1. Work/Study

1. What subject do you study?

I major in social science. Well, I learned about the role of social media and similar stuff in our society, and I started to re-think our social lives. I think it is a very interesting field.

2.How popular is this subject in your country?

That’s a tough question …… Because some people would say it’s quite popular, and there are a lot of people studying and working in this field. But I feel like its popularity is just mediocre.

3.How important is it to you to study a subject that youlove?

I think it’s very important, I mean, vital for me to study something I like. In this way, I can derive endless power from it and never get bored and want to quit.

1. What work do you do?

I work in social science. Well, it’s about the role of social media and similar stuff in our society, and because of my work, I started to re -think our social lives. I think it is a very interesting field.

2. How easy is it to get this kind of work in your country?

That’s a tough question……Because some people would say it’s quite easy, and there are a lot of people studying and working in this field. But I feel like it requires a rich knowledge background and sometimes the workload is intense.

3. How important is it to you to have work that you enjoy doing?

I think it’s very important, I mean, vital for me to work for something I like. In this way, I can derive endless power from it and never get bored and want to quit.

2. Where do you live

1. How long have you lived in the house or apartment you're living in now?

I feel like I have been living in the house since forever. I live there with my parents, and it really documents all the details of my life, even the very trivial ones.

2. What do you like about this house or apartment?

As I said, it documents my life, so all my memories linger there. For me, the house has already become a family member, and there are so many emotional stuff there.

3.What kind of home would you like to live in in the future?

Wow, I don’t know. I mean, it’s just too hard to say goodbye to my current house. But If I have to choose, I would choose some small houses, not very big, but cozy and comfortable.

1. Sunglasses

1. How often do you wear sunglasses?

I barely do that. I know they can protect us from the harm of the sun, but also, through the sunglasses, the world I see is dark— I mean, the sunglasses deprive all the colors of the world.

2.Would you buy sunglasses for your friends or family?

No, I would not. Just as I said, through the sunglasses, the world would become dark, become boring, and become less vivid. So I don’t think sunglasses are smart choices as a gift.

3. Would you spend lots of money on sunglasses?

Of course, no. I know a lot of people wear very expensive sunglasses, but I just don’t. Sunglasses are something that I can always skimp on.

4. Have you ever lost any sunglasses?

No, I have not. Since I have never possessed any sunglasses, I didn’t get any chance to lose them. Just imagine if I lose a very expensive pair of sunglasses, I guess I will flip out.

1. Money

1. Do you usually like to spend or save money?

I prefer to save money—every penny of it. Sometimes I think I am kind of stingy. But I am just not someone who squanders money.

2. How often do you use a credit card to pay for things?

I only use it while I am traveling overseas. In China, people barely use that, I guess. We use ZhiFuBao or Wechat as the main payment method.

3.Will you use cash more often in the future?

No, I don’t think so. I think electronic payment will dominate our lives in the future. Actually, there are already signs of that. People around me, including me, we barely use cash.

4. What do you think about using apps to pay for things?

I think it’s good, and it’s what is happening around us. It’s like a revolution in the cash-payment world, I mean, cash giving way to electronic payment.

5. Stages in life

1.What did you enjoy most about your childhood?

Wow, I have never been asked about this……if I have to say……I would say: the innocence? I mean, during my childhood, I was kind of naïve, but it was good, never having to worry about a lot of things; it was a simple time.

2. What's the best thing about being the age you are now?

Emmmm……I think it’s the feeling of control. I mean, I can control my life now, I can be the boss of myself. Sometimes it’s kind of terrifying, but generally, it feels good, I can take full responsibility for my life.

3.What do you want to do five years later?

Actually, I don’t know, because there are always a lot of changes and emergencies popping up. But if I can choose, I would like to lose some weight, I mean, become slimmer, that’s always good.

4.How can people remember all the different stages in their lives?

Actually, I don’t think they can. Because there are so many details, and nobody can retain all of them. Generally, I think people just remember the most emotional and important events, because they matter.

6. Famous people

1.Do you enjoy receiving news about famous people?

I think that really depends, depending on who they are. I mean, they may be famous, but my feelings for them sometimes have nothing to do with their fame, right? If I like them, I would like to hear anything about them.

2. Which famous people from your country are often in the news?

Emmmm…I think there are two types. One is politicians, they appear a lot in the news; and the other kind is people in the entertainment field, and sometimes they may be more famous than the politicians.

3.Would you like to be famous in the news?

No, actually I dread that. Fame always comes with a cost. I mean, sometimes the famous people will suffer from a lot of questioning, criticism, and even slander. I don’t want that.

4. Do you believe the things you read about famous people?

Emmmmm…how to say…I guess half-half. I mean, I believe the news is based on some factual evidence, but to some degree, it may have been exaggerated, as well.

7. Feeling bored

1. Do you often feel bored?

No, not really. Actually, since I began my IELTS studying, I didn’t have time to be bored. I couldn’t afford that. I’ve been so occupied.

2 .What sort of things do you find most boring?

As I said before, I have been kind of occupied recently, so I really don’t have the time to be bored. But in the past, I used to find reading a little boring. I used to nod off a lot while reading.

3. What do you do to keep yourself from getting bored?

Actually, I don’t know. But my mother used to say I should always establish a sense of accomplishment, I think that may be the key.

4. Are you bored more easily now than when you were younger?

No, I don’t think so. As I said, my mother taught me to establish a sense of accomplishment, and since I inherited that skill from her, I don’t get bored very easily.

8. Video games

1. Do you play video games?

No, I don’t. I think they are too difficult. I mean, all the buttons, they are really hard to maneuver, and I am really clumsy about that.

2.Would you watch others play video games?

Yes, I would do that. I mean, to play myself can be taxing, but to watch others play is always relaxing, and no pressure. I guess I am a very good audience.

3. Do you think people spend too much time playing video games?

It is true for some people. But generally, I don’t think so. I think nowadays people spend too much time on their phones, browsing videos and all the online chatting.

4. Do you prefer playing video games alone or with others?

As I said, I barely play video games because my skills suck. But if I were good, I would play with others, I guess it might be more exciting to fight in a team.

9. Memory

1. What do you need to remember to do every day?

I think I need to make a TO-DO list every day, you know, to check what I have done, and what to do, and what has been left out. There are so many things I need to do that I need to be fully alert.

2. Have you ever forgotten to do something important?

Yes, I forgot the date of a very important examination and missed it. From then on, I learned my lesson and became very careful about the date.

3.Is it easy to remember to do things?

I think that really depends, depends on how important the things are: if it is vital, you’ve got to remember it; if it is trivial, you can easily forget it.

4.What do you do to help you remember to do things?

I barely use any tabs or notes, so I always go through all the TO-DO list in my mind. I mean, I will establish a mental memo. It works well, even better than the real notes.

10. Crowded places

1. When was the last time you went to a crowded place?

I guess it was last week, I hanged out with my friends and we grabbed a bite. The restaurant was very busy, and a lot of people were waiting inline.

2. Are there many crowded places where you live?

Yes, there are tons of such places. I live in a big city, and a metropolitan city is always famous for its crowded places: shopping malls, restaurants, and even parks.

3.Would you prefer to have a holiday in a crowded place, or a quiet place?

Definitely a quiet place. I mean, I feel suffocated in the big city, and I will do anything to have a holiday somewhere quiet, to escape from the hustle and bustle of the city.

4.Do people in your country often celebrate together?

Yes, I think we do. It seems if we celebrate together, it is going to multiply the joy, and the gathering always goes with beers, chatting, and singing.

1. Advert

1.Do you like to watch adverts on the internet or Tv?

No, I hate them. I think I can speak for a lot of people: we never pause to watch the adverts. I don’t know why……I guess it’s because there are so many of them that we have become immune to them.

2. Do you notice advertising in public places?

Yes, I have to say yes, and I hate it, all the advertisements, I hate them. They are so common. I mean, they are here, they are there, they are ubiquitous. That really drives me crazy.

3. Is there an advert that you remember well from childhood?

Yes, it’s about an electronic book, about how useful it is. I remember it well. But it’s not because I have a good memory, but because the advertisements have been everywhere, they are so common that I have been kind of brainwashed.

4.Would you like to work in advertising industry?

No, I won’t, that’s for sure. It seems all the advertisements are bragging about the products, I don’t like bragging, I am more like a…how to say…down-to-earth person.

12. Sweet things

1.Did you enjoy sweet things when you were a child?

Yes, and I liked ice cream. But it also depends on the seasons. When it was hot in the summer, ice cream could really be the rescue, but when the winter came, I would just steer clear of it.

2.When do people in your country eat special cakes or sweet things?

Emmmm…you got me…if my recollection is right, I think we eat special cakes when there is a celebration. For example, someone’s birthday comes, and we will eat a birthday cake—that’s kind of special.

3.Have you ever made a cake yourself?

Yes, I used to make a lot of cakes. I made them when I was bored, or, how to say, idle. Also, I would make and eat cakes when I was under huge pressure. The rumor has it: eating cakes is good for the pressure.

4.How often do you eat something sweet after a meal?

I really think it depends, depends on whether the desserts are tasty enough, and depends on whether I am on a diet. But currently, I eat desserts a lot after meals, especially when I dine at a fancy restaurant.

13. Colour

1. What is your favourite colour?

I like orange best. It is so bright and makes me feel optimistic. I mean, I feel uplifted every time I see anything in orange.

2.What colour of a car would you like to buy?

Emmmmm…you got me…I love orange, but when it comes to cars, I think I would go for black, I mean, it’s classic, right? So it’s always a safe color.

3.Do you think colour is important when you decide which clothes to buy?

Yes, I think it’s vital. The right color will make you look better, and helps you to fit in the occasion, so I will always pay attention to colors during my purchase.

4. Do any colour have a special meaning in your country?

Yes, and I think the same situation applies to every country and every culture. For example, white stands for “pure” in a lot of cultures, but in China, it also appears in funerals.

14. Singing

1.Do you love singing songs?

Yes, but I just do that at my own place. Because in that way, I can sing more freely, I can sing, I can dance, I can even yell sometimes; it’s cool to be myself.

2.Have you learned to sing any songs when you were a child?

Yes, I have. Actually, singing was a compulsory subject at my school, so basically, everybody had to learn to sing. But of course, some kids were good at it, but some kids suck, and I am one of them.

3.Which singer(s) do you like most?

Actually, I am not a very big fan of any singer. But I am not saying I am not a very good listener, but when it comes to music, I would always concentrate on the songs instead of the singers.

4.Do people in your country often sing songs?

Actually I think that’s really an individual question. But generally, I would say yes, because you know, music, and songs, are a very good way of expressing ourselves, and releasing our emotions.

15. Social media

1. Do your friends and family use social media?

Actually, they use social media as often as I do, and pretty much for the same purpose. It feels like that social media have become entrenched in our lives.

2. When did you start using social media?

I guess it was ten years ago. And I use them every day. I think I am speaking for most young people nowadays in China. It seems social media have already become part of our lives.

3.Do you think you spend too much time on social media?

Emmmm…you got me… I guess I have been increasingly dependent on social media; I mean, I used it a lot in the past, and I use it even more today. But I am not sure whether I spend an excessive amount of time on that.

4.Do you think people in your country find social media useful?

Yes, I think so. Basically, we browse videos on a lot of apps, or platforms, such as Bilibili, and Douyin. And sometimes we upload something as well, I mean, to show our lives.

16. Music

1. Do you like music?

Yes, I like music very much. I think it’s a wordless expression of our emotions. Compared to literature and paintings, music is very subtle but equally effective in conveying our feelings.

2.What kinds of music do you listen to?

I like quiet music, especially some piano pieces or violin pieces. They really provide a respite for me, I mean, from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

3. Is it easy to learn music?

I think that really depends, depending on what level you want to achieve. I mean, it’s one thing that you want to learn the clarinet, but it’s totally another to master the skills of playing the piano.

4. Do you learn music lessons at school?

Yes, all the Chinese students do. But I think the lessons are pretty primary, teaching us to sing and play some simple instruments. We barely get the chance to learn any composing methods or music theories.