

# makkarIELTS

## PDF Edition

Speaking Guesswork Solved May-August 2018  
Part 1, 2 & 3- 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Final Version  
Intro, Cue Cards and Follow Up



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1. A comic actor who is popular in your country

- Who is he/she/it | E L T S
  - What type of person he/she is
  - How you came to know about him/her
  - Why he/she is popular
- 
- I know of many comedians who entertain people but here I would like to talk about my favourite comedian who is Kapil Sharma
  - He is very famous nowadays because of his TV show – Comedy nights with Kapil.
  - He is in his early thirties and looks very handsome.
  - He basically hails from Amritsar and his father works in the police force. His mother is a housewife.
  - He was the winner of The Great Indian Laughter Challenge Season 3.
  - He is a multi-talented personality and can also sing very well.
  - He was a contestant in the reality show ‘Star ya Rock-star’ and was the first runner up in that show.
  - In Dec 2013, he was ranked 93rd in Forbes India Celebrity 100 list.
  - He has hosted many shows but he was appreciated the most for hosting Jhalak Dikhla Ja Season 6 with Manish Paul as a co-host.
  - He is basically a stand-up comedian but can also do some slap-stick comedy.
  - His show Comedy Nights with Kapil is my favourite show.
  - This show is telecast on Colours channel every Saturday and Sunday from 9 – 10 pm
  - I never miss any episode of this show.
  - It has very clean comedy.
  - It can be seen with family.
  - In fact all my family members watch this show together.
  - Many celebrities also come on this show.
  - They come there to promote their latest movies and also make this show more enjoyable for us.
  - People get a chance to interact with these celebs.
  - Navjot Singh Sidhu is also a permanent character of this show but he sits on the side of the audience.

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**Follow ups**

1. Do your family members and friends like this actor?  
Yes, they do. In fact, we all watch his shows together. He provides a type of comedy, which the whole family can enjoy together.
2. Why are film personalities famous?  
Film personalities are famous because they entertain people. Many people watch their movies and so come to know about them. They talk about their favourite stars among each other and so they become celebrities. They also endorse products in ads. They are rich and so many youngsters follow them as role models and want to be like them.
3. Do you think youngsters try to copy film stars?  
Yes, they do. Film stars are their style icons. Young people want to dress like their favourite celebs, walk like them, talk like them and do everything like them.
4. What are benefits and drawbacks of it?  
If the celebs set a good example, then it is very beneficial for the youngsters. For example, if celebs work for charity, many youngsters also come forward and help. However, if any celeb smokes and drinks in public, young people start thinking it is glamorous to do so and so do the same, which is definitely not good.
5. Are famous personalities rich in your country?  
Yes, of course they are. They get an exorbitant amount of money for their acting and also from the ads in which they endorse products. For example, I saw an ad of 'visit Dubai' in which Shah Rukh Khan got 30 crores. I heard that Virat Kohli also gets 3 crores for each ad in which he comes.
6. How do they spend their money?  
They lead a luxurious lifestyle. They wear designer clothes, which cost a fortune. They travel executive class, stay in the most expensive hotels, own the most costly cars and have a lot of people working for them. They also have to hire bodyguards. They invest in property and also open many side businesses.
7. Do you think they spend money wisely?  
They have enough money to spend, so even if some of their spending looks wasteful, it doesn't matter to them. For a common man, most of their spending seems extravagant. Some celebs also do a lot for charity.
8. Why do children love to visit circus?  
Circus fascinates children. They love to see the antics done by animals and people.
9. Do people get chance to meet famous personalities in your country?



A few people get a chance to meet famous personalities. Famous people usually don't roam around without their guards. They are busy also. So, normally people do not get a chance to get near them.

10 Should actors be paid more? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S

I believe everyone needs to be paid according to the kind of work they do. Normally remuneration is decided upon factors like skill, experience and the work responsibility. So the actors should be paid accordingly to the above factors and not more or less.

11 Are there many Indians who want to work as actors?

Yes, in India lot many people want to become actors as people perceive celebrity/actor life to be glamorous. Youngsters from different parts of India often travel to the Bollywood city of Mumbai to fulfil their aspiration of becoming an actor.

12 Who are more popular in India – TV stars or movie stars?

I think both of them are equally popular. Access to TV in homes has increased the reach of both these type of stars. People love the TV stars as they are able to relate themselves with the TV soaps based on everyday life whereas the movie stars are famous for portraying larger than life roles.

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## 2. A talkative person

- Who is he/she? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- How do you know him/her? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- Do you like him/her?
- I know many people who are very talkative but here I am going to talk about my cousin Rubina, who is the most talkative person known to me.
- She is my paternal uncle's daughter and lives next door.
- She is fifteen and is studying in 10th class.
- She is tall and beautiful and has a fair complexion.
- She has dimples on both cheeks when she smiles.
- She has jet black curly hair and generally leaves her hair loose.
- She is such a chatterbox that when she is around, you don't need any TV or radio for entertainment.
- She can go on and on and sometimes I wonder from where she gets all the energy to speak so much.
- She is loved by all in our family and even in the neighbourhood.
- She is fond of watching movies and then she tells me the story in so much detail that I feel I have actually seen the movie.
- She has a great sense of humour and can lighten up any tense situation.
- She is very good at studies and wants to become a lawyer.
- I believe she will be a very good lawyer because she has good communication skills.
- No one can feel bored in her company.
- She is an extrovert and can make friends very soon.
- She is also very conscious of her health and goes for morning walk daily.
- She used to be very chubby in childhood but now she has shed off the extra kilos and looks very fit.
- Sometimes her talkative nature has put her in a lot of trouble.
- Many times her teachers have punished her in class for talking a lot.
- I remember once she was made to stand out in the sun for one hour in the scorching heat of the sun.
- She was on the verge of fainting but even that could not quieten her.
- I love this cute chatterbox and when she is quiet, I feel something is wrong and I don't like it.

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**Follow ups**

1. What communication skills are important?  
I believe verbal communication skills are the most significant and must be honed in every individual. The communication in everyday life revolved mostly around verbal skills rather than written communication or non verbal communication.  
Good interpersonal skill is also a top requirement in the jobs these days.
2. Are you talkative?  
No I am not a person who speaks a lot. I mostly speak when I am asked to or when some situation requires my opinion. I believe in the philosophy that one should speak less and think before speaking.
3. Are most Indian people talkative?  
I guess, yes, most of the Indian people love to talk and it is evident by the large amount of noise you can hear at the public places like railway stations, malls etc. I think one of the primary reasons that Indian people love to talk is the fact that Indians love to socialise. They like to know each other's well being and discuss what is going in one's life
4. What jobs need employees to be talkative? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S  
The first job that comes to my mind would be of a Radio Jockey because talking is the primary thing they have to do in their job. They are supposed to entertain people by talking a lot, cracking jokes. Another job, I would say, could be a teacher as they have to give lectures to the students, which involves a lot of speaking.
5. Should children be encouraged to talk more?  
I believe teaching communication skills to children is very important and they should definitely be encouraged to speak. They should also be taught when they should speak more and when they should speak less because speaking more is not important but speaking the right thing is.

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### 3. Talk about a math skill that you learned in your primary / elementary school.

- What was it?
  - How did you learn it? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - Do you find it useful and how is it useful?
  - Explain how it will be beneficial for you in future?
- 
- I learnt many math skills in my elementary school – such as counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
  - I was good at all of them
  - In fact math was my favourite subject in primary school
  - Here I would like to talk about counting.
  - Our teacher used to teach us this skill by making dots or dashes and asking us to count them.
  - Sometimes we were taught to count on our fingertips.
  - Sometimes we were shown pictures of objects and we had to count them.
  - Counting is very useful in our day to day life.
  - Knowingly or unknowingly we use this skill for measurements and buying and selling.
  - We need to do counting while using money and other things.
  - Even housewives use this skill while working in the kitchen.
  - They have to count the ingredients used in making various dishes and also need to do counting for measuring things.
  - Counting is the base of all other math skills like addition, subtraction and multiplication.
  - In the future also counting will definitely be needed in each and every field.
  - Everybody needs to count in his daily life at some time or the other.
  - Without this basic skill life is un-imaginable.
  - I remember, Mrs Promilla was my math teacher in primary school.
  - She used to be my favourite teacher.
  - That's is why math became my favourite subject at school.
  - It is because of this skill that today I am successful

## Follow Up Questions

1. How do you think calculators are helping in maths?  
Computers are making calculations much faster and also error free. There are no chances of any calculation going wrong. Repetitive and boring calculations are becoming easier.
2. Do you think computers will make it less important for people to learn math?  
No, I don't think so. The computers can do calculations, but learning maths will still be necessary because maths is not just calculations, it is much more than that. It is needed in simple activities like cooking, shopping where one cannot use computers.
3. Do you think computers are going to be more intelligent than humans?  
No, never, because Artificial Intelligence is also the creation of human brains. Computers can never beat humans. The fears of AI are unfounded. Even if we believe that computers can be more intelligent, then also they can never have the emotional Intelligence of humans.
4. What is the first subject learnt by children in India?  
The first subject that children learn in India is normally a language. It could either be English or their native language. Children normally start by learning the alphabets and then slowly progress to word formation.
5. What methods can be applied to make maths class more interesting?  
A lot of schools are going back to the old times and using tools like ABACUS to make maths more interesting for the children. Using practical techniques or puzzles can help make maths more interesting for the children.  
Some teachers reward students with things like chocolates to motivate them to solve the problems more quickly.
6. Do you think everybody needs to learn maths?  
Yes, apart from language, math is a subject which is used the most in our everyday life so everyone needs to learn it. I can't even imagine how people would survive without math as we are using it all the time like during shopping etc. However, I haven't still figured out the use of advanced math concepts such as Algebra, Calculus which can be applied in our routine life 😊

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#### 4. An animal you like the most (Strange/ seen for the first time)-

##### Elephant

- India is a diverse country
- There are many types of animals found in India
- There are pet animals, domestic animals and wild animals
- Here I am going to talk about an animal which I saw for the first time in Mini zoo at Chandigarh.
- OR
- An animal I like the most is an elephant.
- OR
- Here I am going to talk about an animal which I find strange
- It is the elephant
- The elephants are the biggest land animals.
- They are herbivorous and can be identified because of their trunk.
- The trunk is the projection of their nose and the upper lips.
- There are two types of elephants, the Indian and the African.
- African elephants are bigger than their Indian counterparts.
- They have comparatively larger ears.
- Among the African elephants both the males and females have tusks whereas, only the males among the Indian elephants have tusks and so they are called tuskers.
- The back of the Indian elephants are convex whereas that of the African elephants are concave.
- Indian elephants can be tamed and they are more beautiful.
- Elephants are gregarious animals and live in herds headed by tuskers.
- They have a well structured family life.
- The young ones, called the calf, are looked after by the cow elephants.
- Their cry is called trumpet.
- In India, elephants are captured, tamed and used for various purposes.
- Elephants are among the few animals whose existence is not endangered till now.

An animal you like the most (Strange/ seen for the first time)- Snakes

- India is a diverse country
- There are many types of animals found in India
- There are pet animals, domestic animals and wild animals
- Here I am going to talk about an animal which I saw for the first time in a park near my home
- It was a huge big snake, black in colour and about 4 feet long
- Many people gathered around it.
- A snake charmer was called and he played an instrument and then very deftly caught the snake in a box and went away.
- Snakes are beautiful animals.
- They are reptiles.
- Unlike the other reptiles, snakes have no limbs; so they crawl.
- Their body is covered with scales and they shed their skin once in a while and this is called moulting.
- There are two types of snakes, the poisonous and the non-poisonous.
- Most of the snakes are non-poisonous.
- Snakes feed on small birds, frogs, rodents etc.
- The poisonous snakes use their poison to kill the prey.
- But the others wind around the victim to kill them.
- Such snakes are called constrictors.
- Cobra, vipers and krait are poisonous snakes whereas python and rat-snakes are harmless.
- Snakes are not our foes but are friends because they eat away the rodents like rats who are a great enemy of man.
- We should not kill snakes.

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Follow up questions

1. Do you think wild TV animal programs are beneficial?

Of course they are. We get to learn so much about animals. They are beautiful creations of nature. When I see these programs, I sometimes wonder how these animals live harmoniously and have feelings.

2. Why and how are these beneficial?

Animals are part of our ecological chain. They are very important for us. Some programs make us aware of their value to us. We come to know that our activities are harming them. We begin to realise the importance of animal conservation.

3. Do you think schools should teach students about animals?

Yes, definitely. Schools need to make children aware of animals and their importance to us.

4. Do you agree with rare animals being raised in the zoos?

Yes, I do. I know that zoos are unnatural places to raise animals, but at the same time they are safer for rare animals, which are in very less numbers. Today's zoos are very different. They try to provide as much natural habitat as is possible.

5. What should we do to protect endangered animals?

I believe the governments across the globe are working hard to protect the endangered species from getting extinct like in India the government ran a campaign to save the tigers. People can also play an important part in this, if they stop buying items which contain animal parts like tiger skin, or elephant tusks then the poaching of these animals will stop which will help in saving the population of these animals.

6. Do you support experiment on animals?

No I do not support experimentation on animals as I believe it to be morally wrong. I think with advancements in technology humans can do experimentations with help of computers and robots

7. Why do some people refuse to eat animals?

There are many reasons why some people are vegetarians. Firstly, it might be due to their religion or culture like in India people who belong to Hindu religion do not eat meat at all as is forbidden in their religion. Secondly some people are becoming vegetarian nowadays because the love for animals is growing, more and more people are adopting pets so they have stopped eating animals.

8. What would happen if some species disappear from Earth?

Every species plays an important role on our planet, if some species disappear from earth, then it could have potentially disastrous consequences like if the species of birds disappear it could lead to increase in the population of pests which will impact our crops. So we should try to protect the endangered species.

### 5. A competition you would like to take part in

- What kind of competition it is?
- What would you do in this competition?
- Why does this competition interest you?

- When I was in school, I participated in many competitions.
- Once I participated in a science fair. I was part of a team.
- We were the 1st runners up. m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- Here, I would like to talk about a competition, I would like to take part in.
- It is a painting competition.
- Every year there is an environment fair held in my home town
- The Rotary Club organises this in the month of December.
- Many competitions are organised, such as mono-acting competition, poetry recitation, flower arrangement, salad decoration, painting and so on.
- Individuals can participate, and even schools can send their students. m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- My friend participated in flower arrangement competition last year and won the 1st prize.
- The prize was a small trophy and a book 'The Wings Of Fire' by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- I am very good at drawing and painting
- I would love to compete in painting competition and try to do my best and win a prize.
- The theme of the painting is announced there only.
- The brushes and paints have to be carried with you, but the art sheets are provided there only.
- I have made many paintings with poster colours and gifted them to my friends and relatives.
- Everyone in my circle knows that I love drawing and painting.
- I am waiting for the fair this year, so that I can participate and try my luck at winning a prize.
- 

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## Follow Up Questions

## 1. What kinds of people are competitive?

I think in their hearts, all people like to compete and see where they stand among others. But, some people are confident and want to compete more often. Some people are not so sure, but are pushed into competitions by their parents or teachers. The fear of losing takes away the competition spirit from many. Many people realise their potential only after competing.

## 2. What kind of activities/competitions people like to take part in?

People like to compete in singing, dancing, painting, sports, quizzes and many more types of competitions.

## 3. There are many competition programs on TV nowadays. Why?

I think people nowadays love watching reality television instead of fiction and dramas. The competition programs are more real compared to the dramas which have become boring and are predictable. In reality shows there is an element of surprise and real human emotions which make them more popular.

## 4. Do you think competition is important at work places?

I think healthy competition is important at all the places including offices. The feeling of competition helps in bringing the best out of the people and promotes growth. Without competition things become boring and monotonous.

## 5. What kinds of jobs or work should not have competition?

I believe jobs that are very critical like that of a doctor or medical practitioner should not have any competition as it's involves saving lives of people. Any competition in such cases could pose a great risk to someone's life.

## 6. What kinds of competitions are popular in your hometown?

In my hometown, sports competition are the most popular. The most popular sport in my hometown is cricket and we often have inter-school competitions in which all the schools in my hometown participate. Normally children in the age group of 14-16 play in these matches.

## 7. What do you think of those who lose in a competition? M A K K @ R i E l T S

I think losing and winning are both important parts of our life. Someone has rightly said that we do not learn much by winning but losing teaches us the most important lessons in life. So people who lose in the competition should take it positively and learn from the experience they gain. Based on these learnings they should try to improve themselves.

## 6. Talk about something you would like to get replaced

- What is it
  - Why do you want to get it replaced
  - How you got it m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - Where it is
- Today's era is a consumerist one.
  - We see new things all around us.
  - There are new models of cell phones, TVs, bikes, cars and so on
  - When I see these new things, I wish to get them
  - Unfortunately, I am not earning yet, and so I have to restrain myself.
  - Here I would like to talk about something, which I want to replace very soon and that is my cell phone.
  - I have a very basic model of cell phone, but all my friends have smart phones.
  - My parents have flatly refused to buy me one, because they are saving for my education abroad. M A K K @ R i E L T S
  - They are spending very frugally for my sake, and so I cannot pester them to buy me one.
  - I have started saving all my pocket money, so that I can buy a reasonably priced smart phone.
  - I visited a local mobile phone store.
  - There I saw a Redmi phone for 7,000.
  - It has 5 inch screen, 3 GB RAM, 32 GB memory and many in-built apps.
  - I have read some reviews on the net.
  - Redmi is the best-valued low-range phone in the market.
  - It has Android technology
  - I will get about 2000/- for my old phone.
  - I think within a month or two, I will be able to replace my old phone with a new one.

Follow ups

1. What are the things that you want to replace?  
Well, I have most of the things that I need and they are working perfectly but if given a chance I would like to replace my phone as it almost 3 years old now and there are new phones in the market which have latest features. I think, if I exchange my old phone then I might get some additional discount as well
2. What kinds of things do people like to replace?  
Normally people like to replace their personal belongings once they become old or if better options become available. People like to replace things like gadgets, watches, cars etc
3. Do old people in India like to hoard things?  
Yes, old people do like to hoard things sometimes as they get attached to them. Also another reason is that they have bought things with their hard earned money so they don't like to discard or dispose them.
4. Who do you think will want new things – children or old people? M A K K @ R i E L T S  
I think both of them would like to have new things but children always have more fascination for new things.
5. What is the difference between new things and old things?  
New things often attract people as compared to old things which draw a less enthusiastic reaction. New things are more expensive as compared to old things except in the case of antique items.

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### 7. Design of a building you visited and liked / Tal about a building

- Where is the building
- When you visited
- Why you liked
- Where did you hear about it? M A K K @ R i E l T S

- India has a rich historical background.
- There are many buildings, which are the pride of India.
- Here I would like to talk about the Parliament House in New Delhi.
- I visited this national building when I was in 10th
- Our school took us on an educational tour.
- I remember vividly, we were 40 students and 4 teachers.
- It is not only important historically, but also architecturally.
- The architecture of this building depicts Indian traditions and culture.
- Parliament House is one of the most magnificent buildings in New Delhi.
- Visitors to Delhi generally pay a visit to this building
- The two Houses of Parliament—the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are located within its walls.
- It is a huge circular building spread over 6 acres of land
- The building has twelve gates among which Gate No. 1 on the Sansad Marg is the main gate.
- The Central Hall is circular in shape and its dome, which is one of the most magnificent domes in the world.
- The Central Hall is a place of historical importance.
- The Indian Constitution was framed in the Central Hall.
- At present, the Central Hall is used for holding Joint Sitzings of the two Houses.
- The Chamber of the Lok Sabha is semi-circular in shape and has seating accommodation for 550 Members.
- Rajya Sabha Chamber is smaller in size.
- It has a seating capacity of 250.
- The building is fully air-conditioned
- It combines the value of both the old and the new forms of architecture.
- The outer portion of the building is finished in red sandstone
- Though entry to Parliament House is free, it requires official permission for visitors to enter the Parliament
- The total time required to see the Parliament House is approximately 2 hours
- The best time to visit Parliament House is when it is in session.

### Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think the governments should maintain the historical buildings?  
Yes, of course, the government should maintain historical buildings. They are our pride and heritage. We also earn revenue from these buildings when tourists visit them.
2. Why people like to visit historical buildings  
People like to visit such buildings is because these portray (tell us about) our past and how people lived then. India has a rich historical background, and these buildings are architectural marvels. They also show the grandeur with which our rulers lived.
3. What kinds of buildings are popular in India?  
The old historical buildings are popular, no doubt, but the new and modern buildings are also very popular. The examples of popular modern architecture in India are the Lotus Temple in Delhi, the Naga Towers in Gandhinagar, Cybertecture egg shaped building in Mumbai and many more
4. Should government try to make buildings look more beautiful?  
Yes, of course. Every building should be aesthetically appealing. It should be a combination of utility, durability and beauty.

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## 8. First Mobile Phone

- What difference has it made in your life
  - How did you get it
  - Who gave it to you
- 
- Mobile phones have become an indispensable part of our lives.
  - I got my first mobile phone when I completed my high school.
  - It was a Samsung S2
  - My uncle gifted it to me.
  - Actually, he was buying a newer model.
  - I had completed my 10th
  - My parents would not buy me one.
  - So, I was very happy when my uncle gave me his old one.
  - I still have it
  - It is black in colour.
  - It is a rectangular phone and had 4.3 inches touch screen display
  - It also has a calculator, a calendar, an alarm, a light and some games.
  - Its battery backup is very good.
  - I am very possessive about my Samsung phone.
  - I never let anybody touch my phone.
  - I use an Airtel prepaid connection with it.
  - I have to pay for it from my pocket money.
  - So, I use it very frugally.
  - I play tetris on my phone.
  - I also use the phone to send SMS to my friends.
  - Sometimes I use the calculator and sometimes I listen to FM radio on my phone.
  - It is a very sturdy phone.
  - Many times it has fallen from my hands, but it did not break and works perfectly well.
  - It has a camera of 5 megapixels on which I capture some photos of my friends and family.
  - I click many selfies with it.
  - I use many applications like whatsapp and facebook to stay connected with my friends.
  - There are many newer models now, but I am happy with it.
  - I will buy a new cell phone only after I go abroad for my higher studies.

### Follow ups

1. Do most people have mobile phones in your country?

Yes, most people have mobile phones in my country. The smart phones have become very affordable and the government is doing a lot to make the Internet access available through cellphones to even the remotest parts of India.

2. Does the use of cellphones cause any problems to others?

Yes, cellphones can cause problems to others. For example, when people use their cellphones in places like libraries, hospitals, classrooms, etc., it leads to a lot of disturbance. These days it is very common to find people talking loudly in buses, trains, and other public places, which is also a cause of disturbance.

3. What do people use cellphones for?

Cellphones have become an indispensable part of our lives. People use cellphones for various purposes, like paying bills, making train/bus/air reservations, booking movie tickets, social networking, entertainment by playing games, watching movies/TV shows, and so on.

4. What are the advantages of having a mobile phone?

There are numerous advantages of having a mobile phone. We can remain connected with our family at all times. It can be used to check work emails, when not in office. Students can use cellphones to research for their assignments and studies. Mobile phones are used to pay bills, make reservations, do online shopping, for online banking, and many other such purposes. This invention has made our life very convenient.

5. Are children allowed to use mobile phones in your country?

Yes, unfortunately many children can be seen using mobile phones these days. Parents let children use mobile phones to play games and watch videos, to keep them occupied. However, children are not allowed to use cellphone at schools and colleges, so that discipline is maintained at these places.

6. What are the effects when someone is making a lot of noise by using a cellphone in a public place?

When someone is making a lot of noise by using a cellphone in a public place, I think it is a nuisance. Especially in places like hospitals, places of worship, libraries, classrooms, etc., it leads to a lot of disturbance and is annoying. People need to be considerate when using cellphones in public places, so that it doesn't lead to disturbance.

4. For children, what age do you think is suitable to allow them to use cell phones?

Children should be allowed cell phone only when they attain a certain sense of responsibility and maturity. This is normally around the age of 15 to 16 when they are about to enter adulthood.

5. What do teenagers in your country use cell phones for? M A K K @ R i E l T S

The primary purpose for teenagers to use cell phones is social networking. They use apps like whatsapp, facebook, instagram to connect with friends. Nowadays they are also using them to take photographs and upload them on the internet.

6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using cell phone?

There are many advantages of using cellphone like you can reach people during the time of emergency, one can search for information, order foods, cabs etc. On the negative side cellphone is becoming a nuisance nowadays as people hardly interact with each other and are mostly busy in their phones.

7. Why are many people addicted to apps?

Many people have become addicted to apps because of various reasons like peer pressure, since their friends are using the apps all the time, so they also follow the same. Secondly the apps have a lot of features which make them addictive like the apps provide you rewards when you reach a certain goal and people like to complete these tasks.

**9. Describe a party / describe a party you attended or joined**

- When was it
- Who joined you? M A K K @ R i E l T S
- What happened in the party

- I have celebrated many parties in my life.
- But here I would like to talk about a birthday party, which I enjoyed a lot
- It was the birthday of my younger brother.
- It was his eighteenth birthday
- I threw a surprise party for him.
- My parents were also with me in this plan.
- We invited a few of his close friends and some relatives.
- After my brother left for college that morning, I decorated our home with buntings and balloons.
- My mother baked and iced the cake.
- Actually she has a gifted hand at cooking and baking.
- I ordered some fritters, spring rolls, sandwiches and pastries for the guests.
- I even organised some games such as musical chairs, treasure hunt and passing the parcel.
- When my brother came home that day, we all were waiting for him.
- We welcomed him by playing the birthday tune.
- Everyone clapped and wished him happy birthday. M A K K @ R i E l T S
- He was really surprised and very happy. I could tell it from his face.
- Then he cut the cake and we all enjoyed the cake and snacks
- Then we played the games.
- Everyone enjoyed a lot.
- I gifted a cell phone to my brother.
- He always wanted it but my parents wouldn't let him buy one.
- I always felt his desperation for the phone, so I had planned to gift him one on his birthday.
- He received many other gifts also but my gift was the most special for him.
- We all danced a lot that day.
- I felt great happiness that day.
- I realised that true happiness lies in giving happiness to others.
- My brother is very dear to me
- May God give him a long and happy life!

## Follow Up Questions

1. Do children like to party?  
Yes, they do. Party means fun and enjoyment to them. It means new clothes, lots to eat and a chance to dance and make merry.
2. Do adults like to party?  
Yes, adults like to party. To adults, it means a time to get together with friends and family. It means having a break from the monotonous routine life. It is a time to recharge one's batteries.
3. Do you like loud music in party?  
No, personally I don't. It gives me a headache. But most of my friends do. They think that any party is incomplete without loud music.

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### 10. Describe an old friend in your childhood

- Who is he
  - How did you meet
  - What you did
- 
- I have made many friends in my life and a few are very close friends.
  - Here I would like to talk about a friend whom I met after 7 years.
  - His name is Mohan and he is about my age – 19 years.
  - He and I were class fellows till sixth.
  - Then his family immigrated to Canada and I lost contact with him.
  - Two months ago he came to India and also paid me a visit.
  - It was a very pleasant surprise for me.
  - I felt very happy.
  - We chatted for a long time.
  - We revived nostalgic memories of our school days.
  - He is very tall and handsome.
  - I remember vividly, how he managed to stand first in class every time.
  - He also took part in extra-curricular activities.
  - He told me all about his life in Canada.
  - He told me about the education system there.
  - He told me that he was doing part time work along with his studies.
  - I was fascinated to hear all that from him.
  - He is studying in Humber College there.
  - His father is working in a gas station and his mother is also working in a grocery store.
  - When he told me that studying in Canada is much easier than studying here, I also got motivated to go and study there.
  - That is why I decided to take the IELTS.
  - If I go there, he will support me as I can stay with him in his house.
  - He told me that there are a lot of scholarships for meritorious students.
  - He has painted such a rosy picture of Canada in my eyes that now I really wish to be there soon.

Follow ups

1. Is it important for children to have friends?  
Yes it is very important for children to have friends as it has lot of benefits like children can play or study with friends and utilize their time in quality manner. Secondly they can share their secrets with friends and learn about skills like teamwork and sharing. Friends also help in developing good communication skills
2. Do you still keep in touch with friends from your childhood?  
Yes I am still in touch with my school friends, thanks to social networking websites like Facebook. We normally talk about the things we used to do when we were little. We remember the old memories and laugh at them sometimes.
3. Should teenagers have lots of friends or few good friends?  
I think having few good friends is always better than having a large number of friends. Few good friends give one a feeling of security and trust. Good friends are someone on whom one can always rely whereas lot of friends makes friendship superficial.
4. Are teenagers more influenced by their peers or their parents?  
According to me it depends with whom the teenagers are spending more time with, if they are spending more time with their friends than they will be mostly influenced by them but if their parents spend more time then they will be influenced by the parents.
5. How would you maintain friendship with a friend who is richer than you?  
I treat all my friends equally. To me their social or financial status does not matter. I believe that friendship is not based on our status in the society but it needs qualities like sincerity, trust and being there for each other.



### 11. Favourite song

- I love music and I love listening to Hindi and Punjabi songs.
- Most of these songs are very meaningful.
- Here I would like to talk about a Punjabi song by a famous Punjabi singer Gurdas Maan
- The name of the song is Boot Polishan.
- It is my favourite song.
- It is from his album Boot Polishan
- It was released in 2008.
- The song gives the message that work is worship.
- Instead of begging for money a person should work and earn.
- It does not matter if the work is small such as polishing shoes of people.
- If a person works and earns he can always hold his head high.
- I heard this song about two years ago and since then it has become my favourite song.
- Actually Gurdas Mann is my favourite singer.
- He is a multifaceted personality.
- He is a singer, actor, director and a lyricist as well.
- He writes the lyrics of his songs himself.
- He has also acted in many Punjabi movies.
- All my family members also love his songs.
- When we go out anywhere together we play his songs in the car.
- All his songs have messages.
- He even performs in stage shows.
- He always has his tambourine in his hands when he performs.
- There is a village near my home town where he comes every year and performs for charity.
- I went there last year.
- It was an electrifying experience.

Follow ups

1. What types of songs are the most popular among today's young generation in India?  
Nowadays rap or pop songs are most popular in India. Songs which have good lyrics and beats are liked by the youth. Sometimes young people also like songs which have trending videos and lyrics.
2. Why do you think pop music is so popular?  
Pop music is popular because pop songs normally have nice beats and catchy tunes which make people feel like dancing. Also people are easily able to remember the lyrics of pop songs.
3. What kinds of songs do elders prefer?  
Old People normally like to listen to the music of 1960's or 70's. These are normally slow and melodious songs which are soothing to the ears. So old people prefer such kind of music.
4. Has your preference in music changed over the years?  
Yes my music preference has changed a lot over the years, when I was young I loved the pop songs but as I am getting older my interests are changing and now I like to explore different kinds of music like jazz, rock and rap etc.

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## 12. A street market in your city / A street market where you did shopping

Where is it

What can you buy there

How you felt about it

It could also be asked in past tense

- When it was
- Where you were
- What you bought
- How you felt about it

- I believe shopping is a great pastime and people shop at different places like malls and roadside or street markets
- Rich people nowadays prefer to shop in the malls whereas youngsters and economically weaker people shop from markets nearby their home or the street markets
- Today, I would like to talk about a street market which is near my hometown and all kinds of things can be bought here.
- This market is usually open on Sundays
- It is located in our city centre
- Most of the street hawkers and vendors come to sell their products here.
- One can buy anything from clothes, books, utensils, mobile screen guards and everyday use items from this market.
- There are also a lot of street vendors who sell toys for children like bubble maker etc.
- Sometimes one can see few street artists as well who perform stunts in the market.
- There are also a lot of food vendors in this market and one can eat a variety of snacks like burgers, sandwiches etc
- The street food available in this market is really delicious
- Although sometimes the food may be unhygienic.
- This market is very popular amongst youngsters as they get the latest in fashion at very nominal rates.
- Most of the items available at this market are of inferior quality but due to their low price people prefer to buy them.
- I recently bought a second hand book from this market.
- The name of the book is One Indian Girl.
- It is written by the author Chetan Bhagat.
- The original book is for 300 Rs but I got it for only 100 Rs.
- So I was very happy with the purchase.
- I like to go to this market with my friends
- Next time I will buy some mobile accessories/ jewelry from this market.

## Follow Up Questions

1. Do you like shopping online or going out for shopping?  
I do a mix of both. Sometimes I shop online if I get a good deal. Many sites such as Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal, which give discounts
2. What is the difference between shopping with friends and shopping alone?  
It's fun to go shopping with friends. You can discuss things and take each other's advice. When I go with my parents, they cannot guide me about the clothes, which are in trend.
3. What are the disadvantages of shopping in a big mall?  
In big malls, nobody guides you about any product. You have to use your own judgement. Secondly, you cannot get things on credit, which a small shopkeeper in your town would give you if he knows you. Another disadvantage is that mostly big malls are outside in the suburbs, and so it is only possible to go by your car.
4. Why do people like to buy branded products?  
Brands are popular because they provide quality, good after sale service and also provide status.
5. In your opinion are big discounts real or just an advertisement?  
Big discounts are real in the case of branded products, but in most cases they are just an eyewash. Sometimes, outdated or defective pieces are sold by giving big discounts.

### 13. Something that helps you concentrate

What it is

How it helps you concentrate

- Life has become very fast and it looks as if there is too much to do and too little time.
- So, concentrating on one thing and doing it nicely has become a big problem.
- I have tried many things to help me concentrate.
- Sometimes, I take a power nap and sometimes I do yoga.
- Here I would like to talk about a method which I tried doing to improve my concentration, and it has worked wonders for me.
- I go out and do some brisk walking in a park opposite my house.
- I sweat out my worries and stress and feel very light after that.
- I have noticed that whatever I do after that, I can do with full concentration.
- You know ma'am, brisk walking is a form of aerobic exercise, which releases endorphins in your body, which make you feel good and you can concentrate better with a happy mind.
- My cousin is a physiotherapist, and she told me the science behind this exercise.
- When I do yoga, even then my concentration improves, but brisk walking helps me shed some pounds from my body.
- When I have to study long hours, such as during exams, I go up on my terrace and take a few rounds.
- Then I can study with full concentration again.
- Walking is also good as we are all leading sedentary lifestyles.
- It provides the much needed exercise also
- So, walking is something, which helps me concentrate.

### Follow ups

1. Is it important for children to learn how to concentrate?  
Yes, concentration is a very important skill and it is required at a lot of stages in life, like exams and jobs. So children should practice to do their tasks with full concentration. If someone lacks concentration then they find it difficult to understand things.
2. What can employers do to help employees concentrate?  
There are lot of ways in which employers can help their employees in concentrating. Firstly, they can provide them a silent workplace environment. They can also organize meditation camps for their staff and teach them some concentration techniques.
3. What kinds of jobs require higher concentration at work?  
I think, doctors specially surgeons require a high concentration at work. Other jobs are like drivers as they have to always concentrate on the traffic.
4. Have you ever felt difficult to concentrate?  
Yes, sometimes I find it difficult to concentrate. The reasons are sometimes internal or external. Internal factors like stress take away the peace of mind and it becomes difficult to concentrate. Regarding external factors, sometimes people lose their concentration because of loud noises.
5. What kinds of distractions bother you in life?  
There are multiple distractions which affect me. The biggest one is my smartphone which keeps buzzing constantly and takes my attention away from studies. Then sometimes my friends ask me to go out with them and due to this I lose my precious study hours.

#### 14. A visit you made using public transport

- When was it
  - Where did you go
  - Who was with you
  - How did you feel about the public transport
  - Did you face any problems
- 
- In our day-to-day life we visit many places for various purposes
  - Sometimes we use our own vehicle and sometimes we use public transport
  - Normally when I have to go somewhere near then I use car but for distant places I use public transport
  - Here I am going to talk about a visit for which I used public transport.
  - Actually, last month, I went to Jaipur Rajasthan with my family.
  - This time we used bus for going to Jaipur
  - There is a tour operator company near my hometown known as Express Travels
  - My father booked this tour through them.
  - There were 12 other families with us.
  - It was vacation time and so children were also there with their parents.
  - We boarded the bus at 7 am.
  - On the way we enjoyed a lot.
  - I made many friends and we played antakshri.
  - The bus made three halts on the way to Jaipur.
  - We straightened our legs and had refreshments at those stops.
  - The bus was an AC coach and was very comfortable.
  - There was also an LCD in the bus and we saw the movie Sargi
  - We reached Jaipur at 7 pm.
  - We stayed at hotel Gangaur which was a very nice hotel.
  - We saw the Amer Fort, Hawa Mahal, The City Palace and many other places.
  - One whole day we had reserved for shopping.
  - My mother bought some Jaipuri quilts and I bought some lakh jewellery.
  - As it was a package holiday, we enjoyed with the other families and made many friends.
  - I still have good friends from that trip and we are in touch with each other through facebook.



Follow ups

1. In what ways can we fix traffic problems?

There are multiple solutions to fix the traffic problems. Firstly, we can reduce the number of private vehicles on the roads by promoting public transport and carpooling solution. Secondly the governments can widen the existing road infrastructure and implement stricter laws so that people obey the traffic rules

1. Is it fair to limit the use of cars?

Yes the use of cars should be limited as cars are one of the biggest sources of pollution which is causing diseases like asthma. Moreover limiting the number of cars will also help in solving problems like traffic jams etc

2. Should governments encourage people to use public transport?

Yes governments should motivate people to use public and shared transport as it will be beneficial for the environment and will also help in preserving our natural resources

3. What is the most popular means of transportation in your country?

The most popular means of transportation in my country is public transport like bus as India is a developing country and not all people have their own private vehicles

4. Do you prefer public or private transportation? Why?

Well it depends on the situation, if I am getting late for an important event then I prefer private transport, in all other situations, I try to use public transport as it is good for our environment and it is also a less expensive or pocket friendly option.

**15. Describe an outdoor sport that you haven't done yet and would like to do in the future. Please say**

- What activity is it?
  - When and where would you like to do it?
  - What special skills or equipment would you need?
- 
- There are many outdoor activities which I haven't done yet such as bungee jumping, paragliding, mountain trekking and so on
  - But here I would like to talk about an outdoor activity which I would really like to do in the near future.
  - This activity is bungee jumping.
  - It is an adventure sport.
  - I came to know about it through an ad on TV of this company called Jumping heights.
  - I am really fascinated by this activity.
  - A company of New Zealand by the name of Jumping Heights has set up a bungee jumping centre in Rishikesh.
  - They charge Rs. 2500/- and make you do this activity.
  - They have a very good set up.
  - It is done from a height of 83 metres.
  - No special skills or equipments are needed.
  - You just need a medical certificate that you are not suffering from any heart ailment or asthma.
  - All other equipment is provided by them.
  - My cousin has tried this activity once
  - He told me that there is a huge queue of people who go in for this activity.
  - Mostly youngsters try this activity.
  - He told me that he was a bit nervous but they guide you very well and all the people over there boost your morale.
  - He told me that it was a stupendous feeling and he enjoyed it very much.
  - He would go there again with me and do it once more.
  - We have to register one month in advance.
  - They take all the safety procedures and so no accidents have been reported so far.
  - I would like to do this activity in April or May because it is very cold nowadays.
  - I am really excited for the day to come.

### Follow ups

1. Why do old people like to watch sports on TV?  
I think people of all age groups except the children like to watch sports on TV.  
Watching sports is an individual liking or choice. It does not necessarily depend on the age group.
2. Are there many sports programs on TV?  
Yes nowadays there are actually TV Channels which are dedicated to sports and they telecast sports events from all over the world. If you switch to any of these channels you can see the live or recorded coverage of lots of different sports
3. How often do you play sports?  
Well I am a cricket fan and I love to play cricket whenever I get free time, which is normally over the weekends.
4. Should children spend more time playing sports?  
Children should maintain a healthy balance between sports and academic life.  
They should devote equal time to both as all round development is more important than focusing on just one skill
5. Do you think that group sports are more useful than individual sports?  
I think both types of sports have individual importance, like group sports teach us about teamwork and coordination, individual sports help in improving our decision making skills.

### 16. My favorite magazine/ Talk about a magazine you read

Which Magazine it is

Where you read it

What was the magazine about

- Magazines are good source of knowledge and entertainment.
- There are many Magazines available in the market but my favorite magazine is “Meri Saheli”.
- It is a Monthly and its editor is Mrs. Hema Malini, the famous actress.
- I like this magazine because it is not a magazine to read and throw, it is a collectible.
- I have collected many past issues.
- There are many regular features in this magazine like the cooking tips, home décor ideas and family and social life improvement topics.
- I get many new ideas of preparing different varieties of snacks, vegetables and desserts and now I can prepare variety of food to my family and friends.
- I also get new tiffin ideas for my kids.
- Now they eat tasty, healthy and nutritious food which makes them keep licking their fingers and satisfies me a lot.
- This magazine also contains material about the relations, their problems and the solutions.
- I also get to know the latest fashions from this magazine.
- They have special issues from time to time such as knitting special, Diwali special, cookery special and so on.
- Sometimes there are free samples of some cosmetics with the issues.
- Once I received sample of Olay total effects.
- I liked it so much that I now routinely use this cream.
- Whenever I get time, I flick through the pages of the magazine.
- Every time I come across something new.
- It is a complete magazine for me and my family and has something for everyone.
- That’s why, this is my favorite magazine.

## Follow up questions

1. What is the difference between magazine and newspapers

A newspaper is printed daily, but a magazine can be printed weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or annually. A newspaper has news related to various topics, whereas a magazine caters to a specific segment. For example, those who like sports will read sports magazines, and those who are tech savvy, will read tech magazines.

1. What kinds of magazines are the most popular?

Generally entertainment or fashion magazines are very popular because they contain lots of gossip news which people enjoy and like to read

2. Do men like to read fashion magazines?

If you talk about a worldwide scale, then I don't think that men like to read fashion magazines that much, they are more interested in current affairs, automobile and technology magazines

3. Do you like to read news magazines?

Yes I like to read news magazine, even our newspaper provides us with a weekly magazine called HT Brunch, every Sunday. This magazine contains a lot of positive and good information about the things happening in our society

4. Do you think journalists are subjective in their reports?

I think journalists are highly qualified and very responsible towards their profession, hence they do a thorough research before writing the articles. If they become subjective in their reports then it will not be good journalism

5. Do people read magazines for fun or for learning?

I believe, different magazines serve different purposes and people read them for both entertainment and to gain knowledge as well. It also depends on what magazine are they reading

### 17. Something happened that made you happy/ happy time you experienced recently

What

When and Where

Who was with you

Why it made you happy

- Happy and sad events are a part and parcel of our life.
- The happy event I am going to talk about here is the wedding of my cousin.
- I attended this wedding on 15th January.
- My cousin's name is Deepa.
- She is my maternal aunt's daughter.
- All our relatives and friends were invited.
- Actually the whole week before 15th was busy in the pre wedding celebrations like tilak, sangeet, mehendi and haldi.
- On the day of the wedding, the marriage palace was decorated like a bride. My cousin also looked beautiful in her sequin spangled lehanga.
- The baraat came at 5 p.m.
- High tea was served in which there were lots of cakes and snacks.
- Then there was the jai mala in which the bride and groom exchanged fresh flower garlands.
- Then we all danced and enjoyed to the beat of music.
- After the sumptuous dinner all the guests departed and only the close family was left.
- Then the priest set up a small fire and the remaining ceremony took place around the fire.
- The doli took place early morning.
- It was a very tearful moment for all of us but we were all happy from deep inside as my cousin was beginning her new life.
- Such celebrations are very common in my country.
- Since then I have not attended any such ceremony but there is another wedding in the family next month.

Follow ups

1. What is the relationship between money and happiness?  
Nowadays people think that money and happiness are directly proportional. Those who have more money are generally considered to be happier than those who have less money. But I believe the definition of happiness changes from individual to individual
1. Do you think money is important?  
Yes money is definitely important as we need it to fulfill our basic needs of food and shelter. Without money its very difficult to survive in today's world.
2. Do most Indian people think that money is important?  
Yes, most of the Indian people believe money is important, for the same reasons I mentioned before. (provide reasons from previous question)
3. What do you do to make yourself happy?  
To make myself happy I like to do a lot of positive things and I also reward myself whenever I achieve something. Hanging out with friends or playing any sport also makes me feel happy but the thing out of which I get the maximum happiness is by helping others, so I go to the temples and help the needy
4. Why are children generally happier than adults?  
Children are normally joyful as they have no stress of work and they have less awareness about the negative things in the world. They are at a learning stage so they like to enjoy whatever they are doing. They find unique and creative ways to enjoy themselves even with minimal things.

### 18. Describe a time when you had to change your plan / you changed your mind

When was it

What was the plan

Why you had to change it

How you felt

- Normally, I plan my activities very meticulously.
- But, sometimes things do not go as planned and one has to change one's plans.
- Here I am going to talk about a time when the weather forced me and my friends to change our plan
  - I vividly remember a time when my friends and I had planned to go to a museum, PushpaGujral Science City, near my hometown, where we could not go because of heavy rainfall.
  - Last year, in our summer vacation, we planned to visit this museum.
  - This museum is at a distance of one hour from my hometown.
  - As I live near the bus stand, my friends had to assemble at my house and then we had to go to the bus stand and catch a bus for the museum.
  - It was cloudy, and we could anticipate that it would rain, but we never thought it could be that bad.
  - Just as we were about to leave it started raining heavily.
  - We thought we would wait for sometime for the rain to slow down and then we would go
  - But it started raining cats and dogs, and the rain went on for five hours at a stretch.
  - We could not go anywhere
  - My friends were also stuck at my house
  - But we made it a day to remember
  - My mother made a nice lunch and many snacks for us and we played carom board
  - Although we could not go to the museum, we had a fun time together
  - Even after the rain stopped, there was a lot of water logging on the roads and my friends could not go home till late evening.
  - So that was a day when the weather changed our plans.

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Follow ups

1. Do old people often change plans?  
I think by the time one becomes old, he/she has learnt the importance of planning and doing things on time. So they like to go as per the plan because deviations from plans often create problems which old people do not like
2. Do young people like to change plans?  
Young people nowadays are working on multiple things, they like to do multitasking, in order to achieve this, they make frequent changes in their plans. But at the same time young people like to be in control of things they do and if it is often interrupted by changes then they won't like them.
3. What are the common reasons when people need to change plans?  
The reasons for changing plans are mostly circumstantial. Changes are hardly planned. If something or other comes up then people have to change their plans.
4. How would you tell your friends when you must change your plan?  
If I make any changes in my plan then I will immediately inform it to my friends or anyone else who is involved in the plan. I will explain to them the reasons behind the change. Informing immediately is necessary because then other people can understand and plan their time accordingly.
5. What kinds of plans are practical?  
I think simple plans which involve less people are always practical like planning for a trip or outing etc. But plans which involve a lot of people and are hard to achieve tend to be less practical as they need a lot of time to execute and there is dependency on too many people.

**19. Describe something important that you lost in the past**

- **What it was**
  - How you lost it
  - Why was it important to you
  - How you felt when you lost it
- 
- We all lose something or the other in life.
  - I have also lost many things.
  - Here I would like to talk about an important thing, which I lost last year.
  - It was my first cell phone
  - I got my first mobile phone when I completed my high school.
  - It was a Samsung S2
  - My uncle gifted it to me.
  - I was very happy when my uncle gave me this phone.
  - Unfortunately, I lost it when I travelled from Phagwara to Jalandhar by bus.
  - There was a lot of rush, but I got a seat in the front row.
  - I took out my phone to make a call, but after that I don't remember whether I put it back or not.
  - When I got down, I realised my phone was missing.
  - The bus was to go to Amritsar. So, it had already left.
  - I realised with a sinking heart that my phone was gone for ever
  - So I went to an Airtel service centre and got a complaint lodged and got my sim cancelled.
  - It was black in colour.
  - It was a rectangular phone and had 4.3 inches touch screen display
  - It also had a calculator, a calendar, an alarm, a light and some games.
  - Its battery backup was very good.
  - I was very possessive about my Samsung phone.
  - I never let anybody touch my phone.
  - I used an Airtel prepaid connection with it.
  - I had to pay for it from my pocket money.
  - So, I used it very frugally.
  - I used to play tetris on my phone.
  - I also used the phone to send SMS to my friends.
  - Sometimes I used the calculator and sometimes I listened to FM radio on my phone.
  - It was a very sturdy phone.
  - Many times it had fallen from my hands, but it did not break and worked perfectly well.
  - It had a camera of 5 megapixels on which I captured some photos of my friends and family.
  - I clicked many selfies with it.
  - I used many applications like whatsapp and facebook to stay connected with my friends.
  - I miss my phone because it was a gift and was precious for me.

Follow ups

1. What kinds of people may lose things often?  
People who have a bad memory and are unorganized tend to lose things often.
2. What can we do to prevent losing important things?  
We should try to keep things organized like instead of leaving things here and there we should have designated places for things and we should always place them there. For examples car keys should be hung on a key holder, that way you will never lose them
3. What would you do if you saw something valuable but didn't belong to you on the street?  
If I find something that doesn't belong to me, I will first try to find the owner of that thing. If I am unable to do so, then I will donate it to the poor.
4. What kinds of things have you lost so far?  
Well I keep losing a lot of things and sometimes I really feel bad about it. Once I lost my wallet and it had my id documents as well apart from the money. I have also lost my mobile phone, lunch box etc
5. What do you usually do to look for lost items?  
Firstly I try to remember where I had last kept the item, if I am not able to recall it, I ask my parents or my friends.

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20. **Piece of clothing that you like to wear on special occasion (Answer in Present Tense)** / or piece of cloth you wore on a special occasion (Answer in Past tense)

- What is the piece of clothes like
  - Who gave it to you
  - When you wear it
  - Explain how you feel about it [www.facebook.com/makkariELTS](http://www.facebook.com/makkariELTS)
- 
- Everyone loves fashion nowadays. Even I also like to try new outfits everyday and especially on the functions or special occasions
  - I have got a huge collection of different dresses and suits in my cupboard.
  - Here, I would like to talk about a traditional suit, which my maternal gave me as a gift on my birthday.
  - It is a bottle green suit with magenta and golden embroidery
  - It also has a multi-coloured stole to go with it which had a golden lace on all sides
  - It is studded with golden beads
  - It has a very traditional ethnic touch to it
  - It is a very beautiful suit
  - The stole is in crinkled silk
  - She gave me matching accessories also
  - She gave me a golden beaded purse to go with it.
  - Whenever I wear the suit, I wear my traditional Punjabi shoes, which match perfectly with the suit.
  - When I wear that suit everyone compliments me
  - I feel very good when I receive those compliments.
  - Actually, my aunt runs her hobby classes of cooking in Chandigarh.
  - I stayed with her during my vacations and helped her.
  - She could accommodate more number of students because of my help.
  - She offered me money, but I refused because I had not helped her for money.
  - So she bought this expensive suit for me on my birthday.
  - I really like the suit and have worn it on many occasions.
  - Last time, I wore this suit at my college farewell.



Follow ups

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Where do Indian people buy clothes?

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

6. Does personality affect how people choose what to wear?

Yes people with good personality always like to wear expensive clothes which are made of fine material although they tend not to wear lot of glamorous clothes nowadays but still they prefer to wear expensive clothes made out of finest material

7. When should people wear formal clothes?

People should wear formal clothes to work and on formal occasions like functions, interviews etc

8. Do people wear formal clothes more often than before?

I think the trend is changing; people nowadays wear less formal clothes because fashion is providing them with abundant options. Even few companies like facebook and google allow people to come to office in casual clothes. People find themselves more comfortable in casual clothes.

9. What clothes do university students wear for their graduation ceremonies?

University students normally wear a gown and a cap on their graduation day. It is a trend to throw the caps in the air, once the graduation ceremony is over.

10. Where can you buy formal clothes in India?

One can buy formal clothes from any garment shop near his/her home. Nowadays people mostly prefer to buy formal clothes from brand outlets in shopping malls.

## 21. Describe a place where you often visit with friends and family

- Where is it
  - How you know the place
  - How you go there
  - Why you want to visit it
- 
- I love shopping.
  - It's one of my favorite hobbies.
  - I normally do shopping in bulk at wholesale stores.
  - There is one such store – Best Price around 15 mins drive from Jalandhar.
  - The store opened around four five years ago.
  - I remember when it opened there was a huge advertisement and one could see claims like best price guarantee.
  - I thought it was a marketing gimmick
  - Then one day my uncle visited it and told us the claims are not false.
  - The store really offers huge discounts.
  - There are heavier discounts on larger order sizes.
  - We normally go there once every month.
  - It's around 12 kms from my house. We normally prefer to take our car.
  - Sometimes my uncle also joins us.
  - We buy so many things like groceries, utensils, cleaning supplies and fruits.
  - Recently they added a new garments section too.
  - Another advantage is that the store offers free cardboard packaging.
  - Also on orders worth more than Rs 5000 they offer free home delivery as well.
  - They have a good parking space too.
  - But during festival season even this huge parking falls short
  - We can see queues outside the store.
  - I can spend hours and hours here just shopping and never getting bored.
  - There is just one thing that I dislike and it's the long queues at the checkout counters.
  - They have around 20 checkout counters and they are always full.
  - It takes anywhere between 15 to 30 minutes waiting for the turn.
  - It ones place I can safely say the wait is worth the fruit.

### Follow ups

1. Do you like to hang out with your friends?  
Yes, I like to go out with my friends quite often. We normally meet over the weekends and watch a movie together or go for shopping. Sometimes we just roam around in the market when we are free.
2. What do you think is the most important thing of being friends?  
The most important thing about being friends is caring for each other.  
And friends should not be selfish. They should also trust and share things with each other.

3. Do you think that technology makes it easier to make new friends?  
Yes it is very easy to make friends nowadays because of technology. Earlier people could make friends only when they met someone but now they can make friends on social networking websites and also from different parts of the world.
4. How could people find reliable friends on the internet?  
Friends are really important part of our lives. In such a time it is difficult to find good and trustworthy friends, especially on the internet, so whenever you make friends online make sure you have some common interest and don't share personal things in the beginning. Later you should also try to meet them in real life and learn more about them in this way you can be sure if they fake or real.
5. Do you like to make friends with older people?  
Yes I like to make friends with older people because one gets to learn a lot from them. Older people have lots of experiences to share from which we can learn and become successful in life. Also older people feel happy when younger people talk to them.
6. Where do Indian people like to travel?  
India is a diverse country. There are a lot of places people like to travel. They visit historical places, museums. They travel to the mountains and beaches. They also travel to foreign countries.
7. Is there a difference between young people's preference and old people's preference?  
Yes, of course there is. Our likes and dislikes change with age. What an old person likes may seem too old-school to the young people. What the young people like may be frowned upon by the elderly.
8. Do you think interpersonal skills are more important than studying?  
Both things have their own importance. Even employers have started giving importance to these skills in addition to the degree.
9. What kinds of group activities do Indian people like to participate?  
Indian people like to participate in team sports, dances, singing and many other group activities.
10. What are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling with friends?  
The advantages are that you enjoy more with friends. You also feel secure. Disadvantages are that you don't get to meet and interact with new people. You are busy in your own group.

22. Describe about some story which you like a lot or someone told you about. Or describe a memorable story told by someone.

- Who told you this story? **[makkariELTS]**
  - When did you hear it?
  - What was the story about?
  - Why you liked this story? **[makkariELTS]** or Why you found it memorable
- 
- I have heard a lot of stories in my life.
  - I believe that storytelling is an art as old as civilization itself.
  - My grandmother used to tell me stories every night at bedtime.
  - All her stories were fun to hear
  - Some stories were fairy tales, some of princes and princesses and some were tales from the Panchtantra, which had animal characters in them.
  - Most of her stories had some moral behind them
  - Here I would like to talk about a story which she told me many times.
  - This is the story of the greedy dog.
  - Once upon a time there was a dog
  - He was very hungry.
  - He wandered here and there in search of food.
  - He got a juicy bone from a butcher's shop.
  - He felt very happy.
  - He took the bone and ran away.
  - He reached on a bridge of a river.
  - He saw his own shadow in the water.
  - He thought that there was another dog with a juicy bone in his mouth.
  - His mouth watered and he wanted to snatch that bone from him.
  - He started barking on him and as he opened his mouth, the bone fell down from his mouth in to the river.
  - The dog lost his own juicy bone.
  - He repented at his greed.
  - But, alas nothing could be done.
  - The moral of the story is that the greedy lose what they have.
  - Greed is a curse.
  - My grandma used to teach me values of life through these stories.
  - Now, I tell these stories to my niece and nephew when they come to my place.
  - They enjoy these stories a lot. **[makkariELTS]**



**Follow Ups (also refer to the intro sets on books)**

1. Has storytelling changed over a period of time?

Yes, definitely. Everything changes with time. My grandmother used to tell me stories from her memory, and had no book in her hand. Now, I see my sister reads out stories to her children from the various books she buys from the market. Telling stories to children has also largely been replaced by watching TV. Grandparents, parents and children are glued to the TV screen for long hours and there is no time left for story telling. [makkarIELTS]

2. Which way is better, traditional storytelling or the use of technology in storytelling?

I believe the traditional method is much better. It has a personal touch and increases the bonding between parents or grandparents and children. Unfortunately, it is dying out and programmes like curious George and ChhotaBhim are taking its place.

3. Do you think that generally most of the people are good at storytelling?

It is very difficult to generalize and answer this question. One thing is sure, and that is that we all tell stories from time to time in our life. Some people are born story tellers and can bind their audiences for long periods of time. They can concoct stories on the spur of the moment. It is difficult to tell whether their stories are fake or real.

4. What makes storytelling effective?

The way the stories are told can make any story effective. The use of gestures also helps. Using the right pauses at the right places and good pronunciation makes the stories effective. But, perhaps the most important thing to see is to read the interest of the audience. Fairy tales may amuse children, but may not create impact on adult listeners. Young people may be interested to hear stories related to their favourite celebs.

5. Is it important to tell stories?

Yes, it is very important to tell stories. They are a good means of communication.

Sometimes a message may be conveyed through a story in a much better way than by a simple conversation.

6. Is reading books beneficial or watching documentaries better?

Both have their sets of pros and cons. But, I think reading has an edge over watching a documentary. Reading is an active phenomenon, whereas watching a documentary is a passive activity. Reading is not only good for children, but also delays cognitive decline in the elderly. Dementias can be delayed if people read a lot. However, watching a documentary can make things easier to understand, and if made well, can have a long-lasting effect.

### 23. Describe a situation where you helped an old person

- When you helped?
  - Where did you help? [makkariELTS]
  - How you helped?
  - How you felt about it?
- 
- Man is a social animal.
  - We all need to give and receive help from time to time.
  - I have helped my grandparents many times, when they want to learn something about the use of the smartphone or computer.
  - Here, I would like to talk about a time when I helped an old person, who was not known to me earlier.
  - About two months ago, I was travelling to Delhi by Shatabdi train.
  - I boarded the train at Phagwara.
  - I was on the aisle seat.
  - The seat next to me was vacant.
  - The next stop was Ludhiana.
  - An elderly man, maybe in his late seventies or early eighties boarded at Ludhiana.
  - His seat was the window seat next to mine.
  - He has a wheeled suitcase and a bag with him.
  - He tried to keep the suitcase in the luggage rack over the seats.
  - He did not ask me, but I could sense his problem and offered to do it for him.
  - He felt relieved and thanked me with a big smile.
  - I put both his suitcase and bag in the rack.
  - He turned out to be very social and friendly. [makkariELTS]
  - The next 4 hours passed very soon.
  - He had so many stories to tell.
  - He was going to Delhi to spend a few days with his granddaughter, who was a doctor in a private hospital.
  - He was quite hale and hearty for his age.
  - He had two great grandchildren, Gia and Tanay.
  - He told me that once or twice a year, he goes and spends a few days with them.
  - We exchanged our phone numbers.
  - At Delhi also I helped him with his luggage.
  - His granddaughter and her husband were there at the station to receive him.
  - He introduced me to them and they too thanked me.
  - I felt very happy and realised that such small gestures of love, like helping others give happiness to not just the receiver, but also the giver.

**Follow Ups****1. How can the older generation be helped?**

The old generation can be helped in many ways. They can be taught the use of latest technological gadgets, which can help them pass their time in a much happier way. My grandfather is a good example. I installed the whatsappapp in his phone and now he is happy reading jokes sent by his friends and chatting with them.

They can also be helped by making them feel wanted. They can be assigned the work of looking after their grandchildren, which can reduce their loneliness and the young parents can become free to pursue their careers, without the worry of caring for their children. Children also are under the watchful eyes of their elders. So, it is a win-win situation for one and all.

**2. What are the benefits of helping older people?**

There are many benefits of helping older people. Whether we accept it or not, we all know that the whole society is greying. There are so many elderly people. They have to be helped to become as asset and not a liability. We can help them in keeping good health and becoming self-sufficient.

**3. What is the current situation of families? Do they help each other?**

I belong to India, and fortunately in India, family values are still very much alive. Families help each other in all ways they can. We may not be living in joint 6families any more, but the extended family system is still there. Even if we live in nuclear families we are still well connected to each other. We have get-togethers on family functions and enjoy the warmth of relations.

**4. Is childcare important? Who does it?**

Childcare is very important. Good childcare can turn children into healthy, responsible adults, who respect social values and create the world a much better place to live in.

**5. How do parents manage work life balance and raise children?**

Managing work-life balance is an arduous task and very challenging nowadays. On top of that raising children in a good way is why many people are coming back to the old joint family system. Young working parents have begun to realise that no one can be better to look after their children than their own grandparents. **[makkariELTS]**

Those who cannot, for any reason, avail the luxury of a joint family, have to shell out a huge sum of money on day-care centres for their children.

#### 24. What would be your perfect holiday or vacation look like?

- Where would you like to go?
  - Who would you like to go with? **[makkariELTS]**
  - How would you like to spend it?
- 
- Holidays can be relaxing holidays in which a person just goes to some different place and lazes around to relieve his stress.
  - Holidays can also be hectic in which the whole aim is to do as much sightseeing as possible.
  - So for people who otherwise have physically active lives, a relaxing holiday would be perfect.
  - But for all others the hectic holiday would be ideal.
  - I prefer to see new places and meet new people.
  - So, for me a perfect holiday would be full of life.
  - I would like to go to Jaipur with my family.
  - We would go by train.
  - We would go through Pack Travels tour operators..
  - They have very reasonable packages for anywhere within India.
  - We would stay there for a week and see a lot of places.
  - There are a lot of forts and palaces in Jaipur.
  - We will see the HawaMahal, JantarMantar, City Palace, Maharani Palace and Amer fort.
  - We would also do a lot of shopping there.
  - I have heard that every December there is a handicraft fair there which has handicrafts from different areas of Rajasthan.
  - I would buy some handicrafts from there.
  - I would buy some souvenirs for my friends.
  - There is also a ChokhiDhani place there just like Haveli where many artists display the culture and tradition of Rajasthan.
  - The entry ticket includes the traditional Rajasthani meal.
  - I would enjoy that also.
  - It would be a perfect holiday for me. **[makkariELTS]**
  - Holidays break the monotony of day-to-day life
  - They bring mental and physical relaxation.
  - They help us to recharge our batteries and come back to work with added energy.

**Follow Ups**

1. Do people in your country like to spend holidays abroad or at home?

India is a diverse country. There is a lot to see and do in India. People in my country like to spend holidays by visiting many places in India, and also abroad. It also depends on their pocket and the time they can afford for holidaying. There is so much diversity within India that it seems like visiting a foreign country at times. For example, if a person from the north India, visits the South, he experiences different culture, different food, different language and enjoys himself at the fraction of cost of what he would spend on visiting a foreign country.

2. What are the benefits of spending the holiday abroad and in own country? Which one do you prefer?

Holidays abroad are a much broader experience of a new culture, food and language. But domestic holidays are easier on the pocket and also very beneficial in many ways. Holidays abroad are also a status symbol, as they can be afforded by few people. Holidaying in ones own country is safer than holidaying abroad. I prefer holidaying abroad, but it seems like sour grapes for the time being.

3. What do we have to arrange before going to holiday?

We have to arrange a lot of things. We must see that the rail, road or air tickets have been confirmed. Then we must also find out about the weather of that place and pack our clothes accordingly. We must also make a list of places to visit in that place. A well planned holiday can have pleasant memories for a lifetime.

4. Do you like long holidays or short holidays?

I like long holidays as they can help me unwind the stress of everyday life plus holidays help me in focussing on other good things in life like reading, art etc

5. Do you think modern lifestyle gives people enough time for leisure?

Modern lifestyle is very stressful and due to intense competition people hardly get time for themselves leave alone leisure time.

6. What is the most popular tourist attraction in India?

Taj Mahal is one of the most popular tourist attraction in India. It attracts millions of tourists from around the world. It is made up of white marble and it is a symbol for love made by a king in remembrance of his wife

7. What is the most important factor for a tourist attraction?

Most important tourists attractions in the world are known for their uniqueness, means they do not exist anywhere else in the world like Pyramids of Egypt. The architecture, the history behind these tourists is what attracts tourists the most.

8. Do you think we should have more public holidays?

Everyone loves more holidays, but i believe instead of taking more holidays we government should have days off for doing public service like campaigns for cleaning our environment.

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25. Talk about a thing you just bought and you are happy about

- Explain why you bought it
  - Why you selected this product
  - From where you purchased it? [makkariELTS]
  - And explain why are you so happy about it
- 
- I have bought many things in my life.
  - But one purchase which has really made me happy is my Smartbracelet pedometer.
  - I bought it from Amazon.in for Rs. 1000/-
  - Actually, it was for about 3000/- but I grabbed a deal on Diwali.
  - I always wanted a fitness tracker, but somehow, could not buy it because I thought these were very expensive.
  - My cousin bought a fitbit wristband for about 10,000.
  - Then I saw this wristband of Cardmisha company on Amazon online store.
  - It is orange in colour and looks like a cute watch.
  - Its battery lasts for about a week
  - It has OLED display, so I can see my workout results.
  - It has a heart rate monitor. [makkariELTS]
  - It tells me how many steps I have walked in a day.
  - I like to do a minimum 5000 steps a day.
  - It is very motivating, when I do more steps.
  - I feel I have done something for myself.
  - It is made in China, and I know China products have no warranty or guaranty, but I bought it because the other similar products were too expensive.
  - I am very happy with it, because I feel motivated to walk more and keep myself fit.

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**Follow Ups ( also refer to intro set number 20 on shopping)**

1. Did you tell anyone after buying it?

Yes, I showed it to all my friends.

2. What are your thoughts about the trend that people buy new things instead of repairing the old ones?

I believe that it is leading to a lot of environmental damage. Our landfill sites are filling up.

As far as possible, we should avoid buying new things and get old ones repaired.

3. What is the product, which is consumed most in your country? Why?

Well, India is a diverse country and it is difficult to name one product, which is used the most. Many things are used a lot. Almost everyone seems to have a cell phone nowadays. So, maybe you can say that a cell phone is used the most.

4. Is increasing consumerism a good trend?

No, definitely not. It does add to the economy, but it is causing a huge damage to the environment.

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**26. Describe the time when someone took a good photograph of you.**

- When was the photo taken? Makk ar IE LTS
  - Where was the photo taken? [makkariELTS]
  - Who took the Photograph? [makkariELTS]
  - How you felt about it
- 
- Nowadays, almost everyone has become a photographer.
  - The smartphones of today have made it possible.
  - I click many selfies with my phone and keep deleting those, which don't turn out good.
  - Actually, I become very conscious in front of the camera and the photographs usually don't look natural.
  - Here, I would like to talk about a time when a professional photographer clicked a photograph of me, which has come out very nice.
  - I remember it was my cousin's wedding two months ago.
  - I was wearing my new silk suit.[makkariELTS]
  - After the main function, we were all dancing like mad to the tune of DJ
  - All my cousins were on the floor.
  - The cameramen were there covering it all. Ma kkar IE LTS
  - Later on, we asked the photographer to give us all the photos and videos he had captured in our external drive, so that we could see them and pick out the best ones.
  - The photographer was very reluctant to give all the coverage to us, but we insisted and he had to give in.
  - All my photographs on the dance floor were good, but one was exceptionally good.
  - Two of my cousins are also there in the pic and all are looking good.
  - We were all so engrossed in dancing that no one was conscious.
  - All of us are in a typical Bhangra pose.
  - I was wearing a yellow suit with green embroidery and matching jewellery.
  - One of my cousins was in majenta suit and the other one in royal blue.
  - This picture has come out very colourful.
  - My aunt got this photograph enlarged and framed and gifted one copy to all three of us.
  - Now this is adorning the wall of our living room.
  - Whenever, I see this picture, the memories of the whole wedding come in front of my eyes.

**Follow ups: (refer to intro questions on photography in the intro sets)**

1. Do you like to get your photographs clicked?

No, I am very camera shy and become very conscious.

2. Is it good to take a lot of photographs?

Photographs are mirrors of the past. They capture precious moments, which may otherwise be forgotten. So, yes, I think it is good to take a lot of photographs. Also with the coming in of digital cameras, it is not very expensive to click photographs. Later on, when you get time, you can sort out which photo to keep and which to discard.

3. There are a lot of additions made to photographs these days. What attitude of people does this show?

People want to look their best. Nowadays, people do a lot of editing on photographs. In my opinion, it takes away the originality of the moment. Sometimes, people do such additions or changes with wrong intentions. They may put someone's face on someone else's body. This may hurt the sentiments or may even cause problems. Ma kkar IE LTS

4. Is this going to affect the photographers and their working style?

Yes, of course. Photographers who know how to make subtle changes and make people look good may become more popular and get more work. But, they should remain within some limits and not make changes, which make everything look artificial.

5. Do people like digital photographs or printed photographs?

It is a matter of personal choice. Digital photographs don't occupy space and the person may store thousands of them in ones computer or laptop. Printed photographs can be put on display in a frame. But, one cannot have many of them

6. How will this change in the future?

This may change a lot. Digital photo frames are there in which a person can enjoy all photographs while sipping tea. No one will have the time to open the traditional album and go through the printed photographs.

7. Will photographs replace paintings in the future?

To a lot of extent, yes. But, not entirely. Paintings have their own personal touch. But it requires special talent to make a painting that can look real. Moreover, paintings tend to be very expensive as the cost of canvas and paints is also exorbitant nowadays. Photographs are much cheaper.

8. Would you like taking photos with strangers?[makkariELTS]

Yes, if want to befriend that stranger. It may develop friendships for a lifetime.

9. What kind of photograph would you like to hang in your bedroom?

Family photographs would be ideal for a bedroom. I am a very family oriented person. We are a close knit family. I would like to see my family first thing I get up.

## 27. Describe something you did to help others / Occasion on which you have helped someone

- Where did you help/ what was the situation? [makkariELTS]
  - When
  - How you helped
  - What was their reaction after your help
- 
- Helping others is a very good thing.
  - I have given and received help many times.
  - Here, I would like to talk about a situation, when I helped my friend in studies.
  - When I was in 10<sup>th</sup>, my friend Rahul suffered a sprain in his ankle while playing hockey in the school.
  - He was advised strict bed rest for three weeks.
  - Our exams were very near and Rahul's mother was very worried that he would fail this time if he did not attend school.
  - So, I decided to help him as much as I could.
  - Every day after school, I would go to his house and update him with everything that was done in school.
  - His mother was so happy with my efforts that she would prepare nice shakes or something to eat for me everyday.
  - Perhaps, that was her way of thanking me.
  - I used to reach home very late, but when I told the reason, they were OK with it.
  - Then the exams came, and Rahul and I both scored above 80% marks.
  - I realised that in helping him, I had helped myself even more. [makkariELTS]
  - After this incident, Rahul and I became even more intimate friends.
  - Last month Rahul took his IELTS and scored 7 bands and has planned to go for higher education in Canada.
  - Because of Rahul, my parents have also decided to send me to Canada for my higher studies. Ma kkar IE LTS
  - Earlier they were reluctant to send me.
  - When I helped him, then I did not know that it would have this far-reaching effect.
  - I have realised that helping others gives much more satisfaction than becoming selfish and looking after one's own interests.

### Follow Ups

1. Do you like helping others?

Yes, I do. I love helping others. I have realised it gives a lot of mental satisfaction and happiness.

2. Should parents teach helping others to their children? Ma kkar IE LTS

Yes, of course. Parents are responsible for bringing their children into this world, and so it is their duty to make their children into responsible citizens of the future. Parents don't have to do anything special to accomplish this. They just have to lead by example. Children will automatically follow their footsteps. If all citizens are helpful and nice, then the whole world would become a nice place to live in.

3. Do you think nowadays people do more good work as compared to the past?

I don't think so. Life in the past was simpler and slower. People helped each other a lot. Now, everyone is in the rat race of money and materialism. No one has the time to help others.

4. Will you help others in the future?

Yes, definitely. I believe that we must do unto others as we want them to do unto us. If I will help others, only then I can expect help from others when I need it.

5. How do you encourage children to help others?

Nothing special is needed. Children are good observers and copy what their elders are doing. All you have to do is help others and they will automatically follow.

6. How do world social organizations such as Red Cross collect their funds worldwide?

They do so by advertising their work. They organise activities and involve young people in them. They also take the help of media.

7. Do small non-government organizations always need big organizations' help or can they collect funds themselves? Ma kkar IE LTS

No, they do not always need big organisations help. If their projects are small, they can manage on their own, otherwise they can seek help of their bigger counterparts.

8. Do you think people in India should help foreigners who are visiting India and who need help? (Why? / Why not?) Ma kkar IE LTS

Definitely, yes. India is known for its hospitality and helpful nature. Guests are treated like Gods. Tourists are our guests. If tourists need help, they should be helped. They will take back happy memories and more and more tourists will flock-in in the future.

9. What is the most important way for a country to help foreigners who are visiting the country?

Foreigners can be helped by guiding them about our customs and traditions, so that they do not unknowingly hurt anybody's sentiments. They can be helped by providing them good and hygienic food, which suits their taste. They can be helped by not fleecing them when they buy some souvenirs.

10. Many people only look out for themselves and never think about helping others. What do you think of this attitude?

I think such people are very short sighted. They do not think that if they don't help others they will also be left alone when they need help.

11. Do Indian people help others who need help, such as people in extreme poverty? (How?)

Yes, Indian people help others who are in extreme poverty. Some help directly and some help through charity organisations.

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28. Describe a period in history which has always interested you

- When did it happen
  - What happened
  - Why are you interested in it
  - Who told you first about it? Ma kkar IE LTS
- 
- History has never been my favourite subject
  - But there are some periods of history, which have always fascinated me, such as the period is the Indus Valley period
  - I recently saw the movie MohenjoDaro, which tells about the way people, lived during those days.
  - First time I learnt about the period from my history book at school. My school also organized a trip to National Museum, New Delhi where there are many seals and pots from that period.
  - I also saw the plans of the Indus Valley Architecture.
  - Indus Valley people were very ahead of their times. They lived in cities with walls, in a time period which dates back to 2600-1900 BC.
  - Many buildings like baths, bead factories , grainaries have been excavated at their ruins.
  - An interesting thing about the Indus valley people was they lived in burnt brick houses like today.
  - The streets met each other at right angles. There were drains, which could be cleaned.
  - Also there were no places of worship, people worshipped nature elements like air, water.
  - There are still many mysteries about this period that still need to be resolved.
  - There script has not been deciphered as of yet.
  - There is a mystery regarding the decline of the civilization.
  - Some scholars say that there was a massive earthquake.
  - Others say that outsiders attacked them.
  - Still others say that they died because they has prolonged droughts and famine because of deforestation.
  - Sometimes I dream of going back to the past and uncovering all these hidden mysteries.

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## Another idea

- History has never been my favourite subject
- But there are some periods of history, which have always fascinated me, such as the period when India got freedom that is August 1947. Indus Valley period
- I have seen many movies, based on that period, which have aroused my interest in that period.
- I saw Gadar and Pinjar, which tell about the way people suffered during those days.
- My grandfather also tells me a lot of incidences of those times.
- He was only 10 years old then, but he has very vivid memories.
- I am interested in it because, today even as we are living a free life, we are always grumbling about things.
- First time I learnt about the independence of India was from my history book at school, but when we hear about how people survived the hardships and started their new life from scratch, we realise how lucky we are to be born in a free country.
- My grandfather once told me that how my great grandfather witnessed the JallianwalaBagh massacre, and how he survived by hiding under the dead bodies.
- His stories give me goose pimples.
- Especially his stories about the time of partition are really eye opening.
- I learnt about the bloodbath that happened then and how people died and how they travelled large distances to new countries.

**Follow Ups ( also refer to intro set 60 on history)**

1. Do you think nowadays children are learning too much about history?  
No, I don't think so. Though there are more sources for learning about history today, like museums, the internet and films, but children don't seem interested in the past, somehow.
2. Many children tend to get bored with history because of all these dates, time and names to remember, do you agree with that?  
Yes, I do agree because even I am intimidated with dates. When there are too many dates to remember, it becomes boring. However, if history is taught through movies and TV serials, then many people would start taking interest in history. m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
3. Some people tend to go against the idea of learning from past experiences, what about you?  
Well, everyone looks at things differently. I believe that the past is a good teacher of life. You learn from the past and try to avoid those mistakes, which were made then. Many politicians have handled tough times with lessons from the past.
4. Do young people like historical stories in your country?  
Well, it is difficult to generalise. Some youngsters do, while others don't. I like historical stories. I have watched many movies based on history such as Aurangzeb, Padmavat, Razia Sultan and liked all of them.
5. What are the effective ways of learning history – by reading books or watching videos.

It depends on the interest of the person. Books are better if you want to know the minutest detail, but videos are better if you want a general overview.

6. Why should we learn history?

History is the mirror of the past. It binds us to our roots. We learn a lot about each and every thing from its history.

7. Do you think history matters in a country's future development?

Yes, it does. It guides the leaders about the mistakes of the past, so that they don't repeat those mistakes again.

( Also refer to the intro sets on history)

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## 29. Describe a sportsperson/athlete that you admire

- Who is the person? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - What is his/her achievement
  - Why do you admire him?
- 
- I think, sports play an integral/important part in our lives and every person has a sportsperson in their life whom they admire either secretly or openly.
  - Today I would like to talk about a sportsperson who has been a constant source of inspiration to me and the millions of other people in our country.
  - His name is ViratKohli and he is a cricketer.
  - He plays as a right handed batsman
  - He is just 29 years old and also one of the youngest Captains of Indian Cricket team.
  - He leads the Indian cricket team in all the three formats of the game i.e. One Day Internationals, Test Cricket and Twenty Twenty matches
  - He is also ranked as one of the world's most famous athlete by the Forbes Magazine
  - One of his greatest achievements was leading Indian Under 19 team to victory in World cup tournament
  - He Debuted (note the pronunciation - debued) for India when he was only 19 years of age and since then he has never looked back and broken a lot of records.
  - Currently he has the second highest number of International centuries in the game, just behind the legendary Sachin Tendulkar
  - From a personality perspective, he is an aggressive player with a winning attitude and strong commitment towards the game.m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - One thing that a lot of people don't know about Kohli is that he lost his father while playing a test match for his state team but he still continued to bat and only after he had saved his team from losing, he went for the cremation of his father.
  - Apart from sports, ViratKohli also does a lot of charity through his foundation which works for better education and healthcare of underprivileged children.
  - Recently he was in the news for his marriage to famous Bollywood Actress Anushka Sharma.
  - They got married in Italy and it was one of the biggest weddings of year 2017.
  - I wish that he will win the world cup for India in 2019 and lead India to number one spot in all formats of the game.

Follow Ups:

1. Do teenagers like exercising in your country?

Yes, in my country teenagers love to exercise, many of them go for jogging in parks near to their homes and some of them also join gymnasiums and sports club for exercising because it helps them in staying fit and healthy

2. Do you think physical education is necessary? Why?

Yes, physical education is necessary because it helps us in staying fit and healthy. It also teaches us a lot about different sports and nutrition. With the help of physical education, we can learn the right way of doing exercise so that we do not injure ourselves during exercising.

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

Physical education classes help children in learning about their bodies and how to stay healthy. These classes also make them aware about healthy diets which promotes growth among them,

4. What kind of exercises do Indian people like?

Well, Indians love to do all kinds of exercises, but I believe Yoga is the most popular exercise in India as it originated from here. Some people also like running, bicycling, swimming and other sports exercises as well. Going to the gymnasium has also become a fashion among the youth of our country as they like to build strong muscles.

**30. Describe a development in your country like shopping centre, park etcetera**

- What is the development
  - When you heard about it
  - How did it influence you? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- 
- I think developments in infrastructure are very essential for the progress of a nation.
  - Developments could be in sectors like healthcare, education, housing etcetera
  - Today, I would like to talk about a recent development in our country which is related to the transportation sector.
  - Last month our honourable Prime Minister Shri NarendraModiji inaugurated the first automatic/unmanned/driverless metro train in the national capital Delhi.
  - The launch of this train was covered by all the new channels and leading newspapers.
  - That is how I came to know about it.
  - This metro train connects several stations between New Delhi and Noida a city adjoining the national capital
  - The launch of this train has benefitted millions of people who otherwise travel by bus or other transport means like their own cars and motorbikes
  - It has reduced their travel time significantly and It has also become more convenient for them to travel from one place to another.
  - The coaches of the train are imported from Germany and are made of very high quality steel.
  - I believe the government should introduce more such trains in the major cities of our country because it provides a lot of benefits to the people and the environment.
  - Moreover, it decreases the number of traffic jams in the city and the pollution caused when people use their own private vehicles
  - This train has no driver; it is remotely controlled by a computer thus avoiding any human errors that can cause accidents.
  - When I first told my friends about this train, all of them were surprised/amazed/astonished to hear that a train can run without a driver as well.
  - This train has 8 coaches and capacity to carry 1000 people at one time
  - The coaches are very modern and have free wifi and phone charging facility as well.
  - The train also has seats reserved specially for the elderly and women
  - But when I showed them the news they were very excited about it.
- We have also made a plan to travel by this train, next month.

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Follow ups.

1. How do old people spend their money?

Old people spend their money on things they really need. They do not fritter away money like the young do. They spend on their health and clothes and food.

2. Do old people choose the same type of transportation as young people?

Old people do not choose the same type of transportation as young people. They prefer their own car instead of public transport. They have failing health because of which they have to choose more comfortable transport.

3. Where do Indian people choose to go on weekends?

People visit family and friends on weekends. They go to watch movies or do shopping in malls.

4. How do you think of the transportation system of your hometown?

The transportation system of my hometown is very good. It is on the national highway 44, and so is well connected by road and rail to other places.

5. What is the best means of transport?

It depends. There are four means of transport and they all have their plus points and minus points. Roadways, railways, airways and waterways are there in my country, but roadways and railways are more popular.

### 31. Talk about the most interesting subject that you learnt in school

- What was the subject
  - How long did you study it?
  - Why you think it was interesting
  - How did the teacher make it interesting? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- 
- I studied many subjects in school.
  - Till 10<sup>th</sup>, I studied English, Hindi, Punjabi, maths, Social sciences, life sciences and computer science.
  - Out of all these subjects, maths was my favourite.
  - I studied maths from class 1 to class 10.
  - I remember, till my 4<sup>th</sup> class, I used to hate maths.
  - I was never very good at it.
  - But in fifth, Mrs Harinder became my maths teacher.
  - She was very patient with me and would not be mad at me even if I went to her again and again for understanding something.
  - Slowly, I began to get my concepts clear and maths became my favourite subject.
  - From 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, maths remained my favourite subject.
  - Mrs Harinder was not just my favourite teacher, she was everyone's favourite.
  - She developed our interest in maths by including mathematical activities and games.
  - We would have quizzes and riddles to solve, which made it very enjoyable.
  - She would have chocolates for the winners.
  - Her way of teaching made maths very easy and interesting.
  - I started getting good grades because of maths.
  - Now, I teach maths to my neighbours children, who are in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - They seem to love maths too.
  - I had a good teacher once and that is perhaps why I could become one.
  - So, maths is the subject I found the most interesting.
  - Maths is a subject which we use in our everyday life
  - It makes our life orderly and prevents chaos.
  - The present age is one of skill-development and innovations.
  - The more mathematical we are in our approach, the more successful we will be.

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## Another idea – Important science subject

- Science is very important in a student's life.
- It's through the science subjects that we begin to think logically and find answers to our questions.
- I found all the aspects of science interesting, like physics, biology and chemistry, as these sciences answer everyday questions about why things happen and how we evolved.
- Today I will be talking about a science, which I find the most interesting.
- It is computer science.
- I remember that I started becoming interested in it when we started with the computer science lessons in the 6<sup>th</sup> standard.
- We had a wonderful teacher who taught us this subject in a very interesting way.
- Her name is Ms. Meenakshi.
- We used to have both theory and practical lessons for this subject.
- We used to look forward to the lab sessions as we got to work on the computers at that time and try out several things we had learned in class.
- The lab sessions were always enjoyable, but our teacher taught it in a very interesting way and we all enjoyed the theory lessons a lot too.
- There are many interesting things that I have learned from this science.
- The first thing is how we can use computers not just as a source of entertainment, but it's use is much more vast than that.
- It can be used to organize and plan things at home. It can be used for many other day-to-day activities like, banking, research work, shopping, connecting with friends and relatives and so on.
- Not only that, it helps the artists creates new art and helps designers create clothes, cars, buildings, etc.
- Another reason that I have an interest in this science is because I know that in every field today we need to use computers.
- It will help me with my higher studies and also in my career later.
- In this contemporary world, the computer science has become an important science and it is essential that everyone is computer savvy to be able to do well in their studies or work or even if it is used as a source of entertainment.

Follow ups

1. Is science an important subject in your schools?

Yes, I believe science is an essential subject and a minimum level of science should be compulsory for all the students because it science helps us in understanding everything around us. Also it is due to science that human beings have made great progress and life is better than ever.

2. In what ways do people learn about science?

There are lot of ways to learn about science nowadays. It is taught in schools at elementary level and nowadays there is lot of content available on Internet, like people can watch videos on youtube related to science experiments. There are also lot of channels on Television such as Discovery science where people from all age groups can learn about science

3. Do men learn science faster than women?

Well, I believe learning about science has nothing to do with the gender rather it depends on an individual's learning abilities. Both men and women have turned out to be great scientists in this world

4. Is science popular in your country?

Yes, science is very popular in our country, majority of the students choose to study science subjects after completing their primary education. Due to this our country has made great progress in the field of Nuclear energy and Space Research.

5. Do you think schools should spend money on subjects such as PE and art, science?

Schools should spend their budget equally on all the subjects as it will lead to holistic development of children.

6. What subjects do you think are most important?

I think maths and science are more important subjects because they have played a major role in the progression of mankind.

7. What subjects should be taught in high school in the future?

Advanced lessons in computer are a must because in future everything will be connected using computers and our dependency on them will increase. It will also help people in securing jobs easily.

8. In what ages do you think students can make decisions about choosing art or science subjects?

By the age of 16 students start becoming mature and they have a fair idea in which subject they want to make a career. So i think 16 is good enough age

9. Is science more important than art in your school?

Yes science has always taken a preference over art. Students who score good at primary level often choose science subjects

10. What kinds of new subjects would emerge in the future?

Since humans are foraying into new technologies and universe nowadays so i think new subjects could be related to Space travel, artificial intelligence etc. Environment could also be an important subject in future.



## 32. Describe a technology you use often (other than computer) m a k k a r \_ | E L T S

- What is it
  - When you use it
  - What do you use it for
  - Explain why you like to use it
- 
- Technology is all around us.
  - Today, we cannot imagine our life without technology.
  - One piece of technology I use very often is my jogging machine.
  - I use it at the gym everyday for five days a week.
  - The gym is at 2 minutes walk from my home.
  - So, I go there daily in the morning.
  - I use it to keep fit.
  - While I am on the machine, I listen to my favourite music.
  - When I started, I used it at a speed of 5 km an hour.
  - Now I can run on it at a speed of 8 km an hour.
  - It has inbuilt programs which have a warming up session and a cool-down session.
  - My gym instructor guided me its use.
  - There are many other machines in the gym, but I love this the most.
  - I sweat all my stress out on this machine
  - After I have used it, I feel very refreshed and happy, although I am full of sweat.
  - I feel I have done something for myself.
  - Then I do some weight training after this cardio session and come home.
  - I used to be very fat and eat a lot of junk food.
  - After I started going to the gym, I lost weight and my body has got toned up.
  - I don't even feel like eating junk food.
  - I ask my mother to make healthy salads and food cooked in low fat.

Follow ups

1. Do you like to use new technology?  
Yes, I like to use technology. I feel a part of today's time. I like to use various gadgets, such as cell phones, tablets, laptops which help me connect with others.
2. Does technology deeply affect people's life?  
Yes, it does. Technology is all around us. It saves our time as many jobs are done by machines. People can be connected all the time because of communication technology. Children can get better education through technology. Businesses can spread globally because of technology. Food can be produced much better and more in yield because of technology. There is no aspect of life that technology has not touched.
3. Is there any difference between technology in cities and in small towns?  
Yes, cities have better access to technology than small towns, but towns and villages are catching up soon.
4. Do you agree that men are more obsessed with new technology than women?  
No, I do not agree at all. Men and women are the same. There are no gender differences nowadays.
5. How to teach older generation to use new technology?  
They can be taught with the help of videos and age friendly gadgets can be made, which are simpler to use.
6. Do you think that technology always has positive effects?  
No, not necessarily. Our over-dependence on technology can have negative effects. We become lazy and face-to-face communication is also suffering.

### 33. A public place you visited and you think needs improvements.

- What is it? m a k k a r |ELTS
  - When you visited
  - What you liked and disliked about it
  - Why do you think it needs improvements?
- 
- There are many public places in every city where people can socialize and hang out with each other.
  - Some examples of such places are parks, city centers, marketplaces, public schools and colleges, public banks and so on.
  - Nowadays restaurants and malls even though owned by individuals are also considered public places as public are invited to their use.
  - Here I would like to talk about Niku Park, a very famous park in Jalandhar.
  - Last year my sister and her children visited me.
  - To entertain my nephew and niece, I decided to take them to Niku Park.
  - On their second day with me, we went there.
  - Niku Park is a very old park.
  - I remember, my parents used to take me there in my childhood, sometimes.
  - However, the park was a lot different than I remembered.
  - A few years ago, many new rides were added to the park.
  - My niece and nephew became very excited when they saw the rides.
  - The tickets for the rides were also very economical.
  - Children below a certain height were not allowed on some rides, because of which my nephew, who is younger and shorter was not eligible for a few rides.
  - He was very disappointed at first but within a few seconds he forgot all about it.
  - He enjoyed all the other rides like the toy train, bumper cars and the Ferris wheel.
  - There were a few rides, which looked very scary, but to my surprise my niece actually eagerly rode them.
  - I also enjoyed a few rides with my nephew.
  - Time just flew by with the kids.
  - I liked everything about the park except the fact that people were throwing empty water bottles here and there.
  - I feel that some trashcans should be there at very frequent intervals and also some notices not to litter the place should be put up.
  - On the whole journey back, the kids kept saying that they would like to visit Niku Park again.
  - Unfortunately we couldn't visit it again as my sister didn't have much time.
  - My nephew and niece are visiting me again this year and everyday they remind me that they want to go there.
  - I don't think they will wait for the second day this time.

Follow ups

1. Are there many public places in India?

Yes. India is a big and diverse country having a lot of population. Where there is public, there are bound to be public places.

2. Do you like to exercise in public places such as parks?

Yes, of course. In this way, I get to exercise and also get some fresh air. Moreover, there are many people exercising in the park, which encourages everyone to exercise there.

3. Do older people or younger people like exercising in the public place?

I believe this has nothing to do with age. Parks are good places to exercise for all age groups. The type of exercise may be different but all age groups can be seen exercising in the parks.

4. What measures should governments and individuals take to keep these places clean?

Governments should have trash-cans at regular places and appoint people to regularly clean these bins. People should be educated by the media to keep these places clean. There should be fines for those who litter the place.

5. How to maintain a balance between public places and private houses?

Every colony or society should have its own public place, so that people of that area can come out and socialize with each other. There should be laws for city planners to keep spaces for these public places when they design towns and cities.

### 34. Describe a time when you saved money for something

What you saved for

How you saved money? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S

For how long did you save money?

- Normally, I depend on my parents for all my needs.
- But when I have to buy something big, I save money for that
- Here I would like to talk about a product that I bought after saving my pocket money for one whole year.
- It was an apple I phone
- I bought the latest 5S version of this phone
- Actually, my friend bought the 4S version last year.
- I was fascinated by the looks and features of the phone.
- My mouth started watering but when I heard the price I realised that the grapes were sour.
- So, I started saving money for the phone.
- It was difficult to stay away from chocolates and fast foods but I did it.
- By the time I had enough money, the new version iphone 7 was there in the market.
- So, I bought the latest version in white colour.
- This phone is not just a phone.
- It is a mini computer that fits into your pocket.
- One can do wonders with this phone.
- It is a rectangular phone which has a 3.5 inch screen
- It has a multi-touch facility which means that you can do multiple functions at the same time.
- It has a very long battery life
- It has a capacity of 64 GB.
- Its weight is around 140 gms
- It also has two cameras.
- It allows face-time video chats
- I felt very good after buying the phone.
- I feel incomplete without this phone.
- I have got it laminated and I am very possessive about it.

## Follow ups

1. What do young people in your country like to buy?  
Young generation in our country has been impacted a lot by social media. They have access to all the information at their fingertips and they know what the latest trends are. Due to these factors they are mostly interested in buying gadgets such as smartphones and are also interested in the latest fashion.
2. Which do you think is more important, the cost of a product or the quality of the product?  
I definitely believe that the quality of the product comes first, because if the quality is really good, then people normally don't bother about the cost. For example, Apple iPhones are known to be Premium quality devices and whenever they launch their new Phones we can see long queues outside their stores on the day of the launch.
3. Why are imported products more expensive than locally made products?  
Imported products are more expensive than locally made products because the government wants to promote the development of local businesses. Also, custom duties and other taxes have to be paid on imported goods. If the imported products were to become cheaper, then there will be no economic growth of the local businesses in our country and it will also hurt our economy.
4. What do you think of those people who only buy expensive things and look down on other people who buy cheap product?  
I think that these people buy expensive things only to pretend they are cool/rich and show off their status. I feel that such people are vain and value material things more than relations or others' emotions. I believe that even if someone can afford to buy expensive things, he/she shouldn't look down upon those who can't.
5. Which do you think is better, buying things online or buying things in real shops?  
I think it's really hard to decide which one is better because both of them offer their unique advantages. For example, online shopping provides you the comfort of ordering anything in the world with just a click of a button, whereas retail shopping provides you a great experience and the ability to feel the product before making a buying decision.
6. Why do you think online shopping has become so popular?  
Online shopping has become popular primarily due to two reasons.  
Firstly, It's very convenient for people to buy anything online by just clicking on a button. They don't have to spend time on going to shops or in finding car parking.  
Secondly, ecommerce companies offer a lot of discounts online, hence making the products cheaper than their retail prices.
7. How do people pay for things they buy online?  
People normally pay through their Credit Cards or use Online Banking for making purchases. But now a days ecommerce companies have also started providing the option of Cash on Delivery, i.e. people can pay when they receive the product.
8. What can parents do to teach children to save money?  
Parent can teach children to save money by buying them piggy banks, and by setting an example in front of them by saving money themselves.
9. Why do young people tend to waste money?

Young people tend to waste money because they don't realize the importance of money, and sometimes they just want to show off.

10. What kinds of things do people like to buy in your country?

People buy all sorts of things in my country. They buy clothes, footwear, electronic gadgets and many other things.

11. Do schools in India teach anything about financial management?

No, schools in India do not teach anything about financial management. There are some basic lessons about tax computation, but nothing is taught about managing finances.

12. Why is it necessary to teach teenagers to manage money?

It is very necessary to teach teenagers to manage money, because otherwise they just waste away money, which their parents earn with great difficulty and hard work.

13. How do parents give pocket money in your country?

Some parents give weekly money, whereas others give monthly pocket money.

14. Do you agree with the idea that the more you save, the better life will be?

No, I don't think so. We should also have a comfortable present. If we just focus on saving and not spend on our basic needs today, then it is certainly not good. If parents have money, but still they do not spend on quality education of their children it is not good.

15. What is the best way of saving money?

Some money should be kept in banks saving account so that you can withdraw when you need it. Investing in property is also good, but you must study the prospects carefully. Putting money in insurance schemes is also good.

16. What are the consequences of not saving money?

Not saving money for rainy days or bad times is not good. We must always put aside some money for the future.

### 35. A place you want to visit with your friends

- What is the place
  - When you want to go
  - With whom you want to go? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - Why you want to go with your friends
- 
- India is a diverse country and there are many places to visit such as mountains and waterfalls and sea shores
  - I have been to many such places but here I am going to talk about a place that I would like to visit with my friends
  - I would like to go there in the coming summers.
  - It is in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
  - This place is Mcleodganj which falls in the suburbs of Dharamsala.
  - My cousin went there with her parents last summer.
  - She told me all about her trip.
  - They went there by bus.
  - They enjoyed a lot of sight-seeing through the bus.
  - She told me that it is a hilly area which is full of scenic beauty.
  - There are many places to see there.
  - There is the monastery of Dalai Lama.
  - There is also a Bhigshunath Temple
  - She told me that many tourists bathe in the pool in the temple.
  - The water in the pool comes from Bhagshu's waterfall and therefore it is very clean.
  - In the Buddhist temple there are wheels of prayers.
  - People believe that the number of rotations made by the wheels signifies the strength of the prayers.
  - There is also a very beautiful waterfall.
  - On one side of the waterfall is a small restaurant where my cousin and her parents enjoyed snacks with tea.
  - The whole area is covered with pine and conifer trees.
  - She told me that it was a mesmerizing experience to be amidst the beauty of nature.
  - If I get a chance I would love to go there with my friends.
  - Many young people do hiking over there.
  - My aunt and uncle were not interested in hiking, so my cousin couldn't do that.
  - If I go with friends, we would do some hiking also over there.



Follow ups

1. What do you want to consider while making a travel plan?  
I consider many things while making a travel plan. Firstly the people who are traveling with me, then I plan my journey, how I will travel, by car, train or flight, Duration of travel, What I will do. Basically making a good itinerary is very important for travel.
2. Some people think that travel experience depend upon how much you spend. Do you agree?  
Well everyone has their own perspective, but most of the people associate money and experiences with happiness. If one spends more they can have a luxurious travel experience like travelling first class in a plane.
3. Do you prefer to stay at home or go travelling during holidays?  
I am a traveler and I like to explore different places whenever I have holidays. I like going to the beaches and mountains and explore nature.
4. Do you like to travel in a group or on your own?  
I like to travel in a group because solo travel becomes boring for me.

### 36. Talk about a toy you liked in your childhood

- What was the toy
  - Who gave it to you? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - How often did you play with it
- 
- I had many toys in my childhood but here I am going to talk about my electric toy car.
  - My father gifted it to me on my 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - I used to spend hours playing with it.
  - I was greatly fascinated by it
  - It was red in colour
  - It worked with four pen torch batteries fixed in a box under the car
  - When I switched it on, it would move in all directions
  - If there was an obstacle on the way then the car could change directions
  - Along with that it had lights which flickered at times.
  - I was so fascinated by this car that I used to finish its batteries very soon.
  - I used to show it to my friends with pride.
  - None of my other friends had such a beautiful toy car.
  - I just loved it when I saw the jealous look in their eyes.
  - I remember, once I took it to school in my bag.
  - When I came home I got a big spanking from my mother.
  - I was very possessive about my car and never used to let anyone touch it.
  - Even though I don't play with the car any more I still have it in my room
  - Its colour has faded now but it has emotional value for me.
  - That is why I have never thought of giving it away to my younger cousins.
  - It brings back nostalgic memories of my childhood

**Follow ups****1. What is the difference between girls' and boys' toys?**

Traditionally, girls used to like toys like dolls, kitchen sets, fairies, and butterflies. Boys normally preferred aggressive toys like guns, cars, and things to build and things, which make a lot of noise. The other difference was that boys normally picked blue, brown and green. Girls, on the other hand, chose pink with a tinge of purple. These differences have been disappearing over the years.

**2. Do you think toys really help in children's development?**

Yes, toys play a big role in children's development. It helps to develop their motor and sensory skills and also their cognitive abilities. At the same time, it also leads to their social development, especially when they play with other kids. Kids also learn responsibility when parents ask them to properly store their toys.

**3. Does modern technology have an influence on children's toys?**

Yes modern technology has a big influence on toys. Both the type of toys available and the children's preferences for toys have changed over time. Today robots, app controlled cars are more popular. Board games are becoming less and less popular. Simple action figures and dolls have also become much more detailed.

**4. Have we lost our hand skills such as sewing?**

Sewing by hand has definitely become a thing of the past. Sewing machines have come up in a big way. But manual sewing machines are still used. These have a hand pedal or a foot pedal. My mother has a fully automatic computerised sewing machine, but she has to operate it herself when she sews.

**5. What toys are popular with kids in India today?**

Many types of toys are popular in India. Children like wooden toys and other mechanical toys, but electronic toys are fast gaining popularity.

**6. In general, do children today have many toys?**

Yes, they do. When I look at the children around me, I feel that they have too many toys. I never had so many. I think parents, today, are substituting the time they have to spend with children by giving them more and more toys.

**7. Do you think playing with electronic toys has a good influence on kids?**

Yes, electronic toys introduce children to technology. They increase the strategy forming skills. They are good, but when children spend too much time on electronic games, they forget everything else and then these become negative.

8. Do you think there are some toys that are only suitable for girls and some that are only suitable for boys?

Not any more. Gender differences are disappearing fast and boys and girls play with the same type of toys nowadays.

9. Which do you think is better, for children to play with toy alone or with other kids?

It is definitely better for children to play with other kids. They learn caring and sharing and many other social skills when they play with others.

10. Do you think parents should encourage their children to share their toys with other kids?

Yes, definitely. They should encourage their children to share their toys with other children. In this way they will not need to have many toys.

### 37. Talk about an unusual meal

- When did you eat it
  - Where did you eat it? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - With whom you had the meal? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- 
- When I was a child, I used to be a very selective eater.
  - My mother was always worried about my health.
  - I used to drink milk but then I started avoiding it too.
  - I remember, I used to intentionally spill milk or throw it in the washbasin when no one was looking.
  - Once I mother caught me throwing it.
  - My parents scolded me a lot.
  - My dad told my mother that I should not be given milk again.
  - My mom was caught between a rock and a hard place.
  - I don't know how she came up with a fried milk recipe but the next day I was given somecutlets instead of milk.
  - I had no idea what they were but I loved them.
  - From then on, every morning, I ate those fried things.
  - I felt like the luckiest kid.
  - I also took a few for my friends in school.
  - They all loved them too.
  - Someone in school asked me, what they were made of.
  - I asked my mom but she said it's a secret.
  - For a few days I forgot about it but then one day, I actually saw my mom making them from the kitchen window.
  - They were made from milk. It was fried milk.
  - My mother had found a way of feeding me milk and at the same time making sure I didn't throw it.
  - She added a lot of other things to it like eggs, lemon peels, cornstarch.
  - I don't think I would have eaten them, if I knew they were made from milk before tasting them.
  - My mother made a whole meal out of something I hated.
  - It was of course less healthy as it was fried but she used very little oil too.
  - Even now, I sometimes crave them.
  - My mother is always ready to make them.

**Follow ups.**

1. Do you think having dinner at home is a good idea?  
Yes, of course. Home cooked meals are always healthier than meals at restaurants. At home we use the best oils and add spices to our taste. We also wash the vegetables properly before cooking.
2. Do young people like to spend time with their families or friends?  
Young people like to spend time with friends more because they have no generation gap with friends. When they spend time with family, there are chances of misunderstandings. Parents have to be friendly, otherwise young people drift away from them.
3. What do you think are the benefits of having dinner together?  
When families have dinner together, it increases family bonding. They share their day's happenings with each other. It has also been seen that when families have 3-5 meals a week together, then children do not fall into vices like drugs and alcohol.
4. Do you think people are less willing to cook meals by themselves these days, compared to the past?  
Yes, people have become more career oriented and have started earning more. When spending capacity increases then people find easy way out and eat out.

38. Talk about a special day which was not that expensive or on which you didn't have to spend a lot of money

- What was the occasion
  - Where you went? ----- Makkar - IELTS
  - Who did you celebrate with
- 
- Well special days are very important in everyone's life and in our country people spend a lot on their special days like birthdays, marriages etcetera
  - If on such occasion one doesn't have to spend a lot of money, then it will make the day extra special.
  - I would like to talk about one such special day when I organised a birthday party for my friends at a newly opened restaurant in our town.
  - It was my 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and all of my friends were asking me for a treat.
  - Since we had tried all the major restaurants in our town, I thought of taking them to a new place.
  - I saw an advertisement in the newspaper about a new theme based restaurant that had opened in our city.
  - The name of the restaurant was Big Chill Café and it was based on a musical theme.
  - I quickly called the café and made a reservation for 8 people.
  - They told me that per person cost would be around 1000 Rs and I gave them the confirmation.
  - We reached there around 8 PM in the evening.
  - As soon as we entered the café we were astonished/amazed by the interiors of the café.
  - The walls were decorated with huge poster of famous singers.
  - The furniture was very trendy and the restaurant had beautiful lighting.
  - In the background famous rock songs were being played
  - There were also lot of musical instruments like guitar and drums lying in one corner of the restaurant
  - They had reserved a huge table in the centre for us.
  - We quickly ordered some snacks which were also named after famous songs
  - The starters were really delicious and we had a great time enjoying the snacks along with the music.
  - After that we ordered some food and surprisingly the waiters also brought a surprise birthday cake which was ordered by my friends.
  - But the biggest surprise came when I asked for the bill and it was only Rs 100 instead of Rs 8000.
  - First of all I thought it was a mistake but when we called the hotel manager they told us that we were their 100<sup>th</sup> customer so they decided to give us a discount.
  - I felt really overjoyed on hearing this and when I told my parents about it, they were also very happy
  - So it was a special birthday on which I gave a grand party to my friends but still I didn't have to spend a lot of money.

## Follow ups

1. Do teenagers spend much more money than before?  
Yes, teenagers spend a lot more money than before because the average income of families have grown as compared to the past. Moreover since there are nuclear families nowadays so parents like to fulfil the wishes of their children and in order to make them happy they give them more pocket money to spend.
2. How can people save money as much as possible?  
Well, there are lot of ways to save money nowadays. People can invest their money in small savings scheme floated by the government . They can also keep a certain amount of money from their incomes every month and save it for later.
3. Did you ever have bad shopping experience?  
Fortunately I never had a bad shopping experience but a friend of mine was duped by a car salesman who sold him a used car instead of a new one. My friend discovered this after a week when he took his car for washing and discovered used plastic bottles under the seats of the car. He then complained to the car company and got a new car after one month.
4. Why is online shopping so popular these days?  
Online shopping is popular these days because it provides lot of convenience and better pricing to the customers. People can order anything while sitting in the comfort of their homes, moreover they get a lot of discounts when they shop online compared to brick and mortar stores.
5. Do you think you can buy something from a physical store without money?  
Well it's a very interesting question and recently I heard about a technology called amazon go in which you can just walk into a store, pick the items that you need and just take it away in your bag and money will be automatically deducted from your account. I saw a video of this technology on youtube and I think it will become a lot popular in the future.



### 39. Talk about an important river or lake in your country or hometown

- Which water body is that
  - How do you know about it? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - Why does it impress you so much
- 
- India is a diverse country.
  - There are many rivers, lakes, beaches in India which are important.
  - One important river that I would like to talk about here is the river Ganges or the Ganga, as we popularly call it
  - River Ganga is a sacred river and treated as a Goddess among the Hindus.
  - It has significant influence on the life of the Indians.
  - It is one of the longest rivers of the world and is the longest river in India.
  - The River Ganga emerges out of the Himalayas and falls into the Bay of Bengal.
  - It has a number of tributaries like Yamuna, Ramganga, and Ghagra, etc.
  - The Ganga is a perennial river as water is available throughout the year.
  - The river has formed one of the most fertile flood plains of the world.
  - We get the golden crops from the fertile lands on the bank of River Ganga.
  - The water of River Ganga is widely used for agriculture purpose.
  - The Ganga has been made national waterways of India.
  - It is navigable up to Hardwar.
  - The Ganga plain is one of the most fertile plain and is the granary of India.
  - Our Government has initiated projects for wider utilization of kind water of River Ganga.
  - This would bring enormous prosperity and economic development in our country.
  - All these features made the river as the Ideal river of India.

Follow ups

1. Do people like that river in your country?

Yes, of course they do. It is treated as a Goddess. People put the ashes of their dead kith and kin based on the belief that this will give the departed souls a place in heavens.

2. Do you like any activities in water?

Yes, I like boating. Once I went to Sukhna Lake and did boating over there. I just loved it.

3. Is it necessary for everyone to learn swimming?

Yes, I believe everyone should know swimming. People in coastal areas especially need to know it. It is a good exercise and enjoyable too.

4. Do people in your country go to swim in their free time?

Yes, many people do, especially in summers. I come from a small town and there are 4 swimming pools there, which shows that people like swimming.

#### 40. Describe a popular person

- Who is he? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- How do you know him? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- Why is he popular

(Do the same as Virat Kohli – A famous sportsperson)

You can also talk about a cousin or a family member who is always surrounded by friends.

#### Follow ups

1. What are the qualities of being popular?  
A popular person is one who is a people's person. He should be friendly and approachable by people. He should be helpful and empathetic. He should be a good listener and try to lead by example.
2. Do you know any popular star who likes helping other people?  
Many celebs are attached to some charity organisations or are running their own NGOs. Salman Khan has his charity "Being Human", which is doing a lot for Charity.
3. Do you think children should imitate their idols?  
It is not a question of whether they should. We have to realise that they will always imitate. So, the onus is on the celebs to be good role models and do what is good to be imitated.
4. What influence do popular stars have on teenagers?  
Teenagers want to be like their favourite celebs. They take them as their idol. They are influenced in both good and bad ways. If their popular star is endorsing any product then teenagers blindly want to buy that product even if they don't need it. If their popular star is doing something good, such as helping the poor, teenagers also go out and do the same.
5. Do you think popular stars have more freedom or less freedom?  
I think popular stars have to lead a life, which is open to public. They cannot be themselves and enjoy life like commoners can. In that respect, their freedom is restricted.

#### 41. Talk about an important event that you like to celebrate

- what is the event
  - whom do you celebrate it with? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - why do you like to celebrate it
- 
- I like to attend many events such as weddings and festivals.
  - Here I would like to talk about our national festival Diwali, which I celebrate every year with my family and friends
  - The whole month before Diwali, we are busy in the cleaning of our home.
  - We buy gifts to give to our friends and relatives.
  - We also buy crackers to burn on that day. But this year we said a big no to crackers, because of the rising pollution.
  - On the actual day of diwali, we all family members go to the gurdwara to pay obeisance to the almighty and seek his blessings.
  - After that we go to some friends and relatives homes to present them the gifts we have bought for them
  - Then we come home and decorate our home with candles and diyas.
  - This time my father also got some electric lights fitted in our home.
  - My mother cooks special dishes for us and we enjoy dinner.
  - We also turn on all the lights of our house and leave all the doors open because it is believed that Goddess Laxmi visits the homes on that day.
  - After that we go to our terrace and fire the crackers, which we didn't do this year.
  - We just looked around and saw the crackers fired by others.
  - We could see our neighbours were firing crackers.
  - I felt very good as I enjoyed all that very much.
  - You know mam/Sir, Diwali holds a special significance for us.
  - It is celebrated because on this day Lord Rama returned from Ayodhya after 14 years of exile.
  - It is also celebrated because the sixth Guru, Guru Hargobindji was set free from Gwalior Jail with 52 kings.
  - On this day, the arrogant tyrant Bali was killed by lord Vishnu.
  - So this is a traditional celebration, which all Indians celebrate with great pomp and show.

(If it comes with the wording – An important event you celebrated, then speak more with the past tense)

Follow ups

1. Do you like to plan for an important meeting or activity?  
Yes, I think it is good to plan for an important meeting because without planning a meeting can go in any direction and people can get deviated from actual goals of the meeting, whereas if it is planned then people will be able to make the meeting constructive and useful.
2. Who is the most important person in your life?  
My parents are the most important people in my life because they have worked really hard so that I could receive a good upbringing. Whatever I have achieved in my life is because of my parents.
3. In your country, do you think good appearance is necessary while finding a job?  
I think it is a universal rule. In all the countries employers expect people to be looking good when applying for jobs or during the job interviews as it shows your professionalism towards the job.
4. What is the most important thing for being a teenager?  
I think the most important thing for teenagers nowadays is to focus on their goals in life because of the ever growing intense competition. If they do so, they will be successful in their later life.
5. What events do Indians like to celebrate?  
In our country people like to celebrate all kinds of events like religious festivals or national holidays such as Independence Day or Republic Day. Some of the most important events in our country are Diwali, Eid etcetera

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

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

Follow ups

1. In your country where do people buy the furniture for their homes?  
People in our country normally buy the furniture from the markets or shops which make customized furniture. Recently people have started buying furniture from shopping malls where you can get good looking, readymade furniture items at an attractive price.
2. What factors do people need to consider when buying furniture for the home?  
Well, people need to mainly focus on their budget, durability of the furniture and if the design or size will suit their homes or not. These are the most important factors when one is buying furniture
3. Why do some people like to buy expensive furniture?  
Some people like to buy expensive furniture because they believe that good looking furniture showcases their standard of living and status in the society.
4. Do you think that style is important?  
Yes, I believe style matter a lot when one is buying furniture because if the style of furniture does not match according to architecture of house then people often end up cursing or repenting on their decisions. So style is really important
5. What's the difference between the furniture at home and furniture at office?  
I believe there is a huge difference between the two. The furniture at office normally includes chairs and tables only which are designed for people to sit and work whereas the household have different kinds of furniture such as beds, sofas and recliners which are meant for relaxation.

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

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

Sample answer (For those who live in villages) [www.makkarIELTS.com](http://www.makkarIELTS.com)

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



- I would like to have a house in the suburbs of my home town. (Rest is the same as above) [www.makkarIELTS.com](http://www.makkarIELTS.com)

### Follow ups

1. Do most Indian people live in an apartment or house?  
I think it depends on the region they are living in. In most of the big cities, like the metropolitan cities, people live in apartments, as there is a scarcity of land in such places and to accommodate the ever-increasing population, there are more and more apartment buildings being built. However, in the small cities, towns and the countryside, we can find people mostly living in houses, rather than apartments. [www.makkarIELTS.com](http://www.makkarIELTS.com)
2. Do young people in your country like to live with their parents or by themselves?  
In my country, young people like to live with their parents, unless they have to move to another city or country, for higher education or for better career prospects. It's a part of the Indian culture for children to live with their parents.
3. Do Indian people like to rent a place to live?  
No, Indian people do not like to rent a place to live. I think it's the dream of almost every Indian to own his/her own house.
4. Would you live in a foreign country in the future?  
Yes, definitely. I would like to live in a foreign country in the future. I plan to pursue my education abroad. I think there are better education facilities and better job opportunities in developed countries. [www.makkarIELTS.com](http://www.makkarIELTS.com)
5. How is modern home design in your country different to that of the past?  
The modern home design is very different to that of the past, in my country. The material being used now in the construction of houses is much advanced, like weather proof paints, insulated walls, soundproof windows, etc. The design of the modern houses is according to the space available. There is better utilization of space in the modern home designs. The homes in the past used to be more spacious and not equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and equipment, like washing machine, microwave, dishwashers & so on.
6. In your country what type of home do most people live in?  
India is a vast and diverse country. People live in different types of houses, depending on the region and the climate in that region. For example, in the eastern parts of India, houses made from bamboo are very common. In regions where there is snowfall, sloped houses are common. In plain areas, people design their houses, as per the area and space available.

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

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

8. How are modern homes different to older homes? [www.makkarIELTS.com](http://www.makkarIELTS.com) Modern homes are quite different from the older homes, in terms of the design, material used and the structure of the building. Older homes were more spacious, with proper ventilation. Modern homes are designed to properly utilize the space, due to the shortage of land these days. These days, people employ interior designers and architects to plan and decorate their homes. Older homes may not be equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and appliances.

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

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

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

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

11. Do you think moving to a new home can ever create or cause problems for people? [www.makkarIELTS.com](http://www.makkarIELTS.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**44. Describe an occasion when somebody visited your home**

- Who he/she was / they were? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - When it happened
  - What you did for the occasion and the visitor
  - Explain how you felt about it
- 
- My parents are very hospitable and we have visitors to our house very often
  - Here, I would like to talk about an occasion when my aunt and uncle came from Canada and stayed with us for two weeks.
  - They immigrated to Canada 5 years ago and after that it was their first visit.
  - They have their own home, and my father takes care and gets it cleaned once in a while, but as they had come for only two weeks, we didn't let them to stay there.
  - Both my uncle and aunt are very nice.
  - Actually they had come to finalise the wedding of their son who was working in Canada.
  - One of their Indian neighbours in Canada had suggested the match and they has done most of the talks through video chats on phone.
  - Every day was life a celebration, while they were in our place.
  - My mother used to cook all day and she seemed to enjoy it too.
  - They told us that they missed the Indian cuisine over there, especially dishes like bitter gourd and bottle gourd.
  - I was very happy, because my mother prepared many desserts also, which are my favourite.
  - I have a sweet tooth, but normally my mother doesn't prepare too many sweet dishes.
  - My father has diabetes, so my mother avoids making things, which tempt him.
  - Aunt and Uncle told us all about their life in Canada.
  - They said that the quality of life was good, but they had to put in a lot of hard work initially.
  - It was difficult finding a job.
  - But, now they were well settled and had their own home.
  - They told me about the education system there.
  - They motivated my parents to send me there for higher education.
  - That is why I am taking the IELTS today.
  - I hope I will be with them soon.

### Follow Up questions

1. Do you often invite friends to visit your home?  
Yes, I like to invite friends to visit my home. Sometimes we have get-togethers at home and sometimes when we have to study or make a project, I invite my friends over.
2. Do you like visitors coming to your home?  
Yes, I like visitors coming to my home. Its good to have relatives and friends come over and we can spend quality time with each other.
3. Do people often visit you at your home?  
Yes, people visit me at home quite often. We have an extended family system that we follow and a lot of my relatives live in the same city. Also, sometimes my friends and neighbors also visit us at home.
4. How often do visitors come to your home?  
Visitors come to my home very often, in fact twice or thrice a week.
5. When do visitors come to your home?  
When someone has to visit, they usually call ahead and come. There are no specific times when people visit us at home.
6. Do you prefer to have friends visit you, or relatives?  
I like having both my friends and relatives visit me. These days everyone is busy on their routines and so, when anyone visits me, it's a good way to spend quality time with them.
7. What do you usually do together with your visitors?  
When we have visitors over, we usually sit and chat, discuss the day's happenings or any social or national issues. Sometimes we share jokes and have a good laugh and all this happens usually over of a cup of tea or coffee and some snacks. Sometimes we also have visitors over for lunch or dinner.
8. When someone visits you, how do you usually show hospitality (or, entertain them)?  
Hospitality towards visitors is in our culture. In India, guests are treated like God. We show our hospitality by making them feel comfortable and offering them drinks and snacks or food, depending on the time of the day.

45. Describe a good decision someone made or (it could be a good decision someone made recently)

- Who made the decision? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - What was the decision
  - When was it made
  - How it affected you
  - Why was it a good decision / Are you happy with the decision
- 
- We all have to take decisions from time to time.
  - Some decisions may be small, such as what to wear or what to prepare for lunch.
  - Some decisions can affect the whole life, such as choosing a college or university or choosing a life partner.
  - Here, I would like to talk about a decision, which my maternal uncle and aunt made.
  - They decided to move from a village to the city for the better education of their children. m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
  - They made this decision few months ago, and they have never once regretted it.
  - My uncle is an agriculturist, and it was very difficult for him initially.
  - For getting good schooling, his children had to go by bus, which took two hours in the morning and two after school hours.
  - It was very tiring for his children.
  - He did not want to compromise with their education by teaching them in the village school.
  - So, he decided to shift to the city and instead of his children travelling daily, he commuted to his village for his work.
  - I think it was a good decision, because the early years of schooling are the base forming years of life.
  - Now, his children are doing well in school, and are also good at many extra-curricular activities also.
  - Sometimes for sports, they have to stay at school after school hours, which would have been impossible if they were staying in the village.
  - My uncle could have seen his comfort, but he decided to put his family first and I think it was quite right.
  - I admire my uncle for that.
  - So, that was the decision my uncle made, which I think was good.

Follow ups

1. Should children make decisions on their own?

Yes, children should make decisions on their own. They have to be taught decision-making and the repercussions of wrong and hasty decisions. But, this should be done step by step. Parents should allow them to take small decisions and then slowly leave important things on them.

2. How should parents help their children make decisions?

Parents should allow them to take small decisions and then slowly leave important things on them. This way they can teach them to take decisions in small steps and children will learn better.

3. Do parents in your country take decisions for their children?

Yes, they do. They are very protective of their children and want to take every small and big decision for them. But, nowadays, children do not like such interference and sometimes rebel against their parents. m a k k a r \_ | E L T S

4. Do you think it is advisable listening to others advice when making decisions?

It is advisable to listen to others advice, but the final decision should be on ones own. When we listen to someones advice, we learn to look at things from another perspective and then can take better decisions.

#### 46. Describe an occasion when you received a good/best service from a restaurant or a shop

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

(Another idea)

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



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

#### Follow ups

1. What jobs require staff to get in touch with many people?  
There are many jobs which require their staff to be in touch with people, such as the jobs of salesmen, some jobs related to go field work, jobs in banks and malls, teaching jobs and so on.
2. What qualities does the staff need? Why?  
The staff needs good communication skills. They need to be polite all the time, and also have a lot of patience. They need to have good knowledge of what they are selling/offering.
3. What's the difference between services in big shops and small shops?  
In big shops, things are displayed, and you can pick up what you need, but in small shops, the salesmen guide and personally show you what you ask for. They even guide you about the products. The return policies of big shops are better than those of smaller shops. Big shops offer more variety of products, whereas small shops have less variety.
4. What should people do when they get bad service?  
People should complain if they get bad service. They can complain to the store manager or the company of which they have got the product.
5. Why do some people not know what service is good?  
Some people do not know what service is good, because they have not compared it with the other stores or the other brands. Sometimes it is also because people are not aware of the concept of customer service.

6. What kinds of services are not good?

Services which do not satisfy customers are not good. For example, if a restaurant claims that it provides fresh food, but customers fall sick because of stale food, then it is bad service. If a clothing store gives any guarantee of clothing such as fast colours, but the colours fade, then it is bad service.

7. Would you like to work in the service industry in the future?

Yes, definitely. I would learn a lot and if I like it I may open my own industry one day.

8. Why do some older people want to be waiters in the big city?

Being a waiter is an interesting job. You come to know about the tastes of different people. You also get to hear some of their chit-chat. It is a fun job.

**47. Describe an activity you do to keep fit / way to stay healthy**

- What the activity is
- When and where you usually do it? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S
- How you do it
- Explain why it can keep your fit

(Sample answer)

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



Follow ups

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

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

2. What kinds of sports are popular in India?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 48. A place people go to listen music

- Where it is
  - What kind of music is performed there
  - What type of people go there
  - Why people go there
  - Explain your impressions of this place
- 
- Nowadays because of technology, we don't need to go to any special place to listen music.
  - Music is all around us – on TV, on radio and on the internet.
  - I also don't go to any place specially to listen music.
  - But, yes, I do enjoy music which is played in restaurants and shopping malls and cafes whenever I go there.
  - Here, I would like to talk about a place where most people go to hear religious music.
  - It is a famous Gurdwara, a Sikh temple, of my home town.
  - Every evening, a famous devotional singing group of my home town performs there from 6 to 8 pm.
  - People of my home town as well as from neighbouring villages come there every evening to listen to the religious hymns and chants.
  - This gurdwara is in the suburbs of my home town.
  - It is dedicated to the sixth guru of the Sikhs, Guru Hargobindji
  - My parents go there every evening.
  - Once or twice a week I also accompany them.
  - Believe me ma'm/sir their music is mesmerizing.
  - When I listen their devotional songs, I feel very relaxed.
  - I feel lighter; I feel as I have got rid of all my stress and tensions.
  - Bhai Devinder Singh is such a good singer that his music touches the heart.
  - People also get to enjoy tea from the community kitchen there.
  - There is a pond outside which has fish and children love feeding the fish over there.
  - There are benches all around the pond for people to sit.
  - Some elderly people who cannot go inside sit on these benches and enjoy the sound of the religious music coming from inside.
  - My friends have also started going there and they too enjoy it.

Follow ups

1. Should children learn to play musical instrument?

Yes definitely. ( see ideas from answer 6)

2. Should parents force them to listen music?

No, there should be no forcing. If forced, children will not enjoy music. Parents can create an atmosphere that children are themselves drawn towards music.

3. Is music education important in your country?

I firmly believe that music is a more potent instrument than any other for education and it is even more important than other subjects in the early years of life. Music uses both sides of the brain as a result of which the child's brain develops academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

4. Some people say music is like math. Do you agree?

I don't know that but I have read that music increases the cognitive skills of a child. Most research shows that when children are trained in music at a young age, they tend to improve in their math skills.

5. What effects does technology have on music?

Technology has had a lot of impact on music. It has had both positive and negative effects. On the positive side this has allowed for artists to quickly spread word about their work and get their music out to a global audience with ease due to websites such as Youtube, Spotify, Sound Cloud, Band Camp and other such music streaming websites. On the negative side this has almost disvalued music as an art, because now even if an artist spends thousands of their own dollars and time to produce an album, he will make little to nothing because such files can be downloaded and shared for free. So, artists hav to find other ways to make a living.

6. What are the advantages of learning music?

Importance of music in the primary classes

- 1) The most important advantage of music in primary classes is that music trains the brain for higher forms of thinking. It was seen in a research that second graders who were given music lessons scored 27% higher in math than children who received no music lessons. This means that children who learn music in schools are better problem-solvers and are better at analysis and overall critical thinking. Because studying or playing music uses the same part of the brain that is used in mathematical thinking, music education can help promote better math students.
- 2) Exposing children to music in the early and primary years increases listening and concentration skills also.

- 3) Music is an art form. We are emotional beings and every child requires an artistic outlet.
- 4) Music may be the child's vehicle of expression. Music helps the child to open up and improve his communication skills. It helps him to express his ideas and thoughts in a better manner.
- 5) Young children can experience camaraderie and teamwork by participating in music activities done in groups. Involvement in a music group, chorus or band gives the young child a sense of importance and belonging.
- 6) Music education can open doors for children who can later adopt it as a hobby or even profession in later years.

#### 49. A successful businessman

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



### Follow ups

1. What kinds of businesses are popular in your country  
Well, like everyone says that India is a diverse country so lots of businesses are popular here. Some of the most popular include real estate in which the earnings are really high. After that Indian IT sector has seen a lot of growth lately so people like to invest in technology companies.
2. If you had the opportunity, what kind of business would you like to do  
I think this is a very interesting question, if given a chance; I will like to do something in the education sector probably related to IELTS only because I feel there is a lot of opportunity in this field. Moreover the current institutes do not provide quality coaching to the students that's why lot of students fail to clear the exam in single attempt.
3. What age do people want to retire in your country?  
In our country people generally retire at the age of 60 but nowadays the trend is changing and people are thinking about retiring early. They want to work hard when they are young and earn more money so that they can retire by the age of 50 and fulfill their dreams such as traveling the world.
4. Would young people in your country like to open up their own business or find a job?  
In my country, majority of the people like to do a job first because opening a business requires a large amount of money (huge capital), whereas a job is a more secure way of earning money.
5. Would you want people to do online business or run a company in real?  
Well I have really never thought about this much but I think people should initially start online business because the risks in online business are lesser as compared to the real business. Also the amount of money required to start online business is lesser as compared to a reality business.

**50. Talk about someone whom you think is the best parent.**

- Name and where he/she resides
  - What has he/she done
  - How you were impressed by him/her
- 
- My own parents are the best parents in this world.
  - Both my mother and father are very good but here I would like to speak on my mother.
  - She is the best mother in the world.
  - Her name is .....
  - She is ..... years old.
  - She is not very tall but very beautiful.
  - Her hair has started graying but she doesn't colour or dye her hair.
  - She believes in the three Gs – go grey gracefully
  - She generally wears traditional Punjabi suits.
  - We all, my parents, my siblings and I live in Hargobind Nagar.
  - She has done a lot for me.
  - I remember how she sat beside me for the whole night when I had fever.
  - She does everything she can to make our life comfortable.
  - She has excellent culinary skills.
  - I have also learnt a lot of kitchen work from her.
  - I am impressed by her because she is not just my mother – she is my friend also.
  - I can share all my secrets with her.
  - She is very friendly with my friends also.
  - That is why my friends also love her.
  - She knows very well when to be strict and when to give us some room.
  - That is why I can say that she is a good parent.
  - She has always kept an eye on us even when she appears to be busy.
  - All our relatives and neighbours respect and adore her.
  - She looks after my grandparents also very nicely.
  - She is very soft-spoken and I have never heard her speak harsh words to anyone.
  - She has a good sense of humour.
  - She can lighten up any tense situation by cracking some jokes.
  - Normally she makes me do some household chores but whenever I have exams she never disturbs me.
  - She is the best parent one can have.

A good parent – Not your own (Another idea)

- My own parents are the best parents in this world.
- Both my mother and father are very good but if I have to talk on a good parent not my own then I would choose my friend Sapna's mother.
- I know her very well because she is my best friend's mother
- Her name is .....
- She is ..... years old.
- She is not very tall but very beautiful.
- Her hair has started graying but she doesn't colour or dye her hair.
- She believes in the three Gs – go grey gracefully
- She generally wears traditional Punjabi suits.
- Actually, they are our neighbours.
- Sapna tells me she has done a lot for her.
- She told me how she sat beside her for the whole night when she had fever.
- She does everything she can to make her family's life comfortable.
- She has excellent culinary skills.
- I have also learnt a lot of kitchen work from her because I go to their house very often.
- I am impressed by her because she treats Sapna like a friend.
- Sapna discusses everything with her and like a friend she listens nicely.
- Even I can share all my secrets with her. She is very friendly with me also.
- I always feel that a good parent should be friendly but firm.
- She knows very well when to be strict and when to give room to her children.
- That is why I can say that she is a good parent.
- She always keeps an eye on Sapna's friends circle even when she appears to be busy.
- All people in our neighbourhood respect and adore her.
- She is very soft-spoken and I have never heard her speak harsh words to anyone.
- She has a good sense of humour.
- She can lighten up any tense situation by cracking some jokes.
- Sapna tells me that normally she makes her do some household chores but whenever it is exam time then she never disturbs Sapna.
- She is the best parent one can have.

Follow ups

1. If you were a parent and busy in your work, would you take care of your children or hire a babysitter?

I would try to take care myself, but if not possible, I would go for a babysitter. If I had the choice, I would give up work for some time to give quality care to my children.

2. Do you think it is fair to let mothers take care of the children all the time?

Of course not. Both parents are responsible for bringing the child into the world, and I believe it should be a joint responsibility to care for the child.

3. Some teenagers don't like to be controlled by their parents. What do you think?

I think today's children want freedom, so they rebel when parents are too strict. I think parents should know when to be strict and when to be friendly with their child.

Parenting is a very daunting task.

4. What are the drawbacks, if children are looked after by their grandparents?

Grandparents can be over doting and spoil the grandchildren by fulfilling every fair and unfair demand of their grandchild. Secondly, sometimes grandparents are not in the best of their health. In such cases they cannot impart quality care.

5. In your country who takes care of children?

In my country, mostly the mother and grandparents care for the child.

6. Do you think you will be a good parent?

Of course, if I ever decide to have a child, I would put my heart and soul into good parenting.

### 51. An exciting book you read

Describe an exciting book you have read

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

### Follow Ups

1. Do people in your country like to read books?  
Yes, people of my country like to read books. There are bookshops in most towns and cities, which are all doing good business.
2. What kinds of books are most popular in your country?  
All types of books are very popular. India is a diverse country. People have diverse tastes in everything, including reading.
3. Do you think reading is important?  
Yes, reading is very important. It develops imagination and also develops language skills.
4. Do you think electronic books will eventually replace paper books?  
Not completely, but to a large extent yes. E-books have a lot of advantages

#### Benefits of e-books over traditional books

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

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

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

Immediate purchase - When you buy an eBook, your reward is instantaneous.

Whereas if you order a book online you have to wait for it to arrive before the fun begins.

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

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

5. Some people like to collect books. Why do you think they do this?  
They do so because they love books. They treat books as collectibles, and are proud of their collection.
6. Is compulsory reading (in school) is a good idea?

Yes, definitely. In order for students to achieve in math, science, English, history, geography, and other subjects, reading skills must be developed to the point that most of them are automatic. Students cannot struggle with word recognition when they should be reading quickly for comprehension of a text. But the ability to read and write develops with careful planning and instruction. Children need regular and active interactions with print.

#### Reading is a Good Workout

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

#### Reading Builds Vocabulary

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

#### Reading Helps Self Esteem

Another one of the key reading benefits is that the more you read, the more knowledgeable you become. With more knowledge comes more confidence. More confidence builds self-esteem. So it's a chain reaction.

#### Reading Improves Creativity

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

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

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

#### 8. Why men and women prefer different books?

This is because they have different tastes.

#### 9. Why some books become internationally popular?

This is perhaps because these receive a lot of publicity.

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

Nowadays, generally speaking, the reading habit of the children is on the decline.

Whatever books they read are based on fantasy, fiction and supernatural characters like Barbie, superman and Shaktiman.

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

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

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

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

12. Can storybooks be an ideal gift for children?

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

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

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

14. How does reading help a child?

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

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

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

16. How much should a child read every day?

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

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

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



## 52. Describe a leisure facility (cinema, theatre, sports centre) you would like to have in your hometown

- What is it
- Where is it
- When you go there
- And how you feel about it

- Every city needs some leisure places and facilities, like cinemas, theatre, parks, sports centres, etc.
- Here I would like to talk about a leisure facility that I would like to have in my hometown.
- It is a theatre for plays and other cultural events
- I belong to Phagwara, which is a small city known for its spare parts industries.
- There are many modern facilities in my hometown, but I feel that arts and cultural events have taken a backseat due to the modernisation.
- I have been to the Tagore theatre in Chandigarh, where many plays, dance events and other cultural events are organised.
- I once saw a dance competition there.
- It was for promoting the traditional dances of India and many students from local schools participated in it.
- They performed dances from all over India, like Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Kathak, Bhangra and many more such forms of dances.
- I was very impressed with the performances and felt proud of our diversity and culture.
- I think such a facility would greatly benefit the young generation
- Technology had taken over our lives and we are forgetting our roots.
- Just a facility will not only be a place of leisure but also keep us connected with our roots and will make the hidden talent come out.
- Many talented children and youngsters will get an opportunity to showcase their talent.
- I hope to see such a leisure facility in my hometown in the near future.

### Follow ups

1. Do people change the way of entertainment as they grow older?

Yes, I think so. As we grow older, our interests may change or new interests may develop. For instance, as children we may enjoy animation movies, but as we grow older we may like other genres of movies. Similarly, the kind of music we listen to, the books we read, sports and games we play, also change as we grow older.

2. What do young people do for fun?

Young people like to do many things for fun. Some youngsters like to listen to music, some like to dance, play sports, party, sing, hang out with friends, play games on consoles or their cellphones, travel and many other such things.

3. Do you think entertainment methods will be home based in the future?

Yes, there will be many more home based entertainment methods in the future. This has already started happening, and with the rapid advancement in technology and I think this will continue in the future. People don't feel the need to socialise and go out because all they need for entertainment is available at home, like televisions, gaming consoles, home theatres, etc.

4. What kinds of leisure facilities are popular in your country?

Leisure facilities like sports centres, clubs, theatres, cinemas, shopping malls with multiplexes and food courts, etc. are popular in my country.

5. Do you think it's important to take sometime off work or study and do some leisure activity?

Yes, it's very important to take some time off from our work or studies. We are leading increasingly hectic lives and to remain productive we need to take time off and re-energise and rejuvenate ourselves. We all need to take breaks to de-stress and release our tensions

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

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

## Follow Up Questions

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

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

2. Should young adults work abroad?

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

3. If they don't work abroad, would it be helpful for them to travel in a foreign country?

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

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

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

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

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

6. Would you like to live in a developed city with a high salary but with polluted air?

If I am in dire need of money for my family, I would go for it, but otherwise I would avoid it. I would use a face mask to filter the polluted air. I would also avoid taking my family there with me.

7. Would you like to live alone or share a room with others?

This would also depend on my financial condition. If sharing a room would save me money, I would share, otherwise, living alone would give me more privacy and independence.

8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living alone?

Disadvantages are that it would be costly and I would have to do all my household chores myself, but the advantages are that I would have more privacy and I can live according to my wish.

**54. Describe a garden you visited regularly during your young age**

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

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

Follow ups

1. Do you visit this garden now?  
Now my cousins have gone abroad for their higher studies, so I don't visit my aunt and uncle often. Even if I go, I don't go to the Rose Garden, because I have no company.
2. What sorts of natural sites like mountain and lakes are there in your country?  
India is rich in natural beauty. There are many lakes, mountains, rivers and seas in India. [www.makkarIELTS.com](http://www.makkarIELTS.com)
3. Do people prefer more these places now than in the past?  
People have always loved all these places. Many tourist places are there around these natural settings.

### 55. Talk about a TV series (Program) you remember

- What series is it
  - Who are the characters
  - What do you like/dislike about it
- 
- I watch TV for the news and some reality shows but one TV series I really liked was *Satyamev Jayate* which means that truth alone wins.
  - This was a talk show directed and produced by Aamir Khan
  - This program was telecast on Sunday mornings at 11 am
  - I used to see it with all my family members
  - I watched it because it was a wonderful show, which enlightened me a lot.
  - All the episodes were very heart-touching
  - Some truths were also shocking.
  - I came to know that maximum insecticides and pesticides are used in Punjab as compared with the rest of India
  - This show was the first show of Aamir Khan on TV
  - He spent two years doing research for this show and finally the first show was telecast on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012.
  - In these shows he wanted to aware Indians about some sensitive issues of the society.
  - The first issue was titled – Daughters are precious.
  - It was against female foeticide
  - Other issues were – child sexual abuse, dowry system in India, medical malpractice, honour killings, physical disabilities, domestic violence and organic farming.
  - This show has been dubbed in many other languages as well
  - It was telecast by Star Plus and DD National.
  - It was telecast in 100 countries of the world
  - Each and every show was an eye-opener
  - I am a big fan of Aamir
  - He is an actor par-excellence
  - He admits that one TV show and one person's efforts cannot bring about any change, but says "information and knowledge make you act differently".
  - And that, through *Satyamev Jayate*, was his effort.

### Follow ups

1. Do young people like to watch TV nowadays?

Yes, they do. There are many programs, which enchant the young people. There are reality shows, music and dance programs, which young people like to watch. There are some daily soaps also watched by young people.

2. What kinds of TV programs do young people like to watch?

Young people like reality shows, music and dance programs and even daily soaps. Some young people like talk shows also.

3. Do you think TV will be replaced by computers?

Not completely, but to a large extent they will be. TV shows can be watched online through Netflix and Amazon Prime. The mobile apps like Hotstar have made TV on the go possible.

4. What do you think of TV advertisements?

TV adverts have become an industry in themselves. Because of these we can watch uncountable channels for a fraction of the cost. Some ads are even more interesting than the program.

5. What TV programs are popular in your country?

Many TV programs are popular. Reality show, soaps, talk shows and sports programs are all popular.

### More follow ups

1. What kinds of TV programs are most popular in India?

Many kinds of TV programs are popular in India. India is a diverse country with diverse populace and diverse tastes. People watch soaps, sitcoms, talk shows, reality shows, sports programs and news programs.

2. Why do people all around the world watch soap operas?

Soaps are good relaxation. They are stories, which go on and on. People relate themselves to the characters and enjoy the stories.

3. What is the difference in the programmes, which young people like to watch and the elderly like to watch?

Young people like to watch action and adventure shows, whereas the elderly like religious shows, soaps, talk shows and news programmes

6. Why don't young people don't like educational shows?

They find such shows boring. They like adventure shows, reality shows and other such fun-packed shows.



## 56. Talk about your Favourite weather/season

Describe your favourite weather.

- What kind of weather it is
  - When this weather usually occurs
  - What you usually do during this weather
  - Explain how this weather affects you
  - And explain why you like this type of weather.
- 
- Weather is a short term atmospheric condition
  - It keeps changing every now and then.
  - We enjoy many types of weather in India
  - We have the hot weather in summers and cool weather in winters.
  - The weather in spring and autumn is generally pleasant.
  - The weather I am going to talk about here is the pleasant weather we have during the spring, that is March and beginning of April.
  - This is a very welcome weather because it brings great relief from the intense cold of winters.
  - The flowers are in full bloom everywhere, and you can hear the happy chirping of the birds.
  - Spring season gives you a reason to smile.
  - It infuses colour in your life.
  - The spring season is important for farmers.
  - Crops ripen in the fields.
  - Farmers store wheat and barley at home.
  - Everybody feels a sense of joy and happiness.
  - Besides, spring is a season of festivals of the Hindus.
  - Holi is a festival of eating and drinking.
  - I enjoy it the most.
  - Holi adds to the glory of the spring season.
  - Days and nights are neither too long nor too short.
  - I hate the cold wind of winter.
  - I do not like the hot sun of summer.
  - I dislike mud and dirt caused by the rains.
  - So spring is my favorite season, and its weather is my favourite weather.

### **Favourite Season**

- India is a diverse country. We namely enjoy four seasons i.e. summer, winter, autumn and spring.
- Because of global warming summer season is extended and we have summer for almost six months a year.
- My favourite season is however winter.
- Winter lasts from December to February.
- The climate is pleasant, energetic, soothing and dry.
- Another reason to like winter season is that there are a lot of seasonal fruits and vegetables which can be healthy and tasty.
- I also like to wear woollen clothes, which I can wear during this season only.

- I generally go to visit different places in the winter vacations.
- I also look forward to the New year celebrations with my friends.
- Nights are very long in the winters and I love to sleep till late in the morning especially at weekends.
- In summers we sweat a lot and there are so many power cuts, so I don't like summers.
- Trees shed of their leaves in autumn,
- So, autumn is a very gloomy season.
- Spring is also a wonderful season.
- Everywhere there are blooming flowers and the weather is also generally very pleasant.
- But, spring is very short lived.
- It only lasts a month and a half.
- In spring generally my exams are near and so my favourite season remains winter.

### Follow Ups

1. Do you often pay attention to the weather forecast? (Why?/Why not?)  
Yes, I pay attention to the weather forecast on a regular basis. The reason is I travel a lot and it becomes necessary to know about the weather to be prepared in advance. Also the climate change has made the weather unpredictable. It sometimes rains even in the dry season as such knowing the weather on a day to day basis has become a necessity.
2. How does the weather (or, the weather forecast) affect what activities people do?  
People prefer to stay indoors on a hot sunny days or rainy days and go out for picnics on pleasant days. Also there are things we like to eat in certain weather – for example fritters in rainy days, ice creams on warm days etc. It also affects the clothing patterns. People wear light colored loose cotton dresses in summers and dark warm clothes in cold weather.
3. (Similar to above) How does the weather affect people's daily lives?
4. Why do some people dislike some kinds of weather?  
I think its because weather can limit people's activities. If weather restricts people from enjoying their favourite activity, it can make them dislike that weather. My friend hates rainy days because he likes to play cricket and he can't do that because of the rain.
5. Do people wear different clothes in different types of weather (or, different seasons)?  
( Same as 2)
6. Does the weather have an effect on the economy?  
Yes weather affects our economy. For example due to milder winters, a lot of people from cold northern countries visit us during that time. Thus it promotes tourism. Also certain weather like hot sunny days boost earning of local ice cream vendors. Similarly winters boost the jackets and sweaters industry.
7. (Similar but different) (In your country), are there any differences in economic activity in the different seasons?  
There are differences in certain economic activities. For example warm clothes' industry gets a boost in the winter season. Similarly farming is also dependent upon seasons – certain crops like rice is grown in summers whereas others like wheat in winters.

8. Are there any festivals in your country that are related to a season (or, related to the change of the seasons)?  
Many festivals are related to seasons. For example Baisakhi celebrates the onset of spring and the harvest season. Teej in Punjab celebrates monsoon. Seasons affect the agriculture, they determine the sowing and harvest period and there are many festivals which are linked to agriculture and thus seasons.
9. Do you think weather has an influence on people's mood?  
Yes, of course. Extremes of cold and hot weather can make people lethargic and restless. It affects people's activities.
10. Do you like to go outside when winter comes?  
Yes, of course I do. I like to walk and also like to enjoy the sun, when it shines in winter. Walking makes me feel warm.
11. How do you feel about the climate in recent years?  
Climate is going from bad to worse. Extremes of temperature are there. Summers are getting hotter and winters are becoming cooler.
12. What can we do to stop greenhouse effect?  
We can do a lot. Actually, if we realise that millions of people are collectively doing things which are harming the environment then we will also realise that millions of people's collective efforts can also save the environment. If we all say 'no' to plastics, it would bring a dramatic change. If we all plant a tree each, it would go a long way in saving the environment.
13. What are the possible results if temperature continues going up?  
If temperature continues going up, then the whole planet would become uninhabitable and we would all perish one day.

## 57. A website which helped you to do something / website you visit often

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

### Follow ups

1. Who in your family use the site?

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

2. Can internet help children in their study?

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

3. Will the internet replace the teacher?

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

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

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

5. What are the reasons why people use the internet?

People use internet for various purposes like entertainment, to gain information or for online shopping or services like banking etc.

6. Some people say that different age groups have different tastes on the internet content. What do you think?

Yes, interests change according to age. Children like to watch cartoons on internet whereas the younger generation uses it mainly for social networking and shopping. The elderly are using it for finding and sharing information.

7. What influence can (or does) the internet have on children?

Internet has positive as well as negative impact on children. If the internet access is not supervised or appropriate parental controls are not implemented, children can access restricted websites which can have a negative influence on them.

8. What kind of people don't use the internet and what are the disadvantages that those people suffer because they don't use the internet?

Some people who are against technology and have orthodox thinking do not use the internet. But mostly poor people do not have access to internet.

These people are not aware about things happening around them and how technology has brought convenience to our life. So they are dependent on others all the time for information.

**58. Talk about a situation where you had to be polite, please say:**

- Where was it?
- Who was there with you?
- What did you do to be more polite?
- How did you feel about this situation?

- I am normally a very well behaved person and I don't lose my temper easily.
- But there are some situations in everyone's life when it is very easy to be impolite but still one behaves politely.
- Here, I'm going to speak about a situation when it was very easy to be angry and rude, but I still behaved politely.
- It happened in my own house.
- All my family members were at home with me.
- I had to control my temper to be more polite.
- Later on I felt very happy about this situation.
- It so happened, that I had bought a beautiful pearl necklace for myself. I bought this necklace after saving my pocket money for one whole year.
- One day my 7 year old cousin came to my house and started fiddling with my jewellery box.
- I stopped her many times but she wouldn't listen.
- She took my pearl necklace and broke its string.
- All the pearls scattered on the floor.
- I was very angry.
- I wanted to slap her hard and speak some harsh words to her.
- But I had read somewhere that if you are really very angry then you should clench your fist and count 10.
- I did that. And, by the time I had counted 10 my anger vanished.
- I didn't say anything to my cousin.
- After all she's only a child.
- Then I picked all the pearls and got them re-stringed.
- I know very well that if I had beaten my cousin for breaking my necklace or even spoken some harsh words to her, I would have felt very bad later on.
- Anger and rudeness lead to nothing.
- So, this was the situation when I behaved politely.

( More ideas – instead of pearl necklace you could talk about a cell phone or a laptop or any other thing).

Follow ups (refer to introductory sets on politeness)

9. Are Indian people becoming much politer or not?

I thinking Indian people are now more polite than before because more and more people are educated nowadays as compared to the past. Schools teach us about politeness and children tell their parents as well to be polite with each other. Also because of newspapers and tv news people have learnt that they should not fight and be polite with each other

10. In what ways do Indian people show politeness?

Indian people show politeness by adding respectful words such as “ji or aap” when they talk to others. Also the tone of their speech is very respectful when they talk to others.

11. What are the uncivilized manners on public transport?

Talking loudly on phone, putting your feet on the seat and keeping luggage in the path are some examples of uncivilized manners on public transport.

12. What would you do when this happens?

I politely tell the person not to do so. Otherwise I just ignore him or her.

13. Should people show politeness to friends?

Yes people should show politeness to friends because it shows that they care for each other. If they are rude to each other than their friendship will suffer in the future.

### 59. An activity you like doing with an old person

- What is it
  - How often you do it
  - Who you do it with
  - Why you enjoy it with that person
- 
- Age doesn't make one old; a person can be old in age and young at heart.
  - My maternal Uncle is one such person who even though is in his 70s but has a very positive and young approach to life.
  - I love spending time with him.
  - He lives just 2kms from my house.
  - Every day, in the evening, we do yoga together.
  - We have been doing it for two months now.
  - He was visiting us and I asked him what's the secret to his good physique.
  - He told me three years ago he had some heart complications and doctors told him he must exercise daily.
  - He was very fascinated with yoga so he decided to do it
  - He simply watched a beginners level yoga video on you tube and started following it.
  - I asked him if I could join him too and he said yes.
  - Yoga is not only about physical fitness but it also makes one calm.
  - My uncle can now even perform the advanced asans.
  - I am barely able to perform the beginners ones properly.
  - His agility amazes me.
  - He says his youthful nature is also due to yoga.
  - Time just flies by when I am with him
  - He is so knowledgeable too.
  - I call him a walking library.
  - He knows something about everything.
  - After yoga, we discuss so many different things.
  - Another thing I love about him is that he motivates me so much
  - He keeps pushing me to do more and more.
  - I am glad, I have such a person in my life.



Follow ups

- i. How much time should parents spend with their children everyday?  
Parents should spend a lot of time with each other. But it is even more important that whatever time they spend, should be of good quality. They should read out stories, watch TV of their children's interest and also help children in homework.
- ii. Do young people like living with old people in your country?  
Yes, they do. In India, we still have joint and extended family system. Children live separate only when their jobs require them to move to a different city or country.
- iii. What is the most important thing that young people can learn from old people?  
They can learn social and moral values from them. They learn to respect elders and love youngers. They learn from the experiences of the elderly on ways to handle tough situations.
- iv. Do people spend less quality time with their family?  
Unfortunately, nowadays people do not spend quality time with family. They have become workaholics, and any time they spend is also half-hearted.
- v. Do Indian families like to arrange indoor or outdoor activities?  
They like to arrange both types of activities. They go out with families on vacations and also entertain their friends and relatives at home.

**60. Describe something you learned in a place or from someone**

- What it was
  - What you learnt
  - How you felt
- 
- I have learnt many skills from people around me in my life.
  - Here I would like to talk about a useful skill of cooking, which I learnt from my maternal aunt.
  - My aunt is in her forties and she is very tall and beautiful.
  - She lives in Chandigarh and I used to spend my summer vacations with her, when I was in school.
  - She has a gifted hand in cooking.
  - She has her unique way of teaching how to cook.
  - She never made me feel as if she was teaching us.
  - She just kept me involved in the kitchen while she cooked.
  - We learnt a lot just by observing her.
  - I learnt cooking because I too want to be able to cook like her.
  - I also learnt cooking because it is a very useful skill in today's time.
  - Moreover, as I plan to go abroad for my higher education, this skill will be very useful.
  - I will not face any food problems.
  - I am a vegetarian and I have heard that veg. food outlets are very few in foreign countries.
  - This skill has proved very useful because many times I have been able to attend to guests when my mother was not at home.
  - My aunt not only taught me simple routine cooking but also some Chinese dishes.
  - She also taught me how to make pizzas in the electric tandoor.
  - She also bakes excellent cakes.
  - Whenever anybody in our family celebrates a birthday, the cake is always baked by my aunt.
  - She loves experimenting in the kitchen and she has many of her own recipes which are quick and easy and at the same time very delicious.
  - She also presents her dishes very well.
  - She says that the look of the dish is as important as its taste.
  - I am fortunate, I have a talented aunt who has taught me this useful skill.

Follow ups

1. How to help old people learn?  
Old people can be helped to learn by teaching them with patience. Children of today find the use of technology so easy that they get impatient when the old people cannot grasp things fast. We must realise that they need time. They can also be taught with the help of youtube videos.
2. Do people in your country like to take online courses  
Yes, online courses are very popular, especially for people who are working. They can take classes at their leisure. These courses are also good for people in remote areas who cannot go to the college or university. Physically handicapped people also like to take online courses, because it is difficult for them to attend regular classes.
3. What kinds of teaching methods are suitable for old people?  
Traditional methods of teaching by a teacher are suitable. The teacher can take the help of technology to teach old people. For example, he can play videos to teach a skill.
4. Do you like to teach others?  
Yes, I love teaching. But before teaching I go through the topic or thing that I have to teach. I think teaching is the best method of learning. I teach my nephew and niece. I help them with their homework. I learn a lot myself also.
5. What is the most effective way for self-learning?  
Nowadays, youtube videos are a very good option. You can find a video to teach almost anything on You Tube.

### 61. Describe a famous athlete you know

You should say

Who he or she is

How you know him or her

What he or she has achieved

Why he is famous

- An athlete by definition means any person who is trained to compete in sports.
- Here, I would like to talk about an athlete, who is known as the flying Sikh of India.
- He is none other than Milkha Singh.
- I had heard about him, but I came to know more about him after I saw the movie Bhag Milkha Bhag, starring Farhan Akhtar.
- He was born in a Sikh family in Punjab of the undivided India.
- He was a teenager when his family was massacred in front of his eyes.
- He had to run for his life.
- He was chosen to represent India in the 200m and 400m races in the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.
- At that time he could not progress beyond the initial stage.
- He participated in the National Games of India in Cuttack in 1958 where he set national records for the 200m and 400m.
- The same year he won a gold medal in the 400m competition at the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, making him the first male Indian to have won an individual athletics gold medal at those Games.
- He won the gold medal at the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo beating the Pakistani runner Abdul Khaliq.
- This prompted an invitation from Pakistan in 1960 for another race.
- Milkha once again beat Khaliq in a nail-biting finish.
- Impressed by the Indian athlete's performance, the then President of Pakistan, General Ayub Khan complimented him.
- He that Milkha did not run, but flew.
- Thus Milkha gained the famous title—The Flying Sikh.
- During his later career he became the Director of Sports in the Punjab Ministry of Education, a post from which he retired by 1998.

Follow ups

1. Do teenagers like exercising in your country?

Yes, they do. Gym culture has become very popular, especially when the famous celebs flaunt their 6 pack and 12 pack abs. Zero figure dream among the girls is also very commonly seen.

2. Would you like to stay at home or going outside for holiday?

It depends on the situation. Sometimes, I just feel like relaxing at home and lazing in my bed. There are times when I want to go out and chill with my friends and family. The choice of spending my holiday also depends on how much budget I have saved for my holiday.

3. Do you think physical education is necessary?

Yes, it is. Childhood obesity is a big problem, especially in today's sedentary life style and the age of fast food. Physical education would motivate children to keep their body fit and avoid unhealthy food.

4. How do you think physical education classes affect children's development?

Physical education would motivate children to keep their body fit and avoid unhealthy food. During these classes children would also be doing outdoor activities with each other and learn many social skills.

5. What kind of exercises do Indian people like?

Indian people like all types of exercises. They like weight training and cardio exercises. The choice of exercises is determined by age and gender.

## 62. Describe something which cannot be learnt at school

- What the skill is
  - Why it cannot be learnt at school
  - Why is it important
  - How can we learn it
- 
- I believe it is an interesting topic because whenever one says the word learning the first thing that comes to mind is school.
  - School is a place where most of the learning happens in the early phases of our life.
  - Today I would like to talk about a skill that I believe we still do not learn at school but we learn it at home from parents.
  - This skill is called cooking and it's normally taught by the mothers in the house.
  - Most importantly it is one of the essential skills in lives because we cannot survive without food.
  - The reason why it cannot be taught in the schools is because schools do not have the proper infrastructure and time to teach such skills.
  - Schools mostly focus on children's education and sports development.
  - Also teaching this skill requires individual attention and safety precautions as cooking involves working with fire. So it's difficult for schools to provide the same.
  - This skill is important because children cannot always be dependent on their parents for cooking, when they move out of their homes like for higher studies or jobs, they have to cook for themselves.
  - One of my friends who recently moved to Canada, learnt how to make Flat Indian bread and lentils from his mother, 3 months before leaving to Canada.
  - Now he is sharing an apartment with four friends and he cooks Flat Breads for others everyday.
  - If he wouldn't have learnt how to cook then it would have been really difficult for him to eat Canadian food as he is a vegetarian whereas Canadian cuisine is largely non vegetarian
  - The learning of this skill happens mostly at home but there are also some people who run cooking classes which one can join and learn how to cook.
  - Nowadays people are also learning how to cook by reading books and watching recipes on Internet websites like youtube.
  - There are also many TV programs like master chef. By watching these programs people can learn to make new dishes.

### Follow ups

1. What qualities are most important for work?  
A lot of qualities are required for work such as discipline, punctuality, teamwork and honesty etcetera. But I think the most important quality is your dedication towards work, if one is dedicated to his/her work then all other qualities follow.
2. What skill do you want to learn soon?  
I would love to learn some skills that will help in the development of my personality. I think interpersonal skills are very important because wherever we work we have to deal with people and if one has good interpersonal skills they can work together with their colleagues
3. Why is it necessary for teenagers to learn to use computers?  
It is very important for everyone including teenagers to learn about computers nowadays because computers have now become an essential part of our lives. We can see computers everywhere from shopping malls, offices, hospitals etcetera. Most of the jobs today involve using computers, so if they do not learn computers it will be difficult for them to find employment in future
4. What kinds of skills are popular in your country?  
Nowadays working on computers and mobile phones is one of the most important skills in our country because there are lots of jobs available for this skill. After that many people are also interested in jobs like education and nursing.

### 63. Interesting job you would like to do

- What is it
  - How can you find this job
  - What qualities it requires
  - Explain why it is an interesting job
- 
- Nowadays, globalization has opened doors for many new, unusual and fascinating jobs for us.
  - The job I am going to talk about here is of an event organizer.
  - I came to know about this job after I saw the movie Band Baja Baraat.
  - Later I came to know that such jobs are very popular nowadays even in small places such as my home town Phagwara. {comments on}
  - People are very busy nowadays and do not have time to organise family functions such as marriage parties and anniversaries.
  - So, they give their budget to the event organiser and he takes over the responsibility.
  - When I came to know that I can get paid for this I was very fascinated.
  - No special training is needed for this job.
  - With every event you organise, you learn something new and your confidence grows.
  - You need to have contacts with various people who do the catering and decorations.
  - You even organise the DJ and the orchestra.
  - The most enjoyable part of this job is that you get to attend all the parties and meet new people.
  - Actually I am very fond of organising such functions.
  - Whenever there is any function in the family, I do all the planning.
  - I note down everything to the smallest detail and then distribute duties to the family members.
  - I remember, once my cousin's marriage was fixed and all the arrangements were to be done within a week.
  - I took over the charge and everything took place perfectly.
  - My parents were also surprised at the way I organised it all.
  - I am sure, I have a future in this job.



Follow ups

1. Is it hard to find an interesting job in India?  
Yes , India already has a high unemployment rate. There are limited jobs available in India, so it is difficult to find job of one's choice.
2. What kinds of preparation should people do for a job interview?  
People should prepare thoroughly on the skill they are being interview for, so that they are able to answer all the questions. They should also practice mock interviews with others so that they can answer with confidence during the interview.
3. Why do some people keep changing their jobs?  
People keep changing jobs mainly because of 2 reasons. First purpose is monetary, when people switch jobs they get good salary hikes. Secondly it gives them a chance to grow, take new positions and breaks the monotony of previous job
4. What should a good employer do?  
A good employer should treat his employees like he treats his customers. In that way the employees will always respect him and do their work diligently.
5. How would you define an interesting job?  
An interesting job for me should be something that is challenging and brings the creativity out of a person. Jobs which offer me problems that I can solve and make world a better place are interesting jobs for me.

**64. Describe a famous person that you are interested in**

You should say:

- Who this person is
  - How you know about this person
  - What sort of life they had before they became famous
  - How this person became famous
  - And explain why you like this person
- 

- I would like to meet many famous people but here I am going to talk about India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

OR

- A person I admire the most is our Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - He is the first Prime Minister who was born in Independent India, that is, post 15 August 1947.
  - He is a dynamic and development oriented leader.
  - He represents Varanasi constituency in the Lok Sabha.
  - He has been the Chief Minister of Gujarat for four consecutive terms.
  - The reason why I admire him is that his life shows how an ordinary boy from a deprived (poor) class could reach the highest levels of the nation.
  - It is all because of his hard work and determination.
  - I really appreciate his initiatives like Swachh Bharat Abhayan, Make in India. I believe these programs will help establish India's presence among the developed nations.
  - His other programs such as Mann Ki Baat shows how good he is at governance.
  - He is the kind of leader who practices what he preaches. For example, we have seen him promoting Yoga by celebrating International Yoga Day, but many people don't know that he himself does Yoga every morning.
  - His focus on development, eye for detail and efforts to bring a qualitative difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor have made him a popular and respected leader across.
  - He is a role model for one and all.
  - I would like to meet him and seek his blessings.
  - I would like to get his autograph.
  - Every country needs people like him to take their nation to the top.
-

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## Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think a person who is famous is well liked? Why?

Not necessarily. It depends on why the person has achieved fame. If the famous person is a sportsman or a film star, he is well liked but if the famous person is a terrorist or any other criminal, he is not liked. He is in fact loathed/hated by people.

2. What do you know about celebrities?

Celebrities are the famous people from the world of entertainment, business, sports and politics.

3. Do you think celebrities are different in different countries?

Yes, of course, celebrities are different in different countries. All countries have their own famous people in the world of entertainment, business, sports and politics. However, some celebs are internationally famous. This is because nowadays we belong to an era of globalization. The IT revolution and the satellite TV have made it possible for people to be famous all over the world.

4. Were they different in the past?

They were different in the past because the media in the past was not that pervasive. Only those persons were famous who had really achieved great heights and were in the local and national news. Whereas, today the reality TV has made it possible for even the common man, with some talent, to become famous.

5. What does motivate people to become well known?

Famous people have power and money. This power and money is what motivates people to become well known. We can see today thead companies approach even small children, who become well known through reality TV shows, to endorse their products. So once a person becomes well known, money starts pouring in through many doors.

6. Do you think technology can help people interested in it, to become well known?

Yes, definitely. A person who is well versed with technology can become famous overnight. Who has not heard of the youngest billionaire of the world, Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook. Some songs and singers also became famous because of you tube videos.

### 65. Describe a quiet place

You should say:

- Where it is
  - When you like to go there
  - What you do there
  - Why you like to visit there
- 

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

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## Follow Up Questions

1. Why do some people not like quiet places?  
Some people do not like quiet places because they want fun and frolic all around them. They want activity and noise all around them.
2. Do you know other quiet places?  
There are many quiet places in the countryside. Many of my friends live in villages. Whenever I go to their homes, there is no noise of traffic, and you can hear the chirping of the birds and the rustling of leaves, which is very soothing to the ears.
3. Do you need a quiet place when you are working?  
Yes, I do appreciate a quiet place when I'm working, but unfortunately it is not always possible. So I've got used to some amount of noise around me.
4. Why do people like to spend time in quiet places?  
People like to spend time in quiet places because sometimes they want to be with themselves, then they go to temples or quiet places, and feel relieved of their stress.
5. Do you know anyone who likes noise?  
I have many friends who like listening to loud music. They say that it kills the background noise of the vehicles.

**66. Describe something interesting your friend has done but you haven't**

- What is it
  - Where your friend did it
  - When your friend did it
  - And explain why it was interesting
- 
- To overcome the monotony of daily life everyone needs something interesting.
  - I usually do many activities in my leisure time such as drawing, gardening and dancing.
  - But here I would like to talk about an unusual activity, which my friend did recently, and I found it very interesting.
  - It was Furoshiki .
  - It is a Japanese technique.
  - I learnt this art from the internet.
  - My friend sent me link of its video on my e-mail account.
  - It is a 10 minute video.
  - I liked it very much.
  - Furoshiki is an art of making handbags with the help of cloth and also it is art of wrapping a gift with cloth.
  - Such beautiful things made of cloth are a part of everyday life.
  - My friend has made it by using old cloth.
  - It is easy to make and quite attractive.
  - It is elegant and timeless.
  - It requires no sewing.
  - We can make a bag using a few knots and twists to cloth.
  - It is amazing how a few twists and knots can transform a thin cloth to a beautiful handbag.
  - It can be used for many household purposes and also for shopping.
  - I liked it because it is an eco-friendly bag and easy to carry.
  - The Japanese government is promoting this art in an effort to save the environment.
  - We all waste a lot of paper in wrapping gifts and other things.
  - Furoshiki gift wraps are reusable.
  - My friend has taught this art to many of my cousins and friends.
  - Now, whenever I have to gift something, I will use this method on some fine fabric and I will feel so happy when people appreciate it.
  - I won't use paper.
  - It will be my individual step to save environment.

Follow ups

1. Are people influenced more by their friends or parents?  
Well, It depends on with whom they spend more time. If they are in constant company of their friends then friends will influence them a lot otherwise if their parents can have a good influence over their life
2. Are people influenced by famous people?  
Yes famous personaties do have an impact on people as people look upto them and dream to become like them. People try to imitate famous people.
3. Do you think people are becoming self-centered?  
Yes, people nowadays care about only themselves. They do not bother about the problems or concerns of others and are only focused on their own interests
4. Why are there many self-centered people?  
Nowadays people are in a rat race to outdo each other. They believe that everyone works only for themselves and no one else helps each other. Also it has become difficult to earn money, so people with limited money only like to spend it on themselves.
5. What have you learned from your friends?  
I have learned a lot of things from my friend. The biggest thing that I have learned is that sharing is caring, we should share things be it materialistic or our intellectual thought with friends.

### 67. An island you would like to visit

- There are many islands in India.
- An island is a piece of land with water all around it.
- I would like to visit Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- My cousin visited these islands last year and told me a lot about them.
- There is a lot to do and see there.
- He told me that these islands are very beautiful
- He did speed boating over there, which he enjoyed a lot.
- He also did under-water walk and paragliding over there.
- Many films are shot there.
- When my friend went there a south Indian movie was being shot there.
- He also saw the cellular jail.
- I would like to see all those places.
- I would like to book a package holiday.
- Then I would have no tension about booking a hotel and places to see.
- My cousin went through Make My Trip and the total cost was 30,000 per person.
- It included airfare and hotels.
- Breakfast was included for the entire stay.
- My cousin told me that Andaman and Nicobar islands are a group of about 300 small islands.
- These are in fact an Indian archipelago in the Bay of Bengal
- So, this is the island, I would like to visit.



## 68. Poisonous Plant

You should say:

- In which region this plant is found?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of this plant?
  - - How do you know about it?
- 

- There are many poisonous plants all around us.
- Some cause allergy and itching if you touch them and some cause diarrhoea and vomiting if you eat them.
- Here I would like to talk about a plant which we eat everyday but some parts of this plant can be toxic.
- I am talking about the tomato plant that is found in all regions of India and the world.
- There are many species of the tomato plant.
- I came to know all about the tomato plant accidentally as I was watching the Discovery channel about two months ago.
- Biologically tomato is a fruit but for culinary purposes it is a vegetable.
- We use tomato in almost all Punjabi dishes to sauté the dish.
- We also eat tomato as a salad.
- I love tomatoes in salad and like it sprinkled with salt and black pepper.
- Few people know that leaves and stem of tomato are toxic.
- They contain a substance tomatine, which is toxic and can even cause death if taken in large quantities.
- If you rub the tomato leaf with your fingers, it gives a bitter odour, which is because of the poisonous substance in it.
- Even the raw or green tomato has a small bit of toxicity.
- The ripe tomato has a lot of advantages, it contains lycopene which is an antioxidant, which helps prevent cancer.
- Tomato is also a rich source of Potassium and Vitamins.
- It should be eaten but we should avoid consuming leaves and stems.
- Tomato is known to be toxic to dogs.
- So tomato is a plant which has poisonous foliage but a very beneficial fruit.

# **SPEAKING PART 1**

## **INTRO QUESTIONS**

Although we have provided a lot of Intro Sets but the following are more important for May-Aug 2018

Work or studies  
Friend  
Teachers  
Name  
Celebrity  
Family  
Dictionary  
Boat  
Music  
Sleep  
Gift  
Newspaper  
Mobile App  
Animals  
Letters  
Watch  
Map  
Plants  
Foreign Food  
Dream Job  
Advertisement  
Transportation  
Travel (Space Travel)  
Sports  
Rainy Days  
Physical Exercise  
Outdoor Activities  
Punctuality  
Being Bored  
Spare Time  
Save Money  
Study Time  
Home/Accommodation  
Hometown  
High School

## 1. First set of questions, asked to almost all students

1. May I know your full name?

My full name is Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar.

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

2. How may I address you?

You may address me as Kiran.

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

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

3. May I see your ID?

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

4. Where do you come from?

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

## 2. Work or Studies

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

### WORK

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

### STUDIES

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

### 3. Maps

1. Do you often use maps?

Yes, I use maps for navigation. Nowadays I use maps application on my mobile for directions while traveling. The app also tells me about the traffic and the time it would take to reach the destination.

1. Who taught you how to use a map?

We learn to use maps in our school but nowadays mobile apps like google maps have made learning maps easier.

2. Do you prefer electronic map or paper maps?

I prefer electronic maps on my mobile as it is more interactive and it tells me the directions, traffic information and time to reach my destination.

### 4. Physical Exercise

1. What kind of exercises you do?

I like to do all kinds of exercise like weight training at the gym, running for cardio exercise and yoga for stretching and meditation.

2. Do you think children should play sports regularly?

Yes children should regularly play sports as it helps them in staying active and healthy. It is also a good break from their monotonous study routine.

3. What was the favourite sport when you were young?

My favourite sport was cricket when I was young, it is also my favourite sport now. I remember I used to play cricket continuously for 5 to 6 hours during my holidays. Batting was my favorite part in cricket.

4. Do you like extreme sports?

Yes I like extreme and adventure sports such as Formula 1 racing, sky diving and deep sea diving. It is thrilling to watch these sports on television. I would also like to try these sports one day

5. What kind of exercises are popular in your country?

In my country yoga is the most popular exercise as it has originated from here. People nowadays also like to join gymnasiums for weight training.

### 5. Travel (Space Travel)

1. Do you want to travel in outer space?

Yes, I would love to travel to moon or any other planet like Mars. I want to see how our planet, earth, looks from Space

2. What would you do if you had the opportunity?

First of all, I will be really excited and inform all my friends and family. I will do a lot of planning for this trip so that I cherish it for lifetime.

3. Do you think it's necessary to see other planets?

Yes we can gain a lot of information from other planets. Some of this information might be helpful in solving existing challenges on earth or discovering how life started.

4. When was the last time you went traveling?

Personal answer

5. Do you like to travel by air?

Yes I would like to travel by air, but unfortunately I have not got the opportunity to travel by air yet.

## 6. Plants

1. Do you keep plants at home?

Yes there are lots of plants at my home. I keep them in the mud pots. They look very beautiful and are soothing to the eyes.

2. What plant did you grow when you were young?

When I was young I grew a plant known as money plant. I grew it in a glass bottle. Since it is called as money plant I believed that if this plant grows, I will also become rich.

3. Do you know anything about growing a plant?

Well I am not an expert but I know we have to regularly feed water and manure to the plant and we should keep it in sunlight for it to grow. Sometimes we also have to use insecticides to prevent it from insects.

4. Do Indian people give plants as gifts?

Yes nowadays Indian people are gifting plants to each other and I believe it is a really good gift. People often gift a small variety of bamboo which can be kept inside homes and offices.

## 7. Dream job

1. What was the dream job for you when you were young?

When I was young I wanted to become a pilot

2. Have you changed your mind on your dream job?

Yes I have changed my mind as it is very expensive to become a pilot and it involves lot of studies. But I still plan to take flying lessons.

3. What do you plan to do in the future?

Personal Answer

4. What kinds of jobs are popular in your country?

In my country computer or IT related jobs are more popular these days because these are well paid jobs.

5. Have you had full-time or part-time job before?

Personal Answer

## 8. Animals

1. Do you like animals?

Yes, I like animals. I think they are all unique and beautiful creations of nature and form an important part of our ecosystem.

2. What's your favourite animal? (Why?)

My favourite animal is dog because I think it is the most affectionate and the most loyal animal. Dogs make excellent companions for humans.

3. What's your favourite wild animal? (Why?)

My favourite wild animal is a tiger because I think tigers are beautiful creatures and they look very regal.

4. Are people in your country fond of animals?

Yes, in my country many people are fond of animals. Many people keep pet animals.

5. Do many people in your country keep animals at home (or, keep a pet)? OR Do people in your country like to raise animals?

Yes, people in my country like to keep pet animals. People keep dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, fish, etc. as pets.

6. What kinds of animals do people in in your county (or, hometown) keep? OR What kinds of pets do the people have in your hometown?

People in my hometown/country have different types of pets like dogs, cats, birds, fish, rabbits, etc.

7. Compared with the past, have there been any changes concerning pets in your country/hometown?

I think the only change I can think of is that the number of homes that have pets have increased. Also, there are many people who have started adopting the stray dogs and cats, instead of buying them from a breeder.

8. Do you think pets are important?

Yes, definitely. Pets act as stress reliever and are also said to be therapeutic. They act as good companions and provide security. They also teach us about responsibility and unconditional love.

9. Do you think cities are suitable places for keeping a pet?

Yes, cities are suitable to keep small pets like cats, smaller breeds of dogs, fish, etc.

### Children and Animals (or, Pets)

10. Do children like animals? What animals do children like?



Yes, children like animals. All the animals and how different they look and behave fascinate them. Children mostly like furry animals like dogs and cats.  
Did you ever visit a zoo when you were a child?

11. Yes, I visited a zoo when I was a child. I went a few times with my parents and our school also organized trips to zoos.  
Do you think it's important for children to visit a zoo?  
Yes, it is important for children to visit zoos so that they can see the animals in real and understand how big they are and how they actually look. They remain connected with nature in this way, specially those children who live in cities.
12. What was your favourite animal when you were a child?  
When I was a child, my favourite animal was Tiger.
13. Do a have a pet? (OR Have you ever had a pet?)  
Yes, I have two pet dogs.
14. Did you have any pets when you were a child?  
Yes, we've always had dogs as pets, ever since I can remember.
15. What do you think are the benefits of a child having a pet? OR What benefits did you get from having a pet?  
There are many benefits (to a child) of having a pet. Pets are excellent companions and provide a sense of security. Children can learn about responsibility, caring and unconditional love from pets. Pets act as stress busters and are excellent listeners.
16. If you have children in the future, will you allow them to raise a pet? OR If you had children now, would you let your children raise a pet?  
Yes, definitely. I have always had a pet growing up and I would like my child also to grow up with pets around.
17. Why do (you think) some people have a pet?  
People keep pets for different reasons. Some people keep pets for security, some for companionship and some keep pets as they act as stress busters.

### **Farm Animals**

18. What farm animals do you have in your country?  
There are many farm animals in my country, like cows, goats, sheep, buffalos, horses, hens, etc.
19. Do you think farm animals are important?  
Yes, I think farm animals are important. They are a source of income for many people, especially in the rural areas. They provide us many products like milk, eggs, wool, meat and they can be used for farming, like to plough and till the land.
20. How are these animals used? OR In what ways are animals used in agriculture in your country?  
Farm animals are used for their products, like eggs, milk, meat etc. or in the fields to plough and to till the land for the crops.
21. Do you think raising farm animals is important?  
Yes, it is important to raise farm animals, as it is a source of livelihood and income for many people living in the rural areas. Also, they provide us with many products.

## Wild Animals

22. What's the most famous wild animal from your country?  
India is a diverse country and many wild animals are found in India. However, I believe that the Bengal Tiger is the most famous wild animal in my country and it is also our national animal.
23. What's your favourite wild animal (from your country)?  
The Bengal Tiger is my favourite wild animal.

## 9. Dictionary

1. Do you often use a dictionary? If yes, how often and what for? If no, why not? If not very often, say how often and why not very often?  
Yes, I use a dictionary very often, in fact daily. I am a student and I read a lot of text related to my studies. I often come across words I don't know the meaning of and I use the dictionary to look up the meaning and synonyms.
2. Do you prefer to use an electronic dictionary or a dictionary made of paper?  
I prefer to use the electronic dictionary now as it is very convenient and I can easily search for a meaning in a matter of a few seconds. I have a dictionary app downloaded on my phone.
3. If someone gave you a dictionary as a gift, how would you feel?  
I will feel happy, as it is a very useful gift for me or for anyone. We keep coming across new words everyday and everyone should have a dictionary.
4. Do you think it would be interesting to write a dictionary? OR Do you think it would be interesting to be part of a team that is writing a dictionary?  
Yes, I think so. It will be very interesting to understand the details of all the words, like which part of speech they form, what the origin of the word is, its synonyms and many more such details.
5. What kind of person do you think writes a dictionary?  
A person who writes a dictionary has to have an in-depth knowledge of the language and also needs to know the origin and history of the language. It requires a great deal of work and thoroughness, so the person has to be very patient and thorough.

## 10. Mobile Apps

1. Which mobile apps do you use?  
I use a lot of mobile apps for different purposes like Whatsapp for sending messages to my friends and family members. For social networking I use facebook and for sharing my pictures I use Instagram. Apart from this I use apps to read news or do banking services on my phone
2. Which ones do you want to use?  
I would like to use apps to know more about jobs or studies related to my field. I believe there is a huge requirement for apps related to specific jobs or courses and these can help people in becoming good and what they do or study.
3. Which ones are popular in your country?

In my country whatsapp, snapchat and instagram are the most popular apps as people in my country like to spend their time by chatting with each other and sharing their pictures.

4. Do you want to make an app?

Yes, I would like to make an App. I would make an app for the IELTS exam which can help students in preparation of the exam and to score good band score.

## 11. Sleep

1. How many hours you sleep everyday  
I sleep around 7-8 hours everyday. I think it is necessary to sleep for atleast 6 hours everyday.
2. Is it necessary to take a nap everyday  
Yes it is very important to take a nap everyday because it gives a much needed break to our body and we feel refreshed after sleep.
3. Do old people sleep a lot? Why  
Yes old people tend to sleep a lot because due to old age they get tired easily and they need more rest as compared to young people.
4. What time you usually go to the bed?  
I normally go to the bed around 11 PM but if I have important work or have to prepare for exams I sleep early so that I can study or work by getting up early in the morning.
5. Do you always have a good sleep?  
I am a happy person so I normally have a good sleep, but if I am disturbed about something or my health is not good I find it difficult to sleep.

## 12. Handwriting

1. Do you think handwriting is still important?  
Yes, I think so. Handwriting skills will always be important. Formal letters are needed in business. Writing skills are also needed in writing resumes. We all know that we belong to a global village. Today we have to compete with children all over the world. We have to apply for jobs in multinational companies. So we need good writing skills.
2. Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?  
Even though technology has reduced the need of writing skills, still, I feel that it is very important in today's world and will remain in future as well.
3. Do you usually write by hand or write using a computer?

Well it depends on the situation, if I am sending an email to my friends or texting them then it is usually by computer or mobile phone. When I am studying and making notes then I usually write by hand.

4. When do children begin to write in your country?

Nowadays the children have started writing a lot earlier. They normally join the schools at the age of 4 and they begin to write at the age of five

5. Do you think handwriting will die in the future?

No, definitely not. Handwriting will never die. Its need may decrease because of technology; still there will be many areas in which handwriting will be needed. I also feel that, that day is still very far when each and every person on earth will have access to technology.

6. Do you write letters?

Yes, I do. I write e-mails to my friends and relatives.

7. Do you think children should be taught to write like in the old days?

Yes, I think so. Writing is an art, which is going down because of modern technology. Computers automatically check the spelling and grammar because of which children are losing such skills.

### 13. Jewelry

1. Have you ever purchased jewelry for someone?

Yes I recently purchased a gold necklace for my mother. It's a designer necklace and looks really trendy. It also has a diamond pendant attached to it. My mother loves to buy jewelry, she thinks investing in gold is a good way to save money.

2. What kind of jewelry do you like?

These days jewelry is immensely popular among all people. As per me, I love to wear fashionable and trendy jewelry. I don't like to buy jewelry that is too expensive, instead I like to buy artificial jewelry. I also like jewelry made from gemstones or pearls.

3. Why do so many people like to buy expensive jewelry to invest?

People like to buy expensive jewelry as an investment because its value appreciates with time and doesn't depreciate. For example, gold and diamond jewelry. Such kind of jewelry can also be passed on as family heritage.

4. How often do you wear jewelry?

I wear jewelry very often. I have different kinds of jewelry for daily wear and for special or formal occasions.

***Most of the Essays in 2017-18 IELTS Exams have been from our book, "IELTS Academic Essays from the Past Exams"- (available on Amazon). You can also check them at our facebook page [www.facebook.com/makkarIELTS](http://www.facebook.com/makkarIELTS) or watch the Youtube videos of our essays on [www.youtube.com/makkarIELTS](http://www.youtube.com/makkarIELTS)***

#### 14. Fruit

What is your favourite fruit?

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

Why do you like it?

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

#### 15. Sunshine

1. Do you like sunny days?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 16. Weekends

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

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

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

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

3. When do you spend time with your family?

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

4. What did you do last weekend?

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

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

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

6. What are you going to do next weekend?

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

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

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

8. Do you like working on weekends?

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

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

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

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

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

## 17. Activity near water

1. What activities would you do if you were spending some leisure time at the beach near the ocean?

If I were spending leisure time at a beach I would try some water sports, like skiing or surfing, I would play volleyball on the beach, I also would enjoy reading at the beach or I would make castles out of the sand.

2. Why do some people like water sports?

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

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

Yes, government should spend money on developing facilities for water sports. It will encourage many people to pursue it as a career and earn name and fame for the country. It is also a very good form of exercise and will promote it as a way for many to remain physically and mentally fit and would further lead to a healthier society. Such activities also act as stress busters, which are much needed in today's fast paced world.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## 18. Transportation

1. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?  
The most popular means of transportation in my hometown is the bus. My hometown is on the national highway, and there is bus service to different places every two minutes.
  2. How often do you take buses?  
I take the bus pretty often, in fact three or four times a week.
  3. Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?  
Trains are cheaper than planes, but planes are much faster than trains. In trains you can take as much luggage as you want to, but in planes there is a restriction. Railway stations are there in almost all towns and cities, whereas airports are there in only a few places.
  4. Is driving to work popular in your country?  
Yes, driving to work is popular in big cities, and in places where transport facilities are not so good.
  5. Do you think people will drive more in the future?  
It is difficult to say about the future, but at the rate at which traffic congestion is increasing on the road, I think people will use public transport more.
  6. Would you ride bikes to work in the future?  
No, I don't think I would ride bikes to work, as I think they are not very safe.
  7. What will become the most popular means of transportation in India?  
I think road transportation will remain the most popular means.
  8. Do you prefer public transportation or private transportation?  
I prefer private transportation for short distances and public transportation for long distances.
- How did you come here (get here) today?  
I came here/got here by bus/car/bike today.
- Why did you choose that form of transport?  
I chose it because I think it is very convenient and comfortable. (You can add 1-2 advantages of the mode of transport you used that day)
- What form of transport do you usually use?  
I usually prefer private transport to public transport. I feel that the public transport is not very comfortable and leads to wastage of time.  
OR  
I normally use public transport/bus. It is very convenient, comfortable and easy on the pocket.
- Is it convenient to take a bus/taxi in your city?  
Yes, it is very convenient to take a bus or a taxi in my city. It is a small city and the bus stand and taxi stands are very approachable

## 19. Music

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

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

2. When do you listen to music?

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

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

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

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

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

5. What's your favorite kind of music?

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

6. Have you ever been to a concert?

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

7. Do you like to listen to live music?

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

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

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

9. Where do you listen to it?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 20. Home/Accommodation

1. Do you live in a house or flat? Or What kind of housing/accommodation do you live in?

I live in a house. It is a two storey brick house.

2. Please describe it a little.

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

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

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

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

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

5. Who do you live with?

I live with my parents and brother.

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

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

7. How long have you lived there?

I have lived there since my birth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. Do you plan to move?

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

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

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

14. Are you prepared to move?

No, I am not prepared to move.

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## 21. Hometown

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

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

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

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

3. Please describe your hometown a little.

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

4. How long have you been living there?

I have been living there since my birth.

5. Do you like your hometown?

Yes, I love my hometown.

6. Do you like living there?

Yes, I like living there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. Is there anything you dislike about it?

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

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

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

12. Are there any tourist attractions in your hometown?

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

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

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

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

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

## 22. Watch

1. How often do you wear a watch?

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

2. What was your first watch like?

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

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

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

4. Do people still wear watches in your country?

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

## 23. Visitors

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

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

10. Do you like visitors coming to your home?

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

11. Do people often visit you at your home?

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

12. How often do visitors come to your home?

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

13. When do visitors come to your home?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 24. Dream

1. Do you often have dreams at night?

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

2. Have you had a bad dream before?

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

3. What was the strangest dream you have had?

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

4. What do you usually dream about?

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

## 25. Colours

- 1 What colours do you like?

I like all colors but red is my favorite color.

- 2 What is the most popular colour in India?

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

3 Do you like to wear dark or bright colours?

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

4 Do colours affect your mood?

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

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

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

6 Does color matter when you buy things?

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

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

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

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

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

9 Have you ever seen a rainbow?

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



## 26. Family

1. How often do you meet with your family?  
I stay with my family. I meet my family members every day.
2. How do you spend the time with your family?  
I spend time with family in many ways. We eat together, cook together, watch TV together and do many things together.
3. Do you want to live with your family in the future?  
Yes, definitely. My family is my life Even though I go to some foreign country temporarily, I finally want to be with my family.
4. Are you close to all of your family members?  
Yes, we are a very close-knit family.
5. How has your family influenced you?  
My family has influenced me in many ways. We depend on each other for many things. We guide each other from time to time and we do many things together.

## 27. Friends

1. Do you have many friends?  
Yes, I have many friends, but only a few close friends.
2. How often do you talk to your friends?  
I talk to my friends every day. My best friend is also my neighbour. We are together most of the time.
3. How do you communicate with your friends?  
I communicate face-to-face and also through cell phone and apps like Whatsapp.
4. What do you think makes people have a long friendship?  
Mutual understanding makes people have a long friendship. If people can tolerate each other's shortcomings and be simple and straight forward, then friendships can be for a long time.
5. Does it make things easier in a friendship if you have similar interests?  
Yes, definitely. With similar interests friends can spend time together and not get bored. They will also have similar topics for discussion. In a lasting friendship it is very essential that your likes and dislikes are similar.
6. How do people make friends now?  
Now a days, people make friends through internet by joining social networking sites like face book, twitter and whatsapp.
7. Do you think we meet new people differently now than in the past?

Yes, definitely. Nowadays, we meet new people through internet by joining social networking sites like face book, twitter and whatsapp. Earlier, people had lots of free time and they made friends by meeting personally.

8. Is friendship (= are friends) important to you? (Why?/Why not?)  
Yes, friends are very important for me. I can share all my feelings with them, and they understand me very well because they are mostly my age.
9. Do you prefer to spend time with friends or spend time alone? (Why?)  
I prefer to spend time with my friends. I love their company and I enjoy with them.
10. What kind of people do you like to have as friends?  
I like my friends to be honest, trustworthy, helpful and intelligent. I also like friends with a good sense of humor.
11. Do you like to spend time with friends? (Why?)  
Yes, I like to spend time with friends because I enjoy their company. I like to go out with them for movies, for shopping and for walks.
12. What do you and your friends do together?  
We study together, go for walks together, watch movies together and sometimes eat out together.
13. What do your friends think of you? (Do your friends think that you are a good friend? Why?)  
I think my friends like me. We spend a lot of time together and they never seem bored. I am honest and straightforward with them. So I think they like me.
14. Are friends more important than family? (Why?)  
Friends and family both are important. But, I think Family is definitely more important than friends. Friends can turn out to be fair-weather friends but family is always with you in your good times and bad times. It has been rightly said that in prosperity your friends know you, but in adversity you know your friends.
15. How do Indian people make friends? (= where, in what situations, e.g. at school & at work.)  
Indian people make friends in schools, colleges, while travelling, during family get-togethers, during outings and in many other ways. Now a days making online friends has also become very popular.
16. Do adults and children make friends in the same way?  
Adults and children do not make friends and the same way. Children are very innocent and make friends from the heart. They don't judge a person before making friends. Adults, on the other hand, are very calculative. They make friends after judging whether that person could be helpful to them or not.

## 28. Advertisement

( also refer to the follow ups of the cue card on advertisement)

1. Are there many advertisements in your country?  
Yes, there are too many advertisements in our daily lives. In fact advertising has become an industry. It has become the backbone of many economies of the world. Ads are ubiquitous nowadays. We see ads on TV, newspapers, hoardings and flyers. We also get ads through the radio, cell phone and the Internet.
2. Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?  
There are so many advertisements because there are many products, and the manufacturing companies are competing with each other. They have to advertise to stay in the race. So we have an advertisement for almost each and every product that is available.
3. What are the various places where we see advertisements?  
Advertisements are all around us. We have advertisements in newspapers, magazines, on TV, on radio and on the Internet.
4. How do you feel about advertisements?  
I feel that advertisements are a necessity. Apart from telling us about products they are also telling us about the working of these products. Ads also touch social issues. However, I also feel that ads are very disturbing at times.
5. Do you like advertisements?  
Yes, I like advertisements. I think they are very informative and keep us updated about the latest products and offers.
6. What kind of advertisement do you like the most?  
I like adverts that have a touch of humor. I also like advertisements that touch social issues.

## 29. Art

1. Do you like art?  
Yes, I like art. Art gives meaning to life. Art is what differentiates us from animals. I like all sorts of art. I like drawing and painting. I also liked performing arts like music and dance.
2. Do you think art classes are necessary? {Why?}  
Yes, I think art classes are very necessary. Art brings out peoples creativity. Art preserves our culture and tradition.
3. How do you think art classes affect children's development?  
Art classes affect children's development in many ways. Art brings out the hidden creativity of children. Art is a form of communication. People can convey their feelings through their paintings and through their songs.
4. What kind of paintings do Indian people like?  
Indian people like different kinds of paintings. It is a matter of personal choice. Some people like portraits, some like paintings of landscapes, some like the traditional forms of painting and some like

the modern art forms.

5. What can you learn from western paintings?

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

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

Painting as a hobby can bring out your hidden talent. Painting can relax you. You can even sell your paintings and earn money. You can also gift your painting to someone you love.

### 30. Bags

1. Do you like bags?

Yes, I like bags. I have different bags for different occasions. I carry a backpack to my school/college/classes, as I can easily carry my books in it. I have special bags for formal occasions, shopping and everyday use.

2. What types of bags do you like?

I like bags that are easy to carry, like backpacks, sling bags and totes, and I can use such bags to easily accommodate the things I need. I also like bags that have a few compartments, so that I can keep my things organized. m a kkar IELTS

3. Do you usually carry a bag (when you go out)?

Yes, I usually carry a bag when I go out, however, the type of bags I use for different occasions vary.

4. What types of bags do you use (in your everyday life)?

5. (Similar to above) Do you have different bags for different occasions (or, different purposes)?

Yes, I have different bags for different occasions. I use a backpack when I go for my classes, for formal occasions I have formal bags, for shopping I use totes and sometimes I use a sling bag when I don't have to shop and the occasion is not formal.

6. What do you put in these bags?

For my classes or when I go to school/college I usually carry books and stationary in my bag. When going for shopping I carry my wallet, cellphone, and a bottle of water and when travelling I also put medicines and a book or a magazine in my bag. On formal occasions I carry only my wallet and my cellphone.

7. What sorts of bags do women like to buy?

I don't think it can be generalized, as it depends on the individual choice of the women. Some women like big bags and some like smaller ones, some always use a sling bag and some like a particular color or material of bags. Some women also choose bags from a particular brand

## 31. Books

1. How often do you read?  
I like to read quite often. I read magazines and newspapers and my textbooks. Apart from that I have read a few novels by Amrita Pritam. I have read her Pinjar, which means skeleton.
2. Do you have many books at home?  
No, I do not have any books at home. I only have my textbooks at home.
3. Do Indian people do enough reading?  
Yes, Indian people do a lot of reading. They read magazines, newspapers, fiction and nonfiction such as biographies and autobiographies.
4. Do Indian people like to read?  
(similar to above)
5. What kind of people like reading and what kind of people don't like reading very much?  
People who are literate like to read. Many people don't like reading because they don't have interest in reading.
6. What type of books children read nowadays?  
Nowadays, generally speaking, the reading habit of the children is on the decline. Whatever books they read are based on fantasy, fiction and supernatural characters like Barbie, superman and shaktiman.  
50 years ago – Children read a lot. They read moral and spiritual books. They read animal stories.  
After 50 years – I do not think they will do any reading. All the time will be spent in front of computers.
7. Do you think children have lost their interest in stories?  
No, I don't think that children have lost their interest in stories. However, the stories they read today are very different from the past.
8. Can story books be an ideal gift for children?  
Yes, definitely! Story books can be an ideal gift for children. They can help the child imagine the characters in the mind which is the first step to creativity. Another important benefit is that we can impart the knowledge of culture, tradition, moral values and religion in the mind of the child. This forms the basis of the child's personality. Finally, story books enhance the curiosity of the child and enhance their mental growth.
9. What can be done to encourage the habit of reading among children?  
A lot can be done to encourage the habit of reading among children. The first and foremost step would be to make books available. There should be good libraries in the schools as well as in neighbourhoods. Story telling competitions could be organised. If children have to take part in these competitions, then naturally, they would be encouraged to read books. Finally, books could be made more interesting by adding graphics.

10. How does reading help a child?

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

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

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

12. How much should a child read every day?

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

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

In the past, books related to culture, tradition, religion and history were sold. Nowadays, books are mostly based on fiction and fantasy.

## 32. Celebrity

1. Who is your favorite celebrity in India?

My favorite celebrity in India is Amir Khan. He's an actor par excellence. Recently I saw his movie Dangal, which I liked very much.

2. Do you like any foreign celebrities?

Yes, I like some cricketers of Australia and South Africa.

3. Would you want to be a celebrity in the future?

No, I would not want to be a celebrity in the future. I am happy with the quiet and peaceful life of a commoner.

4. Do you think we should respect famous people's privacy?

Yes, we should respect famous people's privacy. They have a right to their privacy. It can affect their performance if anyone invades their private life. Makkar IELTS

5. How do celebrities influence their fans in India?

Celebrities are role models for their fans. People like to follow their celebrity, and do what they do.

## 33. Chocolate

1. How often do you eat chocolate?

I do not eat chocolate very often. I eat chocolate once or twice a month. Usually I like dark chocolate, which is not very sweet.

2. What's your favorite flavor?  
My favorite flavor is Cadbury's dark delight.
3. Is chocolate expensive in India?  
Yes chocolate is expensive in India, especially the chocolate of foreign brands, which is available here.
4. When was the first time you ate chocolate?  
I don't remember exactly, but I have been eating chocolate since I was very small.
5. Is chocolate popular in India?  
Yes, chocolate is very popular in India. We can get all varieties of Indian and imported chocolate.

### 34. Outdoor activities

1. What do you do in your spare time?  
I do many things in my spare time. I watch TV, listen music and do a little bit of gardening.
2. Do you like outdoor activities?  
Yes, I like outdoor activities. I go for walks in the morning. I play badminton at times and I also do some gardening.
3. What outdoor activities do you (most) like to do?  
( same as above)
4. How often do you do that?  
I do these activities almost everyday.
5. What outdoor sports do you like? (Why?)  
I like many outdoor sports such as cricket hockey and football, but I play only badminton.
6. How much time do you spend outdoors every week?  
I spend about 30 to 40 hours outdoors every week.
7. How often do you do outdoor activities?  
I do these outdoor activities very often, almost everyday.
8. What (types of) outdoor activities are popular in your country?  
India is a diverse country. All types of outdoor activities are popular. But, I think cricket is the most popular outdoor sports.

## 35. Photography

1. Do you like to take photographs? (Why?)

Yes, I like taking photographs. Photographs are the memories of good times and special events. We can capture special moments, interesting things or beautiful sceneries through pictures. They are reminders of good times.

2. Do you prefer to take photos yourself or to have other people take photos? (Why?)

I prefer taking photos myself, as everyone has a different way of looking at things. Another person may not like, what I find interesting.

3. How long have you liked taking photographs?

I have liked taking photographs since I was a child. We used to take our camera to all our vacations and I used to be very fascinated with it. Now I mostly use my cellphone to take pictures.

4. How (why) did you become interested in photography?

I became interested in photography because my father was very fond of taking pictures and he always had a good camera. We used to take a camera to all our vacations and take pictures.

5. How often do you take photographs?

I take photographs very often, in fact almost everyday.

6. In what situations do you take photographs?

I take photographs in many situations. Sometimes its during friends or family get-togethers, sometimes it is a beautiful scenery, like of the sky or the sunset or when I travel to another city, I take pictures and on many more such situations.

7. What kind of photos do you like to take? (Why?)

I like to take photos of different things. Sometimes it is a beautiful scene, which can be of the clouds, sky, sunrise, sunset and so on. Sometimes I take pictures of plants and animals. I also like to capture the different expressions on people's faces.

8. Do you prefer to take pictures of people or of scenery?

I do not prefer one to the other. I like taking pictures of various things, sometimes it's scenery and sometimes I like capturing a person's expressions.

9. Who do you take photos of?

I take photos of family, relatives, friends, my dogs, other animals, etc.

10. How do you keep your photos?

I save pictures mostly in online albums, like Google photos. Sometimes, I get them printed also.

11. Do you keep your photographs on your computer?



Yes, I keep my photographs on the computer. I always backup my phone photos onto the computer.

12. Are there any photos on the walls of your home?

Yes, there are photos on the walls of my home. We have pictures of all special family events, like birthdays and weddings and also of all of us growing up and at different stages of our lives.

13. Do you frame (or have you framed) any of your photos? (If yes, which? & why?)

Yes, I have a family photo framed. It is from my sister's wedding. All five members of my family are there in this picture together and everyone is looking cheerful and happy. It is one of my favorite photographs.

14. Do you prefer to send postcards to people or to send photos that you took yourself? (Why?)

I prefer to send photographs I took myself, as they are a way to share your experiences with your near and dear ones and letting them know that you are thinking of them.

## 36. Television and Radio

1. What kind of entertainment do you prefer, TV or radio? (Why?)

I pay for TV to radio because TV is both audio as well as visual. I listen to radio only while traveling.

2. How are radio programs and television programs different?

While listening to radio you can do other things such as cooking and driving. This is not possible while watching TV. Radio programs are cheaper as you do not have to subscribe to radio channels. Watching television is costlier in comparison. Radio programs have only the audio component whereas TV is audio as well as visual.

3. What programs do you like to watch/listen to?

I like to watch sitcoms like comedy night with Kapil. I also watch some daily soaps, some sports channels and news programs.

OR

I listen radio Mirchi and other such radio channels from where I can listen to the latest songs.

4. When do you watch TV/listen to the radio?

I watch TV mostly in the evenings. At that time we all family members sit together and watch some sitcoms or news channels.

I listen to radio only when I'm traveling with my parents in our car.

5. In India, has television/radio changed much in recent years?

Television has changed a lot in the recent years. Many new channels and programs have been added. High-definition TV has become very popular. You can also watch some TV shows of other countries almost at the same time.

In the radio also many new channels have been added. So there is an improvement in both TV and radio.

6. How do you think TV/radio broadcasts in India could be improved?

Some new shows on education could be added. Otherwise I'm quite happy with the TV programs and the radio broadcasts.

7. Do you prefer TV news or news on the radio? (Why?)

I prefer news on TV to news on radio. This is because TV has both the audio as well as a visual component.

### 37. Teacher (More questions with sample answers in the end)

1. What kind of teachers do you like best?

I like teachers who are friendly and have patience; who do not get mad at me when I don't understand anything. I like teachers who have depth of knowledge of the subject, and who have good communication skills to teach well.

2. Who was your favorite teacher when you were young?

When I was young Mrs. Promilla was my favorite teacher. She used to teach me maths. I remember I used to be very weak at Maths, but Mrs. Promilla taught us so well that Maths became my favorite subject.

3. Would you want to be a teacher in the future?

Yes, I would definitely want to be a teacher in the future. I think I have the patience. Moreover, teaching is a very lucrative profession nowadays.

4. Have you ever had bad teachers before?

No, I have never had bad teachers in my life. All my teachers have been very nice.

### 38. Newspapers

1. Do you often read newspapers?

Yes, I often read newspapers. I read the newspaper every day. I come to know what is happening around me and in the world.

2. Which do you prefer reading, magazines or newspapers?

I prefer reading newspapers because I like to know what is happening around me.

3. What kinds of (types of) newspapers (or magazines) do you usually read?

My father has subscribed to the Tribune. So I read that daily. It is a National newspaper, but has a maximum circulation in Punjab.

4. How old were you when you first started to read newspapers?

I remember I was 10 years old when I started reading the newspaper. I started from the sports section.

5. Do you think it's important to read newspapers? (Why?/Why not?)

It is very important to read newspapers. We feel connected with the whole world.

6. Why do (you think) people read newspapers?

People read newspapers to know what is happening around them. They also read newspapers for the international news. They also read newspapers for the employment advertisements and matrimonial.

7. What different types of newspaper are there in India?

There are broadsheets and tabloids. There are newspapers in English, Hindi, Punjabi and other regional languages.

8. Do you care about the news?

Yes, I care about the news. I think news is very important. We should be aware of what is happening around us and in the whole world.

9. Is the news important (to you)?

(same as above)

10. What kinds of news do Indian people read in newspapers?

Indian people like to read all types of news. They read local news, National news, International news, Sports news and many other news.

11. Do you prefer to read about domestic (or local) news or international news? (Why?)

I like to read domestic news as well as international news.

12. What are some methods that newspapers use to attract readers?

Some newspapers use colourful graphics. Some use very bold headlines. Some newspapers add puzzles like Sudoku and crossword puzzles to attract readers.

13. What influence do you think newspapers have on society?

Newspapers have a lot of effect on society. They shape people's opinions. Through letters to the editor they are a link between the government and people. They also entertain us.

14. Do you think the Internet is a good way to get news?

Yes, the Internet is a really good way to get the news nowadays. People subscribe to the e-newspapers. There are many apps off the TV News channels, which help the people to be updated all the time.

### 39. Mirrors

1. How often do you look at yourself in the mirror everyday

I look at the mirror at least once a day when I go out for my work. Apart from that whenever I get a chance I flatter myself by looking at the mirror. I think if you are a confident person, looking at the mirror always boosts your confidence

2. Have you ever bought mirrors?

Yes, I bought a beautiful mirror when I went to Jodhpur last month, it has a nice wooden frame and a clear mirror to look at. It also has carving on the frame

3. Would you use Mirrors to decorate rooms?

Yes I would like to use Mirrors to decorate the rooms. Mirrors add space to the room and also enhance the lighting effect. My interior decorator friend also recommended it for my study room recently.

4. Do you check yourself when you decide to buy a mirror?

Yes, I check for any defects or flaws in the reflection, when buying a mirror. I also check for any physical damage, like cracks or den

### 40. Robots

1. Do you like robots?

Yes I like robots as they can do so much for you these days. There are simple robots to clean the houses and sophisticated ones to perform surgeries.

2. What kind of robot would you like to have

Recently I have heard about a robot that cleans your room I would like to process one. It is like an automatic vacuum cleaner that picks up the dirt from all the looks and corners

3. Will robots change society significantly?

Yes, robots will changes in society. In fact they have already done so, most of the jobs that were done manually earlier are performed with the help of robotics and with more precision.

No I don't think robot will change the society it will only changed the way we work

## 41. Gifts (also refer to follow ups of cue card on gifts)

1. What is the importance of gifts?

Gifts are gestures of love. They strengthen bonds of friendship. Gifts make the recipient feel special.

2. Is there any pressure on us to buy presents?

As such, there is no pressure on us to buy presents. But sometimes when we receive costly presents then there is a pressure to reciprocate in the same way. Then it may cause pressure. I believe that gifts should be just gestures of love. Too costly gifts should not be there.

Nowadays, we belong to a consumerist society. There are so many choices of gifts. This may seem good to some, but I often get confused when it comes to selecting a gift.

3. How often do you buy others gifts?

I buy gifts very often. I buy gifts for my friends and siblings, but I don't buy expensive gifts. I am not earning yet. So, my budget is restricted to my pocket money only.

4. Do you like to send expensive gifts?

No, I don't buy expensive gifts. I am not earning yet. So, my budget is restricted to my pocket money only.

5. What kinds of gifts are popular in your country?

All sorts of gifts are popular in my country. People buy gifts according to their choice and pocket.

6. Why do people send gifts?

Gifts are tokens of love. They give happiness to the giver and receive

## 42. Shoes

1. How often do you buy shoes?

For me comfort of shoes is more important than the looks, so whenever I find a pair of shoes that are very comfortable I don't miss the chance to buy. As a matter of fact I end up buying a pair of shoes every month.

2. Have you ever bought shoes online?

Yes, online shopping these days offers a wider range of products, than conventional shopping in the stores. So I prefer to buy shoes online these days. I just bought a pair yesterday.

3. Do you know anyone who likes to buy a lot of shoes?

Yes I have come across many people who like to buy a lot of shoes. My sister, my aunt, my mother all of them have a good collection of Shoes in all colours.

4. What's your favourite type of shoes?

As I just mentioned my favourite type of pair of shoe is the one that offers comfort rather than good looks only. I like shoes that are simple in design and polishable.

### 43. Forget things

1. What kinds of things do you have to bring when you go out?

When you go out you should have your purse with some money, an ID card and your cell phone.

2. Did you ever forget to bring something?

Yes, once I had to go to Ludhiana by bus. I forgot my wallet at home. Fortunately, I knew someone in the bus, who helped me. Otherwise, I would have had to get down midway.

3. How do you remind yourself?

I have become very forgetful. I try to repeat things in my mind and sometimes I set reminders on my cell phone.

4. Do you carry different things in the morning and in the evening?

It depends on where I have to go. In the morning, it is generally to school or college. So, I carry my bag and books. In the evening, I may have to go shopping. So, I carry my purse and shopping bag.

### 44. Indoor games

1. Do you play any indoor games?

Yes, I play carom board and cards with my siblings and parents.

2. Do you prefer to play indoor games or outdoor games?

It depends on the weather outside. In hot summer afternoons, I play indoor games. But, when the weather is good, I play cricket and badminton outside with my friends.

3. What indoor games did you play when you were a child?

I played carom board, ludo and snakes and ladders as a child.

4. Is there any particular indoor game that you liked (when you were a child)?

I liked ludo and snakes and ladders.

5. What sorts of indoor games do children play now?

Nowadays, children are of the digital era. They play electronic games on the computer.

6. Do you play video games?

Yes, I play Mario and tetris sometimes on my phone.

7. What kinds of video games do you like to play?

I play Mario and tetris only. Sometimes I feel I have wasted a lot of time on these two games.

8. Is it good for young people to play video games?

Yes, video games are good, but only if played in a limit. These introduce children to computer technology, and teach strategy building skills.

## 45. City Life

Do you live in the city or the countryside? (countryside = village)

I live in the countryside. (-----Then go about talking about your village)

I live in the city. (-----Then go about talking about your city)

Is it good for young people to grow up in the city?

Yes, it is good for young people to grow up in the cities because cities provide many facilities. There are good education facilities, recreational (entertainment) facilities, and health facilities. There are also good job opportunities in cities.

Is your city/village a good place for young people to grow up?

Yes, my village is a good place for young people to grow up. First, it is very near to the city. It is as good as being in the suburbs of the city. We can enjoy all the facilities of the city as well as the clean and pollution free atmosphere of the village.

OR

Yes, my city is a good place for young people to grow up. There are good education facilities, recreational (entertainment) facilities, and health facilities. There are also good job opportunities in my city.

Have you ever been to the seaside?

No, I have never been to the seaside. My cousin went to Goa last year. He told me that beaches are fun places. I would like to go there whenever I get a chance.

OR

Yes, I have been to the seaside once. I went to visit relatives in Mumbai. They took us to the Juhu Beach

Do you often eat out (go to restaurants)?

I eat out very often, in fact two or three times a month.

What food do you like?

I like traditional Punjabi food, such as dal roti. I also like Chinese Manchurian and cheese chilly. I love eating Italian pizza and pasta.

## 46. Collecting

Do you collect anything?

Yes, I collect newspaper articles which are related to health. I love reading about good health. I have a good collection of health related articles.

OR

I collect pictures of my favourite actors and actresses. I have a good collection of these pictures.

OR

I collect coins. Numismatics has been my hobby since I was 5. My father has a good collection of coins. I developed this hobby after being motivated by him.

OR

I collect stamps. Philately has been my hobby since I was 5. My father has a good collection of stamps. I developed this hobby after being motivated by him. Unfortunately, now we don't receive many letters from which I can collect stamps.

Why do you collect ....(that/those things)?

It is just my hobby. I get happiness by collecting these things. I am proud of my collection. I show it to my friends and relatives with pride.

Is collecting a popular pastime in India?

India is a diverse country. People have various pastimes. I think many people do collect things according to their interest.

What items are considered collectibles in your country?

Coins, stamps, jewellery, antique pieces, photographs and marbles are some examples of collectibles. Nowadays, young people have a good collection of songs in their digital devices.

Does anyone in your home collect anything?

My father collects coins. Now, I too have started collecting coins. My mother collects jewellery. She has a huge collection of junk jewellery.

Do a lot of people in India collect things and what do they collect?

(answer same as of question 3)

What are the benefits of collecting? (= Why do people like collecting?)

There are many benefits of collection. First, it is great fun to collect. Secondly, these collections can fetch you a lot of money. My uncle has a huge collection of stamps. He was telling me the other day that many of his old collections are in great demand by philatelists and he is thinking of selling them for a huge sum.

## 47. Foreign language

1. Why do you think it is important to learn a foreign language?

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

2. How is it helpful to you to speak a foreign language?



I know English which is a foreign language. It is very helpful for me. Knowledge of English makes me feel more confident as it increases my communication skills and also it helps me in surfing the net because most websites are written in English.

3. What is the most difficult part of learning a foreign language for you?

I find some pronunciations very confusing at times. For example bough is pronounced 'bo' whereas tough is 'tuff'.

Sometimes the spellings which have silent words also confuse me. For instance 'b' is silent in doubt and debt.

4. What is the best way to memorize new words?

The best way is to start using them in daily life so that they become part of your natural spoken English.

5. Is it better to learn a new word from translation or by definition?

I think both ways are equally good. Sometimes some words are learnt best by translation and some by definition.

6. Why don't some people know the language of the society they live in?

This is perhaps because they live in their own shell and don't intermingle with those people.

7. What do you think of children learning a foreign language?

I think children should learn a foreign language. It is very easy for children to learn a foreign language as they are very receptive and they are not hesitant about making mistakes. They also have a benefit of not knowing any other language too well, to make comparisons and assumptions about the difficulty of language learning. In this era of globalization, knowledge of a foreign language is very beneficial for a better career and a brighter future. It opens more avenues for the students for higher education and good jobs.

8. Why are some language classes boring?

Some language classes are boring because of the teaching methods used. If there no interactive and fun activities involved in teaching a language and only textbook teaching methods are followed, students become bored easily. Incorporating technology in classrooms, keeps the students interested in learning and they learn it easily. For example, there should be audio-visual means used.

9. Some students hate to learn foreign languages, what can teachers do to develop their interest?

Some students hate to learn a foreign language mainly due to lack of interest and uninteresting teaching methods used. Teachers play an important in developing students' interest. Interactive and fun activities should be included to keep the children involved and interested in learning. If students are taught only from text books and there is a pressure of examination, it leads to students becoming bored or disliking language classes. Teachers should also use contexts and examples to which the students can relate in their day-to-day life. If they understand how the language can help and benefit them, students would be motivated to learn that language.

10. Some people travel for learning a foreign language, what do you think?

I think that traveling is a very good way to learn a foreign language. It is true that the more we use a

language, the better we get at it. So, if travel to a county/region where that language is used, we will interact more with the local people in that language and learn its nuances better. Also, language is related to the culture. If we travel, we learn more about the culture and can learn the language better.

11. What's the best way to learn a foreign language?

I think the best way to learn a foreign language in a classroom environment, from a teacher who has in-depth knowledge of that language. The teacher should preferably be a native speaker of that language or should have a high proficiency level in that language. It is very important to incorporate technology and audio-visual methods to teach that language. Also, travelling to that country/region where the language is spoken is also a good way to learn it. These days learning a language through videos and online classes has become very popular, as the students get a chance to interact with the teachers and also with native speakers of that language, through the internet. There are many apps also available, which can be downloaded on smartphones, which help learning a foreign language in a fun and interactive way. For example, the Duolingo app.

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

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

13. Does one's age affect their language learning?

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

Advantages for children to learn languages – Why it is good to learn languages at younger age

1. When children learn multiple languages at a younger age, they develop a lifelong love of communicating with others.
2. It is much easier to learn foreign language when young. At a later age it becomes harder to become fluent
3. Learning a foreign language helps a child's mind develop. Such children do better in other subjects. It helps their intellect to develop more
4. Learning a foreign language helps children to expand their knowledge of the world. They want to know about other people and other countries. They would want to understand them instead of being afraid of them.

**Advantages for the adult learner of a foreign language**

He has his own language to compare with the second language. So new terms or concepts are easily understood.

They have a strong motivation to learn a new language especially if it is connected to an employment opportunity.

Most adult learners have participated in study earlier, so they know what method of learning works best for them.

## 48. Birds

1. How do you feel about birds? (Why do you feel that way?)  
I feel that birds are very special. They are beautiful creations of God. They add diversity to nature.
2. How do Indian people feel about birds?  
India is a diverse country. Everyone has different feelings. Some love birds, and keep them as pets. Others just admire them flying in the sky. Some even eat birds.
3. Are there many birds near your home?  
Yes, there are birds near my home. I can see pigeons, crows, sparrows and even the cuckoo bird occasionally.
4. Have you seen many different kinds of birds? (near your home)  
Yes, I have seen many different birds. Apart from the birds I see routinely around my house, I have seen peacocks in my neighbouring village. I have also seen some rare birds, in the Chhattbir zoo. There were different varieties of parrots and the ostrich and emu over there.
5. Do any birds have any particular significance in India? For example, does India have a national bird?  
Yes, peacock is our national bird. It is a beautiful bird. The male looks very beautiful with its plumes spread out.
6. Do you think birds should be protected? (Why? / Why not? How can they be protected?)  
Yes, definitely. They are beautiful creations of nature. They add diversity to our environment. Apart from that, they are the best pollinators. Also, birds eat insects. That is why crops are protected. They are part of our ecological chain. We all know that if any link of our ecological chain is not there, then the whole ecology can collapse.  
Birds can be protected by having strict laws against catching and selling birds. The NGOs like SPCA, which means Society for prevention of cruelty to animals, and the PFA, which means people for animals can also help in this matter.
7. Do Indian people like raising (keeping) pet birds?  
Yes, they do. Some people keep birds as pets. They keep colourful parrots and pigeons as pets.
8. Have you ever raised (kept) a pet bird?  
No, I have never raised a pet bird. There is a lot of work involved.

## 49. Boats

1. Do you often travel by boat?

No, I don't often travel by boat. I don't live in the coastal area and where I live people do not travel by boat. Boating is done only in places with water such as the Sukhna Lake.

2. Have you ever been on a boat while you were on holidays (on vacation)?

No, I have never traveled to a coastal area for holiday. I never got a chance.

3. (Similar to above) Have you ever been on a boat tour while you were on holidays? (Same question as above. Can be answered differently)

No, I have never been on a boat tour, but yes, I did boating once then I went to Chandigarh to visit my relatives. They took me to the Sukhna Lake.

4. Would you like to go on a boat tour? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, I would definitely like to go on a boat tour. I think it would be great fun. My relatives live in USA. They told me that there's a cruise to Alaska. One day I would love to do that cruise.

5. (Similar to above) Would you like to have a holiday on a boat?

6. Where in your country do people most often use boats? (or, travel by boat)

India has a long coastline. The coastline is more than 7000 km. People living near the coast use boats very often.

7. Do many people in your country own their own boat?

Maybe people living near the shores have their own boats, but people living off shore do not have their own boats.

8. Would you like to buy a boat?

No, I would not like to buy a boat. I think it would be a waste of money.

9. If you had your own boat, what would you do with it?

If I had my own boat, I would buy a house near the beach and do boating everyday.

## 50. Relatives

- 1 Do you often visit your relatives?

No, I don't often visit relatives. I visit them once or twice in six months.

- 2 What do you do when visit them?

Whenever we visit relatives, we have lots of fun. We visit some historical places, eat out, watch movies and do lots of other activities.

- 3 Do you prefer to spend time with your relatives, or your friends?

I prefer to spend time with my friends. I like the company very much. We have lots of fun together.

- 4 (Possibly the question above is this) Do you prefer visiting your relatives, or your friends?

- 5 (Similar to above) Who is the more important to you, your relatives / your family, or your friends?  
Both are important for me, but my friends are more important than my relatives. Of course, my immediate family is more important than friends.

## 51. Shopping

- 1 Do you like (going) shopping? (Why?/Why not?)  
Yes, I love going shopping. I love doing window shopping. I come to know about the latest trends on fashions going on. I feel like buying so many things, but I'm not earning yet, and so my pocket doesn't allow me to buy everything.
- 2 What do you think is the most difficult (or, unpleasant) part about shopping?  
The most difficult part about shopping for me is selecting things. The markets today are flooded with choices. I find it very confusing. I also don't like to go to the shops, which are not fixed price shops. I hate bargaining.
- 3 Is there anything you don't like (or, dislike) about shopping?  
I don't like bargaining. That is why I generally go to fixed-price shops.
- 4 What don't you like about shopping?
- 5 Do you prefer shopping alone or with others?  
I do not like to go shopping alone. The market is flooded with choices, and I find it very confusing to select things on my own.
- 6 Who do you (usually) go shopping with?  
I usually go shopping with my mother. Sometimes I go with my friends.
- 7 Do you prefer to go shopping with family members or with friends?  
It depends on what I have to buy. If I have to buy costly things then I like to go with my family, but for stationery items and other small things I go with friends.
- 8 What do you usually buy when you go shopping?  
I buy clothes, shoes, cosmetics, stationery items and many other such things when I go shopping. Sometimes I go with my mother to do the grocery and buy vegetables.

## 52. Sports

- 1 Are you interested in sport?  
Yes, I am interested in sports. I like watching cricket and hockey on TV. Sometimes I play badminton with my brother, on the terrace of our house.
- 2 (Similar to above) Do you like sport?

- 3 What sports do you like? (Why?)  
I like cricket, hockey, badminton and many other sports. I like watching these on TV. But I play only badminton.
- 4 Do most people in your country like sport?  
Yes most people in my country like sport. Cricket is the most popular sport. People also like hockey and football.
- 5 (Similar to above) What sports do people in your country like to play?  
India is a diverse country. People like to play all types of sports, but cricket is the most popular sport.
- 6 What benefits do you think sport can bring us?  
Playing sport and bring us many benefits. By playing competitive sports, we learn competition, and by playing team sports we learn cooperation.

### 53. Daily routine

- 1 Do you like to plan what you will do each day? (Why?/Why not?)  
Yes, I like to plan what I do each day. If I do not plan I tend to procrastinate and then all my work piles up and I start getting stressed.
- 2 Please describe your typical daily routine.  
I get up at around six in the morning. Then I freshen up and go for a walk. I walk for around 5 km every day. If for some reason I do not go for a walk, then I feel something is missing from my life. After coming home I help my mother in household chores. Then I go to school/college. In the evening, I hang out with my friends for about an hour or so. Then I study for sometime. We are family members have dinner at around eight. We all watch TV together for about an hour. I go to bed at around 10.
- 3 What's your favourite time of the day? (Why? What do you do at that time?)  
My favorite time of the day is evening time. We are family members have dinner together. We share our day's happenings with each other. We watch TV together. Sometimes we go for walk after dinner. So this is my favorite time of the day.
- 4 What do you usually do at this time of day?  
( same as above)
- 5 Do you usually do the same things at the same time each day?  
No, my timetable is not that fixed. Dinner time is more or less fixed. Sometimes I go to bed late, if I have to complete an assignment or prepare for some test.
- 6 How do you plan (organize) your study time?  
I plan my study time very meticulously. I'm usually very diligent and try to study for 2-3 hours on school days, and 5 to 6 hours on weekends.

7 Do you ever (or, do you often) change these plans?

Yes many times, I have to change my plans. Sometimes there are guests at home and I have to help my mother. Then my timetable gets disturbed, but I usually make it up the next day by studying more.

## 54. People's ages

1. What do you think is the most important age in a person's life? (Why?)

(Similar to above) In India, what's the most important age in people's lives?

I think the most important age is eighteen in India. At this age adulthood starts and with it a lot of legal rights, like the right to vote, legally obtain a driving license for four wheelers, making independent financial decisions and many more.

2. Are birthdays important in Indian culture?

(Similar to above) Do people in India celebrate birthdays?

Yes, birthdays are important in the Indian culture. Birthdays are celebrated but in different ways by different people. Sometimes it's a party with the relatives and friends, sometimes people celebrate with only their family and eat out and sometimes it's a movie and a meal with friends.

3. What birthday is most important in Indian culture? \*

The most important birthday in the Indian culture is the 18th one. (rest can be the same as in the answer to Ques.1).

4. What age in life is the most difficult? (Why?)

Every age has its own challenges and joys. I don't think that we can call any particular age the most difficult. Teenage years may be a little challenging, as in those years of adolescence children undergo both physical and hormonal changes, which may be a little difficult to deal with. They are neither children nor adults at that age.

## 55. Punctuality

1 Do you wear a watch?

(Similar to above) Do you think everyone should wear a watch?

Yes, I wear a watch and I think that everyone should wear one too, or keep a check on the time. These days please check time on their cell phones, however, the point is to be on time and not waste time.

2 In your country is it important to be on time (= be punctual)? (e.g., for meetings, work, classes)

Yes, it is very important to be on time to meetings, classes or for work. Time is valued a lot in India, as unlike money, time once gone doesn't come back.

3 Do you like to be on time?

(Similar to above) Is being on time important to you?

Yes, being on time is extremely important to me. I ensure that I am never late for my classes and other appointments and meetings. I understand that time is much more important than any other material thing or money.

4 How do you feel when others are late?

When others are late occasionally, it maybe due to a genuine problem, however, if someone is late very often, then it's definitely a habit that I do not appreciate or like.

1. How do you remind yourself to be on time?

I usually remember the appointments and meetings, but sometimes I set reminders on my phone to be on time.

2. Why are some people always late?

Some people are always late because they do not plan well and are not good at time management. They may also not value time.

3. Do you think it's important to be punctual?

I think it's very important to be punctual. It saves our time and the other person's time also. Time is the most precious commodity.

4. What will you do if you are waiting for someone?

If I am waiting for someone, I'll probably pass time by playing games on my phone or reading the news or chatting with my friends.

5. Do you think people these days are as punctual as they were in the past?

I think people are as punctual these days, as they were in the past. However, sometimes due to the traffic situation of today, despite wanting to be punctual, people are sometimes not able to reach on time for their work, meetings, appointments etc

## 56. Names

1 Does your name have any special meaning?

Yes, my name has a special meaning. My name is Kiran. It means a ray of light. My name is very significant for me. It has been my identity for the last 56 years. It is a gift given to me by my parents. It brings out positive feelings from within me. I am proud of my name.

2 Is your surname very common in India?

My surname is Makkar. I think it is very common. I know many people with this surname.

3 Do you like your name?

Yes, I love my name. It is my identity. It is the meaningful name. It is my parents gift to me.

4 Would you like to change your name?

No, I would never like to change my name. I love my name as it is.

5 Do people in India ever change their names?

Yes, sometimes people change their name. Sometimes, when a girl gets married, her in-laws give her a new name and start calling her by that name. However, it is a very cumbersome process to change one's name in papers.

6 What name do people at home (your family members) call you?

My nickname is Mohini. At home everyone calls me by that name.



## 57. Birthdays

1. How do children celebrate birthdays in your country?  
Children celebrate birthdays in different ways. Some children invite friends and cut the cake. Older children take their friends out for a party. Some people celebrate by donating for charity.
2. How did you celebrate your last birthday?  
I took my friends out for dinner at Rangla Punjab, a famous restaurant in the suburbs of my hometown.
3. What kinds of birthday gifts do you like to receive?  
I like to receive clothes, books, flowers as gifts. I take gifts as gestures of love. So I happily accept anything that anybody brings for me.
4. Is there a difference between the way you celebrated your birthday in the past and the present?  
When I was younger, my mother used to make snacks at home and bake a cake. I used to invite my friends, but now I prefer to take them out for lunch or dinner.

## 58. Computer

1. Do you use computer very much?  
Yes, I use computers a lot. I have a laptop I use for my studies, to stay connected to my friends and relatives living far away, to research on various topics, for entertainment I watch movies and play games.
2. When do you use a computer?  
I use the computer everyday at home, usually in the evenings and after dinner. I use it to research for my assignments and to check my emails, check Facebook updates and post messages and sometimes I use it to watch movies or play games.
3. What do you use computer for?  
I use it to research for my assignments and to check my emails, check Facebook updates and post messages and sometimes I use it to watch movies or play games.
4. What was your impression when you used a computer the first time?  
I remember the day when I used the computer the first time. I was in class 6 at that time. I vividly remember how fascinated I was with the computer.
5. How did you learn to use a computer?  
I learned to use a computer through school lessons. Later I got my own personal desktop at home and I learned a little more by using it more at home. Now I have a laptop that I use regularly.
6. Have computers changed your life in anyway (if yes, How?)?  
Yes, definitely. Computers have changed my life. I am well connected with all my friends and relatives, irrespective of which part of the world they are in. It has made the research work for my assignments very convenient. I think it's a very good source of entertainment and with the Internet it is a boon for the humankind. Many everyday tasks can be done in a matter of a few clicks and in a few seconds, be it

banking, shopping, etc.

7. Are computers used much in your country?

Yes, the use of computers has increased greatly in my country. It is a common household electronic equipment and almost all the workplaces make use of a computer, like in a grocery store, bank, coffee shop, school, post office, etc.

8. Do you think computer are useful in everyday life (how)?

Yes, computers are very useful in everyday life. We can pay our bills, book tickets, shop for anything, set reminders, connect with relatives and friends, research, entertain ourselves, create new things and do umpteen other things by using a computer.

9. Computers are now used a lot in education. What do you think of this?

I think it is the need of the day to make use of computers in education. It not only makes the lessons more interesting, it also helps make the children more techno-savvy, as technology is used in almost all fields.

10. Do you play computer games?

Yes, sometimes I play word games, puzzles or card games on my computer.

11. Do you think computers are perfect now or do they still need to be improved?

I think the computers technology, in terms of both hardware and software keeps changing and there is always something new that needs to be added as time passes. So, in the future I can foresee a lot of changes and improvements that are made to the computers.

## 59. Being in a hurry

1. When was the last time you did something in a hurry?

The last time I did something in a hurry was two months ago. I remember my exams were going on. I slept really late because I was studying and in the morning I did not hear the alarm. So I got ready in a hurry, and forgot my wallet at home.

2. Do you like to finish things quickly?

If I don't like what I'm doing, then I like to finish things quickly. But, if I am enjoying what I'm doing then I take my time.

3. What kind of things you would never do in a hurry?

I would never drive in a hurry, or cross the road in a hurry.

4. Why do people make mistakes more easily when they are in a hurry?

It is easy to make mistakes in a hurry, because the mind is preoccupied and so it is easy to forget certain things. That desire it has been rightly said that haste makes waste.

## 60. Museums

1. Are there many (or any) museums in your hometown?

No, there are no museums in my hometown. That is on museum of our great martyr Bhagat Singh, which is 30 km away. There is an another Sikh museum in Amritsar in Golden Temple.

2. Do you think museums are useful for visitors to your hometown/country?

Yes, museums are very useful for the visitors. Museums provide knowledge and information. They also provide entertainment. Museums preserve a collection. Museums inspire people to do things.

3. Do you often visit a museum?

No, I don't often visit museums. I visited a science museum about a year ago. This museum is also near my hometown.

4. Did you go to any museums when you were a child?

Yes, I saw the Sikh museum in the Golden Temple when I was a child. I also saw the Bhagat Singh Museum during my school days. Our school organized an educational tour to this museum.

5. When was the last time you visited a museum?

The last time I visited the Museum was about a year ago.

6. Do you think museums are important?

Yes, museums are very important. (as answer 2)

7. Do you think it's suitable for museums to sell things to visitors?

No, I do not think museums should sell things to visitors. If museums start selling things then the whole purpose of museums would be lost.

## 61. Dance

When was the last time you went to a place where people go to dance in your country?

I have never been to any such place where people specially go to dance. In my country people specially go to dance in discos, pubs and clubs. But there are no such places in my home town. I love to dance on family functions.

When was the last occasion when you danced a lot?

The last occasion I danced a lot was last Sunday. It was my friend's birthday. He invited us to his home. We danced a lot on that day.

Do you like dancing?

Yes, I love dancing. I dance on all family functions like marriage parties and birthday parties.

Have you ever learnt dancing? Why? / Why not?

No, I have never learnt dancing. Unfortunately, there are no places in my hometown where dance is taught. All the steps I know, I've learnt from TV programmes and movies.

OR

Yes, I've learnt dancing. There is a very nice centre in my village which teaches Punjabi folk dances like Giddha and Bhangra.

Did you learn to dance? Why? / Why not?

No, I did not learn to dance. Unfortunately, there are no places in my hometown where dance is taught. All the steps I know, I've learnt from TV programmes and movies.

OR

Yes, I learnt dancing in my childhood. There is a very nice centre in my village which teaches Punjabi folk dances like Giddha and Bhangra.

Why do you think people love to dance?

People love to dance because they can express their joy. Dance is a form of expression. Dance is a good way to relieve tensions and worries. It also keeps the body fit.

Do you think children love to dance?

Yes, children love to dance because they can express their joy. Dance is a form of expression. Dance is a good way to relieve tensions and worries. It also keeps the body fit.

Do you see dance on TV?

Yes, I see a lot of dance reality shows like Dance India Dance, NachhBaliye and Dancing Superstars.

## 62. Hats

Do you like to wear hats?

No, I don't like to wear hats. I find them very uncomfortable.

OR

Yes, I wear hats when I go out in the sun, or when watching a match in the stadium.

What kinds of hats do you have?

I have a baseball cap, woolen caps for winters, a beret and some fashion hats.

Where do you like to buy hats?

I usually buy hats at a store where such accessories are available and some such stores are there in a nearby mall. I have also bought a couple of them online.

Is wearing hats popular in your country? M a k k a r I E L T S

Yes wearing hats is popular in India. In different states of India there are different types of hats that are a part of the traditional attire. These days hats are very popular among the young generation. They wear them as a fashion accessory.

## 63. Singing

1. Do you often (like to) sing?

Yes, I like to sing, but as my singing abilities are not pretty good so I sing only in the bathroom.

2. When do you like to sing?

Whenever I'm alone I hum some songs to myself.

3. How much time do you spend in singing every day?  
Not much, a few minutes perhaps.
4. What kinds of music do you like to sing?  
I mostly like to sing film songs. I like Punjabi folk songs also.
5. Is it difficult to sing well?  
Yes, it is difficult to sing well. I think only talented people can do it.
6. Do you want to be a singer?  
No, I would not want to be a singer. I know I don't have the abilities.

## 64. Noise

1. How is the noise level in your city?  
My city is an industrial city and on top of that it is on the national highway. So, the noise levels are very high.
2. Where does noise in urban areas come from?  
The noise in urban areas comes from pressure horns of vehicles, industries and loud speakers.
3. Do you think it is important to be alone sometimes?  
It is very important to be alone sometimes. Everyone needs to introspect at times. One needs to know about ones likes and dislikes and everyone needs time for one's personal work which can be best done in solitude.
4. What is the importance of belonging to a certain group?  
There is a lot of importance of belonging to a social group. Man is a social animal and cannot live alone for long. One needs to share one's happiness and sorrows with others. That is why we join social groups and feel part of these groups. Social groups are a sort of support system. They give us support when we are low in life. It is mentally unhealthy to be alone for long.
5. What are problem you could have if you go out together in big group?  
There could be a lot of problems in a big group. It is difficult to organise a big group. Mismanagement can lead to conflicts. It could end up in a lot of wastage of time. It has been well said that "two is a company and three is a crowd".

## 65. Bus or Taxi

1. How often do you take the bus?  
I take the bus everyday. I go to school/college by bus.

2. When was the first time you took a taxi?

The last time I took a taxi was about two months ago. I went to Delhi to visit my relatives. I hired a cab from the railway station to their home.

3. What are the advantages of taking a taxi compared with buses.

The advantages of taxi are that you don't have to wait for the bus. You can start at anytime. A taxi takes you from one destination to the other whereas the bus will drop you at the bus stop.

4. Is it convenient to take the bus/taxi in your city?

The bus service in my city is very good and frequent. The taxi service is also very good, but I normally take the bus as it is much cheaper.

## 66. Mobile phones

1. How often do you use your mobile phone?

I use my mobile phone very often, in fact every day.

2. Can you describe your mobile phone?

I have an iPhone 5s. It is in golden color. It is rectangular in shape. It has two cameras. It has a 8GB Space. It has many features. It is like a mini computer in my hands.

3. What was your first mobile phone?

My first mobile phone was a Nokia phone. I don't remember the model but it was a very basic phone.

4. Would you buy a new one in the future?

I don't have any plans to buy a new phone in the future. I'm quite happy with my iPhone.

5. How has your mobile phone changed your life?

My basic mobile phone was it enough to change my life. It kept me connected with my family all the time, but my iPhone is a smart phone and is much more than a phone for mere connectivity. I can check my emails on my phone. I can surf the net on my phone. I can play games on my phone. I can do calculations on my phone. I can do so many other things on my phone.

## 67. HISTORY

1. Do you like (to learn about) history?

Yes, I like to learn about history. It is through history we come to know about the important events that gave way or shaped the way to progress or changes in any country. Also, history teaches us important lessons and we can learn from the achievements or mistakes of our ancestors. Everything in this world has its history. It's through that we value what we have today. For example, we value our independence today because of the knowledge of the independence struggle.

2. What historical event do you find most interesting?

The historical event I find the most interesting is the day India became an independent nation, on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947.

3. Do you think history is important?

Yes, I think history is very important. We can learn a lot from history. We come to know about the way of life, culture and traditions of the past times. We can come to know about the important historical events that paved way for progress and development, like the Industrial revolution. We can get motivation by learning about the achievements of some people and we can also learn from the mistakes of our ancestors.

4. Do you like to watch programmes on TV about history?

Yes I like to watch programmes on TV about history. In fact, the History channel is one of my favourite TV channels. It has some great shows about history of different parts of the world.

5. Do you think you can really learn history from films and TV programmes?

Yes, definitely. TV programs and films make learning about history interesting and easy. Reading about history may become very boring after a while. Children also learn history better if an audiovisual medium is used.

6. Do you think the Internet is a good place to learn about history?

Yes, Internet is a good way to learn about history. It is a vast source of knowledge. We can search about any topic related to history and get all the information we need. There are also videos, documentaries, podcasts, e-books etc. also available on the Internet.

7. Can you name a person from history whom you would like to learn more about?

I would like to learn more about martyr Bhagat Singh, who was a freedom fighter in the struggle for Independent India.

8. Why would you like to learn more about him/her?

I would like to learn more about him because he is a motivation for the youth of today. I do not know much about him, but I know that his role in India's freedom struggle was integral and the British rulers hanged him at a very young age of 23 for the assassination of a British police officer.

## 68. Magazine

1. Do you read magazines?

Yes, I read magazines. Reader's Digest is the one I usually read.

2. Who prefers to read magazines – younger or older people?

I think it is a matter of personal choice and is not related to age.

3. Have you ever read online magazines?

Yes, I have read online magazines. But I prefer traditional printed magazines to online ones.

4. Did you read magazines when you were young?

No, I didn't read magazines, but I read comic books and other children's books when I was young. I started reading magazines in my late teenage years.

5. What kind of magazines are popular in your country?

There are many types of magazines popular in my country, like fashion magazines, sports magazines, housekeeping magazines, automobiles magazines, art & craft magazines and many more.

## 69. Internet –

1. Do you use internet (very much)?

Yes, I use the internet a lot, especially for research for my studies. I also use the internet for chatting with my friends, watching movies and playing games.

2. When was the first time you used the internet?

The first time I used the internet was when I was in around 10-11 years old. We got a computer and an internet connection set up at our home.

3. Is the internet very important (or useful) to you?

Yes, the internet is very important/useful for me. I mostly use it for research purposes for my studies. It also helps me stay connected with my friends.

4. Do you think you can (or could) live without the internet?

It is very hard to imagine a life without the internet. The communication and connectivity we have now because of the internet will suffer greatly. I would feel alienated/cut off from the world without the internet.

## 70. Neighbor –

1. Do you know your neighbors?

Yes, I know my neighbors well. I meet them daily and we are like a family.

2. Do you like your neighbors?

Yes, I like my neighbors. They are very friendly and helpful. In fact, we are like a family.

3. Why are neighbors important?

Neighbours are very important because they are next to our family. In fact, in today's era of nuclear families, neighbours are the only family we have in times of emergencies. Neighbours are the people with whom we share our walls. They are the first ones to help us in times of need.

4. When do you meet your neighbors?

I meet my neighbors in the evenings. We usually meet them in the park or outside my home. Sometimes we have some celebrations in our neighborhood or some community programs, where I get to meet my neighbors.

5. How often do you meet your neighbors?

I meet my neighbors very often, in fact almost daily.

## 71. Pop star –

6. Who's your favorite pop star?

My favorite pop star is the famous Punjabi singer, Diljeet Dosanjh. He is an excellent singer, performer and an actor.

7. Do you want to be a pop star?



No, I don't have the qualities or talent to be a pop star.

8. Do you like to go to concerts?

Yes, I like to go to concerts. I think live performances are very enjoyable and much different from listening to recorded music. We get to meet like-minded people, with similar interests.

9. Do you prefer live music or recorded music?

I don't prefer one to the other. I enjoy both equally. Live music has its own charm and energy, whereas recorded music can be enjoyed anytime, anywhere

## 72. Teenagers –

1. Do you like to spend time with teenagers?

I have a few cousins who are in their teenage years and I like to spend time with them. I get to know about what is the latest trend and what kinds of apps are popular among them.

2. Do you know anything about the kind of fashion that teenagers like?

Yes, I know about the kind of fashion that teenagers like, through the TV shows and movies. I also see a lot of teenagers when I go out and get a sense of the kind of fashion they follow.

3. What are the best things of being a teenager?

I think that the best part of being a teenager is the sense of responsibility that is developed in those years. It is also a stage of life, which brings a little more freedom, than the younger years.

4. How do teenagers entertain themselves?

Teenagers usually entertain themselves by watching movies, listening to music, hanging out with friends, chatting online with friends, playing outdoor sports, and other such activities.

## 73. Mathematics

1. When did you start learning math?

I started learning numbers in the nursery classes, but the basic math of addition and subtraction, started when I was in the 1st standard.

2. Do you like math?

I am not very good at math. However, I don't dislike math. I think it is very useful in our everyday lives.

3. Who taught you math?

I have had many math teachers throughout my school and college years, who taught me math.

4. Who's your favorite teacher so far?

My favorite math teacher is Ms. Roy, who taught me math when I was in the 7th grade.

5. Is math difficult for you to learn?

I don't consider myself very good at math. I find certain aspects of it very difficult to understand. I don't do manual calculations; I use the calculator app on my phone most of the times.

6. Do you like to use a calculator?

Yes, I use the calculator app on my phone whenever I have to calculate something. I think that it is very useful, accurate and saves our time.

## 74. Films

1. Do you like to watch films?

Yes, I love to watch films. I think it is a very good form of entertainment and gives us the much-needed break in our busy life. It is also a good way to spend quality time with friends and family.

2. Do you prefer foreign films or Indian films?

I like watching both, Indian and foreign films. I think that the Indian films keep us connected to our culture and roots and through the foreign films, we get knowledge about other cultures. Both are an equally good source of entertainment.

3. How often do you go to cinema to watch a movie?

I go to cinema to watch a movie quite often, at least once or twice a month.

4. Do Indian people like to go to cinema to watch a film?

Yes, Indian people like to go to cinema to watch films. It is evident from the increasing number of multiplexes that are opening in every city and are almost always full of people.

5. What kinds of movies do you like the best?

I like movies that have a good story, with some good lessons or a message and those with good acting and direction.

6. What was the first film you watched?

I don't remember exactly, but one of the first films I remember from my childhood is \_\_\_\_\_ . (Add a couple of lines about the kind of movie and the story/what was it about).

## 75. Social Network

1. What kind of social networking websites do you like to use?

I mostly use the Facebook website for social networking. These days all the social networking sites have an app that we can install and use on our phones, so I don't usually visit the websites. I use my cellphone apps.

2. Are you a social person?

I am not a very social person. However, I have a good social circle of friends. I like to meet them at least once in two-three months.

OR

I am a social person. I like to meet new people and make new friends. I have a big social circle of friends.

3. What kinds of people do you like to be friends with on those websites?

On those websites, I only have friends whom I already know or whom I know through someone. I do not make new friends on such websites.

4. Is it easy to find real friends on a social networking website?

No, it is not at all easy to find real friends on social networking websites. People make fake ids, with fake information and dupe people.

5. What kind of chatting app or software do Indian people like to use?

Indian people like to use chatting apps like, Whatsapp, Snapchat, Hike, V-chat, Viber, etc.

## 76. POLITENESS

1. Who teaches you to be polite?

Our parents, teachers, relatives, friends and other acquaintances, teach us politeness. We also learn about the importance of politeness from stories we read and movies we watch.

2. How do Indian people show politeness?

Indian people show politeness in their actions, like talking softly, spending time with the elderly, helping people, greeting others with a smile and many other such small gestures reflect politeness.

3. Has the way people show politeness changed in India?

Yes, I think with the advancement in technology, the way we show politeness has changed. With the advent of the internet and social networking, it is very important to show respect to others in the way we write messages or emails, so as to not offend others. For example, when chatting with someone, it is not acceptable to type in capital letters. It is considered rude and impolite.

1. Are you angry with people who are late?

Yes, definitely I am angry with people who are late. I am very punctual myself and I feel irritated when somebody keeps me waiting.

2. Do you think that people have less free time today than in the past? Why?

Yes, I do feel that people have less free time today than in the past. Today, people have become workaholics. They run after money and in doing so they work longer hours. Moreover, today we belong to a materialistic society and to buy the luxuries we have to work more. In earlier times, life was slower and the needs of people were limited. So people had a lot of free time.

3. Do you think that the quality of living is increasing? How?

I feel that the quality of life has increased in many ways and in many ways it has gone down. People today enjoy greater comforts and have more money to enjoy life but on the other hand we face many problems today such as pollution and global warming which make the quality of life bad.

4. Today people use machinery to automate everything, is it good or bad?

It is both – good as well as bad. In many ways it is good. We have more time because of machines. We get good quality things because machines make uniform things. We do mass production because of automation and this boosts our economy as we can export things to other countries when we produce them in bulk.

On the other hand, many people have lost jobs because of automation. So, unemployment occurs and this leads to many other problems in society. Machines can also not give a personal touch to things.

5. How does modern technology help to save time?

Modern technology has touched all aspects of life. In transport industry we have much faster means of travel. In communication, technology has given us tools to connect to others at the click

of a mouse. In the homes, we have washing machines and microwave ovens, which save our time.

6. Do you agree that people should let machinery do everything?

I do not agree that machines should do everything. In that way we shall become slaves of our own creation. We should know when, where and how much we have to use machines. We should know where to draw the line. When we need mass production, we should take the help of machines. In doing repetitive and boring work we can let the machines take over. But where creativity is needed, we should do with our own hands.

## 77. TIME MANAGEMENT

1. Are you ever late for anything?

No, I am a very punctual person. I value time and am never late for anything, unless it is due to some unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances.

2. What excuses do you use when you are late?

I am usually not late for any meetings or appointments. However, if at all I am getting late due to an unavoidable circumstance, then I inform the person I am meeting, beforehand. I don't make excuses.

3. What excuses do people have when they are late?

People give excuses like car or bike breakdown or that they were stuck in traffic, when they are late

4. Are you good at organizing time?

Yes, I am good at organizing time. I set up reminders for important events and meetings. I am never late for an appointment.

5. How do you usually organize time?

I sometimes set up reminders for important events or meetings, sometimes I make lists of tasks to complete, sometimes I set deadlines for myself, especially when working on an important assignment/project.

6. Do you think planning is important for time management?

Yes, planning is essential for good time management. If we don't plan ahead, we will tend to waste time doing tasks/things which are unimportant or unnecessary.

7. Why do you think some people pay to learn time management?

Time management has become very important in today's fast-paced world. Some people pay to take courses on time management so that they can succeed and excel at their work. Some people are not very good at organizing and managing time, so they need to take up courses on managing time well.

8. Do you think children should learn to manage time?

Yes, definitely. We live in a fast paced world and children too need to manage their time well, so that they can deal with the competition and do well at their studies and later, at their jobs.

9. Why do some people find it hard to follow their plans?

Some people find it hard to follow their plans because of other pressing commitments, like family commitments. Some people maybe too lazy to follow their plans.

10. How would you teach your children time management?

Time management can be taught to children by helping them make a timetable and ensuring that they follow it. Also, children can learn easily from stories or movies, which teach them a lesson about the importance of time and managing it well. The parents are role models for children and they should set a good example for their children.

11. Do old people and young people manage time in a similar way?

No, old and young people do not manage their time the same way. Old people have more life experience and they understand the importance of time management better than the young generation. The young people may be too impulsive or impatient and may not understand the importance of planning ahead. Another difference is the way the younger generation manages time. They make more use of technology and the old people may use the traditional methods, like a timetable or writing down a list of tasks.

## 78. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

1. Do you like fruits and vegetables? OR Do you like to eat fruit(s) and vegetables?

Yes, I like fruits and vegetables. In fact they are a part of my daily diet.

2. How often do you eat fruits and vegetables? OR Do you often eat fruit(s) and vegetables?

I eat fruits and vegetables daily. In fact seasonal fruits and vegetables are part of my daily diet.

3. Why do you think fruits and vegetables are important for us?

I think they are important because they have essential vitamins and minerals, which we must eat to be healthy.

4. What kind of fruit do you prefer?

I prefer all kinds of fruit. But I prefer seasonal fruits because they are readily available and cheap.

5. What fruit(s) (and /or vegetables) do you especially like to eat?

I like to eat all fruits and vegetables, but I especially like the okra and broccoli among the veggies and my favourite fruits are watermelon and mango.

6. Do you like the same fruits and vegetables today as you did when you were a child?

As a child, my favourite fruit used to be grapes, but now I like mango and watermelon more. Also, I wasn't very fond of vegetables as a child. Now I love all kinds of vegetables and fruits.

7. What fruit and vegetables did you like to eat when you were a child?

I liked all fruits as a child and my favourite fruit used to be grapes. I wasn't very fond of vegetables when I was a child.

8. Is it easy (or, convenient) to buy fruit and vegetables where you live?

Yes, it is very convenient to buy fruits and vegetables where I live. I live in a city and there are many fruit and vegetable sellers, who have stalls/stands set up in many parts of the city. In grocery stores also we have a fruits and vegetables section.

9. Do you think people should eat more fruits and vegetables?  
Yes, I think people should eat more fruits and vegetables, as they contain essential vitamins and nutrients needed for a healthy body and mind. Also, it has become all the more important now to eat healthy food as most of the people lead a sedentary life.
10. Do you think it's (really) necessary to eat fruits and vegetables? OR How important is it to eat fruit and vegetables? OR What are the benefits of eating fresh fruit (or, fresh fruits and vegetables)?  
Yes, certainly. It is essential to eat fresh fruits and vegetables, as they contain nutrients like vitamins and minerals, which our body needs to function properly and to remain healthy. Also, having a healthy diet makes us feel more energetic.
11. How much fruit and vegetables do you think a person needs to stay healthy?  
I think fruits and vegetables are needed as a part of our everyday diet. Many dieticians suggest that we should eat fruits and vegetables of at least five different colors everyday.
12. Generally speaking, do children like to eat fruits and vegetables?  
I think children are fond of fruits, but not many children like eating vegetables.
13. What are the benefits for children from eating fruits and vegetables?  
Fruits and vegetables provide the essential nutrition required for a child's proper physical and mental development. It also helps build their immunity and protects them from catching infections.
14. (In India,) is there much difference between the fruits and vegetables that people eat today and what they used to eat in the past?  
Yes, there has been a change in the fruits and vegetables we eat today in India, as compared to the past. In earlier times, mostly the local produce was consumed. However, now we have fruits and vegetables from the other parts of the country and the also from other parts of the world.
15. Would you ever grow your own vegetables?  
Yes, I would like to have a kitchen garden in my home, where I can grow my own fruits and vegetables.
16. What's the difference between growing your own vegetables and growing vegetables on a large farm?  
The main difference is the quantity of the crop. In a farm, the crop size is bigger than in a kitchen garden. In a kitchen garden, vegetables are grown for the consumption of the family member of the household, whereas at a farm the purpose mostly is to sell the crop in the market. When we grow our own vegetables, it is easy to maintain and control the quality of the produce. We can even decide to have organic produce by not using any chemical products. However, it is very difficult to maintain and control the pests and quality of the crop. Mostly farmers need to resort to the use of insecticides and pesticides to save the crops from pests.
17. What factors affect the growing of fruits and vegetables on a farm?  
There are many factors that affect the growing of fruits and vegetables on a farm, like the soil quality, irrigation, weather, pests etc.

## 79. High school

1. Are you still in contact with your friends from high school?

Yes, I am in contact with my friends from high school. Many of them are now in different cities and countries. But we stay in touch through social networking apps and we also have reunions sometimes.

2. What is your high school like?

Give a brief description of your school – describe building(s), garden, playground and other facilities)

3. What happened on the first day of high school?

I don't remember exactly what happened. However, I do remember that all my classmates and I were feeling like we have entered an important stage in our lives and that we are grown ups now.

1. Did your parents choose your secondary school (= high school) for you?

Yes, my parents chose my secondary school. My high school and primary school were the same.

2. What subjects did you study in secondary school (= high school)?

I studied many subjects in secondary school like, social sciences, mathematics, the Hindi and English languages, science subjects like biology, chemistry, physics and geography, art and crafts, etc.

3. What was your favourite subject (= class) in secondary school? (= high school)

My favourite subject in secondary school was science. I liked science subjects because I learned about the basic principles of the way things work all around us.

4. And which class (= subject) did you like the least? (Why?)

There wasn't any subject I liked the least. I liked all the subjects in secondary school.

5. Which secondary school subject do you think is most useful for people in adult life?

I think all the subjects that we study in secondary school are useful for people in adult life. A strong foundation is built in primary and high school years that helps us throughout our life.

6. What part of your secondary school education did you enjoy most? OR Did (do) you like your secondary school life?

I enjoyed my secondary school education a lot. There is no one part that I liked more than the other. I liked the fact that our school had an equal focus on extra curricular and physical activities, and not just on the academics.

7. How do you feel about your high school (secondary school)?

I think that high school years were the wonder years and I miss those times.

8. Why did you choose to attend (= to go to) that particular school?

My parents chose my school for me. I think I was too young to decide on my own and my parents chose the best school for my siblings and me.

9. Which class did (do) you enjoy the most? (Why?)

I enjoyed all the school years a lot. However, there was a lot of excitement and a feeling of pride when I got promoted from the primary wing of the school to the high school wing

## 80. Emails –

1. Do you often write (or, send) emails?

No, I don't often write/send emails. I sometimes write official emails, like for sending in a job application through email and sometimes I write to my friends.



## 2. What do you write about?

I sometimes I write official emails, like sending a job application. When I write to my friends or relatives, it is informal and I ask about their health and wellbeing and tell them about what's going on in my life.

## 3. Do you think emails are useful?

Yes, I think that emails are very useful. Emails are convenient, timesaving, cost-effective and easy to send and receive. These days, emails are a good way to communicate for both formal and informal purposes.

## 4. What kinds of emails do you send and receive?

I mostly receive promotional or spam emails advertising various shopping websites or products. I sometimes receive emails from my friends who are living in another country and at times I receive official communication, e.g. emails from the bank or the Income Tax department.

## 5. Do you think it is a good thing that some companies send out letters/spam emails for the purpose of advertising?

I think sending spam emails for the purpose of advertising is a good marketing strategy and promotes a product or a service. However, it sometimes becomes a nuisance when it is sent repeatedly.

## 6. How often do you write letters?

I don't write handwritten letters any more. If I need to, I send an email. All official and personal letters can be sent through emails now.

## 7. What do you write about?

It depends whom I am writing to. When I'm writing to my friends and relatives, it's usually about what's happening in my life and to ask about their wellbeing. When writing an official letter, it is for a specific purpose and it is formal.

## 8. On what occasions do you write letters?

I write letters very rarely and there are no specific occasions when I write them.

## 9. Do you like writing letters to your relatives and friends? (why/why not?)

Yes, I like writing to my relatives and friends, but I write emails or messages to them. I don't write handwritten letters now.

## 10. Do you and your friend keep in touch by (handwritten) letter?

No, I don't stay in touch with my friends through handwritten letters. I text them or chat with them or send them an email.

## 11. How do you keep in touch with your friends and relatives (by email, letter, by phone or by any other way)?

I stay in touch with my friends mostly through the online social media apps and websites, like Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, etc.

## 81. RAINY DAYS

## 1. Does it rain much in India? (Where? When?)

India is a diverse country with different climatic conditions in different regions. So there are some parts of India that receive a lot of rain, like Cherrapunji in Meghalaya, Amboli in Maharashtra, etc.



Some places receive a lot of rainfall only during the monsoon season, like Mumbai, Chennai, Goa, etc.

2. Does it rain much in your hometown? (Include how often)

It doesn't rain much in my hometown. It is only during the monsoon season, that is in the months from June to August that we receive some rainfall.

3. In what season does it rain the most? OR When (in what month/season) does it rain most in your hometown?

It rains the most in my hometown in the monsoon season, that is in the months from June to August.

4. What about the other parts of India? OR In which season does it rain most in other parts of India? India has a varied terrain. In many parts of India, it mostly rains in the monsoon season. However, it also depends on the geographical location as it affects the rainfall in many regions.

5. Would you prefer to have, more rain or less rain (in your hometown)?

I would prefer to have more rain in my hometown. In the last few years, there has been a drastic change in the seasons and the summers get very hot. If there is more rainfall in the summers, there will be respite from the heat.

6. Do you like rainy days? OR How do you feel on rainy days? OR Do you feel sad on rainy days?

I like rainy days in the summer season because the temperatures drop and we get respite from the summer heat. In winters I am not too happy when it rains, as it becomes very cold after it rains.

7. How does rain affect different people's moods? OR How does rain affect people's lives?

I think rains affect people's moods when it restricts their activities or leads to a loss in the work or business. Some people feel happy when it rains as the weather becomes pleasant and people can enjoy hot beverages and fried snacks.

8. Do you prefer rainy days or sunny days?

I prefer rainy days in the summers and sunny days in the winter season. Rains give us respite from the heat in the summers and we can enjoy sitting out in the sun on a cold winter day.

9. What do you do on rainy days (or, on a rainy day)?

I enjoy hot beverages, like coffee and fried snacks like fritters and samosas on rainy days. It gives us an opportunity to stay at home with family and spend quality time with them.

10. What do you usually do when it rains (or, when it starts to rain) and you are outside?

If it rains when I am outside, I usually look for a café or a place where I can sit and enjoy coffee and some snacks.

11. Do you think rain is good? (Why?)

Yes, I think rains are good. Rains are important to maintain the ecosystem's balance. Rains help with maintaining the groundwater levels. They make the dust settle down and help clean the environment. For agriculture-based economies, rains during the rainy season are very important for a good crop.

12. How does rain affect (life in) your country?

Agriculture is a major part of India's economy and that is largely dependent on timely rains. So a lot of farmers depend on a good monsoon season for a good crop. Unseasonal rains can have an adverse affect on agriculture, as it can destroy crops. In places where there is water shortage, people depend on rains and save rain water in reservoirs.

13. Is there any part of India where it doesn't rain much? (Where?) OR Is there an even distribution of rain throughout India?

India is a diverse country with different climates in different parts. There are many parts in the east of India that experience a lot of rain throughout the year. In most parts of India, monsoon season is the time when most of the rainfall happens. In some western parts, like in the deserts of Rajasthan, there is very little rain. Sometimes some states experience droughts because of no rainfall for a very long period of time.

14. What effects can a shortage of rain (a drought) have on people's lives?

Droughts/Shortage of rain can have adverse effects on the livelihoods of many people, especially those who are dependent on agriculture. Sometimes people are forced to leave their hometowns due to water shortage and start afresh somewhere else and face hardships. Many people die each year in India and all over the world because of droughts.

15. Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your hometown? (When?)

Yes, I remember that during my childhood it used to rain continuously for days and the roads and parks got filled with water. We used to enjoy a lot playing in the rain and in the pools of water. This used to happen during the monsoon season. Now the amount of rainfall has reduced drastically due to climate change.

16. Does rain ever affect transportation in your hometown? (How?)

Yes, sometimes the rain affects the transportation. It is mostly on some roads where the drainage system is not good or when it is blocked. At such times the water logging happens on the roads and the movement of traffic is affected.

17. Do you think the seasons have changed in recent years, compared to the past? (Why? How?)

Yes, I think seasons have changed in the recent years because of global warming and the consequent climate change. The summers last longer and the winters are shorter. Also, the amount of rainfall during the monsoon season has reduced. Sometimes we hardly get any rains during the monsoon season.