

*In your country, when do people usually give gifts?*

In my country, the most important time to give gifts is on birthdays. This is especially true for children, but we often give birthday gifts to adults, too. Another important gift-giving occasion is weddings. If you are invited to a wedding, you have to bring a gift to help the couple start their new life. In everyday life, if you are invited to a special dinner, you might bring a small gift to the host and hostess. If you spend several days at someone's house, you definitely should give a gift to your hosts.

*What kind of gifts do they give?*

The kind of gift depends on the occasion and the people involved. Children, of course, get toys and sometimes clothes. For a wedding, you are supposed to give something for the couple's new home. If you are a close relative or friend, it is expected that you will give something more expensive. You might give a silver dish, for example, or an expensive appliance. For a host and hostess gift, you can give flowers or a bottle of wine or something small for the house. Grandparents and parents often give money to their children for birthdays or weddings. Everyone can give a gift of money for a graduation present.

*Do you agree or disagree: The price of a gift shows how much the giver cares about the recipient.*

I have to say that I disagree. Some people try to make an impression by spending a lot of money, but anybody can spend money. It's not hard to do! I think just the fact of thinking to give someone a gift shows that you care about the person. If you can find a gift that the person really likes, that will show that you really care. But it's hard to do that. I think that's why people buy expensive gifts. It's easier than figuring out exactly what would be the best gift for that particular person.

## GENERAL TRAINING MODEL TEST 1

### Reading

NOTE: apartment/flat

1. (A) This apartment includes parking.
2. (C) This apartment is near the university.
3. (D) This apartment is big enough for a family and is close to elementary and high schools.
4. (B) This apartment has a pool.
5. (C) This apartment is near the bus lines/routes.
6. (E) This flat offers weekly and monthly rentals.
7. (B) This apartment has a party room.
8. (E) This section says that if there are any problems with the coffeemaker a customer can call the free service line.
9. (C) This section demonstrates how to clean the coffeemaker with vinegar.
10. (D) This section contains the warning that one should only pour coffee beans up to the "full" line.
11. (B) This section states that the coffeemaker comes with a built-in timer for convenience.
12. *Eight ounces.* Section A states: "fill the reservoir with eight ounces of water for each cup of coffee."
13. *Once a month.* Section C states: "Monthly cleaning will keep your coffeemaker functioning properly and your coffee tasting fresh."
14. *Any time.* Section E states that the customer service line is open 24 hours a day.
15. iii. *Getting Paid.* This paragraph gives information about paychecks.
16. i. *Vacation and Sick Day Policy.* This paragraph gives information about taking time off from work for annual leave (vacation) and for illness (sick days).