Some people think that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace. Others think that the true function of a university should be to give access to knowledge for its own sake, regardless of whether the course is useful to an employer.

What, in your opinion, should be the main function of a university?

Currently, there has been a general debate over education in terms of what the main function of a university is. Some feel that graduates should be taught basic job-related knowledge and skills in the workplace; still others believe education should not only prepare young people to compete in society but also help them maintain their cultural identity.

Those who claim that necessary knowledge and related skills in the workplace should be served by universities for their graduates may think that campus education has a direct and close link to the employment rate. Assuming that a job opportunity as a high-paid developer in IT companies, like Tecent, Baidu, or Alibaba, for which there are two applicants, called A and B, who want to compete; both of them graduated from top-10 universities with excellent background of computer science and technology while A has been taught more about employable skills in advance. Apparently, chances are high that the company will hire A, not B. Thus, it is better for graduates to get more prepared for the job-related skills when they study at universities.

Aside from the transmission of tradition, knowledge and skills, however, throughout history, organized education has served many other purposes, such as cultural innovation, social integration and placement. In my personal view, I totally agree that universities should provide opportunities for students to have access to knowledge for its own benefits, regardless of whether the course is of practical value to people they will be working under in the future. Take cultural innovation as an example, it is faculties at colleges and universities that create culture as well as pass it onto the students. What’s more, research in sciences, the social sciences, the humanities and the fine arts necessarily leads to discovery and changes in learners’ way of life.

To conclude, universities providing the courses involved in job-related knowledge and skills may be a good way for graduates to become an employer when entering into industries, but it is not the only function of universities. What is more important for organized education is to give access to knowledge and develop various kinds of abilities that benefit one’s career and life.

In some countries, young people are not only richer but also safer and healthier than ever before. However, they are less happy. What do you think are the causes of this? What solutions can you suggest?

Currently, there has been a general debate over the public happiness regarding the fact that huge number of young people in some countries are not happy, though they are rich and spending more healthy and safe life than ever before.

According to my point of view, one of the main reasons for unhappy life of youngsters is that they are not spiritually satisfied, as well as they are not enough mature to handle the difficulties of practical life. This discussion has following two major aspects.

For the majority of young people, happiness seems a long distance thing since hardly can they really liberate themselves from the growing social requirements and shrug off the anxiety in the fast-paced society. Especially in this highly commercialized world which has dramatically changed in terms of the intensity of competition, one must go through before achieving success. In most cases these individuals are dreaming of wealth and fame, or even power, but what will also be inevitable is the tons of stress, uncertainty, insecurity and dissatisfaction.

Psychological factors such as the maturity is another cause for concern, which may also be closely related to the personal happiness. If a teenager or youngster is not enough mature then chances are high that he or she might be negative and complain about different things in his or her life. He or she can also fear to face the difficulty situation of life and give up too early in these scenarios. In worst case, it generally means a dissatisfaction, which lead him to an unhappy life.

Faced with above challenges, it is clear that different places such as schools, offices and other social places provide the great opportunities for the youngsters to improve the psychological health. As activities like quality development is booming in China, which enables them to feel relaxed, love and become positive. In addition, for the self-disciplined youngster, reading, social gathering and physical exercises can also help them to experience the happiness and joy in life.

In conclusion, although the pursuit of happiness is not a simple matter for human beings and it is the fact that large number of people are deprived of happiness and dissatisfaction by the progress of society, I still believe it can be solved by developing individual’s overall mentality and perception of happiness. In contemporary society, it is the time to avail opportunity to stay happy and keep others happy.

2. Some people think personal happiness is closely related to economic success, while others believe that it depends on other factors. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

When it comes to happiness, the overwhelming majority of people would agree with the assertion that personal happiness is closely related to economic success; others, however, believe that it depends on other factors too and that is also my point.

Admittedly, economic success can easily help us to meet materialistic demands. It is universally acknowledged that our daily life is closely related to our earning, in contemporary society, money can buy almost everything that we can think of, including the food, clothes and the shelters or in other words improve the quality of living. What’s more, many parents always want to provide their children with better education in good schools regardless of the fee they have to pay. If they have no money, it is less likely to support their children’s education.

However, personal happiness would not be merely satisfied by money, as far as I am concerned, money can buy medicine, but it cannot buy health. It can be best exemplified by the case of Steven William Hawking, who was one of the greatest physicists around the world. Dr. Hawking would have been someone who has it all, but unfortunately he suffered from disease by the end of 1960s. Although many people and organizations were willing to pay for his medical expense with top end treatment, the modern medical technology still had not salvaged his health. In this sense, Dr. Hawking was deprived of personal happiness by diseases.

My point of view is that although personal happiness is closely related to economic success, there are many factors that are valuable for us to consider. Those strong relationships like health, family bond, friendships, as well as achievement, also help individual to be happy. I believe that, people who feel happy in their life are more likely to be happiness than those people who are only economically strong.

3. Many countries now have people from different cultures and ethnic groups. What is the reason for this? Is it a positive or negative development?

It is a fact that many countries around the world have citizens from different cultures and ethnic groups. As far as I know, it is essentially caused by the progress of history and transmission of different cultures from generation to generation, with both positive and negative development.

An advantage of cultural diversity is to reflect the inclusive development of multiple cultures. It is universally acknowledged that culture is a set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group. It encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs. According to accepting different cultures and ethnic groups, I believe it illustrates a country’s respect to **her** people, which can strongly promote the solidarity of a country in peaceful contemporary society.

Nevertheless, throughout history, a country with multiple cultures and ethnic groups would also be faced with the risk of social and political upheaval, especially when the country is under the poverty and social turmoil. The multi-cultural conflicts sometimes would undermine the public security and economics, or even the country’s national unity and territorial integrity. Personally, I am so proud of my country that I believe in **her** power to cope with the problems of threatened insecurity and huge challenges. Basically, China was one of the earliest centers of human civilization, what’s more important is that it has one of the longest periods of mostly uninterrupted civilization and one of the world’s longest continuously used written languages systems, as well as its cultural diversity and inclusive.

To conclude, although multi-cultural country has threatened by many risks of insecurity and disadvantages throughout history, the benefits of multiple cultures and ethnic groups can outweigh the problems it brings along.

5. Some people think that advertising discourages us from being different individuals, as all people want to do the same and look the same. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

According to the speaker, the main reason why advertising discourages people from being different individuals is that all people want to do the same and look the same. Although I agree insofar as that advertising contributes to let people buy the same products, there are far more factors that make individuals unique, by both nature and nurture. Therefore, the speaker overstates the comparative significance of advertising as a means of economy.

One reason for my fundamental disagreement with the speaker is that about the main function of advertising. As WordNet, a lexical database for English built by Princeton University, explains that, advertising is a public promotion of some products or services, as well as the business of drawing public attention to goods and services. What it means that the main function of advertising is to encourage consumption. It is merely a kind of economic behavior, not for discouraging people from being different individuals. In addition, there are millions of different companies around the world selling various kinds of different products each year, yet billions of people in the world, and everyone has different tastes on these products or services, thus it is impossible to let all people do the same and look the same.

Another reason why I essentially disagree with the speaker is that what I have learned about genetically determined human traits. Many human traits-not just physical ones but psychological ones as well are predetermined at birth. In other words, all people are genetically unique individuals, with respect to both nature and nurture. Although people can wear the same clothes bought from the same company, however, it is hard to change one’s appearance, such as face, stature, as well as the skin color. All of these have been genetically decided since we were born, which is unlikely to be easily changed merely via the influence of advertising.

In conclusion, the speaker’s claim overstates the influence of advertising. The primary purpose of advertising is to stimulate consumption and make profits, not to make people look the same and do the same. Besides, all we are unique individuals in the world, regardless of the inner genes or the outward appearance. Thus I think that although people want to do the same and look the same, advertising cannot discourage them from being different individuals.

6. Some people believe more actions can be done to prevent crime, while others think that little can be done. What is your opinion?

I would prefer the authorities can take more actions to prevent crime in contemporary society instead of doing little, or even nothing for that.

Those who claim that little can be done to prevent crime may think that today’s law system is impeccable. In most countries around the world people are living in safe cities because government and its legislation has regulated how to punish the criminals and law-breakers. Indeed, it seems to me that the crime rate nowadays remains relatively low and laws have enough power to protect citizens’ legal rights as well as prevent crime compared with that in the past.

Nevertheless, from the authorities’ perspective (from the perspective of the authorities), more actions can be done from government to prevent new crimes. It is universally acknowledged that there are many problems involving cyber-crimes such as telecommunication fraud have not been exactly solved. In my personal view, government should accelerate the process of building smart cities and further improve the legislation to adapt this era. Basically, video surveillance cameras are objective witnesses with perfect memories. Thus they can play vital evidentiary role in legal proceedings-such as those involving robbery, drug trafficking, police misconduct, motor vehicle violations, and even misconduct in a hospital operating room. In addition, such technologies of big data analysis and artificial intelligence can be applied to analyze crimes, which can strongly contribute to prevent crime as well.

In conclusion, I would like to say that as new ways are getting evolve for the different crimes, more proper measures must be taken to prevent crimes and great efforts should be made to protect citizens’ legal rights via advanced technologies.