidents. Another serious problem is pollution. Thousands runningautomobiles emit poisonous smokes. Their motors and sirens give outdeafening sound. All these are harmful to our environment.

How can we deal with it? Stop using automobiles? It is not realistic. We shoulddesign better automobiles. It gives off less gas and runs more quietly. Weshould build wider roads and obey trafﬁc rules. All problems are cause byhuman beings. We certainly can resolve them by ourselves.

Topic 70 Have automobiles improved modern life?

It is a well-established fact that automobiles have contributed to the modern life in afavorable way. Automobiles improved different aspects of the human life, but, on theother face of the coin, cars have their crucial impacts upon our life. It is our turn tominimize these defects and galvanize other favorable sides. Hereinafter, I will presentand analyze this issue and provide a personal perspective.

The automobile is considered amongst the most beneﬁcial inventions that ever existedThese means of transportation provide unprecedented mobility, ﬂexibility, and privacyCars have abridged the travel time among distant locations and provided a self-scheduled means of transportation. A car user is not obliged to obey anypredetermined departure and arrival schedules, barring engine check and fuel ﬁlling.

Moreover, the car represents an elastic means of freight transportation. Automobilesallowed more goods and products to reach remote areas or locations that lie far frompublic transient system. Also, this rendered products less prices based on lesstransportation cost as well as more pervasiveness.

Admittedly, services like mail and tourism beneﬁted intimately from the automobiles.Taxi added to the diversity of ﬂexible and on-order mean of transportation. Also,special services like home delivery could have been too slow or even not existingwithout cars. Adds to the favor that many are interested in racing or rallies thatrepresent car-based sports.

On the other side of the fence, automobiles contributed to the aggravatingenvironmental conﬂicts. Car exhausts that contain compounds like carbon monoxidedioxide, nitrous and sulphoric ions threaten the public health as well as theenvironment. Phenomena like acidic rains and green house effect more or less arecorrelated to automobiles exhausts. Moreover, automobiles are considered expensivemean of transportation, especially with their close relation to roads and asphaltindustry.

Another disadvantage is the intruding of some new habits like car captivity. It wasfound that some persons are biased to car usage even ifit is more expensive, slower,or liable for trafﬁc problems. Car captivity is considered intimately related to obesityand heart diseases. Moreover, increasing car ownership introduced trafﬁc conﬂictslike congestions and delays. Imprudent driving habits leads the way for fatal caraccidents, and it is extremely impressive to know that accidents victims exceeds thenumber of second war casualties.

Ultimately, automobile, like all successful facilities in our life is double-bladedweapon. Alleviating automobiles disadvantages like producing cleaner fuel, unleadedpetroleum, natural gas as a fuel, or even electrically driven engines as well asimproving the public transportation system should absorb these impairments. Wemust also anneal the merits by introducing articulate trafﬁc control systems,improving the quality ofpavements and other favorable aspects.

Topic 70 Have automobiles improved modern life?

Although automobiles have improved our modern life in some way for itsspeed, convenience, and capacity of carrying freights, we have had to pay theprice for it. Now, as more and more automobiles have been putting into use, theproblems that the automobile has caused are seemed to be more and moreserious accordingly. These problems, in my mind, like the accidents, the airpollution, the damage of the ozone layers should be given more attention thananytime before.

There are a lot of problems that has been caused by the automobile. It killshundreds of thousands of people and disables many more every year. It drinksup our precious fossil fuels that cannot be replaced. New roads for theautomobile also eat up our precious farmlands while many children are starvingall around the world. These problems are really serious and disturbing many ofus.

The most serious problem caused by the automobile is air pollution. It is saidthat it emits millions of tons of harmful gas into the air everyday. The dirty airharms our human beings health badly. It can cause a variety of diseases such asplumbism, insomnia, mental disability and even certain kinds of cancer. That isreally terrible.

Air pollution caused by the automobile can give rise to even more seriousconsequences. One thing, it will destroy the ozone layer that protect the liveson the earth from the hurt of the strong and direct ultraviolet rays. Much moreultraviolet can also destroy the fragile ecosystem on the earth. It is just the lifecircle in which we survive. Another thing is that the air pollution caused by theautomobile can lead to the global warming. Ifthe weather is getting warmerand warmer, the icebergs scattered in both of the two poles of the earth will bemelted, which will cause the sea level rising and ﬂooding all the cities andvillages along the seashores. The lost of the lives and property will be countlessThat is really a tremendous disaster.

I do not mean to deny the fact that the automobile has improved our modernlife in many ways. It acts a vital role in our social life. It also supports ourindustries. It is indispensable in our modern life. We cannot imagine how wecan live a modern life without the automobile. However, the problems it hascaused today, such as the lives and properties lost, the dirty air and theconsequences of the pollution, seems to be more dangerous and obvious thananytime. Therefore, it will never over do to emphasize the seriousness of theseproblems and urge the governments and other responsible organizations tosolve them.

Topic 71 A high-paying job vs. quality spare time

Some people may prefer to have a lower-paying job as long as the job asks forshorter working hours so they can have more free time spending with theirfriends and family. However, I would rather be given a higher-paying job withlonger hours, even ifI would have little time with my friends and family. I donot much care about the free time nowadays; I really care about money. Besidesall my friends and my family members are usually busy working. Furthermore,ifI do not earn a lot of money, I cannot spend my free time with my friends andfamily happily.

I really care about money because my budget is too tight nowadays. I am sopoor a student. The tuition is high, but I have to pay for it. I also have to paymy rentals of room and pay the board. I have to pay the transportation fares, thebooks, the clothes and a lot of daily supplies. All these seem to be a heavyﬁnancial burden to me. So, I have to look for a job that could offer me a highersalary.

My friends and my family members are all very busy all daylong. Some ofthem are busy working; others are busy studying. They are usually having littlefree time to spend with friends and family, including me. IfI were given ashorter hours job and more free time, I could not meet them anyway.

Besides, even ifmy friends and I have managed to ﬁnd out some leisure time tospend together, ifI have not enough money, where the fun will be? Anymeeting or party costs a fortune, even the simplest picnic. Ifwe have no moneyto spend for our gathering, we have to just sit over there and chat. We will feelboring soon. Knowing this, I am eager for a higher-paying job so that I can getthe money ready for the meetings in the future.

For all these reasons, I would like to have a higher-paying job to supportmyself and earn enough money to meet my busy friends and family sometimelater. Although this job cannot offer me more time to spend with my friends andfamily now, I believe that I will compensate it after I have become some kindof millionaire in the future.

Topic 71 A high-paying job vs. quality spare time

Between a high-paying job with long hours and a lower-paying job with shorterhours, I will deﬁnitely choose a high-paying job with long hours, although Imight have little time to spend with my family and friends.

Firstly, money can help my dreams come true. I need a lot of money to domany things. I want to buy a huge house with a garden and a swimming pool. Ialso want to have an expensive car. Maybe my relatives need my ﬁnancialassistance. Especially, I hope my family can have a kind of comfortable life.My children can go to a famous private university to get excellent education. IfI have no money, all of my dreams cannot come true.

In addition, to me, making a lot of money is a sign of success. I think that noone respects a poor man in today's society. From newspaper to television,almost all media focus on wealthy people instead of the poor. I cannot let theothers consider me an incompetent man.

Of course, making this choice means that I have to pay a price. Perhaps, Icannot spend too much time with my family and friends. But I never regret mydecision because I believe that both my family and my friends can understandme. For my family, I think they should know whom I do this for. For myfriends, they will think how success I am and they will proud of me.

In conclusion, money is so important to me that I must choose a high-payingjob regardless of the consequences it will cause.

Topic 72 Does grades encourage students to learn?

When it comes to the issue that whether grades are the purpose of student'seducation, different people have different ideas. As far as I am concerned, thegrade can promote student's attitudes toward learning.

I take this view on account of the following reasons. First of all, grades are theobjects that demonstrate students‘ abilities in speciﬁed ﬁelds that they learned.Since there are lots of drawbacks of other evaluation methods, examinations orgrades are the most efﬁcient and fairest way to describe a student's capabilities.For example, a student who achieves the best grades in all subjects isundoubtedly the best student in his class.

Second to take into account is that grades are possibly the deﬁnitive factorwhether one student can obtain a decent and well-paid job. Having not manyworking experiences, students can only prove the proof of their abilities byshowing exam records to their employers.

Last but not least, contrasting to the better grades the his classmates make, aconﬁdent and self disciplined student will continue making effort on his study.Such kind of a grading system certainly encourages students to learn.

However, just as the English proverb goes, "a coin has two sides." Those whomaintain the opposite view are partly reasonable that grades could notdemonstrate all the abilities that a student has, such as communication skillsand survival skills.

Despite the factor I outlined, we can easily conclude that, generally speaking,grades are very important for student's study, and they surely encouragestudents to learn.

Topic 72 Does grades encourage students to learn?

A lot of people claim that marks in tests encourage students to learn. I agreewith this statement, because examinations are a good way for a student toreview what he/she has learned; test scores are a standard measurement forstudents‘ learning ability and knowledge level; and the test system can beneﬁtstudents‘ future.

First of all, tests are important for students’ learning. Attending classes is notenough for students to learn the subjects no matter how carefully they listen towhat the teachers say. They need examinations to review the lessons. In mostcases, grades or marks are the only means by which teachers measure students‘learning ability and learning progress. Grades encourage students to study forexaminations, and it is a good system for students to learn.

Secondly, test scores are a standard measurement for students’ learning abilityand knowledge level. Most people would agree with this, therefore universitiesall over the world take test results as a standard measurement to give admissionto new students, to offer fellowships, and to decide whether to grant a studentgraduation. High school teachers use test results as a means to evaluate theeffects of teaching, and students‘ learning progress. By test scores, teachers alsoknow each individual student's ability to learn.

Thirdly, test results can stimulate a student to work hard on his courses. Thetesting mechanism encourages students to work hard in order to achieve abetter result; they will devote more time on study, and develop a "never giveup" spirit. This will not only beneﬁt their study, but also teach them a truth, thateveryone needs constant learning and hard working in order to be useful to thissociety. Students who have developed such learning habit and never give upnature will not only have good performance at schools, but can also superior toothers in other aspects; for example, such natures are important factors evenafter ﬁnishing schools. I believe most students understand the importance ofthese qualities and impacts on their life; therefore they know how important itis to work hard and try to achieve a better score.

In conclusion, marks can stimulate student to learn, and good marks can givethem advantages in going to a good university and ﬁnding a good job.Therefore I strongly support the statement that marks can encourage students tolearn.

Topic 72 Does grades encourage students to learn?

In many schools, teachers evaluate students by their grades. Many people thinkthat it is unfair and one-sided to evaluate students by grades and willdiscourage students to learn. I believe, however, grades encourage students tolearn. The reasons can be analyzed as follows.

To begin with, using grades as a standard to evaluate students can give studentsa pressure to learn. No stress, no motivation. In order to pass or get high grades,students must study hard. They must read more books, do their homeworkcarefully. Pressure helps them learn more knowledge. The worries that theywill not pass simultaneously force and encourage students to learn.

Grades can encourage students to compete with each other. The modern societyis full of competition. Students can learn the concept of competition throughgrades. At the same time, they can develop the spirit of competition. Tocompete with others and obtain good results, students must work hard to gethigh grades. Competing for grades at schools can make students moreadaptable to the society.

Grades can also give students conﬁdence and feeling of success. When they gethigh grades through hard work, students may think that they gained a greatachievement. The feeling of success will encourage students to study harderand harder. At the same time, the success achieved at schools encouragesstudents to succeed in society.

From the above analyses, it is not difﬁcult to get the conclusion that gradesencourage students to learn. Grades give students the pressure and make themcompete with each other so that they must study and work hard to succeed.

Topic 72 Does grades encourage students to learn?

Almost in every modern society, grades play an import role in assessingstudents‘ academic ability. There are all kinds of tests to winnow out weakstudents. Knowledge itself is so complicate and vast, each one of the testusually cannot cover every aspect of it. So I wonder whether grades can reallyencourage students to learn.

The basic reason why I disapprove of the title statement lies in the belief thatgrades usually do not have positive impact on student who is strong or weakalike. Take the example of a student who has high grades: if Tom gets goodgrades in the class, normally he will feel conceited. This situation certainly willnot lead him into ﬁnding some blind spots or weak points in his study. And hewill not realize that may be just his photographic memory helps him a lot orthis kind of test suits him well. Let us look at another example: suppose Johnnyis so not good at memorization, but he works very hard. Unfortunately, he gotpoor grades in tests that facilitate memorization. One can foresee what harmwill bring to him due to the poor grades. In these cases, grades play a negativerole in encouraging students to learn.

Most important of all, the grades are usually a convenient way of assessing astudent's academic ability. But it is by no means a scientiﬁc one. Teacherscannot determine from the grades whether the student is hardworking (diligent)or out of cram. Given tests to all students regardless of their individualcharacters and traits, is just like forcing everyone to wear shoes of the samesize. The Famous educationist Confucius said two thousands years ago:"teaching students in accordance with their aptitude." Our world is a colorfulworld, so should our educational system be.

Grades, especially poor grades will ﬁustrate potentially successful students tolearn. It will give them a false impression that their intelligence may be inferiorto other students. The worst thing about poor grades is that it may haverepercussions in an underachiever's heart when all his fellow students andteacher have long forgotten. In fact, the potential talent of a student will bestrangled by those poor grades - a real pity to the student and the society.

Last but not the least, there is some advantages in taking grades as a tool toevaluate students‘ academic performance. As in my humble opinion, theyshould be combining with other scientiﬁc methods to encourage students togain knowledge but not solely focus their energy on how to achieve high scoresAfter all, it is the knowledge that it is power, not the grades.

Topic 73 Has computer made life easier?

Computers are involved in our world form sorted trash to satellite control,making our life easy, convenient and efﬁcient. Obviously, it's a great revolutionof human being. It's odd that some consider that computers make life morecomplex and stressful. I suppose computers will become a necessity, like foodand water to the mankind.

Computers have changed people's life style, in a way that we can concentrateon scientiﬁc research rather than wasting time on data analyzing andcalculating, for computers are much more efﬁcient in dealing with thesestrenuous jobs. Many activities could not be run in their present form withoutcomputers. Examples are the banking systems, and the weather forecastingsystems. How is it possible to deal with data-switching between banks andclients simultaneously and accurately without computers? As we known,weather forecasting requires multiprocessing data from the meteorologicalsatellites and simulating the weather change, which are easy jobs for computers

Although the knowledge of computer is not easy to acquired, especially at earlystage, the IT industry has been making the computer operation system morefriendly and at the same time more powerful. Therefore, using computers tohandle problems is not the specialties of computer majors only. Even childrencan use computers to do their homework. We can now beneﬁt a lot fromcomputers in our day-to-day life.

One of the concerns is that computers may cause some troubles when we relytoo much on them, such as various computer viruses and the Y2K problem.Nevertheless, computer experts will surely solve these problems and improvethe computer technology. In this sense, the computer technology has muchpotential to develop.

After all, the computer is one of the most important inventions in the twentiethcentury. It has formed a new era in our life, and it affects culture, industry,science, education and other areas. Computerization is a trend nowadays, andcomputers are being used in many areas. Computers like any other technologyhold the key to increased productivity, which will beneﬁt all of us.

Topic 74 Is it better to travel with a tour guide?

Traveling is one of the most widely enjoyed recreations. The tourist business isbecoming increasingly important for many countries’ economies and provides agreat variety ofproducts and services. People are different and so are theirpreferences when it comes to spending a vacation traveling to interesting andexotic places. One of the ﬁrst choices one should make when planning a trip iswhether it would be individual or with a group let by a tour guide. If it were upto me, I would go to an excursion as a part of a tourist group.

First of all, a common problem of people traveling abroad is the unfamiliarlanguage of the country they are visiting. This is a major inconvenience as itcould hamper their communication and prevent them from learning valuablethings about the place. That's why I think that a tour guide, who in most casesknows at least two languages, would be needed. This is a professional whosejob includes guidance and help. Also tour guides tell tourists about the historyof the place they are visiting, information which otherwise could hardly beobtained.

Second, group journeys are supposed to be previously organized. The travelagency makes the full program of the trip: hotel reservations, transportation,food, and sightseeing. Furthermore, many services and museum taxes arecheaper for a whole group. In this way, tourists are much more comfortable, asthey safe time and money, and are able to enjoy their vacation without worryingabout anything.

Third, traveling in a group can provide people the opportunity to get to knowwith many other tourists who are from different backgrounds but are broughttogether by their common interest of the place they are visiting. Such grouptrips are a great chance for making new friendships and eventually learning alot about different people.

For all these reasons, I prefer to travel in a group with a tour guide, as it wouldguarantee a more convenient and enjoyable journey.

Topic 74 Is it better to travel with a tour guide?

When people are asked to list their hobbies, travel is among the most frequentwords quoted. Some would choose to travel by themselves alone, some othersprefer to traveling with a few close friends or family members; while stillothers, including myself, agree that the best way to travel is to join in a groupled by a tour guide.

A good tour guide, who has professional knowledge and rich experiences aboutcertain places, would make our journey more efﬁcient and enjoyable. Travelingto new places is an important way to know our world in the perspectives ofcultural diversity and geographic peculiarities. However, we often ﬁndourselves confounded and do not know what to do next when we are in a newplace. A tour guide may help us to arrange the optimum itineraries andschedules. He leads the group around to show us unique tourist spots that weshould not miss. His explanation on certain scenic spots is also useful for us tounderstand further about the new place.

Besides, a tour guide would ensure the maximal security of the group member.Tourists are always warned against the potential risks ant pitfall, since strangersare easily attacked. An experienced tour guide teaches his tourists some tipsand skills to guarantee the security. The tour guide is particularly indispensablein any emergencies, as he can make a timely response and right decisions.

A tour guide, besides his training and knowledge, is also a person with a goodsense of humor. Far away from our friends and families, tourists often feellonely sometimes during the journey, especially when on the way to a newdestination. A good tour guide are skillful enough to relieve the loneliness bytelling jokes and interesting stories, playing magic tricks, and so on, whichmake the journey joyful and pleasant.

Topic 74 Is it better to travel with a tour guide?

Nowadays traveling is becoming more and more popular, as we have moreleisure time and more money to spend during our vacations. When it comes toways of traveling, many people prefer to join groups arranged by travelservices and escorted by tour guides, while others may argue independentbackpack travel should be better. My viewpoint is both have advantages anddisadvantages.

The advantages of traveling with a tour group are obvious. People do not needto worry about accommodation, transportation, sightseeing schedule andrestaurants and so on, all of which has been arranged in advance and taken careof by the travel service during the trip. Besides, the tour guides will tell storiesbehind the places of interest, and help us with unexpected emergencies, suchloss of suitcases and health problems. Being relax and educational is group-travel's best feature.

However, it is not ﬂexible for some people. Suppose when you enjoy a placewell and wish to stay there a little longer, but you are told you have to comeback to the bus in half an hour, just because you have to rush to the next place,which turns out to be not so nice. The arranged meals are expensive and not astasty as it should be; the booked hotel is too far from the shopping area; youshare a room with some strangers who might snore loudly all night. In short,such nuisances of group travel turn down many people who pursue moreﬂexible travel alternatives.

So what about individual travel? The pleasure of freedom and ﬂexibility is wellguarded, and there is more chances to explore the place and encounter itspeople. However, there are a lot of troubles for tourists to arrange tours bythemselves, and security is an issue. Moreover, during sightseeing, they mightmiss a great deal of valuable sites and historical relics.

In conclusion, every coin has its two sides. Only when you are clearly aware ofthe "two sides" can you come up with best option for your next tour. Ipersonally choose to travel with a group in that it can save me a lot of energyand with the comfort of leading by a tour guide, I can enjoy a place fully.

Topic 74 Is it better to travel with a tour guide?

There are basically two ways of traveling: traveling in a group led by a tourguide, or traveling independently. There are advantages and disadvantages ﬁrthe both. By traveling in a group, you will enjoy the companionship, comfortand safety of group travel, and learn more information about the place from atour guide; while traveling independently, you can maintain the freedom,ﬂexibility and individualism. Some people say that for most people, the bestway to travel is in a group led by a tour guide. I agree with this opinion.

Firstly, you will enjoy the companionship when traveling in a group. Usually atour group consists of around 20 people. These people travel together, eattogether and stay at the same hotel. During the trip, you can always ﬁndsomeone you like to talk with, and you will never feel lonely as when you aretraveling alone.

Secondly, you will enjoy the comfort and safety of group travel. Whentraveling in a group, everything is pre-arranged by the travel service, and youdo not have to worry about booking a ticket, ﬁnding a hotel, decide what placesto visit, and so on. In the meantime, as you are not preoccupied with arrangingthe trip by yourself, you may ﬁnd yourself concentrate more on the trip itselfand enjoy it more. In addition, it is much safer to travel within a group. What arelief when you know that your personal safety is always taken cared ofbyothers.

Thirdly, you can learn more information about the place from a tour guide, andnot worrying about missing an important spot. The tour guide will take you toeach spot that should be visited, and give you detailed information about theplace you visit. You never have to ﬁnd information about the places you aregoing to through the Internet or buy a book from the bookstore. Traveling in agroup can save you time and money on information searching.

In conclusion, there are many advantages of traveling in a group. Although foryoung people, traveling alone is more advantages and stimulating, for mostpeople, traveling in a group is the best choice.

Topic 74 I prefer traveling alone

Some people think is better to travel in a group that is lead by a guide. For myexperience so far, I am inclined to believe that such a way of traveling has moredisadvantages than advantages.

Although is better not to travel alone and a guidance is always welcome,traveling alone is sometimes more desirable. The group structure is, in myopinion, quite relevant for a pleasant vacation. It is important for me to travelwith people that have the same interests as I do. Otherwise we might not agreeon the spots we want to visit or the restaurants we want to eat at. Usually themost successful trips are together with my friends and not with a heterogeneousgroup ofunknown people. I would rather travel alone, or with just one friend,than with a group whose company I would not enjoy.

On one hand, iffor instance, I plan to visit a foreign country, a place that I havenever been before, a place where people most likely do not speak my language,I feel it is better to have someone to guide me and to help me with anysituations I may encounter. It is safer not to travel alone. It is also pleasant tohave a guide that provides background information and interesting facts aboutthe places that I visit.

On another hand, especially ifI am to visit a museum, an art gallery, or ahistorical city I prefer to buy a map and walk by myself rather than with a guidethat would impose on me his/her impressions and knowledge. I do prefer todiscover on my own, and to choose what I want to see and to decide how muchtime to spent in one place or another. I think that the success of traveling in agroup depends mostly on factors as the organization of the group, the abilitiesof the guide, and the place of destination.

I enjoy traveling in groups, but only in small ones, and with people that I know.Otherwise I think is better to travel on my own, to see what I like, where I like,and whenever I like.

Topic 75 Multiple subjects vs. one subject

The whole point of my answer is that it is better for universities to requirestudents to specialize in one subject. It is just what the majors are called for,even though there are a couple of the advantages for students to take classes inmany subjects.

It is a more sensible decision that universities require students to specialize inone subject. They must have known that the depth of a certain subject is inﬁniteand both the students’ energy and time are limited. Only when a studentspecializes in one subject, can he focus on it. Thus it ensures the students tobecome proﬁcient in a subject when they are conferred the degrees. That is justthe purpose of education.

It does not mean that students do not have many classes to attend even iftheyjust specialize one subject. There are a lot of sub-subjects or divisions of a mainsubject. The science ofjournalism, for example, can include the theories ofjournalism, the histories ofjournalism (both domestic and international), thenews writing skills, the interview courses and the editorials writing and so on.The students have to study all of these above course in journalism major. Itmeans a lot ofwork to do even if students just specialize in one subject.

I do not deny that there are a couple of advantages for universities to offerstudents the option to take many subjects. One thing, the work places requiremulti-disciplined personnel today. Students who take many subjects may meetthat request. Another advantage is that other subjects that students take can helptheir main subject. Whatever the beneﬁt it will be, however, the other subjectsthat students take should not interfere with their main targets.

In the whole, if students’ time and energy allowed, universities could allowstudents to take as many subjects as possible. However, I think that possibilityis small. So I have to say that it is better for universities to urge students tospecialize in one subject. After all, the main subject already needs a lot of workto cope with, considering the depth and width of one subject.

Topic 75 Multiple subjects vs. one subject

Some universities require students to choose a variety of subjects; others onlyrequire students to specialize in one subject. I deem the ﬁrst one as the premierchoice. Among countless factors, there are three conspicuous aspects as follows

The main reason that students should take classes in many subjects is that theycan make full use of the abundant resources that a university has to offer. Auniversity has plenty of educational and research resources. It is a very goodidea to make full use of these valuable assets while studying at the university.The best way to achieve this is to take a variety of subjects as much as possible.Through learning these courses, a student can get access to knowledge andresources in different areas. On the contrary, if a student only specializes in onesubject, he will not have a chance to get access to other resources offered by theuniversity.

Another reason is that by choosing many subjects students can broaden theirscope ofknowledge and make a solid foundation for their future concentratedstudy. Whatever the student will concentrate on in his senior years in college, itis necessary that he choose a wide range of subjects to build the knowledgefoundation. Take the ﬁeld of Business Management for example, the studenthas to acquire knowledge in writing, accounting, economics and humanresource management before he can successfully start his major concentrationstudy.

The argument I support in the ﬁrst paragraph is also in a position of advantagebecause students can be more adaptable in their future career ifthey choose avariety of subjects during their university study. It is obvious that thedevelopment of modern society requires people with inter-disciplinary andcomprehensive knowledge. Ifa student chooses a variety of subjects in hisuniversity study, and gained a breath and width ofknowledge, he will be moreadaptable to the requirement of the society, and be able to easily adjust to manykinds ofjobs. This will beneﬁt his future career.

In a word, taking into account of all these factors, we may reach the conclusionthat students should take classes in many subjects at a university.

Topic 76 Should children start learning a foreign language early?

Nowadays, some may hold the opinion that children should begin learning aforeign language as soon as they start school, but others have a negativeattitude that learning a foreign language early will pose too much pressure onkids and will affect their mother-tongue learning. As far as I am concerned, Iagree that bilingual education should start as early as possible. My argumentsfor this point are listed as follows.

I agree with the statement without reservation since children learn secondlanguages quickly than adults. As we have observed, children can learnlanguages faster than adults; immigrant children translate for their parents.Child learners speak without a foreign accent, whereas this is impossible foradult learners. Therefore the earlier kids learn a second language, the lessdifﬁculties they would meet when they grow up and have to face a foreignlanguage-speaking environment.

Another reason why I agree with the above statement is that I believe thatbilingual education can be fun and stimulate children's learning interest. Manyparents and teachers know how to teach kids a second language in aninteresting way. One of my students told me that, when he was in kindergarten,every day his mum taught him a few native language characters as well as theirmeaning in English. As time passed, the kid became keen to learn English.Sometimes he gave his mum and dad a quiz by speaking some English wordsand asking them what the meanings are.

Bilingual education will not affect the mother-tongue study of children. As weare living in an environment ofpure native language conversations andtraditional culture, it is impossible for us to give up our culture and language.Teachers also are trying to arrange the curriculum in a appropriate way. Forinstance, they create an English-speaking environment for children in themorning, and a native language-speaking environment in the afternoon.

Bilingual education has become a trend. No matter we like it or not, futureeducational undertakings will become more international, and exchangesbetween schools throughout the world will increase. Given this, speaking acommon language is important and, to this purpose, bilingual teaching is aninevitable way.

Topic 76 Should children start learning a foreign language early?

Considering the existing educational system, some people argue that learning aforeign language in an early age is unnecessary and it may give the youngchildren too much burden. However, they may neglect that learning a foreignlanguage can be an enjoyable experience for children and it is necessary tocatch up the worldwide trend. In my opinion, learning a foreign language, suchas English, as soon as they start school has so many advantages. Withglobalization and communications among different countries, the world isbecoming smaller and smaller. Therefore we cannot deny the importance of asecond or third foreign language.

In fact, we should begin to learn a foreign language as early as possible. Thereare three reasons about it.

First, a child has a very passionate interest to study. Everyone should agreewith it, for we all have the same experience that a child always asks you aboutsomething with full of interests. He or she always try to understand thingsaround him/her and would be eager to seek answers about their questions. Onthe contrary, when a child grows up, he or she will gradually lose interests onnew things.

Second, compared with adults, children have greater abilities to study a foreignlanguage. Many studies indicate that a child can study a language more easilyand quickly, meanwhile he or she has a good memory to remember new words,and can distinguish the subtle difference between two words that sound similar.

Third, studying a language is not an easy job, which need a long term andcontinuous effort. Language is not only a tool, but also part of a culture. Ifwewant to be proﬁcient with a language, we must spend a lot of time studying it.

In a word, children should start learning a foreign language early. As I far as Iknow, in my country many elementary schools have given English lessons,which will surly beneﬁcial to the future of our country.

Topic 77 Should boys and girls go to separate schools?

Nowadays, some people may hold the opinion that boys and girls should attendseparate schools, while others have a negative attitude. As far as I amconcerned, I agree that boys and girls should go to separate schools. Myarguments for this point are listed as follows.

Single-sex education provides an environment for boys and girls to concentrateon their study. Research shows that a single-sex school environment caneliminate the distraction from members of the opposite sex, and therefore isacademically beneﬁcial to students. Girls in an all-female school can establishself-esteem, and avoid the situation faced by young women in co-ed schoolssuch as struggle to survive emotionally. They will be able to focus more ontheir academic curriculum, sometimes speciﬁcally designed, and prepare fortheir future education and career. The single-sex setting eliminates socialdistractions and allows for better concentration on academics.

Another reason why I agree with the above statement is that traditional genderstereotypes are often reinforced in single-sex academies. Boys tended to betaught in more regimented, traditional and individualistic fashion and girls inmore nurturing, cooperative and open environments. This will develop theirvirtue and prepare them for their future roles in the society.

Taking into account of all these factors, we may reach the conclusion that boysand girls should attend separate schools. Of course, there are also disadvantagesof single-gender education, and simply separating boys and girls does notalways improve the quality of education. A lot of efforts should be made toensure that a single-gender education system be successful implemented.

Topic 77 Should boys and girls go to separate schools?

Should boys and girls attend separate schools? This question is very arguable.Before rendering my opinion, let's consider the advantages for boys and girls toattend separate schools. Since boys and girls are different in many ways, theyhave different hobbies and the ways to learn new things. Ifthey attend separateschools, the education can be more efﬁcient because the school can teach themdifferently according to their personalities. But the disadvantages are greater.While boys and girls attend separate schools, there're few chances for them tocommunicate with opposite sexes, which will become a handicap for them tocommunicate with each other in their future.

As far as I concerned, boys and girls should not attend separate schools. Theﬁrst and foremost reason is that people should have experience with theopposite sex when they are at school, because the society consists ofboth maleand female members, and people have to learn how to communicate with theopposite sex.

Moreover, people have to learn from the opposite sex. For example, whilefemales should learn braveness from males, males should learn carefulnessfrom females. In addition, in a family, to learn from the opposite sex becomesmore important to keep the family harmonious. In addition, the knowledge ofthe opposite sex is also important. Without such knowledge, dealing with theopposite sex in a relationship becomes extremely difﬁcult.

Finally, as we can see, it's deﬁnitely important for boys and girls to attendschools together, so that they can learn from each other, communicate witheach other and they can understand each other well, which is very valuable fortheir future.

Topic 78 Teamwork vs. working independently

Some people like to work independently, while others would prefer to work in ateam. Is it more important to be able to work with a group of people in a teamor to work independently? Depending on different personal traits and workingenvironments, people will have different answer to this question. I think beingable to work in a team is more important for me.

First, the modern society and industry is a complicated system that requiresteamwork, communication and cooperation among companies and individuals.Take a computer system for example, it comprises of hardware, operatingsystem and software, which are manufactured separately by differentcompanies. Not one single company can accomplish a computer systemwithout using products and technologies from other companies. Similarly, in acompany, communication and teamwork is more and more important amongworkers because a worker cannot do his/her work properly without interactingwith his supervisor and colleagues.

Second, there are many advantages of working in a group than working alone.Teamwork provides a worker with a cooperative, friendly and enjoyable workenvironment. The team can also be helpful in responding to a worker'squestions and problems, therefore increase the work efﬁciency. Teamwork canalso challenge a worker's abilities and he/she can acquire valuable experiencesfrom it.

Third, the ability ofworking independently does not contradict with the abilityto work in a team. For example, in a team environment, I enjoyed being a majorcontributor to my team. The fact that others depended on my work made mefeel like I was doing worthwhile things. For example, I was in charge of thefront end for the GUI. This was very valuable experience, because I know howimportant it is to work in a team.

Inclusion, I think the most important quality in a work environment is theability to work with others in a team.

Topic 78 Teamwork vs. working independently

There are many ways in which people can complete their works. Some prefer towork with a group ofpeople on a team. Others prefer to work independently.To work with others can inspire their spirit and produce twice the result withhalf the effort. In my opinion, working on a team is more important.

In business, people who are able to work with a group of people on a team tendto communicate well with others. In order to complete a sophisticated task,individuals must work together, each sharing a part of the whole task, in orderto achieve the results. The team must interchange their ideas during eachprocess in the forms of meetings and discussions. Each one tries his/her best togive a better idea to make the process more time-efﬁcient.

In addition, we cannot live in a society independently and we need tocommunicate with each other, so communication skills are very important tothis society. Through teamwork, we can develop and improve this ability.

Although one can complete a work independently with one‘s innovation andsometimes can accomplish a perfect work with great compliments, manyreasons show that throughout teamwork really can achieve more than we maythink of. No wonder, in the F1 race, team order is the most important thing thatevery member in the team must obey.

Topic 79 Who would you choose to build a statue for?

If the City Government of my town - Moscow asked me to choose a personwhose statue will be built, I would choose no one. And here I can explain mypoint of view.

In my opinion there are already statues of many famous people who merit astatue. Right in the center of Moscow there is a great statue of Jury Dolgirukiy.He founded the Moscow City in 1447. He is also famous as a great defender ofhis people. Ifyou look at this statue, you will see a very strong man riding ahorse with a spear in his arms and the injured dragon lying on the ground. Inmy view it symbolizes the meaning of his deeds and people's remembrance andrespect to him.

Another statue in Moscow is that ofAlexander Pushkin. He was one of themost famous Russian poets. He has made an important contribution to theworlds literature. His poems are realistic. They answered to questions asked somany years ago, and they can still answer today's questions. His statue looks sonatural as ifhe is alive. His statue is standing in the middle of the PushkinSquare. With a book in his arms, he looks very calm and contemplative.

Another monument that I consider impressive is the monument for people whodied during the Second World War. I cannot describe it because there are noproper words to express the emotions I feel when looking at this statue. I justfeel painful and sad for their death and as people cannot bring them back to life,they can only try to prevent future wars.

In conclusion since there are already enough statues for famous historic ﬁguresin Moscow, I would like to say that I prefer to see modern art sculptures in thestreets of this historic city. I would allow young modern sculptors to exhibittheir works in the streets.

Topic 80 Describe a custom from your country

Who took care of you before you are eligible to go to the daycare? Thatgrandparents taking care of their baby grandchildren is a tradition in mycountry. I would like people from other countries to adopt this tradition.

At ﬁrst thought, this tradition seems to be unimaginable to people who areaccustomed to the "parents-children breeding" model. However, did you noticethat swarm ofyoung mothers are roaming in the department stores with theirbabies during working hours? Young ladies quit their jobs and sacriﬁce theircareers to look after their offspring. How many women can really keep up withtheir professional work after several years’ absence from their positions in sucha fast pace society? A babysitter may help you, but do they really care yourbaby as his grandma does? The answer is No. Grandparents ensure the love,care, health and education ofyour kids.

On the other hand, senior citizens gain more happiness through this day to daycaring of their young grandchildren. Old people are sad about the aging andloss ofwork. When they spend their time with young kids, when the fun andloveliness ﬁlled in their soul, all unhappiness disappears. The moments theyspent together with the babies are so sweet they can improve seniors‘ mentaland physical health.

It is undeniable that the relationships of different generations will be tightened.Needless to say, kids will be tied with their grandparents in this process. I wasbrought up by my grandparents who are in their nineties now. I still call themquite often and buy gifts for them. I feel the strong connection among us.

From above analysis, I highly recommend our custom of grandparents givetheir hand to cultivate future generation.

Topic 81 Has technology made the world a better place to live?

With the development of technology, there have been a lot of changes to ourlife. Admittedly, some of these changes are bad, causing many environmentaland social problems. However, most of these changes contribute to making ourlife more convenient, more comfortable and more wonderful.

First of all, due to the improvement of technology, people can enjoy moreconveniences than ever. For example, it only takes travelers or businessmenseveral hours to go to another countries by jet planes, which makes the worldseem to be much smaller. With the help of the Internet, people at differentcorners of the world can communicate with each other at a signiﬁcantly highspeed and low cost. It is technology that has cleared away the barriers that onceprevented people from leading a convenient life.

Secondly, technology has made our life as comfortable as we can imagine.Sitting in air-conditioned rooms, people do not have to suffer the extremelycold or hot weather any more. Whatever vegetable or fruit we want to eat, wecan always ﬁnd it in a supermarket regardless of the season. We can also go towork in a place far away from our homes by using automobiles or publictransportation tools.

In addition, technology provides us many choices to spend our spare time.Listening to music by using an MD, MP3 or Walkman, surﬁng the Internet orwatching digital movies, all of these entertainments make our life wonderful.

In conclusion, although technology has brought about some problems, such asair pollution caused by increasing number of automobiles, and ethnic problemscaused by cloning human beings, the beneﬁts of technology far outweigh itsbad inﬂuences. So it is safe to say that technology has made the world a betterplace to live.

Topic 81 Has technology made the world a better place to live?

A great many achievements have been accomplished in recent decades inalmost every area of technology, such as in computer science, manufacture, andmedicine. But there have always existed two opposite attitudes towardstechnological development. Some people agree that these new technologieshave made the world a better place to live, while others hold the opinion thattechnology has caused many problems to the world. As far as I am concerned, Iagree with the ﬁrst opinion that our world is becoming better for living withtechnology progress. Several persuasive reasons go as follow.

Firstly, technology developments have greatly improved people's livingconditions, making our life more convenient and efﬁcient. We have elevatorstaking us to the top of a skyscraper in just a few seconds; we have airconditioners to keep the indoor temperature comfortable; and we even havehousehold robots now to help to take care of the trivial housework.

Secondly, technology developments have also made communications mucheasier, and thus helped to enhance relationships among people. The wide use ofpagers, mobile phones, and wireless Internet has greatly facilitated the way ofdaily communication. They can bring people so close even though they mayactually be thousands of miles apart.

Thirdly, developments in technology can provide better medical access to makepeople live a healthier and happier life. By taking advantages of the most recentdevelopments in biotechnology, such as genetic engineering, I am convincedthat people will have a promising prospect in treating all kinds of humandiseases, including AIDS and SARS.

It is true that technological developments have also brought some seriousproblems. One of them is that some technological developments have doneharm to the environment. For example, too much emission of waste gases,mainly carbon dioxide, has increased the global temperature signiﬁcantly.However, people can reduce and ﬁnally eliminate these harmful effects byimproving the technology itself or ﬁnding a more advanced and reliabletechnology.

I believe that with the new technologies appropriately adopted for goodpurposes, our world would be made an even better place to live.

Topic 81 Has technology made the world a better place to live?

Since the end of the last century, when technology started to make a full impact,debates have sprung up among people worldwide as to whether this technologyhas made the world a better place to live or not. In my perspective, the newdevelopments have indeed improved our lives.

One striking example of how Man's new inventions have helped us to lead abetter life is the whole set of time-saving electrical appliances and tools,ranging from washing machines to microwave ovens. No longer do we need togo down to the river to wash our clothes on rocks or to heat our food with woodand charcoal for never-ending hours. Nowadays, our daily chores are merelysimple tasks, needing only very little efforts on our part. It is the machines thatdo all the boring and tiring work.

Consequently, we are left with much more leisure time to spend at our free will.Technology has exerted a great inﬂuence on the ways people relax themselvestoday. It has transformed our previously boring leisure time into long hours ofexcitement, enjoyment and fun. For instance, nobody can deny that video,computer and PlayStation games have added spice to our lives, especially thoseof children. The home cinema, recently available on the market, has mademany happy families around the world.

Technology has not done good deeds only in those areas. It has gone evenfurther by improving considerably communication among countries. Owing tonew technology such as the Internet, fax and mobile phones, barriers amongnations have started to disappearing, thus turning the world into a ‘globalvillage’. In our modern era, it is even possible to be living in a poor countrywhile studying with the top professors in England via the Web by enrolling inan online degree.

We have therefore seen how technology has made the world a better place tolive in some ways. However, just as the English proverb goes, "Every coin hastwo sides", technology has also had a few negative effects on our society. Thus,the same timesaving devices that save us so much trouble have quickened somuch the pace of life. Nowadays everyone is stressed and is alwayspreoccupied. Moreover, overexposure to video games and the television hasbeen proved to be harmful to people's health, creating eye and back problems.In addition, new technology like the Internet has allowed the brewing ofnewtypes of crime and criminals such as hackers and viruses.

In today's world, technology is having a deep inﬂuence on the way people dothings. But the issue ofwhether this technology has made the world a betterplace to live in will continue to be a controversial topic.

Topic 81 Has technology made the world a better place to live?

Being modern human beings, people nowadays have enjoyed so much from thehighly developed technology. The improvements of technology have changedpeople's life styles signiﬁcantly. Admittedly, sometimes, technology worsensthe condition. However, compared to its advantages, the bad impacts are so tiny.

In the modern world, we lead a much better life than our ancestors. We nolonger need to be on guard all day to prevent us from being attacked by wildanimals; we no longer live in rock caves which are dangerous and notcomfortable; we can no longer put all of our hope to the God to pray a mildweather which will bring us a harvest. We can utilize technology to increase thequality and quantity ofplants. Moreover, modern technology of medicaltreatment helps us cure the number of terrible diseases that will deprive the lifeof human.

Besides, technology provides us many unimaginable tools that beneﬁt our life.We can travel from one place to another by plane only in few hours, while itwould take our ancestors several months or even years in the ancient time. Weuse computer and robot to help us with hard and routine works. Computers alsoimprove the efﬁciency of our work.

However, technology not only brings us gold but also rubbish. Pollution is oneof the most terrible problems. The excess use of technology brings disasters topeople and the world. The rivers and oceans are not as clear as before; the wildanimals are disappearing. In order to save the world and also ourselves, peopleshould limit their demand from nature and use technology in a sustainable way.

All in all, technology itself is neutral thing. Whether it will beneﬁt people or doharm to people depends on the people who use it. Fortunately, most of the timewe have utilized technology in the right way, therefore, the technology beneﬁtour life much more than its harm.

Topic 81 Has technology made the world a better place to live?

Standing at the turn of the new century, we observe the twentieth century as agreat advance in technology. With those advances, human lives have changeddramatically. In some ways, life is worse, but mostly, it is better. So personallyspeaking, I am, and probably will always be, one of those who agree with theidea that technology has made the world a better place to live.

First of all, technology has brought with it a more comfortable life. Not only dowe use air-conditioners and heating systems during summer and winter, butalso do we experience many changes in food preparation methods to preparedelicious food. Due to the development of architectural technology, our livingconditions are greatly improved.

Besides, traveling and communication are much more convenient nowadays.We can travel around by airplanes and railway networks. We can talk to eachother through telephones. Twenty years ago, it was a dream that we couldobtain information as well as shopping via the Internet.

The last but not the least, through the process of technology improvement,people begin to realize the fact that only reconciling with the nature can wemaintain a sustainable development. That is why we today pay so muchattention to environmental protection. Many factories have achieved economicgrowth without polluting the environment by utilizing certain new technology.

Instances of the same sort can be multiplied indeﬁnitely. When taking intoaccount all these merits we may safely arrive at the conclusion that advantagesof technology outweigh any disadvantages it may bring to our lives. Though Imust admit that people sometimes invent some things that threaten the lives ofthemselves, no one can ignore the additional conveniences and satisfactionoffered by technology, and just with such experiences the human being forgeahead swiftly to the future.

Topic 81 Has technology made the world a better place to live?

Many people take the view that technology has made the world a better place tolive. As far as I am concerned, I share the common view with them. Because Icould pick up examples here and there around us and I would here explore afew of the most important ones.

The main reason is that ifwe look around, we may ﬁnd that technology makesfor us a better place to live. Take our house for example, without architecturaltechnology, we could only live in the open wild. Thanks for those architectsand engineers, we can live in a warm comfort house that protects us not onlyfrom the rain and wind, but also from the coldness of the winter, and thehotness of the summer.

Another reason is that we could communicate with our relatives or friendswithout the need of meeting them face-to-face. Information technology helps usa lot in communication. For instance, telephones and cellular phones help ustalk with others no matter where they are; computer networks connecting thewhole world offer us another alternative of communication. By email, ourmessages can reach the destination in just a few seconds.

Furthermore, transportation technology realizes the dream ofpeople who wantto travel around the world or to the space. We all can imagine that without car,bus or bicycles, how could most of us manage to get to work everyday?

In a word, technology has changed the world in a better way for us to live interms of housing, communication, transportation and many other aspects.Taking into account of all factors mentioned above, we might reach theconclusion that technology has made the world a better place to live.

Topic 82 Can advertising tell about a country?

Nowadays some may hold the opinion that advertising can tell you a lot about acountry. As far as I am concerned, I agree with this statement. My argumentsfor this point are listed as follows.

One of the primary causes is that advertising is always a reﬂection of acountry's culture and customs. Advertising varies from country to country,depending on the country's particular conventions. For example, a Japaneseadvertisement may feature a Japanese lady with a traditional kimono, while anAmerican advertisement may feature a western cowboy with a hat and riding ahorse. Through advertisements, we can have a general understanding of whatpeople from other countries look like, what they wear during their daily life,what they eat, what kind of transportation they use, and what they do duringtheir spare time. We can always learn different cultures of different countriesthrough these culture speciﬁc advertisements.

A further more subtle point we must consider is that we can understand acountry by its products. When we see a Toyota or a SONY advertisement onTV, we realize that Japanese people see quality as a vital aspect of theirproducts, and we know that how these people are always trying their best inhigh technology development, and ensure the best quality in their products.When we have gained a deeper understanding of a product, we can also gain adeeper understanding of that country and people.

What is more, when we become curious about the culture and customs of acountry through advertisement, we are willing to spend more time on readingabout the country, explore more deeply about it, and even someday travel to acountry we like to visit. All these might have started with a small advertisementon TV! Is that amazing?

In short, advertising can really tell you a lot about a country's culture andcustoms.

Topic 82 Can advertising tell about a country?

Advertising plays an important role in modern society. Advertisementscovering every aspect of social life can tell a lot about a country by themarriage of substantial information and colorful expressive forms. Althoughmany disagree with the title statement, I believe that we can learn a lot about acountry's economy, culture and beauty spots simply by advertising.

Advertising offers a great amount of economic information about a country.Take commercial advertisements for example, they unveil many direct anduseful economic messages: major commodities, service level, living conditions,and so on. Undoubtedly, politicians, businessmen and citizens will all takeadvantage of these helpful advertisements.

Advertising also reveals greatly distinctive traditional culture about a country.It can easily be attained by observing advertisements associated to art, literaturecustom, and social ritual, which have been deeply rooted in a country's uniquehistory. For example, advertisements for some articles used in a Chinesewedding reﬂect their way of thinking, an appreciation of harmony, and apeculiar taste for wedding clothes. Advertisements of those kinds can thusshow plenty of cultural heritages boasted in a country.

Furthermore, advertising helps people learn more about a country's beautifulscenery. Advertisements about travel serve this purpose perfectly. Informationand knowledge about various resorts might be obtained by happening to see aphoto advertisement posted on a wall by some travel agency. Advertisementson television, on the contrary, frequently provide us many opportunities towatch all kinds ofunusual beautiful places we may never have thought ofbefore.

All the above evidence supports the undeniable fact that advertising can tell alot about a country. I must admit, however, some advertisements become moreor less homogenous around the world due to the tendency of globalization.Some even fail to signify any special characteristics that are essential for acountry when they need to do so. But all in all, no one can ignore the abundantand useful information about a country afforded by advertising.

Topic 83 Is modern technology creating a single world culture?

I strongly agree with the statement that modern technology is creating a singleworld culture. Modern technology like computers and the Internet is bringingpeople together, and making the world smaller.

First of all, with the development of modern technologies such as computers,English is becoming the most important language in the world, and theimportance of other languages is getting weaker and weaker. Admit or not, themost common language used today on the Internet is English, and this makesEnglish becomes the one and only most important language in the world. Onthe other hand, computers can cross the barriers of human language. No matterwhere people are, and no matter which language people speak, they always usecomputers the same way, and basically they are using the same kind of softwarepackages, like the Windows Operating Systems and word processing softwarepackages. The computer language is also a universal language. Programmersfrom different part of the world can work in the Silicon Valley together.Although they might have difﬁculties in communicating in English, they haveno problem at all writing programs with Java, or C++.

Besides, the development of the Internet is unifying people's life style. Internetis being used in almost every corner of the world. People are doing almosteverything with the Internet, like getting all sorts of information, shoppingonline, paying for their bills and checking their balances in the online bank.Over 90 per cent of people in the world use the same kind of Internet browser -the Internet Explorer, and the interfaces of almost every Internet page looks likethe same, although they use different language and design. People from all overthe world are doing the same thing each day on the Internet, and their livinghabit is becoming closer and closer with each passing day.

In addition, modern technology has facilitated the communications amongpeople from all over the world, and therefore has resulted a single world cultureFor instance, people can chat with a friend or a stranger who lives abroad overthe phone, or the Internet, and they can also see and listen to him/her through acamera and a microphone attached to the computer. The ease of communicationhelps one culture learns from other culture, and brings the world together.Before people can see each other through TV, they used to wear their localcostumes; nowadays T-shirt and blue jeans have become a universal custom forpeople. This is a concrete example that modern development is creating asingle world culture.

Based on the points discussed above, we can see why I agree with that moderntechnology is creating a single world culture.

Topic 83 Is modern technology creating a single world culture?

When we look back to the history of human being in recent 200 years, we willbe surprising what a huge change modern technology has brought us. Trainsand planes connect people everywhere. Radios and televisions enable us tokeep with every news happened around the world. More and more chances ofcommunication inﬂuence different cultures deeply.

To discuss the impact that modern technology has given on different cultures,most people would agree that nowhere in history has the issue been morevisible that people in different countries are getting more and more alike. Mostof the time, you cannot tell which country a person is from only by his/herclothes. Young people all over the world can enjoy McDonald's and otherwestern food the same way as Americans enjoy. A pop music singer can haveher fans in every corner of our planet. People around the world share newsfrom newspapers and TV and express concerns on the same topic.

"The world is getting smaller! ." How often we hear such words! But that isonly part of the truth. Not everything in a country's culture can be changed.Something developed from thousands ofyears ago and has already been a partof a nation's spirit cannot be wiped off easily. For example, the family conceptof our country has never changed. We still prefer a big family that allgenerations live together. That is the deﬁnition of happiness in our valuesystem. We still appreciate the thinking of Confucius and take it as guideline ofour daily life. At the same time, many countries make great efforts to preservetheir culture heritages. People around the world take more and more pride intheir own cultures, and try to cherish them.

Certainly, modern technology make possible for cultures to communicate witheach other. But I don't think it is creating a single world culture.Communication brought by modern technology can be an instrument forimproving and learning, but not a tool for erasing individualities. And it is thecultural diversity that makes our world more beautiful and interesting.

Topic 84 Has the Internet provided a lot of valuable information?

The Internet...is it a boon or a curse? This is a very debatable topic. We wouldneed to look at the pros and cons of it and then draw conclusions. Even then itwould not be possible to totally answer yes or no to the question. It woulddepend upon individual personalities as well as the situation that we are in. Inmy opinion, the Internet is deﬁnitely a valuable source of information, but aswith all forms of technology one must know how to make the best use of it.

Let's step back a few years from now. We were totally dependent on books, theexperience of other people or data stored in other forms for getting informationof any sort. The problems with those kind of information sources is that it istime consuming, inconvenient and often times even misleading. The concept ofweeding out data from old reports and books was a time consuming and painfulprocess and would itself deter people from trying to get new information.

But today with a touch of a button we can get any information available, sittingin the comfort of our homes. We are more knowledgeable and aware of thingshappening around us. Technology has given us the greatest power at ourﬁngertips...the power of knowledge!

Lets take an example. Suppose someone wants to start off a business venture.He can get all information regarding other companies in the same line ofbusiness, he can do a cost beneﬁt analysis, gather corroborating data, make newcontacts, and so on, thanks to the internet. He is now well informed. Ifhe has todiscuss this with other potential partners he is armed with a wealth ofinformation.

On the other hand the Internet does supply an overload of information. Hence ifyou give a topic in a search engine such as Google, you will get a number ofsites that would cater to the information required. Now ifone were unable todecide what information to cull out and what to leave, it would be a painfulexperience rather than an enjoyment.

So in conclusion, it really depends on how you use a particular technology -used in moderation and in an intelligent manner it could be the greatest tool.Otherwise an enemy that steals time and waylays and deters a person fromachieving his ultimate goal.

Topic 84 The Internet

Nowadays, no one can deny the importance of the Internet. Sitting in front of acomputer, clicking a mouse three times, you can get access to the informationhighway, which provides you numerous valuable sources of information.Thanks to the Internet, people can quickly sell, advertise and share knowledge,idea, and personal feelings.

Because we are easy to access to so much information, it can create someproblems to us. Children are easily suffering from inappropriate information onthe Internet, since it is very hard to control information from the Internet. Moreand more porn pages are quickly emerging and continuously sending emails tochildren's account. With their curiosity, children click on these links that lead tothese pages, and see things that they should not have seen. They do not realizethat they are unconsciously affected because their parents cannot examine allthe content they view.

Consequently, children are now becoming the number one victims of sex abuseand criminals in America where it is very easy to access bad websites such asporn sites and sex forums. It is the Internet that probably causes problems tochildren ifparents do not pay much attention to them.

Although the Internet offers us large amount of information, its reliability isdubious because many untrue news stories can be posted to it and causeconfusions to many people. It is very difﬁcult for us to ﬁnd out what websitesare reliable and what are not. My teacher, for example, is advocating herstudents to use books to study, research, or write a report instead of using theinformation on the Internet.

In conclusion, the Internet causes trouble to people, especially young peopleand children. Although people can get access to up-to-date knowledge andinformation, problems caused by using information from the Internet areinevitable. Therefore, while the Internet can provide a lot of useful information,its hard cannot be underestimated.

Topic 85 A one-day-visit to your country

If you attend a conference in China, and would like to take a one-day-visit onsite seeing and shopping, there are three factors you might consider: this placemust have special tourist features which can represent China, and this placemust be close to the place where the meeting is held, therefore you do not haveto spend too much time on traveling.

If you are in northern part of China, the best place that you should visit is thecity of Beijing, although spending one day in Beijing is too short of a period tofully explore the splendors of the city. Nevertheless, for those ofyou withoutthe luxury of time, make sure you don't miss a few key points of interest--theSummer Palace, the Forbidden Palace, the Forbidden City, and the Great Wallof China.

The Summer Palace is a royal retreat located on the bank of a large lake.Visitors can walk along a waterfront promenade that leads to a concrete shipdocked at the far end of the walk. At the concrete ship, you can take a ferryback to the entrance of the palace. Something you may want to do while at theSummer Palace is going into the gift shop, get dressed in traditional Chineseclothing, and pose for a souvenir photograph.

The Forbidden Palace is absolutely breathtaking. There are a series of gates thatlead to the main palace grounds. Pay particular attention to the stairwells in thepalace courtyards. There are slabs carved with intricate dragon designs, whichthe emperor was suspended over in a caravan whenever he left the palacegrounds. It would be a good idea to get a local guide to lead you around thepalace and explain the signiﬁcance of various buildings.

Finally, don't miss the Great Wall. It's located outside of the city and it takes upmost of the day, but it's well worth it. When you ascend the Great Wall, thereare two paths--one veering to the left and the one veering to the right. The pathon the right is less steep and an easier climb. However, ifyou take the path tothe left, you can see the remains of the original wall, and there is a cable caryou can take down to the parking area.

Shopping in Beijing is becoming more convenient by the day. The Silk Marketat Xiushui Street is favorites among tourists, experts and locals alike. There youcan bargain with the shop owners and buy good quality clothes with a very lowprice, you can even see plenty of pirated software- ironically, within sight ofthe US Embassy.

So, there you have it. I encourage anyone to spend at least a few days in Beijingbecause there is so much to see.

Topic 86 A time and a place in the past

One of the most exciting events of the last century was the end of World War II.By defeating the German army, U. S and British forces stopped the tyrant Hitlerin his way to conquer the rest of the world. All over Europe, the day that endedthe war resembled a new era. Thus, it would be fascinating to witness howthings changed dramatically from war and death to peace and bloom.

The end of the biggest war mankind has ever known also ended the Holocaust.Hitler and his administration decided that they should kill all the Jews inEurope. Thus, under the mask of "working camps" they planned to buildspecial prisons, where they can deliver the Jews in order to murder them invarious ways. This evil plan caused the biggest massive murder in the historyof mankind. The day the war ended, reﬂects also the end of this evil murder,which followed by the recreation of the Jewish nation.

After the end of the war, nations started to rebuild themselves; big countries inEurope like Germany, France and England signed peace agreements thatinﬂuenced the future of the whole region. Without borders between countriesand with free marketing system, Europe gradually forgot the sorrow of thedeathly war. At that time, Europe countries were famous due to the amazingachievements in sport, art, and fashion. For example, Picasso, one of the worldgreatest artists, inspired by this era and reﬂected his feelings in his works.Gradually, the situation of the economy changed, and Europe became one ofthe best places to live and to invest in.

"History repeats itself‘ is a famous and practical sentence; being a witness tothis kind of amazing change is experience that takes place once in a life time,thus this speciﬁc segment of history is extremely interesting and important, andifI would have the opportunity to choose time and place in the past - this iswhat I would choose.

Topic 86 A time and a place in the past

The topic makes me recollect my childhood, the happiest time that I had in myhometown. It is a remote village on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau full ofimagination and intrigue. My childhood there was cheerful and unforgettable.

It used to be a very small village, surrounded with high mountains; the meltedsnow water from the top of the mountains formed many clear brooks and wentthrough the village. The crystal water moistened the grass and crops in thevillage and also provided the village people with all sorts of ﬁsh and shrimps.The appearance of the mountainsides varied as the seasons change - yellow inspring, green in summer, red in autumn and white in winter. The top of themountains was always covered with snow, shining under the sun. When youwere in the village, you would feel you were touching the sky and you will feela sense of holiness around your body.

My childhood friends and I enjoyed our life in the village so much. We liked toswim in the water freely and catch the ﬁsh on ﬁne days. We grazed the animalsin the grassland after school. The sheeps on the grassland are like stars on avast velvet green carpet. We played games in the pasture, we sang folk songson the hill, and we climbed trees in the forests. We were always so happy thatwe often forgot to go home or go to school. I boast it was the most beautifulplace in the world, although full of impoverishment. The villagers were so poorand they barely have enough food at that time, but they were so optimistic.They kept working hard with little return without any hesitation or complain. Itwas since childhood that I learned how to face hardships and failures in my life.

My childhood days were innocent and worry free. I left my hometown for abetter educational opportunity when I grew up, but I always miss thatwonderful homeland. I take every opportunity to visit it. The pictures of theplace and the life there will always live in my mind.

Topic 86 A time and a place in the past

If I were afforded the opportunity to go back to a speciﬁc time and place in thepast, I would venture back to ancient Greece. During the 5th century B. C., theGreeks were in the process of developing and reforming a wide range ofcultural, social, and scientiﬁc pursuits that still have a signiﬁcant impact on theworld today.

In the arts, Greece excelled in many ﬁelds, particularly dramatic literature. Theworks of Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes have had a tremendousinﬂuence not only on western literature, but also western thought in general.The works of these playwrights are still performed on stages around the worldtoday, and many of them have been adapted to movies. Still, it would be a rareand exciting opportunity to see these plays performed for the ﬁrst time.

The ancient Greeks also excelled in the social sciences. Perhaps their greatestcontribution in this area came in the form of democracy. The Greek words"Demo" and "Crazy" mean "People" and "Rule" respectively. Today, many ofthe world's great nations have adopted, and to a certain extent, modiﬁed theancient Greek system. Yet, it originated from ancient Greece.

Academic subjects such as Philosophy, Astronomy, Physics and Biology alsoreceived a great deal of attention in the ancient Greek world. The philosophicalwritings of Herbalists, Plato, and Aristotle have had a profound inﬂuence onwestern scholarship for well over two thousand years. The Mathematicaltheories of Pythagoras and Euclid, combined with theories from other greatancient civilizations, provided a foundation upon which later mathematicianssuch as Newton and Einstein based their work.

The world of the Ancient Greeks would most certainly be an exciting andstimulating place to go back to. Politics, Drama, Physics, and a number of othersubjects were still in their infancy, and all were being ﬁercely debated andexamined. It would undoubtedly be and enriching experience to observe andtake part in such a fascinating civilization.

Topic 86 A time and a place in the past

Till now, there is only one thing that makes me feel repentant of. My girlfrienddied in Japan, and at that time I was doing my TOEFL test. IfI could go backto some time and place in the past, I choose to go back to January 19th 2002...

My girlfriend's name was Christina. Her father is a Japanese, and her mother isa Chinese. She looks as beautiful as an angel. During last winter vacation, Istarted to prepare for the TOEFL test. Of course, I did not spend enough timewith her as usual. I only saw her once every two weeks. The night before theTOEFL test, she came to my house. I enjoyed her cooking, and everythinglooked ﬁne as usual. The next morning, she cooked the breakfast for me.

Before I left, she kissed me and said "Jackey, good luck. I love you! " I replied:"Thanks, honey! I love you, too. " The test went ﬁne. After the test, my cellphone rang as I turned it on. It is one of my best friends, Moon. He said "Jackey,Christina went back to Japan. She is very ill. Now she is in the hospital and sheis in the dangerous period. You have to come to Japan right now. We will seeyou in Japan! "

Christina is ill! How come I did not know this! When I ﬁnally obtained the visaand arrived at the hospital in Japan, Christina said, "I think your business ismore important than me. I do not think you need me any more! Goodbye,forever." She went forever. IfI could go back, I will stay with her and spendmuch more time with her. I could even drop my test for her.

In fact, it is impossible to go back! Christina has died. There is no anotherChristina for me, but the TOEFL test will still be held four times per year!

Topic 86 A time and a place in the past

If I could go back to some time and place in the past, I would choose mychildhood and my hometown. There it was full of my child's happy days.Especially nowadays, I live in a metro city full of chaos, trafﬁc and pollution.

I would never forget the clear stream in my hometown. My friends and I usedto swim and ﬁsh in the water, and play on the grass nearby. Currently I am stilllooking for such a nice place for my child, but I cannot ﬁnd it anymore.

I have lost contact with my close friends in my childhood for nearly twentyyears. Their appearances are still kept in my memory. Their honesty, naive andhelpful characters taught me what is real friendship. Perhaps they were allmarried and even have children, perhaps they have achieved their childhooddreams one way or the other, and perhaps they are struggling for living just likeme. I wish we could get together sometime like our childhood years, free fromworries about the future.

I still remember my hometown in New Year times. Every child was dressedwell, and got more freedom from their parents than other days in the year.Everyone in my hometown was happily talking about their harvests and theirplans in the next year. Needless to say, us children can enjoy lots of deliciousfoods in such days.

During my childhood days, I lived happily and healthily in a beautifulenvironment, and I had very close friends. I wish I could go back to enjoy mycherished memories again.

Topic 86 Visiting modern times

As a student in art history, my interest had always been on modern art. IfIcould travel back in time and space, I would pick Paris at the verge of twentiethcentury, the place and time of modern art development, without hesitation.

I believe that living during the period of the avant-garde art in Paris would besomething quite exciting. I could go to experience the Eiffel Tower's opening,or visit the ﬁrst Cubist exhibition. I would also be enthusiastic to attendBergson or Poincare's lectures at College de France, or read articles in thenewspapers of the time. I have always curious how people felt when they sawfor the ﬁrst time an automobile or an airplane.

Moreover, I think it would be exciting to see how long distance communicationbecame a reality, and how people perceived the introduction of the GreenwichUniversal Time. This was an age in which incredible changes took place in theway people saw the world, in the way they perceived and understood time andspace. It was the time when Einstein published his ﬁrst studies about relativity.It was, as far as I am concerned, a time that it is worth taking a look at. Ibelieve that Paris at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20thwould be something fascinating.

If I were to return from the past back to our own times, I would be much moreconﬁdent in my researches about that time, and my contribution to the study ofart history would be a quite substantial one. Till now I can only read books andarticles about it, and just imagine the wonderful time Paris had been just beforethe war!

Topic 87 What is an important discovery in the last 100 years?

I think the most important discovery that has been the most beneﬁcial forpeople in my country is the invention of the Internet. So far as I can tell, theInternet has been beneﬁcial to people around the globe. My view is acommonsense one, based on the fact that the Web is a vast storehouse ofinformation and opinions, which can be of science, literature, politics, sports oreven, sex. Anyone with access to a computer and a dialup connection canunlock the door and trawl through its offerings.

The Internet can be used as a broad base ofknowledge that contributes to theeducational system. Students and teachers beneﬁt from the use of the Internet,as well as administrators and others outside of formal education. Studentsbeneﬁt because the Internet provides a resource to supplemental informationfor any subject. Educators beneﬁt because the Internet provides a vastknowledge base to prepare for teaching topics. People are not only learningfrom the Internet, they are contributing and sharing knowledge throughnetworked communities. The Internet is the advancement of education for allits users.

The Internet is changing the way we do business. The Internet can deliverbetter customer services to people. Using Internet broadcasting, we are able totarget the right audience, prepare and present a technical presentation on apopular topic, interact with new customers, and collect hundreds of highlyqualiﬁed leads. As Internet companies continue to ﬁnd innovative ways toleverage the capabilities of the Internet for businesses, the more we will learnhow to provide optimal solutions for customers. Which in turn, will greatlybeneﬁt people.

The Internet today is a way to transfer and share information. On the whole, itis a beneﬁt to individuals of all kinds. We do have problems surrounding theInternet that need to be solved, but as with all new technologies there aredebates and opinions. Since the Internet technology is spreading, it will soonbecome as popular as all other forms of communication. Ifyou have not tried itdo so.

Topic 87 What is an important discovery in the last 100 years?

There are many important discoveries in the last century. Some of them hadfundamental inﬂuences on the development of my country - China. However, Ibelieve that one of the most important discoveries is the Cross-feeding methodof rice discovered by a pioneering crop scientist Mr. Weiming Yuan in the early1980's.

China has a long history of agriculture. Chinese people have been relying onagriculture for more than 2,000 years. Moreover, China is still basically anagricultural country now and will continue to be it in the next 20 to 30 years,even though its industry is undergoing revolutionary development. One of themost important agriculture products - rice, is essential to the people of China.Since Yuan's discovery has dramatically increased the production of rice inChina, we can say that Yuan's discovery is beneﬁcial for the people of China.

More importantly, rice is the major food ofpeople in Southern China, wherehalf of Chinese population lives there. People in the South eat rice everyday. Sothe consumption of rice is tremendous. As Yuan's cross-feeding rice seeds andraising methods provided 1.5 to 2 times more production of rice, people couldeffectively relieve the food supply crisis - a crisis that have caused millions ofpeople to die in the 1960's.

When Chinese population exploded in the 1970's and 1980's, the effect of thisdiscovery became much more signiﬁcant. Yuan's discovery also corresponds toChina's current government policy that China takes agriculture as its ﬁrstindustry. This is because China has over 80% of farmers, and it's not realisticfor it to become an industrialized country in a short period of time. Thus ricegrowing is still a crucial part of China's economic.

Overall, since most farmers in China are utilizing Yuan's discovery to increaserice production, and agriculture plays the most important role in China, I canﬁrmly say that Yuan's discovery has been most beneﬁcial to people in mycountry in the last 100 years.

Topic 88 Has telephone made communication less personal?

Since the beginning of humankind people need to communicate with each other.After the development of languages and thanks to the incredible ability ofmankind to advance, nowadays we enjoy the use of many different types ofcommunication. Letters, the Internet, or telephone allows us to communicatefreely with the rest of the world.

In spite of above mentioned, I agree with the statement that new types ofcommunications have made contacts between people less personal.

Unfortunately, the technology age we live in forces us to adopt thecontemporary way of communication, which is almost impersonal. Whilehurrying to work more and more, chasing our aims, or focusing only on moneymaking, practically we have forgotten that one of our primary social needs is tocommunicate face-to-face. To save time we often prefer to send an email or tomake a phone call than to have a simple face-to-face talk with our friends orparents, for example.

Furthermore, those types of impersonal communications will sooner or laterplace us into isolation. Nowadays, we are often afraid to make newacquaintances; we have troubles to express ourselves when we communicateface-to-face; or we experience difﬁculties to hold an informal conversation.What is more, we ﬁnd much easier to communicate with other people by emailand phone.

Not only do we forget about our simple role as social members but we also donot enjoy it as we did before. Modern technology has made connectionsbetween people so impersonal that we are at the threshold of a new singleworld culture. This fact gives the answer to the question why so many peopleof our generation are victims of the illness called loneliness.

Although telephones and the Internet have made contacts between people muchmore easier, our virtual friends will remain virtual and a simple call will notsubstitute the hours we can spend with our families. Therefore, I truly believethat nothing can replace personal, face-to-face communication between people.

Topic 89 What person in history you would like to meet?

If I were granted an opportunity to travel back in time, the ﬁrst person I wouldlike to visit is Buddha. I hope to learn from such a wise and benevolent ﬁgureon my own. And I want to ask him for advice on the predicament we humanbeings are in.

Buddha is a symbol of humanity, a symbol ofwisdom, leniency, tolerance andvirtue. Millions of people over the world respect him. Sometimes it occurs tome rather difﬁcult to understand that why a person of two thousands years agocan affect human spirit so much. IfI had the opportunity, I really want to standbeside him, touch him, and perceive his strength.

When I visit him, I would ask him about the idea of tolerance non-violence.What I want to ask him is that how people, in an era full of violence, canrestore the trust among each other and learn to negotiate peacefully. I would askhim ifwe still have any possibility to stop the war in Iraq, to calm the violencein Palestine, to return peace back to Afghan, to cure the terrible nightmare ofSept. 11 catastrophe in New York.

When I visit him, I would also ask him about diversity and co-existence. Whatwould he think of Jesus Christ, Allah, Confucius, whether we have only onepath to ﬁnal happy or we would have different choices? Will Muslims,Christians, Buddhists, Communists, Green Peace Warriors and any othergroups ofpeople co-exist in this tiny global village? I would ask him aboutHitler, Stalin, and Ben Laden, whether he thinks human beings should toleratethem or not? I would also ask him ifhe could give any advice for ordinarypeople like me, how to access happy, and how to access peace.

Buddha is Buddha, and he would not disappoint me. I am sure!

Topic 89 What person in history you would like to meet?

There are many famous people in the history of human beings. And I want tomeet almost all of them ifpossible. But ifonly one choice is available for me, Iwill choose the great thinker Confucius without hesitation. The reason for mydecision goes as follow.

In the ﬁrst place, from my point ofview, Confucius had a great inﬂuence on theculture and history from ancient time to present society in China and almost noone could be comparable with him in this respect. At the earliest of humansociety, Confucius ﬁrstly advocated education and civilization and taughtChinese people how to build a civilianized relationship among people. There isno doubt that this idea beneﬁted the development of the Chinese society. It isthe result of education that makes Chinese people create abundant culture fromone generation to the next. Therefore, Confucius had a signiﬁcant inﬂuence onChinese history.

In the second place, Confucius encouraged people to respect their parents, treattheir friends honestly and have a loyal heart to their emperors. At that time,only when people accepted these ideas could they really understand their ownresponsibilities for family and the society. Without these Confucius thinking,people may not know what is supposed to be the correct behaviors when theylive with family or survive in the society. It is Confucius's idea that gave them aclear guidance. Until now, these ideas still have great effects to the behavior ofpresent people.

Last but not least, Confucius has broad knowledge in many areas, such asliterature, astronomy and geography etc. It is this knowledge that helped himcomplete many famous works. Experts from all over the world have paid greatattention on the research of these famous books because many useful ideas inthe books are still beneﬁcial to our society. For example, Confucius advocatedthat humans should live in harmony with nature. In the present society, peopledestroy forests in some areas, so living environment of human being has beendamaged seriously. Ifwe had observed Confucius ideas, this would not havehappened.

In conclusion, Confucius is a great and famous thinker in the history of China.He provided us with the basic idea of education and civilization in humansociety, created the guidance ofbehavior for families and the society, and leftus with abundant spiritual works. Therefore, he is the one who I want to meetmost. I really hope that someday time could go back, so that I would meet himin the actual world.

Topic 89 What person in history you would like to meet?

If I could travel back in time to meet a famous person from history, I would liketo meet Christopher Columbus. Without a doubt he was one of the greatestpeople who have ever lived. I choose him not only because he found Americain 1492, but also because he had all the qualities that can deﬁne a successfulperson to me: brave, adventure spirit, attic faith, determination andperseverance.

First of all, I am strongly impressed with his daring and adventurous spirit.What he wanted to do, in the eyes of the public at that time, was a risk. Riskinghis life, in addition to a number of ships and other people's lives. But he hadgreat courage and had success.

Secondly, his attic faith in the scientiﬁc theory that the earth was round hadalso led him to success. Despite the fact that most people still adhered to thebelief that the earth was ﬂat and that ships would fall off the edge, ifthey sailedtoo far in any direction. Columbus trusted the scientiﬁc theory, which wasaccepted only by few intellectual elites. It was his voyage that proved it.

Another great attribute from Columbus is his strong will and perseverance. IfIcould meet him, I would ask him how, after having his idea---voyage to Indiaby a daring new route, namely, westward---rejected by the English, French andPortuguese courts, he still found the courage to ask yet another monarch tosupport him. I would like to hear what Columbus said to the King and Queen ofSpain to convince them that this plan would be proﬁtable for them, when theyknew that he had been turned down by three other monarchs and any amount ofmoney, supplies, or men with which they provided him could potentially be atotal loss. Columbus was so determined that he ﬁnally convinced them.

If I could have a chance, meeting Columbus would be my ﬁrst choice. In myeyes I see Columbus as a man "...more stupendous than those which Heavenhas permitted..." no matter what anyone says.

Topic 90 What famous entertainer or athlete you would like to meet?

If I have the opportunity to meet a famous entertainer or athlete, I would like tomeet Michael Jordan.

Jordan was neither tall nor strong in his childhood, but he never gave upplaying basketball. He has huge success today as a legendary guy in thebasketball history, and is a god for all the basketball fans all around the world. Ithink the reason of his success is because his diligence, courage and his stronginner desire to win. All these are what I admire most of him.

Jordan won six championships ofNBA. That was the heydays of Jordan. Sixrings! That is every NBA player's dream. Someone spent many years in orderto get a ring but failed, like Carl Malone, and King Baylor. Jordan got six! Hislast ring was won by his exciting shoot, which was once considered the last andperfect moment in his life and a best end for his history ofplaying basketball.

Jordan's name was linked with "perfect" when people mentioned Jordan. Agreat deal of courage is needed for one to break off the word "perfect" which heused years to establish, but Jordan did it. He came back again, not as a god, butas a common basketball player. He was no longer young and could not act haswhat he did when his young. There are even some fans that opposed him tocome back; they did not want to see their god beaten by the youth. In theopposite, Jordan did quite well, though not as good as before, but better thanwhat we all imagined. He, a nearly forty-year-old man with two injured knees,led Wizards get much better marks than it did last year. He could stillsometimes score more than forty points. What support him is the steadfastbelief he had and the strong love ofbasketball. This gave him the unbelievablestrength.

If I saw him, I wanted to ask him how he managed to gain the desire and wheredoes this love come from, maybe Jordan would just give me a smile and say, "Ilove this game!"

Topic 90 What famous entertainer or athlete you would like to meet?

Everyone dreams to be handsome, rich and happy. Famous actors and actresses,pop stars or athletes are so popular because they realized the dreams manyordinary people have. IfI could meet a famous entertainer or athlete, thisperson will be Julia Roberts.

Julia Roberts is a very talented actress. She can play many characters and eachone is new and different. She seems to become the person she is portraying andgives a 100% to the performance. Pretty Women is my favorite because it wasthe ﬁrst Julia movie that I saw and it was her big break. I still watch the movieto this day and enjoy it. Steel Magnolias is 2nd. Julia was in the company of avery talented cast and held her own. It's a classic, something you always enjoywatching.

I loved Notting Hill because the movie was full of many emotions. It made youfeel happy after seeing it. I enjoy all of her movies. I see them even ifthe criticsdish the movie. If she is in a movie I know her performance will be worthseeing. Her Oscar was very worthy of her as she was of it. Her Oscar was along time coming. I am sure we can all look forward to many more great ﬁlmsto come and her always Oscar winning performance. Julia Roberts is not onlybeautiful, but she executes the characters she plays so well, that she can almostbring us to tears almost.

If I had a chance to meet Julia, I would also thank her for always thinking ofthe poor and the needed. After the disaster in New York and Pennsylvania, herface looked the sincerest of all of the stars. Also, I heard on the news that Juliagave $2 million as a tribute. Recently, you pleaded at US congress for moneyon a children's disease. Thank Julia for helping with such a kind heartespecially during a time when so many have lost so much! I know that theyappreciate your support and thoughtfulness, Julia.

Such is Julia Roberts, a pretty woman and America's sweet heart, and she is thestar that I deﬁnitely want to meet the most.

Topic 90 What famous entertainer or athlete you would like to meet?

Many people dream to meet a famous entertainer or athlete. IfI could meetsuch a person I would like that it be Bulgarian entertainer Slavi Trifonov, whopresents evening show, "Slavi's show" on BTV channel, because of thefollowing.

First of all it would be interesting for me to meet the man, who had very biginﬂuence over the audience. Resent sociological researches show that morethan two million people (the population of Bulgaria is around seven millionpeople) watch his show every evening. Furthermore you could hear discussionsabout his show or jokes, which he told during the show, almost everywhere, ina public transportation, on a street or even at work.

The second reason for which I would like to meet Slavi Trifonov is that in myopinion he is very brave man. He does not afraid to ridicule those Bulgarianpoliticians, who abuse their power for personal purposes, despite of personalthreats, which he received several times. For example, a few months ago, hereceived a threat for making a hidden camera for a member of BulgarianParliament who did not want to pay a penalty for parking on an inappropriateplace and who also offended a policeman.

Last but not least, I would like to meet Slavi Trifonov, because he took in thepast a leading role as one of the organizers of throwing down Gan Videnov'ssocialist government. Some days after the show "KU-KU" (in which heparticipated at that time and presented his political jokes and songs) waswatched, the students’ demonstrations against poverty, unemployment and highinﬂation rate began. Thanks to that the government resigned and new electionsstarted a few months later.

To sum up, I would like to meet the famous Bulgarian entertainer SlaviTrifonov, because he has a big inﬂuence over many Bulgarians, he is verybrave and he was the organizer of an important historic event in modern historyof my country.

Topic 91 What question you will ask a famous person?

If I had the opportunity to sit down and meet one of my idols or heroes, I couldcome up with hundreds of questions to ﬁnd out what they did to get where theyare, but in particular I like to have asked Helen Keller, what would she havemade of the technology available today to blind and deaf blind individuals?

When Helen Keller was nineteen months old, a serious illness almost took herlife. She survived the disease had left her both blind and deaf. Her educationcontributed to her ﬁrst teacher, Anne Sullivan. Anne taught Helen to ﬁngerspell, and manage to let her understand the meaning of words. Imagine howhard it is for a person both blind and deaf to relate words with real worldobjects, although she never had a chance to see those objects!

Another teacher Mary Swift Lamson who over the coming year was to try andteach Helen to speak. This was something that Helen desperately wanted andalthough she learned to understand what somebody else was saying by touchingtheir lips and throat, her efforts to speak herself proved to be unsuccessful.However, Helen moved on to the Cambridge School for Young Ladies and laterentered Radcliff College, becoming the ﬁrst deaf blind person to have everenrolled at an institution of higher learning.

After World War Two, Helen spent years traveling the world fundraising for theAmerican Foundation for the Overseas Blind. They visited Japan, Australia,South America, Europe and Africa. Her hard work and achievements waswidely recognized throughout the world, and she was acknowledged as "theMiracle Worker."

If Helen Keller were born today her life would undoubtedly have beencompletely different. Her life long dream was to be able to talk, something thatshe was never really able to master. Today the teaching methods exist thatwould have helped Helen to realize this dream. What would Helen have madeof the technology available today to blind and deaf blind individuals?Technology of today has enabled blind and deaf blind people, like Helen, tocommunicate directly, and independently, with anybody in the world.

Topic 92 Dynamic weather

The weather is an essential factor for ones comfort. I strongly believe it isimportant to live in a place where the climate is just for you. As far as I amconcerned, I have lived all my life in a four-season climate and I cannotimagine myself stay, at least not for a long period of time, in a place where theweather is the same all year long.

There are several reasons for which I prefer the weather to be diverse. Firstly, ifnot only the climate but also the geography is also divers life can be much moreexciting than in place where the climate and de relief are all the same. On of theadvantages that I encountered is the fact that I do not have to travel to distantlocations to enjoy either winter, or summer. I just have to be patient for severalmonths and I can go skiing in the mountains, or on the contrary, swimming bythe sea. Also I had the chance to spend one Christmas in Florida, and I felt sostrange. Christmas seemed so unnatural and sad without the joy that snowbrings. Without snow Christmas, looks fake, or at that is how it looked to me.

Also spring are autumn are so beautiful that I can hardly imagine how a yearwill be without them. My good mood depends on the changing of the seasons.Once the spring is all over the country, I just can wait for the summer. Diverseclimate makes my life, in a way, much more dynamic. I love to observe hownature changes the trees. They have ﬂowers in spring; they are green in summer,colorful in autumn, and white in winter. Isn’t that wonderful?

The alternation of seasons is quite important for me. My life as a whole isguided by the shifts in the yearlong climate. I think life in a changing weather ismuch more dynamic and exciting. I would not choose, for nothing in the world,to live in the same climate all year long. My life can be full ofjoy only ifthenature around me is permanently changing.

Topic 92 One-season or four-season climate

There is no denying the fact that whether to choose a place that have the sameweather all year long, or a place where the weather changes several times ayear is a popular topic which is much talked about. Although it seems thatnormally we cannot tell which one outweigh the other between these two kindsof places, they deserve some close examination.

If three criteria were taken into account, I would prefer living in areas wherethe weather changes several times a year. There are no less than threeadvantages in this as rendered below.

First, varied weather or climate broadens the range of our pastimes. Forexample, we can go swimming in summer and go skiing in winter. Ifthe placewe live in has only hot weather all year long, like Singapore, most ofus cannever have a chance to go skiing.

Secondly, the change of climate gives us opportunities to wear many kinds ofclothes. Some say it is a waste of money to buy clothes depending on seasons.However, wearing various clothes, looking at others‘ fashion, and feeling thechange of seasons is very interesting for me.

Thirdly, changing of seasons is good for our health. When winter comes ourbody's metabolism slows down, and when summer comes it speeds up, so thatour body can maintain a good rhythm. Also snows in the winter can kill a lot ofbacteria and bad insects, so that in spring our chance of being infected with adisease such as ﬂu is decreased and we can enjoy nice atmosphere andsceneries.

For these reasons, I prefer to live in areas that have several changes ofweather.Only these three reasons can make a person draw the conclusion that living inareas that have season changes is better.

Topic 92 One-season or four-season climate

The South of Spain or the South ofAntarctica? The Northern United States ofthe Northern Maldives? Where we live - the climate that surrounds us - has atremendous effect on how we live our lives. In many cases, our emotional well-being depends on the climate we live in. Even more important than the generalclimate is the change in climate. I strongly believe that a four-season climate isbetter for us psychologically and physically. For this reason, I prefer to livesomewhere where the weather changes several times a year.

There are great psychological beneﬁts of living in a varied climate. Take myhometown, Cleveland, Ohio, for example. Winter in Cleveland can be quitedepressing. The sky is often gray and snow and wet rain dominates the weatherforecast. It's not all bad, though. This is a great time to do snow skiing, sledriding and enjoy a cold weekend afternoon in front of the ﬁre. While theoutside elements can sometimes bring you down, most Clevelanders would tellyou they prefer a snowy winter and a white Christmas. It's what makes theholiday season more special. Even more is the excitement when we see the ﬁrstglimpse of springtime-the daffodils start to spring up and the days becomewarmer. This time often coincides with Easter. What would Easter be without asoggy egg-hunt in the back year? Then, of course, there are the progressionsfrom spring to summer and summer to winter. The long summer days dosomething for our spirits-late nights on the porch watching the ﬁre ﬂies at duskmake us all feel a little bit younger. The warm days and cool nights of autumnare not far behind, either. Those Indian Summers, as we call them, arereminders of how the seasons have whisked by us in a fury.

In addition to the psychological effects ofweather change, we also experience agreat physical beneﬁt. Winter weather brings many outdoor sports in Clevelandlike ice skating, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing and much more. The ﬁrstsigns of spring get us out the door hitting the pavement to shed our winterweight gain. And summer? What a beautiful time in northeast Ohio as weventure to the metro parks for long walks, to Lake Erie for a dip her warmwaters, to the garden where we tend to our ﬂowers and foliage. Autumn servesas a reminder that those warm days are slipping away. What better physicalbeneﬁt than raking leaves, mowing the lawn for the last few times beforewinter and preparing the house for the cold weather?

Some people prefer places like Florida where it's hot and hotter. I suppose itmeans a smaller wardrobe and a more predictable lifestyle. For me, nothingbeats the traditional four seasons I experienced growing up. It has shaped theway I view each holiday respectively. It has carried many fond memories of anactive youth. Now that I live in a country with very little weather changes, Ilong for a White Christmas, a wet Easter, a hot yet breezy 4th of July, and acrisp yellow and orange Halloween.

Topic 93 What are important qualities of a good roommate?

At ﬁrst glance it seems very difﬁcult for us to deﬁne what are the importantqualities of a good roommate. However, after serious considerations we can seethat under most circumstances, a good roommate should at least have thefollowing three qualities.

First of all, a good roommate should be open and willing to communicate.There are always issues regarding rent, bills, food and household duties, guests,privacy, noises, sharing and borrowing, to name a few, and interests andhobbies ofroommates are not always the identical. There will always beconﬂicts among roommates. When problems or conﬂicts arise, roommatesmust openly discuss the issue and reach a solution to the problem. In addition, asuccessful roommate relationship requires good communication. Take time totalk frequently to each other; chatting with each other helps keep up the basicrelationship that can provide the underpinning for a harmonious relationship.Therefore open and willing to communicate is the ﬁrst important quality of agood roommate.

Secondly, an important quality of a good roommate is considerate andunderstanding. A good roommate understands what you need; He is a goodfriend and a good listener, and offer you help when you need it. Of course, youshould not depend on your roommate to satisfy all your social needs. Makeother friends and get involved in activities is also important, and could leavemore private time for your roommate.

The third important quality of a good roommate is that he should be a hardworker, and have the desire to do better. As we know, roommates will alwaysinﬂuence each other in some ways. As an old Chinese proverb, one who mixeswith vermilion will turn red; one who touches pitch shall be deﬁled therewith.So like choosing a friend, it is very important to choose a roommate who hasgood qualities.

Of course, some roommates eat and socialize separately and barely get to knoweach other. They never become friends. Still, ifyour roommate possesses theabove-mentioned qualities, your residential life will be peaceful and enjoyable.

Topic 93 What are important qualities of a good roommate?

Each ofus, when attending a university, might live with one or moreroommates. During that period of campus yeas, we spend a lot of time withthem. Thus, the relationship with a roommate affects not only our life but alsoour study results. I would prefer to have a roommate who is friendly andhelpful.

A roommate is a person who lives closest to us during university time. Everyday we meet and talk to him. Therefore, it is very important that he is friendly.Imaging, after some stressful hours in your class or library, you come back toyour dorm room where your roommate is in. He gives you nice smile and askyou how thing are going. I am sure that you will feel relieve all strains and thiscircumstance brings you the feeling ofbeing home.

Being helpful is also an essential characteristic of a good roommate. I wouldsay that, most of the students who live in university hostel are far from theirhome. That means, if some accidents such as being ill or injured happen, youcannot rely on your parents or close relatives. In this scenario, the roommate isvery helpful. He could call an ambulance or drive you to the hospital.

Let me conclude by saying that, in our life, we may encounter many difﬁcultiesor stress, but we should make our own lives more meaningful by being friendlyand helpful to other people. In this sense, being a good roommate is also beinga good person.

Topic 94 Does dancing play an important role in a culture?

There are various elements in a country's culture, such as music, drama and dancing. These activities fulfill people's daily life and make the culture to become unique and colorful. Among these activities, dancing plays a very important role in a culture. I assert the statement due to three reasons as follows

Firstly, dancing is one of the ways for people to communicate. Before human being can use language to communicate with each other, body language such as gesture is a good way to express what they want to say. Gradually, dancing has become a very important way for people to show their feelings. For example, dancing in celebrations can express feelings such as happiness, love or grief.

Secondly, dancing also reflects the diversity of a nation. There are different kinds of dances in different cultures. For instance, Flamenco is a famous dance in Span, and it reflects the culture of Span and the characteristics of the Spanish people. In many cultures, dancing has even become an integral part of their culture. Understanding the dancing of a country helps people to understand the culture of that country.

Thirdly, dancing can help create a lot of wonderful music. Dancing and music cannot be separated. When people dance, they usually need appropriate music to company. Tchaikovsky is one of the greatest composers in the world, and his famous work "Swan Lake" is created for the ballet. We almost can say that the ballet dancing gave Tchaikovsky inspirations to write the music.

Of course, other activities are all important for a culture. However, I especially mention dancing because the valid reasons I have present above.

Topic 94 Does dancing play an important role in a culture?

I cannot imagine that there is a person who would disagree with the statement that dancing plays an important role in a culture. Every culture, that I have known, has its own specific dance. In addition, dancing has not only an important role in a culture but it also is an inseparable part of it.

Since the beginning of humankind dances have played an important role in every culture because while dancing people can express different moods and feelings, or they can practice various religious and cultural rituals. In the modern society, dancing still remains the most significant part of the cultural life of all primitive tribes such as Bushmen in Africa, Aborigines in Australia or Indians in North America.

If we take a deeper look at the cultural life of modern society we will see that dancing have played an extremely important role for many generations of people. Dancing has marked people as the Jazz generation, the Rock-and-roll generation, the Disco generation, the Techno generation, or the Rap generation. Actually, every Dancing generation has been characterized by specific moral and ethic rules, and cultural traditions have been changing to a certain extend.

Anthropologists give a definition to the word ‘culture’ as common ideas, traditions, religion and customs that are shared by a particular group of people or a particular society. As dancing have always been means for people to show their belongings to a certain society, it has become an important part of the culture of any community or nation. In conclusion I would say that if people

manage to protect their national dancing from oblivion, I am sure that they will keep the spirit of their predecessors alive for good.

Topic 94 Does dancing play an important role in a culture?

Dancing is an important art form, and also plays an important role in a culture. Some dance spontaneously happens at celebrations as an expression of emotion or some happen in a more structured manner at ceremonies.

Dancing plays an important role in ceremonial events in many cultures. For example, during the Pukumani ceremony the dances performed reflect the relationship to the deceased. In Lebanon, the classical belly dancing still plays an important part at weddings, representing the transition from virgin bride to sensual woman, and is also popular in nightclubs. On the other hand, residents of the Greenland believe that the dancing and drum can be used as a tool to dissolve conflicts between people.

As we may see from the above examples, dancing is an integral part of many cultures. Of course, dancing does not have the same functions in our modern life, but many people in our society still find dancing an enjoyable form of entertainment and art. Young people go to disco with their friends to release their energies, and they find dancing a good way to relax and make friends. Older people dance together as a social event and a good means of exercise.

In addition, many people go to theatres to enjoy performances of ballet and modern dances. Enjoying those beautiful dancing, music and costumes in a dance performance, can give us a wonderful experience, and help us develop appreciation of art, and enrich our after work life.

In conclusion, no one can deny that dancing plays an important role in a culture.

Topic 95 Should government spend money exploring outer space?

The word "Space adventure" has captured a large number of people's heart.Many men have been attracted by the unknown world and have desired to livein space at some future time. The universe is the last and inﬁnite un-exploredregion for human beings. However, space researches do not accomplish only byyearning. These researches cost hugely. Another way to express this is thatspending money always has its opportunity cost. In other words, money spenton some venture could have been used for ﬁnancing some other alternativeventure. Some people believe that money spent on space research beneﬁts all ofhumanity. Other people believe that there are better opportunities for spendingthis fund.

This ﬁrst group ofpeople claims that space researches have helped all ofhumanity's lives extremely. They point out that researches on space haveinformed us about much environmental damage which we have caused to ourplanet. Similarly, they declare that the present satellite system is due to theresearches done in the past in space. There are also numerous new materialsand inventions that can be traced directly to space researches. These peoplehope to spend more money on researches, visit all the planets, and build spacecolonies.

On the other hand, there are people who assert that money spent on space is acomplete waste because it does not have sufﬁciently direct beneﬁt to all thehumanity. For instance, there is a sizable portion of the humanity does not haveany access to food, education, sanitation, health care and especially peace.

Personally, I ﬁnd that I cannot align myself completely with either group. Ihave some reservations about both positions. No one can deny that weathersatellites and communication satellites are useful investments. But unrealisticresearches like exploring Mars or Venus does not have any good bearing onmost peoples’ development at the present. Some scientists may be interested inthe composition of those planets, but the opportunity cost is extraordinary. Inmy opinion, it may cause lack of social infrastructures, if states inject immensefunds into space researches in the limited budget.

Topic 95 Should government spend money exploring outer space?

Managing the government spending properly has always been a concern for allcountries in the world. Some nations spend a lot of money on outer spaceexplorations, while others focus on providing the basic needs for their people.As far as I am concerned, I believe that governments should spend more moneyon social beneﬁts, education and health care rather than wasting money in otheraspects.

Of course, exploring the outer space and traveling to planets such as the Moonare surely very important to the human society. It increases our knowledge andunderstanding about the space and the universe as a whole. However, thisshould be a secondary matter for the governments. Spending too much moneywould be a waste of money. Governments‘ top priority should always besatisfying the basic needs of their people.

All countries in the world ought to provide enough ﬁnancial resources forschools. If there is no investment from the government, children will not bewell educated and they may not have an opportunity to go to a university.Therefore, it is important to ensure that everyone will be able to pursue andfulﬁll his or her own educational goals. Universities should have the latestcollection of books and up-to-date sources of information. All schools shouldbuild new classrooms and other facilities.

Another point that we must consider is making sure that the government willhave enough spending for social beneﬁts and the health care. We shouldconstruct more hospitals and rehabilitation centers both in the cities and in thecountryside. We ought to generate more money to guarantee the life of oldpeople and disabled people. The government should also provide free healthand medical care for all the population. They have the responsibility to assistthe poor people who do not have basic resources to survive. The stategovernment should also help unemployed and underemployed individuals. Thesociety itself will beneﬁt from the expenditures of the government towardsocial beneﬁts. Furthermore, it will promote the economic growth and thedevelopment of all the countries.

In conclusion, governments should spend less money on explorations of theouter space because it is less urgent. Instead, state governments have toconcentrate their attention on social beneﬁts as well as education for futuregenerations. Financing social programs is no doubt their primary duty.

Topic 96 The best way of reducing stress

They say that "Life is a big headache on a long noisy road." This statementtruly explains life nowadays. Life in the twenty ﬁrst century is full of stress.From dawn to dusk, everyone has to go through a rigorous schedule. Evenchildren are not exempt from this rush. Everyday there are deadlines to meet,reports to write, bills to pay, meetings to attend, papers to submit, etc.,. Life is anever-ending race to most people. The everyday grind builds up stress andfatigue. Stress Reduction has become a priority with individuals as well asorganizations. People have different ways of escaping the stress and difﬁcultiesof modern life. In my opinion the best ways of reducing stress are meditation,exercise and reading books.

Meditation is an effective way to overcome stress. Meditation not only soothesthe mind from tension but also regulates heartbeat and blood pressures. It helpsan individual in attaining inner peace and equilibrium. Meditation helps intapping a person's inner potential and opens his mind to the universal spirit.

Exercise is another way to reduce stress. Exercising not only promotes healthbut also improves thinking. When a person exercises the muscles in the bodyget a workout that in turn burn fat. The burning of fat releases stored energyand the person has an exhilarating feeling. This feeling helps the person toovercome stress. Thus Exercise is very useful tool in stress reduction.

Reading also has a beneﬁcial effect on individuals in stress. Reading a greatbook is very therapeutic to a person with stress. Reading helps the mind to lookat other things and reduces the focus on the person's difﬁculties. Elegant poetryand beautiful prose can soothe a person's mind and help him reduce stress in hislife.

In conclusion, Meditation, Exercise and reading are the best ways to reduce stress.

Topic 97 Teachers’ pay

Education is one of the holiest occupations in my view. I disagree with thatteachers should be paid according to how much their students learn. Althoughteachers are important for students, the most important part for learningknowledge is students themselves.

Different teachers has different style, so it is hard to evaluate how well eachteacher teaches according to how much students learn. As nobody would havethe same character, teachers also have their own teaching styles such ashumorous, gentle, strict, to name a few. Maybe some students like humorousteachers, while others prefer a gentle one. But probably the students of a strictteacher could give good results in their study, even though these teachers teachthe same thing. We could not say that the strict teacher should be paid higherthan the gentle teacher, since we know that the students have learned morebecause they were afraid.

On the other hand, how much or how well students learn depends on studentsthemselves. In a school, it is easy to see that some students are with high marks,while some others have lower marks. A teacher is a person who direct studentshow to learn. Students should do much more works. The more attentionstudents pay, the more knowledge they learn. The hard-workers probably gethigher scores. Students‘ learning results depend on individual students‘intellectual abilities and the time and energy that they put into learning.Sometimes it has nothing to do what how well the teachers taught. In addition,knowledge that students learn not only comes from the teachers, but also frommany sources. Family inﬂuence, extracurricular reading and out-class teachingare some of the sources that can provide students with knowledge.

In sum, although teachers are important in students’ education and learning,there are many other factors that decide how well students’ learn. So it is unfairthat teachers are paid according to how much their students learn.

Topic 98 What would you choose to represent your country?

If I can send one thing to represent my own country - China to an internationalexhibition, I would choose a book that has graphical illustrations besides eachcontext.

The main reason is that paper was invented by one of our ancestors and it isessential to our everyday life. Were it not for the paper, many documents wouldnot have been passed down for centuries. In addition, with the written languagebeing used, many famous people and great things about my country can berecorded in this book. For example, it can explain the educative theories ofConfucius, one of the greatest educators in our country.

On the other hand, with the universal language of graph, people around theworld can understand more easily with the help of the vivid presentation. In thisway, even a young child who does not read will learn what I want to tell them.

In a word, people attending the exhibition will know that Chinese peoplediscovered paper, and Confucius was one of the greatest educators in China.Besides, this book also reminds us how clever our ancestors are and what weneed to do to keep up. With these wisdoms, we can invent more convenientequipments or make important discoveries to better our lives for the future.

In conclusion, ifI have the opportunity to introduce one thing to people in theworld, I would bring a book that documents all the traditional inventions andpeople of my own country. In that way, the world will understand more aboutmy country.

Topic 99 Would you rather choose your own roommate?

Some students do not prefer to have the university choose their roommate.However, as far as I am concerned, this is part of the university experience.Therefore, I would rather have the university assign a roommate to share aroom with me. I base my views on the following reasons.

First of all, even though the university will assign, it is actually not totally amatter of chance. For instance, we all ﬁlled out information sheets. The schoolknows what we are majoring in, what our interests are, and our study habits andour goals. I think they are probably very good at matching roommates usingthis information. Besides, if a mistake is made, I can change my roomassignment next semester.

Secondly, it is a lot of work to choose your own roommate. For example, ifIdid want to choose my own roommate, I would ﬁrst pick some candidates fromthe list supplied by the university. Then I would write to them and they wouldwrite back. Through our letters, we would ﬁnd out if we shared commoninterests, such as sports or movies. Because of my investigation, I wouldprobably get someone compatible with me. However, it takes time and labor togo through, though. Besides, the process of ﬁnding similar interests is not allthat different from what the university does.

Finally, trying to predict whom I am going to get along with is not a science. Imight choose someone who sounds just like me and still ﬁnd that the two ofusjust do not get along as roommates.

Besides, I think it would be boring to room with somebody who is just the sameas me. I would rather be with someone who has different interests and likes todo different things. Maybe I would even get a roommate from another culture.

In conclusion, having the university choose a student to share a room is a farbetter choice for me. Assigning roommate in body may suit some students.However, I think it is always important to meet new people when we enter auniversity. Besides, another reason I am going to the university is to be exposedto a lot ofnew experiences. These new things would allow me mature incharacter.

Topic 100 Computer technology or basic needs?

Some people think that governments should spend as much money as possibleon developing computer technology or buying computers, while others thinkthat governments should spend money on the basic needs of their people. As faras I am concerned, this money should be spent on some more basic needs, suchas protecting the environment and improving public services.

In the ﬁrst place, pollution of the environment has become the biggest problemin today's society. People will not ﬁnd clean water to drink ifthey do not dosome work to keep the water clean. There would be no fresh air if every one inthe city drives a car to work. More and more wild animals are facing the dangerof extinction because of the shortage of habitats. There would be no more wildanimals ifpeople continue to destroy forests. Therefore, there are more basicthings that governments should do such as keeping the water clean, keeping theair fresh, and keeping the forests intact.

In the second place, there are many problems with the public transportationsystem in big cities. The buses during the rush hour are overcrowded; somepeople cannot get to work on time because they spent too much time on thebuses or trains. Consequently, government should spend more money toimprove public transportation systems, which will beneﬁt the people and thebusiness in their cities.

From what I have discussed above, everyone can see that there are more thingsa government should do than buying computers, such as protecting theenvironment and improving public services. Therefore, I think governmentsshould spend more money on the basic needs of the people instead of spendinga lot of money developing computer technology or buying computers.

Topic 100 Computer technology or basic needs?

Many people believe that governments should spend as much money aspossible on developing or buying computer technologies, while others thinkthat governments should spend money on more basic needs. While bothspending on computer technologies and on basic needs of the society areimportant, I think that government should concentrate on the latter. Computertechnologies are not very good investments from the point of view of society asa whole, while investments in essentials have a much higher rate of return.

Investment in areas related to computer software, networks and hardware arenot very proﬁtable and will not improve life of ordinary citizens. Several yearsago many people believed that by investing in computer-related ﬁelds we canimprove performance across the board, but the reality has not been what wehave thought about. Most of Internet companies and dot-coms went bankrupt.Although huge money was poured into those companies, many of them cannotstay in business anymore. The promise of improved performance has nevercome true.

Even in the United States, the most powerful and prosperous country in theworld, there are still more than 20 million people who live below the povertyline. More than third of the earth population live on less than one dollar a day -the ofﬁcial threshold of poverty declared by United Nations. We can greatlyimprove the life of those people by investing in public education, organizingloan agencies or other projects that can help to alleviate poverty. What's more,computers can actually make this problem worse, because with the applicationof computer technology, more and more people are losing their jobs - thusmaking most of the world's uneducated population obsolete and without meansto sustain themselves.

Analysts expect that in several decades more than third of the population on theEarth will not have access to clean water. This can result in famine, deterioratepublic health and other disasters. Some argue that we might have wars for theaccess to clean water. To prevent this scenario we need to invest a large amountof money in projects that will help to save clean water on our planet.

In conclusion I want to say, that investments in computers will not solve asingle problem of our society. Computers will not prevent famines, which areso usual today, or help poor people. On the contrary, computers can make poorblue-collar workers out of work and money to support their families. Sogovernments around the world should spend all available money on basicnecessities of our society, not on some dream projects.

Topic 101 Doing work by hand vs. by machine

In general, there are two ways of making products, one is by hand and the otheris by machine. It is undeniable that products can be manufactured easily andefﬁciently by machine. But for me, I prefer hand-made items for their featuresof individualism and ﬂexibility.

First of all, hand-made products are more unique and personal. Take birthdaycards as an example, instead of same pictures on the printed cards available inthe market, well-chosen images such as our own photos printed on a self-madecard can surely distinguish the card from others. Owing to its uniqueness, theself-designed card will be of greater value for the person who receives it.

What's more, garments made by hand are ﬁtter than machine made ones.Although men's suits and lady's dresses can easily be found in shops that sellmachine-made clothes, many people go for tailor-made clothing simplybecause tailors can make those clothes precisely according to individualcustomer's measurement and styles. Obviously, the ﬁtness of clothing is whatthose people care about most.

Finally, producing items by hand is more ﬂexible. It releases people from beingconﬁned by modes that are necessary for machine-made manufacturing. Forexample, in hand-made pottery making, people can create new designs at anytime. While in machine manufacturing, however, modes have to be made inadvance, and afterward all ﬁnished products are based on the same modes andhave completely the same looks. If a different look is needed, people must re-produce the modes ﬁrst. Moreover, there are still some items that cannot beproduced by machine because there are no matched modes.

In conclusion, it is easy to get the conclusion that doing work by hand is moreﬂexible than by machine in most cases, so I prefer products that are made byhand.

Topic 102 Should students evaluate their teachers?

I am always amazed when I hear people saying that students have no rights toevaluate their teachers, and that if they do so, they should be regarded asdishonest. Even one did not know from concrete examples that schools shouldask students to voice what they think of their teachers, one can deduce it fromgeneral principals.

It is true that a young man, one of the students, may be conceited, ill-mannered,presumptuous or fatuous, but no one will have the ability to make sure that allteachers are not behaving like this. When a student has some fault, it is theteacher's duty to tell him what he should do; on the other hand, when a teacherdoes wrong, others, including his students, are bound to let him know.

It is as if, sometimes, that what many teachers have done are devoid of anymistake, however, the way they taught still deserve improvements. In schools,students try to develop abilities and skills, and prepare for their careers in thefuture. It is true that what they get from schools may be perfectly adapted to thesociety during a certain period of time, but the world is not still; it is changingall the time. What is learned today may become outdated tomorrow. As a result,teachers, who are bound to make improvements of what they teach according tothe reﬂections of the society, should be evaluated by their students.

Furthermore, giving students the right to evaluate their teachers help create theair of freedom in schools. This is especially important to inspire students‘thought, and to encourage them to think. If students are not allowed to voicewhat they think of their teacher, they will have to do what the teachers tell themexactly, only to become robots that can to do nothing other than followinginstructions.

Taking into account of all these factors, we may reach the conclusion that it issigniﬁcantly necessary to ask students to express what they think of theirteachers, and this does good to the students, to the teachers, and to the societyas a whole.

Topic 103 What characteristic makes people successful?

In my point ofview, a sense of humor is as important as, ifnot more importantthan, other characteristics that a person can have to be successful in life. This Isupport with the following reasons.

Firstly, humor helps us to maintain a correct sense of values. It is because thatwe are always reminded that tragedy is not really far from comedy, and then wenever get a lop-sided view of things. A small example could get some light onthis point. Once I failed an assignment again, and I told myself that God was onvacation these days. I did not feel ﬁustrated, and I succeeded the third time. So,if we can see the funny side, we never make the mistake of taking ourselves tooseriously. It is helpful for us to keep self-conﬁdent.

In addition, the sense of humor is associated with happiness, and happiness willinﬂuence people around us. Those who bring happiness to others probably havea good relationship with people surrounding them, which is essential to asuccessful life. We all have the experience that we are inclined to talk andcooperate with humorous people. We may treat such experience as anenjoyment instead of a rigid work.

However, to be a successful people is a tough thing. We need intelligence,honesty, determination, a sense of humor and so on. Without intelligence, wecould not ﬁnd the keys to solve all the intricate problems. Without honesty, noone would trust us and we could achieve nothing alone. Without determinationwe would easily bend for difﬁculty.

Even so, I still think of humor as the most important part. A sense of humorsupports an active attitude towards life. And it is such attitude that encouragesintelligence, honest and other characteristics in you. To summon up, a sense ofhumor is the most important characteristic. Ifhappiness is one of the greatgoals of life, then it is the sense of humor that provides the key.

Topic 103 What characteristic makes people successful?

Many people believe that one can be successful if he /she is committed, honest,faithful or intelligence. But, the foundation of each of these qualities lies inbelieving the power the person has, and working accordingly to achieve thegoal. There are many people, who are honest, beautiful, good and soft spoken,intelligent and even faithful, but only some are successful in achieving theirgoals. While all of these characteristics are equally important and act as themedium for success, the most important is the power to cope withcircumstances and keep our spirit goes on in the most difﬁcult situations.

It is well said that we cannot direct the wind but we can adjust the sail.Similarly, on the way to our destination, we will come across a lot of obstacles,but we need to ﬁnd the way to come across that situation. This is where successlies. No matter how low we fall, what matters is how high we bounce back.

Success can be measured by what we have and how much power we are usingto achieve our goals. For example, while in playing games, it is sure that oneteam will win and another will lose, but the spirit is not just in winning but alsoin learning new techniques and improving team sprit and cooperation skills. Awinner team cannot always be successful, but the successful team is the onethat has improved a lot with respect to its earlier performances.

Though the person is honest, intelligent, faithful and committed, it is not surethat he will be successful. The most important character rather than these isefﬁciency, , which is to understand the environment and the need, and toimplement best of the best ideas and actions. No matter how smaller step it canbe, but it can bring great changes. As Shiva Khera once said, "Winners do notdo different things but they do things differently", which better explains themeaning of being successful.

Success is not just winning, but also is how much we are satisﬁed withwhatever we are doing. So, all qualities like honesty, intelligence, andfaithfulness are directly proportional to success.

The deﬁnition of success for each ofus may vary. Some may think the reasonfor success is honesty while others may think it is the commitment. But, in myopinion, where there is will there is power, so each ofus should know ourstrength, and work accordingly to be successful. And we should measure oursuccess not with others but with what we have and what we have achieved.

Topic 104 Contributions of artists vs. scientists

Science and art are two main streams of knowledge accumulated from ancienttimes by human beings. They have their own characteristics and provide to thesociety their contributions, which beneﬁt the world in which we live. Somepeople think that the contributions of scientists are higher than that of the artistsBefore I give my opinion, I want to see the two sides ﬁrst.

Science is deﬁned mostly as the knowledge related to the natural world. I thinkmost of its domains are involved in material things, such as food, housing,clothing, transport, etc. It is usually easy for people to feel the existence andprogress of science, because it is usually taking place around us they areapparent. In the past and present, science has changed our life a great deal, andI believe in future, it will continue to improve the world we live in.

Art is more related to our spiritual world. It has a long history, too. It hasdeveloped coincided with science. Art helps us to appreciate the beauty thatexists in life. Many people admit that art can nourish their minds and reﬁnetheir spiritual world. In this respect, art is a good complement to science.

I can hardly tell which one has more weight in terms of the contributions to thesociety. They are both indispensable in this world. The history of human hasproven this. So I do not think it is wise and safe to say that one of them is moreimportant than the other. As far as I am concerned, I think they both weighprofoundly with regard to the contributions to the society.

Topic 104 Contributions of artists vs. scientists

Social beneﬁt, I think, can be deﬁned as the proﬁt that people who live in thesociety can share and appreciate. When we compare the contributions of artistsand scientists, it is quiet difﬁcult to outweigh one of which. However, it isbecause we tend to easily ﬁnd the contributions of scientists to our daily lifethat I am on the side of those who contribute to the society in a tangible way.Now I would like to illustrate some examples that support my opinion.

First of all, all the appliances such as televisions, personal computers andmicrowaves ovens that we use in our daily life are contributed by the scientists‘efforts and aspirations. Nowadays, we can barely survive without thoseproducts that always help with our daily tasks. Most of those are the greatinvention that is developed in the past 50 years. Almost all people in the societycan share those contributions. Scientists’ contributions are more than justinventing those appliances. Thanks to their tremendous perspiration, our mentaland physical health is ensured and protected in many ways. Newly developedtechnologies help physicians to practice operations. A number of medicinesrelieve and alleviate our illnesses. Those improvements in the medical ﬁeld caneasily make people to admire scientists’ contributions.

On the other hand, artists‘ contributions are sometimes difﬁcult to appreciate.There are a variety of buildings with artistic forms that are designed by artists.However ordinary people cannot truly appreciate those great works. In view ofsocial beneﬁts, those contributions are less important to people in the society.Therefore, artists’ contributions to the society are unfortunately less attractivefor me.

With the illustrations above, I deﬁnitely believe that scientists contribute moreto our society. Although life without artists‘ works is dull and meaningless, wecannot survive with the contributions of scientists for sure.

Topic 105 University housing vs. apartment

In dorms, students can learn to improve their communication skills and to livewith others harmoniously. Roommates must adjust their eating and sleepinghabits regarding to each other's needs. Each one must adjust his free time insuch way that he does not bother others while they are studying. Theenvironment of dorms is likely the environment of formal ofﬁces whereeveryone must ﬁnd solution to various problems and cooperate with others.Consequently, by adapting to conditions of living in dorms, students canactually prepare themselves for their future jobs. The environment of adormitory is friendly and understanding, because it consists of students whohave same goals and interests. For example, ifone failed to understand hislecture, he can ask others for help. Furthermore, students can ﬁnd that it iseasier to ﬁnd topics to chat or conduct activities together because they have somuch in common.

Apartments have quietly different surroundings. Students usually have fewerneighbors and roommates so that they have less distraction. Thus, students canconcentrate better on their schoolwork. As a result, their grades could be betterMoreover, living in apartments maintains students’ privacy. One has his secretsthat he does not want anyone to know and sometimes needs to spend his timealone to think about his problem. Another advantage is that people who livearound apartments are diverse. Thus, students learn to contact with ordinarypeoples and are not conﬁned to the academic community. Therefore, studentsare offered a wide variety of experiences that will be useful in the future.

If I were in a situation to choose whether I would live in a dorm or have aseparate apartment, I would choose to live in a separate apartment. It could beargued that living in an apartment limit the contact of a student with his fellowstudents. This argument goes on to assert that such students are deprived fromsocial environments and therefore remain aloof and introvert. However, it is afact that students can make enough friends even ifthey live outside of theuniversity. Especially, in the cases that student live with their friends.

Furthermore, students can visit each other as often as they need to. They canmaintain a good relationship with their fellow students in a way that does notaffect their school performance. Alternatively, students who live in academicdormitories are constantly surrounded with familiar people so they cannotavoid excessive socializing even ifthey don't want to. As a result, they do nohave enough time for studying and the get low grades.

Topic 105 University housing vs. apartment

I think it's better for college students to live on-campus during their ﬁrst twoyears in college, and then move into an apartment off-campus during their lasttwo years. Freshmen and sophomores need the convenience of campus life,while juniors and seniors need the independence of off-campus life. Students‘needs change during four years, so should their housing too.

Living on-campus makes it easier to get oriented to the way things going oncampus. You get the whole university experience. Plus, you interact more withother students. This includes not only with your roommates, but also everyonein your dormitory. The older students in the dormitory can be of a big help tothe new students. Keeping up with studies during your ﬁrst year is hard enoughYou shouldn't have to worry about ﬁnding your way around and ﬁguring outthe university bureaucracy.

Living in the dormitory also makes a student feel more like a member of theuniversity community. There are more opportunities ofbecoming involved inuniversity activities and networking with student leaders and universityadministration.

Living off-campus, however, is a deﬁnite advantage for senior students.Finding an apartment, dealing with leases and the landlord's regulations,cooking meals, and planning budgets are all good preparations for life aftergraduation. This kind of independence helps senior students grow intoadulthood.

Off-campus housing also gives students a better perspective on what's going onin the society. Students meet different people in the society than on campus.Getting to know their neighbors who are not students can enrich students’understanding to the society and help them adapt to life after graduation.

In conclusion, I think a combination of two years on-campus and two years off-campus is a winning combination for most students.

Topic 105 University housing vs. apartment

Accommodation is one of the basic needs of people in today's society. Thechoice of living in dormitories on campus or ﬁnding an apartment off campusdepends upon the student's preferences.

A student living in an apartment may seem to hold this view that he can sharehis room with other people who would reduce a great burden on paying off ahuge amount of rent. While living in a dormitory one cannot have this type ofadvantage. On the other hand, a student who prefers to live in a dormitory mayhold his view that one does not have to worry about getting up early and to rushfor a bus or any other means of transport to attend one‘s class.

The strong view presented by a student living in an apartment is that he doesnot have to abide by the rules, e.g. the main terms and regulations for a studentliving in a dormitory. Whereas, a student who chooses to live in a dormitorymay strongly condemn this view: he express his view stating that a studentliving in an apartment also has to follow the rules of maintaining the roomproperly, such as to clean the rooms and make it neat and tidy, wash thebathroom properly etc.

A student in a dormitory holds this view that everything has been provided tothem. All the facilities are provided at a university dormitory; while living in anapartment one may not gain this advantage. On the contrary, a student living inan apartment hold the view that a dormitory student is restricted to certainthings such as they are not allowed to go out of the university beyond giventimes. While living in an apartment, there won't be such problems, and one isfree of time restrictions.

In my view, I prefer living in an apartment because I hold my opinion that ifIdo not have enough money to afford a living in dormitory, then certainly Iwould live in an apartment where I can share my rent with other people. Everything has its advantages and disadvantages, and it is up to a student to decidewhat he chooses and how to make use of his choice.

Topic 106 Means of transportation

Advances in science have thrown before us a number of options for coveringdistances, either long or short.

The type of transport to be used for covering distances depends upon a range offactors like distance between the and starting point and the destination, timeand money constraint for traveling, availability of different mode of transports,time taken for travel, safety considerations and the number ofpersons traveling.

To cover a distance of 40 miles, for instance, the options I can think of are onfoot, by bicycle, by motorcycle, by car, or by bus. The longest time taken fortraveling this far will be on foot while the shortest time will be by car ormotorcycle, but again since the number ofpersons traveling is one which is me,a car will not be a feasible option as it will be underutilized and will prove to becostly because of high fuel consumption and initial cost.

A bicycle will be cheaper in terms of initial cost and there is no fuelconsumption. But it will take much longer time to travel, and it may causephysical fatigue. Therefore, this option is ruled out. A bus will prove to be acheaper mode but the ﬂexibility is limited regarding timing of arrival anddeparture. A motorcycle will be economical but will not be safe to drive onhighways.

Therefore considering all modes of transportation available and taking intoaccount various factors mentioned above, I will prefer to take a bus as it will besafe and economical, although it is less ﬂexibility in terms of departure andarrival times.

Topic 106 Means of transportation

The 40 miles distance is not very long for me. There are three kinds oftransportation tools I could use to travel 40 miles from my home. They aredriving a car, taking a train, and riding a bike.

It seems very difﬁcult to prefer one to another because all of them have theiradvantages and disadvantages to the extent that it is hard to distinguish. Yet thatdoes not mean they are of the same to me. To be frank, I would prefer riding abike. I like it because riding a bike is one of the best physical exercises. Duringmy early high school years, I used public transportation to go to school,therefore I often got sick. Ever since I started riding a bike to school, I hadnever been sick again. Bike riding makes me strong.

Bike riding is also a ﬂexible means of travel. I do not need to worry about thebus or train schedule. I do not need to care about the parking problem; I canleave my bike almost anywhere. In addition, I can go to some places whereautomobiles and trains cannot reach, such as rural areas. Once I rode a bike inFrance. Along the wine road, we biked from Strasbourg to Colmar, stopped ateach small village every 2-3 miles, tasted the fresh homemade wine, andenjoyed the medieval architectures in those villages. It was absolutely aromantic trip!

Although driving a car or taking a train is faster than riding a bike, and saveyour concerns about the weather, they have a lot of disadvantages. Driving acar can cause parking and environmental problems, and taking a train is limitedby the train schedule. Both of these means are expensive. One needs to pay forthe gasoline or train tickets. No wonder, I prefer riding a bike!

Topic 107 Should higher education be available to all?

Some people hold the opinion that university education should be available toall students, while others believe that higher education should be available onlyto good students. I deem the ﬁrst one as the premier choice.

The main reason is that providing all students with the opportunity to obtainhigher education is highly beneﬁcial to the development of modern society.More and more people will be able to obtain knowledge and becomeprofessionals ifhigher education is available to all students. Since there are notonly a lot of excellent professors who have signiﬁcant experiences of teachingand research but also plenty of advanced facilities such as laboratories andlibraries at the universities, students have much better opportunities to acquireknowledge and skills. If everyone in a society is highly educated, there will beno doubt that the society will be able to develop at a great speed.

The second reason is that it is obviously not fair to a lot of students if auniversity education is available only to some students. I am convinced thateveryone in the world should have the same right to acquire knowledge nomatter what his intellectual ability or ﬁnancial status is. There is no reason forpeople to judge students merely based on their academic performances anddecide ifthey should be granted with higher education. It is only fair thateveryone has the right to obtaat a university education.

Last but not least, people are able to obtain better jobs since universities canbetter prepare students for their future careers. At universities, there are a lot ofopportunities for students to participate in co-op programs. By participating inco-op programs, students cannot only learn how to write resumes but alsopractice their interviewing skills. All these skills gained at universities will behighly conducive for students to quickly obtain job offers after graduating fromuniversities.

To sum up, taking into account of all these factors, we may safely reach the conclusion that higher education should be available to every student.

Topic 107 Should higher education be available to all?

While higher education should be available to all students, I am sorry to say Istrongly believe that the higher education of better quality should be availableonly to better students because this is a simple resource management issuealthough it would hurt many people's feeling.

It is given that colleges and universities cannot possibly be built equally withthe same quality of facility, faculty, curriculum, etc., which resulted in differentschool reputation. Therefore, certain schools must be more competitive thanothers. Then the question is who should be selected to attend the better schools.

In California universities, there used to be a quota system ensuring students‘race distribution does not deviate too much from that of the entire state.However, students in different ethnic groups do score very differently in thestandard SAT and ACT exams. As a result, the minimum admission scoreswere quite different for different ethnic groups. The local newspapers called itreverse race discrimination and California state government reportedlycancelled the quota system few years ago.

As a matter of fact, Germany has been administering an exam at the end ofprimary school for years to divide their students into two categories. One forhigher education and the other for vocational training. A system like this wouldmake sure that limited educational resources are used in the most effectiveways.

As for China, late Chairman Mao did make all the universities in China open topublic, which lasted as long as 10 years! The result? These students werecriticized as having college student's title, using high-school textbooks andstaying at primary school level. Not only the society refused to recognize themas college students, even the government called them college trainee instead ofcollege student!

Again, it would hurt some people's feeling, but the policy is strongly supportedby early genetic research. My education psychology textbook describedtracking investigation on twins from the same egg, but growing up in differentfamilies for whatever reasons. If all babies were born equal in their futurephysical and mental abilities, there would be much less correlation between thetwins than that between the twin and his/her sibling in the foster family.Unfortunately, statistics is science from God. The conclusion in the textbook isthat the babies’ future physical and mental abilities are 75% related to genesand 25% to the post-born environment and personal effort.

The truth is obviously there, but to be politically correct is something I admitvery necessary. This is why every country is sending better students to betterschools, but keeping the issue low-key.

Topic 108 The best way of learning

When it comes to the issue of understand of life, some people suggest that thebest way to learn about life is getting others’ opinions, while other peoplemaintain that the best way of learning is through person experience. In mypoint of view, the latter opinion carries more weight.

In the ﬁrst place, learning from previous successful experiences is beneﬁcialfor people. For instance, a student who is preparing for an important exam canthink of the past exams that he did very well, and he can review moreeffectively ifhe learns from these exam experiences. Moreover, the student canacquire the lesson from life that people who work effectively can be successful.

In the second place, learning from past failures can help people to understandthe meaning of life. An example is that, losing money because of unwiseinvestments is part of many businessmen's experiences. When a businessman isplanning to invest a big amount of money, he can look back at his experiencesof the past and avoid pitfalls that may cause him to lose money again. As aresult, he probably will seek advices from professional people and plan hisinvestment more carefully this time. Learning from those failures can surelyhelp people learn how to make wise decisions in life, and people canunderstand that avoiding mistakes is the keys to succeed in life.

In conclusion, although learning from one‘s personal experience may have afew drawbacks, its advantages far outweigh its disadvantages. Both good andbad experiences can help people understand life better.

Topic 108 The best way of learning

As life is rigorous and challenging for most of people (excluding children whohave a silver spoon in their mouths right after they were born), everyone needsto take advices from others or accumulate experiences to face the life. However,people have different ways to learn about life. Some tend to learn by listeningto advices of family and friends. Meanwhile, others prefer to learn throughpersonal experiences. In this essay, I will discuss the advantages of these twodifferent ways.

Some people like to understand life by listening to advices of people aroundthem. This offers a good chance to gain knowledge and experiences from otherswho have already experienced hardships and tasted the bitterness of life. Thismethod is much convenient and faster than the other one because there are a lotof experiences in life that have already been experienced by other people. Otherpeople's opinions and advices simply offer us a shortcut to success.

On the other hand, young people, however, prefer to learn about life throughtheir personal experiences. However, to acquire these experiences, one has topay a price. One must have to experience a lot of failures before he/she cansavior the sweetness of success. It may also take a long time for someone tostand up from his failures. In addition, it requires a lot of time for people toaccumulate these valuable experiences.

Comparing and contracting these two approaches, I personally prefer the waythat of listening to the advice of family and friends. This is the best and easiestway for young people like me to start a real life.

Topic 109 Follow the customs of the new country

Nowadays it is quite common for people to move to other countries either forwork or for study. When they move, some of them decide to follow the customsof the new country, while others prefer to keep their own customs. IfI wereforced to choose one of the two positions, my choice would be the former.

To illustrate my point, let us ﬁrst take a look on why some people dislike theidea of following the new customs. First, people who have a strong religiousbackground that are different from that of the new country tend to stick to theirown religious beliefs. Second, older people are usually accustomed to their ownlife styles, and it is very hard for them to change their ways of life and acceptnew ideas and cultures. Thirdly, some values and phenomena in westerncountries contradict eastern values, such as the use of drugs, alcohol and certainbehaviors of young people. So when people move from a traditional easterncountry to a western one, they ﬁnd it very hard to accept the new customs.

Although I must admit that it is not always necessary to change our owncustoms, I believe that the advantages of adapting to a new culture are apparentIn the ﬁrst place, by following the customs of the new country, we can learnmore about the country and understand its people more quickly, and canbecome a real member of the country. To share the same custom means thathaving more things in common with local people, and it can pull peopletogether. Furthermore, we have to adapt to customs of the new country, iftheyare written into the law. Take the country of Singapore for example, for manydecades the law had banned the consumption of chewing gums. A young manfrom the United States violated the law and was served with their caningpunishment.

In addition, people who stick to their way of life may sometimes feel lonelyand isolated. They tend to complain about the life in the new country and mostof them eventually return to their home countries.

In conclusion, I believe that the advantages of following the customs of the newcountry are obvious because you can easily learn about the new country andquickly adjust to the new life. What is more, you can live more comfortablyand avoid troubles and misunderstandings in a foreign country ifyou think andbehave the way other people do.

Topic 110 Being alone vs. with friends

There are many lovely things in our lives such as the fresh air on a winter day,the beauty of the country in autumn, learning of love and the growing of afriendship. Everyone has friends or desires friends in the pursuit of sharingemotions. Thus many people enjoy spending most of their time with friends,like me, while others prefer to remain alone.

There is no doubt one needs time for oneself. When I retreat to my dorm at theend of the workday there is no one to tell me what to do. I often write littlesecrets in my dairy, enjoy soothing music without being disturbed or readphilosophy books. Being alone provides a time to reﬂect and ponder one’sfuture life course, with a greater clarity and purpose. Accompanied by manyfriends from the dorm I would have no chance to relish such retreats.

On the other hand, spending time with friends is stimulating and provides amental break from ones daily routine. Since I am a sociable and open person, Iinvariably feel happy and relaxed when I do things with my close friends. Wecan take part in all kinds of after-school activities such as playing volleyball,swimming or climbing. Some profound, or stimulating ideas often appear in mymind when I am with such friends while being alone often no such inspirationmanifests.

When I come with friends I can always exchange views with them about study,society or love thereby obtaining some interesting information or knowledge. Agroup ofpeople provides a means of testing one‘s ideas and learning from oneanother. When I confront serious problems and I am unsure of which course ofaction to pursue a close friend provides a means of reassurance that I am notalone in my way of thinking or chosen course of action.

Being with friends can be fun and aid one in overcoming the trying periods inlife. Being happy in life means doing the things you enjoy and having someoneto share the feeling with you. Being with friends most of time is an enjoyableaspect of life for me as it is a source of inspiration, satisfaction and ongoingeducation.

Topic 110 Being alone vs. with friends

Some people like to spend most of their time with their friends. Other people,however, just want to be alone in their spare time. As far as I am concerned, Ibelong to the latter kind of people.

In the ﬁrst place, I feel comfortable ifI am alone. This is not because I do notlike friends, but because of my personal character, quiet and a bit shy. When Iam with my friends, I always feel embarrassed since I am always a listener.Trying to ﬁnd topics makes me very tired. On the contrary, staying alone doesnot bother me. I do not need to discuss with others about what I want to do. Goshopping, go to a movie, go swimming, just do it. The most important thing is,I do not feel lonely when I am alone.

In the second place, I need to have more time to learn new knowledge. I amworking in the ﬁeld of computer programming. As we know, the developmentof the computer technology is amazingly fast. Ifa person has not been workingin this ﬁeld for more than ﬁve years, he would ﬁnd that he has to study fromscratch when he decides to pick up his old job. So it goes without saying that Ihave to update my computer knowledge frequently in order to keep up with mycareer. Based on this, I do not have much spare time to fool around with friends

In conclusion, I prefer to spend most of my time alone not only because I amnot good at getting along with friends, but also because I have to spend most oftime in studying new technology.

Topic 110 Life without friends?

There are people in this world that prefer to live on their own, to stay as far as possible for the company of other people, to enjoy the silence and comfort of being alone, without anyone to bother them. For my part, I cannot imagine my life to be like that. I really think that friends are very important in my life and I like to spend as much time as possible with my friends. It is hard for me to enjoy the splendors of life without having anyone to share my feelings with. I have too often been away from home, from my friends and family.

I have seen wonderful places and things that could make me incredibly happy. However, the true happiness came only at the time when I could share my experiences with my friends. Everywhere I go I need to ﬁnd at least one person that in the end I can call a friend. Going to a concert, to a movie or enjoying a party, it is inconceivable not to go with a friend. I do not recall ever going to a

concert on my own. And I missed several occasions to go to events that I really wanted to attend just because my friends were unable to make it, and I could not go without them.

Moreover, friends can help each other. It is good to know that somewhere there is at least one person whom you can depend on when you are in need. I also enjoy helping my friends. Doing something good for someone is a really rewarding experience. While with my friends, we can also have discussions and share opinions on our future plans, our ideas, our thoughts, and our problems.

Although there are arguments on the part of leading a life on your own, and not depending on other people, I strongly believe that friends, family, people around you are important part of our life. Life is so wonderful because the people around you.

Topic 111 Spend time with one or two friends, or many friends?

I cannot imagine a person who hasn’t enjoyed the company of a friend. Friendsare very precious and therefore, we constantly love and cherish them. Spendingtime with friends has always been regarded as a wonderful thing to do with nodoubt. However, one might choose to spend time either with one or two closefriends or a number of friends.

Certainly, there is a difference between the enjoyment gained by spending timewith our few close friends and the delight obtained by hanging out with manyfriends. When we are spending time with our close friends, we can feel aspecial closeness and bond with them. With the company of intimate friends,we can be more open and true to ourselves. Although with few people aroundthe scope of our activities is limited, it is compensated by the satisfaction thatwe gained from the warm atmosphere.

If a person doesn’t like the joy attained from the company ofjust few closefriends and wants to extend his activities with more friends, he can choose tospend time with many friends. When a group of friends gather together theycan engage in many group activities such as playing games and sports, andtravel to new places. This enjoyment doesn’t necessarily require close relationsamong the group members. Being sociable and outgoing is good enough tocreate a pleasant ambiance for everyone.

I’d rather choose to spend my time with one or two close friends than beingwith a number of friends. With my close friends around we don’t really have todo anything in particular together. For us the signiﬁcance lies in the fact that weare together, sharing our time. As the saying goes, “I can spend hours withoututtering a single word with my friend and I’d have the best conversation ever.”

Topic 112 How should children spend their time?

In our rapidly changing world people begin to understand more and more thatnothing is so valuable but knowledge. Education has become an important partof people's life. Due to this some people think that children should begin theirformal education at a very early age and should spend most of their time onschool studies. But others believe that young children should spend most oftheir time playing. To my mind these two views should be balanced so as not togo to the extremes.

The ﬁrst point ofview that children should start early on their studies make meassume that it can be harmful and damaging for a child's physical developmentand personality. As a teacher I have seen the result of beginning education tooearly. Children are deprived of the enjoyment of their childhood years and theirintrinsic desire to play. Some children cannot concentrate on their study andkeep playing at school. Besides, the children who are not allowed to play andare forced to study can begin to detest the education process and the teachers.So, to force children to study at an early age can spoil the whole picture.When facing the question of early education it is also important to note thatchildren who begin to study at an early age are often overloaded by studyingmaterial and homework, which they are not ready to cope with. Besides someparents neglect their children and do not pay enough attention to the children'sproblems at school thinking that they are still young.

The second opinion that children should play instead of study also hasdisadvantages. In this case children are not well prepared for their school life atall. They have no idea what he is going to do at school. In addition, researchshows that early education can beneﬁt children's brain development andprepare them better for the futures school education. The most important timefor early education could be missed ifparents do not send their children toschool at an appropriate age.

In conclusion I would like to point out that that early education and play shouldbe well balanced so that their enjoyment of childhood that is once in a lifetimewould not be deprived. It is quite important for governments to design andimplement an appropriate primary education system so that young children canhave chances to both learn and play at school.

Topic 112 How should children spend their time?

To play or to study, almost every child will face such a problem. For sure, mostchildren would like to choose to play because playing is their nature. Butparents would think it is better for them to study. Which way is better?Personally, I think children should play more in the early years, and gradually itis better for them to spend more time on books once they have reached theirschoolage.

When we think of school study, we think of textbooks and exams. That is to say,children have to do a lot of homework to practice what they learn at school.They have to memorize a lot of knowledge in order to get good scores in exams.To those small children who are too young to go to school, learning maybecome a torture. And consequently their learning will not be efﬁcient, andthey even would hate learning.

On the other hand, playing is also a learning process. Needless to say, childrenare much creative than most ofus grow-ups. Part of the reasons is that they stillhave a blank and original mind. They just use their own eyes to watch theworld, and use their ways to explore the world. While playing together withother kids, they can practically learn many things, such as how to cooperatewith others, and to help others. While playing with pets, they will know how totake care of them, and learn to take care of other people as well. While playingwith toys, out of curiosity, they will ask all kinds of questions. When parentscan explain to them, the information may motivate them to learn moreknowledge through playing.

During the childhood, it is better to play with other kids or with toys, since theycan get basic ideas about friendship, people and the world. Playing is anecessary phrase for children to be mentally and physically healthy. Whenchildren reach school age, it is better for them to go to school, and graduallystart learning knowledge that is useful for their future.

Topic 113 A new university in the community

It is said that a new university will be established in our community. Somepeople think it is better for the community to have a university. But others donot think so. As far I am concerned, I think both sides have their own reasons.Let us get down to the arguments ﬁrst before we take a side.

People who hold the opinion of supporting the government's plan may havetheir views as follows. For one thing, a university around here may providepeople with more chances to pursue advanced education. People living nearhere can go to the university library at their leisure time. There they can use thevarious resources of education, such as the book collection, and the computers.In addition, they can take some part-time continuing education course toimprove their skills at work, or pursue a higher degree. The other advantage ofestablishing a university here is that it may bring the community an academicatmosphere. With so many educated people around town, the communitymakes you feel so peaceful and in harmony.

People who take the opposite side may present some disadvantages of buildinga university near the community. Firstly, they feel that a university may occupylarger amount of land and use a lot of money which can be used for some otherpurposes: such as a shopping mall which can make people's life moreconvenient, or a factory which can employ a lot ofpeople. The beneﬁts that canbe brought by those facilities are more obvious and tangible. Secondly, theythink that the students at the university are young people who may sometimescause troubles such as drinking, speeding or having wild parties, which couldprobably destroy the quite atmosphere of the community.

All above seems reasonable from their own respective. Personally I support theidea to establish a university in the community because it can really give usmore chance to improver ourselves.

Topic 114 Who inﬂuence more, family or friends?

Young adults may be inﬂuenced by many aspects in forming their charactersand outlooks on the world. Some people believe that family is the mostimportant inﬂuence on young adults. Others think that friends are the mostimportant inﬂuence on them. Both views base on respective beliefs.

It is true that friends may exert great inﬂuence on young adults. They maystudy together in the same school and share similar experiences. They havemuch in common and may share their innermost secrets that they never let theirparents know. Young people are easier to make friends with each other andcommunicate without bothering about the so-called generation gap, which isnevertheless a common problem existing between young adults and theirfamilies.

However, it's also generally accepted that parents are the ﬁrst teachers in thegrowing process of their children. Parents teach their children how to utter theﬁrst word in their life, help them to step out their ﬁrst pace, witness their ﬁrstlove and give important suggestions when children need them. On the otherhand, children follow their parents’ examples and even adore them when theyare growing from little children to young adults. They are usually ready to turnto their parents who have more life experience than them for advice when theyare faced with important decisions. Therefore, parents who witness most of thewhole growing process of the young adults till they are mature enough aremore important inﬂuence on them than their friends.

Although young adults may reap a lot from their communication with theirfriends of similar ages, the most important inﬂuence to their life is always theirfamilies.

Topic 115 Making plans for free time

In my opinion it is always better to plan our free time because although it isconsidered leisure time but some people might need it to get certain things donethat could not have been ﬁnished ifthey were left to be done another time.Probably for most grown-ups free time is only during their weekends which isusually for one or two days only. It is actually a very short period of time ifyouhave lots of things to be done. For this reason planning for leisure time is veryimportant because there are lots of things that needs to be done and not all oftheses things are for fun.

For adults, leisure time is not only about waking up late, spending the wholeday in bed or in front of the television and reading some magazines. In fact ifitis well planned, free time can be used to meet our friends, go to a restaurant, goto the cinema, go shopping or even read a nice book. Others may use it to domore important things such as taking up a new hobby or studying ifthey arestudents. Consequently their time needs to be organized very well in order toaccomplish all the things they need to do compared to the short time they have.On the other hand, ifwe do not keep a list or a schedule of the things that weshould do, we may only ﬁnish a thing or two but time will never be enough forus to accomplish all the tasks we have. It seems to me that leisure time shouldnot be left without planning because it is really important to many people.

Topic 115 Making plans for free time

In an era when the pace of people's life becomes more frantic and hasty thanever before, there is a growing concern among the general public about the wayto arrange their own leisure time, carefully planning or no planning at all. Asfar as I am concerned, the former one should be wiser.

First of all, in the modern time that people are hustling around all the day andhave so little free time, a meticulous plan should be provided in order not tomake full use of it. Unlike the ones leading their lives in the last centenary or inthe rural areas, contemporary people, especially those in major cities, have beenbothered by the pressures from their bosses, colleges, and even the familymembers. Consequently, the free time for such people is shorter than ever. As asurvey held in some large cities shows, many young people my age have towork form 9 am to 10 pm, Monday to Saturday, and only have some spare timeon Sundays. Just as an old saying goes, how time ﬂies! Ifthere were no carefulplans, people's free time would elapse without any value.

In the second place, people would have enjoyed themselves more if they havethorough plans on how to allocate their private time. It is obvious that if theleisure time were well organized, even a short break would make peoplerelaxed and ready for their next round of struggles on their jobs. What's more,according to a health report, people would beneﬁt more if they conduct variousactivities during weekends and holidays. A careful plan will make sure thatpeople can accomplish what they want to do during their free time.

All in all, in such a time that people have less time to spend than ever, a careful is of vital importance for people to relax and fully rest. After all, efﬁciency is the most crucial factor in this crazy time.

Topic 115 Making plans for free time

Some people prefer to plan activities for their free time very carefully. Others choose not to make any plans at all for their free time. In my opinion, I prefer to plan my free time carefully, since I can do more things, and I can enjoy myself more.

First I will go over the advantages of not to making any plans for my free time. When I do not make plans, I do not feel restricted by a preset routine, and my activities can be more spontaneous. In addition, when I have no plans of my own, it is easier to adapt to what my friends and family members may be doing For instance, if I find out that a friend wishes to go to the beach, I can adjust myself to his or her plans with perfect freedom.

However, there are more advantages to planning activities for my leisure time very carefully. By making a careful plan I can do more things, because I am more organized and I do not waste time. Moreover, with a plan I can enjoy myself more. If I have planned ahead I am fully prepared for the activities I wish to engage in, and I have nothing to worry about.

Personally, I feel that the advantages of planning activities for my free time very carefully are greater than the advantages of not making any plans at all. From these reasons discussed above, I prefer to plan activities for my leisure time very carefully.

Topic 116 Which methods of learning are best for you?

All of us have different learning styles. Some people are more visually oriented, and they are better able to absorb information ifthey read about it or see it presented in graphics or charts. Many people ﬁnd that even ifthey are instructed about a given topic, they will not understand the information unless they put it to use by themselves. Still others need to process the information by

analyzing it and discussing with others. I believe that we beneﬁt most from different ways informational input.

I like to read about a topic and consult other visual learning tools such as video presentations, diagrams or charts. This is the type of informational input that is most suitable to me. I also like to keep notes on a topic so that I can refer to them later. While this form of learning works best for me, I ﬁnd that it helps if the information is presented in a number of other ways as well.

Information can be absorbed better ifwe not only read about it, but also hear someone talk about the topic. This can personalize a topic and also help to clear up confusing points. Being able to ask someone questions when something cannot easily be understood can really help with the learning process.

Some people ﬁnd that they cannot absorb knowledge until they are actually able to put it to use. While I ﬁnd this is helpful, it is not the most important learning tool for me in most cases. In some instances, though, it can really make general concepts and ideas more understandable. For example, when reading about how to surf the Internet, it is difficult to grasp some of the ideas and instructions that are offered. Once you actually try it a few times, it becomes easier.

I learn best if I am able to hear a teacher or speaker discuss an issue, follow along by viewing diagrams and charts and also reading supporting material, and then, in some cases, putting that information to use by actually conducting activities or exercises related to the material.

Topic 116 Which methods of learning are best for you?

People have different ways to learn knowledge. Some people learn by doing things; other people learn by reading books; others learn by listening to people talk about things. As far as I am concerned, the ﬁrst method - learning by doing is suitable for me. The reasons are as follows.

In the ﬁrst place, I normally have a better understanding on the things that I learned by doing them. Ten years ago, after graduated from a university, I began working for an electronic company, which manufactures color televisions. During the ﬁrst several months, I just sat in my ofﬁce to read the mechanisms of color television from books. Those theories seemed to be so abstract to me that I can only understand 30% of them. So I decided to go to the production ﬂoor to learn about them. After taking part in the procedure of manufacture, I was surprised that getting hold of those theories was no longer difﬁcult to me. I was able to assemble and repair televisions shortly afterwards.

In the second place, I can remember well when I learn things by doing them. People always have such an experience: they can memorize something when picking up a book and forget it when putting down the book. Knowledge cannot become yours by reading until you practice it. Knowledge learned from books is RAM, e.g. erasable memory; while knowledge learned by doing things is written in our ROM, e.g. inerasable memory.

In conclusion, I prefer learning by doing things not only because this method can help me understand things easily, but also because it can help me memorize things longer.

Topic 117 Different friends or similar friends?

Some people like friends who are different from them, while others like friends Admittedly, the idea of having different friends is not without advantages. On one hand, contacting with different friends gives one a broader outlook to life. Different friends can enrich our experiences by their conducts and thoughts that are different from ours. In addition, they can help a person enjoy a variety of interests.

Nonetheless, I believe that similar friends have more advantages. We can feel conﬁdent and strong when we have a group of friends who share the same opinions. A person with a purpose in life - such as an artist or a politician – may feel a special need to surround himself with people who can assist and encourage him in his work.

In addition, similar friends mean the same way of thinking and doing things; therefore they are generally more compatible and easy to get along with. I can think of no better illustration of the idea than the example of my roommate and I who both like studying quietly and dislike loud music, so we can enjoy a quiet environment together and concentrate on our assignments. We both go to bedearly so none ofus would be bothered while sleeping. Furthermore, it is convenient for similar friends to communicate and enjoy their leisure time together. My roommate and I frequently have fun together because we have the same hobby - playing chess.

For the reasons given above, I would have to declare myself as one of those prefer similar friends to different friends.

Topic 118 New experiences vs. usual habits

If one has never experienced the storm, how could one enjoy the beauty of the rainbow? If one has never experienced the unknown, how could one enjoy the joys that life has to offer? Therefore I always welcome new experiences in my life.

Some people like their lives to stay the same, and they do not change their usual habits. So all their life, they do not have many new experiences. They live only one lifestyle. No matter what happens in the world, they just keep their life the same way. They will not try a new job with a higher salary. For years and years they just stay with their old jobs, and live in the same town or

even in the same house forever. Although some of them may want to lead a better life, they are not willing to change. They just fear changes.

We all only have one life, in other words, life is limited for every one of us, so why not take advantage of our life as much as we could? The only way to experience more is to change our usual habits and lifestyles and to try new things. For example, I have always dreamed of traveling to different parts of the world to experience different cultures and customs, to meet different people, and to enjoy different views and scenic spots. I would even live in a foreign country for a few years. Then I would really feel that I have lived a wonderful life.

Some people may say that you would have confronted much more trouble and difﬁculties brought by the changes in life. Yes, but life should consist of sweetness and bitterness, tears and laughter, that's the way life should be! IfI haven't tasted the bitterness, then how can I appreciate the sweetness? Different experiences may help me develop a profound insight into life itself, and then I could really get to understand the real happiness of life, and really appreciate the life that I have!

In a word, I always look forward to new experiences in life, so that I could enjoy my life fully.

Topic 119 Do clothes make a man?

Would a frenzy people become cool, after he wears a lab white cloth? Would a child become mature, after he dresses a tie? And would a prisoner become a hero, after he takes off his prisoner's suit? At this point, I consider that the crucial factor of a person's behavior is not relied on what he (she) is wearing. Instead, the character of a person determines which type of people he (she) belongs to.

First and foremost, although clothes play an important role in people's daily life they are not the determining factor of their characters. As we can see, the appreciation of one‘s personality largely depends on his (her) behaviors, including the way he (she) talks, and the way he (she) does things. After all, the primary function of clothes is to keep us warm, and to prevent us from being naked like animals. As a proverb goes, "A beggar would not be someone; even if he wears a gold hat."

Secondly, as far as clothing is concerned, there are many people wearing the same clothes, but they can behave differently. Take uniforms for example, we could not deny that some doctors are impatient when they treat their patients, while others are very nice. Some soldiers are nice to their prisoners, while others treat their prisoners badly or even abuse them. So it is quite wrong to conclude that all policemen are helpful, and all government ofﬁcials are trustworthy, only because they wear the government uniforms. After all, the uniforms are only used to distinguish one job from another.

Due to the above mentioned reasons, I can safely conclude that people would not behavior differently despite they wear different clothes.

Topic 119 Do clothes make a man?

I do strongly support the statement that people behave differently when they wear different clothes. In other words, different clothes inﬂuence the way people behave.

Some small examples may give some light to the point. I usually ﬁnd that those who wear suits and tie behave invariably the same in general. They probably look self-conﬁdent, genteel and intelligent, although most of them do not really have these characteristics. So, what I want to emphasize here is that clothes work as a symbol today and people wear them would act like what the clothes impersonate without being aware of it. We all have the experience that when

we wear a T-shirt and jeans we feel vigorous and act like a 16-yaer-old boy. On the other hand, we tend to wear clothes that are appropriate for the environment. When people go for a job interview, men will usually wear nice suits and tie, while women will usually wear ﬁne lady's garments. Because people understand that "clothes make a man", and nice clothes can increase their chances of getting that job.

To take this idea further, with the help of different clothes, we can behave a way that is different from what we usual look like. For example, when a serious person who has a ﬁustrating job takes a picnic outdoors, he will dress casually in order to remind himself that he needs to relax for this occasion. Another interesting example is that we can sometimes see from movies that a serious

woman who has a formal job in an ofﬁce wearing a sexy underwear and dance like a stripper at night in order to seduce her husband.

So, as we can see, people really behave differently when they wear different clothes. So why not slip into casual clothes and give yourself a break right now?

Topic 120 Are quick decisions always wrong?

I agree with the statements that the decisions that people make quickly are always wrong. Those quick decisions that people make are like bids in a gambling. Even if they have a chance to win, they are still losers theoretically. People should never make quick decisions without fully considering the factors that are influencing their decisions and the consequences of different decisions.

When people make hasty decisions, they rarely care anything about the situation. Situation is a very important factor in making a right decision. Different decisions lead to different results, so it is very important to make a decision carefully. People who make quick decisions do not have time to look around and carefully analyze the consequences resulted by different decisions.

Secondly, there is a popular belief that people should decide quickly in order to catch opportunities. Unfortunately, that notion is completely wrong. If you made a quick decision without thinking carefully, how could you be able to catch the opportunities? "Chance favors the prepared mind," as a famous saying goes. Only when you have fully prepared, can you really grab a good opportunity when time come. Otherwise the chance that you take hastily may result in a failure.

Thirdly, even if you can quickly analyze the situation based on the facts that are provided to you at the time that you make a decision, since you do not have enough time to verify the validity of those information, the information could be wrong, which could leads to wrong decisions. Even the president of the United States can make this kind of mistake. Mr. Bush made a decision to start the War on Iraq based on the false information that his subordinates provided to him, which claims that Iraq has dangerous biochemical weapons. Maybe someday history will prove that the decision to start the War was wrong.

Life is not a lottery. Life is a stock market. Only when you make careful decisions based on thorough analysis, can you win. If you make quick decisions chances are that these decisions will happen to be wrong, and you may lose everything down to your underwear.

Topic 120 Pride and Prejudice

My point of departure for this essay will be the famous novel by Jane Austen, "Pride and Prejuduce", in which to opposite minds meet and at first sight judge each other's characters. Of course they consequently fall in love, but their instant firm beliefs in their own ability to place other people in categories is both frightening and entertaining.

Many great works of literature are based on the unpreventable conflicts that arise when different encounters between people end with hostility and dislike. Political, religious and everyday life problems occur out of the blue as a result of the stubbornness of the human mind. In the hectic postmodern world is seems often to be considered a quality to deliver your judgment without hesitation; such various areas as job-interviews, match-making and socializing in a metropolis all inspire an ability to know your goal and to reach it without hesitation and long-term reflection. The commercial industry, the media and the distinct focus on appearance in our society additionally encourages a consequence in judging other people, that might prevent a full understanding of other people's characters.

On the other hand, as much as it may be considered a good quality to trustful and patient, it might be a significant survival tool in the modern life. Personally I believe that every person contains a true value, a personality that may someday enrich my way of thinking, and therefore I try to be careful in my immediate judgments. However, in order to navigate in a stressful everyday life that offers many encounters, it is necessary to make a natural selection – an perhaps nature has installed this in our minds under the label "personal judgment".

To summarize, I believe that both attitudes and ways of thinking are understandable, however superficial and harsh an early judgment might seem. In not giving other people time and space to prove their worth, life looses a lot of its potential. Limitless trust, however, can lead to disappointment that could have been prevented.

Topic 121 Can we trust ﬁrst impressions?

In our daily life, we will always hear a wealth of such cases as a guy who hasfallen into love with a girl at the ﬁrst sight, one of your friends who impressesyour mother deeply on his ﬁrst visit to your house and then is treatedexceptionally well by your hard-to-be-pleased mother, and even the applicantwho attracts to the human resources manager immediately during the ﬁrstinterview is easily employed, to name just a few. All of the above-mentionedcases tell us that many people in the world trust the ﬁrst impressions of aperson, his character, his conduct and his eloquence, etc., all of which hedisplays at their ﬁrst meet. But is all that he displays, or all that you understandthrough what he displays correct, or it is just a blur image that needs to beproved in the later days?

Before we get the question to be treated, let's think of the most probable (notabsolutely) results of the cases mentioned in the ﬁrst paragraph:

The guy who has just experienced the above-said romance has to say goodbyeto his newly-met girlfriend because later on he ﬁnds out that she is not as goodas she looks; the friend of yours who has just won your hard-to-be-pleasedmother's trust is criticized by your mother because of his great incoherency inhis manners, and even the newly-employed employee is dismissed because heis not telling the truth in his resume. Till now, do you still think the ﬁrstimpressions are dependable?

Psychologically, we have a very perfect image of a person in our head, ofcourse, which varies from one to another owing to individuals‘ speciﬁcexperiences, education and family background, and his or her own opinion.When a person who we meet conﬁrms with the image in our head, we will, to agreat extent, overestimate or even exaggerate his merits, while omit hisshortcomings, maybe due to human nature and psychological reasons.

Thus we can ourselves lead to the answer to the question above that the ﬁrstimpressions of a person are generally incorrect. In a word, to judge a personneeds time and the ﬁrst-sight impression is unreliable.

Topic 121 Are first impressions trustworthy?

In our social life, we may meet different people in different occasions. Some ofthem we may meet once; others may be staying with us for a long time, such asour classmates, or our colleagues. Some people trust their ﬁrst impressionsbecause they believe these judgments are generally correct. While other peopledo not judge a person quickly because they think ﬁrst impressions are oftenwrong. Before I give my opinion, I want analyze the two opinions ﬁrst.

For those who trust ﬁrst impressions, they may argue as follows. For one thing,before two people ﬁrst meet, they have no ideas about what the other person islike, and then they may have no inclination to cater to each other by behavingdifferently. At those circumstances, it is a little bit easy to get to know theperson's real character because they may behave naturally. In addition, somemysterious factors such as instinct may involve in the ﬁrst impression whichusually is proved to be the right one with no reasonable account, as isespecially occurred in many married couple's ﬁrst meeting.

The other group of people who do not believe in ﬁrst impression also have theirreasons. First, people's characters are different and complex. It is very hard toget to know them at the ﬁrst meeting. If you want to know a person, you haveto spend lot of time to talk to them, and observe their behaviors at differentoccasions, and all these cannot be accomplished just in a few hours. Second,many people do not behave naturally when they meet strangers, so the ﬁrstmeeting will not be a good chance to know a person.

We can see that both the two sides have their reasons. But I prefer not to judgepeople in our ﬁrst meetings. Because to me, I'm not very good at judgingpeople and my ﬁrst impressions are usually unreliable.

Topic 122 Unleash your desires!

It is quite normal for people who live in the modern society to feel the necessityto acquire new things or achieve a certain status that they do not possess. Thisbehavior is due to human nature and continuous changes in the society,especially the emergence ofnovel products that most people ﬁnd attractive.

The process by which people develop new products is mainly by looking atwhat people need. When there is a need, there is a market. Although this couldseem an acceptance of desire as a normal human behavior, I think desire is farbetter than what it is being think of, since this is the driving force for people toinvent new products and discover ways to improve our life.

It is normal for people to attract to what they do not have, and it contributes tohuman's own process of development. History cannot evolve if human do nothave desire. Everyone wants to achieve a better status in the society, and afterthe desired status is achieved, a new desire appears and this becomes a never-ending process. The famous story by Alexander Pushkin, The Fisherman andthe Goldﬁsh, depicted this human nature insightfully.

The desire of human being to lead a better life and use new products haspushed the technological advancement of our society. For instance, in 1980s,people desired to use personal computers to do word processing and desktoppublishing. The necessity quickly converted to personal computer products thatcan accomplish that task. Afterwards, people were not satisﬁed with computersdoing work processing only. They need more powerful functions to processimages, generate 3-D animations and play multi-media games. Today, thecomputers available in the markets are hundreds times faster than those of the1980s, and we got bigger and much higher resolution screens. Obviously, it hasbeen human desire and necessity that pushed the development of computertechnology.

It is true that people never content with what they already have. Due to thisdissatisfaction, this society is fast evolving. Perhaps we may use words such as"wish" and "dream" to replace "desire". There will be more and more newproducts and services that are more comfortable and easier to use, in order tosatisfy people's dreams. So, unleash your desires! Our wishes and dreams canmake our life better.

Topic 122 Should people satisfy with what they have?

In contemporary society, there are new things coming up almost every day.Some people have to face such a fact that you can never buy a real new product,because the new one always appears after you have bought one. As a result,some of them are never satisﬁed with what have and they want to getsomething newer or something different. To some extent, it is a good way tokeep up with the ceaselessly changing world. However, in my opinion, it is notalways good not to satisfy what you already have.

For one thing, with the development of science and technology as well as theglobalization, more and more brand new things are produced every day, alongwith a variety of new ﬁndings, new lifestyles, and new types of services. If weignore all the new things and always stay what we are, the only result may bethat we will be obsolete in the society. In some degree, ifwe all stick with oldthings, there will be no new inventions and advancement of the world. Thecontinuous needs in people's spirits can really push our society forward. Humanbeings live in a modern society after all, and we should have the desire to be inpursuit of a new life.

However, on the other hand, if we sought after material satisfactions withoutconsidering our ﬁnancial reality, we could ﬁnd ourselves in trouble. As weknow, new products are manufactured and updated almost every day, so there islittle possibility that you can always obtain the newest products. Moreover,every time a new comes into markets, the price is always much higher thanolder products. Ifyou do not have a strong ﬁnancial background to supportyour desire, how could you be able to afford them? For example, some peopleborrow money from their credit card for new and fancy products withoutconsidering their affordability. In the end they get into ﬁnancial crisis.

The purpose that we look for new and different things is to live better andhappier. If your desires only get you into worries and troubles, it will be a betterchoice to learn to give up and be satisﬁed. In a word, living in a modern society,we must in pursuit of our life with a ﬂexible attitude.

Topic 122 Should people satisfy with what they have?

Many of the world's religions share a belief that when a person is able to lookat and confess his or her problems that person can begin to travel the on road toemotional recovery. A problem cannot be solved until it is clearly recognized. Iagree with the above statement because I believe that dissatisfaction andsuffering forces people to change.

History presents many examples of dissatisfaction and change. The history ofChina in this century might be seen as one of dissatisfaction and progress. SunYet San was discontented with the decaying imperial order, and so he createdthe "Revolution." Mao was dissatisﬁed with the course of events so heintensiﬁed the revolution; ﬁnally, Deng pushed the Chinese economy towards afree-market economy. Hence, China progressed towards its newfound"superpower" status.

In a not dissimilar way, during the eighteenth century many Americans becameannoyed with the British regime and they start to ﬁght for the freedom andindependence. Hence the most powerful country in the world - the UnitedStates was created.

On a personal level, dissatisfaction can lead to changes within friendship andmarriage. Perhaps it might even be said that true love cannot remain static.Matrimony and friendship are explorations of the higher emotions: they arepilgrimages towards the city of true values. Ifhusband and wife are prepared toconfront and discuss their problems, a blue period can give way to many yearsof happiness. Sometimes, for instance, a spouse may not recognize that thesource of marital unhappiness is that the other partner has developed a need tohave children. Whatever else may be said, most people would agree thatchildren change the lives of their parents.

The best method of utilizing dissatisfaction is to change things before they getout of hand. An intelligent man will constantly monitor his emotions; anintelligent politician will understand the mood of his people. Some peoplemight suggest that the transition to independence for Canada and Australia wasmuch smoother than that of the United States because Britain allowed thosetwo dominions to evolve with time. To take the idea further, a good parent or anastute politician will even anticipate potential dissatisfactions and thereforetake precautions.

I agree with the above statement because, I believe that we are can grow upthrough dissatisfaction. Without the ability to recognize our discontent, wecould collapse into illness. Suffering sharpens our senses.

Topic 123 Non-fictions vs. ﬁctions

How could anyone suggest that people should only read about real events, realpeople, and established facts? For one thing, that means people would not bereading half of all the great books that have ever been written, not to mentionthe plays, short stories and poetries. For another, it would mean that people'simaginations would not develop and would remain uninspired throughout theirlives.

Reading stories as a child helps develop our creativity since ﬁctions teach us alot about how to convert words into mental images. Fictions open our world up,exposing us to other times and different ways of living. Reading histories ofthose times would serve the same purpose, but histories are probably not assharply and vivid as ﬁctions. Reading an essay about poverty in VictorianEngland is not the same thing as reading Charles Dickens’ Oliver Twist. Theimage of a small boy being suffered in cold, poverty and hard labor are morehorrifying than simply reading the statement, "Children were sold into labor".Reading ﬁctions makes a more lasting impression in our minds and emotionsabout the past.

Besides, storytelling is an emotional need for human beings. From earliesttimes, humans have taught their children about life, not by telling them factsand ﬁgures, but by telling them stories. Some of these stories show what peopleare like (human nature), and help us experience a wide range of feelings. Sometell us how we should act. Telling a child that it's wrong to lie will make littleimpression, but telling him the story of a little boy whose nose grows longerevery time he tells a lie will make a much stronger impression.

Fiction is too important to our culture, our minds, and our emotions. How couldwe ever give it up!

Topic 124 Social science vs. natural science

The chances of receiving education are considered the most fundamental rightof human beings in the 21 st century. Naturally, the argument about what thestudents should acquire at schools has attracted many attentions from people ofvarious walks of life. In considering the obligatory courses required at schools,people have different ideas. Some would hold the view that it is more importantfor students to study science and mathematics than it is for them to studyhistory and literature.

I agree with this point of view completely. Although both social and naturalscience courses play an important role in the whole education system, naturalscience seems to have a greater impact on human progress. Our society isdeveloping at a high speed quite unprecedented before. One cannot deny thefact that all of these results came directly from scientiﬁc discoveries. Anexample is that during the period of industrial revolution, it is science andmathematics that brought many inventions and discoveries such as assemblylines, mending machines and electric appliances which has freed the most ofpeople from manual labors once and for all.

The above reason I pointed out does not mean that literature and history cannotimprove people's lives but they have few advantages to people's material lifeespecially to those poor people who are still struggling for the essential needsof shelters and foods. Literature and history cannot be put into practice to someextent. Research and development of science and mathematics on the contrarycan be applied to our real life and improve our living standard. Take medicalscience for example, the new ﬁndings of treatments of certain diseases can savelives of many people. There still exist some fatal diseases that threaten people'slives. All this will depend on the development of medical science.

In short, all courses involving literature and history, science and mathematicsare necessary and important to students. However, according to the reasons Idiscussed above, I want to make the judgment that science and mathematicscourse are more useful.

Topic 125 Should art and music be compulsory subjects?

I totally agree with the statement that all students should be required to studyart and music in secondary schools. It comes as a direct interpretation of theapothegm ‘All work and no fun, makes Jack a dull boy‘. The education of artand music is necessary to provide for that spice in life. The stress of life can beeasily alleviated by the use of art or music, something that interests andtitillates the individual. In secondary schools, students are like wet mud; theycan be molded with the shapes one likes. Art and music are activities that bringout a softer, mature and a complete person. Without them, life tends to becomedull and burdensome.

Students tend to get bored of pedantic learning, and need a break from regularclassroom education in the forms of art and music. Providing good facilities tocapable students enhances their talents in art and music. Moreover students candevelop their inter-personal skills when participating in extra co-curricularactivities such as instrument, vocal and painting groups. The sense of honorwill encourage them to improve their results on science courses.

Art and music are an integral part of a complete human being. They are one ofthe essential ingredients of life. So in order to develop students with fullpersonalities, secondary schools should impart art and music knowledge to itsstudents. On the other hand students should not be forced to take up some formof art or music. It should be entirely optional for students to choose whateverforms of art or music that interest them.

It is art and music that differentiate humans from animals. The serenity andtranquility that music and arts provide only human can enjoy.

Topic 125 Should art and music be compulsory subjects?

Life cannot be full without understanding and appreciating the greatest cultureinheritances from our earlier generations such as arts and music. Secondaryschool prepares us to enter into college and adult life. Therefore all studentsshould be required to study art and music in secondary schools.

Arts are a part of our life. From antique cave drawings to African tribal crafts,from Indian totem poles to modern buildings, arts are everywhere. Not tomention those art exhibitions in art galleries and museums, which attracthundreds of millions of people to visit them each year. Even our homeequipments are made with a touch of art. Arts are ubiquitous.

Music is also an important cultural heritage of human being and remains a partof our present. It is common sense that music can relax our body and soul. Forexample, by listening to classical music that are played by traditionalinstruments, while gaining knowledge about the history and stories behindthese music, students can really improve their knowledge, cultivate their spiritsand broaden their views.

Studying arts and music in high school also allow students to take a breakbetween those mentally demanding courses such as math and physics. Thesearts and music course can even help students improve their results in math andphysics, because a good relaxation can help students concentrate more later on.

I am high school student myself and I believe that all students should berequired to take arts and music courses during their secondary school years. Itis not necessary for students to learn arts in order to become artists; but it isdeﬁnitely necessary for students to learn to appreciate arts.

Topic 125 Should art and music be compulsory subjects?

Art and music are the advanced products of civilizations. They have beendeveloped through thousands of years and accompanied by the progress ofscience and knowledge. In this sense, some people think that all students shouldbe required to study art and music in secondary school. In my opinion, I totallyagree the statement for a number of reasons.

As is so often pointed out that art and music can broaden people's view of theworld. The world that we live in is not only a material world, but also aspiritual world. The art and music that belong to the latter can beneﬁt our soulsand form our personalities. For instance, a piece of music often can bring usdifferent feelings such as calm, happy, sad or sorrow. I would always like tolisten to Tchaikovsky's Paiheiique when I am in a bad mood; I always feelmuch better and ready to face challenges again after I hear it. I believe most ofus have this kind of experience. Art and music education in high school canenrich students‘ life, even though they will not make them as a career at a latertime.

In addition, the love for art and music can become a good hobby for a personwho has this kind of education when he/she is young. Many people havevarious hobbies that make their life meaningful and they may seldom feel boredduring their spare time. Appreciating art and music is a great hobby. Manystudents acquire the hobby of appreciating art or listening to music after theytook courses in art and music in high school.

Last but not least, for some students art and music can help with their careerpursuit, because they can get inspirations from art and music to achieve in otherﬁelds. For example, the profession of architecture has a strong relationship withart and music. "Buildings are frozen music." We can see that many buildingsthat were designed by architects were inﬂuence by some form of art. On theother hand, Albert Einstein, the Nobel Prize winner and the famous scientist,was also an excellent violinist and he admitted that music could refresh hismind and lead to more effective thinking. Moreover, some students pursue acareer in art and music due to their art education in high school. They becomeartists or singers after they graduate.

Maybe we are not aware of it at ﬁrst, but from the above arguments we couldsee that art and music education are very important for high school students. Itwill surely beneﬁt their school life and life after.

Topic 126 Can young people teach older people?

Living at the start of the new millennium, in the most advanced technologicalera in history, one is confronted with a plethora ofknowledge and informationwhich itself continues to become outdated by the moment. While young peoplepossess an ability to learn new concepts and absorb information faster andeasier many now products or ideas could be taught to old people iftheypossessed the desire to learn.

The computer, for old people, has emerged as the ﬁrst barrier and stigma. Witha computer, one can work without paper and pencil, obtain useful searches onthe Internet or make online purchases from ones home. However, many olderpeople are not able to do these things since using a computer initially demandsa modicum of knowledge and skill. Ifone has time, there are rewards, however,to teaching our grandparents how to use a computer in order that they coulddiscover the many beneﬁts and pleasure of using a computer.

In addition to new technological products, ideas or concepts that have helpedshape young people can be conveyed to old people. Many old people maintainthat health, for example, suggests an absence of disease. Yet many of us haverealized that the notion ofbeing healthy contains emotional, social and physicalhealth rather than simply living without illness. Such scientiﬁc notions could belearned by old people from their children because young people may acquiresuch new ideas quickly. Why not learn something new from youngsters inorder to adjust to a modern lifestyle and become healthier?

There is no doubt that there are many things we should learn from older peoplesuch as aspects of traditional culture or some valuable, life-teaching experience.But in modern society it is the young who, at the forefront of the era, possessupdated knowledge, positioning old people to learn from those younger.

Topic 126 Can young people teach older people?

Who says only old people can teach young people? We admit that older peoplehave much more experiences than our young people, and it is true that they cangive us much guidance when we encounter problems or unsolvable difﬁculties.However, with the rapid development of the modern society, young people canalso teach the older people a lot. They can update knowledge about newtechnologies for the elders, share attitudes towards life with them and bringfreshness into their lives.

Since living in a very fast developing society, we need to make contact withmany new technologies everyday. In other words, we need to learn everyday tokeep up with the latest development. For example, computers are now verypopular, but we seldom see the elders use computers. Ifthey can learn how touse them from young people, they will deﬁnitely be beneﬁcial from it becausecomputers have brought a lot of changes to our lives and bring us newexperiences. Young people are known for their quick understanding andacceptance new things, so that I think they can teach the older about newtechnologies used in our daily life.

The attitudes of young people are totally different from old people. Mostly theyare more positive and energetic than old people. They have a different angle tojudge things. Sometimes the elders are passive towards life because they wentthrough a lot of ﬁustrations. On the contrary, young people are full of energytowards the life, and they are always optimistic. They proudly say because theyare young, they can try millions of times. In some degree, young people'sattitudes may inﬂuence old people.

Young people also can share with old people what they like, which may result achange of old people. As we know, most young people like popular music. Ihave a friend who likes Japanese music very well; everyday she plays thismusic at home. Her grandmother often asks her to stop the music and asks herwhy she likes it. My friend tells her grandmother about the history ofJapanese music and shows her a lot of examples. Gradually her grandmotherlikes Japanese music as well, which made us so surprised. Now ifwe go totheir house, we can see my friend and her grandmother listening Japanesemusic together and share the feelings as well. You must be surprised like mewhen you know the story, but it did happen.

So, no matter what age group you belong to, we must believe that everyone hassomething to share with others and to teach others. Old people can give theyoungsters‘ lessons and guidance, on the other hand, young people also canteach the elders new things and different ways towards life.

Topic 126 Can young people teach older people?

To my ear this statement sounds false and a little too fare-fetched. It is truthuniversally acknowledged that the old people have volumes of experience,while the young have the energy and lots of creative power. Therefore I thinkthat it's not suitable to take sides in this situation. Because in my view there isno way to determine who is better - the old or the young.

Obviously, each of these groups has its own positives and negatives. I supposethey should co-operate and be helpful to one another rather than try to rival.The exchange should be done for their own mutual beneﬁts. Even though theold people possess a great deal of experience, it is sometimes not enough forsurviving in the changing modern world. That's why they often get stuck withtheir dated information, without being able to break free from their ownprejudice.

In many cases the old people are used to their old ways and, I imagine, it mustbe really hard for them to get adjusted to the new environment. But one shouldalways remember that, like it or not, only the ﬁttest survive. Therefore, iftheold people don't want to become extinct as dinosaurs did, they should ratherlearn some ways from the young. The thing is that the young people are waymore ﬂexible to all of the little changes happening in their everyday life. It iseasier for them to get up-to-date and to face the fact that some old ways are nolonger valid. For them it is not a difﬁcult thing to come to terms with. I guessthat this is something that could be of some use for the elder people as well. Ifthey have lots of experience to give, the young can teach them lots of ﬂexibilityrn return.

In fact, I personally think that there are many things that the young can teacholder people and ﬂexibility is just one of them. But the problem is sometimesthat the old are very unlikely to be willing to accept this kind of searching withtheir arms wide open. Most of the times they are conservative and prefer tostick to their old ways.

Topic 126 Can young people teach older people?

An English proverb goes, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." With all duerespect to this folk wisdom, I have to admit that it sounds somewhat dated tome. At the same time I agree that almost every saying has a grain of truth to it,and this one is no exception. Nor is another one? There is no fool like an oldfool. As it can easily be seen, the two sayings contradict each other, which mayseem terribly confusing. Nevertheless I would like to pursue the subject atsome length and try to ﬁnd out which one is in the right.

It goes without saying that the old dog has quite a lot of experience. During its lifetime it has learnt a lot of different tricks that now make it feel happy andcontent with itself. I believe it deserves all kind of respect and admiration, sinceit has done a pretty good job. But one should always remember that the kind oftricks it has been doing up to now are old-fashioned and not up-to-dateanymore. There now exists a marvelous opportunity to do all of them overagain in a better, more sophisticated way. It is not surprising that a young dogwould be way more dexterous in performing those tricks.

Moreover, it can create some innovative, brand-new ways that an old dog hasnever even dreamed about. Therefore I suppose that the old dog shouldappreciate this never-ending source of energy and ideas, and maybe even pickup some of them. Ifthe old dogs don't want to be considered off-the-shelf, theyshould rather be ﬂexible and get with the times. "You are never too old to learn" shrewdly reminds them another popular saying. But still there is no wayfor the mature dogs to humbly imitate their own puppies. It is advisable forthem to share the accumulated knowledge with the young, to be more helpfuland willing to co-operate.

At the same time, all of this will be accepted more easily ifthe old dogs don't try to impose their experience on the young. Then the latter would undoubtedlygreet their teachings with their arms wide open. Both the old and the youngshould never forget that they are living in the same world that belongs equallyto the ﬁrst group as to the second. Even though the modern world is changingall the time, there still are ways to get adjusted to it for both.

All metaphors aside, I guess that the young and the old must be very loyal toeach other. They should exchange their experience and whatever else they haveto give to each other. To get back to where I started? Nor the ﬁrst nor thesecond saying is totally correct. As usual, the truth is somewhere in the middle.

Topic 127 Reading ﬁction vs. watching movies

Watching movies is a much better option compared to reading ﬁction. So Idisagree that reading ﬁction is more enjoyable than watching movies. In factmovies provide a ﬁrst hand experience with real emotions. Also movies can bewatched with the company of others, thus making for healthy relationships.

Movies are generally much better received compared to novels or short stories.They tend to be much more exciting and surely provide real-time ﬁrst handexperience. Reading ﬁction, more often than not, gives only vicarious pleasure.

Also movies are a much better option for real emotions. The scenes,physiognomy of characters and background music all add up to a greatexperience. Howsoever good a piece of ﬁction is, it leaves much to be desired.The way movies exhibit a wide gamut of emotions and experiences are difﬁcultto ﬁnd in ﬁction books.

Another major reason for movies being more enjoyable is that one can watchmovies in company of others. No such sharing is possible in reading ﬁction.There is nothing like enjoying a movie with the person you love, or your familymembers, it provides the warmth to make for a pleasurable experience.

In conclusion, I derive much greater fun, joy and excitement from watchingmovies, than by reading ﬁction. According to me, movies will always hold theupper hand.

Topic 128 Physical exercise vs. academic study

I am surely of the opinion that physical exercise should be a required part ofevery school day. Even a small session of exercise, but a regular one, can go along way to give a balanced body. The rest of the school day can take care ofacademic studies. The common saying ‘All work and no play makes John a dullchild’ holds water here. Also a balanced body allows one to have a balancedmind on top of it. A small part of the day devoted to exercise can take a longway in preventing future health risks. Moreover in the age of fast-food gettingrid of the couch potato image is essential for today's young generation.

It can easily be reasoned that students have better concentration ifthey exerciseregularly. The mind runs fresh only ifthe body supports it. Students alwaysneed a break from the daily tedious lectures, and exercise can provide it in thebest way.

Another important reason to have daily physical exercise is its long-termbeneﬁts. Researchers have shown that daily dose of exercise can greatly reducethe risks of many diseases, especially heart problems. Physical exercise can actas a handy weapon against the rising obesity at school students.

For maintaining good health, one always needs to do physical exercise daily. Sowhy not do it in the discipline of the school? An entire day of academic studiescan make life dull for students, and exercise can act as a pleasant escapade.

Topic 129 Business research vs. agricultural research

There are two kinds of opinions concerning the plan to develop a researchcenter in our country. One is to develop a business research center and the other,a agriculture research center. Taking consideration of the current situation inChina, I strongly recommend the former because it will help to solve the urgentproblems in our country.

First of all, a business research center will help to develop the economy. At present, the global economy is slowing down and there is no evidenceindicating that the recovery will come any time soon. Our biggest tradingpartners such as the United States and Japan fall into economic plight. As result,the exportations to those countries and direct investment from them aredecreasing. The most important task is how to keep the economy growinghealthily. The center will help to complete this task by exploring new businessopportunities to increase exporting and helping enterprises adjust themselves.

Secondly, a business research center will help to solve the problem ofunemployment. With the reform of state owned enterprises, more and moreworkers employed by those enterprises lost their jobs. Our economic reformand adjustment is going through a vital stage. A business research center willhelp the enterprise ﬁgure out how to solve this problem and the unemployedpeople will have a chance to get jobs in new business ﬁelds.

Finally, it will help to solve China's rural problems. China has a big population,and nearly 70 percent of its population is farmers, namely, 700million farmersin China. Now the rural problem is focused on farmers who have been releasedfrom arable lands with the development of new technology can get their jobs. Abusiness research center will help to develop rural economy in the industrialand service ﬁelds that can absorb the enormous number of farmers.

Based on the reasons I present above. I believe a business center will play a strong role at present than a agriculture research center does. As result, I support the plan to develop a business research center in our country.

Topic 129 Business research vs. agricultural research

It is a well-established fact that science from the very beginning has aimed toserve the community. This has been in the form of taming the nature forces,alleviating some arduous problems, or improving the mundane life in one formor another. My country is a developing one, and is suffering from someeconomic problems. While agriculture has been the most pervasive hustle sincethe ﬁrst Egyptian stepped into the Nile valley, nevertheless, I prefer thebusiness center to be developed and hereinafter I will present and analyze thisperspective.

Agriculture is responsible for providing the community with food andsupporting some industries. For my country, there is no persistent conﬂict inproviding food. Moreover, no conﬂict exists regarding the necessary watersupply. Not denying that researches in agriculture will produce new generationsof crops that consume less water, produce more nourishment, resist diseases, orrequire fewer pesticides. However, in my perspective, we must provide morejobs to increase the income of families and hence supply them with adequatefund that will motivate the economy wheel. This attitude will result in morepurchases and hence the necessity for increasing the agricultural productionwill arise. But ﬁrst we must begin with research center that supports theeconomy.

To support the economy, provide more jobs, and increase the annual income percapita, we must focus on the most lucrative activities. Agriculture is consideredwithin the least proﬁtable activities. While business fortiﬁes all aspects of theeconomy, business research will improve sales of marketing centers, providethe industry with new ideas based on the requirements of the customers.Moreover, business will assert the economic side of management systems offactories and governmental facilities.

Ultimately, universities should provide the community with more researchesand scientiﬁc potential in the ﬁeld that exclusively support the welfare of the community. Keeping this in mind, business centers will be the right choice.

Topic 129 Business research vs. agricultural research

Since the announcement of the University's plan to develop a new researchcenter in our country, many people have showed their concern for the projectand expressed their views of type of center it should be. It is now clear that thediversiﬁed views have converged to two: a business research center or anagriculture research center. Now that we have to make a decision, I think weshould choose the latter without hesitation.

As everybody knows, our country is an agricultural country whose farmingproduce is not enough to feed its own people. We have no way out but todevelop our agriculture because agriculture is the foundation of our nationaleconomy and because it would be a disaster to the whole world ifwe rely onforeign food to feed the biggest population in the world.

To develop our agriculture, we cannot just call on the peasants to work harderbecause they have being working the hardest from generation to generation.What we should do is to raise their educational level and provide them withbetter seeds, more fertilizers, advanced machinery and equipment, and up-to-date technical advice. In short, we have to rely on science and technology todevelop our agriculture.

Some people would say that this couldn't be a convincing reason becausescience and technology are needed not only in agriculture but also in all otherﬁelds. My view is that our situation in agriculture is the most serious and thechallenges are the greatest. Ours is a big country with widely different climatesand soil conditions. Ifwe are to assist the peasants, we have to study all typesof crops and all the farming conditions in this land. With a research center,these problems can be studied and solved systematically. But so far, noagriculture research center worthy of the name has been set up while there isalready a business center in the southern part of the country.

Because of the above reasons, I strongly recommend that we develop a researchcenter for agriculture purpose and I also strongly recommend this center bewell funded. Ifwee take this step and succeed in this endeavor, our agriculturalproduce will be greatly increased and our whole national economy will have asolid foundation.

Topic 130 Should children spend much time on sports?

Currently some young children spend a great amount of their time in practicing sports. Most parents feel quite happy because sports are good for their kids‘ development and team work spirit, however they are quite worried about some negative effects such as practicing sports occupies too much time, distracts their attentions on schoolwork and loses certain interests on other activities. In my opinion, everything has its good side and bad side. The important thing is to handle it properly.

Admittedly, practicing sports can help children's physical development, which makes them grow faster and stronger than before. As we know, during children's development periods, especially from 10 to 16 years old, sports are really helpful for children to develop. Sports can create a strong body that reduces the possibility of contracting some diseases easily. Definitely we believe that children benefit from sports.

Another good thing is that sports teach us to learn how to corporate with other members in a team. Most sports are team work. If we want to play them well, we must master some skills to care about what our team members are thinking and how to adapt each other to achieve a common goal. Sports are not an individual activity, it needs corporation and mutual understanding. This is not easy to master. Of course, for parents they are delightful to see their children to get this skill from sports.

On the other hand, practicing sports seem to occupy too much of children's spare time to concentrate their schoolwork. As a student, one‘s major task is to study hard and try to learn as much as possible, which needs students to devote much time on study or their spare time. If children devote themselves in practicing sports, it is not denying that they cannot concentrate them on schoolwork at the same time. The consequence of practicing sports too much leads children to distract themselves, which influences their future.

Actually, besides sports, there are still many kinds of activities, such as drawing collecting, good for their developments. If a child is too concentrated on sports, it is inevitable that he will lack of chances to explore other activities and lose some happiness when engaged in different experiences.

Overall, on one hand, we should encourage our children to participate in sports activities; on the other hand, we must also remind them not to be too engaged because they should put study at the first place during their school time. There is a limit of doing everything.

Topic 130 Sports - success all the way

Sports, a great nourishment for body and mind. When we talk about sports, we are not just talking about somebody putting extra amount of exertion into a physical activity, and at the end of the act, being totally consumed and over till the next time. Sports is much more to it, analyzing the true benefits of sports, we could find that a certain amount of time to sports every day not only keeps a

person physically fit, but also mentally at the edge. This is the reason why every form of medicine today, whether be it Alopathy, Homoeopathy or even the alternative ways, all suggest to adapt a routine exercise and the best way to exercise the human body is Sports.

As talking about young children, putting a whole lot of time into Sports is concerned, there is a philosophy behind everything, there is a need to the human body and the human mind. A wise statement says ' excess of anything is dangerous’. Studying this statement we could put forward an example, the most useful thing to human life or rather the element that brings life is ‘water’, even if water is taken in excess, it could have dangerous circumstances. No matter what examples we put forward, excess of anything turns out to be dangerous. Now as to performing sports in proportion is concerned, this proportion varies from person to person, so no set limit could be applied to two individuals, it is the task of an individual himself to find out what exactly his limits are, and that he doesn't end up hurting him or herself.

In the capitalist world of today as there are giant multinational organizations sponsoring individuals or teams, who happen to have some sort of promising ability. So it could be taken for granted, that an entity, if happens to polish his sports skills, could see great success in life, this success would not only mean that he will lead a healthy life style, but would as well be prosperous and rich.

Thus striking the right balance, into the time given into sports and other activities would surely mean success, but after all is said, one word should always stay in a sports persons mind that is ‘Balance’.

Topic 131 Money and success

The notion of success holds different meanings for different people and groups.Such meanings have changed and evolved over time. Actually, many proposethat possessing an abundance of money implies success. However, this view isrendered obsolete in the minds of those individuals who hold that one‘s successcannot be measured strictly by money.

Material possession has been traditionally accepted as the measurement of one‘ssuccess or social status. When we initially refer to someone, we routinelymention how much money he owns and thereby believe this individual to bequite successful ifhe is wealthy. In addition to this perpetuated concept,owning a lot of money is typically related to one‘s work ability and thus somepeople may simply consider money as a prime measurement of one‘s success.

However, this view has changed recently since many people have come torecognize that money in many cases cannot bring about happiness, health andsuccess. A more precise, contemporaneous deﬁnition of success means doingthe things one perceives are valuable to themselves and beneﬁcial for others.The winner of the Nobel Prize for peace may think he is has achieved successalthough he is rewarded little ﬁnancial beneﬁt. A person who loves animals andmakes an effort to save animals that are on a path of extinction may think hehas gained success although he may have expended all of his money on hiscareer.

Another individual may deﬁne success as being able to make artisticmasterpieces that can be accepted by public. As a composer, success is havinghis work praised by adoring fans and who help cause the work to be bought theworld over. Similarly, holding an exhibition in a famous art gallery mayconnote success for a painter.

People adhere to various concepts deﬁning success. Money surely cannot bethe only measurement of success. Acquiring true happiness in life and attainingsuccess means having the freedom and capability of doing that which you enjoyand believing it to be valuable.

Topic 131 Money and success

Since people's criteria for success differ, there is much debate over whetheronly those who make a lot of money are successful. As far as I am concerned,in today's society that stresses on individual achievement, money provides thebest evaluation of one‘s accomplishment.

To begin with, as a standardized measurement used for comparing values,money is objective rather than subjective, so it is considered an authenticreﬂection of one‘s achievement. As different people hold differentunderstandings of success, assessing the amount of one‘s earnings has becomeuniversally accepted as a rule to measure one‘s success. Each year, FortuneMagazine publishes a special issue to rank the top 100 most successful peoplethroughout the world according to their yearly income, because there are noother methods to rely on.

In addition, the amount of money one makes is the consequence of one‘s hardwork and talent. To deny the accomplishment wealth brings is equal to deny thesources from which it springs. In the past, I only believed in spiritual valuesand then leapt rashly to the conclusion that the best thing in life involves nomoney at all. It is my uncle who showed me the signiﬁcance of money andchanged my opinion. He told me he respected money and made it a goal tostrive for in his way towards success. Because he would have to pay a price forit in terms of time, thought and energy. Gradually, I came to realize it is themental and physical labor he devotes in the process of making money thatpaves his way for self-accomplishment, and thus deserves appreciation andrespect.

Finally, money is the most powerful possession in one‘s lifetime. As everyoneknows, success is the ability to do whatever one wants to and to be satisﬁedwith oneself. There is hardly anything that can be done without a certainamount of money. Indeed, with money, one can meet his or her materialdemand in life, such as taking effective medicines, living in magniﬁcent houseseating various delicious food, and so on. Also, with money, one can do a lot ofmeaningful things to beneﬁt others, such as donations to poor people. All thesewill not only satisfy one‘s need for personal fulﬁllment, but also add grandnessto one‘s success.

In conclusion, money serves as a measurement of one‘s achievement. But weshould keep in mind that only those who obtain money by hardworking and useit to beneﬁt the society are really successful.

Topic 132 What new product would you develop?

I live in a place where the environment is being degraded alarmingly and thedesert is expanding rapidly. Subsequently, the people around here are sufferinga lot from this vicious environmental vicissitude. So to change the currentsituation is a great challenge for the people living here. I believe to invent anelectronic plant grower is signiﬁcant to curb the environmental degradation.

Firstly, weather condition is too severe to grow any plants here. It is notefﬁcient for us to afforest in such a vast area either. Furthermore, ifthe plantscould not get the basic supplies like water, amicable weather conditions, it isalmost impossible for plants to survive. The invention of electronic plantgrower could be scientiﬁc enough, when it plants grass or trees, it willautomatically put solid ice and other trace elements which could enhance theviability of plants. Thus, the newly planted plants could easily survive in it.

Secondly, the electronic plant grower could do a lot of onerous works in theﬁeld and tolerate unfavorable weather. It can extend to the most remote place towork where there are no residents at all, but could build up effective protectionbarrier to mitigate sandstorm. Furthermore, the electronic plant growersconsume no water, which is precious resource in the desert. They can work dayand night and take full time ofplanting season to plant as much as plants.

Thirdly, to afforest in such a vast and tough area, it needs numerous manpowerfor planting in short season and taking care of the plants. As an advanced robot,the invented electronic plant growers could reduce the pressure of manpowerand keep the live human away from the life limit area.

To rehabilitate the environment is important more than anything else here, butthe environmental rehabilitation could not do without some high-tech duplicateof human being like electronic plant grower. So I expect its birth with greathope.

Topic 132 What new product would you develop?

In most countries, people have to spend a lot of time learning a secondlanguage while at school. However, there're hundreds of different languages inthe world, no one can learn them all. One of the most famous philosophers,Marx could speak more than ten different languages, which is alreadyextraordinary for human beings. The difference between languages is a greathandicap of communication between people from countries all over the world.A group ofpeople planned to make a global language and ask everybody tolearn, but ﬁnally the plan failed. Now there is a great need for an invention thatcan solve this problem.

If I could invent something new, I would develop an electronic translator.Unlike electronic dictionary, which can just translate a word into differentlanguages, it can also translate a whole paragraph even a whole book intodifferent languages. What's more, it can even translate the language you speakorally into other languages. For example, when you speak " Hello" in English,it will say "Nihau" in Chinese automatically when you switch it to Chinese.

It's obvious that this kind of invention is needed, and when it's invented, Ibelieve it will spread out to everywhere in the world immediately. Then peoplewill not have to waste a lot of time to learn foreign languages, and thecommunication between people from different countries will become mucheasier. Moreover, it will enhance the speed of globalization, which beneﬁtseverybody in the world.

For it to be invented, there's still a long way to go. But the science andtechnology is developing and more and more new things have been invented. Inthe future, the electronic translator will be invented, and it will bring peoplemore convenience.

Topic 132 What new product would you develop?

People will normally invent something that they want very much in the real lifeIf they had the ability. As a father of a two-year-old boy, I would make a babysitter robot. The reasons are as follows.

In the ﬁrst place, a baby-sitter robot can take care of my baby when I go towork. There will be a dilemma in front of parents when they have a child, whoshould stay at home and who should continue to work, mother or father? With ababy-sitter robot, they do not need to make a choice. Parents will no longergive up their jobs because of their child.

In the second place, a baby-sitter robot can make my baby stay away fromdanger. A person cannot concentrate on one thing 24 hours a day. It will bedangerous when he/she is taking care of a baby. A baby is so unpredictable thatyou never know what he/she will do in the next minute. For instance, the babymay swallow a coin or fall to the ground from the bed when you just do notlook at him/her for a second.

However, a robot does not have such a problem because she is never tired. Shecan keep an eye on the baby all the time. Any potential dangerous action willbe prevented. Even when the baby is sleeping, the robot can still watch thebaby ifyou want. In addition, a baby-sitter robot can entertain the baby. Songsand stories can be inputted in the robot's memory and replayed whenever thebaby needs them. It is so easy to change them that the baby will never be boredon one song or story.

In conclusion, I would like to invent a baby-sitter robot not only because it cantake care of my baby for me, but also because it can make my baby safe andhappy.

Topic 133 Are childhood years most important in one‘s life?

It is about time somebody exploded that holy old myth about childhood beingthe most important years of our life. Childhood may certainly be important, butif we compared it with other period if life such as adolescence, I do not see anymore importance.

First of all, parents are absolutely dictators. Children do not have options, or ifthey do, nobody notices. Think of the years when you are a child. Who everasked you an option? I have no such experience, to say the least. Parents choosethe clothes we wear, the books we read and even the friends we play with. Wehave to manipulate so as not to interfere too seriously with the lives of ourelders.

Even so, it is only part of the reason. We have vague memory of most parts ofour childhood. Many of the things we learnt, the happy hours we spent andtroubles we suffered have no trace in our mind at all. Do you still rememberevery quarrel you had with your little friends? Do you clearly remember everytrip you had with your parents or other children? Most ofyou may probably saynay, I think.

However, we may learn a lot when we are children. All these may contain whatwe think of as the most important thing, but we are passive to learn them.Without independence, how can we say childhood is most important period ofour life? So, as I see it, childhood is certainly not the moors important years ofa person's life.

Topic 133 Are childhood years most important in one‘s life?

A person's childhood years are indeed the most important years of his life and Iagree with this statement.

The initial years of childhood are the time when a person learns a lot abouthimself and his family and the society. A child's mind is impressionable and heimbibes values and behavior that he gets to see around him. So the role of hisfamily and school is of utmost importance.

It has been seen that children who get the love and support of their parents andteachers in their childhood turn out be mature and emotionally balancedteenagers and adults. On the other hand, ifwe look at the childhood ofcriminals and other anti social elements, we will ﬁnd that most of them havebeen through tough times as children. They were deprived of proper care andupbringing. Delinquents also have a history of abuse in their childhood many atimes.

Children are always inquisitive and willing to learn. So ifthey are provided astimulating environment in which they can develop their talents and learn toenjoy their work, they become good citizens who are an asset to the nation.Family is the most important institution in a child's formative years becauseparents are role models for their children. Children develop their ethics, moralvalues and temperament in tune with what they see in their parents and eldersiblings. The type of personality that a child develops is difﬁcult to change later

So I ﬁrmly believe that childhood is a vital part of a person's life that plays animportant role in shaping his future.

Topic 134 Should children be required with household tasks?

When children grow up old enough to be able to help with some householdtasks, some parents do insist that their children should take those kind of familyworks as early as they can, I do not think there is any in properties about theparents‘ conclusion.

As a complex activity for children, household tasks will do them good, bothphysically and mentally. When children are about the age of 4 or 5, somesimple tasks such as wiping the kitchen ﬂoor or cleaning their own dishes aftersupper will urge them to balance their using of their forearms and wrists,ﬁngers, and develop their brain power to control all those cooperating activityof arm muscles and their whole nerve system. When they grow up a little more,maybe parents could teach them to operate on washing machines or to usemicrowave-ovens, that kind of activity can make them learn the basic principlesof auto machines, which no doubt will make them to face the outer world in abrand new way.

Helping in family works also can take children into more active communicationwith their families. When parents ﬁrst teach children to use simple tools,children will learn how to understand the instructions clearly, and they maylearn to communicate with other kids taking the same assignment to solve theirown problems. So, family work is not just a kind ofwork assignment forchildren, it is more like a kind of learning process, they can learn not only howto ﬁnish those assignments but also learn how to communicate with each other.

After ﬁnishing those household works assigned to them, kids always getcompliments from their family, this will encourage them to try different thingsin a more creative manner at home or at school the other day.

In a word, I think it is very beneﬁcial for children to take the household tasks asearly as they can, that will make them more active, more intelligent incommunication and more happy in living with their families in harmony.

Topic 134 Should children be required with household tasks?

Should children be required to help with household tasks as soon as they areable to do so? People have different opinions. Some people think that parentscan do all the household tasks without children's help, children are still tooyoung to do house work and sometimes they even make things worse. Otherpeople, however, argue that it is very useful for children to take part in thehousehold work. As far as I am concerned, I agree with the second opinion.

In the ﬁrst place, children may have the sense of contribution when they takepart in household tasks. After a child was born, the parents are always the partthat gives, such as feeding, changing clothes, and bathing the baby. Others helpchildren because they are too young to do these tasks. When they grow up, theywill gradually have the ability to do something, such as washing clothes forthemselves, cleaning the room for themselves. Ifthey are required to do whatthey can do, after ﬁnishing their jobs and looking at the result of their jobs,such the clean clothes and the clean room, children will have a strong sense ofcontribution and success, which will help them form a good personal character.

In the second place, participating the household tasks will teach children howto cooperate with other people. For instance, When doing a house cleaning, oneperson cannot ﬁnish it all by oneself. Different tasks should be divided amongseveral people. For example, dad cleans the windows, mom cleans the kitchen,boys clean the ﬂoor and girls decorate the wall. Gradually, children will get toknow that they need to cooperate with others to make things done better andfaster.

Topic 135 Should high school students wear uniforms?

I hate uniforms! It makes all the students look the same. When I am trying toﬁnd my friend from a group of student, I always make mistake because Icannot tell the difference among the girls who are all wearing the same clothes.Moreover, I am always nervous about my uniforms since I may not haveanother one to change into. The other one is still waiting to be washed or is stillwet. After P. E., you cannot identify which coat is mine, so I just take one thatlooks like it. I am sure the coat I am wearing now is not the one I had ﬁrst. Thatis my life with uniforms.

Because everyone is against it, my school revoked this rule. Then, we couldwear everything we want to. But new problems came up. Everyone began tobuy new, brand name, expensive clothes and the campus because a big stage inno time. At last, the uniforms came back to our lives.

Undoubtedly, everyone has the freedom to choose what to wear and, of course,everyone wants to make himself/herself good-looking. But when we are juststudents, study is our ﬁrst important thing to do. Paying too much attention toattire can inﬂuence our study. Furthermore, we may spend too much moneythat is not earned by ourselves but come from our parents‘ hard working.

The reasons above cause more and more schools make a rule to forbid trendydresses or make students wear uniforms. It is not a good way but an effectiveway to solve these problems.

If we want to get rid of uniforms forever, we must solve these problems byourselves instead of the schools rule. We should earn school's trust by ourbehavior, then we can thoroughly say goodbye to uniforms!

Topic 135 Should high school students wear uniforms?

When asked about what to wear to school-uniforms or not, some people holdthe opinion that to wear school uniforms is better than to wear other clothes onewant to in many ways. Others, however, stand a very different ground.Personally, I prefer to wear school uniforms because it has more advantages.

There are numerous reasons for me to believe to wear uniforms are better and Iwould in here explain few important ones. The main reason is that to wearschool uniforms can make the students more concentrate on study. It can begiven a concrete example that students go to a school that requires them weartheir uniforms will surely have less trouble in picking clothes to wear everymorning. And they will not pay their attention to the clothes others wear; thismeans they can be more concentrated on the study.

Another reason why I advocate the attitude of that wearing uniforms is betterlies in the fact that the uniforms is specially designed for the students. I believeit suits for them very much and can do well to the students at school. On thecontrary, some of the students do not know what is good for them, and willchoose some clothes that do not suit them or even do harm to them. All thesedemonstrate the undeniable fact that to wear uniforms at school is better.

Of course, choosing to decide what to wear to school also have advantages tosome extend, this enable the students to develop the habit of making choice allby themselves, that is to make decision themselves. If all the factors arecompleted, the advantages of wearing uniforms carry more weight than that ofnot. From what we have discussed above, we may safely draw the conclusionthat wearing uniform at school is better.

Topic 135 Should high school students wear uniforms?

My high schools required us a few years ago to wear school uniforms.Somehow this requirement is not mandatory anymore, therefore only a coupleof students have decided to wear the uniform from time to time. Other highschools in my town never required such things as a uniform, so the decision ofthe principal brought a lot of contradictory discussions.

In my opinion, the fact that this requirement did not last is a conﬁrmation of thefact that it was not a good idea. First of all, I consider that what we wearexpresses our personality. Our clothes tell a lot about the type of person we are,so an outﬁt established by others means a denial of expressing ourselves. It isalso true that we cannot wear at school fancy clothes, like when we go out withour friends, for example. But even if some ofus decide to wear extravagantclothes, I think this issue concerns only them. They establish an image ofthemselves and therefore they will be regarded as they wish to be regarded.

Teachers told us that we should be proud to wear the high school uniform whenpeople recognize us on the streets, saying that we belong to the best high schoolin town. We were not exactly regarded as eminent students, especially by ourcolleagues from other schools. I believe that the way in which we behave andthe way we think shows better what kind of an education we have than the factthat we are wearing gray clothes, which we do not even like. The schoolyardlooked so strange when we were coming out from classes. All of us in darkuniforms, as ifwe were alike. We were not, and we should also show that topeople surrounding us.

It's my belief that requiring high school uniforms is an unnecessary thing. Aprestigious high school is not a high school who likes to show off with itsstudents, but one who lets the students express themselves freely.

Topic 135 Should high school students wear uniforms?

It is a confusing question to decide whether to wear regulative school uniformsor not. As far as I am concerned, although school uniforms will not makeeveryone satisﬁed, the advantages ofwearing school uniforms outnumber thoseof the opposite views.

The ﬁrst and the most important function of school uniforms is let youngstudents focus on studying, not diverting to compete with other classmates’clothes. If school uniforms do not exist, being easily impressible, children willpay much attention to what their friends and stars on TV wear to showfashionable, fancy and stylistic pattern. It is reasonable to make the youngpeople wear uniform to prevent them from diversion of studying.

Furthermore, school uniforms save money for students‘ parents. Because oflove, they hardly refuse to buy new clothes for their children even though theyreally do not need yet. The young consider little about money and have smallresistance to the temptations of the fashionable T-shirts and jeans, and theirparents usually spoil their children. So school uniforms can help students learnﬁugality, plainness and neatness are much more worthy than fashion.

The last but not the least reason for school uniform is to strength the spirits ofstudents‘ organization and the obeying of regulations. That moral practice willbeneﬁt them to the preparation for future occupation and experience.

In short, school uniforms are in use of students’ study distraction, ﬁugality, andmoral beneﬁts. We can safely draw the conclusion that school uniforms arevaluably recommended.

Topic 136 Is Winning the most important aspect of playing a game?

To my way of thinking all the humanity is bit by bit losing the very importantstrain of enjoying life as a process not only gaining any proﬁt. As it ishappening with all life throughout, then it concerns the playing games as well.Of course some kind of award, at least wining, is very important to gain senseof complacence and self-confidence, but it should not be the main purpose ofplaying games. Therefore I strongly disagree with the opinion that playinggame is fun only when you win. Here go my reasons:

First of all, the main purpose of the game is to enjoy the game as the processand through this process to communicate with other players you are playingwith. This is extremely important both when you are keep playing with yourfamily members, and with your friends. Ifplaying with our family and friendswere fun for us only when won, it would loose its main purpose ofbringing joyof comrnunicating with other people through the game; be it more seriousgames, for example Chess, or simple games with the ball. Therefore it is veryimportant to teach people this kind ofplaying from early childhood.

Secondly, there exist games, especially popular in the western world, serioussport competitions, as basketball, tennis or football. In this case playing gamebrings joy only when it ends by winning, for they are supported by terms ofmoney and recognition. Then, I think, games gain a strained meaning, becausesometimes they more look like war actions, rather than competitive games. Inthis case is very important not to loose the human proprieties and game may befascinating as well.

At the end I would say, that it is very important for people of different ages tolearn to gain fun and joy from games without winning, just communicating andgetting more acknowledge with other people through the game. Because, to myway of thinking, that is the main purpose of the game.

Topic 136 Is Winning the most important aspect of playing a game?

The statement in the direction is a long-term consideration of many peopleincluding me. Many people will argue that playing a game is only fun whenyou win. I, however, after thinking about it on many occasions, decide to standup against this view for the following reasons.

The ﬁrst and the most important reason for my opposing the idea is that playinga game, no matter you win or lose, helps release a person from the heavypressure, in most cases, resulted from intellectual activities. There is no betterexample than myself when I was trying so hard to enter the university. At thattime, when I was too exhausted to memorize any single incident in the historybook, a play of badminton would reﬁll me with fresh energy to go back to mystudies, though I hardly won any of these badminton games as my partner is anexcellent player. Therefore, the biggest advantage ofplaying games lies in thefact that it helps people relaxed.

Another reason for my disagreement is that one will ﬁnd out his or her capacityof making progress while playing a game. When learning a new game, ifyouropponent is a more mature player than you are, it is for sure that you will notwin him or her at the beginning, but in the process of the game, ifyou are aconscientious player, you will deﬁnitely learn to grasp the basic skills of acertain game, which enable you to play better and better. Consequently, theawareness of your ability in learning new things is the best award you can ﬁndin game playing.

Therefore, I will conclude by saying that playing a game itself is worthwhileand to win or not to win is not a matter to concern since you could get rid of thefeeling of exhaustion and conﬁrm your conﬁdence as a learning-capable being.

Topic 136 Is Winning the most important aspect of playing a game?

Recently, many people argue as if it is a general truth that playing a game is funonly when you win. In various games and matches, the main aim of playersfrom both sides seems to be winning. And winning is not only for the playersthemselves, but also for the honor of their team, and even for that of theirnation. But to be frankly, I cannot agree with them. There are numerous reasons,and I would explore only a few primary ones here.

The main problem with this argument is that the real meaning of a game is toenjoy the process of the game; the result, whether it is win or lose, does notseem matter. Think of the original games of our ancestors, the goal is to showtheir love of sports, their physical strength and celebrating the hunting. And thetrue intention of their game is for relaxation and amusement. Another goodexample is that children enjoy playing games more than adults. When we watchchildren play, we can understand that they are more concentrate on the gameitself, and do not care for the result. There are to young to realize theimportance ofwinning the game, therefore they enjoy it more.

If the players play a game for winning, they will concentrate on scores toomuch, and forget to enjoy the game. In this society, everyone want to be winner,for they will not only win the honor, but also win fame, money, and so on. Inthe same way, the loser will lose everything. It seemed that playing a gamebecome a way to get material comfort, but not fulﬁllment of spirit.

Furthermore, when players play a game for winning, they face the stress fromthe team, even for the nation, and they struggle to win. Sometimes, players doeverything by fair means or foul in order to win. They may use illegal drugs, orbribe the judges. There are various scandals about athlete almost in everyinternational game, and this thing become more and more serious. These are allbecause the results of games have been linked to money and the honor of acountry.

General speaking, when you only want to win, you will lose the fun of playinga game. Taking into account of all these factors, we may reach the conclusionthat, it is wiser to learn to enjoy playing without regard of the result of game.

Topic 137 Should high schools allow students to choose subjects?

There are lots of debates among parents, educators and students on the issue ofwhether or not to allow students to study the courses that students want to study.It seems to be reasonable to many people that allowing students to choose thecourse they want can inspire their learning interest and ﬁnd their talents oncertain subjects and pursue further development. But ifwe take a deeperconsideration, it is not difﬁcult to make the judgment that to ensure the studentshave a comprehensive knowledge domain is the main objective of high schooleducation, therefore I disagree with the idea of allowing students to study anycourses that they want to study.

As we all know, the main purpose of school education is to provide asystematic education to all students. In order to let students be educated in allaspects, the curriculums have to be researched and predeﬁned by professionaleducation institute. Ifwe allow students to select course, we cannot guaranteeall necessary courses to be covered in the regular class time. Moreover, bothparents and educators believe that high school education shall provide eachstudent a fundamental knowledge base that is essential to their futuredevelopment in the society. It is the school's responsibility to enforce the ruleand make sure that all the necessary knowledge is to be taught.

On the other hand, we may consider introducing some optional courses to thehigh school curriculums so the students can choose some of the courses withinthe limitation of a big syllabus. For example, for an art classes, the school canoffer music and painting courses and each student can choose either one ofthem according to his or her personal interest. But this is not to say that thestudents should have the freedom to choose any course.

In conclusion, high school education is a standardized process in which majorcourses shall be predeﬁned and we need to make sure students are educated inall necessary ﬁelds and build a foundation for the development after highschool.

Topic 138 Member vs. leader

I agree with the statement that being a member of a group is far better thanbeing leader of the same due to that an individual can adapt certain qualities.Major among them are compromising abilities, sincerity and doing workperfectly free from extemal pressures.

Firstly being a member of a team acquires the ability to compromise and tocooperate with other members. Both ofwhich are very helpful for an individualto cope with future life and to develop strong characters. Teamwork by itselfincreases social skills and develops friendly attitude among teammates. Everymember freely mingles with each other and shares his responsibility in times ofneed. For example if a co-worker falls sick, he is taken good care and othermembers will share upon his duty.

Secondly comes sincerity, a member in team is always under strict control andsupervision of the leader. As a result ofwhich he is very careful not to makemistakes and performs his tasks accurately and attentively. For example, ifamember in the group has to come to work at 9. 00am, he comes there wellbefore time and never gives chance to anyone to comment that he arrived late.

Finally comes the quality ofwork that is always done perfectly by a memberbecause he is free from extemal pressures, unlike his team leader. Neither heneed to worry about the outcome nor take the headaches of any failures in thefuture. So he does his best in doing work with complete satisfaction withoutworrying about the results. For example, many higher authorities and pressuresof outcome of the game inﬂuence a captain in a baseball team. In doing so hemay not perform up to the mark and may lose his concentration at theplayground. On the other hand an ordinary player has no tensions and pressuresand mostly he becomes the main person to win the game.

In order to build a strong character by acquiring qualities like compromising,sincerity, and doing work perfectly with free mind it is better to be a member ina group rather leading it.

Topic 138 Member vs. leader

According to my opinion, it is always better to be a leader than a follower. Trueleader show initiative. They take actions and they assume responsibilities. Aleader makes a decision. Some followers may approve of the decision, othersmay complain about it. However, these followers all chose to follow, not to leadThey chose not to make a decision. That's how I am different. I am not afollower. I want to make decisions.

A good leader will not react to events, but will anticipate them. A leader willstart a plan of action and then will persuade others to follow. For example, aclass president at a local college may feel that the relationship between thecommunity and the campus is not a good one. The citizens may feel that thecollege kids make too much noise on the street, litter public areas, and shop inother communities. A good class president will recognize that the communityand the campus depend on one another. The president will ask the student bodyto keep noise down, help clean up the neighborhood, and work with businessesto attract students. A good leader takes the initiative.

Good leaders must be action-oriented. Having taken the initiative, they mustsee the job though. They have to take charge and lead the followers. They haveto motivate and encourage the followers. The followers (in this example, thestudent body) must understand why good relations with the community arenecessary. The followers must be persuaded to do something about it.

I enjoy taking the initiative, determining the direction, and being responsiblefor my actions. I do not want to suffer through other people's stupid decisions.If there are going to be stupid ways to do something, let them be mine. Wouldnot you agree?

Topic 138 Member vs. leader

One of the most frequently confronted situations of modem life is to beincluded in a group as a member or to strive for the leadership of a group. Amember will have to follow the leader's order, an argument goes, but he willfeel less pressure, thanks to fewer responsibilities. I'm afraid I can hardly agreewith this argument as far as it goes. For me, two advantages of the leadershipstand out with great force.

Firstly, common senses lead us to the conclusion: a leader is the core of a groupor an organization and has the supreme power in it. Winner of the competitiveelections, a leader meanwhile wins the authority of dealing with the affairswithin the group in his own way. Generally speaking, everyone will hope thathis personal point of views can be adopted to solve certain problems. When itcomes to members of a group, they may feel free to propose an extraordinaryvariety of suggestions. No matter how proper they may be, it depends on theleader to tum them into ﬁnal decisions or just to deny it. A CEO, the head of acompany, for example. No subordinate dare start a project or invest in aprogram without his permission. In contrast, the CEO will take risks in anunpredictable deal, providing he considers it worthwhile. Obviously, whether aleader or not would make a difference.

And secondly, a leader can make the best of his position to have his workingabilities and social skills developed. Just recall our personal experiences, whichwill support my statement about the second advantage, a more important one.As we grow from children into teenagers, we are proud of organizing a footballmatch or being the key ﬁgure of a game; as we leave adolescence behind andenter adult life, we are eager to play a vital role in campus activities or clubs.But why? The very reason is that we believe it wonderful opportunity toprepare ourselves for future careers by communicating with the people in andout of the group and conquering the difﬁculties facing the group. And so is thefact. An example is my uncle's success as a businessman. Enthusiastic aboutbeing the leader of any group he joined, say, monitor of his class, he wasalways more self-conﬁdent than his peers and his outstanding abilities inmanagement won him good reputations.

I think that such a closer look at the subtle advantages of being a leader offerssome startling surprises to those advocates of being a member of a group. Whydo you still conﬁne your attention to the temporary relaxed feeling of a memberWhy not seek for the beneﬁt in the long run as a leader? Please join us, andanother prominent leader will probably come into being among us.

Topic 138 Member vs. leader

Both a leader and members play crucial roles in a team. However, being a leaderasks for much more talent and special ability in dealing with challenges anddifferent types of people. The truth is that very few people have these qualities.Therefore, I think for majority ofpeople, being a member is better, for that wouldbe the position where one can make the most contribution and make one‘s lifeworthwhile.

First of all, being a member does not mean being less signiﬁcant in the success ofa task. Often enough, people are amazed by the glory of a successful leader, whohas to bear the extra pressure, responsibility and risks to achieve the supremestatue and to gain the power of authority. However, people overlook the vitalcontributions made by the group members and think them as less important. Theyalso forget about the fact that the main body of a group is made up by memberswho is the main driveling force that makes plans into reality. A captain of a ship isthe leader who needs to give instruction on how he wants the ship to be driven. Allother cruise members need to do their jobs well to ensure that the ship go into theright direction at suitable speed. Unlike most ofthe people would have argued thatmembers just simply follow what have been told, I think members also have tothink. It is only that they have to think speciﬁcally in the area of their job insteadof think globally. Most people will work the best with a speciﬁc goal in theparticular area that they are most familiar with.

Secondly, being a member gain no less sense of satisfaction than being a leader.This, of course, depends a lot on one‘s perspective of success. In my point ofview,success means being able to make the best of one‘s ability and to have achievedthe self-motivated goal. Being a member makes no less chance to be successful. Infact, most people will perform better in this less stressful state, compared to thehighly pressured nature of a leader's work. Knowing that his accomplishment ofthe assigned task contribute to the overall success of the group, and the vital rolehe has played in supporting other members and the leader, one can appreciate thefruit of success.

Last but not least, being a member means more involvement with the actualprocess of the work and naturally leads to closer bond with other colleagues.Usually, after working closely together after a period of time in a project, a mutualunderstanding naturally develops between the members. This would take a leadergreat effort and maybe a long time to be regarded as member of the party. There isfamous Chinese traditional saying that goes, "one cannot stand the cold for beingup there." It is a well reﬂection of the loneliness to be a leader. On the other hand,one can be embedded in a family of coordinators who understand each other welland easily help and support each other.

All in all, besides the common opinion about more free time and more leisurelifestyle of being a member instead of leader, I think the above three points arestrong enough to show that it is better to be a member for most of the people.

Topic 138 Member vs. leader

The question of which is better, being a member or the leader of a group, is acomplex and controversial issue. Some people think that they would rather bemembers of a group than the leader of it, while others maintain an oppositeview. As far as I am concerned the latter view carries more weight. Leadershipis a difﬁcult issue and requires lots of personal skills. I will try to express myposition more clearly.

On one hand, leadership is a challenging and demanding task. Being a leader,you will not only be in the position of taking initiatives, but also have todevelop plans and make decisions. Furthermore, it is up to you to carry out thegroup goals and plans and listen to suggestions from the group members. As aconsequence, the group leader needs to spend a lot of time and energy on groupaffairs than the group members. Only in this way can the group achieve itsevery goal.

On the other hand, being a member of the group is obviously less challengingand less demanding. A lot ofpeople are qualiﬁed and available as being groupmembers; therefore you can ﬁnd a replacement for most group members easily.Whereas the leader is much harder to replace: since his role is of moreimportance, and fewer people are well qualiﬁed for this position. For example,a few years ago, Margareta Ley, the owner and director of ESCADA, a famouscosmetics company died. Even today there is still a big hole in the companyaccount due to the decreasing sales volume resulted from her absence. No onein the company was capable enough to ﬁll her position.

From the point of view of a successful group, it is very important that everygroup member is cooperative and knows how to work as a team. One of themost important tasks of the group leader is to facilitate communications andcooperation among the group members.

To conclude, being a leader of a group is much more challenging and rewardingthan being a member. Having a good leader is of vital importance for the group.One bad member may not make any change at all to the group, whereas a badleader would ruin a group's success.

Topic 139 What is the most important room in a house?

Every room in a house plays a special role in our life. The living room mainlyprovides people with a place of entertainment, the dining room a place ofhaving dinner, the storeroom a place of storing sundries, the study room theplace of studying, and the bedroom a place of sleeping. In my opinion, amongall these rooms, the bedroom is the most important room in a house. This pointof view is based on the following reasons.

First of all, people commonly spend most of their life in bedrooms. Normalpeople spend 7-9 hours in the bedroom that is about one thirds of a whole day.If people pay enough attention to their bedroom, they will actually make mostof their lifetime better. For example, if people have fresh air in their bedroom,that means they breathe fresh air in one third of their lifetime. As for otherrooms, since people don not have to stay such a long time, their important aremuch less.

Secondly, bedrooms provide people a really private space. Different peoplehave different tastes. In this private space, people can assign the environment astheir will. They can decide the color of the wall, the arrangement of thefurniture and the little decoration in their own bedrooms. Furthermore, iftheywant to be completely alone for thinking independently or just for quiet,staying in their own bedroom will be the best choice. This is another reasonwhy a bedroom is the most important room of a house.

Lastly, good bedrooms can always help people have a good sleep which canmake people recover from the tire gained from the daily work and wellprepared for the following day. Suppose having not slept well for several days,people will be slow both in their thinking and action and they will even feel ill.On the contrary, with a good sleep, people will have a good mood and goodenergy. In the daytime, they will act effectively and they will probably do agood job. Thus their conﬁdence will be increased. Therefore, bedrooms are themost important for it has big connection with the quality of the other time ofpeople.

In conclusion, if you want to make most of your life time better, ifyou want toenjoy a really private space and ifyou want to get best prepared for thefollowing days, give enough attention to your bedrooms. Bedrooms provide usthe basic factors in our life. Therefore the bedroom is the most important one ina house.

Topic 139 What is the most important room in a house?

What do I consider the most important room in the house? Why is this roommore important to me than any other rooms? As the questions pops up beforeme, so do the images of the various rooms in my house. I think that I considerthe dining room to be the most important room of the house.

First of all, this is the room where all the members of the family sit downtogether, at least for dinner. This brings closeness among the various membersof the family. It also gives each of the members an opportunity to relate his/herexperiences during the day and share those of others. It is here where tensionsdie down when mother cracks a joke or dad relates a humorous incident of hisjob.

Secondly, this is where we feed and nourish ourselves. It serves as a pointwhere you stop, even for a minute(like moming rush hours),and grab yourbread and milk. The dining room serves as a showroom of the kitchen bringingthe not-so-good looking vegetables appear mouth-watering. This is where youtake your food normally.

Thirdly it is the room to which you tum too when a large number ofrelativesarrive. Set up some more chairs and you are ready to take care of all of them.Can you do this in the bedroom or the bedroom? Some will suggest outdoors asan altemative but do all people have the luxury of a lawn? And what ifit'sraining? Turn to the dinning room!

In concluding, I would like to say that the dining room seems to be the mostimportant of all rooms in the house. It is a nourishment point, an expansion unitand a family hub, all combined into one. I consider it as the server of themodem home, networking all aspects into one entity.

Topic 140 Hand vs. machine

From my point of view, there are many factors affecting whether to choose anitem made by hand or by machine. The main factor to make a judgment iswhether we use the item for our daily life or for collection and decorationpurposes.

For items used in our daily life, the choices we make depend on the followingfactors: function, form, and price. Function is the most important thing for us.If a product is beautiful, but it is not able to perform the function, it can only becalled a decoration, or a piece of garbage. For example, when we buy a TV,what we really care about ﬁrst it is the quality of the picture and sound, howmany stations it can receive, and whether it can be connected easily to the VCRand DVD player at home. The second factor that affects our choice of a productfor daily use is its form. Is the TV too big, too small, or too ugly? Will it ﬁt intothe living room? Will it be compatible with the colors of other appliances andthe fumiture? The third factor we may consider is the price. Even ifwe are veryhappy with the item, there is no meaning ifwe cannot afford it.

So, in our daily life, there is really no difference whether our clothes orfurniture are made by hand or made by machine. It just doesn't matter as longas they can perform their function. For items for collection and decoration, it isa completely different story. Ancient tools and historical artifacts have moremarket and educational value than modern day massively produced products,and traditional handicrafts make good tourist souvenirs and beautifuldecoration for the house. Therefore, when it comes to items for collection anddecoration, I would deﬁnitely choose items made by hand, because they are justso special.

In conclusion, depending on different items and different uses, I will make different choices.

Topic 140 Hand vs. machine

Although products such as fumiture or clothes made by hand are detailed andunique pieces, I consider that is better to buy items made by machines. Themain reasons to do that are, price, and warranty, as well as standardizedmethods to manufacture them.

The more automatic a production line, the lower the cost. When we buy amade-by-hand pure wool suit, we are buying a product with both more qualityand more suited for our speciﬁc needs. Nevertheless, such kind of suit is oftenquite expensive than a suit made in an automated manufacturing process. Thesame increase of price takes place with shoes, cars, sweaters, toys, or any otheritem built on a customized basis.

Another reason for me to choose an item generated by machines is the standard. I know when a buy a car from Ford Motor Company, that the parts of its engine compliant the requirements of Ford, and have less risk of failures caused by manufacturing mistakes. This is possible because most of the production phases were completed by machines such as assembling robots, sensors, andcomputers. On the other hand, a Rolls Royce car, despite the fact I do not have the money to buy one, is made by hand, and such piece of detailed and beautiful work probably might have little manufacture defects that automationavoids.

Finally, because of the standardized methods used to manufacture some item,producers can offer more extended warranties to their products. A threehundred dollars watch probably can work properly for over ten years, and theproducer can offer a warranty longer than would offer a famous watch producerfrom Switzerland who makes all of his watches by hand.

Technology has extremely beneﬁted our contemporary society. The use ofmachines on production processes increase quality, decrease prices, andcontinuously provides improvements to every product in the market. For thatreason, I think that items made by machine are the best for me.

Topic 140 Hand vs. machine

The preference of machine-made clothes or hand-made clothes is a matter of one‘s personality. Some people who like clothes produced by machine arguethat the clothes are much cheaper, and the machine work surely beat thosehandmade ones. On the contrast, people enthusiastic at handmade clothes holdthe idea of "rare is good" and they also believe that hand made items bear moremeaning in them such as love, concem and friendship. As far as I am concemed,I would stand by the side of handmade advocators and my reasons go asfollowing.

First of all, I believe there are some advantages in machine-made clothes, the main of which is their availability. It saves you time and energy to buy amachine made clothes in a department store rather than make a cloth byyourself or your tailor. And low price is also an attractive merit. As machinemade clothes take advantage of whole made and wholesale, the cost of which deﬁnitely much cheaper than that of a single tailored one.

In spite of the above advantages of the machine made clothes, however, I still prefer handmade clothes personally. Handmade clothes have particular patternsand designs that entirely tally with my own tastes. When wearing the handmadeclothing which is designed by myself, I will never worry about running across awoman who wearing the same dress as me. My clothes will be the only one inthe world, the thought comforts me most.

Furthermore, no wonder that handmade clothing is the ﬁttest clothing to you because it is totally tailor made for yourself. Consequently it will make your ﬁgure look best and make your appearance more conﬁdent.

Finally, a handmade cloth could be the most precious gift to your parents or friends. The cloth will convey your love and concem to the gift receiver.

In brief, the advantages of a handmade cloth outweigh those of a machine made one so much that everyone could draw the conclusion that handmade clothes are better.

Topic 140 Hand vs. machine

There are many items that are either made by hand or by machine. For exampleclothes are made both by hand and machine. My preference would be machinemade clothing because the most merchants would carry it for sale duringcertain seasons and it is not as expensive. There may be one or twodisadvantages to the clothes made by machine; however, I believe that there arefor more advantages. The reasons for my view go as follows.

One of the minor disadvantages of a machine-made clothing is its quality. Forinstance, I would often purchase my clothing that is imported from Hong Kongor Korea, which has better quality than that made of my own country. Ingeneral, machine-made clothes are produced in large quantities according toseason. When the season changes, another line of fashion will be on its way outfor sale. Consequently, many businesses would not use higher-quality materialsto produce its’ line of clothing.

The main disadvantage of a machine-made clothing is the quality of thematerials being used. But the advantages far out weight hand made clothingbecause clothes made by machines are produced faster. Due to the quickerproduction; people can have access to the latest styles and colors. For instance,swimsuits, pants, shirts, tops, etc... have different types of styles, colors, andcuts. Due to the seasonal trends, majority of the people does not worry aboutthe quality of the clothes.

The second advantage of machine-made clothes is the price. Because theseclothes are produced in larger numbers and the quality is lower, the pricing willalso be lower than hand made clothes. Due to the mass production of machine-made clothes, merchants will be able to purchase a certain line of fashion inlarger quantities. With larger quantities of same fashion around, the prices willalso be cheaper. This will be a positive situation for the consumers, whomwould like to spend as little as they can, but still wants to remain in fashion. )

Although I agree that there is a disadvantage to machine-made clothes, I feelthat the advantages are more important. Machine-made clothes can bring thelatest fashions from Japan and certain western countries. In addition, the priceis lower. Therefore, in my opinion, these advantages play an important role inthe consumers‘ decision to purchase clothes.

Topic 141 What do you want to change about your school?

Talking of making an important change in my school, I'd like to suggest thatour education system put more emphasis on the development of leaming skillsand applications of theories into practice instead of simply learning knowledgefrom books. The proposal is based on the reasons as follows.

For one thing, overemphasis on academic leaming poses a threat because ofconfusing the purpose of leaming. As school credit is usually considered themajor criteria of academic leaming, in a credit-driven school, one may try hardto leam simply for leaming's sake. In other words, college students tend toblindly cram their brains with numerous texts and formulas while do not have aclear idea ofwhat they really want to leam, why they need to leam, not tomention how the things they are learning are useful to the reality. An exampleis way that common ESL students leam English: they may spend several yearsin reciting grammar rules, but can hardly utter an English word in front of aforeigner.

Another reason that causes me to make the suggestion is the requirement oftoday's ever-changing knowledge economy time. With the increasinglyaccelerated pace of information explosion, one can hardly depend onknowledge from books that he or she has leamed at school. Mastering leamingskills and knowing how to apply the skills into practice are becomingindispensable than ever before. A recent survey conducted by educators showsthat most students in our country lack the ability ofusing tools and solvingproblems compared with their counterparts in the United States. This informsus to take a serious look at our book-knowledge based education pattem.

In sum, it's high time for us to give a touch on our education pattern concerningthe narrowness ofbook-knowledge learning as well as the necessity of practicallearning required by the contemporary world.

Topic 142 What gift would you give to help a child develop?

Children's development plays a crucial role in building their physical andmental characteristics. It is known that children are able to absorb all necessaryinformation provided by their parents and other adults. Their unlimitedcuriosity for discovering new interesting facts could help their development,especially in their early ages. We know that nothing could raise children'sinterest and attention as high as various gifts we presented to them. Hence,every gift for a child should contain particular purposes to help in child'sdevelopment. In my opinion, a perfect gift for a child could be Lego toys.

I strongly believe that Lego, known for its impressive building sets, acclaimedand praised by pediatricians worldwide, has its versatile capabilities to helpchildren develop creative, logical and imaginative skills gained during playingwith this terriﬁc invention. Children could create and construct many differentobjects, depending on their ideas and enthusiasm. They could spend hours andhours playing with this amazing toy, constructing from simple squares tointricate and complex objects such as electric automobiles, airplanes andspacecrafts.

The quite interesting fact of this toy is that parents could observe developingprocesses of their children in a short period of time. This advantageous aspectof Lego toys, in my opinion, could affect on signiﬁcantly important increasesof the children's development. Such increases of logical and organizing skillscould be accomplished faster than those of children, who do not have these toysAs a result, this advantage could provide much better results in children's futureschool classes, especially in Algebra and Geometry.

Generally, toy-building sets, such as the already mentioned Lego, couldeffectively develop many important skills and characteristics, beneﬁciatingchildren's future abilities to think, organize and make correct decisions. Also,the most important fact is that children's development could be achievedsigniﬁcantly during playing time with Lego toys rather than doing perplexedlycomplicated exercises, resulting in a slow progression. And as a result, this perfect gift could bring development, fun and enhanced imagination to children and their parents.

Topic 142 What gift would you give to help a child develop?

People enjoy endless excitement and joy of receiving gifts ever since they arevery young. As reading this topic, I recalled the sweet memories of mybirthdays, a little girl waiting beside the table expecting her gift from dearparents. In tum, ifI am a parent who is choosing a gift for my deeply belovedchild, what gift shall I give to my little girl? Undoubtedly, I want my gift to bemeaningful and helpful on my child's way of life that is long and awaiting. Abook will be my best option since this chooses is testiﬁed by my ownexperience.

Books give little children wings of imagination. I remember my ﬁrst favoritebooks were a series of cartoons called "Ddcat" in which a mighty cat comesfrom the world of future brings to a dumb little boy all the amazing inventions.I laughed for the funny endings caused by the boy's improper use of thoseinventions, and I cried for the separating of these two dearly friends, but I wasmostly amazed by the wild imagination --- the ability that was later revealed tobe gained in my own writings.

Books are children's windows to the world. My own little, limited world was somuch extended by books, which would take me to the North Pole of the Earthto visit the people who live in the world of ice, which would tell me the old talefrom ancient time of how the beautiful princess found her love, which wouldshow me the miracles of nature through the world of little ants. It was throughbooks I ﬁrst acknowledge such a world I live in.

Books teach children the principles of life. When I ﬁrst cried for Snow Whitewho was driven out into a wild forest by her evil stepmother, I leamt what wasgood and evil. When I went to my father to admit it was me who dropped theplate after reading the tale that children who lied would have long noses, Ileamt that lying was a shameful deed. When I was touched by the wisdom andlove in the book "The Greatest Salesman in he World", I leamt to pursuit themeaning of my life.

A good book can give children the access to the world of imagination,knowledge and truth. I believe that a book can contribute to a child'sdevelopment much more than a soccer ball, a camera or an animal, which isconvinced by my own beneﬁts from books. A book, with your love and care,may be a gift of life for you loving child.

Topic 142 What gift would you give to help a child develop?

Perhaps it is the happiest time for children when they get a gift from others.When picking out presents for children, probably different people tend tochoose different items. In my opinion, a gift can always contribute to a child'sdevelopment no matter it is a camera, a soccer ball or a toy animal. However, asfar as I am concemed, I would choose fairy books to help him or her develop.

Firstly, fairy books can help a child improve his or her mind and then learn totell the right from the wrong. As we all know, fairy stories are all written froman imaginative perspective, which beautify the good and uglify the evil to thefull. So through reading fairy books, children will deﬁnitely get to knowwhether a thing is good or not as well as what they should do ifthey are caughtin the similar situations as what the stories put in the books. And I believe itwill be more beneﬁcial for them to learn a lesson from those vivid stories thanjust from the plain words of their parents or teachers.

Furthermore, fairy stories can stimulate a child's incentive to reading, whicheventually will improve his or her communication skills. All knows it that thecommunication skills such as reading and writing ability are most important inour daily life. Excellent reading ability helps a child understand the readingmaterials better; in the meantime, superior writing ability helps a child beunderstood by others better. Meanwhile, the attractive plots described in thefairy stories will always make a child concentrate on the books for long.Therefore, it is obvious that the children's reading and writing ability will getimprovement gradually then.

Altogether, fairy stories or fairy books not only can help children improve theirminds, but also can help them better their communication skills. And such isright the reason that I would choose fairy books as a gift to a child.

Topic 143 A long vacation vs. several short vacations

It is a hot topic among educational institutions, parents and students themselvesabout what kind ofvacation students should have. Some people want severalshort vacations, while some others would like to have one long vacation eachyear. If let me to choose, I prefer the latter for at least three reasons.

For the ﬁrst reason, to make use of a long vacation we can do something thatneeds a long time to ﬁnish. For instance, traveling far to several differentinteresting places would be the favorite thing for many students with heavydaily study burden. However, it is completely impossible for students to dosuch things iftime is limited. Perhaps some students need to leam some newknowledge that they are interested in as a hobby, such as going to a dancingclass, this period of time just provides them the best chances.

For the second reason, with a long vacation, students might be able to ﬁnd arelatively ﬁxed part-time job to practice themselves using the knowledge theygained in class which is beneﬁcial for students‘ future careers as well as savingsome extra money for expenditures of the new academic term.

The last but not least, long vacation means that the teaching time is concentrated within a limited period that will make the study more efﬁcient. Such example is that whenever we come back to school from holidays, it always takes us quite a long time to get use to the study environment, whichreduces the effects of teaching. So, it is reasonable to arrange the class in aconcentrated time.

All in all, from the analysis above, I hope that the govemment or educationin stitutions can adopt one long vacation instead of several short ones each year.

Topic 143 A long vacation vs. several short vacations

Ifa student only has one vacation each year, even that is a long vacation, he orshe will have to have a long boring school term after the vacation. I believe that students should have several short vacations throughout the year for several reasons.

The ﬁrst reason is that several short vacations mean several short school terms.The schools can arrange all year's curricula in several short terms more clearly,more efﬁciently and more effectively. Every subject will have a clear start andend, and can be taught intensely. Otherwise, it will be very difﬁcult to arrangeso many subjects in one long term. Schools may have to split the long term toﬁt in different courses, or let all the subjects take turns in one week. That reallyconfuses the students.

Another reason is that several short vacations are also good for parents toarrange. It's easy to deal with a short vacation than a long vacation. Parents cansend their children to short term holiday camps, or just have them travel aroundBut it is almost impossible to let them do those activities throughout a longvacation. Needless to say, it's much easier to ﬁnd a short time baby sitter.

Furthermore, several short school terms can help to keep students’ interest instudy. Every time when they return to schools after a vacation, they will be refreshed and willing to learn. On the other hand, a long school term will makestudents feel bored and exhausted.

On the other hand, a long vacation may have some beneﬁts. For example,students can attend an after school like a summer school to leam some extracourses, or high school and college students can ﬁnd a part-time job to makesome extra money. Nevertheless, for all the reasons I mention above, only one vacation will make school life boring. So I support that students should have several short vacations throughout the year.

Topic 144 A traditional house vs. a modern apartment

Young people usually prefer living in a modem apartment building as theyoften take consideration of the fashionable things, while more experiencedadults would rather live in a traditional house as they like the feel of family andthe quiet atmosphere around the traditional house. For my part, I would like tolive in a traditional house.

First of all, there must be a variety of old things in the traditional house, owing to many years it has passed by. In my opinion, every old thing has an old story.When you take an old book from the bookshelf which your grandfather hasread, when you use the broom your grandmother ever used to clean the house,when you sit on a chair where your mother ever sat to make a sweater for you, Iam sure you will feel very warm from the bottom of your heart.

Second, traditional house is often in a quiet district where you can obtain agood chance to relax yourself and think quietly after your work or study. After the temporary relation, you will probably have more energy to put into your jobor study.

Third, since it is a traditional house, there must be a good neighborhood around it. If you are in some trouble, the neighbors would help you, and you will feel convenient and joyful living in the traditional house.

On the other hand, if you live in the modem apartment building, therelationship between your neighbor and you is so aloof that you certainlycannot ﬁnd warm help as you do in the traditional house. Admittedly, living ina modem apartment building has a few positive factors, such as, it may be nearyour work place, you can save time and money on transportation, you wouldlive closer to modem life, and so on. However, at the same time you will not feel the warmness of the people's relationship. So ifwe take a careful consideration, it is not difﬁcult to get he conclusion: living tin the traditional house is your sagacious choice!

Topic 144 A traditional house vs. a modern apartment

I know there are advantages to living in a modem apartment, but I'd prefer tolive in a traditional house. My main reason is that I love traditional designs.They're graceful and warm and inviting. I think modem designs are very emptyand sterile and not appealing. So, because of the way it looks, I'd choose atraditional house.

I recognize the fact that a modem apartment is going to be in much better shape.Being new probably means all the plumbing works, the roof is not going to leak,the windows are properly sealed, and the kitchen appliances are in working order. A traditional house cannot guarantee any of that. In fact, it's likely that things will break down or need replacement, simply because of age.

Still, ifthe appliances are old, so is the wood, and that's a big advantage as far as I am concemed. Very few new buildings have the kind of beautiful woods that were used years ago. It's something that cannot be copied.

Space is always important to me, too. I need a lot of room for my home ofﬁce,my clothes, and to display all the knickknacks I have picked up in my travels. I also like to have interesting space. I do not want all the rooms and windows thesame size or a boxy design. A modem apartment usually comes in one size and shape. A traditional house is going to have a variety of spaces where I can put a little table or a window seat. And it will have lots of room, from basement to attic. These are all good reasons for me to prefer living in a traditional house.

Some people love modem design, but it's not for me. The space and beauty of a traditional home are more important to me than having everything new and perfect.

Topic 145 The role of advertisements

The issue of the role of advertising in our lives is a very controversial one.Some people think that advertising encourages us to buy things that we really do not need, because they claim that advertisements have the power to inﬂuence on our purchasing behavior. Nevertheless, my point of view is that advertisements are incredible source of information about new products that may improve our lives.

First of all, these advertisements can help us to choose things easier and also save our time. For example, as a result of such an advertisement, a few years ago I bought very useful tool to lose my weight. The only thing that I needed to do was to attach it to any problem area of my body for twenty minutes a day.Thus I did not to have do heavy exercises to lose my weight. The additional advantage was that this tool also helped me save time for my favorite activities.

The second reason is that quite often advertisements tell us about new products that can save our money. Again as a result of such an advertisement I bought some special micro ﬁber cloths, which could help me to clean my apartment only by using water. Thanks to its speciﬁc characteristics and possibility of long-time usage, I do not need to buy any more different kinds of liquids or powders for house cleans. Therefore the advertisement of this kind of clothsaved my money.

Last but not least advertisements can tell us about new products, which bring us new ways to cook healthier food. Fore instance, after watching a television advertisement, a friend of mine bought a special pot, with which she canprepare meat and vegetables without using any water or oil. This pot uses only the natural hot steam to cook. Thus it helps to keep more vitamins and minerals in the food, and get rid of the fat.

In conclusion, advertisements of new products deﬁnitely improve our life,because they tell us about things that make our life easier, save our time and money, and even cook our food better.

Topic 145 Advertising

Advertisements, one of the symbols of the modem society, are prevailing inevery part of the world. Widespread and inﬂuential, advertisements are capable of convincing people to purchase commodities that they do not need. Among various factors that contribute to the phenomenon is the temptation of seeming lower price, the inﬂuence of celebrities and, in some cases, the exaggerated functions of the products.

The foremost reason for the phenomenon is that hardly anyone is able to resistant to the tempting low price, which is a trick played by the sly and shrewd merchants. For example, there are always so many products on sale that few of us are able to be sensible and rational enough not to be lured by the huge price tags with "sale" on them. As a matter of fact, the buyers are hooked by the seeming discount. By frenetic and irrational shopping, people would stock uppiles of items that they actually will not be in need of in the foreseeable futureor even for the rest of their lives.

Another subtle explanation rests on the fact that celebrities, who have been paida considerable sum of money, play an important role in the effect of advertisements. Some famous stars are so inﬂuential that companies focus theirattention on them and make the best use of their fame. As a result, a group of loyal fans would rush into stores and go into rapture if they are fortunate enough to possess one. Consequently, both the stars and the sellers beneﬁt from the commercial game, regardless of what the consumers obtained.

The third convincing reason I would like to mention is that the exaggeration made in the advertisements by the merchants is also deceitful. It is, undoubtedly,confusing and puzzling for ordinary consumers to distinguish the unqualiﬁed ones from millions of products presented in front of them. In addition, a majority part of the merchants, some of whom are inadequate and inferior, are in the disguise of appealing appearances. Consequently, if is of no wonder that consumers would buy products preached to be perfect, a considerable numberof them are nothing but a waste of money. Naturally, it is probably too reckless to maintain that advertising is a matter of cheating since some accompanying merits also come along with it, such as the aesthetic values.

However, the minor advantages will never prevent us from concluding that advertisements attract consumers to purchase useless products, because of their so called discount, the effect of celebrities and the boastful description.

Topic 146 Outdoors vs. indoors

Have you ever dived into a pool in the mountains? Have you ever joggedthrough the quiet forest? Have you ever enjoyed the sunshine on the aftemoonbeach? Ifyou do not have such exciting experiences in your leisure time, youmay sure lose something valuable that your life can offer. That is why I preferto be outside than to be inside for my leisure activities.

At ﬁrst, outdoor activities give me opportunities to touch the nature. I canremember how I was impressed by the beauty of the summit, which onlysuccessful climbers can see. Standing on the top of the mountain, I could evenreach the blue sky. Outdoor leisure activities help us appreciate the sights ofnature, which is not available in our ordinary routines, or indoor activities.

Secondly, outdoors activities are also beneﬁcial for our health. Plenty ofoxygen will refresh our brains. The Fresh air, the sunshine and the soft breezeare the basic elements that contribute to a good health. There is no doubt thatthe only way that we can access these elements is through outdoor activities.After all, no one in the world tend to refuse a strong body, therefore no one hasa reason to refuse outdoor activities.

Leisure activities outdoors provide both the chance of appreciating nature andthe most practical way to stay healthy. Those indoor activities cannot comparewith them. So I prefer to do my leisure activities in the nature. I act outdoors,therefore I exist.

Topic 146 Outdoors vs. indoors

People would show different preference to indoor activities and outdooractivities. Some may be interested in spending their leisure time indoors, whileothers may be fond of the latter. As far as I am concerned, I would alwaysprefer to be outside for my leisure activities.

In the ﬁrst place, outdoor activities can provide me a pure natural environmentin which I will feel more relaxed and refreshing. For example, I can always feelregenerated only after one-hour jogging along a quiet street, with the fresh coolair and wind around. Moreover, it is a real fun to travel and enjoy so manywonderful sightseeing in different places. During their vacation, most peoplewould choose to travel to enjoy a period of leisure time so that they can refocuson their studies and businesses.

In the second place, participating in varied outdoor activities can help usincrease knowledge through our own experience and widen our horizon. As afamous saying goes: to become wiser, you need to not only read ten thousandbooks but also you need to travel ten thousand miles. It is true when we go outwe have the chance to meet different people and different things, which cannothappen ifyou stay indoor. We chat with people and exchange ideas, we visitmany places and learn different cultures, all of which can let us know moreabout a true world.

In conclusion, I personally prefer outdoor activities to indoor ones not onlybecause I can enjoy the relaxation and refreshment in the nature but alsothrough participating in varied out activities, I gain valuable opportunities toconvert theoretical knowledge from books into a kind ofreal experience.

Topic 147 How should your school spend a gift of money?

Our educational objective is not only to ﬁll students with the knowledge, butalso to improve their capacity and skills of analysis, which will beneﬁt thestudents all their lifetime. So to achieve this ambitious objective, it is necessarythat the school shall have all sorts of laboratories to facilitate various laboratorytests in the school. So naturally, when my school receives a gift of money, Ithink the best way for us to spend the money is to build basic laboratories forthe students and teachers.

Firstly, our school is not well equipped with such a basic necessities. We havecapable teachers and intelligent students in our school, which created a strongacademic study atmosphere. But due to lack ofnecessary laboratories, theteaching is only limited in the class. Students leamed a lot about the theory butno more practice, which detracts the understanding of students and affectsbuilding up of their capacity to apply the knowledge into practice. Therefore,the educational quality is questionable. This has impaired the fame of theschool. Consequently, brain drainage is a big problem in the school. Theexcellent teachers and intelligent students are desperately looking for well-equipped schools for their teaching and studying. So to curtail the loss, it is thehigh time to invest the fund to build up all these necessities.

Secondly, to spend the money on establishing laboratories will beneﬁt the school for good in the long run. Parents assess the school according to the educational facilities that the school possesses. Poor facilities will keep students away from the school. So from the point of view of attracting more students, building a ﬁrst-class laboratory is the prime task of the school. Furthermore, the local education authority has also paid attention to the problem of poor educational facilities. Ifthe situation maintains like that without any improving, I suspect our school will be closed down by the authorities.

Last but not at least, ifour school use the money on building educationalfacilities, it will make the donators more comfortable. By building a new laboratory, I believe it can attract more donators.

In sum, to spend the gift fund to build up the laboratory is a wise choice, which not only can satisfy the students and teachers in the school, but also can make the parents and the donators happy.

Topic 148 Does playing games teach us about life?

Playing games plays a signiﬁcant role in people's daily life. You can always seechildren playing soccer or basket ball in parks, and adult enjoy themselves withthe bridge game in clubs. Game may become more and more complex as wegrow up, but our enjoyment has never changed. It give us lots fun, meanwhileteach us about life.

First of all, playing games teaches us about the strategies which we can applyin our real life. In fact, most games’ original ideas come from real life. Forinstance, Chess imitate the battles between two countries. During the game ofchess, we need to analyze what situation we face, evaluate our assets, guesswhat our rivals would do in next steps and make the best choice from severalpossibilities. In real life, when we meet a challenge, we usually analysis thesituation and estimate our ability and decide what to do next. Therefore, gamesare mirrors of real life.

Playing games also teaches us how to deal with other people. We leam aboutteamwork during the game, ifthe games are played in teams like soccer orbasketball. Nobody can win the game by himself even though he is strong, andruns fast. Everybody should communicate with his co-players. Also, in real life,no one can survive without other people's help and cooperation. A man whogets along well with his co-workers is likely to be successful in his career.

Meanwhile, playing games also help us focus our mind and energy to reach thegoal, and teach us to divide a difﬁcult problem into several relatively smallerand easier tasks and solve them one by one. Playing games also teach us toadjust our plan when situation changes. Finding a good job is always not easy,especially during an economic downturn, as we are currently experiencing. Atthis moment, we may go to school to pursue a higher degree instead ofjobhunting. It is those games such as chess that teach us to adjust our strategiesand pace in real life.

Life is not a game, but games surely teach us a lot about life.

Topic 149 How would you use a free gift of land?

A fazenda? A playground? Or a garden? How would you use the land that youhave received to use as you wish? Obviously, the answers of different peoplewould be diverse. As far as I am concemed, I would build the most advancedhospital on this imaginary land, for the following reasons.

Firstly, I think the health problem concems everyone in the world, and then ahigh-class hospital can favor everyone, not just a portion. There is a commonwish in the minds of all people that I can live healthier, and the hospital canmeet this wish. Actually, we can live without banks, playgrounds, fazendas, andso on, but none of us can live without hospitals. To some degree, the hospital isthe most important building for human being. Therefore, I will choose to buildsuch an important building in my imaginary land.

Secondly, a high-class hospital can be a scientiﬁc center for researchingadvanced cures to some diseases which cannot be cured now. A few diseases,such as AIDS, cancers, and so on, have been torturing human beings for a longtime. People die for them. They separate fathers from children, husbands fromwives, friends from friends, brothers from sisters. They have made innumeroustragedies in the world. IfI could, I would provide the most advanced hospital tothe most outstanding doctors to ﬁnd some therapies against those diseases.After that, there would be fewer pains in the world. What a wonderful world itwould be.

Certainly, there can be more reasons to interpret my choice besides the twocited above, but they are not away from the central idea that my land shouldfavor every people as much as possible. What in my land can fulﬁll this task? Ahospital, of course.

Topic 149 How would you use a free gift of land?

If I have received some land to use as I wish, I would use this land to build alibrary. I like to use the following reasons to explain my choice.

The ﬁrst and most important reason is that a library can bring plenty ofknowledge to people. I remember the famous words that knowledge is power.Apparently, a library is the ideal place for people to attain knowledge. In alibrary, we can get all kinds of valuable information that we need, such asknowledge of geography, history, music and politic, and so on. We can imaginethat it is so comfortable and enjoyable when we sit in a quiet library andimmerse in the world of knowledge that we cherish.

Another equally important reason is that people can spend their spare time in amore meaningful way in a library. Now the life pace is faster and faster, sopeople, especially young people, like to go to see a movie, or to go to a discoparty. In comparison with those places, I think that a library can provide a quietand comfortable atmosphere for people who want to reduce the pressure of life.Moving on to wider themes, a library is a good and safe place for children.Parents would rather let their children go to the library frequently than seeingtheir child spending lots of time in playing games or watching television. Afterall, a good book can provide children with enormous help to their future life.

From what has been discussed above, I may safely draw the conclusion thatusing this land to build the library for people will be my ﬁrst choice.

Topic 149 How would you use a free gift of land?

Land is an invaluable asset and from time of immemorial it has been regardedwith respect and perhaps envy by those who do not own any. Land is equivalentto money in a tangible form and the potential of undeveloped land has to beseen then to be believed. When it is given in the form of a gift its value isinﬁnite, because this is something that is stolid and etemal. I can let myimagination run riot when I see the various uses it can be put to. As it is a gift Iam assuming that the land extends into a few acres.

I have always wanted to live in a sprawling house surrounded by gardens thatare bathed in a riot of color. I need space to breathe and the matchboxapartments of the city make me claustrophobic. Long verandahs with porticosmust open into rooms where light and air reign supreme. Luxurious bedroomsunmatched in size and decor, lounges which exemplify what they stand for,salons, elegant drawing rooms, a huge library, a study, studios to pursue myhobbies and spiral staircase which lead to the upper ﬂoors are what I envisionas an abode.

That however is just the tangent of my dreams that touches the periphery of the land. Moving out towards the gardens I ﬁnd I require even more space than I did for the interior. I need a couple of summerhouses and small private cottagesto enable me to get away when I want. A conservatory ﬁlled with plants and unusual ﬂowers, a huge swimming pool, a small gym and a spa would be ﬁttingas extensions.

It would perhaps be selﬁsh to utilize all the land for myself. I would like to do something for the people around me. A free reading room and a circulating library is something that many people do not have access to. This I would liketo construct for them. To culminate it all I would like to use part of the land toconstruct a public park and playground for the kids who do not have any suchfacilities.

Dreams are nice and they sound even nicer when put into words. If I get a piece of land as a gift these dreams can become realities. I enrich my life style and those of others too by bringing joy and spreading it too. I wish it came true.

Topic 150 Is Watching TV bad for children?

Everything consists of goodness and badness. People cannot evaluate something only by its beneﬁt or only by its harmfulness. This is why I disagree with the point that watching television is bad for children. I admit that ifthechildren do not watch TV properly, such as watching television excessively orseeing something unﬁt for them in TV, watching TV would do harm. However,watching TV can beneﬁts children if they make good use of it. Watching TV can help children leam a lot of knowledge in an interesting way, can be a good entertainment for children, and can help children manage their time. In those senses, watching TV is not bad for children.

First of all, most TV programs for children are designed in an interesting way,which is easier for children to understand. For example, a lovely presenter tells a beautiful story with attractive frames on TV and at the same time she introduces some knowledge to her young audience. Thus, children can get knowledge by listening to a story.

Secondly, watching TV can be a different form of various entertainments from what children are accustomed to. Most children like animated cartoons thatgive them charming images. Some children may enjoy their time in children entertainment TV programs and may also enjoy watching other children performing in TV Hence, watching TV is another entertainment for children.

Lastly, watching TV can help children make good use of their time. Many TV programs have their certain times. Children always know the show times of their favorite programs. If they want to watch these programs on time, they should complete others things by that time. In other words, children have to bequicker in their other activities. Thus, watching TV can be an active help when children plan their time.

I do admit that watching TV properly needs direction of the parents. Yet, we cannot doubt watching TV is good in some ways for its teaching knowledge to the children, for its entertaining the children and for its well effecting on children's time. I believe most adults today can still remember how their favorite children TV programs beneﬁted them when they were children.

Topic 150 Is Watching TV bad for children?

Television has increased the speed at which news travels and it can bringsituations and images into our homes that previous generations would not havehad the opportunity or regret to witness.

Television is commonly criticized as being bad for children that an importantfact sometimes gets overlooked. In my personal opinion some types oftelevision viewing may actually enhance children's intellectual development.

Television contains an enormous variety of forms and content. The effects oftelevision viewing depend on program content and genre. According to aresearch, young children who spent a few hours a week watching educationalprograms such as Sesame Street, Mister Rogers‘ Neighborhood, ReadingRainbow, Captain Kangaroo, Mr. Wizard's World and 3-2-l Contact had higheracademic test scores 3 years later than those who didn't watch educationalprograms. On the other hand, children who watched many hours ofentertainment programs and cartoons had lower test scores than those whowatched fewer hours of such programs. Good educational programs canprovide lasting beneﬁts to children.

Children are most likely to become actively engaged with television contentthat is neither too easy nor too difﬁcult to comprehend, that is, content thatprovides some challenges, but also allows a child to gain a sense of mastery.Just like our muscles, the brain gets stronger when it is used, and atrophieswhen it is not used. It seems that lack of use also leaves it vulnerable todegeneration later in life.

Of course, there are some bad sides for children to watch TV Our TV-watchingchildren increasingly view life as an entertainment extravaganza, in which theyyearn to play a starring role, and here the nasty content of so much modernbroadcasting comes into play. Besides, it is hard to watch an evening of TVwithout encountering unspeakable violence, whose perpetrators are celebrated.Again, the effects of television viewing depend on program content and genre,and parents should teach their children on choosing the right TV program towatch.

Topic 150 Is Watching TV bad for children?

Television beneﬁts children by broadening their world in allowing them to seeand hear places and people that they would not otherwise see and hear, as a wayto educate children in subject matter their parents do not understand throughviewing educational programs, and providing parents with a cheap form ofbabysitting, which provides parents with added income that can be used onhousehold expenses. This is not to say that television has no negative impact onchildren--it does--especially when there is no supervision of the content of whatchildren watch. But the overwhelming impact is positive.

Firstly, television beneﬁts children by broadening their world in allowing themto see and hear places and people that they would not otherwise see and hear.This is especially the case for children growing up in rural areas where thenumber of people they know through direct contact is small and one-dimensional, i.e., the people all look and think much the same way.Additionally, children in rural areas may not often have the opportunity totravel very far from where they were born. Consequently, television providesthe wherewithal for children to launch themselves into a much wider world--even if it is in the realm of the mind and not the realm of the body. The sumtotal of this inﬂuence is to provide children with a base of knowledge thattranscends their they can leam from their local area and increases the chancethat individuals so exposed can be more appreciative of the differences thatcomprise our multicultural world.

Secondly, television beneﬁts children by educating children in subject mattertheir parents do not understand through viewing educational programs.Television, through satellite and cable hookups, now is capable of providingcountless educational programs in subject matter as varied as Cantonese toApache; from using solar energy to wine making in a tub; from making yourown bar-b-q to advanced algebra. Never before has so much knowledge beenoffered by so many expert teachers without one ever having to leave one‘shome.

Television beneﬁts children by providing parents with a cheap form ofbabysitting, which provides parents with added income that can be used onhousehold expenses. Well, we all here of the "irresponsible" babysitter-television. However, ifmonitored carefully, this "irresponsible" babysitter canprovide far more information than a bored teenaged babysitter taking nips fromparents‘ booze bottles and clipping her nails, while telling the kids to shut up asshe makes her way to and from the refrigerator, making a serious dent in thefamily's food supply.

None of this argues that exposing children to television doesn't have a downside--it certainly can. For example, television can have serious sexual contentand much violence, which could not be good for innocent young minds. But ifproperly monitored with a working ﬁlter, this can be dealt with.

Topic 150 Is Watching TV bad for children?

With the advancement of technology, the greatest difference between children nowand in the past is that children now enjoy more luxurious usage of newly inventedtechnologies. Nowadays, children virtually superﬂuously spend their after-schoollife on watching television programs, playing computer games and Internetchatting apart from completing their necessary homework. Though it is welldebatable on ifit is good or bad for children to watch television, however, I dothink that watching appropriate amount of television programs is good for thedevelopment of a child.

First of all, television programs provide an extensive amount of information andknowledge for children to learn on their own. It is a well-known fact that, withaudio and visual aid in a learning process, a child will pick up knowledge moreeasily rather than broadly absorbing whatever his teacher regardless ofhisinterests delivers. For instance, the Discover Channel provides services ofintroductions to science and technology in a very comprehensive manner. In fact,TV programs provided by this channel convey knowledge by giving many detailedexamples from the actual world, instead ofproducing the theoretical models.Watching television programs of this kind does no harm to the children, but in fact,provides more comprehensive education to them.

Further more, watching television widens a child's mindset. In order for a child togrow into a matured adult, he needs to have an astute brain to adapt to the society.Television programs provide a lot ofup-to-date news and information on currentaffairs. By watching television, one is able to receive information in a relativelyshorter period of time. Empirically, a better-informed child is more likely tomature earlier than his peers. This also enables him to gain experiences for hisfuture work as a member of the society.

However, in order for a child to grow in the right direction, appropriate programshave to be selected for him to watch. Otherwise, he may end up watchingprograms that may misguide him in this global world. This may be very dangerousto the physical and mental health of a child, as a little bit ofmisbehavior maycause great harm to the child. A good example is a TV drama series where aprincess demonstrated some dangerous actions to the audience. Unfortunately,most audience of this series is children. Due to their lack of mature mindset andappropriate parental guidance, they ended up having followed the action oftheactors, and getting themselves into serious injuries, and some even died. Hence, itis inevitable to see that watching television programs without appropriate guidancefrom parents may result in serious troubles for children.

The advancement oftechnology has allowed children now to have a moreenjoyable life compared to their parents. At the same time, children are able topick up knowledge from TV programs. However, parents need to pay closeattention to the programs that their children watch to ensure that they areappropriate, so that their children will grow up healthily.

Topic 151 What is the most important animal in your homeland?

My homeland Taiwan is well known for its great and diverse possession of animals. However, among this great variety of animals, Taiwanese deer is the most important and unique animal. This beautiful animal saved my ancestors from starvation in their pioneer days, and what's more, it symbolizes the beauty of my homeland Taiwan.

When my ancestors first came to the Island of Taiwan, they had nothing except a few pieces of clothing and tools. As they were facing hunger, they caught the glimpse of a beautiful deer in silky beige fur and snow-white spots. Astonished at the sight of such a stunning creature, they appreciated God for bestowing them such a precious gift. The deer saved my ancestors from starvation, and hence, my people worship it as the gift from God. Were it not for the Taiwanese deer, my ancestors would not have survived, and I also would not be sitting here writing this essay.

Moreover, Taiwanese deer symbolizes the dazzling beauty of my homeland--- the Taiwan Island. Taiwan has been famous for the name "Formosa" which means "beautiful" given by a Portuguese explorer in thel600's. Its beauty is celebrated worldwide. Moreover, the Taiwanese deer is widely recognized as one of the most beautiful kinds of deer. It acquires silky fur of the color of cedar, covered by little white spots that spread out like stars in the sky. In addition, I can proudly and positively say the only place on the Earth where you can find a Taiwanese deer is the Taiwan Island. Every characteristic of the deer matches my beautiful homeland perfectly, and the deer is the best representative of my homeland.

Overall, although there are various animals living in my homeland, Taiwanese deer is the most important one as it was the food that saved my ancestors and it represents my homeland. Unfortunately, this incredible creature now is facing extinction. I genuinely hope by writing this essay my voice can be heard and people will try to save the Taiwanese deer.

Topic 152 Why should forest be saved?

Have you ever stopped other people when they were chopping down the trees?Have you ever felt painful when you saw a large piece of forests were burningdown by the ﬁre from the television? Have you ever shouted to those peoplewhen they were using woods to build their house? Maybe you have not. Justbecause human beings have not paid enough attention to those events, manyparts of the world are losing the most important natural resources---forests. Istrongly feel that it is important to save forests on the Earth. In the followingdiscussion, I will reason and provide evidence to support my point ofview.

In the ﬁrst place, the most important reason to support my viewpoint is that theforest is the heart of the Earth. Just like the heart of a human being thatcontributes to all of the circulations in a person, the Earth needs its heart tokeep working. Everyday, forests take in the carbon dioxide, and by combiningwith the water, they produce the basic sugar --glucose--for other livingcreatures and also release the most important gas to the Earth's atmosphere--oxygen. Without food, a person can remain alive for 5-10 days; without water,a person can survive for 1-2 days; but without oxygen, no body can keep aliveafter l0 minutes. When people are destroying the forests, they are trying to ruintheir own lives.

In the second place, forests are the signiﬁcant resources to hold the soil. Theroots of the trees stretch into the Earth and tightly grab the soil. However, afterlosing the forests, during rain time, the soil will be easily brought down. Forexample, because of the expansion of the city, a large piece of forest wasdestroyed in the rural area near my hometown. One day, one of my old friendswent to that place to do a research. However, just as the bus arrived to the footof a hill on which the entire forest had just been brought down, suddenly, it wasstarting to rain. The water brought down a large amount of soil and rusheddown with unimaginable speed. Without a time for the bus driver to react, thebus was covered under the mud. The mud not only destroyed the bus, but alsokilled all the people in it. I cried when I heard the news, but no tears couldbring my friend's life back.

To sum up, forests are the important natural resources for our human beings topreserve. In order to live a better life, every person needs to take care of theenvironment.

Topic 152 Why should forest be saved?

What is clear is that forests provide humans with many social, economic, andenvironmental beneﬁts.

However, huge areas of the richest forests in the world have been cleared forwood fuel, timber products, agriculture, and cattle. Ifthe current rate ofdeforestation, about 80,000 square kilometers per year, is kept, they maycompletely disappear by the year 2030. In Vietnam, our country, according tothe ministry ofNatural Resources and Environment, 1,054 forest ﬁres occurredlast year, destroying 15,370 hectors of forest and causing damage worth US S9,8 million. Particularly, Upper U Minh, formerly a nature reserve, was mostlydestroyed, just after being re-classiﬁed as a national park.

In fact, like Vietnam, the countries with the most tropical forests tend to bedeveloping and overpopulated nations in the southem hemisphere. Due to pooreconomies, people resort to clearing the forest and planting crops in order tosurvive. Therefore, the most effective conservation policies are to relievepoverty and expand access to education, healthcare, and the most important,altemative livelihoods. Allocating forests to farms and plantations is also asound one. In addition, stricter laws should be issued to reduce the destructionof forests, which is caused mostly by logging interests.

All in all, nowadays, one of the greatest concems worldwide is the loss ofnatural resources, particularly forests. Many solutions have been suggested tosave forests from destruction. However, many forests in the world remainunprotected.

Topic 152 Why should forest be saved?

Have you ever walked in a forest? How good it feels to breath the cool fresh air!Every one should admit that forests are very important to our life. But forestsare disappearing quickly all around the world. We should act now to save them.

Forests are essential in protecting our land. In China the government used toencourage people to cut trees to meet the nation's demand ofwood. Now peoplecome to notice that with the decline of forest area large amount of soil is beingwashed offby rains and carried away by rivers. Without forests deserts expandquickly. They are now threatening the nation's limited agricultural land. Nowthe govemment begins to realize the importance of forests and is encouragingpeople to grow trees.

Forests are homes of many animals. Without forests animals cannot live. Manyspecies extinct and many more such as pandas and tigers are endangered. Theextinction of animals will be a big problem for our ecosystem and will eventhreaten our survival.

Forests also provide us with many useful things. Fresh air, Juicy ﬁuits, meat,milk and rawhide are only a small part ofwhat we gain from forests. How canwe survive without these supplies?

From the reasons stated above it is clear that forests are one of the most important natural resources. so we should do our best to protect them.

Topic 153 Is a zoo useful?

Every city has one or more zoos. For a while, people think that a zoo is nouseful purpose. IfI were faced with this issue, I would think that zoos areuseful. In the following discussion, I would like to reason and provide evidenceto support my viewpoint.

The ﬁrst reason is that zoos are often used as places to preserve the endangeredspecies, such as the giant pandas and tigers. It is the conservation of animalsthat is the most important function of a zoo. With the advances in reproductivetechnologies, which assist in breeding captive animals, the zoo has become themost important place for animal conservation. Thanks to zoos, certain speciesof animals have been saved from extinction. Such animals are bred in captivityand when they are ready to survive in the wild, are reintroduced to theiroriginal habitat - in the rain forests of Brazil, for instance.

In the second place, children can obtain direct knowledge about a variety ofanimals by visiting zoos. They can see what a tiger is like, hear various soundsof birds and tell one animal from another. Ifthere is no such a place, how canthey make contact with animals? They may never have a chance to see variousanimals even though they leam many from books. When I was a little girl, Iliked animals very much, especially birds. But I could not feed them for myself,so the zoo which was located near my home was the place I went to mostfrequent. And I really love these places.

Finally, a zoo is a place for fun. In fact, this is why it is so good at educating thepublic about the importance of conserving wildlife and the environment: it putsfun into education. Seeing pictures is not the same as seeing animals at close upWhat makes visiting a zoo so enjoyable is our close contact with them.Therefore a zoo not only attracts many tourists from other countries, it alsoallows us to see, without having to leave home, big cats and exotic animals ofdistant countries.

In summary, I believe that a zoo has some useful purposes to serve: to preservethe endangered species, to educate the public about wildlife, and for its visitorsto have fun. So a zoo of course is a useful place for us and we should havethem.

Topic 154 Is it right to ban smoking?

Smoking is highly injurious to health and its adverse effects on passive smokersis well established. I, therefore, strongly favor the ban imposed in many publicplaces and ofﬁce buildings in various countries.

Smoking in public places and ofﬁce buildings irritates and causes discomfort tonon-smokers. Moreover, the passive smokers are also highly susceptible tovarious diseases like cancer and other ailments based on the ﬁndings ofvariousresearches. As public places and ofﬁce buildings are open to all the peopleespecially ofﬁce workers, no individual has any right to knowingly causeharm/injury to others health.

The health problems caused due to smoking in public places/ofﬁces wouldresult in additional ﬁnancial burden on the exchequer to divert its resources inmedical facilities to combat such problems. These avoidable health problems ofthe employees due to such few irresponsible smokers would result in increasedabsenteeism and economic loss to the companies. It is a common experiencethat offenders do not bother to follow any civic rule unless heavy penalty orstrong rule is imposed by civic authority.

However, it would be prudent to provide some limited conﬁned places in thepublic areas and in the ofﬁce buildings exclusively for the smokers. Theserooms are required to be adequately provided with proper devices for removingobnoxious gases like CO2, SO2, CO, NO2 etc from the smoke before beingreleased to atmosphere. A nominal fee might be charged from the smokers todiscourage their smoking habits.

Finally, I strongly support such rule to impose ban on smoking in public placesin order to avoid detrimental effects on the health of common people knowingly.

Topic 154 Is it right to ban smoking?

There is no doubt that we human beings are social animals. Living in a society,we certainly cannot do whatever we like. Putting ourselves in other people'sshoes is a key principal to live in a social group. Smoking in public will violatethis basic rule. Therefore, I believe that people should not allow smoking inpublic places and ofﬁce buildings.

It is widely believed that smoking is bad for people's health. Since not everyonelikes smoking, the rule banning on public smoking should be enforced. It goeswithout saying that public spaces such as ofﬁce buildings, department stores orclassrooms are places for everyone including adults and children. The second-hand smokes produced by smokers may be more harmful for the health ofnon-smokers according to the New England Medical Joumal published severalyears ago.

Moreover, smoking is bad for the health of smokers. The rule might help thesmokers who want to quit smoking. The rule can reduce the opportunities forsmokers to smoke and gradually help chain smokers get rid of this bad habit.Smoking is a habit that is not easy to quit. The rule might use its legal power toassist the smokers to protect their own health.

Smoking in public spaces might be dangerous because there are a lot ofcareless smokers who forget to extinguish the sparkles after they smoke. Theirresponsible action may lead to big ﬁre and a great numbers ofpeople will behurt in the accident. Nevertheless, enforcing the rule can prevent the occurrenceof accidents.

Some people might believe that it is their rights to smoke wherever they please.However, I would say that people who do not smoke have their rights not toinhale second-hand smokes and risk their life in dangerous places. Smokers stillcan smoke in their private places such as their bedrooms or living rooms aslong as no other people's rights are not damaged. After all, the rule is used to protect the personal liberty of everyone.

Topic 155 What plant is important to the people in your country?

There are many kinds ofplants in Thailand since Thailand's land and climateare very suitable for agriculture. As soon as I am asked what the mostimportant plant in my country is, I undoubtedly point out that rice is the mostnecessary plant in Thailand for several important reasons that I will detail inthis essay.

Firstly, rice is the main kind of food in Thailand. Even though there is muchmore food here such as noodle or fast food, almost all Thai people still eat riceas their daily traditional dish because we have eaten rice for a long time fromour ancestral age to the present time. Moreover, rice still provides substantialenergy to our bodies, so we have enough energy to do our activities everyday.For foreigners, they can have breakfast only with hams and eggs. For me, ifIhave breakfast with no rice, I feel that I am still hungry.

Secondly, as a agricultural country, exporting rice is the main part of mycountry's revenue. Even though we sell several kinds of plants to othercountries, rice still makes much more income to us than others. In addition,Thailand ranks ﬁrst in rice exports in the world. I cannot imagine ifwe do nothave rice as the vital economic product, how could our country survive. Iabsolutely see the signiﬁcance of rice because even USA also eagerly tries todevelop and cultivate rice by itself in order to defeat Thailand.

Obviously, no other plants can replace rice in terms of the important food andthe vital economic values at present and in the future, even though severalkinds of plants are also cultivated here.

Topic 156 Which country would you like to visit?

If I have the opportunity to visit a foreign country for two weeks, I would nothesitate to choose Gambia---a country lies in West Africa.

I began to notice this tiny country at the time I was reading the novel - Roots. Ittells the story of an African-American family and a descendent ﬁnally foundout his roots in Gambia. I was quite impressed by the characters, plots andinteresting African life styles described in the novel. The book gives me atotally different view about Africa and it was my ﬁrst time to take a close-uplook into an individual African country.

In the past when I think of Africa I think of poverty, disease, and poor people,but never had I realized how amazing Gambia is until I ﬁnished reading thisnovel. They have lovely traditions. Every night, people from the same tribewould gather together. Adults could talk about things happened in the daytimewhile kids enjoy the stories told by the elders. Teenagers go hunting every dayand compete for the most harvest. They never write down their history, but thehistorians would take the responsibility ofpassing it down by telling thefollowing historians these huge historical events. Everybody leads a happy andserene life and live in harmony with the nature. I can imagine the vast grass,wavy lake, cheerful herds; it is a fairyland far from conﬂict, controversy andwar.

How can anyone be not attracted by Gambia after knowing a little bit about it?If Pushkin had had the chance to visit this fascinating country, he wouldprobably say "Oh, Gambia! How violently its name plucks at everyone‘s heart!"

I have been dreaming to visit Gambia and joining those villagers, sitting undera big tree, listening to the stories, hunting the animals and being enlightened bythe historians. How I wished to go there!

Topic 157 Computers vs. traditional schools

With the knowledge explosion, many ways of education will be offered tostudents. In the future, students may choose to study at home by usingtechnology such as computers or televisions, or choose to study at traditionalschools. In my opinion, the former is a better choice.

In the ﬁrst place, students can adopt an individualized and effective way ofstudy by using high technology at home. Traditional schools make schedulesaccording an average student's needs. Although they concem the demands ofthe majority, their schedules are not the just ﬁt ones for many students. Butusing technology such as computers or televisions, a student can make the classschedule of his or her own, conceming personal ability, recent health conditionand so on. In traditional schools, it is impossible that a teacher lecture you thesame lesson twice at your own convenience. By using technology, students canreview some lessons easily to get better understanding of some courses.

In the second place, studying at home by using technology can save muchspace and resources. The more quickly the society develops, the larger thequantity of people who need to go to school. The fast growing industry andservice facilities have already made our world a crowded one. Ifwe usetraditional schools as we do now, the places that education facilities occupy, ofcourse, will become another contributor to the crisis. On the contrary, studyingat home by using technology will not only save more place, but also can releasethe places they are now occupying.

Maybe some people will put forward a doubtful point about studying at homeusing technology, that whether the students can be self-disciplined. I am surethat some measures can be taken about some of the disadvantages of learning athome. In conclusion, studying at home is an ideal choice. I hope we can see thenew type of education in the near future.

Topic 157 Computers vs. traditional schools

Different persons will have different opinions about studying at home orstudying at school. I will prefer to go to traditional schools because schoolsprovide disciplined leaming, experienced teachers and good facilities.

Although learning from computer and television is comfortable, it is void ofdisciplined learning environment provided by schools. Schools providebalanced atmosphere where each subject is given equal importance and istaught on a regular basis. This leads to an overall development of children. Thisdiscipline is absent in learning through computers and televisions at home. Weare inclined to subjects which appeal us. Some children ﬁnds art and crafts asinteresting and devote most of their time in them, while others ﬁnd math andscience more interesting and avoid reading books on social sciences. Thiserratic and unbalanced reading inhibits overall development. Moreover childrenare too young to decide what they should leam or should not. At this situationschools prove to be beneﬁcial where teachers knows their students and giveindividual attentions to improve their skills.

Not everybody can afford the best equipments and technology available in themarket. At this juncture schools provide best-experienced teachers and bestfacilities available. Schools invest on these instruments that students can usewhile it is difﬁcult to buy each and every piece individually by yourself ifyouare leaming at home. Also there are instances where students are requiredconstant vigilance. For example while performing experiments in chemistry,which involves lots of dangerous chemicals, an experienced adult such as ateacher or a lab technician must present. In these labs children are in habit ofmessing with things. They try to experiment mixing every solution they canﬁnd. So regular vigilance is required on each student. Similarly while doingdissection of rats in biology labs, from time-to-time guidance is required bystudents to understand and complete the experiments successfully. Notelevision or computer can give such attention to each individual.

While studying at school, children get to know each other. They learn to work in team when they are given group assignment. They learn to distribute tasks among themselves according their strong points and complete their tasks.Therefore a feeling of compassion is developed among them, which is notpossible in television leaming.

Keeping all these beneﬁts in mind, I would like to go to a traditional school for my learning.

Topic 158 Are celebrities opinions right?

Everyone is entitled to have an opinion. When it comes to opinions, though,there's a difference between the majority of people and celebrities like actors,athletes, and rock stars. If you're an average person, only your family andfriends care about your opinion. If you're famous, the whole world listens, or so it seems sometimes. Is this the way if should be? I do not think so.

We shouldn't pay attention to famous people's opinions just because of whothey are. Being a famous basketball player doesn't make someone an expert on environmental issues. However, that basketball player has a better opportunityto be heard than most people do. If that player feels very strongly about anissue, he can use his fame to draw attention to it and get other people involved.That way they can saw attention and needed dollars to that issue.

People who are rich put their money behind a cause. In the same way, famouspeople are using their most valuable asset. In their case, it's not money. It's their name recognition. Should people pay attention to what they think just becauseof who they are? I don't think so. I also do not think we should discount what they think just because of who they are. They have a right to their opinion. If their name draws people to that cause, all the better for the cause.

I think too often we categories people and try to keep them in their place.Celebrities have brains and should be allowed to use them. When they're advocating a cause, their opinion should be just one of many factors we use to evaluate that cause.

Topic 158 Are celebrities opinions right?

In today's commercial world, companies try to sell as much of their product as possible.In this scenario they try all means and methods to peddle their wares. One of theirmethods is eliciting the good ofﬁces of famous personalities such as actors, athletes androck stars to endorse their products. But why would they resort to this?

Past experience and research must have indicated that this kind of propaganda does bearfruit and people are lured by the opinions of such high ﬂiers. In my opinion blindlybelieving and following such opinions would be quite foolhardy. It would be morefeasible ifone analyzed the opinion using their own common sense and judgment andmade an informed decision. Hence we should not totally disregard the opinions of thesepersonalities but listen and act upon them in a sensible and disceming fashion. But blindfaith without veriﬁcation would not be advisable.

Depending on the situation and the product being sold or the message being propagated,we could choose to follow or opinion or disregard the same. It would also depend on thecredibility of the person endorsing the product. Even in the situation where the person is abig wig with an impeccable reputation I would suggest corroborating the authenticity ofhis/her claims before believing the same. After all, we are thinking individuals vestedwith the power of intelligence and the ability to choose.

We must not abuse this right. In some cases, we ﬁnd famous people stating their opinionsabout a social cause... In this case, they are being used to spread more and moreawareness and inﬂuence people into the bettering the society they live in. For example,we ﬁnd some of the big shots in the entertainment industry rallying for AIDS awareness..yet others who encourage people to donate their organs after death. These are socialmessages for the betterment of the society. One might choose to listen to these messagesand act upon the same, or disregard them... but at least one can give it a thought.

On the other hand, lets take another example of an issue that is still being hotly debatedand is in the eye of a major controversy. It has recently been revealed that aerated drinkswith coke as their basic ingredient contain harmful chemicals & pesticides. As soon asthis rumor began doing the rounds, the relevant companies roped in the top-notch ﬁlm &sports personalities getting them to endorse their product via equivocal statements aboutthe safety of their product. The Health board took umbrage to this fact as it had not yetbeen fully proven that these drinks were indeed devoid ofpesticides. They declared thatthe public was being intentionally misled. Thanks to the endorsements by the famousstars, most people, a lot amongst them being youngsters, disregarded the health wamingsof the Health board and continued consumption of these drinks.

This example should lay bare the capricious nature of opinions of these famouspersonalities. They may be driven by ﬁnancial and publicity seeking goals.

Hence in conclusion I would like to say that it is best to hear out the opinions of famous personalities, but ﬁnally make an intelligent and informed choice based upon our own experience, information and intelligence.

Topic 159 What change should be remembered?

The past 20th century has been a century of advances and developments: the emergence of the Internet and web technology. When I think of the 21st century,I am afraid to say that nothing but only bad come to my mind: overspreading epidemics, increasing religion conﬂicts and resources overusing.

The ﬁrst thing that has hit my head is the overspreading diseases which modem medicine has nothing to overcome. For example, in Asia, there were hundreds of people who had a new disease called "SARS", a killer responsible for overone hundred people. In Hong Kong and Vietnam, the bird ﬂu infected largenumbers of poultry and caused children's death. In the United States, the west-Niles virus is feared among public since it transmits through mosquitoes. All of these diseases are new to human because of their rare genetic structure. Such diseases challenge modem medicine. However, there are only prevention but not cure.

Another thing that on everyday news is the religion-related terrorists activities.Even now the American-Iraq war has been tensioned in spite of the last’s cease-ﬁre. Some people say that this is a war between Christianity and Islamic, others insist that this a war aimed to oil power. As a result, innocent children and the public are sacriﬁced for those so-called “cause”, meaning justice or security. It is hard for me to understand that how much human being have involved from animals, if we can only use force in this high technology time.

The last but not least thing that occurs to me is the concem of natural resources.Despite the fact that we are running out of available natural resources such as clean water, oil, and natural gas, our life is becoming more and more convenient, which means we will consume more energy than ever. This is also a vital problem for human’s existing.

For the three factors I have mentioned above, I believe that there are somechanges in this century, although I doubt whether those changes will lead us to happier future than now.

Topic 159 What change should be remembered?

Which invention was the greatest invention of the 20th century has beendiscussed many times. Different people have different views. Some think thegreatest invention was television; some think it should be cars. But as far as Iam concemed, the greatest invention of the 20th century would be computers.The reasons for my opinion are as follows.

First of all, computers save a great deal of efforts people spend on calculating.Before computers were invented, people had to calculate manually. Sometimesit took scientists weeks, even months to have a result. Of course, they mightmake mistakes during their calculation. That affected the accuracy of data. Butwith the help of computers, people are freed from heavy calculation. If onlytakes seconds to have a result which used to take weeks in the past.

Second, computers can simulate different environments that cannot be created in real life. In the science research, sometimes scientist need to have a simulation environment to improve their theories or as a basis of further research. Without computers it's difﬁcult to have accurate and reliable results.But computers can make everything easy. Just input programs and data everything will be done.

The reason I think is becoming more and more important nowadays. That iscomputer is the way of access to the Intemet. The Intemet was developed based on the local area network (LAN) of computers. Today, the Intemet has becomethe fastest developing medium in the world. You can ﬁnd almost everything you need on the Intemet, communicate with friends, read news, watch movies,listen to music etc. But you must do all the above things on a computer. Cannot log in the Internet means behind times today.

Although many other inventions of the 20th century brought great convenienceto human or changed people's lives, computers have the most valuablecontribution to human, and it will have much more contribution in the future.

Topic 160 Complain in writing vs. complain in person

I would actually prefer not to complain at all, and in cases where it is reallynecessary to do so, I would most likely complain by phone.

Although, in order to stay within the topic let us compare two givenpossibilities; complaining in writing and complaining in person.

Complaining in person enables us to interact personally with a real person whorepresent the company where we purchased a product from. This method ofcomplaining deﬁnitely gives certain advantages as opposed to complaining inwriting. For instance, one can always ask to speak with a manager ifhe wouldﬁnd a clerk's answer not good enough. And this approach also enables us totake the reason of complaining with us and actually demonstrate to themanufacturer or seller what is the actual problem is.

On the other hand, complaining in writing has its own advantages and couldserve as a very powerful tool to a sophisticated complainer who knows how toﬁght for his rights. Firstly, words written on paper could serve as a latter proofin court, if, of course, the dispute would go that far. Also in some cases thecompany we purchased a product from may not have live representativesavailable in your region, and therefore, complaining in writing could save youunnecessary long trip. Finally writing a letter with complains could save you alot of aggravation that you always risk to get by complaining in person.

I personally prefer to complain as less as possible, although ifI had to choosefrom two forms of complaining, I would choose to do it in writing.

Topic 161 Why people remember their gifts?

I have never met a person who does not enjoy receiving gifts or presents. In myopinion, the reason is that it makes us feel special and loved. Sometimes weappreciate more the attention of the person who gives us a present than thepresent itself. However, deﬁnite gifts mean much more than others; they have agreat value for us and they become precious pieces of our memories.

There are many celebrations in one's lifetime when he receives presents -birthdays, anniversaries or any other happy occasions. Some of them heremembers as more special and important than others. Why is so?

One hand the reason could be that the present means something reallysigniﬁcant. It may also be truly expensive. Moreover, the gift could be uniqueand invaluable for the one ho has received it.

On the other hand we remember some gifts as special ones because they havebeen given to us as a sign of endless love and care. Furthermore, they could begiven as signs of appreciation and respect. Sometimes even the trivial presentgiven from somebody really special could become a treasure. What is more - itcould be remembered as one of the most special gifts that we have everreceived. In other cases some presents are thought to be special because theyare given as a surprise without any occasion and remind us that we are stilltruly loved or not forgotten.

I consider that the answer to the question, why people remember special gifts orpresents that they have received, is absolutely simple. It is because theyare. . .special. No matter what the reason is, every one I know remembers his orher special presents and gifts.

I remember mine. And I am sure, dear reader, that you remember yours, too.

Topic 162 Do starts deserve high salary?

Everyone needs money to support his family and enjoy life. I believe that is oneof the most important reasons why people go to work. While an average personjust eams basic salary, some famous athletes and entertainers eam millions ofdollars every year. Why is that so? Do these people deserve such high salaries?

Before answering these questions, let me ask you another question, where didyour salaries come from? From our employers. Right! Those famous athletesand entertainers made a lot of money for their own employers. Because theirskills and achievements on some speciﬁc sports or entertainments, other peoplewould like to pay money to watch them playing games or acting in movies.This is part of the nature of human beings. From this aspect, they eamed whatthey got. They deserve what they earned.

In addition, usually those athletes and movie stars have some special talents ina certain area. Athletes are experts at some speciﬁc sports such as baseball,basketball, football and so on. Movie stars are good at performance art.Average people cannot reach that level, no matter how hard they try. Peoplewho watch their games or movies can obtain happy experiences andenj oyments, which can enrich people's life and beneﬁt people's health. Withoutsports and movies, our life would be much boring and less pleasant.

Furthermore, those famous people sacriﬁce something to get what they have.For example, almost all athletes suffer from injuries because of heavy training sand physical competitions to win the games. Movie stars have to face the fact that the average people are not only interested in their movies, but also interested in their personal lives. This is also integral part of human beings.

Do not be jealous of those famous athletes or entertainers, although we all admire the millions of dollars they made. They have talents, they made us happy and they sacriﬁced something, either injury or privacy. They eamed their own pay check.

Topic 163 The importance of reading and Writing

For ages, reading and writing has been vital aids to the intellectual, emotionaland spiritual growth of mankind. With rapid changes in the society andscientiﬁc advancement of human race over the decades, the necessity andimportance ofreading and writing has increased remarkably. It has become apivotal skill a person should leam to be successful.

Several reasons account for the lesser importance of reading and writing in thepast. Firstly, education was restricted to certain sections of the society and noteveryone beneﬁted from its advantages. Only the leamed few enjoyedintellectual satisfaction. Knowledge was not shared freely due to lack of propermeans of communication, thus preventing many from realizing the beneﬁts ofeducation and leaming. Secondly, technology was not so advanced in the past.Hence the general pace of life was slower than it is now and people did not feelthe need to keep themselves abreast of affairs around them. In other words, theneed did not arise for mass awareness and participation in efforts forintellectual enlightenment through reading and writing. Nevertheless, writingwas a more popular than reading since it was the most common means ofcommunication - in the form of letters.

However, at present the scenario has changed considerably. Innovation andchange are integral parts of life. Now advancement in technology marks the dayTo cope up with the rapidly evolving new ideas and concepts, reading hasbecome more important now than ever before. Invention of high-tech gadgetsand state-of-the-art information systems in areas of communication, transportand general business demands more awareness about contemporary events andchanges. With advancement in technology, man's eagemess to succeed hasincreased. Consequently the realization has dawned on him that such dreamscan be materialized through intellectual advancement - a feat possible onlythrough self-reading and personal research. With the invention of computer hascommenced an age of electronic communication and online commerce.

Although writing letters has decreased considerably with the advent ofelectronic mail, it will take some time to make our varied businesses paperless.Thus though reduced, people still do some writing, wither in forms ofdocuments, memorandums, business contracts or research papers. Educationhas made people more aware of his potential and reading and writing hasbecome instrumental to man's success in today's competitive world.

Topic 164 What do you do for good health?

‘Health is wealth‘ is very much true. One must try hard to remain healthy. Ifweare healthy, we can easily ﬁght with other problems of life. But ifwe areunhealthy our most of life will go in ﬁghting with health problems. Iteventually leads us to failure.

People do many different things to remain healthy. Some go for a healthy diet,other recommend exercise, and the rest thinks that health awareness isimportant. But in my view one must not think and act only on one aspect.People must go for a healthy diet, exercise and health awareness.

A healthy diet is very important for one to remain healthy. People must takecare of their diet. Diet should be balanced. Nowadays Americans are facing avery big problem of obesity. This is due to their unhealthy diet. Most Americanused to eat in fast-food restaurants. Obesity leads to many health problems likeheart attack, blood pressure, cholesterol problem. Fat people can work less andwith less efﬁciency. I sometime eat food for my tongue’s taste too. But most oftime I stick to my balance diet which contain ﬁuits, green vegetable, and juices.I always take care not to intake more oily food or sugary food. Sticking tohealthy diet put me in great shape and healthy life.

Exercise is also important. Nowadays people make lots of excuses for not doexercise. Some have time problem, some have physical problem, some havespace problem. But I think these all are excuses. One can ﬁnd little tome for hisor her self for healthy life. Everybody nowadays is busy but taking few minutesout of this busy schedule make lots of difference. I personally prefer Yoga.Yoga not only gives physical exercise but also mental relaxation. Meditation ismy favorite. This helps me in concentrating in my work as well as relaxing outof this stress full life. Few minutes of exercise can make lot difference.

Health awareness is a factor why people are living more. Nowadays life span ofpeople is increased. People are living longer. This is because of healthawareness. Regular medical checkup, clean tidy life style, nutritious foods arefew examples. Previously people eat what they found. But nowadays peopleread ingredients of food product as well as how many vitamins it contains. Ipersonally select food product according to my needs ofvitamins, minerals etc.I also schedule appointment with my physician once in a six month. And alsotake care of go to dentist once in three months. In total I would love to remainhealthy and for that I'll work what ever it takes. I also urge other people to stickhealthy lifestyle by taking healthy food, exercise and regular medical checkup.I believe in ‘prevention is better than cure.’

Topic 165 What is one thing to improve your community?

Volunteering a few hours each week to some community activity is animportant way of investing in the future of our society. I chose to spend mytime working with elementary school children helping them to leam to read.Developing good reading skills will help these students keep up with theirclassmates, open new worlds to them, and help them succeed in life.

Students who are not good readers cannot keep up with their studies. They willnot understand the lessons; they will come to school unprepared; they will notbe able to perform. By learning to read, students will be on equal footing withtheir classmates. They will be active participants in class.

Books on different lifestyles, occupations, cultures, or govemments will opennew doors to students. Students who cannot read will only know what they seearound them. Students who can read will be able to travel to new worlds andexperience new ideas without ever leaving their classrooms.

Today, a person who cannot read is severely handicapped. A non-reader willhave to work at the most menial jobs. Readers, especially good readers, havethe whole universe open to them. They will have the possibility to leam any jobthat interests them.

By volunteering to help an elementary school child learn to read, I am helpinghim or her not only today, but also for the rest of his or her life. I am helpingthem keep pace with their peers and explore the world and themselves throughbooks.

Topic 166 What events make a person an adult?

The difference between children and adults are very easy to tell from theirphysical outlooks: children and small, weak, have a poor judgment, and have todepend on adults. On the contrary, adults are big, strong, and more independentEvery child will grow up to become an adult. What events make a person anadult? In my personal opinion, there are a lot of events that mark the turningpoint for a person to become adult.

In many countries, when a child becomes eighteen years old, he or she legallybecomes an adult. There will be a big celebration and many best wishes fromrelatives and friends; the young person may also have a great longing for abright future in his adult life. He may move out from his parents’ house and livealone; he may start dating and doing activities which only adults can do, suchas going to a pub.

Graduation from college is another big tuming point for a person to becomeadult. In college the young person may reply fully or partially on his parents forﬁnancial support, but after he graduates, he must ﬁnd a job for himself, and liveon his own. Graduating from college and joining the work force can also makea person an adult.

Marriage is also a big event to a person. Once become husband or wife, theyoung person starts to take care of others, and take responsibility for the family.Once the young person becomes a parent, he or she should also take care of thebaby.

I believe that getting married and have children is the most important event that tums a person into an adult. Only after one gets married, does he or she take on the responsibility to the family and the society.

Topic 166 What events make a person an adult?

People recognize a difference between children and adults. There are usuallysome certain experiences or ceremonies that make a person an adult. Somechildren are in a rush to become adults and it seems to be running away from it.The child can make others believe him as an adult, by acting like one.

In most countries attaining puberty is a big step toward becoming an adult,therefore many people celebrate it. For Moslems, puberty is very important,because from that point of time the child must say his prayers. Age is anotherimportant thing for adults to accept a child as an adult. That is way we celebrateour birthdays, reaching a certain age that might differ in different countries, butit usually is the same age as a child can vote.

There are many events that help a child act more like an adult. For example,working and eaming money is a good way for those how to become adultssooner. It gives the child conﬁdence to be independent. For example being ableto leave their parents and stay on their own can make a difference. And ofcourse being ready to accept responsibility changes the opinion of others abouta child.

So there are many ways to that even when a child dose not want to become an adult will be known as one, sooner or later. And for sure for dose how are in ahurry there are lots of ways that they can prove to adults that they deserve being one earlier than they are expected to be.

Topic 166 What events make a person an adult?

What are the differences between children and adults? After a short whilestaying with a couple of children and adults, one may discover the answer inseveral aspects such as the language skills, the analyzing skills and the abilityto get along with other people. Obviously an adult acts much better in solvingproblems and working with other people than a child does. But what eventsmake a person an adult? As far as I am concemed, two main events are vital tothe process of growing up: the experience of education and the experience ofsocial activities.

Firstly, the most remarkable differences between children and adults are thelanguage skills and the analyzing skills. Education is the most efﬁcient channelto help children develop all these abilities. In grammar lessons, children havethe opportunity to master the rules of language gradually until they are able tounderstand the ideas of others completely and can fully express themselves.Through training in the lessons of reading comprehension, they leam to graspthe main idea, the structure and the organization of an article effectively, whichenables them to absorb knowledge through reading in the rest of their lives.Also, the lessons in sciences like mathematics and logics contribute much tosharpen their ability of analysis. This ability is potentially a powerful device insolving all kinds of problems not only in their future careers but also their dailylives as adults.

On the other hand, to get along well with other people is a highly required skillfor an adult. Children often encounter obstacles with their friends in occasionslike distribution of toys. They frequently show insufﬁcient care about othersand lack the strategy of compromise. Such poor performances will be improvedonly by continual social activities during which children will gain the preciousidea of team spirit and leam how to cooperate with each other step by step,until eventually they become competent group members, which is an essentialdemand of adults.

Taking into account all the descriptions above, with the two major experiences,as in education and in social activities, children would tum into qualiﬁed socialmembers, namely adults.

Topic I67 Should the school purchase computers or books?

The problem that whether school should choose to buy books or computers canbe controversial nowadays because people often think that computers canreplace books soon. However, I would like to be on the side ofpeople whosuggest that schools should books instead of computers. There are severalreasons of it and I will discuss two main causes.

First, even though students can access the information they want more easily,they often recognize that most of the information in computers is apt to beinaccurate. Due to the fact that many people send their information by theInternet or email in order to get their own interests such as money and fame, inthis case, their information are often distorted and biased.

Second, students who study their special area cannot get a deep and wideknowledge through computers because the knowledge from computers isinclined to be shallow and introductive. Ifpossible, students have to print themout to study with long time and write something related on it.

School's essential purpose, I believe, is getting student to have a deep and wideknowledge to prepare for their future lives in society. In this perspective, booksare more suitable to achieve this quintessence duty of schools than computers.Therefore schools should choose to buy books.

Topic 168 Why study abroad?

Nowadays, more and more students choose to attend schools or universitiesoutside their home countries. Then why studying abroad is so attractive topeople even though it often means greater expense and more difﬁculties?Because those students are bound to beneﬁt considerably from their foreignstudy experience.

The modem world needs people to have comprehensive knowledge andexperiences. The world is no longer a separated one in which each part canafford to be totally independent. The communication and interchange in ﬁeldsof culture, business, ﬁnance and other human activities are so unprecedentlyfrequent and vigorous that the general or speciﬁc knowledge of other membersof the global village tums to be most important to the prosperity of countries, orthe success of peoples. This kind of knowledge is usually better achieved ifpursued abroad.

Furthermore, foreign experiences improve one‘s willpower and ability ofadjusting to a new environment, and one‘s capability to overcome varioushardships and setbacks. Young people are considered aggressive and ambitious.Their success is not based on comfort or easiness, but on their incessantpainstakingly efforts and their never-ending willingness to surpass themselves.In a foreign country they are confronted with greater challenges, moreunsteadiness and less help from their families and friends. All theseundoubtedly lead to an independent, self-supporting, resourceful person whowill also be sympathetic and generous to other people around.

With these advantages, we may conclude that the foreign study experienceenlarges a student's view of the world, as well as improves one‘s personalityand character, which will guarantee a more splendid future in his life and career.

Topic 168 Why study abroad?

Recently, the rush of studying abroad has been gaining its popularity at anamazing rate. More and more parents have sent their children to westerncountries. Is it a benediction or a malediction? In my view ofpoint, I supposethat the pros of studying abroad overweigh the cons.

Admittedly, we cannot ignore that studying abroad has its drawbacks. For onething, every year those who have been studying in westem countries have tospend approximately 15,000 USS for tuition fees which are out of budget ofaverage families. Moreover, We have to face the barrier of communicationbecause of the dissimilar lifestyle and teaching means adopted by the westemuniversities, which does engender many student involved in disoriented ratherthan adapt to the local life.

Nevertheless, another side of coin of studying abroad is deﬁnitely exciting.Firstly, most ofwestem universities, equipped with best facilities and well-educated professional team, can help students to have easy access to the latestknowledge of this society. It will undoubtedly dedicate to students to enhancetheir knowledge of technology and serve their homeland when they retum totheir home countries.

Furthermore, a degree acquired in a westem university that are recognized bymajor countries, along with excellent foreign language skills, undeniably wouldguarantee a promising position in a joint venture company, which, to someextent, means high income and social status.

Last but by not least, living abroad for years, we may experience a totallydifferent life in contacting with people from different cultural backgrounds.Therefore we will have a chance to establish our individual networks that willpromote our business in the future.

To sum up, after all factors being taken into consideration, we might come to aconclusion that the advantages of studying abroad surpass its disadvantages.Albeit it may cause some difﬁculties to students, which can be overcame byarduous work, studying overseas will reward those people a brilliant future.

Topic 169 Why is music important to many people?

Obviously music has inspired a seemingly endless stream of fantastic productions such as CD, MTV, broadcasting, concerts and so on, which we just cannot live without. Today music is not just something for fun at all. It springs out general human feelings, needs and desires at every level.

Music can brings us information about cultures, history, science, and religion all over the world. It is like the vase that can collect every little dew in every comer in the world and then pure it to irrigate people's hearts and allow people to understand each other better regardless of different languages, ages, and races.

Music provides an opportunity to reduce stress and help us walk fearlessly towards difficulties. "Never give up never give in. There can be miracles when you believe through hope is fragile it is hard to kill. " In this rush world it is inevitably that we sometimes feel so tired and frustrated and even are going to lose our hope. When our favorite tunes start playing filled with magic and power, they are like the catalyst to refresh our heart and to enable us to think on the right track Instead of beaten by adversities, we can feel so optimistic that we will continue being the truth seekers and rule our domain whatever how hard it is.

Answered without hesitation, music is an exploration of our deepest feelings and motivations and one of the greatest of human treasure. Not only is it hard to measure how much those musicians‘ masterpieces bring into our society but also it is also difficult to imagine how long they will continue to influence us.

In conclusion, as music can function as the roll to bring the world peace and beauty, and bring people happiness and enjoyment, it is self-evident that music is so important to us.

Topic 169 Why is music important to many people?

Music plays a very important role in our life. We can almost hear music anywhere. Different music serves different functions in our life. Why is music important to many people? The reasons are presented below.

Music is a very important form of art. Like other arts, music is ubiquitous and has become a part of our life. The whole lifetime of most people is accompanied by music. A baby falls in sleep in the music of a lullaby; a young student may learn to play a musical instrument and listen to music from the radio, TV and a Walkman. There is music for birthdays, for weddings, for Christmas, and for New Year's Day. There is music for every single occasion in our life.

We are surrounded by various kinds of music since we were born and music has become an integral part of our life. Interesting enough, music often serves as an important part to other art forms, such as music in dancing, drama and movies. As a matter of fact, many famous music pieces come from dancing and movies, such as the theme from "Love Story".

Music is part of the history. The history of music is almost as long as the history of human civilizations. Music from old times has become the great culture heritage to us. One of the examples is classic music of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky. People enjoy their music from generation to generation.

Listening to music is one of the most popular forms of entertainment. There are so many kinds of music that can suit tastes of different people. Young people like pop music and Rock-and-Roll and older people may enjoy classical music and opera. Whether we are happy or sad, there will always be music that we can listen to.

People can express their feelings and emotions through music. Lovers often play soft love songs to show their love and devotion to each other.

For the reasons presented above, we can see how important music is to our life. It is hard to imagine a history without music, and a life without music.

Topic 169 Why is music important to many people?

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast."

English literature is full of references of music. Literatures of different eras reflect the likes, dislikes and nature of people belonging to that era. If you read music-related phrases or poems of any era, you will find that these phrases or poems reflect the same reasons people listened to music years back, as they do today.

Music is, and has always been a part of mankind. Walk into any IT company today, and you will see people working with their headphones on. Stroll into the reception of any Multinational company, you will be greeted with a pleasant music playing at a low volume from the speakers. Most people say that music helps them work better and creates a relaxing ambience. Any great occasion is incomplete without music. Be it Valentine's Day, friendship day, someone‘s birthday, or a party. On Valentine's Day, love songs hit the top charts; special cassettes are complied as valentine day's specials. On parties and birthdays, people like to celebrate with loud music.

Can you imagine any type of dance without music? Dance steps are created according to the rhythm and beats of different types of music. Operas, plays and musicals all revolve around music. While watching different dance forms and musicals, you also enjoy the music that is a part of it.

You will find that music is your best companion. If you are feeling low, there will be peppy songs to cheer you. If you are in a philosophical mood there will be different types of music to add to your reflective mood. Different people have different preferences towards music during different moods.

There is an endless variety of music available - instrumental, blues, jazz, rock, pop, reggae and lots more. Every type of music has a different impact on people. Some people prefer to begin their day with soft instrumental music. Some prefer hard rock playing in their cars as they drive to work. Different people like to end their day listening to different types of music.

So, music is an inherent part of human life. Even nature has its own music. Bird' s chirping in the morning, water gushing down rivers, and breeze blowing through trees are all a part of nature's own music. Life without music would be still and meaningless. That's the reason people listen to music for different reasons and at different times.

Topic I 70 Why are groups or organizations important to people?

Human beings are social animals. One cannot live a good life, iftotally withoutothers. Although people sometimes may prefer staying alone to think and dotheir things, generally, they have to join social activities. Obviously, groupactivities are an important part of people's lives.

Since the ancient times, people leamed to live together. Compared with thecruel natural environment, human beings seemed too weak and helpless. Wildanimals posed a threat to their lives all the time. If, instead of ﬁghting with thesevere nature together, by living alone, few could be successful to survive.People at that time had to take part in-group activities.

Even in today's modem society, with the help of highly developed science andtechnology, people do not need to struggle for survive and life becomes nolonger as dangerous and hard as before, group activities are still a necessary inmany aspects. In my opinion the following are some important arguments.

First, group activities help people to reach their goals. As we all know, onepiece of chopstick is easy to be broken, but when ten pieces of chopstick arebound together, it will be a tough job to break them. Suppose building a house,one person may spend years to ﬁnish, but when groups of people take part in,the building will be accomplished more quickly.

Besides, group activities can help people when difﬁculties arise. It is hard toimagine when a person, who never joins in group activities, suddenly got sick,what he will feel ifnobody comes to help and take care of him.

The most important of all, group activities make life more colorful. This can betestiﬁed in our daily life. It is fantastic to take part in signing, dancing, ortraveling groups, after tight-stringed workdays. But all this activities will losetheir attractions and meaning ifdone by a person alone. Suppose a verysociable person may be surrounded by applause and respect. Absolutely thiswill boost up his self-conﬁdence, and therefore makes his life more enjoyable.

Group activities have already become an indispensable part ofpeople's life. Sohow can you shun other people? Go out and meet them!

Topic 169 Melodic Memories

For as long as I can remember I have loved listening to music. Whether I amsimply walking to the store or going on a trip around the world, I would need totake my discman. In fact, I would rather have my discman than my toothbrush.Music allows me to escape from reality, alter my mood, and even rememberevents through association.

During a year away from home, I might have the need to mentally escape fromone thing or another. If, for example, I had an extremely bad day due to losingmy wallet or suffering some sort of injury, I could use my discman as medicine.Merely put on the headphones and let the righteous reggae of Bob Marley easemy pain. Music can make us forget about our current circumstances, even ifonly for a few minutes. This reason alone would make me want to bring mydiscman over anything else.

Closely related to music's ability to make people forget, is its ability to altermoods. I can imagine that during my year away from home, I might feel someform of homesickness. It is inevitable for all travellers, let alone teenage onessuch as myself. If it ever happened to me, I could simply put in a C.D. thatreminds me of home and let it wash away my worries. Music can make me gofrom sad to happy and angry to relaxed. In this respect, Music is better than anydrug on the planet.

Finally, I can also use music as a tool to remember certain events during myyear away from home. IfI was in Paris, for instance, and I wanted to reallyremember what it was like to walk down the Champs Elysee, I could listen to asong by NOFX conveniently entitled Champs Elysee. Then every time Ilistened to this song in the future, I would remember what it was like to bethere. This can also work with totally unrelated songs. A song can help youremember a certain trip or time just like the smell of bacon sizzling can causeyou to remember waking up when you were little. Music can be a valuablememory aid.

If I had to spend a whole year away from home I would not have to think veryhard about what I would want to take as my additional item. My discman is mybest friend, my long-term memory, and my anti-depressant. I could not livewithout music.

Topic 171 What one thing would you take for a trip?

Whenever I prepare for a long trip, I remember that there is always one thingwhich I will remind myself to take with me every single time, that is a photo ofmy whole family, with my mom and dad and me in it. I know that one will beenough for me, and I tell myself at the bottom of my heart that this one photowill be my best companion through the entire trip. It constantly brings me backthe warm feeling of home and it helps me overcome those difﬁculties on myway.

Wherever I go, one family photo always tends to provide me the familiarfeeling of home and a sense of belonging. For any person, especially a sensitivegirl like me, the biggest enemy is nothing but loneliness and fear. Immersed bythat wordless isolation and fear of the brand-new environment you have to dealwith. There are no friends by your sides to talk to and there is no one or placeyou can rely on. What do you need the most at this moment? I may say a photoof your family, of all your very dearest family members in it, your mom, dadand your brothers and sisters. They are the biggest comfort one can feel sodirectly and immediately. Their sincere smiles and their soft and emotional eye-expressions soon remind you again that familiar feeling of home and the powerto assure you that no matter where you are, you are not a rambler in this coldworld and you are not all alone by yourself, you belong to them and to thathome.

Also, a family photo helps one get through one‘s difﬁculties when they are on atrip. What do we think of the most when we are in trouble or in those toughsituations that we have to deal with? Is it not our own families? What are welonging to see and hear the most? Is it not their loving faces and their caringwords? Well, why not take a look at your photo in hand when they are notaround at those particular moments? For it has a incredibly invisible powerwhich can restore your inspiration and your faith at that very instant when youreyes make contact with your mom and dad. You feel as ifyou can see throughtheir eyes and hear their genuine suggestions.

Relief you from that desperate loneliness and comfort you when withoutanyone around but those hardest times come into life; that is what a familyphoto can do--forever be a very best companion of you on your way of thatendless trip...

Topic 171What one thing would you take for a trip?

When you see a beautiful view of rising sun, when you see a spectacularwaterfall, when you enjoy the moment you travel with your friends, at this timewhat do you especially want? I believe the answer is a camera. It is also what Iwould take in addition to clothing and personal care items when I plan to havea long trip.

The main reason for taking a camera is that a camera will record everythingthat happens during a trip. Ifyou see a beautiful scenery, you can take a pictureof it. Ifyou meet a humorous and nice person on the way, you can havesomeone taken a picture for you and the new friend. Ifyou meet a girl you fallin love in the trip, why not ask your friend to take a picture when you give arose to her? Let's imagine how disappointed it is ifyou do not have a camerawith you at that time.

Another reason is that each picture is a memory. Maybe a person will takemany trips in his life, ifyou take many pictures in each trip, you will ﬁnd it isjust like a novel about your own life. When you are old, you will always recallmany things that happened long before. At that time, you will take out thealbums and look at them with happy tears. You also can ﬁnd how you loved thelife and what a pleasant life that god gave you.

Above the two reasons, you can ﬁnd it is very important to take a camera withyour trip. And that is my choice when I am preparing for a trip.

Topic 171What one thing would you take for a trip?

If there were just one other thing I could take with me on a trip, it would mostprobably have to be my copy of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, my favoritenovel by Douglas Adams.

This might seem to be a strange choice to many people, most of whom wouldgenerally prefer instead, to take something of more practical value, like a cell-phone or a camera. I however, do have reasons for my decision.

For one thing, I am a book-worm. I adore reading books, and cannot imagine aworld without them. Books relieve boredom, dissipation, and listlessness. Tome, books are the perfect antidote to counter depression and loneliness, feelingsthat one is bound to experience ifone is going to stay away from home for sucha long period. The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy is a book that is calculatedto enliven any mood, and any situation.

Another reason for my choice is that a trip generally entails a lot of traveling. Iam not excessively fond of traveling, but I happen to be one of those peoplewho can read while traveling, and so ﬁnd it a most delightful way to spendjoumeys that otherwise tend to be rather tedious. The book has made bearablemany a boring joumey in the past and I anticipate that it will stand me in goodstead during this trip too.

The hitchhiker's guide to the Galaxy has been my favorite book for a long timenow. I have read it several times, and look forward to reading it again and againIt has brought laughter and humor into my life, and I cannot remember a pagein the book that I did not enjoy. It has been an admirable travel companion tome in the past, and I would deﬁnitely take it with me on my trip for the simplereason that it is one of my most prized possessions.

Topic 171A picture

If I were supposed to leave my home for one year, I will take surely with me,besides clothing and personal care items, the picture of my girlfriend.

I will take my girlfriend's picture with me, mainly because she is the mostimportant person in my life. Also to be able to see her all days and ﬁnally toremember that there is something important to retum my home.

My girlfriend is the love of my life. During all the time I have spent with her, Ihave realized that she is the only woman I want to be for the rest of my life.She brings me both peace and security. Furthermore she gives me a reason tokeep enjoying this party called "the life." No matter how, I will always try to bewith her. That is why, carrying a picture of her can be a way to see her duringall this long year. I could see her anytime I wanted to, no matter what time it is.In the mornings I would receive all her blessing thoughts just by looking to thepicture. This would give me the strength to start the day with happiness. In theaftemoons I could buy some food and eat in front of her to feel that we areeating together. Finally during the nights I could talk to the picture, pretendingthat she is there in the same place with me, and tell her all the experiences I gotthrough the day, so that would help me to go to the bed not feeling alone butfull of peace.

The picture would help me to remember that there is someone in other placewho loves me and who cares about me. It would remind me that I have her tosupport me and give me all the conﬁdence I need to be a better man in my life.In conclusion, IfI have to choose one thing to take with me in a one year trip,that will be without a doubt my girlfriend's picture. Basically I would feel thatshe is with me all the time, I would remember that someone else loves me andthat I love her too, and ﬁnally the picture would bring me the strength and willto be a better person and retum eagerly to my home.

Topic 172 How can schools help new students with their problems?

Students always face problems when they move to a new school. It might takea long time for them to get familiar with the new neighborhood and the newenvironment. And it is undoubtedly the responsibility of the schools to helpthem out.

The most urgent task is to settle the newcomers down and make themacquainted with the neighborhood. In some public schools, the school-ownedapartment is far from adequate, therefore the schools may do something to helpthe students ﬁnd apartments, as well as provide them with temporaryaccommodations. There is also little time for students to leam where thelaundry, the post ofﬁce, the supermarket, etc., are. Thus, it is helpful andconvenient of the school to provide information as above for the new students.

Students do study. So it is also important for new students to be familiar withthe academic stuffs of the new school. I believe it is the academic departments’responsibility to provider the students with such information. Introductoryseminars help students be aware of how do the faculties to in their researchwork such that they can choose their research ﬁeld and advisor rationally.

What is more, it is also necessary for the new comers to be fully involved withthe traditions of the new school. It is well known than different schools have different traditions, and these traditions should be a precious experience of the students. Then it is always reasonable that the schools provider some opportunities, for instance, holding lectures.

To sum up, the schools may take various measures to help the new studentsbecome acquainted with their new neighborhood, and to give the new students adequate information about the school, for example, academic information and traditions. These make the students familiar with the new schools as soon as possible.

Topic 173 Does borrowing money from friends harm friendship?

It is claimed that developing a real friendship is a long and complicated processMaybe the reason is that ﬁrstly people have to know each other very well. Andafter that they begin to trust each other and to prove themselves as real friends.

Unfortunately, it is as difﬁcult to develop a friendship, as it is easy to ruin one.One of the things that can test friendship is borrowing money from a friend. Ido agree that sometimes it could harm or damage the friendship. Money candestroy almost everything, in fact. Borrowing and lending money can beconsidered as signs of mutual trust. And ifthe money is not given back in timeor not given back at all it will embarrass both parties. Thus series ofmisunderstandings begin which could actually ruin the friendship.

Borrowing money is often comprehended as a simple act of help and favor. Butwhen the faith in the reliability of a friend is lost it will harm and damage thefriendship for sure.

Friendship resembles a contract between two people, although its rules remainunwritten. And when one of the friends does not play by the rules the other onesimply quits the game called friendship. The result is a bitter recollection froma damaged friendship. In conclusion-we have a few real friends in our lifetimeand it would be a shame to lose some of them because of such banal problem asmoney. In my opinion, money does not worth as much as our friends do. And ifwe cause harm to any of them and ifwe ruin something so important andinvaluable as real friendship because of money, it will be one of the biggestmistakes in our lives.

So let's be wiser and never make a friend go because of money.

Topic 173 To borrow or not to borrow

"Keep your friendship and business relationship separate." This statement isvery popular. There are many people who have personal experience that provesthis point. A dollar sign often symbolizes greediness, envy and even crime.That is why many people avoid involving money into their friendship. They tryto keep them separate.

We can ﬁnd the reason for this separation ifwe take a closer look at humanexistence. An individual has to choose between physical and mental sides of hislife all the time. Almost in every religion he is presented as a creaturecomprised by two parts: one of them is spiritual and good, and the other one ismaterialistic, and therefore, bad. It is extremely hard to choose once andforever which part of yourself you devote your life to; we usually try tomanoeuvre between them. I think that we can stop being afraid of keepingmoney and friendship closer to each other, and even beneﬁt from merging them

I personally never had a bad experience with involving money into myfriendship. I never borrow money from people, but I have no problem withlending money to my friends. They always return it on time, and I never haveto remind them about it. I am also sure that ifI have to borrow money fromthem they will never refuse to lend it to me. Maybe it indicates that they are myreal friends. In this case we can see that money can be litmus paper offriendship. I know my friends for many years and I am certain that nothing canbreak us up: neither money nor other circumstances. IfI decide to start my ownbusiness I will do it with my friend, because he will not deceive me or stealanything from me.

On the basis of this personal experience of mine I can deduce that money doesnot spoil friendship; they just indicate the worst parts of our souls - thematerialistic parts. Money helps us understand who considers them as asource of living, and who worships it. Ifmy conclusion is right I recommendthat everybody involve money into friendship - this way you can ﬁnd out whoyour real friend is.

Topic 173 Money and friendship

Friendship is the most beautiful thing in the whole wide world. Money, on theother hand, is the most essential thing in the whole wide world. So, whiledealing with these two very important and sensitive things, one has to be verycareful. Before giving my opinion about the topic, I would like to discuss withyou some of the reasons which can harm the friendship and some which do notharm friendship.

Friendship is a relationship based on give and take. So, as long as there is bothgive and take, I don't think there would be any fear of harming the friendship.Some things to be kept in mind while borrowing money are- 1. Borrow moneyfrom a friend who is ﬁnancially stable and doesn't mind sharing some buckswith you. 2. Retum the money before deadline, even earlier ifpossible. 3. Donot make borrowing a habit. Ifthese things are followed any good friend willbe happy to help and the relationship will also be not hurt. After all, a friend inneed is a friend indeed.

Some of the things that may hurt the friendship are- 1. Choosing a wrong friendto borrow money. Some people do not like lending money to anyone. Suchpeople will lend the money if a friend asks for it. But then, they become verynosey and keep nagging the friend asking him to pay back. This attitude is veryunhealthy for a good friendship. 2. Making borrowing a habit. There are somepeople who make borrowing a habit. It is ok to borrow money once or twice orwhen there is real need for money. Ifborrowing keeps continuing, it becomesvery annoying and thus harm friendship, because, too much is always too bad.3. Not retuming the money on time. It is possible that you lend money to afriend because he was in need of money. As a good friend it is his responsibilityto retum the money as promised, because you may be having some other plansand be counting on that money. So delay in paying back (especially when thedonor is in need), can be harmful to friendship.

Life is like a tuming wheel. What goes up should come down. So we can neversay when we could be in need of money and friends. So I think we should helpreal friends who are in need of money. We can also borrow money from goodfriends, but be careful in choosing the correct friend and keep up the trust.

As far as my opinion about the topic goes, I think borrowing money can ruin agood friendship. There are friends who say that nothing can come in-betweenthem and they would do anything for friendship. But such ideas are only goodin stories. In real world, money is a very important factor and can inﬂuence anykind of person. So chances of hurting a relationship is very high. I think"Friendship is like a golden chain. Once broken, can be mend again. But thescar still remains". So it is not worth to take a chance with the "highlyinﬂuential money" and ruin an otherwise long-lasting friendship.

Topic 174 How is your generation different from your parents‘?

Everybody talks about a conﬂict between generations. This is a well-knownexpression, used as an explanation for misunderstandings between people ofdifferent ages. Although sometimes this is an excuse for not recognizing who iswrong or right, it is certain that every generation ofpeople is different inimportant ways.

Even though everybody probably thinks this way, the differences between mygeneration and my parents’ generation are striking. The technological progressis a certain cause for these differences. My parents did not have access toinformation as teenagers nowadays have. Television, for example, was a luxurythat not many people could have afforded, and even ifthey could, the televisionprograms were very poor. I remember my mother mentioning how eager theywere to watch TV series like "Samantha" or "The Giants’ Planet." Those ﬁlmsseem so trivial these days.

Another important difference between our generations is caused by the type of political power that govemed the country. My parents grew up under acommunist regime whose main characteristic was censure. This censure prohibited them to speak up their mind in public. Strict rules must have beenobeyed; otherwise they could have been seriously punished. Nowadays, we livein a democratic environment that cannot possibly be compared with the pressure of a communist government. This means that people are encouraged tothink for themselves and not to fear to express their true opinion. Of course,this leads sometimes to violent acts from people who misunderstand the role of the democracy.

Differences between generations have always existed and it is natural for them to exist. Progress leads to differences of opinions and points of view. It is true that my generation and my parents’ generation are different, but this does not mean that one is signiﬁcantly better than the other one. I think we all should remember that before starting to judge one another.

Topic I 75 Should students do some of the talking on classes?

There is a growing public concern over education methods, and the speaker in the titleabove advocates that education will be truly effective only when it is speciﬁcallydesigned to meet the individual needs and interests of each student. By contrast, somepeople may argue that the traditional teacher-centered way is more suitable for education.On balance, I would like to side with the former opinion.

First of all, the traditional teacher-centered education ignores the individual needs andinterests of each student, which proves counterproductive. For centuries, we place toomuch emphasis on the importance of teachers in education, and take it for granted that itis the teachers’ duty to determine what and how to teach, meanwhile, the students shouldaccept what are provided to them. But recent study committed by many experts ofpsychology and education reveals that this traditional single-side education method haslow efﬁciency, because this way of teaching puts students in almost a passive position.As our society progresses every minute, old concept of education should be transformed,from teacher-centered to student-centered, which will help to achieve more quickly andeffective teaching and leaming.

As a matter of fact, only eamest communication and interactions lead to better effects ofstudy, and they should base on the acknowledgment of the differences from on student toanother. Since teaching is a process full of interaction, a mutual understand helps teachersto adjust the way of teaching and to let students represent their reactions at the same time.Furthermore, every student is a unique individual. They may differ from each other inregards to reading, writing, comprehension, etc. Consequently, when teaching the classes,a teacher takes diversity of students into account is more likely to pass knowledge tostudents than a teacher who ignores the difference.

In addition, student-centered education can most effectively involve individual student inthe leaming process. When student-centered education is introduced, students will feelthat they are be focused on, which may help them to participate in the leaming process,and this proactive condition will contribute to effective leaming. Not only do the studentsbeneﬁt from this method, teachers will soon discover that teaching is becoming a joyfulthing, not dull any longer. Another reason to advocate student-centered education is therelationship between students and teachers, or leaming and teaching, which wasconsidered two separate things, are in fact two sides of a coin. Once the harmonybetween these two things is established, effective education will become reality.

However, when we suggest student-centered method, winking at students‘ unreasonabledesired would only result in chaos in education. Like any method else, student-centerededucation may also have some side effects, ifwe do not make some rules to controlstudents‘ behavior, teaching will a tough job and leaning will like playing games. Sincethese images are not supposed, appropriate management should be introduced withstudent-centered education.

In sum, it is very likely that people will never be able to come to the same conclusion onthis controversial issue due to their different experiences and conﬂicting values, publicawareness of the various dimensions of the issue discussed in the above argument willcertainly contribute to the thorough understanding of the problem. Though differentviews exist, I insist than student-centered education with effective management willenrich our education.

Topic I 76 What holiday would you create?

IfI could create a new holiday, it would be a holiday that honors the freedomand progress of the Afghan women. I would established the holiday to multiplyefforts of the Feminist Majority Foundation with the Campaign to help AfghanWomen and young girls to ensure that women's rights are fully andpermanently restored after the fall of the Taliban regime, which symbolized thebrutality against the women in Afghanistan in the past years.

When the Taliban took control in 1996, they instituted a gender apartheid forthe women where they imposed strict edicts such as banished women from thework force, closed school to girls, expelled women from universities,prohibited women from leaving their home unless accompanied by a close malerelative, forced women to use the burga or chadari, paint windows of women'shouses black, prohibited women from being examined by male physicians,while at the same time prohibited most female doctors and nurses frompracticing.

The reality for the women during Taliban control shows a lot of horrors againstthe women who deﬁed the rules of the Taliban and were severely punished. Forexample some girls were killed in front of their families because they run to theschools; some women were brutally heated because their ankle wasaccidentally showed from undemeath their burga. Two women accused ofprostitution were publicly hanged in the stadium.

Today, after the fall of Taliban, women can leave their homes without the escortof a male family member. They no longer have to cram into the back of busesand give up their seats to men. They can get their hair and nails done in beautysalons that have opened up all over Kabul. Girls can go to school, and youngwomen to universities, where they sometimes even share classrooms with men.Being a woman can sometimes be an advantage in the job market. In Kabul,Indian models are admired for their fashion, but many Afghan women stillwear the traditional burqa.

I would like that the people celebrate the new holiday by publishing the advances of the campaign through web sites, organizing some lectures aboutthe progress of the afghan women, promoting scholarships for women to study,and encouraging the women from all over the world to maintain the faith to pursue the dreams.

The reason why I would create an intemational holiday for the Afghan womenis because the intemational community must now act to ensure that women'srights are fully and permanently restored, to reestablish a constitutionaldemocracy in Afghanistan that is representative of women and ethnicminorities, and to show an example to women of the world of how can wesolve difﬁculties in this way.

Topic I 76 What holiday would you create?

People remember the memorable events and great deeds or achievements ofgreat people of a country by celebrating speciﬁc holidays as a mark of respectand honor. IfI have the opportunity to create a new holiday in my country IndiaI would like to add 27th August, as one of the national holidays to honor thebirth day of noble laureate Mother Teresa to remind all of us about her selﬂessdevotion to the poor, destitute and unwanted sections of our society.

Mother Teresa left her country, Macedonia at a tender age of eighteen andembraced the city ofjoy, Calcutta, to serve the poor. She initially taught in the Christian missionary school and later she was moved by the pathetic conditionsof the homeless people mostly living in the slums. She gave up her teachingprofession and started working with her meager savings for the uplift for thecauses of the poor.

Initially she had to face the trouble weather from various sections of society. Her continued selﬂess devotion and love for such unwanted and neglectedsections of people was widely acclaimed later on by majority sections of thesociety and generous ﬁnancial grants poured in from various agencies. She hadfurther extended her "mission of Charity" for the lepers, orphans etc with thesupport of over 1000 volunteers working beyond the geographical boundariesof India.

Her love and selﬂess social service is unparalleled and needs to be reminded onthis 27th-August each year by different like-minded groups in the society towalk to different slums with the poor, lepers, orphans or people sufferings fromvarious incurable diseases and bestow their love and affection. They shouldprovide them with clothes, foods, gifts, and ﬁnancial assistance and take themout in the heart of the city through a procession.

This would help the weaker sections of the society to join the mainstreams ofthe society and they will not feel neglected and uncared for. Moreover, suchlove and affection would avert the increasing trend of crimes in the society.

In the present day everyone is on a retrace for his or her material comfort andthe human value is on the decline. The remembrance of Mother Teresa'steachings would motivate people for contributing towards a great cause of thesociety and make this world a better place to live.

Topic I 77 Island Hopping or Road Rage?

For someone like myself, the choice of spending my hard-saved money on a carverses a trip is a difﬁcult decision. Both cost a lot of money, but each have theirown beneﬁts. Having lived my whole life in large cities where public transporthas always been the most cost effective and efﬁcient way of getting around, Ihave always spent my money on traveling. Even though I now live in a placewhere public transportation is neither cost-effective nor efﬁcient, and where aperson needs a car, were a friend to ask me whether they should buy a car orspend their money on a trip, I would recommend going on a trip.

Taking a vacation has more beneﬁts than buying a car. There is a lot that can beleamed about other people as well as yourself by going abroad or eventraveling around your own country. For instance when I was in my early 20s, Itraveled throughout Europe by myself. During this trip, I met a lot ofinteresting people both other travelers like myself as well as locals. Throughthis experience, I leamed to appreciate other people. I also developed toleranceand independence, which helped me to grow as a person. Buying a car on theother hand, does not help you develop as a person. In fact, I have noticed thatsince driving on a regular basis, I have become more self-absorbed and lessconsiderate of other people. Even this moming, I found myself getting angry atthe driver in front of me for going 30 in a 35 mile zone. I do not wish this stressupon my friend. Rather, I would tell them to spend their money on a nice,relaxing holiday, which brings me to my next point:

Taking a trip helps people relax. There is nothing more relaxing than taking anice long cruise or spending a few weeks Island-hopping around the Islands ofIndonesia or Greece. You can live a stress-free life for a few weeks or months,with nothing but what to have for dinner to worry about. From experience,since owning a car, I have had nothing but stress. My car is old and is in needof constant maintenance and repair. Even now, I am worried that my car willbreak down on my way to work and not only will I be late, but I will have topay for the towing as well as. My car is a continual expense that I have tobudget for, while a vacation, ifyou refrain from using credit, is a one-time cost.Remember too that you can also take some spectacular photos. What is better? Iwould rather see my friend’s artful pictures ofbeautiful scenes and interestingpeople than photos of their car.

In short, I would suggest that my friend spend their money on along, stress-free vacation where they can leam about other cultures as well as themselvesrather than buying a new car. After all, on retuming from this often life-changing experience, they can always work, and it won't be long before theyhave enough money to buy or lease a new car.

Topic I 77 A vacation or a car?

On the question of whether it is better to use one‘s savings to buy a car or go ontraveling, I, more often than not, prefer to the latter decision.

It is true that having a car has a variety of advantages; I must confess that Imyself enjoy the fun of driving and the strong sense of freedom gained fromowing a car. Superior as it is, nevertheless, it brings its own problems. For onething, private car burdens the trafﬁc that has already been over loaded. Everyone ofus must have experienced the miserable feeling of being stuck at tollgateon our way to ofﬁce; only at this moment do most people realize how bad theresult ofuncontrolled increase in private vehicles can be. For another, itworsens the problem of environmental pollution. The fun of driving is onething, while how to deal with the consequence of air pollution is another. It isestimated that every year the govemment of China spends well over 12% of itsﬁscal income to tackle the environmental damage caused by automobiles.

As a matter of fact, the advantages of going traveling outweigh any beneﬁt wegain from having a car. First of all, studies show that traveling is amongst themost desirable altematives of social activities. It is obvious that a person fundof traveling must be healthier that one ‘dwelling’ in his car. Hiking, mountainclimbing, camping, skiing, canoeing and all other tourism related exercisesforce us to use our muscles, stretch our bodies and deepen our breath. Moreover, the overwhelming joy of conquering a mountain peak or lingering in oneof the most famous Middle East bazaars is surely out ofreach in your car. Inaddition, traveling fans hardly have to suffer from the torture of sleepless whichhas long been bothering the ‘white collars’. Still, the enchanting beauty ofvarious landscapes and folk cultures helps broaden your eyesight and providesyou with a brand new insight into the mysterious planet.

From what has been discussed above, we may safely draw the conclusion that itis not only wise but also socially desirable for us to spend our money ontourism rather than buying a car.

Topic I 77 A vacation or a car?

The development of technologies and industries has brought us manyconveniences. With the help of modem conveniences such as cars, buses, trainsand planes, one can travel a great distance in a short period of time. One of myfriends has received a gift of money. He is thinking about using this money tobuy a new car or go on a vacation. Personally I would suggest that my friendbuy a car.

The ﬁrst and most important reason is that a car can bring him convenience.Undoubtedly, nowadays people rely on cars for transportation more than everbefore. For example, when he drives a car to go shopping, he may feel moreconvenient and can pick up more groceries than before because he can putgroceries in the car trunk instead of carrying them by hands. Furthermore, whenhe wants to pick somebody up, or travel to a scenic spot, a car will make himfeel convenient.

Another great reason why I encourage my friend to buy a car is that my friendwill not spend much time on commuting anymore. Everyday we waste toomuch time on waiting for a bus or riding a bicycle to work. We all experiencedthe ﬁustration of taking a bus. After having their own cars, such the problemswill disappear automatically.

Of course, ifmy friend decides to use his money to go on a vacation, I think that there are some advantages also. For example a vacation may increase his personal experience and knowledge, and may even reduce many troubles thatare related to a car. But if all the factors are contemplated, I think that theadvantages of buying the car will carry more weight than those of going on vacation.

From what has been discussed above, I may safely draw the conclusion that buying a car will be a right choice for my friend.

Topic I 78 What changes will the 21st century bring?

About a decade ago, people were eagerly looking forward to ushering the newcentury-the 21st century with the hope of seeing a fresh beginning of humancivilization. There is no denying that with the development of the IT industryand numerous other industries, people's life is getting more and moreconvenient. However, I have to act as a wet blanket here, unwilling though I amto point out that the blind "progressiveness" of human beings have caused an irretrievable disaster that is revealing its monstrous face in the new century.

The ﬁrst sign of damaged nature appeared much earlier without being noticedby us. As a result, nature continues to be abused. My grandmother lives in thecountryside. Years ago, when I was still a little girl, there was endless woodsand crystal clear streams and rivers there, but now, what you can possibly ﬁndare chopped down wasteland and yellow-colored brooks. The environment isdeteriorating in spite of a few people's awareness of the danger.

Consequently, the deteriorated environment breeds a far more moody climatethan before. My hometown is a beautiful seaside city. Living here for more thantwo decades, I didn't see any sandstorm until this spring. I could hardly breatheor see things clearly in the yellowish air. I was in shock. Another examplecomes from a city afar near the Mediterranean. Floods devastate thesummerhouses along the coast, aborting people's plans for the summer andcausing enormous damage to the economy of those countries.

Therefore, I want to say when you are surﬁng on line, browsing the messagessent through your cell phones and busy in doing biotechnological experiments,do not be overwhelmed by the beneﬁts of the new century, instead, you shouldthink more about how to protect the environment and thus improve the climate,which is indeed the biggest change brought by the new century.

Topic I 78 What changes will the 21st century bring?

With the advent of the 21 st century, the world is facing many changes. Thereare incredible advancements in science and technology ﬁelds. In my point ofview, these breakthroughs will bring more conveniences to people and makeour life easier.

First of all, one of the most signiﬁcant changes is the use of computers androbots. Using of such computers and robots in industries can bring an increasein output and accuracy. Also, these computer parts and robots are being madeso tiny that they can be built into both personal and industrial equipments.

Moreover, there will be more innovations, inventions and researches indifferent areas of science and technology, such as more advancedtelecommunication with a new generation of satellites, faster means oftransportations, newer engines for planes, and quicker diagnosis of diseases byusing advanced auto analyzers.

On the other hand, a few disadvantages such as air and water pollution,decreasing of natural resources cannot be underestimated. Although thesenegative aspects are almost negligible in comparison with great advancementsof this new century, most scientists believe that these negative effects are notoverrated.

In conclusion, it can be concluded that not only does the new century brings usmany great advantages, but also it brings a few disadvantages in which peoplehave to deal with.

Topic 178 What changes will the 21st century bring?

The 21st century has just begun. Upon the question "what changes the newcentury will bring," different people have different opinions. Some may believethat the new century will bring us more awareness on security issues. As far asI am concemed, I agree with this point of view. I believe that safety andsecurity are more and more important for our day-to-day life in this newcentury. In the following I will try to make my position clearer.

One of the most signiﬁcant events at the beginning of the new century is the"9/11" attack. The terrorists launched an attack to the United States, causinglost of lives and huge damage to the world's economy. Since the "9/11", therehas been more and more worries and consciousness about the security issues inour life than ever before. For instance, when we travel abroad, we have to passintensive security-checks at airports and borders. The waiting time at thoseplaces are much longer than ever before. In addition, nations have to investgreater amount of money to improve the security measurements duringintemational events such as the Olympic Games, in order to protect personalsafety of ofﬁcials, reporters, athletes and audiences from around the world.Moreover, everyday we can hear from the news that some terrorists‘ attacks andwars are happening somewhere in the world.

The world has become a dangerous place. As a result, more and more people nowadays prefer to spend their holidays at home. In a TV show, "FaithPOPCORN- Report", when people are being asked opinions about their homes,they say “my home is my castle”. It is even said that it is more secure to live in the wildemess than in the city, due to the fact of crime, drugs and environmental pollutions.

Security issues has changed our lifestyle dramatically. Life will quickly become different for all ofus. Therefore it will be more important to reinforce our safety in the new century.

Topic I 79 What are qualities of a good parent?

Parents play an important role in the child's upbringing. However, it is not easy to be a good parent, much to the surprise of those who think dealing with young children is apiece of cake. In my view, to be a good parent you have to meet certain requirements that I am going to discuss further in the following paragraphs.

You should spend time with your child. Please do not mistake me. By that I am notsaying you must resign from your job and stay at home with your baby all day; instead, Iam referring to quality time. To be a good parent you need to know your child well; ifyou do not even have the minimum amount of time to start with, how on earth are yougoing to know your child? No matter how busy you are, be you a businessman or a policeofﬁcer, you must get some time offwork to be with your child. Knowing howimpressionable a child at his tender age is, you cannot expect him to feel close tosomeone he barely see everyday, much less play the role of a good parent. However, I amnot talking about large amount of time that busy as you are, you may not be able to affordRemember, it is quality time, not quantity time. You can be a CEO and still be a goodparent ifyou make good use of the limited amount of time you spend with your child. Asmall talk after dinner or a little story before bed may well perform the magic.

In order to be a good parent, you also have to be strict; it is for the child's own good. Hemay not like it of course, who will? However, it is from strict parent that a child leamsdiscipline. Under certain circumstances I even agree with the use of force. A goodbeating or a severe scolding is far easier to remember for a little child than a patientpersuasion. He is too young for you to reason with; but you can make him leam hislesson the hard way ifthe little sweet talk fails. Though I think the use of force is the lastresort a parent should tum to, it is nonetheless rather effective.

A good parent should be caring and loving. A strong bond is formed between the parentand the child ifthere is love. This is something magical and inexplicable but both theparent and the child feel it. What makes a parent so special and important is theunconditional love he/she gives to his/her child. A loving and caring environment is verycrucial in a child's growth. Statistics have shown that those from happy families have amore optimistic view of the world and generally live happy lives, while those frombroken families or families where both parents quarrel often are more irritable andpeevish. A child's character is easily shaped by the surroundings so it is a parent'sresponsibility to provide a loving environment to his/her child.

A good parent should also be a good role model for the child to look up to. A child leams many of his habits from his parents and it is all up to a parent to choose what kind of habits he/she wants his/her child to inherit. For example, a parent should immediatelyquit smoking if he/she notices his/her child has the tendency to pick up this bad habit. Allin all, a good parent should behave himself in order to set good examples to his child. To be a good parent is hard but not impossible; in fact I believe all those who really put in a great deal of effort should ﬁnd themselves doing well in this job. After all what is more important is the attitude; if one wants to be a good parent, he can do it.

Topic 180 Why movies are so popular?

There is no denying that movies have inspired a seemingly endless stream offantastic and exciting issues that we just cannot live without. In fact, thedizzying emergence of movie production can create everything we can imagineon screens and what's more they continue bringing us the most wonderful stars and classic stories that will be always remembered by us. Movies have not only been a kind of entertainment we can enjoy, they but have also helped build up an important part of our society.

With the high-tech development of electronic tools it is possible to make everything we are eager to see, especially something that people are always curious about such as dinosaurs, spaceships and even something very scary,unbelievable or gorgeous. For example, directed by an impressive well-knownstory, The Lord Of The Rings brings us to a supematural world ﬁlled with miracles and imaginations that impressed people a lot.

Based on nicely written stories perhaps the most important thing is that movies introduce us those amazing actors. Not only are they so pretty and handsome but they also are the best artists that contribute to our world in many ways. Because of all the celebrated characters they personated, they are considered asthe symbol ofbrave, optimistic, strong-willed and pure-hearted people who aredare to walk fearlessly towards the challenges. Encouraged by them, webecome more and more conﬁdent and make our minds to be the truth seekersthat will insist on overcoming every difﬁculty to stop being mundane andmediocre.

Even some stars were gone long ago they are still our irreplaceable spirit'sleaders such as Clark Gable, Audrey Hepburn, and others. Movies are alwaysnot just be appreciated by their dramatic pictures, they are deeply analyzed byworthiness, humanity, ideology and the complex inﬂuence they will bring intopeople's mind. In conclusion, with gorgeous omamentation and very valuablethemes it is no surprising that movies are extremely popular overall the world.Known as the epitome of our realistic society, movies can always dominate itsplace and continue to bring us what we want to see in sight and what we wantto feel in heart.

Topic 181 Should lands be developed?

Just as our human beings came from nature, we would return to nature sooneror later. It is self-evident that losing our natural condition means that we arebuilding up a sepulcher for ourselves.

Nature is the original source of our food, house utilities and industries. So wecannot live without her. Sucked the nutrition from nature, we created awonderful world. She is our mother who we always tum back on. Wise andresourceful are people to try their best to keep nature prosperous and abounded.

Many people may hold the wrong opinion that spending money in preservingnature is a big waste of money. Even though, it is true that we cannot see muchof the returns in the near future, it is worthy in the long run. What is more,nature itself can make money. The beautiful landscape of nature that was savedwill attract many visitors. We also have many different famous places forpeople who came from all over the world. In fact, it is a high-profit businessand will contribute to our economic in the days coming.

Taking a look at our country's qoe-state, our agrarian land is diminishingquickly. Nature areas are vanishing year by year. We are just facing a thomyway that needs us to take measurements on immediately. Thus, there is noreason to neglect the fact that there is more need for land to be left in its naturalcondition.

Burdening the great historical task, we cannot use up the limited source tofulfill our unbounded desires. Housing and industry but make us live a bit morecomfortable now. They cannot lead us go further. We should leave what wehave inherited from our ascendants to the descendants.

Topic 182 Is human relationship with pets useful?

Human has a long history of feeding pets. With the development of human society more and more people have pets in their families. They love to be accompanied by their pets and they look them as their family members. They eat with their pets, stroll with their pets, and even sleep with their pets. And I think having a close relationship with pets is very good for people, the reasons why I say so as follows.

First, having a pet is very good for children. Children always need someone to play with them, take care of them, but their parents cannot do it all the time. When children have a pet, for example, a dog, they will be attracted by it and spend most of their time playing with it. The children will not feel lonely when their parents cannot take care of them. Besides, that also makes parents have their own time to do something they need.

Second, pets are also good for adults, especially those works under pressure. Now many people work so hard every day that they do not have time to relax and talk with friends. Ifthey have pets, whenever they get to home they can talk to them, look them as persons, tell them what they are anxious about. This would help people to reduce their pressure and make them have a better mood.

Third, most of the owners of pets are senior citizens. That's not a coincidence. Because youngsters leave home for their new lives. They do not have much time to spend with their parents. The old people feel so lonely when they facing the empty rooms. Pets can reduce their loneliness. Old people can take care of them, feed them, talk to them just like taking care of their own children. And the medical research shows that patting pets, such as cats and dogs can reduce the blood pressure, this is also very important to old people.

Although sometimes pets make your room a mess, break your favorite vase, even some time they bite you, the advantages of having a close relationship with pets overweight the disadvantages. Have a pet if you like and enjoy it.

Topic 182 Is human relationship with pets useful?

Many pets are said to be men's best friends. Though being only an animal or a bird, still they are considered to be a part of the family. They share a special bonding with the members of the family. I definitely believe that these relationships are good. There are many reasons to it.

We see many families today with dogs or cats as their pets. We get a variety of pets‘ food. These families feed their pets with these foods available in the market and raise their pets like their own family members. Today the expenses for raising a child and a pet are the same. Though an animal cannot talk it can understand well and the same as what human beings do. Many pets provide emotional support to the family that they just do it by their mere existence. Dogs are said to be the best caretakers. They bark upon strangers and welcome known people. In this way it helps his family by guarding them against any dangers. There have been many cases in the past were animals have actually helped in preventing robbery or any other unknown dangers.

These animals do feel the same as humans do. When the family to which he belongs to is not there at home he becomes sad and stops eating. In fact these animals show different signs when they are happy. For example, dogs wag their tail when they see their owners or any of the family members. Since they have the same quality what humans have they are bound to get close to family they belong to and it's the same with the family too. They are provided medication if not well, taken to veterans and treated in the same manner in the way any other family member would have treated if unwell.

Animals are said to be their best friends since they do not stab the family they are in. There are movies that show different relationships, which an animal shares with his owner. These movies actually depict the real cases or the real emotion of the animals as well as the family towards them. They expect love and care, which their family gives. Also in a family, when a child grows up he goes to high school and then college. He no longer stays with his parents. But the pet of the family is still there in that family caring and being cared by the family.

Thus because of the human quality of kindness, emotional and well being animals form an important part of the family they belong to and the family treats them as one amongst them.

Topic 182 Is human relationship with pets useful?

Pets have always been a part of human life structure. Thus, each and every human culture contains different morals and regulations on treating the pets. For my part, I must argue in favor of treating pets almost like family members. I am going to mention two reasons to support the slightly altered idea.

First of all, I'd like to mention the fact, that no matter human, animal or plant a living thing has needs and feelings, which if not fulfilled, could have serious effects on its physical and mental (or spiritual) health. Thus, although one may criticize owning and keeping a pet, does not bring as much responsibility as raising a child, the concept of responsibility and caring remains the same in

both situations. Consequently I believe the owners should be blamed in case they do not realize and accept the pet's rights, and history of binding in the loving and caring natural environment, which fulfilled all its needs, and in case they keep and treat it as it were a mere source of entertainment or labor. As I mentioned before, a pet is almost comparable with a child. Taking the

responsibility to pet an animal requires determined commitment to fulfill its needs and replacing the loving environment it could have in nature, with another loving one. Therefore, if accepted in the social culture as a member of the family, the pet is more likely to receive what it deserves.

In addition to the necessity of the sensational bindings and mutual relationships between the pet and its owners, which makes it like a member of the family, there is a disadvantage to this highly sensational binding. First, they owners should always keep in mind to prioritize emotional and financial needs of the human family members. Secondly, most domestic animals have shorter life

than human beings, therefore the owners -in other word, human family members- usually encounter its death during their lifetime. As a result, I believe that the owners must always keep this fact in mind in order to prevent deep sensational damages. Consequently, although taking care of the pet's health, the owners should be able to control their emotional reliance on the pet. However, the unsafe and corrupted human communication in our modem world makes lots of owners so bound to their pets, that they find living difficult after their loss.

A question has been raised on whether pets should be treated as members of the family or not. The needs of pets and the responsibility of the owners as well as the fact that pets usually die before their owners and that human family members must have higher priorities, make me agree with the idea in case the word almost could be added to the main question.

Topic 182 Is human relationship with pets useful?

I think that having close relationship with pets is good as long as you do not over do it. Pets are friendly and loving. Let me explain my point of view.

Pets can be our friends. Especially in old age when our children go away from home to study we feel lonely, then we can keep a pet. Pets could keep us busy and lessen the feeling of loneliness. We can spend most of the time with pets like feeding them, and taking them a walk. Pets are healthy to keep if they could take our mind off of the troubles of day. But on the other hand, if we worry unnecessarily about the items such as food, clothes etc. and behavior of pet, then it's not healthy for us.

Some animals like cats, parrots, and rabbit are very loving. We can easily love these animals. But emotional involvement with animals is not very good. Some people treat pets as part of their family. They take pets to their own bedrooms and give them place to sleep on their bed. They give them seat on couch or take them in the lap. I do not think all this is very healthy for us. We should have separate utensils and space for pets. A few people try to teach pets eating with spoon and forks, they are happy if pets learn easily. Expecting pets to behave like humans might not be good for pets, after all they are animals.

There are many store who sell all kind of stuff related to pets such as pet food, pet clothes, pet toys, and pet homes. Buying nutritious food and separate homes for pets is necessary. We should even buy a few toys for entertainment of our pet. Now a day's pet owners spend hundreds of dollars on buying special types of pet food, costly toys, and expensive pet homes. They try to get luxurious things for their pets. I think these people should donate some of that money to child food banks, since many children in our country do not have food to eat. I think spending extra money on pets is waste of money.

According to me, pets can be friendly and feeling close to them can be healthy, if we do not worry much about them.

Topic 182 Is human relationship with pets useful?

Animals started to live side by side with people thousands of years ago. In ancient Egypt people known to keep dogs to protect their houses and lands. Remains of the dogs and cats were found, for example, in ancient burial sites in Egypt. While big animals like horses or cows were used to work and to provide food, small animals, like cats, or birds, obviously were kept for fun and companionship. With all the progress going on, it is not necessary to keep animal to survive, but, amazingly, the population and the variety of home pets is growing. I believe it has some positive sides and some negative.

I heard from many of my friends, that there is nothing like coming home tonight and being greeted by a dog or a cat. They say, it takes all the daily stress away and provides immediate relaxation. And there is no need to talk! I read a few articles in medical magazines, that cats can help people with all kind of body pains, just rubbing off the sore spot. Their warm and energy provide some therapeutic effect. Another positive aspect of having a dog, for example, is that people have to go outside, regardless of the weather. It gives dog owner constant stimulation to exercise. Some people in my neighborhood are jogging with their dog s, keeping themselves and the dogs healthy.

On the other hand, some negative tendencies were shown recently. Needless to say pet owners are very fond of their animal friends. Some people treat them as their children and more and more often prefer them to real people, even kids. It happened, that when a dog threatened the child in the park, the owner would not call the dog and would let it harm the kid. Besides that, I don't think it is healthy for people to escape their relationship problem and create and extra tight binds with an animal. We all know that animal's lives are shorter, than people's are, and the loss of the favorite pet can be just devastating. Another example is the growing fashion trend to keep exotic and dangerous animas as pets, such as crocodiles, lizards, or snakes. In some cases, it not only illegal, but very dangerous for everybody, even for the owner.

To sum I would like to point out, that friendship between people and animals can be very fulfilling, when it is well-balanced and does not, in any way, harms one side or another.

Topic 183 What have you learned about a country from its movies?

I believe that every film contains a lot of information about the county where itwas made. Usually films show us the great variety of cultural peculiaritiesabout country where they came from. Personally, I have learnt many new thingsabout different countries and their people from watching their movies.

I remember, as a child I used to enjoy watching Indian films. It was veryexciting experience for a young girl who was fond of Indian songs and thenational clothes. From Indian movies I learnt that the Indian culture is very richand colorful. I found out that they are mostly romantic people who love to singand dance. Also, it was interesting to know that there are different religions anda plethora of ethnic groups in India.

I would say that I leamt a lot not only about Indian traditions and culture fromwatching its ﬁlms. To tell the truth, Russian movies were very educational forme too. Ifyou watch them carefully, you will probably notice that they containa great amount of information about Russian people and their culture. Forexample, I realized that Russians are incredibly honest people who like tocelebrate many events with a lot of food, and of course with vodka. I learntfrom Russian ﬁlms about their hostility and willingness to great and meet otherpeople. Russian movies show that all that is a big part of their traditions.

To summarize, I would say that from watching intemational ﬁlms we are ableto leam many new things about different nations. Moreover, ﬁlms educate usabout cultural and traditional varieties of many countries.

Topic 183 What have you learned about a country from its movies?

Movies are an important part of the culture of a country where they are made.Watching a ﬁlm, like listening to music or reading a book can tell one a lotabout things that people value and the way they interact. In this essay I wouldlike to share my perception about the United States that I gained by watchingAmerican movies.

My ﬁrst observation is that the USA is a very rich country. This is reﬂected inthe types of average people shown in the movies, most ofwhom are home-owners with a car and a full-time job. They usually can afford to dine in ﬁnerestaurants and travel around the world. For example, in the recent movie "JustMarried", a young couple from America stayed in nice hotels and traveled allaround Europe for their honeymoon.

US movies are also high-budget movies with a lot of special effects andexcellent sound and picture quality. This is another reﬂection of the amount ofwealth in the country that can produce movies such as "Troy", "Titanic" or"Gladiator" that featured both multi-million budgets and collections from thetheaters around the world.

Another observation is that Americans are very individualistic and independentpeople. Children leave the family after the high school, since when they oftendo not receive support from their parents and have to rely on themselves tomaintain their living. Many young movie characters (such as in the movie"Bartender" have to support themselves or their education by low-prestige jobssuch as waiting even iftheir parents are very wealthy. )

The last feature of America that I observed from US movies is that Americansare very direct in dealing with other people. They quickly speak their mindregardless of the other person's title or the social status.

I am well aware that movies may exaggerate some of the features characteristicof the country they were made in. Nevertheless I believe that in general theygive a fairly good picture of the country's traditions, norms and values. I thinkthat by watching American movies I gained a good understanding of the UnitesStates, its society and its people.

Topic 183 What have you learned about a country from its movies?

As my number one hobby, movies take me to different eras, atmospheres,feelings and nations, all the before mentioned is in hand thanks to thetechnology available nowadays.

The ﬁlm industry can be observed and digested by many angles, entertainment,documentary, science ﬁction, comedy or drama. The magic of taking the timeto observe rather to watch a ﬁlm produces a mind trip to every way the camerawas ﬁlming.

Issues such as costumes, politics, ignorance, and fear need no passport whilebeing ﬁlmed, the human condition as well as its surroundings can be capturedin the memory thanks to ﬁlming and its up braking industry.

Simple daily basis activities, such as public transport, or main social principalsor prejudices such as apartheid or racism, can be shown all over the world notonly on a printed basis such as a newspaper, book or magazine, but by thewhole image of it, not withstanding that images do say more than words, butoften help to diversify the truth or the real facts of information. Close related tothe before mentioned idea, stands the interpretation that producers, directors,actors and viewers make a truth of their own, but isn't that the way that theworld is known?

Deﬁnitely since the beginning of the ﬁlm industry, the movies have showed theexistence of the different, the opposed, the distant, but far away from it, moviescan help to break trough intellectual, political, and cultural barriers, in order toknow better our world.

Topic 183 What have you learned about a country from its movies?

Since its birth, ﬁlms always function as the main media depicting theenvironments and people in details. Pondering the speciﬁc aspects in theﬁlmmaker and country, we can achieve valuable and wealthy information.

The ﬁrst treasure we can dig is some social problems in the country reﬂectedby the ﬁlm. Hollywood, the largest dream makers’ cradle, prefers to supportsome movies revealing some serious current social problems confronting in theUnited Stated society. Take the Oscar-winning Film in 2001, The AmericanBeauty, as an example. That ﬁlm received lots of admiration and compliments.We can leam from the ﬁlm that in the most advanced economy, the normalAmerican people's life still have some dilemma such as marriage dissatisfaction,family cracking, and moral suspicion.

On the other hand, we can leam from a ﬁlm about the country's history. Takethe best foreign ﬁlm, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, for example, we canappreciate the Chinese ancient melodious music, exotic costumes and magicmartial arts. A movie from a country with its own history and tradition thattotally different from those in the western movies not only tells a romantic storybut teach something beyond as well.

Finally, the country's own culture will be revealed in their ﬁlms naturally. Forexample, another foreign ﬁlm, Life is Beautiful, made in Italy, tells a Jewishtragedy happened in the Germany concentration camp in the Second World War.Instead of using the sorrowful way to express the plot, the inspiritedﬁlmmakers use obviously humorous and romantic ways which probably arerooted in the Italian culture. Culture usually expresses itself in the ﬁlmspontaneously.

All in all, we can achieve some current social context, or speciﬁc historicaltradition, or culture in the ﬁlms. These are the aims that directors,cinematographers, and actors have been working for, and the most important,those are factors why we go to the cinemas.

Topic 183 What have you learned about a country from its movies?

Films are a mirror of a country. It depicts the life of common people in acountry at a given period in history. This can be exempliﬁed by taking a reviewof period ﬁlms like "Elizabeth - the Last Emperor" and "Gandhi", etc. Thesemovies have not only portrayed the lives of famous individuals of their period,but they also give coverage of the people around them, the events that shapedup their personality thus giving us insight of the life style in that particularperiod.

They not only depict the period in history but also in present. Globally manycountries have undergone so many changes recently that we can divide the timeperiod in cluster of 10 years each. The ﬁlms arrived in each decade portrays thelife style of the people in that decade. Thus proving a hallmark of changes innations thinking, economy, and fashion.

Films reﬂect the attitude of the particular nations citizens. For example once Ihad seen one Japanese movie about a woman in transition phase during herdivorce. It exempliﬁes the reaction and outlook of man/woman/child andsociety in total, towards the painful episode like divorce. I have also cameacross a movie in my country on same topic. The reactions ofpeople to divorcein this movie are totally different than the one I saw in Japanese movie. Thiscan be a classic example of the difference in the cultures of two countries.

Thus the movies can tell us much more than expected about the country'sculture, people. They also make us aware of the current issues in country, thetrend, and the fashion prevailing in country.

Topic 184 Self-study vs. group study

Studying is not just reading the content of the book. It involves thorough understandingof the topic, which of course involves good concentration and involvement. This can beachieved either by studying alone or in groups. There are both advantages anddisadvantages in both these ways. I would ﬁrst like to outline some of these pros andcons before putting forth my choice of study.

Let me ﬁrst consider group-study. No two ﬁngers of a hand are same. Similarly no twoindividuals can think the same way. This is the key factor in group-study. It is bothadvantageous as well as disadvantageous. It is advantageous because difference inpeople's thinking gives rise to many new solutions to the same issue. It isdisadvantageous because all the members of the group cannot leam things at the samepace. Some members learn very fast and others learn very slow. So the fast learner mayfeel bored to repeat the same topic again and again. The slow leamer may developinferiority complex and feel embarrassed to ask for repetition everyday. The otherdisadvantage of group-study that I would like to point out is gossip. Even ifone memberof the group is not in the mood to study, the whole group will be spoiled. He/she will startcommenting about a movie or a ﬁlm star or some unrelated topic and will lead to a big,unwanted discussion consuming all the precious time. Group-study will lead tocompetition, i.e., each member of the group will try to excel other members. As long asthis competition is healthy, it is good for everybody, otherwise it can lead to ego problemswhich is pretty bad. Punctuality is also another problem in group-study, ie., even ifyouarrive ﬁrst, you cannot start studying. You have to wait for everybody else to arrive.While waiting, you and your one friend may start gossiping, and before you know it, thatgossip will be the topic of discussion for that day.

Now let us consider self-study.----- The main advantage of self-study is that you canstudy in your own pace. You don't have to wait for anybody else. You can start studyingas and when you are ready. In a group study, you can just think in one angle because thereare other members in the group who would give an other view. But that is not the case inself-study. Here you should only think in all different possible views regarding one topic,and in order to support that view you would have to read and refer a lot of different booksSo self-study improves your thinking and researching ability. I think concentration is onething which can be distracted even ifyou are not in a group. In a group-study gossipingmay be one kind of distraction. This kind of distraction is not found in self-study. On theother hand, we can sometimes start day-dreaming and before we know it we would havespent a lot of time thinking and dreaming about some irrelevant topic. But I think thechances of distraction is more in group-study, than in self-study.

Now, for my opinion on the subject. I, personally, would prefer to read alone and not in agroup. I believe in doing everything myself. So ifI am told to address an issue, I like tothink in various different angles, read a lot ofbooks and then come to a conclusion.Another reason why I prefer to read alone is, I think group-study, by itself is not enough.Let me explain what I mean by this. Let us say, the topic of discussion is "MahatmaGandhi's murder". Group-study involves discussion and exchange of ideas about thistopic. But ifI have to talk something about Gandhiji's murder, ﬁrst of all I myself shouldstudy about that topic and be thorough with what I have to discuss. So I think group-study is dependent on self-study. Well, the bottom-line is, ifgiven a choice, I wouldprefer to study alone rather than in a group.

Topic 184 Individual learning vs. group learning

Some students prefer to study alone, while others prefer to study with friends.Although studying with friends has its advantages, in my point ofview, I wouldlike to study alone. The reasons are as follows.

When you study, especially when you study some subjects that are hard tounderstand, such as math and physics you need to concentrate on them. Thatrequires a quiet environment without distractions. Studying alone can providethat, and you can read your books and think of questions without beingdisturbed. It will help you to understand the knowledge better and to rememberthe knowledge better.

Furthermore, studying alone has another advantage that studying with friendsdoes not have. That is it forces you to think. When you face some questionshard to solve, and there is no other students around you, you have to think ofthe questions hard and try you best to solve them. This gives you anopportunity to improve your ability to deal with problems by yourself.Obviously, studying with friends cannot give you these. Because when youmeet some questions, you probably tum to friends for help.

The third advantage of studying alone is also the most important reason. It canmake you think independently and have your own opinions. You have to thinkindependently when you study alone. No one can give you interference orsuggestions. You will not be affected by other people's opinions. That can helpyou create your own thoughts, not to become a parrot. After all, the best parrotsstill live in cages.

Though studying with friends has some advantages, for instance, it can helpyou to solve your questions faster and improve your friendship, however I thinkthe advantages of studying alone overweight these of studying with friends. Mypreference would be to study alone.

Topic 184 Individual learning vs. group learning

Every student has his/her own style of studying, in which he/she ﬁnds mostsuitable for him/her to leam knowledge at school. Methods of studying can beclassiﬁed into two major categories, namely, individual study, and group study.Personally, I would prefer to study with a group of students, and I will explainmy opinion below.

The most obvious reason is that studying with a group of students can helpstudents gain more knowledge and understand it more thoroughly. Group studyoffers students a chance to discuss the problems and exchange opinions witheach other. In this process students can clarify their misunderstandings andstrengthen their understandings of particular knowledge.

Furthermore, students will obtain more information about how to study fromtheir fellow students, because apart from learning from teachers, students canalso leam from each other through group study. Each student has his/her ownstrength in different areas of study. By studying together, they cancommunicate with each other about their methods of learning different subjects,thus each student can ﬁnd the best way to leam a subject with the help of thegroup. Undoubtedly, involving with different people can strongly widen one‘shorizon, mature one‘s thoughts and enrich one‘s personality.

Apart from gaining more knowledge and information, studying in a group canhelp students develop teamwork spirit, which is crucial for a student's futuresuccess. No matter in school or in the real world, we often need to join effortsto ﬁnish a complicated task. For example, you can hardly ﬁnd one product thatis completed by one person, even by one company. Therefore, teamwork spiritthat can be developed through group study at school is very important forstudents‘ development. On the contrary, students cannot learn the importance ofcooperation by studying alone.

On the other hand, studying alone also has some advantages to some extent,such as quiet studying atmosphere, and a self-controlled pace. But form whathas been discussed above, studying in-group carries more weight than studyingalone. In conclusion, we may safely reach the conclusion that it is better tostudy with a group of students.

Topic 184 Individual learning vs. group learning

We as human beings have different qualities, strengths, and weaknesses. Samegoes for studying. Every individual has a different way of studying, where oneﬁnds it easier to understand and comprehend the matter he/she is studying inhis or her own way of learning. However, methods of studying can be classiﬁedinto two major categories, namely, individual studying, and group studying.

Some people prefer group studying, because for them group studying providesthem with diverse information, that is to say, that each member in the groupparticipates and is able to provide different information on one subject.

Another reason is that if any member ﬁnds difﬁculty in the subject, he/she caneasily discuss the problem with other group members, who will be most readyto help each other. Then there is also the aspect of division of work. Forexample, if students are given an assignment to complete, and ifeach person ina group is responsible for a different topic, then the load of work is dividedamong the members of the group and will eventually not burden any oneperson. On the contrary, many students prefer studying alone, mainly becausethey want to do their work on their own. Doing so really helps them, becausethey alone are responsible for what they are studying, and therefore areresponsible for their own grades, this evolves a sense ofresponsibility in thestudent. Also, since there is no one to share their work with, they have to do alltheir work on their own, which again is an advantage. For example, a studentwho studies alone, when given an assignment, does it entirely byhimself/herself. Doing so, each and every topic is familiar to the student andthe entire work is a product of his/her own effort. So, ifhe/she gets a grade onsuch an assignment, the student would know what his potentials, what hisstrengths and weaknesses are.

I prefer to study alone, since in that way I get the proper sense of what myweaknesses are and what my strengths are. I get to improve my weaknesses.Although ifI ﬁnd any difﬁculty I cannot take help from any other person unlikestudents who study in groups, but then I can always ask for help from a teacher.But I believe studying on one‘s own is important because anyone can study ingroups but when it comes to individual studying it becomes tough. And in thereal world an individual is confronted with situations that a person isresponsible individually. And a person can acquire such a sense ofresponsibility only through working on his or her own.

Thus, it can be concluded that studying alone is more effective than studying ingroups. Although, the different methods of studying mostly depend on whatworks better for the student.

Topic 185 A house or a business?

Faced with the question whether to buy a house or a business ifI had the moneY,I came to the conclusion that basically the two investments have a majordifference that radically inﬂuences my choice. I believe that spending themoney for developing a business, despite being somewhat risky, is the morereasonable choice as it could bring with it not only eventual proﬁts but alsovaluable knowledge and experiences to the person involved. In contrast, buyinga real estate such as a house can only lead to future troubles and expenses.

Some people prefer to invest their money on things like houses or automobilesbecause they like the sense of secure and comfort that brought by such assets.But are they really as secure as they seem to be at ﬁrst glance? First of all,rarely can anyone pay the whole sum for a house at once. In most cases itrequires monthly payments for years as well as taxation. In addition keeping ahouse in a proper condition also costs a lot no matter whether it is used by theproprietors or tenants.

Second, in today's active world where people often move from place to place insearch of new experiences or better career opportunities, it has becomecommon for many young people to perceive the place where they live as atemporary hotel where one returns only for eating and sleeping. So it is enoughfor it to be convenient and affordable.

Investing in a business, on the other hand, is a very serious initiative and a greatchallenge as well. Deciding to start one‘s own business requires a certain senseof risk and a strong desire to succeed by improving one‘s skills. Specializedknowledge in the business ﬁeld is very essential too. Certainly, however, noone can do all the work by him/herself. So a person who starts his/her ownbusiness will have to leam more not only about accounting or management butalso learn how to hire the right professionals to manage some of the businessaffairs for him/her. Furthermore, in spite of the fact that it may take many yearsand numerous unsuccessful attempts, a business could bring very proﬁtableresults as it could grow and develop.

For all the reasons that I mentioned above, I believe that by investing mymoney in a business I will ﬁnd many new opportunities for self-improvementand have the chance to be ﬁnancially independent. Then maybe one day, whenI am old and tired, I will buy my own house too.

Topic 185 A house or a business?

If I have enough money to purchase either a house or a business, I will chooseto buy a house. Having a house is good for living, for children and even for abusiness.

Having my own house, my family can move out of the apartment where we areliving now. I can decorate it just as what I want. I can ﬁll my own house withfurniture and appliances that I want. Everyday after I come back home, I can liedown in the white sofa I bought and watch a movie using the home theatersystem. But ifI still live in an apartment, I will not be able to buy all thefurniture that I want, because I know I only live there temporarily and there isnot enough space for new fumiture.

A new house is also good for the children. I can buy a house within a goodschool district, so my children can go to those prestigious schools now. And allI have to pay is just the property tax and some insurance fee. No rent for livinganymore. No tuition for private schools anymore. Needless to say, Children caninvite their friends over and have their party in the backyard. A house will winmy children's big smile.

After purchasing a house, I still can do my business. With my own house, I canuse it as a collateral to get a business loan. Now I can purchase that business.Maybe I am lucky and talented enough to run the business well and get someextra money to payoff the entire loan, and then I get both a house and abusiness. Maybe I am good in this business and can only pay off the loan after Isell the business, then I still get a house. Maybe I lose too much money in thebusiness and the loaner take my house, and then nothing is different ifI ﬁrstchose to buy a business, because at last, I will own nothing for that bad luck.

Purchasing a house has a lot ofbeneﬁts. Though buying a business can get meinto business sooner, I think I do not need be so hurry because I like to enjoythe life ﬁrst. So I will use the money to buy a house.

Topic 185 A house or a business?

If I were to choose to buy either a house or a business, I would deﬁnitely selectto purchase a house because of three different reasons. First, my current houseis too small to ﬁt all of our family members. Second, buying a house is a goodinvestment because its price tends to increase over time. Lastly, I am not keenon doing my own business.

To begin with, my family is considered one of the extended family. Wecurrently have ten people live under the same roof. Although there are enoughrooms to ﬁt all of us in the same house now, it seems to be a problem in thefuture since my brother is going to have a baby. Therefore, it is a good reasonfor me to buy a new house to accommodate our family members.

Next, a house is always a good investment since its price usually increases overtime. For example, my house in Bangkok cost around 500,000 bahts ten yearsago. Its price unsurprisingly doubled. In other words, it costs around 1,000,000bahts to buy my house presently. Therefore, buying a house is a sure bet to agood investment.

Lastly, as I grew up, I realized that I was not keen on business. When takingclasses in business, I usually did not feel conﬁdent. For example, whenpracticing a case study on running a business, I did not want to take risks. Thus,the business I ran failed. As a result, I am not sure that ifI were to buy abusiness, it would be successful.

In conclusion, since a house would give me beneﬁts such as providing moreplaces for my expanding family and being a good investment, I, a person whois not keen on business, would rather buy a house rather than a businessprovided that I have enough money.

Topic 185 A house or a business?

If someone were generous enough to give me sufﬁcient amount of capital to doone of the two things, I would probably go in for purchasing a house. To me, ahouse is one of the best securities one can have. Besides, I would not describemyself as being particularly business-minded, so given a choice betweenbuying a house or starting a business, a home would be more appealing to me.

I have several reasons for this choice. All my life, I have lived in rentedapartments, and am aware of the difﬁculties that my parents had faced. Theconstant insecurity of being asked to move out at short notice is one problem. Ihave watched my parents hunt around for houses, the worry and tension thathas caused to them, and ﬁnally, the relief and gradual sense ofpeace that settledin, when we ﬁnally managed to buy a place of our own.

Buying a house is an excellent investment, ifdone properly, and at the righttime with respect to the market situation. Having a decent bit of property onone‘s hands is advantageous when there is a need for a loan during emergenciesBanks generally ask for securities, the most of common ofwhich are housesand jewelry.

Also, a house is a source of ready money, since the market today is more oftenthan a seller's market. If a respectable builder builds the house or building in aconvenient locality, it generally fetches a good price, since these are the ﬁrsttwo points that are considered by the buyers.

On the other hand, in today's world, with rising prices, inﬂation, an unstableeconomy, one can no longer be absolutely certain of a success in business,unless one has a sharp acumen, a sense of risk, and a true entrepreneurial spirit.A business venture cannot be started half-heartedly, just because of availabilityof capital. A lot of hard work and enterprise is necessary to make a success outof a business in this world of cut-throat competition. I genuinely do not believethat I am cut out for it. My ﬁeld of study is science, and I am more inclinedtowards a career that involves research.

Finally, I would like to say that it has always been my ardent wish to have ahome that I can call my own, which I can come back to after a day's work, andthis thought alone is sufﬁcient to allow me to make my decision.

Topic 185 A house or a business?

Nowadays the only thing people seem to be interested is eaming more andmore money. Many people spend their entire lives doing business and neglecttheir family and friends. I do not want to be one of them. IfI have to choosebetween eaming money and spending time with my family I would choose myfamily. Therefore, ifa have to choose between buying a nice big house for myfamily and me and a business that would take up all my free time I wouldchoose the house.

The business can make you a lot of money, however, it cannot make you happyThe house, on the other hand, can be a dream that have come true. It can be thebest place in the world for you where you can feel safe, calm, and free. Theplace where you keep all the things that you love and more importantly wherethe people you love most live. It is also the place where you will spend thehappiest moments in your life.

Another reason to choose to buy a house is that it gives you security. Thebusiness may fail, but the house will always remain yours. You know that nomatter what happens you will always have a place to live. And ifyou cannotearn enough money to make your living you may let off some of the rooms.

Last but not least, I believe that a house is more valuable heritage than abusiness. A house can always be sold for its real price while selling a businesscan be quite difﬁcult and even impossible ifit has not been proﬁtable for thepast few years.

All things considered, there is no doubt that buying a house is the best choicefor me. But a house cannot make me happy if I live there alone. When I picturemy dream house I always see my future children playing in it.