

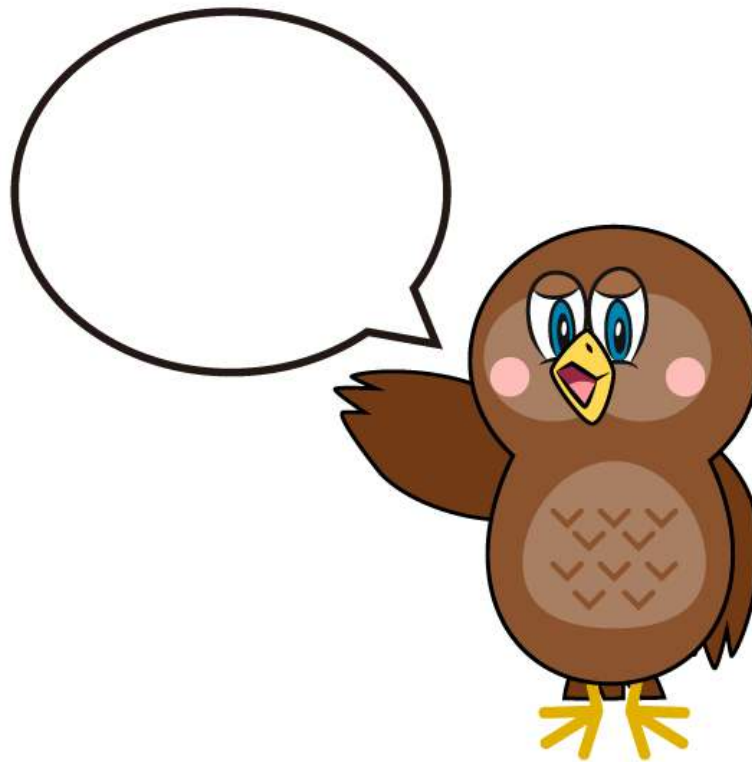


TMU English Test Preparation Speaking

Tiếng anh (Trường Đại học Thương mại)

THUONGMAI UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF ENGLISH



TMU ENGLISH TEST PREPARATION SPEAKING

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SPEAKING OVERVIEW

TEST FORMAT

The speaking consists of 3 parts with content and time stipulated as follows:

Parts	Content	Time	Skills assessed
Part 1: Introduction and Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The examiner asks you general questions on topics related to personal interest, work, hometown, studies and family and so on.	3 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ability to convey ideas and views on daily topics, circumstances or common experiences by answering a range of questions
Part 2: Long turn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A cue card is given to you1 minute is provided for you to prepare for the topic in the cue card and note down points if you wish toYou are supposed to speak on the topic for 1-2 minutes	3 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ability to speak at length on a given topic using appropriate language
Part 3: Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The examiner asks you questions based on the topic given in Part 2	4 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ability to analyze the topic, express views, justify opinion, organize and evaluate ideas

MARKING CRITERIA

Your speaking competence is rated on 4 criteria as follows together with some advice given on how to meet each criterion:

	Fluency & Coherence (FC)	Lexical Resource (LR)	Grammar & Accuracy (GRA)	Pronunciation (P)
How to interpret the criteria	refers to how well you can speak at a normal speed without hesitation and how your sentences and ideas are linked in a logical order	assesses the range of your vocabulary	deals with your knowledge about grammar and how accurately you use it while speaking	points out your ability to speak naturally.

How to meet the criteria	<p>To increase score for FC, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connect your sentences by linking words and sign points • extend your answers, add all the relevant details • speak smoothly and continuously • use pausing correctly 	<p>To increase score for LR, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a wide range of vocabulary • discuss different topics freely, using appropriate words • speak formally or semi-formally • choose words accurately • use idiomatic language 	<p>To increase score for GRA, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid grammatical mistakes • try to use more advanced grammatical structures 	<p>To increase score for P, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pronounce words as clearly as possible • stress words and sentences correctly • use correct intonations • try to be easily understood by the examiner
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** Each of these criteria receives a score from 0 to 10 points. An arithmetic mean is calculated to determine the total score for the speaking test.*

TOPICS FOR SPEAKING TEST

The following topics are to be used in your speaking test:

1 Shopping	6 Holidays	11 Accommodation	16 Towns and cities
2 Weather	7 Work	12 Technology	17 People
3 Music	8 Food	13 Education	18 Social media
4 Clothes and Fashion	9 Sport	14 Advertising	19 Health
5 Books and Films	10 Relationships	15 Environment	20 Business

For each topic, a list of useful vocabulary is suggested. Some sample questions are given, followed by suggested answers. This can be a good reference for students to visualize how you should respond to questions in the exam.

Then, numerous questions are provided for 3 parts so that you can practice answering them for better performance at the speaking test.

TOPIC 1: SHOPPING

VOCABULARY

1. **advertising campaign:** a series of advertisements to persuade people to buy something
2. **big brand names:** large well-known companies or product names
3. **to be careful with money:** to not over-spend
4. **carrier bag:** bags (usually plastic) supplied by shops
5. **customer service:** the degree to which customers are treated well
6. **to get into debt:** to owe money
7. **to give someone the hard sell:** to put pressure on someone to buy something
8. **high street names:** well-known shops
9. **independent stores:** small shops independent of large companies
10. **local shops:** community shops
11. **loyalty card:** a card issued by a shop to allow customers to save money on the basis of what they spend
12. **must-have product:** a product that is very popular that a lot of people want to have
13. **to be on a tight budget:** to have a limited amount of money to spend
14. **to be on commission:** to pay someone in relation to the amount they sell
15. **a pay in cash:** to pay for something using coins or paper money
16. **to pay the full price:** to pay the full amount for something
17. **to pick up a bargain:** to buy something much cheaper than the normal price
18. **to run up a credit card bill:** to owe money on a credit card
19. **to shop around:** to try different shops to find the best deal
20. **shop assistant:** the person who serves customers
21. **to shop until you drop:** to do a lot of shopping
22. **to slash prices:** to reduce prices a great deal
23. **to snap up a bargain:** to buy something quickly that is being sold cheaply
24. **summer sales:** a period in the year when things are sold cheaply
25. **to try something on:** to see if an item of clothing fits or is suitable
26. **to be value for money:** to be worth the cost
27. **window shopping:** to visit a store to look at items without the intention of buying anything

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you often go shopping for personal items?

Student: When I can afford it, yes. My college is in the city centre, and I do a lot of *window shopping*, but being a student, I'm *on a tight budget*, so I have *to be careful with money*.

Examiner: Are there many shops where you live?

Student: We've got a few *local shops* nearby and a few *independent stores* but none of the big *high street names*. I have to go into town for them.

Examiner: Do you enjoy shopping?

Student: It depends. I hate it when the sales are on, and crowds of people all trying to *snap up a bargain*. I find it all a bit stressful. I also get annoyed when *shop assistants* try to *give me the hard sell* when all I want to do is look around.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a time when you bought something for someone.

You should say:

- when this was
- what you bought
- who you bought it for

and say how you felt about buying it for them.

Sample answer:

About four years ago, my husband and I bought a computer for our daughter. She was about to go to university, and we'd promised her we would treat her to one. At the time, there had been a big **advertising campaign** for the latest Apple Macbook, and our daughter was very keen to have one. She kept telling us they were **value for money** even though they seemed very expensive to us. Anyway, we tried **to shop around** to see if we could **pick up a bargain**. This was in the middle of the **summer sales**, and wherever you went, **prices were being slashed** on **big brand names**, but unfortunately, not Apple products. We ended up having **to pay the full price**. I remember my daughter justifying the cost by pointing out how nice the Apple **carrier bag** was, but it was lovely to see her so excited, and the **customer service** she's received during the four years she's had, it has been excellent, so it was value for money after all.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you think we will stop using paper money in the future?

Student: I think it's almost certain. At the moment, it's still possible **to pay in cash**, but I'm sure this will change. The problem is people are more likely **to get into debt** and **run up a credit card bill** when this happens.

Examiner: How do companies encourage consumers to spend their money?

Student: Well, a recent development in my country is something called 'Black Friday' where people are encouraged **to shop until they drop** and buy the latest **must-have products**. Then there are things like **loyalty cards** to get the customer back in the store.

Examiner: What do you think shops need to do to create a positive shopping experience?

Student: The main thing for me is not being pressurized to buy. I appreciate that shop assistants are probably **on commission**, but if I'm looking for clothes for example, I like to take my time, **to try something on** and to ask for help if I need it.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Do you like shopping?
2. What's your favourite shop?
3. Do you prefer shopping alone or with others?
4. What kinds of shops are there where you live?
5. Have you ever bought anything online?
6. Do you like to shop in a regular store or do you change the place you buy frequently?
7. What don't you like about shopping?
8. Who does most of the shopping in your household?
9. What type of shopping do you like?
10. Is shopping a popular activity in your country?

11. Which is the most popular place to shop in your hometown?
12. Do you think men and women have different opinions about shopping?
13. What type of shops do teenagers like best in your country?
14. Have you ever had a bad shopping experience?
15. Which is more important to you, the price of a product, or the quality?

Part 2:

Describe a shopping center you often go to.

You should say:

- where the shopping center is
- how often you go there
- what it looks like

and explain why you often go to this shopping center.

Describe a time you received good service at a shop

You should say

- what goods or services you bought
- who you were with when you were served
- why you went there

and explain why you think their service was good

Describe a shop recently opened in your hometown

You should say

- what it sells
- where it is
- what kinds of people like to shop there

and explain how you feel about having it opened there.

Part 3:

1. Will smaller shops survive in the current business system?
2. What is the trend of future shopping centers?
3. How have shopping habits changed over recent years?
4. Do you think shopping habits are likely to change in the future?
5. To what extent do you think advertising affects the way people shop?
6. Do you think young people feel the same about shopping at markets as older people?
Why is that?
7. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of buying things from shops rather than markets?
8. What are some of the various ways that people buy things?
9. Can you explain why online shopping is so popular today?
10. Do you think online shopping will replace shopping in real shops?
11. Do you think people spend too much time on shopping?
12. Do you think there is a relationship between the brand of a product and its quality?
13. Do you think expensive products are always high in quality?
14. Can you explain why some places offer lower prices than other places?
15. How can people find out the lowest prices for goods?

TOPIC 2: WEATHER

VOCABULARY

1. **to be below freezing:** below zero degrees Celsius
2. **bitterly cold:** very cold and unpleasant
3. **a blanket of snow:** a complete covering of snow
4. **boiling hot:** very hot (informal)
5. **changeable:** weather that often changes
6. **a change in the weather:** when weather conditions change
7. **clear blue skies:** a sky without clouds
8. **to clear up:** when clouds or rain disappear
9. **to come out (the sun):** when the sun appears out of a cloudy sky
10. **a cold spell:** a short period of cold weather
11. **to dress up warm:** to wear warm clothes to protect yourself against wintry conditions
12. **a drop of rain:** a little bit of rain
13. **a flash flood:** a sudden and severe flood
14. **freezing cold:** very cold (informal)
15. **to get caught in the rain:** to be outside when it rains unexpectedly
16. **to get drenched:** to get very wet
17. **heatstroke:** a serious condition caused by being too long in hot weather
18. **a heatwave:** a period of very hot weather
19. **heavy rain:** intense rainfall
20. **long-range forecast:** the weather forecast for several days or weeks ahead
21. **mild climate:** a climate without extreme weather conditions
22. **mild winter:** a winter that isn't particularly cold
23. **not a cloud in the sky:** see 'clear blue skies' above
24. **to pour down:** to rain heavily
25. **to be rained off:** to be cancelled or postponed due to poor weather
26. **sunny spells:** short periods of sunny weather
27. **thick fog:** a dense fog that makes visibility very poor
28. **torrential rain:** see 'heavy rain' above
29. **tropical storm:** a storm typical of ones that you find in tropical climates
30. **weather forecast:** a TV/radio programme or section in a newspaper/magazine which predicts weather conditions

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What's the weather like in your country?

Student: It's quite **changeable** really. We have periods of time with **clear blue skies**, then all of a sudden, we'll have **torrential rain**.

Examiner: Which months have the best weather in your country?

Student: Well, I suppose it's a matter of personal taste really. I like it around the end of October and November. I'm not fond of the **heatwaves** we often get during the summer. It's not **freezing cold** during these months, and we still get lots of **sunny spells**.

Examiner: Does it bother you much when it rains?

Student: It depends. If I **get caught in the rain** and I **get drenched**, I don't like it, but I'm a gardener, so **a drop of rain** is good for my plants.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a time when you experienced extreme weather conditions.

You should say:

- when this was
- where you were
- what the weather was like

and say how you felt about the experience.

Sample answer:

I was studying English in a language school a few years ago. We were in Cornwall in the UK. We'd been enjoying lovely sunny days, **not a cloud in the sky**, when all of a sudden, there was **a change in the weather**. We were in town walking around the shops when it started to **pour down**. I'd never seen such **heavy rain** before. Within about 10 minutes, the roads were full of water. I think they call it a **flash flood**. It was like being in the middle of a **tropical storm**. The water was almost up to my knees. The **weather forecast** hadn't predicted it, so everyone was taken by surprise. I'm not sure you could call it 'extreme' weather as a few hours later it started **to clear up**. **The sun came out**, and slowly the water level went down. However, a lot of people's houses were flooded, so it would have been extreme for them. I found it all quite exciting. In my country, we generally have a very **mild climate** and don't often get floods like this, so it was quite an experience for me.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: **Do you think the weather affects how people feel?**

Student: Absolutely yes. I don't mind the occasional **cold spell**, but I think the winter months can make you feel down. I hate having to leave the house in the winter. There's often a **thick fog** every morning, and we sometimes get **bitterly cold** winds. The winter certainly makes me feel a little depressed though having said that it's always nice to see the town covered in a **blanket of snow**.

Examiner: **Do you think the weather is changing due to global warming?**

Student: I don't know if it's due to global warming or not, but the weather in my country is certainly changing. We've been getting quite **mild winters** lately. The temperatures are sometimes **below freezing** but only occasionally, and then during the summer, it can get **boiling hot** with a lot of older people even suffering from **heatstroke**.

Examiner: **In which ways are weather forecasts useful?**

Student: Well, if you're planning a trip or going on holiday, it's important to know whether you'll need to **dress up warm** or take an umbrella. Farmers need to know what the **long-range forecast** is, so they can plan their work. I suppose people who organize outside events need to know as well in case things get **rained off**.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. What's the weather like today?
2. What's your favorite weather?
3. Do you like the weather in your country?
4. What do you like to do when it's hot?

5. What's your favorite season of the year?
6. What do you usually do in the winter?
7. How many seasons does your country have?
8. Does the weather ever affect the way you feel?
9. How do rainy days make you feel?
10. What do people often do when it's rainy/ sunny?
11. Does it rain much in your country? (Where? When?)
12. Is there any part of your country where it doesn't rain much?
13. In what month/season does it rain most in your hometown?
14. Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your country?

Part 2:

Describe a bad weather experience you have had.

You should say:

- what sort of bad weather it was
- when it happened
- where you were when it happened

and explain how it affected you.

Talk about something you like to do when the weather is hot or warmer than usual.

You should say:

- where you do it
- why you do it when the weather is hot
- when you first started doing that thing

and say if you think people like doing it in other countries or not, and why.

Describe a time the weather changed your plan.

You should say:

- when this happened.
- where you were.
- what kind of weather it was

and explain why you couldn't finish what you did at the end.

Part 3:

1. Where can people get weather reports?
2. How can weather reports affect people's life?
3. Has climate change affected your country?
4. Does the weather in your country ever affect transportation?
5. What do you think are the reasons for climate change?

TOPIC 3: MUSIC

VOCABULARY

1. **adoring fans**: people who love a particular band or singer
2. **background music**: music that is played while something else is happening
3. **a catchy tune**: a song that is easy to remember and makes you want to sing it
4. **classical music**: music that is regarded as part of a long, formal tradition
5. **to download tracks**: to obtain music from the Internet
6. **to have a great voice**: to sing well
7. **to go on tour**: to go on a planned series of performances around a region or country
8. **a huge following**: a large number of fans
9. **live music**: music that is listened to while it is performed (not recorded)
10. **live performance**: (see live music)
11. **a massive hit**: a record that sells lots of copies
12. **a music festival**: music performances at a venue often over several days
13. **musical talent**: skilled at music
14. **to be/sing out of tune**: to not be in harmony/to sing the wrong notes
15. **a piece of music**: an item of music
16. **to play by ear**: to play without reading the musical notes
17. **a pop group**: a small group of people who play or sing pop music together
18. **to read music**: to understand and follow written musical notes
19. **a rock band**: a group of musicians that play rock music
20. **to sing along to**: to join in singing
21. **a sing-song**: to sing informally, often with other people
22. **a slow number**: a song with a slow tempo
23. **to take up a musical instrument**: to begin learning a musical instrument
24. **taste in music**: the music someone likes
25. **to be tone deaf**: to be unable to distinguish the different notes in music

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What kind of music do you listen to?

Student: I'm a big fan of **classical music**. It doesn't make me very popular with my children. Their **taste in music** is completely different. They always want to listen to their favorite **rock bands**.

Examiner: Have you got any hobbies or interests?

Student: I'm really into **live music**. I go to a lot of **music festivals**. I think a **live performance** always sounds more exciting than a recorded version as long as the performers can sing and play well of course.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a song you like to listen to.

You should say:

- where the piece of music is called
- how long you have liked it
- when you like to listen to it

and say why you like it so much.

Sample answer:

Well, I'm a little older than most students, and when I was young, Abba, the Swedish *pop group*, were very famous. I don't think it was cool to like them even though they had a *huge following*, but I think now people have realised what wonderful songs they wrote. One *piece of music* is called 'Slipping through my fingers'. It wasn't a *massive hit*, but I love it. It's a song for parents, and it's all about how quickly our children grow up. It's a *slow number*, and like a lot of their songs, it's a very *catchy tune*. The two women in Abba had great voices, and it's the kind of music you can also *sing along to* easily even if you don't have a great voice. I listen to Abba when I feel like a *singsong*, and I especially like to listen when I'm doing the housework. It stops me thinking about the hard work.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: **Is the Internet a good or bad thing for the music industry?**

Student: On the one hand, it's good for marketing new *musical talent* or particular bands, but it's so easy to share and *download tracks* for free. I think it is costing the industry a lot of money.

Examiner: **Should music be treated as seriously as subjects like maths or sciences at school?**

Student: I think it should. I don't think it should be taught in a boring way, I mean, making children *read music*, but I do think they should be encouraged to play instruments and to *play things by ear* perhaps to keep the lessons fun.

Examiner: **Where do people usually enjoy listening to music?**

Student: In lots of ways or places, such as *background music* when they are doing something else, at concerts when a band *goes on tour*, or in clubs or discos.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**Part 1:**

1. Do you like music?
2. What's your favourite type of music?
3. Are your music tastes varied?
4. Has your music taste changed?
5. Can you sing?
6. Do you like to sing along to your favourite songs?
7. Did you learn music at school?
8. Did you enjoy music lessons when you were at school?
9. Do children have to learn to play a musical instrument at school in your country?
10. What do you think is the best age to start to learn to play a musical instrument?
11. What do you think would be the most difficult musical instrument to learn to play?
12. Are you learning a musical instrument at the moment?
13. If you could learn a musical instrument, what would it be?
14. Do you think it's important for children to learn to play a musical instrument?
15. Do you think music is important?
16. Is live music popular in your country?
17. Which musical instrument do you like listening to most?
18. Are there any musical instruments you don't like listening to?
19. How easy would it be to learn to play an instrument without a teacher?

Part 2:

Describe a musical event in your country.

You should say:

- what the event it is
- where it takes place
- what kind of music is played

and explain why you enjoy it.

Describe a song that means something special to you.

You should say:

- what it is about.
- when you heard it for the first time.
- how often you listen to it.

and explain why it is special to you.

Tell me about your favorite music band.

You should say:

- what it is and why you like it
- how people react to the music of this band
- when you first heard their songs

and explain why you love this band.

Part 3:

1. What kind of music is popular in your country?
2. At what age can people go clubbing in your country? (Is that the right age limit?)
3. What do old people like to listen to?
4. Do you think it is possible to judge someone's personality from their taste in music?
5. Do you think it is true that anyone can sing with the right training?
6. Do you think pop stars can be a bad influence on young people?
7. Do you think that allowing more buskers in this city is a good idea?
8. How could the government help domestic musicians become more popular overseas? Do you think it is important for the government to do so?
9. How does pop music now compare to when you were growing up?
10. How important is it to learn how to play music when you are young?
11. How much does the internet influence how people listen to music?
12. Is foreign music or music from your country more popular with people your age?
13. Is there any future for CDs, do you think? How long might they still be around?
14. Recently many singers and groups have first become famous through television talent shows. What do you think about this?
15. What do you think about illegal downloading of music? What should be done about it?
16. What would the advantages and disadvantages of being stricter about illegal downloading of music be?
17. What do you think about music education in your country? How could it be improved?
18. What are prospects of music career in your country?

TOPIC 4: CLOTHES & FASHION

VOCABULARY

1. **to be in trend:** to be fashionable
2. **casual clothes:** not formal
3. **classic style:** a simple, traditional style that is always fashionable
4. **designer label:** a well-known company that makes (often expensive) clothing
5. **dressed to kill:** wearing clothes that attract admirers
6. **to dress for the occasion:** to wear clothes suitable for a particular event
7. **fashionable:** in fashion
8. **fashion house:** a company that sells (usually expensive) new styles in clothes
9. **fashion icon:** a person who is famous for their sense of fashion
10. **fashion show:** an event where models show off the latest in fashion designs
11. **to get dressed up:** to put on nice clothes, often to go out somewhere special
12. **to go out of fashion:** to not be in fashion any more
13. **hand-me-downs:** clothes that are passed down from older brothers or sisters to their younger siblings
14. **to have an eye for (fashion):** to be a good judge of
15. **to have a sense of style:** the ability to wear clothes that look stylish
16. **the height of fashion:** very fashionable
17. **to keep up with the latest fashion:** to wear the latest fashions
18. **to look good in:** to wear something that suits you
19. **to mix and match:** to wear different styles or items of clothing that aren't part of a set outfit
20. **must-have:** something that is highly fashionable and therefore in demand
21. **off the peg:** clothing that is ready made
22. **old fashioned:** not in fashion any more
23. **on the catwalk:** the stage that models walk along to show off the latest fashions
24. **a slave to fashion:** someone who always feels the need to wear the latest fashions
25. **smart clothes:** the kind of clothes worn for a formal event
26. **to suit someone:** to look good on someone
27. **to take pride in one's appearance:** to pay attention to how one looks
28. **timeless:** something that doesn't go out of fashion
29. **vintage clothes:** clothes from an earlier period
30. **well-dressed:** to be dressed attractively

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you enjoy buying clothes?

Student: I used to ... yes ... like most young people, I was a bit of a *slave to fashion*, and I'd always have to buy that *must-have* shirt or pair of shoes. I'm not so bothered now though I wouldn't feel comfortable wearing something *old-fashioned* but I'm not as bothered as I used to be about what I wear.

Examiner: What kind of clothes do you like to wear?

Student: I prefer *casual clothes*. Actually, I hate *getting dressed up* for special occasions. Personally, I think it's possible to *look good in* a pair of jeans but that's my opinion, I don't think my wife would call me a *fashion icon*. That's for sure.

Examiner: Are there many clothes shops where you live?

Student: Yes, there are lots in my town. Apart from the big chain stores, we've got a couple of really nice shops that sell *vintage clothes*, I mean old clothes but in a *classic style* that never really *go out of fashion*. I love going there.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe someone you know who dresses well.

You should say:

- who they are
- how you know them
- what kind of clothes they wear

and say why you like the way they dress.

Sample answer:

I'd like to talk about one of my teachers, Miss Evans. She teaches us English in my school. We always look forward to seeing what she's going to wear when our lessons start. She's always very *well-dressed* and *takes a lot of pride in her appearance*. It's not that she dresses in very *smart clothes*. She doesn't come to school *dressed to kill* or anything like that but what she wears really *suits her* and she has a great *sense of style* as well. We often ask her where she gets some of her clothes and most of the time they're just *off the peg* and she says she's not interested in *designer labels* or anything like that. She doesn't seem too concerned about *keeping up with the latest fashion*, she just wears clothes that are *timeless*. Yes, Miss Evans is the person I think looks great in the clothes she wears.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What factors do you think affect the clothes we choose to wear?

Student: It depends. Where we are or where we're going is a big factor. If you are going out to a club or party you're going *to dress for the occasion* and then there are those who think it's important to look like they're *on trend*. They'll want to wear the latest fashions. There are lots of factors really.

Examiner: What kind of things determine what is in fashion and what we should be wearing?

Student: I suppose the big *fashion houses* and *fashion shows* must have an effect but the clothes you see *on the catwalk* don't always reflect what normal people wear. So I suppose it will be things like what singers are wearing in videos or models are wearing in magazines. That kind of thing ...

Examiner: Is it possible to look good without spending lots of money on clothes?

Student: I'm sure it is ... yes ... I suppose it's about *having an eye for* what looks good, knowing how *to mix and match* different items of clothing that go well together. I think you can pick up great bargains in charity shops, sometimes for youngsters even *hand-me-downs* can look good.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Are clothes important to you?
2. What kinds of clothes do you usually wear?
3. Do you ever wear the traditional clothes of your country?
4. Where do you usually buy your clothes?
5. How important is fashion to you?

6. What kind of clothes do you dislike?
7. Have you ever worn a uniform?
8. Do most people in your country follow fashion?
9. What kind of clothes do people in your country usually wear?
10. Are clothes expensive in your country?
11. What kind of clothes do people wear to work in your country?
12. What do you think of catwalk fashion? Can you wear the same clothes as the models?
13. Do you have your own fashion or follow the crowds?
14. Could you date someone who was a terrible sense of fashion?
15. What area of fashion interests you most-clothes, hair, cosmetics, shoes, accessories, etc?
16. Do you always recycle your old clothes or give them to charity?

Part 2:

Describe an item of clothing that you often wear.

You should say:

- what it looks like
- when and how you got it
- when you wear it

and say how it compares to other clothes you have.

Describe a piece of clothes that was given to you by someone.

You should say:

- what the piece of clothes was like
- when you received it
- who gave it to you

and explain how you feel about it.

Part 3:

1. What do clothes tell people about our personalities?
2. Why do people spend lots of money on clothes?
3. Who decides which clothes are fashionable?
4. Do you think children need to wear school uniforms?
5. Where do Vietnamese people buy clothes?
6. Do you think people behave differently in different kinds of clothes?
7. Do you think we can learn about a person from the clothes they are wearing?

TOPIC 5: BOOKS & FILMS

VOCABULARY

1. **an action movie**: a film with fast moving scenes, often containing violence
2. **to be engrossed in**: to be completely focused on one thing
3. **bedtime reading**: something to read in bed before you go to sleep
4. **to be a big reader**: someone who reads a lot
5. **to be based on**: to use as a model
6. **a box office hit**: a financially successful film
7. **to be heavy-going**: difficult to read
8. **a blockbuster**: a film that is a big commercial success
9. **to catch the latest movie**: to see a film that has just come out
10. **the central character**: the main person in a film or book
11. **a classic**: of the highest quality
12. **to come highly recommended**: to be praised by another person
13. **couldn't put it down**: wasn't able to stop reading a book
14. **an e-book**: a digital book
15. **an e-reader**: a device for reading e-books
16. **to flick through**: to look quickly through a book
17. **to get a good/bad review**: to receive positive or negative feedback
18. **to go on general release**: when a film can be seen by the general public
19. **hardback**: a book with a rigid cover (see 'paperback' below)
20. **a historical novel**: a story set in the past
21. **a low budget film**: a film made with a small amount of money
22. **on the big screen**: at the cinema
23. **a page turner**: a book that you want to keep reading
24. **paperback**: a book with a flexible cover (see 'hardback' above)
25. **plot**: the main events in a film or book
26. **to read something from cover to cover**: to read a book from the first page to the last
27. **sci-fi**: science fiction
28. **to see a film**: to see a film at the cinema (see 'watch a film' below)
29. **the setting**: where the action takes place
30. **showings**: performances of a film
31. **soundtrack**: the music that accompanies a film
32. **special effects**: the visuals or sounds that are added to a film which are difficult to produce naturally
33. **to take out (a book from the library)**: to borrow a book from the library
34. **to tell the story of**: to outline the details of someone's life or an event
35. **to watch a film**: to watch a film on TV (see 'to see a film' above)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you like to read books?

Student: Yes, I love reading. I like nothing more than *to be engrossed in* a good book. I regularly take out books from the library and usually read them *from cover to cover* in no time, and I can't go to sleep at night without some good *bedtime reading*.

Examiner: How often do you go to the cinema?

Student: Unfortunately, we don't have a cinema near us, so we have to go into the nearest town **to catch the latest movie**. I usually avoid seeing popular **box-office hits** which I'm not always keen on seeing. I prefer **low-budget films**, **sci-fi** especially, and there's a great cinema I go to that has frequent **showings** of films like these.

Examiner: **Do you prefer reading books or watching films?**

Student: I'm not really a **big reader**. I find books quite **heavy-going**, so I much prefer to see a film. Perhaps, it's the **special effects** or the **soundtrack**, I don't know. I just prefer a film.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a book you have read or a film you have seen.

You should say:

- what this book or film was
 - when you read or saw it
 - why you decided to see the film or read the book
- and say if you enjoyed it and why.

Sample answer:

I like reading, especially English novels. It's a great way to improve your vocabulary and there are so many fantastic authors to choose from. One book that **came highly recommended** by my teacher was *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. I was studying at a school in the UK at the time, and she said it would give me a picture of what life was like years ago in the area I was living. Well, I have to say I absolutely loved it. It was **a real page-turner**. It's a **historical novel** and the **setting** was a fictional town called Casterbridge, but actually it was **based on** a town near where I was studying called Dorchester. It had such a great **plot**. To cut a long story short, it **tells the story of** the downfall of a man called Henchard, **the central character**, who lives during a period of great social change around the time of the industrial revolution. The reason I enjoyed it so much, apart from the great story, is that it gave me a picture of what life had been like in the place I was studying at the time. I really **couldn't put it down**. It's such a fantastic story.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: **Is reading as pleasurable in digital format?**

Student: Personally, I prefer reading a **paperback** or **hardback**, especially if I'm reading a classic which I don't think feels right as an **e-book**, but I can see it can be good for others. My grandmother has an **e-reader**, and she loves the way you can enlarge the text.

Examiner: **Do you think bookshops will survive the digital revolution?**

Student: I think so, at least I hope so. I love **flicking through** books in a bookshop. Online shopping is useful as I can find out on Amazon if a book you want has **got a good review** or I can get one that is difficult to find, but I still love the experience of being in a bookshop.

Examiner: **Statistics show that visits to the cinema are up despite the availability of DVDs and online downloads. Why do you think this might be?**

Student: I think it's the whole experience that the cinema offers. Going out **to see a film** when it **goes on general release** and seeing it **on the big screen** is more exciting than **watching the film** at home on TV, especially if it's an **action movie**. And watching it with others makes it even more special.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

BOOKS

1. Do you often read books or magazines?
2. What is your favourite kind of books to read?
3. How often do you read books?
4. Do you have any e-books?
5. What books did you read as a child?
6. Name some of the famous writers of your country?
7. Have you ever thought about writing a book?

FILMS

1. Do you enjoy watching movies?
2. What's your favourite film?
3. What kinds of films do you like most?
4. Who are your favourite actors?
5. How often do you watch films?
6. How often do you go to the cinema?
7. What type of films don't you like?
8. Do you prefer watching films at home or going to the cinema?
9. Do people in your country love watching movies?

Part 2:

Describe a book that had a major influence on you.

You should say:

- what the name of the book is and who the author is
- how you first heard of the book
- what the main story of the book is

and explain why it played such an important role in your life.

Describe a movie that you have never seen but would like to see.

You should say:

- what kind of movie it is
- how famous it is
- why you want to see it

and say if you think you will see that movie in the near future or not, and why.

Part 3:

1. How can books impact on a man's life?
2. Which do you think has more educational value, reading or watching TV?
3. Is reading a popular leisure activity in your country?
4. What kinds of books are considered good reads in your opinion?
5. Do you think that people read nowadays as they did in the past?
6. Do you regard famous writers as good role models?
7. If a movie is based on a book, would you prefer to read the book or to watch the film? Why?
8. How does our reading habit change as we grow up? Why does it happen?

9. What kinds of book are most popular with children in your country?
10. Why do you think some children do not read books very often?
11. How do you think children can be encouraged to read more?
12. Are there any occasions when reading at speed is a useful skill to have?
13. Are there any jobs where people need to read a lot?
14. Do people in your country like to read?
15. Do young and old people like to read the same books?
16. What kinds of books are most popular in your country?
17. Compare reading habits today to those of the past.
18. How do you think reading habits will change in the future?
19. Do you think it's a good idea to teach children to read when they are very young?
20. What do children like to read?
21. Do parents read stories to their children in your country? How do you think these stories influence children?
22. Why do you think people sometimes idealize characters in stories?
23. Is movie a developed industry in your country?
24. What's the difference between the movies of your country and Hollywood movies?
25. What do you think of the violent films?
26. Why movies need computer techniques? Any example of movies using computer techniques?
27. Which parts of a movie are the most important and how to improve it?
28. Why do different people love different kinds of movies?
29. Some people argue that it is necessary to ban violent movies on TV as they might harm children. Do you agree with this opinion?
30. Do you think that it is necessary to censor every film shown on TV?

TOPIC 6: HOLIDAYS

VOCABULARY

1. **all-in package/package holiday**: a holiday where you purchase the travel and accommodation together
2. **breath-taking view**: an extremely beautiful view
3. **charter-flight**: a cheaper form of flying than a scheduled flight
4. **check-in desk**: the place at the airport where you register for your flight and deposit your luggage
5. **departure lounge**: where you wait for your flight to be called
6. **far-off destination**: somewhere a long way away
7. **to get away from it all**: to take a holiday to escape a busy or stressful lifestyle
8. **guided tour**: an organised group shown around a place of interest by an expert
9. **holiday brochure**: a glossy publication with details of holiday packages
10. **holiday destination**: where you go for a holiday
11. **holiday of a lifetime**: a special holiday that you are unlikely to repeat
12. **holiday resort**: a place where lots of people go for a holiday
13. **hordes of tourists**: crowds of tourists
14. **local crafts**: objects produced locally
15. **long weekend**: an extended weekend holiday including Friday or Monday
16. **out of season**: outside of the main holiday period
17. **picturesque village**: very pretty village
18. **passport control**: the place where your passport is checked
19. **places of interest**: sites of interest to tourists
20. **wildlife safari**: a holiday, often in Africa, to observe wild animals
21. **self-catering**: a holiday where you supply your own food
22. **short break**: a short holiday
23. **to go sightseeing**: to look around the tourist sites
24. **stunning landscape**: extremely beautiful countryside
25. **travel agent**: a shop that specialises in booking holidays
26. **tourist trap**: somewhere where too many tourists go
27. **youth hostel**: a cheap form of accommodation

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What kind of holiday do you like?

Student: I try to avoid tourist traps; I like to **get away from it all** and prefer going somewhere *off the beaten track*; last year I had *the holiday of a lifetime*; a two-week *wildlife safari* in Kenya.

Examiner: What do you like to do when you're on holiday?

Student: I enjoy visiting the local *places of interest*; I like *to go sightseeing* and always sign up for *guided tours* as it's a chance to be shown around and take photographs; one of my hobbies.

Examiner: Do you have many tourists in your country?

Student: Yes; we have a lot of *holiday resorts* along the coast that are popular with tourists; most people come on *package holidays* and stay in one of the many hotels and *self-catering* apartments.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a beautiful place you once visited.

You should say:

- when you went to this place
- where it was
- who you went with

and say why you liked it so much.

Sample answer:

A few years ago I went on a **long weekend** to the Lake District in the UK; it's a very popular **holiday destination** in the north of England; I went on my own and had a wonderful time; I stayed in a **youth hostel** and met some really nice people; but the most memorable thing about the holiday were the **breath-taking views**; and lovely **picturesque villages**; it can get very busy with **hordes of tourists** so I decided **to go out of season** in the autumn ; the weather was fantastic and the shops were full of **local crafts**; a really great holiday; it's certainly not the kind of **short break** for someone looking for a busy nightlife but if you want to relax in the middle of **stunning landscape** I would certainly recommend a holiday to the Lake District.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What do you think has led to the growth in the tourism industry?

Student: It's much easier and affordable to travel now; nowadays you can get cheap **charter-flights** or **all-in packages**; to somewhere near or to a **far-off destination**.

Examiner: How do people tend to choose a destination?

Student: The Internet is a great source of information and high street **travel agents** are still very popular; that's where I like to go to get **holiday brochures** for the place I'm interested in.

Examiner: People sometimes say flying is the most glamorous form of travel. Do you agree?

Student: I'm not so sure really; flying can be quite boring; queuing up at the **check-in desk**; going through **passport control**; sitting for ages in the **departure lounge**; then the flight itself can be quite uncomfortable; no; I'm not sure I agree.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Do you like to travel?
2. What kind of places have you visited in your life?
3. What's the best place you've ever visited?
4. How easy is it to travel in your country?
5. Are there any parts of your country that are difficult to travel to?
6. Do you like to travel on your own or with your family?
7. Do you like visit popular places or less-known places?
8. Do you prefer short trips or long trips?
9. What type of places do you recommend people to visit on vacation?
10. What places do you want to visit in the future? Why?
11. What are the major tourist attractions in your country?
12. Why do people need to travel every day?
13. What do you think people can learn from travelling to other countries? Why?
14. Are there any special places to visit in Vietnam?
15. Do Vietnamese people like to travel abroad?

16. What kinds of problems would people have to face when travelling on long trips?
17. What experience do you have of travelling to other countries?
18. Which country would you especially like to visit? Why?
19. What are the best ways to get to know a country?
20. What are the biggest cultural differences between your country and English-speaking countries?

Part 2:

Describe a country you would like to visit in the future.

You should say:

- where the country is
- when you will go there
- why you would like to go there

and explain why this is a good country to visit.

Describe a place that has a special meaning to you.

You should say:

- what kind of place it is
- where it is
- what it looks like

and explain why you particularly like the place.

Describe a place where you often go on your days off.

You should say:

- where it is
- who you go with
- why you go there

and say how it compares to other places where you could spend your free time.

Describe a quiet place you visited.

You should say:

- where it was
- when you went there
- what you did there

and explain how you felt about visiting that place.

Describe a short vacation that you were impressed by.

You should say:

- When and where you went for it
- Who you went with
- What you did

and explain why it was an impressive vacation.

Part 3:

1. What are the good and bad things about travelling?
2. What is the importance of traveling?

3. Say something about the tourism development in your country, facility, services and the effect on the environment.
4. What is the importance of travel and tourism industry?
5. What do you think about the roles of tourist guides?
6. What steps should the Government take to make the Tourism more attractive to foreigners?
7. Is travel an education?
8. What are the pros and cons of travelling first class and backpacking?
9. Is tourism something that only rich people take part in?
10. How important is tourism to your country?
11. What is eco-tourism? Do you think it's a good idea?
12. What problems can people have when they are on their daily journey, for example to work or school? Why is this?
13. Some people say that daily journeys like these will not be so common in the future. Do you agree or disagree?
14. Can travel make a positive difference to the economy of a country? How?
15. Do you think a society can benefit if its members have experience of travelling to other countries? In what ways?
16. In many countries, there has been a large-scale migration from the countryside to the cities. Do you think this positive or negative?
17. Do you think that the possibility of working from home via the internet will lead to many people going back to the countryside?

TOPIC 7: WORK

VOCABULARY

1. **to be called for an interview:** to be invited to attend an interview
2. **to be your own boss:** to have your own business
3. **a dead-end job:** a job with no promotional opportunities
4. **to do a job-share:** to share the weekly hours of work with another person
5. **a good team player:** somebody who can work well with other people
6. **full-time:** the number of hours that people usually work in a complete week
7. **a heavy workload:** to have a lot of work to do
8. **a high-powered job:** an important or powerful job
9. **holiday entitlement:** the number of days holiday allowed
10. **job satisfaction:** the feeling of enjoying a job
11. **manual work:** work that requires physical activity
12. **maternity leave:** time off work given to a woman about to have a baby
13. **to meet a deadline:** to finish a job by an agreed time
14. **a nine-to-five job:** a normal job that consists of an 8 hour day (approximately)
15. **one of the perks of the job:** an extra benefit you get from a job
16. **part-time:** working less than full-time
17. **to run your own business:** see 'to be your own boss'
18. **to be self-employed:** see 'to be your own boss'
19. **sick leave:** time allowed off work when sick
20. **to be stuck behind a desk:** to be unhappy in an office job
21. **to be/get stuck in a rut:** to be in a boring job that is hard to leave
22. **to take early retirement:** to retire early (retire: to reach an age when you are allowed to stop working for a living)
23. **temporary work:** work done for a limited time only
24. **voluntary work:** to work without pay
25. **to be well paid:** to earn a good salary
26. **working conditions:** the hours, salary and other entitlements that comes with the job
27. **to work with your hands:** to do manual work

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What do you do?

Student: I **do a job-share** with a friend in a boutique. I enjoy it. I like working with customers. Unfortunately, it's only **temporary work**, but **one of the perks of the job** is I get a discount on the clothes.

Examiner: Do you have any career plans yet?

Student: Yes, I'd like to **be my own boss** one day. I'm interested in programming and I'd like to create apps for myself or for other companies. I know being **self-employed** would be a challenge, but the idea of doing **a nine-to-five job** doesn't appeal to me at all.

Examiner: What do you see yourself doing in 10 years' time?

Student: I'd hope to be working, not **a high-powered job**, but I'm quite a creative person, so something where I can **work with my hands** would be nice. As long as I'm not **stuck behind a desk** doing something boring **in a dead-end job**, I'll be happy.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe your ideal job.

You should say:

- what this job is
- whether you would need any qualifications
- whether it would be easy to find work

and say why you would enjoy this job in particular.

Sample answer:

I've always loved watching wildlife programmes on TV and often thought how much I'd enjoy working with animals, perhaps in a safari park, something like that. You'd probably need a degree to have any chance of being *called for an interview*, and whether there are many *full-time jobs*, I don't know, I'm sure a lot of parks rely on *voluntary work*, so it might not be easy. And it probably wouldn't be *well-paid* either, but money isn't everything as I'd get so much job satisfaction. I can't imagine it being the kind of job where you get *stuck in a rut*. And I think I'd be good at it as well. I'd love to work with animals. I enjoy *manual work*, and I'm *a good team player*, so even though the *working conditions* might not be the best I think that would be my ideal job.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: If there are a limited number of jobs available who should be given priority, young people or older people with more experience?

Student: Things are so different these days. A few years ago, older employees would often *take early retirement* or go onto *part-time* contracts, and there were always opportunities for younger people. But now jobs are so scarce. I think younger people need to be given the chance whenever possible.

Examiner: What are some of the important things a candidate should find out before accepting a job?

Student: Well, you'd need to know about your area of responsibility and your salary of course, and then there are things like *holiday entitlement*, *maternity or paternity leave* if you're thinking of having children, and what the situation is regarding *sick leave*, that kind of thing.

Examiner: What are the advantages of having your own business rather than working for someone else?

Student: Well, unfortunately, being an employee at the moment is very stressful. People have very *heavy workloads*. They're always under pressure to *meet deadlines*. *Running your own business* isn't easy, but I do think it would be far more satisfying.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. What do you do to make your living?
2. How many hours do you work each day?
3. Why did you choose that job?
4. What kind of company/organization are you working for?
5. Is it a popular job in your country?
6. What do you like and dislike about your job?
7. Do you get on well with your colleagues?
8. What kind of worker do you think you are?
9. What was your first day at work like?

10. When you were a child, what job did you want to do when you grew up?
11. What influenced/ will influence your choice of job?
12. Which job do you think are more popular than others why?
13. What responsibilities do you have at work?
14. If you had the chance, would you change your job? Do you plan to continue with your job in the future?
15. Would you like to work abroad?

Part 2:

Describe a job you have done.

You should say:

- how you got doing the job
- what the job involved
- how long the job lasted

and describe how well you did the job.

Describe a perfect job you would like to have in the future.

You should say:

- what it is
- how you can get the job
- what kinds of work you would do for the job

And explain why you would want to have it.

Describe a country you would want to work in for a short time.

You should say:

- what country it is
- what job you would like to do there
- when you would want to do this

and explain why you want to work there for a short time.

Describe a small business you will run.

You should say:

- what it is.
- when and where you will do it.
- how you can run the business.

and explain why you choose to run this business.

Describe a person whose job is important to the society.

You should say:

- who this person is
- how you know this person
- what he/she does

and explain why you think his/her job is important to the society.

Part 3:

1. What jobs are most popular (among young people) in your country today?
2. What jobs do you think are the least popular choice in your country?
3. Do you think work is equally important for both men and women?
4. Do you think people tend to become more interested in their work as they become older?
5. What do you think are the differences between work in your country and work in the West?
6. What would you say are the advantages and disadvantages of doing shiftwork (working in shifts)?
7. How do you think work will (or might) change in the future?
8. Do you think there will be new types of jobs in the future?
9. What factors do people consider when choosing a career (or a job)?
10. Do you think people's ideas about the ideal job for themselves have changed in recent years?
11. Do you think little kids ever think about work (their future work)?
12. What future jobs do children in your country dream about doing when they grow up?
13. Do boys and girls generally have the same ideas about their future "dream job"?
14. When these children grow up, do they usually have the same career goals?
15. Describe the process of getting a job in your country.

TOPIC 8: FOOD

VOCABULARY

1. **to be full up:** to eat to the point that you can no longer eat any more
2. **to be starving hungry:** an exaggerated way of saying you are very hungry
3. **to bolt something down:** to eat something very quickly
4. **to be dying of hunger:** an exaggerated way of saying you are hungry
5. **to eat a balanced diet:** to eat the correct types and amounts of food
6. **to eat like a horse:** to eat a lot
7. **to follow a recipe:** to cook a meal using instructions
8. **to foot the bill:** to pay the bill
9. **a fussy eater:** somebody who has their own very high standards about what to eat
10. **to grab a bite to eat:** to eat something quickly (when you're in a rush)
11. **to have a sweet tooth:** to enjoy sugary food
12. **home-cooked food:** food cooked at home from individual ingredients
13. **the main meal:** the most important meal of the day, usually eaten in the evening
14. **to make your mouth water:** to make you feel very hungry for something
15. **to play with your food:** to push food around the plate to avoid eating it
16. **processed food:** commercially prepared food bought for convenience
17. **a quick snack:** to eat a small amount of food between meals
18. **a ready meal:** see 'processed food'
19. **a slap-up meal:** a large meal
20. **to spoil your appetite:** to eat something that will stop you feeling hungry when it's mealtime.
21. **a takeaway:** a cooked meal prepared in a restaurant and eaten at home
22. **to tuck into:** to eat something with pleasure
23. **to wine and dine:** to entertain someone by treating them to food and drink
24. **to work up an appetite:** to do physical work that leads to you becoming hungry

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you like to cook?

Student: Not really no. Most of the time I eat *ready meals* and *take-aways*. That's one of the reasons I love visiting my mum. You can always guarantee lovely *home-cooked food*.

Examiner: What time do you usually eat dinner?

Student: We have our *main meal* at around 7.00. I'm usually *starving hungry* by then. In fact I often *grab a bite to eat* as soon as I get home from college; a sandwich perhaps, but not too much *to spoil my appetite*.

Examiner: Are there any types of food you don't like?

Student: No not really. I'm not *a fussy eater* at all. Actually, I *eat like a horse*. I do a lot of sport and *work up quite an appetite*.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a restaurant you would like to use.

You should say:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – where this restaurant is – what kind of food it serves – how often you go there <p>and say why you like eating there so much.</p> |
|---|

Sample answer:

OK. This is a nice topic to talk about. There's a restaurant just around the corner from where I live; it's an Italian restaurant so as you'd expect you can eat various pasta dishes and pizzas and I usually go there with my family for *a slap-up meal* if we have anything to celebrate. It's quite a posh restaurant, the kind of place you would take someone if you wanted *to wine and dine* with them. We usually order a *3-course meal*: a light starter then a main dish, and I have quite *a sweet tooth*, so I always look forward to the dessert. I usually order Tiramisu. It *makes my mouth water* just to think about it. I'm always totally *full up* by the end. Why do I enjoy it there? Well, it's not cheap. My parents always *foot the bill*, and we couldn't afford to go there regularly so it's always a nice treat.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: How can we encourage people to eat more healthily?

Student: I think the best approach is to have everything in moderation. *Processed food* won't kill you if you only eat it occasionally, but people should also be encouraged *to eat a balanced diet*, try to cook fresh ingredients at home a few times a week.

Examiner: Do you think people enjoy their food as much as they should?

Student: I don't know really. I suppose it's true that people will often eat *a quick snack* because they're bored not because they're *dying of hunger*; and often they just bolt it down and don't savour it; so yes, perhaps we could take more time over our food.

Examiner: Do you think cooking is a pleasure or a chore for people who have busy lives?

Student: Well; whether you *follow a recipe* or make something up as you go along; I think cooking is a very creative process; and cooking for other people is a particular pleasure; there's nothing more satisfying than seeing people you love *tucking into* something you've cooked yourself.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. What's your favourite food?
2. Have you always liked the same food?
3. Is there any food you dislike?
4. What is the most common meal in your country?
5. Do you have a healthy diet?
6. What do you think of fast food?
7. Do you enjoy cooking?
8. What type of things can you cook?
9. Do you prefer having meal at home or eating out?
10. What kinds of food are popular in your country?
11. What traditional foods do you have in your country?
12. Do you prefer to eat with other people or on your own?
13. Who generally cooks for your family?
14. What special dishes do you want to taste? Why?
15. What foods do you think are most romantic? Why are they romantic?
16. How can you keep a healthy diet?

17. What kinds of things are unhealthy to eat?
18. What foods do you eat when you feel sick or depressed?
19. What's the strangest thing you've ever eaten? Where did you eat it?
20. What traditional food would you like your foreign friends to try?

Part 2:

Describe someone you know who is a good cook.

You should say:

- who this person is
- how you know him or her
- what kinds of food he/she cooks

and explain why this person is good at cooking.

Describe your favorite restaurant.

You should say:

- where it is
- what it looks like inside and outside
- what kinds of foods they serve

and explain what makes this restaurant so special to you and others.

Describe a traditional meal that you prepare on special occasions.

You should say:

- when you eat that meal
- how you prepare it
- what ingredients are used to prepare it

and explain why you enjoy it.

Describe a time you received good service at a restaurant.

You should say:

- what restaurant it was
- who you were with when you were served
- why you went there

and explain why you think their service was good.

Part 3:

1. Which one is better in your opinion: home-made foods or foods from restaurant?
2. Is cuisine an attraction of your city to visitors?
3. Do people in your country pay lots of attention to what they eat?
4. What are the prospects of building a career as a cook in your country?
5. How healthy is your country's food?
6. Why do you think different cultures have different table manners?
7. How are the eating habits now in your country different from eating habits in the past?
8. How may eating habits change in the coming decades?
9. How should governments encourage people to eat healthy food?
10. Do people in your country generally cook at home or eat out?
11. Is it important for children to learn to cook?
12. Is it an important part of your culture to have dinner parties?

TOPIC 9: SPORT

VOCABULARY

1. **an athletics meeting:** an event where various athletics sports are held
2. **an athletics track:** a running track
3. **an away game:** a football match played in the opposing teams stadium
4. **a brisk walk:** a fast walk
5. **to do judo:** (not go or play)
6. **a football fan:** someone who likes football
7. **a fitness programme:** a schedule of activities to keep fit
8. **a football match:** a game of football
9. **a football pitch:** the surface on which you play football (as opposed to a stadium, which is the building)
10. **a football season:** a period in the year when football is played
11. **to get into shape:** to become fit
12. **to go jogging:** to run around the streets
13. **a home game:** a football match played in the teams own stadium
14. **to keep fit:** to stay in good physically condition
15. **to be out of condition:** to not be physically fit
16. **a personal best:** to achieve the best personal result so far in a sport
17. **a personal trainer:** a sports coach that helps you on a one-to-one basis
18. **to play tennis/football:** (not do or go)
19. **to run the marathon:** to run a distance of 42.195 Kilometres
20. **a season ticket:** a ticket that gives you entry to most of a team's home games during the sporting year.
21. **to set a record:** to achieve the best result in a sport
22. **a sports centre:** a public building where people can do various sports
23. **sports facilities:** the equipment and services needed to do a sport
24. **a squash/tennis/badminton court:** the surface where you play these sports
25. **strenuous exercise:** exercise that needs a lot of physical effort
26. **a strong swimmer:** a good swimmer
27. **a swimming pool:** the place where you swim
28. **to take up exercise:** to start doing exercise
29. **to train hard:** to train with a lot of effort

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you do any sports?

Student: Not really; no; I always say I'm going *to take up exercise* and try *to get into shape*, but I never seem to get started; I sometimes wonder whether I should get *a personal trainer*; someone who will sort out *a fitness programme* for me and make me *train hard*.

Examiner: How do you spend a typical weekend?

Student: I'm a big *football fan* and weekends always centre around *a football match*; I support FC Utrecht and have *a season ticket*, so I go to most of the *home games* and quite a few of the *away games* too; I'm really looking forward to the new *football season* starting soon.

Examiner: Have you got any hobbies or interests?

Student: Yes; I'm really keen on sports; I **do judo** once a week and **play tennis** in the summer; I think it's really important **to keep fit**; it makes you feel good and energised for work and your studies.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a place you like going to in your leisure time.

You should say:

- what this place is
- when you go there
- what you do there

and say why you enjoy it so much.

Sample answer:

I'd like to talk about my local **sports centre**. It's a place I spend a lot of time in, it's a new building with all the latest **sports facilities**; I probably go there at least twice a week; sometimes more often. It's a huge place, there's an outdoor **athletics track** and some **football pitches**; I **play football** so I'm often out there. There are several indoor **squash and tennis courts** that I use occasionally, a big **swimming pool**, although I don't use that very often. I'm not a very **strong swimmer**; there's a gym, lots of things really; why do I enjoy going there? It's just a really fun place to be. There's a good social side to it all. You can enter competitions, meet up with other people who want to do the same sports, and because there are so many activities on offer it gets you interested in different things. For example, I was listening to some people talking about training **to run the marathon** and I've decided I might even think about that; I **go jogging** a couple of times a week so it would give me something to aim for; so yes; the sports centre; that's the place I really like to visit.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: **Should people be encouraged more to take up sport?**

Student: I think young people should be given the chance to discover which sport they might like; watching sport is sometimes a good way to get people started; not on TV but actually getting out; take athletics, for example, they could go to **an athletics meeting**; there are so many different sports on show one might interest them.

Examiner: **Why do some people enjoy participating in sport more than others?**

Student: That's a good question. I suppose some people are more concerned about their health. They can't stand the thought of **being out of condition**, other people might be driven to excel; they want **to set records** or get **personal bests**.

Examiner: **Which sports do you think are best for people who aren't used to physical activity?**

Student: Well, I think people like this should avoid **strenuous exercise** so things like circuit training are definitely out of the question; maybe just doing **a brisk walk** every day, or swimming is always a good way to get started.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. What's your favourite sport?
2. Do you often watch sport on TV?
3. Did you play sport as a child?
4. Do people in your country prefer outdoor sports or those indoors?
5. Why do some people like walking?

6. Do you think walking is a sport?
7. Do sports always involve intensive training?
8. Are boys and girls good at the same sports?
9. What are the advantages of doing regular exercise?
10. What is the most popular sport in your country?
11. How do most people in your country keep fit?
12. Where do people in your country usually exercise?
13. What games are popular in your country?
14. Do you play any games?
15. How do people learn to play games in your country?
16. Do you think it's important for people to play games?
17. What kind of games did you play when you were a child?
18. Are there different games for different ages?

Part 2:

Describe a sporting event you attended.

You should say:

- what kind of sport it was
- how it compared to other events you've been to
- how often it takes place

and explain why you consider this event to be of interest.

Describe a sport you would like to try for the first time.

You should say:

- what it is
- when and where you would learn it
- what equipment you would need to practice it

and explain why you want to take up this sport.

Talk about a form of exercise you used to do but no longer do now.

You should say:

- where you used to do it
- who you used to do it with
- why you stopped

and say if you would like to restart that sport or not, and why.

Describe an indoor game that you enjoyed as a child.

You should say:

- what the game was
- where you played it
- who played this game with you

and explain why you liked it.

Part 3:

1. What are the benefits of playing a sport?
2. Does playing sports involve any risks?

3. What types of sports are popular in your country? Do you think the types of sport that are popular will change in the future?
4. How can sports bring people from different countries closer?
5. Do you think that people are spending enough time on physical activities these days?
6. Why do you think people nowadays spend less time on outdoor activities?
7. Do many people in your country choose to build up their career in sports?
8. It is said that investing in public sport facilities can encourage people to do more sports. Do you agree?
9. What should the government do to encourage people to be more physically active?
10. Some people say that sportsmen are earning too much in comparison with other jobs more useful for the society such as doctors, teachers or scientists and it is unfair. What's your point on this?
11. E-sports are becoming more popular these days. Do you think e-sports are really a kind of sports?

TOPIC 10: RELATIONSHIPS

VOCABULARY

1. **to break up:** to end a romantic relationship
2. **to drift apart:** to become less close to someone
3. **to enjoy someone's company:** to like spending time with someone
4. **to fall for:** to fall in love
5. **to fall head over heels in love:** to start to love someone a lot
6. **to fall out with:** to have a disagreement and stop being friends
7. **to get on like a house on fire:** to like someone's company very much indeed
8. **to get on well with:** to understand someone and enjoy similar interests
9. **to get to know:** to begin to know someone
10. **to go back years:** to have known someone for a long time
11. **to have a lot in common:** to share similar interests
12. **to have ups and downs:** to have good and bad times
13. **a healthy relationship:** a good, positive relationship
14. **to hit it off:** to quickly become good friends with
15. **to be in a relationship:** to be romantically involved with someone
16. **to be just good friends:** to not be romantically involved
17. **to keep in touch with:** to keep in contact with
18. **to lose touch with:** to not see or hear from someone any longer
19. **love at first sight:** to fall in love immediately you meet someone
20. **to pop the question:** to ask someone to marry you
21. **to see eye to eye:** to agree on a subject
22. **to settle down:** to give up the single life and start a family
23. **to strike up a relationship:** to begin a friendship
24. **to tie the knot:** to get married
25. **to be well matched:** to be similar to
26. **to work at a relationship:** to try to maintain a positive relationship with someone

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you see your friends very often?

Student: Yes; we meet up most weekends; we all *get on really well* and *have a lot in common* so we're always happy doing the same things and going to the same places.

Examiner: What do you like about your close friends?

Student: I think we *enjoy each other's company*; we *see eye-to-eye on* most things, so we rarely *fall out with* each other.

Examiner: Have you known each other long?

Student: Most of them yes although my closest friend Carrie; we *struck up a relationship* at college and *got on like a house on fire*; but yes, my other friendships *go back years* to when we were at school.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a person you are very close.

You should say:

- who this person is
- when you met them
- where you met them

and say what it is about them you like so much.

Sample answer:

I'd like to talk about my boyfriend; Jose; we **got to know** each other at University almost 4 years ago; we were in the same department; initially we were **just good friends** and used to go out in a group with our other friends; when Jose went back to Spain for the holidays we would **keep in touch with** each other; then one year he invited me to come to Spain with him; and that's when we **fell for** each other I think; so you couldn't really say it was **love at first sight** as it had been over a year since we'd met; but we really **hit it off** and by the time we got back to university in September we were able to tell all our friends that we were **in a relationship**. what do I like about Jose; well he's very kind, very funny, and very supportive; and we're really **well matched** in our interests; he hasn't **popped the question** yet though; we've talked about getting married and I think we're both ready to **settle down** and have children, we'll just have to wait and see.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you think marriage is still as important as ever?

Student: Yes; it certainly is in my country; I think the problem for some people is a lack of commitment; all relationships **have their ups and downs**; but some people prefer to **break up** rather than **working at** the relationship.

Examiner: What do you think is the ideal time to get married?

Student: Personally, I think you should wait until you've found yourself first; decided if you want a career; perhaps do some travelling. You should do this before **tying the knot** although if you **fall head over heels in love**, plans like these can easily be forgotten.

Examiner: Is it important to keep in contact with our friends when we're in a relationship?

Student: Absolutely it's so easy to **drift apart** from your friends when you **fall in love**, but I think both partners should try not to **lose touch with** their friends; that's the best way to have a **healthy relationship** with your partner.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

FAMILY

1. How many people are there in your family?
2. Do you all live in the same house? (Why/why not)?
3. What things do you like doing together?
4. Do you have a large or small family?
5. Who are you closest to in your family?
6. What do you like to do together as a family?
7. Do you get along well with your family?
8. Do you spend much time with your family?
9. Do you prefer spending time with your family or friends?
10. Are people in your country generally close to their families?

FRIENDS

1. Describe a friend.
2. How long have you known each other?
3. What do you usually do together?
4. What do you like the most about him / her?
5. How often do you see each other?
6. Is there anything you don't like about him/her?
7. How do you keep in touch with each other?
8. What do you like / dislike most in a friend?
9. Do you have any friends from a foreign country?
10. Are you still friends with people from your childhood?
11. Is this better for you to have many normal friends or just a few close friends?
12. Would you say anyone in your family is also your friend?

Part 2:

Describe someone in your family who you really admire.

You should say:

- what relation this person is to you
- what are your first memories of this person
- how often you see this person

and explain why you really admire this person.

Describe a friend who you really like to spend time with.

You should say:

- when and how you met.
- how often you see this friend.
- what kind of personality your friend has

and say why you like to spend time with this friend.

Describe a time you did something wrong with a friend.

You should say:

- what you did
- when you did it
- why you did it

and explain how you felt about your mistake.

Part 3:

1. What are the values of family in your country?
2. How family bonding is necessary for happiness in life?
3. What type of family is popular in your country at the moment? Nuclear family or joint family?
4. How have family value and bonding changed over the last decade?
5. Where do most Vietnamese families live – in the city or the country?
6. How has family life changed in your country in the past years?
7. What are some big changes in Vietnam's families in the past few decades?
8. Divorce rate is increasing in most developed countries in the world? Is this the case in your country? Can you suggest some reasons for this situation?

9. Why is the birth rate decreasing in most countries in the world nowadays?
10. How will families change in the future?
11. How has the size of the family changed in the last few decades in your country?
12. What role do grandparents play in the family in your country?
13. Who do you think should be responsible for the care of the elderly, the family or the government?
14. Why is the number of joint families decreasing in modern time?
15. What characteristics do elder siblings often have?
16. Is it better to grow up in a small family or a large extended family?
17. What do you think about single parent families?
18. Should people be more accepting of alternative family types?
19. Is friendship important in your culture?
20. Are friends more important than family?
21. What are the differences between real life friends and pen friends?
22. Why do some people find it easy to make friend while others find it hard?
23. Why do people stop being friends with each other?
24. Generally, are friends or family more important to people at your age?
25. How do people in your country usually make friends?
26. Who do people tend to speak to about their personal problems?
27. What do you think of making friends on the internet?
28. What do you think the most important quality in a friend is?
29. Do you think that friendship is important for people to be happy?
30. Do you think that it is becoming more difficult to make friends?
31. Do you think it is possible for men and women to be just good friends?
32. What is the difference between a friend and an acquaintance?
33. Do you think teachers should try to be a friend to their students, or should they keep a distance?
34. Do you think people will have more or fewer friends as they get older?
35. Do you think it is necessary to have the same characteristics to become best friends?

TOPIC 11: ACCOMMODATION

VOCABULARY

1. **(all the) mod cons:** technology at home that makes jobs easier such as a washing machine, dishwasher etc.
2. **apartment block:** a large building made up of smaller units of apartments
3. **back garden:** a garden at the rear of the house
4. **detached house:** a house that is not physically connected to another property
5. **to do up a property:** to repair an old building
6. **dream home:** a home you regard as perfect
7. **first-time buyer:** someone buying a property for the first time, especially when taking out a loan (mortgage)
8. **fully furnished:** a rented property with all furniture included
9. **to get on the property ladder:** to buy a property with the aim of buying another bigger or more expensive one later in life
10. **hall of residence:** a college or university building where Students live
11. **home comforts:** things that make a home feel comfortable to live in
12. **house-hunting:** looking for a property to live in
13. **house-warming party:** a party to celebrate moving into a new home
14. **ideal home:** a perfect home
15. **to live on campus:** to live on the university or college grounds
16. **mobile home:** a home that can be moved by a vehicle or one that has its own engine
17. **to move into:** to begin to live in a property
18. **to own your own home:** to have bought the property you live in
19. **to pay rent in advance:** weekly or monthly rent paid at the beginning of the week or month
20. **permanent address:** a fixed address
21. **property market:** the buying and selling of land or buildings
22. **to put down a deposit:** to pay an amount of money as the first in a series of future payments
23. **rented accommodation:** property owned by someone else and for which a person pays a fixed amount to live in
24. **single room:** a room for one person
25. **spacious room:** a large room
26. **student digs:** student accommodation
27. **the suburbs:** a residential area on the edge of towns or cities
28. **to take out a mortgage:** to borrow a large amount of money, paid back over several years, in order to buy a house
29. **terraced house:** a house connected on both sides by other properties

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you live in a house or an apartment?

Student: Actually, I *live on campus*, in a *single room* in *halls of residence*. All first-year students are encouraged to do that as they're close to the university. Next year, I plan to move into *student digs* in town.

Examiner: Tell me about where you live.

Student: I live with my parents **in the suburbs** of Madrid. We only **moved in** recently. In fact, we had a **house-warming party** just a few weeks ago.

Examiner: **What kind of accommodation do most people live in in your city?**

Student: In the city itself, the majority of people live in **apartment blocks**. That's what surprised me about England because most people seem to live in **terraced houses** with lovely **back gardens**.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a house or an apartment you would like to live in.

You should say:

- what kind of accommodation it would be
- where it would be
- who would live there with you

and say why you would enjoy living in this place.

Sample answer:

I think most people when answering this question would say they'd like to live in a big, **detached house** with **spacious rooms**, views of the countryside and so on, but actually my **ideal home** would be a lot different. I've always loved the idea of having a **mobile home**, a really expensive one with **all the mod cons**, so I could live wherever I wanted or at least have lots of holidays and be able to take all my **home comforts** with me whenever I travelled. I realize this would have to be a second home as I'd need a base, a **permanent address**, but the mobile home would be the accommodation I'd find it exciting to live in. I suppose once I settle down and have children, I'll want **to get on the property ladder**. I'll be like everyone else, saving up **to put down a deposit** on a house or an apartment. I don't think my family would want to live in a mobile home, but I like to think I'll still keep that **dream home** in mind.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: **Is it better to own your own home or to rent?**

Student: I think both have their advantages. Living in **rented accommodation** isn't necessarily a bad thing because you don't have a huge debt like you do when you **take out a mortgage**, but I suppose the **property market** offers you an investment for the future. I'm sure that's why most people prefer **to own their own home**.

Examiner: **What options are available to young couples looking for accommodation in your country?**

Student: If they want to buy their own home, it isn't easy for **first-time buyers**. Mortgages are hard to get, so most people live with their parents or in **rented accommodation**, but that can also be very expensive. You often have to **pay rent in advance**, and if the accommodation isn't **fully furnished**, you have the expense of buying furniture.

Examiner: **What are some of the pleasures involved in making a home for ourselves?**

Student: I suppose it starts with **house-hunting**, finding your ideal home. Some people enjoy **doing up an old property**, giving a property that's old and tired a new lease of life. Others like making wherever they live feel like home with some **home comforts**.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Tell me about the kind of accommodation you live in?

2. How long have you lived there?
3. What do you like about living there?
4. What sort of accommodation would you most like to live in?
5. Do you live with your family?
6. Is the transport around your home convenient?
7. What's your favorite room?
8. Is there anything you would want to change about this room?
9. Do you want to move?
10. What kind of place did you live in when you were little?
11. Do you want to live in the countryside?
12. Do you spend more or less time with your family than before?

Part 2:

Describe a house/ apartment that someone you know lives in.

You should say:

- whose house/apartment this is
- where the house/apartment is
- what it looks like inside

and explain what you like or dislike about this person's house/ apartment.

Describe the accommodation you live in.

You should say:

- what kind of accommodation it is
- how long have you been living there
- what it is like to live there

and what do you like the most about this accommodation.

Part 3:

1. How easy is it to find a place to live in your country?
2. Do you think it's better to rent or to buy a place to live in?
3. Do you agree that there is a right age for young adults to stop living with their parents?
4. Is it better to own your own home or to rent?
5. What options are available to young couples looking for accommodation in your country?
6. What are some of the pleasures involved in making a home for ourselves?
7. Would you prefer to live in a flat/ apartment or a house?
8. Can you compare houses and flats/ apartments?
9. Do most people in your hometown live in a house or a flat/apartment?
10. In your country, where do most young people live? Do they still live with their parents?
11. What types of places (homes) do most people in your country live in?
12. Compare houses that rural people live in with the flats that most city people live in.
13. How are relations between neighbors different in cities and in the countryside?
14. What kind of housing situation is best for allowing neighbors to chat to each other?

TOPIC 12: TECHNOLOGY

VOCABULARY

1. **to access websites/email:** to locate
2. **to back up files:** to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem
3. **to boot up:** to start a computer
4. **to bookmark a webpage:** to mark a webpage for future reference
5. **to browse websites:** to look at websites
6. **a computer buff:** an expert computer user
7. **to crash:** to suddenly stop working
8. **to cut and paste:** to move text or images from one place in a document to another place
9. **a desktop PC:** a computer that isn't portable and remains in situ on a desk
10. **digital editing:** to edit digital materials like audio or video files
11. **download (podcasts):** to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device
12. **to enter a web address:** to type the address of a website into the address bar of your browser
13. **a gadget:** a technological tool like a mobile phone or camera
14. **to go online:** to start using the Internet
15. **high-spec (laptop):** powerful computer with top quality components
16. **Internet security:** Internet safety
17. **intranet:** a network of connected computers within an organisation that is not accessible by unauthorised visitors
18. **to navigate a website:** to find your way around a website
19. **operating system:** the software that tells the computer how to work
20. **send an attachment:** send an email with an accompanying file
21. **social media:** media used to interact with other people such as Facebook or Twitter
22. **to surf the web:** to look at a series of websites one after the other
23. **a techie:** somebody who has an interest in technology
24. **to upgrade:** to obtain a more powerful or feature-rich computer or piece of software
25. **video conferencing:** to see and hear people from different locations using the Internet
26. **wireless hotspot:** a public place where you can access the Internet
27. **wireless network:** a network where users can access the Internet without the use of fixed cables
28. **word processing:** producing written texts on a computer

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you enjoy using technology?

Student: Well; I wouldn't call myself *a techie* or a *computer buff*, but I enjoy using computers; I'd like to find out more about how they work; when my computer *crashes*, I never know what to do.

Examiner: Do you use the Internet for your studies?

Student: Yes; I'd be lost without it; I do lots of *video conferencing* to practice speaking and *social media* like Facebook is a good way to meet up with other students; and I *download podcasts* that teach English vocabulary and grammar.

Examiner: Do you have your own computer?

Student: Yes; I have a Macbook Pro; I use it all the time; for **word processing**; **browsing websites** and catching up with TV programmes I've missed.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe an item of technology you have that is very important.

You should say:

- what the technology is
- when you got it
- how often you use it

and say how different your daily life would be without it.

Sample answer:

I don't have many **gadgets**; just a computer; a laptop and my mobile phone; but I'll talk about my computer as it's so useful; it's funny really; 2 years ago I was still learning to use computers; how to use email; **send attachments** how to **access websites**; then I decided to do a **digital editing** course for video and photography; and so I bought the laptop when I started the course ; my husband had a **desktop PC** but it was very slow so I decided **to upgrade** to a powerful one because we do a lot of video editing on the course; it's a **high-spec** laptop; very fast; the latest **operating system**; it **boots up** really quickly and it's fun to use so it makes working a pleasure; I've become a competent computer user now; if I didn't have it I daresay I'd have to spend more time at college using their computers; but on the positive side I suppose I'd read a lot more if I didn't have it ; I probably waste a lot of time **surfing the web**; but hopefully I won't have to be without it.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: **What do you think are the important things people need to learn when they start using computers?**

Student: Well, there are things like how to use the Internet, how **to enter a web address**, how **to navigate websites**, that kind of thing but it's also important to know how **to back up** your files in case your computer crashes; and all about **Internet security**.

Examiner: **What kind of technological developments have made the biggest impact on our lives?**

Student: In my lifetime it has to be the Internet of course but I also think wifi has made a huge difference to how we interact with the Internet; **wireless networks** at home and public **wifi hotspots** mean we can **go online** easily; **access our mail**; log into our work intranet and basically be connected wherever we are.

Examiner: **Do computers make it much easier to study?**

Student: Definitely yes. Researching information is much easier with the Internet. You can **bookmark webpages** for future reference and writing essays is much easier; being able **to cut and paste** sections of text means you can experiment with organization; so yes, compared to years ago when you had a pile of books on your desk and a pen and paper, it's now much easier.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

COMPUTERS

1. Do you have your own computer?
2. Do you often use the computer?
3. What do you use the computer for?

4. Do you think it is important to learn how to use a computer?
5. How important is your computer to you?
6. What kind of computer skills do you have?
7. Do you think computers help society?
8. Do you think computers are bad for health?
9. How do you think computers have changed the world?

INTERNET

1. How often do you go online?
2. Do you use the Internet much during the day?
3. What do you usually do on the Internet?
4. How do you get online?
5. What are some advantages of the Internet?
6. What are some disadvantages?
7. Do people in your country use the Internet a lot?
8. Do you do any shopping on the Internet?

EMAIL

1. Do you email people often?
2. Do you chat with friends or family more with email?
3. Do you think it's easier to write an email or a letter?
4. Do you think email will eventually replace letter writing?
5. Do you think emails are useful?
6. What kind of email do you receive that make you happy?
7. What do you usually use email for?
8. Do you like using email or making a phone call?

Part 2:

Describe a piece of modern technology you own.

You should say:

- what it is
- what you use it for
- how long you have owned it

and explain why it is important to you.

Describe a computer game you have played.

You should say:

- what it was
- when you played it
- what the game was about

and explain how you played this game.

Describe a website you often browse.

You should say:

- what it is
- how long you have been using it
- give detailed information about the website

and explain why you often browse this website.

Describe a thing you usually do when you are online.

You should say:

- what it is
- how often you do it
- how you feel when you do it

and explain why you often do it.

Describe an important email you have received.

You should say:

- who sent it to you
- when you got it.
- what it was about

and explain why this email was important to you.

Part 3:

1. Do most people have a computer at home in your country? What do most people use it for?
2. Which websites are popular among your generation?
3. Is using the internet a social or solitary activity?
4. How has the internet changed social behaviour?
5. What will be the next big development online?
6. Do you think all information on the internet is true?
7. How can people find reliable information on the internet?
8. How has the internet changed the way we live and work?
9. Do you think the internet is safe for children to use unsupervised?
10. How has the internet changed social behaviour?
11. How has the internet changed the way we communicate with others?
12. Is having internet access a basic Human Right?
13. What would be the possible uses of Internet in the future?
14. Do you think it is necessary to censor all the information posted online?
15. What kinds of people use emails?
16. What are the advantages and disadvantages of emails, compared to handwritten letters?
17. What effects, if any, do you think the use of emails might have on traditional culture?
18. Do you think writing emails has strengthened or weakened people's writing skills?
19. What are some of the disadvantages of mails?
20. Do you think it is a good thing that companies send out spam email for advertising purposes?

TOPIC 13: EDUCATION

VOCABULARY

1. **to attend classes:** to go to classes
2. **bachelor's degree:** an undergraduate course which usually lasts 3-4 years
3. **boarding school:** a school where pupils live during term time
4. **distance learning:** a way of studying where tuition is carried out over the Internet or by post
5. **face-to-face classes:** as opposed to distance learning the traditional way of studying in a classroom with colleagues and a teacher
6. **to fall behind with your studies:** to progress less quickly than others
7. **to give feedback:** to offer guidance on a Student's work
8. **a graduation ceremony:** an event where a successful Student receives his or her academic degree
9. **higher education:** education, usually in a college or university, that is followed after high school or secondary school
10. **an intensive course:** a course that offers lots of training in order to reach a goal in as short a time as possible
11. **to keep up with your studies:** to not fall behind
12. **to learn something by heart:** to memorize it
13. **a mature student:** a student who is older than average and who has usually returned to education after a period at work
14. **master's degree:** a period of study which often follows the completion of a bachelors degree or is undertaken by someone regarded as capable of a higher-level academic course
15. **to meet a deadline:** to finish a job or task in the time allowed or agreed
16. **to play truant:** to stay away from classes without permission
17. **private language school:** an independent school run as a business concern
18. **public schools:** exclusive independent schools in the UK
19. **a single-sex school:** a school where only boys or girls attend (as opposed to a mixed-sex school)
20. **to sit an exam:** to take an exam
21. **state school:** a school paid for by public funds and available to the general public
22. **subject specialist:** a teacher who has a great deal of knowledge about the subject they teach.
23. **to take a year out:** to spend a year working or travelling before starting university
24. **tuition fees:** the money paid for a course of study
25. **to work your way through university:** to have a paid job whilst studying to support yourself financially

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Are you studying English at a school?

Student: Yes, I'm taking *an intensive course* at a local *private language school*. I *attend classes* three times a week ...

Examiner: Would you say you are a good student?

Student: I'm OK, I think. I'm pretty good at **meeting deadlines** and I'm **keeping up with my studies**. Plus, I find it quite easy to **learn things by heart** which is useful when learning a language.

Examiner: **When you were younger did you enjoy your time at school?**

Student: Yes, I liked school. It was an ordinary **state school**, nothing special, **a single-sex school**, which I'm not sure I liked, but the teachers were great. I had lots of friends, and I never **played truant** like some pupils there.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a time during your education that you really enjoyed.

You should say:

- when this period was
- where you were
- what you were studying at the time

and say why you were so happy.

Sample answer:

I'd like to tell you about my time at university. I was **a mature student**. I didn't go to university until I was 25, and it was my first time away from my parents, so it was very exciting. I was doing **a bachelor's degree**, and it was a bit of a challenge. Some people **take a year out**, but I'd been away from education for 8 years. Plus, I had **to work my way through uni**, so I was very busy. And **sitting exams** at the end of each year was a new experience for me as well, but I really enjoyed **higher education**, learning about a subject I loved, history, and the social life was great as well. I don't think I've ever had so many friends. I had my **graduation ceremony** last year in the local cathedral, and I know my parents were really proud, so yes, that was a really happy time. I'm thinking of doing **a master's degree** soon though that might be through **distance learning** as I have a full-time job now.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: **What qualities do you think a good teacher has?**

Student: They should be patient. They should be **subject specialists** and be able to explain the subject clearly. They should **give feedback** quickly, for example, not hang on to essay for ages like some of my teachers.

Examiner: **What are the advantages of studying on a distance learning course?**

Student: It's a more flexible way of studying especially if you have a job. **Tuition fees** are usually cheaper, but you have to be very motivated, and I would imagine more people **fall behind with their studies** compared to **face-to-face classes**.

Examiner: **Do all children get equal opportunities in education?**

Student: In my country, I think it is quite equal, but in the UK, I've heard that most people who go to the top universities have studied at **public schools**. You have to be very rich to study in a school like that. They're usually **boarding schools** as well, so the fees are enormous.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Where do you study?
2. What are your favorite subjects?
3. What does your school look like?

4. What do you like most about your school?
5. Do you get on with your classmates?
6. How are your teachers at school?
7. What kind of school did you go to as a child?
8. What was your first day at school like?
9. Who was your favorite teacher?
10. In what ways did life at school change as you became older?
11. Are you good at learning new things?
12. Do you think learning by doing or learning by listening is best?

Part 2:

Describe your study room.

You should say:

- how it looks like
- how much time you spend in this room
- how an ideal study room should be

and give details of your study room.

Describe a subject taught in your school.

You should say:

- what subject it was and who taught it
- how the teacher taught it
- what you learned from the class

and explain how it helped you.

Describe an enjoyable event that you experienced when you were at school.

You should say:

- when it happened
- what was good about it
- what did you do in that event

and explain why you remember this event clearly.

Part 3:

1. Do most people in your country usually attend public or private schools?
2. Do people in your country have lots of choices for education?
3. Do people in Vietnam pay lots of attention to education?
4. What do people often take into consideration when choosing a subject for their study?
5. Do you think that students should be allowed to choose their own teachers?
6. When do you think we should start learning?
7. What tips on learning would you give to other people?
8. How are education priorities today different from those in the past?
9. What is your opinion on the way languages are taught in schools?
10. How can the type of school you go to affect career success?
11. What changes do you think will happen in the classroom in the near future?

TOPIC 14: ADVERTISING

VOCABULARY

1. **advertising agency:** a company that creates adverts for other companies
2. **advertising budget:** the amount of money a company decides to spend on advertising
3. **brand awareness:** how well people know a particular brand
4. **brand loyalty:** the degree to which people continue to buy from the same brand or company
5. **buy and sell:** often used to refer to the buying and selling of items between individuals
6. **call to action:** something that encourages someone to take a particular action, such as making a purchase or clicking a link on a website
7. **celebrity endorsement:** to have a well-known person promote a product
8. **classified ads:** small advertisements often put in a newspaper or magazine by individuals
9. **to cold call:** to call someone with the aim of selling something without them asking you to do so
10. **commercial break:** the short period during TV programmes when advertisements are shown
11. **commercial channel:** TV channels that make money from showing advertisements
12. **to go viral:** to quickly become extremely popular on the Internet through social media
13. **junk mail:** unwanted promotional leaflets and letters
14. **to launch a product:** to introduce a new product
15. **mailing list:** a list of names and contact details used by a company to send information and advertisements
16. **mass media:** large media outlets like TV, newspapers and magazines
17. **niche product:** a product that is aimed at a distinct group of people
18. **to place an advert:** to put an advert somewhere
19. **press release:** something written by a company for newspapers and magazines and websites to share and publish
20. **prime time:** the time during the viewing schedule when most people watch TV or listen to a broadcast
21. **product placement:** to advertise a product by using it as a prop in a TV show or film
22. **sales page:** a page specifically used to promote a product or service
23. **to show adverts:** to display adverts on TV
24. **social media:** websites that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.
25. **spam email:** unwanted, promotional email
26. **target audience:** the people a company want to sell their product or service to
27. **word of mouth:** recommendations made by individuals to other individuals about a product or service

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Are there any TV channels in your country that don't have adverts?

Student: No, they're all **commercial channels** and **show adverts** all day long, too many really, and there's also a lot of **product placement** going on, especially in soap operas where they place an item just behind the actors.

Examiner: Do you enjoy watching adverts on TV?

Student: No, not really, I hate *commercial breaks* during a film. It really spoils the flow, and during *prime time* viewing, they seem to squeeze even more ads in than usual. *Celebrity endorsements* also get on my nerves. Everyone knows they're only doing it because they're getting paid.

Examiner: What are the best ways for ordinary people to advertise something they want to sell in your country?

Student: The simplest way is to *place an advert* in something like the *classified ads* section of a local paper, or there's the Internet of course. There are lots of sites like eBay where you can *buy and sell* things online.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe an advert you once saw that was very effective.

You should say:

- where this advert appeared
- when you saw it
- what it was advertising

and say why you thought it was so effective.

Sample answer:

OK, well, this was about 4 years ago, I was looking for some software to create videos. One day, I got an email from a *mailing list* I'd signed up to. There was a link in it to a *press release*. A company had written something about a new product that was similar to what I was looking for. At the end of the press release, there was a link to the *sales page*. I hadn't heard of the company before, but I was interested and clicked the link to the ad. What caught my attention immediately were the number of testimonials from people who had bought the software. I think testimonials are like the online equivalent of *word-of-mouth* advertising and are really persuasive. Anyway, when I got to the bottom of the page, there was a great big *call to action* button inviting me to buy. I was totally persuaded and ended up making a purchase. What made it so effective I think was the power of those testimonials. They'd been written by people very much like me. They'd had a need and the software had obviously turned out to be just what they were looking for. When you think that this was a newish company, they wouldn't have had any *brand awareness* at all. They probably wouldn't have had much of a budget for advertising. Obviously, you wouldn't advertise a product like this through the *mass media*, on TV. They probably didn't even have an *advertising agency* to support them, and yet they'd managed to create a great deal of *brand loyalty* from previous customers. I think that was really effective.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What is it that makes an advert effective?

Student: Well, when a company *launches a product*, they have to consider the Internet, especially how it can be used to spread the word on *social media*, so in this context, a video that *goes viral* is probably the most effective type of advert you could make.

Examiner: What are the advantages to companies of advertising on the Internet rather than TV?

Student: I'd imagine the main advantage is you can reach your *target audience* much more effectively. If you bring out a *niche product* for example, or you have a tight *advertising budget*, you can advertise on particular sites that the people you want to reach visit. That's not something you can do on TV.

Examiner: What things do advertising companies do that might give it a bad name?

Student: For me, the most irritating is *cold calling*. We must get two or three of these every day at work. Then there's *junk mail* that gets posted through the letterbox, and of course the online equivalent of this, *spam emails*. I think it's this kind of advertising that tends to annoy people.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Do you usually watch or read advertisements?
2. How do you feel about advertisements?
3. What kind of advertisements do you like most?
4. Are there many advertisements in your country?
5. Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?
6. What are the various places where you see advertisements?
7. What do you think are the purposes of advertising?
8. Do you find advertising annoying sometimes?

Part 2:

Describe an unforgettable advertisement that you saw or heard

You should say:

- what kind of advertisement it was
- what the content of the advertisement was (or what product or service was advertised)
- where you saw or heard it

and explain why you think this is an unforgettable advertisement.

Describe an advertisement you like.

You should say:

- what type of advertisement it is
- what product it advertises
- where you first saw it

and explain why you think this advertisement is effective.

Describe an interesting advertisement you watched on TV.

You should say:

- what it was
- when you watched it
- what it was about

and explain why it was interesting.

Describe an advertisement which you found very persuasive.

You should say:

- what the advertisement was for
- where you saw or read it
- what the advertisement consisted of

and why you found it so persuasive.

Part 3:

1. Do you think advertising influences what people buy?
2. What makes an advertisement effective?
3. How have advertisements changed since you were a child?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of advertising?
5. Do you think that advertisements should be strictly regulated?
6. How important is it for advertisers to tell the whole truth in advertisements?
7. Do advertisements give correct information, or do they encourage people to buy things that they may not need?
8. Is advertising really necessary in modern society?
9. How important do you think it is for companies to advertise their products?
10. How do advertisements influence people to buy things?
11. How effective is advertising as a way of persuading people to buy things?
12. Apart from advertising, what other factors influence people's decisions to buy things?
13. In what ways can advertising be bad or harmful to society?
14. Why do you think that some people say advertising is a form of art?

TOPIC 15: ENVIRONMENT

VOCABULARY

1. **air quality**: the cleanliness of the air we breathe
2. **to become extinct**: to no longer exist
3. **to be under threat**: to be in danger of becoming extinct
4. **climate change**: the change in worldwide weather patterns
5. **to die out**: see 'to become extinct'
6. **endangered species**: categories of animals or plants that are in danger of becoming extinct
7. **energy conservation**: the careful management of energy resources to ensure they last as long as possible
8. **environmentally friendly**: behaviour and products that do not harm the environment
9. **exhaust fumes**: the toxic gases given off by vehicles powered by petrol
10. **flash floods**: floods that happen quickly
11. **fossil fuels**: energy resources like gas and oil that are produced deep below the ground over millions of years
12. **future generations**: the people who live after us
13. **to get back to nature**: to live a life that is closer to nature
14. **global warming**: the increasing temperature of the world brought about by gases such as carbon dioxide
15. **heavy industry**: the manufacture of heavy articles and materials in large numbers
16. **humanitarian aid**: the act of showing support to people struggling to survive
17. **impact on**: the effect on
18. **loss of habitat**: the decline in areas of land where animals and plants would normally exist
19. **man-made disaster**: widespread damage or loss of life brought about by the action of humans
20. **natural disaster**: an event such as an earthquake, flood or hurricane which causes widespread damage or loss of life
21. **natural environment**: the place where animals and plants would normally be found in nature
22. **the natural world**: the world of nature
23. **oil spill**: waste usually deposited in the seas and oceans after an accident at sea
24. **poaching**: to hunt and kill wild animals illegally
25. **pollution levels**: the amount of toxic waste
26. **pressure group**: a group of people who try to raise awareness of issues and try to affect the views and actions of people and organisations
27. **toxic waste**: poisonous, unwanted rubbish often produced by industrial processes
28. **wildlife conservation**: to protect animals and plants and their habitats

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Are there any environmental problems in your country?

Student: Yes, we have a serious issue with **pollution levels** in some of our big cities. **Exhaust fumes** from cars and lorries are definitely one reason for the problem, but we also have a lot of **heavy industry** in some areas, and this also results in poor **air quality**.

Examiner: Do you take an interest in nature?

Student: Well, I'm a city person through and through and don't *get back to nature* very often, I'm afraid, but like everyone else, I'm fascinated by *the natural world* and I like watching documentaries showing wild animals in their *natural habitat*.

Examiner: Do you or your family take steps to help the environment?

Student: My parents have always tried to make us aware of our *impact on the environment*. They're really into *energy conservation* and always try to buy *environmentally friendly* products if they have the chance.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe an environmental problem that has been in the news.

You should say:

- when this was
- where the event happened
- what actually took place

and say how you felt about this problem.

Sample answer:

Well, this is an interesting question. There are so many issues I could think of. *Natural disasters* like earthquakes and floods seem to be in the news almost every year, but there was one story recently about some animals that were *under threat*. It wasn't focused on one place in particular, but it was looking at various animals that could actually *become extinct* in different African countries if we don't take steps to protect them. These were really iconic animals like gorillas, leopards, rhinos ..., and apparently, they're now listed as *endangered species*. What made it really depressing was they were in danger thanks to us. In some cases, it was due to a *loss of habitat* either because people need more agricultural production, or even worse, I think because of hunting and *poaching*. I hate to think of *future generations* being robbed of the chance to see creatures like these in their *natural environment*. It's lucky we have lots of organizations that focus on *wildlife conservation*. Hopefully, with their help, we can put pressure on those in power to do something to stop creatures like these *dying out*.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What do you think is the main danger the world faces in terms of the environment?

Student: Well, *climate change* is a real issue. In my country, we have *flash floods* and *heatwaves* on a yearly basis, so yes, I think *global warming* is the biggest issue.

Examiner: What examples are there of how we damage the natural world?

Student: There are so many examples. There are factories that empty *toxic waste* into rivers and oceans, *oil spills* that damage the coastline, the way we destroy vast areas of land and rain forests in search of *fossil fuels* or to increase agricultural production.

Examiner: In which ways do we respond well to environmental problems?

Student: Well, on the one hand, there are various worldwide agencies that are always the first on the scene with *humanitarian aid* after natural and *man-made disasters*, and on the other hand, we have environmental *pressure groups* that are constantly raising awareness of issues and trying to stop disasters happening.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Are there any environmental problems in your country?
2. Do you usually read the environment news or reports?
3. Do you or your family take steps to help the environment?
4. Are people in your country concerned about environmental problems?
5. What environmental changes have you noticed in your country?
6. Is water/ air pollution a problem in your country?
7. Do you talk about it with your friends?

Part 2:

Describe an environmental problem that has occurred in your country.

You should say:

- what caused the problem
- what effect it has had on your country
- what steps have been taken to solve this

and explain why you think this problem is so important to solve.

Describe a law about the environment you would like to see in the future.

You should say:

- what it would be about
- how this law will take effects
- what changes will be made with this

and explain why it is important to have this law.

Describe a place you visited that has been affected by pollution.

You should say:

- where it was
- when you visited the place
- what kinds of pollution you saw there

and explain how this place was affected.

Part 3:

1. What should we do to prevent the environmental pollutions?
2. What can individuals do to try and ensure that water is kept clean?
3. Do you think that governments around the world are doing enough to tackle the problems?
4. Why do some people not consider environmental problems to be serious?
5. What do you consider to be the world's worst environmental disaster caused by humans?
6. Why do you think environmental disasters happen?
7. Do you think there will be more environmental disasters caused by humans in the future?
8. What are the reasons for (or the sources of) pollution?
9. Can you suggest why some people do things such as throw rubbish into a lake?
10. What should the government do to raise people's awareness of environmental protection?
11. What would you say are the responsibilities of individuals for protecting the environment?
12. What do you think is the relationship between pollution and the economy?
13. What do you think is the main danger the world faces in terms of the environment?
14. What examples are there of how we damage the natural world?
15. In which ways do we respond well to environmental problems?

TOPIC 16: TOWNS AND CITIES

VOCABULARY

1. **boarded up shops:** shops that are no longer doing business
2. **chain stores:** well-known brands with shops in multiple cities
3. **to close down:** to stop doing business
4. **fashionable boutiques:** fashionable clothes shops
5. **to get around:** to travel around
6. **high-rise flats:** multi-story apartments
7. **inner city:** the central part of a city where people live and where conditions are often poor
8. **in the suburbs:** the outer area of large towns and cities where people live
9. **lively bars/restaurants:** bars or restaurants with a good atmosphere
10. **local facilities:** local buildings or services serving the public
11. **multi-story car parks:** car parks on several floors
12. **office block:** a large building that contains offices
13. **out of town shopping centre/retail park:** large shopping centres outside of the town or city
14. **pavement cafe:** cafes with tables outside on the pavement
15. **places of interest:** buildings that have a particular interest for visitors
16. **poor housing:** housing that is not in good condition
17. **public spaces:** areas in a town or city that are open to the public
18. **public transport system:** public vehicles such as buses and trains that operate at regular times on fixed routes
19. **residential area:** an area where people live
20. **run-down:** old and of a poor standard
21. **shopping centre:** an area consisting of multiple shops
22. **shopping malls:** large indoor shopping centres
23. **sprawling city:** a city that has grown over time and which covers a wide area
24. **tourist attraction:** a place of interest to tourists
25. **traffic congestion:** heavy traffic making it difficult to move around a town or city
26. **upmarket shops:** expensive fashionable shops

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What is it like where you live?

Student: I live in a **residential area** of a busy town in the south of Spain. We have all the facilities you need, good **public transport** and a good **shopping centre**. It's nice.

Examiner: Do you like living in the city?

Student: Yes I do. I like going out with my friends and there are lots of **lively bars and restaurants** within walking distance of my apartment. I'm a bit of a culture vulture as well so it's great to have access to art exhibitions and that kind of thing.

Examiner: Do you get many tourists visiting your area?

Student: Not really no. I live in the **inner city** and the area is a little **run-down**. It's basically a lot of **high-rise flats** and many of the shops are **boarded up** so nothing to interest tourists really.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe an interesting town or city in your country that visitors might enjoy.

You should say:

- what the place is called
- where the place is
- what the facilities are like

and say why visitors might enjoy going there.

Sample answer:

Anyone who comes to my country really should spend some time in Barcelona. It's a beautiful place. It's not what you would call a *sprawling city*. It's quite compact really and you could walk across the city in a couple of hours but there's no need to do that as we have a fantastic *public transport system*; so, it's easy *to get around*. There are various districts all with their own character. You have the *upmarket shops* in the centre. You'll find lots of *chain stores* and you'll recognize from your own country but also local brands as well. We have the narrow streets in the Gothic district with lots of *fashionable boutiques* and *tourist attractions*. There's the Olympic area and the beaches along the coast dotted around the city. There are some lovely *public spaces* such as parks and squares in the *city centre* and *on the outskirts* of Barcelona where people relax with their friends and family. Of course, *pavement cafes* are everywhere, and you may also visit some great historical *places of interest* in the city. It's a great destination for tourists.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What are the advantages of living in a city or big town?

Student: I think it's having access to *local facilities* and local shops as well as access to larger *shopping malls* in the city centre. And if you're well-off you can afford to live *in the suburbs* away from the busy traffic.

Examiner: In your experience are city centres usually attractive places?

Student: Some can be yes, especially those with a historical interest but sometimes they're full of ugly *office blocks*, *multi-story car parks* and residents living in *poor housing*. It depends on the city doesn't it?

Examiner: What are some of the challenges facing towns and cities?

Student: I suppose *traffic congestion* is a major problem and the growth in *out-of-town supermarkets and retail parks* mean lots of town centre shops are *closing down* plus a shortage of good quality housing. I think these are the major challenges.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Describe your hometown.
2. Is your hometown big or small?
3. Is there anything you don't like about your hometown?
4. Do you prefer to live in a city or town?
5. Would you say your hometown is a good place to live?
6. What should a tourist do if they visit your city?
7. What would you like to change about your city?
8. Is it easy to get around your city?

Part 2:**Describe your hometown.**

You should say:

- where it is located
- what you can do there
- what problems your hometown faces

and explain what makes it special.

Describe a town/ city you visited.

You should say:

- where it is located
- when you visited it
- what you did there

and explain why you like or dislike it.

Describe where you would like to retire.

You should say:

- where it is
- what it's like
- why you like this place

and explain how this place makes you feel.

Describe a problem in your city.

You should say:

- what it is
- how it was caused
- why it is a problem

and offer some solutions to the problem.

Part 3:

1. Why do some people prefer to live in a city?
2. How does a city shape who you are or become?
3. How can traffic be reduced in a city?
4. Is a city more dangerous than a town?
5. How have cities in your country developed since your parents were young?
6. What will cities be like in the future?
7. What is the cause of urbanization?
8. What is the downside of urbanization?
9. How is overpopulation caused?

TOPIC 17: PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

1. **to be the life and soul of the party:** a fun person, someone who is the center of activity.
2. **to bend over backwards:** to try very hard to help someone
3. **broad-minded:** prepared to accept other views or behaviours
4. **easy-going:** relaxed and not easily worried about anything
5. **extrovert:** an energetic person who likes the company of others
6. **fair-minded:** to treat people equally
7. **fun-loving:** to enjoy having fun
8. **to hide one's light under a bushel:** to hide one's talents and skills
9. **good company:** enjoyable to socialise with
10. **good sense of humour:** the ability to understand what is funny
11. **introvert:** someone who is shy
12. **laid-back:** see 'easy-going'
13. **to lose one's temper:** to suddenly become angry
14. **narrow-minded:** opposite of 'broad-minded' (see above)
15. **painfully shy:** very shy
16. **to put others first:** to think of others before yourself
17. **quick-tempered:** to become angry quickly
18. **reserved:** shy
19. **self-assured:** confident
20. **self-centred:** thinks only of oneself
21. **self-confident:** believes in one's own ability or knowledge
22. **self-effacing:** to not try to get the attention of others (especially in terms of hiding one's skills or abilities)
23. **to take after:** to be like (often another member of the family)
24. **thick-skinned:** not easily affected by criticism
25. **trustworthy:** can be trusted
26. **two-faced:** not honest or sincere. Will say one thing to someone to their face and another when they are not present.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: How would you describe yourself?

Student: Everyone tells me I *take after* my mum as I'm quite *laid-back*. I think I'm *good company* but you should ask my friends if they agree.

Examiner: In which ways are you similar to your friends?

Student: I seem to be attracted to *introverts*. Not people who are *painfully shy* but most of my friends are a little *reserved* and I think that's what I'm like.

Examiner: Are you similar or different to your brother(s)/sister(s)?

Student: I think my brother and I are very similar. I'd say we're *fun-loving* and tend to be a bit *extroverted*. My brother is certainly *the life and soul of the party*. I'm not sure that applies to me.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a teacher you once had who you enjoyed being taught by.

You should say:

- who this person was
- when they were your teacher
- which subject they taught you

and describe what it was about their character that you liked.

Sample answer:

I'd like to describe my English teacher from school, Miss Thomas. This was a few years ago now and she was my teacher at a time when I was getting a little bored with being at school. Unlike some of the other teachers Miss Thomas never **lost her temper**, she was very calm and **easy-going**. She was also very **broad-minded** so that we were able to ask her questions about lots of subjects that some other teachers would refuse to discuss. Those made us respect her even more. She had a great **sense of humour** too. She'd laugh at our jokes as well as making us laugh. She would also **bend over backwards** to help us with our work. She always **put us first** and often stayed around at the end of class to talk with anyone who needed help. Apparently, she was highly respected within her field but you would never know as she was the type that **hid her light under a bushel**. She was very modest and **self-effacing**; so, yes, Miss Thomas was a teacher I have fond memories of.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Which personal qualities do you think we most want to pass on to our children?

Student: I certainly would want my children to be **self-confident** and **self-assured**. I really believe that people who feel good about themselves are in a good position to face what life has to offer them. And I'd hope they wouldn't be **self-centred** but remembered to think about others.

Examiner: Which characteristics do you think are the least appealing in a person?

Student: Well, people who are very **narrow-minded** are difficult to get on with. It's nice when someone is open to other people's opinion and willing to think about their own views and people who are **two-faced** can be a little irritating. Relationships are built on trust and without honesty, there's not much left.

Examiner: Which personality types do you think are less likely to suffer from stress or anxiety?

Student: Probably people who are **thick-skinned**, who don't let people or problems affect them too much, and if you are **fair-minded**, you'll be less likely to overreact to situations or be **quick-tempered**.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Describe yourself physically.
2. Describe yourself emotionally.
3. Does your name affect your personality?
4. What do you think a true friend should be like?
5. Tell me about your family?
6. Who are you most similar to in your family?
7. Who are you close to in your family?
8. What do you think it takes to be a good parent?
9. Do you prefer a big or small family? Why?

Part 2:

Describe your best friend.

You should say:

- who he/she is
- what he/she looks like
- what personality he/she has

and say what you like best about your friend.

Describe a person you would like to be similar to.

You should say:

- who this person is
- what this person does
- what qualities this person has

and explain why you would like to be similar to this person.

Describe a child that you know.

You should say:

- who this child is
- how long you have known this child
- what things you often do with this child

and say what you like about this child.

Describe a happy person that you know.

You should say:

- who he/she is
- what he/she looks like
- what personality he/she has

and explain why you think this person is happy.

Part 3:

1. What do you expect from a good friend?
2. Are friends as important to you as family?
3. Do you think friendships change when we get older? How?
4. Can you describe the attitudes of Vietnamese people towards relatives?
5. How have family structures changed in Vietnam? Are the changes for better or worse?
6. What do you think of the influence of genetic factors and environment on a person's personality? Which is more important?
7. Is it difficult to bring up a child in your country?
8. What do you think is the best way to bring up a child?
9. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being the only child in a family?
10. What is the impact of modern technology on communication between people?
11. How do you think the personalities of men and women vary?
12. How do companies try to assess the personalities of people who are applying for jobs?
13. Why do you think they do this?
14. Which do you think is more important when choosing a job applicant, personalities or appearance?

TOPIC 18: SOCIAL MEDIA

VOCABULARY

1. **viral**: if a post/ video is viral or “has gone viral,” that means it is spreading very rapidly across the internet.
2. **troll**: used as a verb and a noun. A troll is a person who purposely creates offensive or provocative posts or comments to arouse anger in other social media users.
3. **hater**: a person who posts negative or critical comments about others
4. **vlogger**: a person who regularly creates short videos to be posted online
5. **meme**: a humorous image or text that is easily sent to others over the internet
6. **anonymity**: The state of being anonymous, of people not knowing your identity
7. **DM**: direct message
8. **emoji**: a small digital image used in social media/ emails/ text to display an emotion, object or idea
9. **badger**: to bother someone repeatedly
10. **derogatory**: offensive, hurtful, disrespectful
11. **censor**: to keep certain images. Texts, etc from being displayed or published because it is offensive or immoral
12. **follow**: to subscribe to the page of a person or business on social media
13. **harass**: to create a hostile situation through written or verbal communication
14. **catfishing**: the act of creating a false internet profile in order to deceive or scam someone
15. **grooming**: preparing someone (often a minor) over the internet in order to eventually commit a sexual offense
16. **influencer**: a person who promotes a product online to his/her followers so that they may purchase it
17. **photoshop**: software that allows users to digitally alter their images
18. **filters**: preset photo enhancements that users can select to apply to their images or videos
19. **block**: stopping or banning someone from interacting with you on social media or viewing your posts/ profile
20. **scam**: a dishonest attempt to trick or cheat you

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Is social media popular in your country?

Student: Very much. Many people, especially the young, are trying to become **vloggers** and **influencers**. They try to accumulate as many **followers** as possible. Apparently, there are people in my country earning a considerable income from this.

Examiner: Do you use social media often?

Student: I must confess that I am an avid user of social media. I am constantly **DMing** my friends the newest **memes** and the latest **viral** videos. It's a way to connect with them even when we can't be together.

Examiner: Why do some people choose not to use social media?

Student: the internet is still in many ways, like the wild west with very little legislation or controls. It is extremely easy to fall prey to **scammers** trying to trick you out of money or even worse, your

identity. Social media sites are full of trolls who only post in order to incite a reaction or **haters** who **badger** other posters or spew negativity everywhere.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Talk about your favourite social media site or application.

You should say:

- What it is
- Why you use it
- How often you use it

and say if you would recommend it to others.

Sample answer:

While many people my age have moved on to Snapchat or TikTok, Instagram remains my favorite social media site for a variety of reasons. I started using this app five years ago when I started experimenting with photography and I find that it is an application that allows me to express myself creatively, by using various **filters** for my photography or videos to create an effect I desire. I have accumulated a rather large number of **followers** over the years, but I certainly would not call myself an **influencer**. I now use the application at least 3 times a week to post stories or to **dm** my friends and followers. I still enjoy using Instagram very much and would absolutely recommend it to others, but you do need to have thick skin if you amass a large following. I have had people make **derogatory** comments to me which can be rather upsetting but fortunately you can **block** them easily. I have been fortunate so far, but some people I know have been victims of **catfishing**, which can be traumatic.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: At what age are children generally allowed to use social media in your country?

Student: I think it really depends on which application the child is using. Some applications generally expose a child more to potential predators or **cyberbullies** so I think children should be at least 15 to use them. I have heard that predators create fake profiles in order to groom children – this is despicable and is just one reason why parents should monitor their children’s device use.

Examiner: Do you think people will social media more or less in the future?

Student: With so many things changing so quickly, it’s rather difficult to predict what the future holds. A few years ago, we were sending **emojis** to one another and now everywhere you look people are dancing in front of their cameras for the world to see. So, I imagine our obsession with social media will continue although I hesitate to predict what form that will take.

Examiner: Why do you think bullying on the internet has become so widespread?

Student: I think **cyberbullies** and **trolls** generally feel that a shield of **anonymity** protects them. Many people are on social media area out there with dummy profiles harassing people at will and I guess like in all kinds of bullying, it makes the bully feel important or worthy. So the bully gets the validation he or she needs without any of the repercussions that might occur if the bullying were to take place in the real world.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Where do you often get the news from?
2. Which are you more interested in, local or international news?
3. What is your favourite newspaper or magazine?

4. What sections of a newspaper do you prefer?
5. Which is more reliable as a source of information: newspaper, TV, radio or the internet?
6. Do you use a social networking site?
7. How much time do you spend on social media sites?
8. What kind of information about yourself have you put on social media?
9. Is there anything you don't like about social media?

Part 2:

Describe a newspaper you enjoy reading.

You should say:

- what the newspaper is
- what section it has
- when and how often you read it

and explain why you like it.

Describe a recent news event.

You should say:

- what it was
- when it happened
- where it happened

and explain how you felt when you heard about it.

Describe a famous person on social networking sites that you like.

You should say:

- who this person is
- what he/ she does
- what kinds of things he/ she often puts on social networking sites

and explain why you think this person is popular.

Part 3:

1. What role does the media play?
2. How can the media influence young people?
3. To what extent should we trust the media?
4. How has the media developed over the past 50 years?
5. Could you explain the risks of putting personal information on social networking sites?
6. How are newspapers different these days compared to the past?
7. Should the media be censored?
8. Why does the media sensationalize the news?
9. Is the news too shocking now?
10. Is there too much advertising on TV and radio?
11. Do you think the internet will replace newspapers in the future?

TOPIC 19: HEALTH

VOCABULARY

1. **aches and pains**: minor pains that continue over a period of time
2. **to be a bit off colour**: to feel a little ill
3. **to be at death's door**: (informal) to be very ill indeed
4. **to be on the mend**: to be recovering after an illness
5. **to be over the worst**: to have got through the most serious or uncomfortable stage of an illness
6. **to be under the weather**: (informal) to not feel well
7. **a blocked nose**: when the nose has excess fluid due to a cold
8. **to catch a cold**: to get a cold
9. **a check-up**: a physical examination by a doctor
10. **a chesty cough**: a cough caused by congestion around the lungs
11. **cuts and bruises**: minor injuries
12. **to feel poorly**: to feel ill
13. **as fit as a fiddle**: to be very healthy
14. **to go down with a cold**: to become ill
15. **to go private**: to choose to be treated by commercial healthcare rather than by services offered by the state
16. **GP**: General Practitioner (family doctor)
17. **to have a filling**: to have a tooth repaired
18. **to have a tooth out**: to have a tooth removed
19. **a heavy cold**: a bad cold
20. **to make an appointment**: to arrange a time to see the doctor
21. **to make a speedy recovery**: to recover quickly from an illness
22. **to phone in sick**: to call work to explain you won't be attending work due to illness
23. **prescription charges**: money the patient pays for medicine authorised by a doctor
24. **to pull a muscle**: to strain a muscle
25. **a runny nose**: a nose that has liquid coming out of it
26. **a sore throat**: inflammation that causes pain when swallowing

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Have you got a relation you're particularly fond of?

Student: Yes, my granddad. He's 94 years old, but generally he's *as fit as a fiddle*. We're very close and see each other a lot. Whenever he *goes down with a cold* or *is under the weather*, I make a point of visiting him.

Examiner: Do you do any sport?

Student: Yes, I'm keen on skateboarding, but I haven't done it for a while. I had a bad fall recently and *pulled a muscle* and had a few *cuts and bruises*, but I'm *on the mend* and hope to be doing it again soon.

Examiner: Is there anything you're particularly afraid of?

Student: The dentist. I hate going to the dentist. I only ever go if I *have a toothache*, so it usually means I have to *have a filling* or even *have a tooth out*. I really don't like it.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a time when you were ill.

You should say:

- when this was
- what your symptoms were
- how long the illness lasted

and say how it affected your life at the time.

Sample answer:

This is a tricky one really as I'm usually quite healthy. I've never been seriously ill. Like everyone else, I sometimes get a few *aches and pains* or *catch a cold*. I can remember a few months ago, I had to have time off work with *a heavy cold*. I had the usual symptoms: *a blocked nose, sore throat*... It lasted quite a while, about 2 weeks I think, though I didn't have that much time off work. For a few days, I remember *feeling poorly*, but I was *over the worst of it* after a few days and went back to work. I always find it's better to be active when you feel ill as it keeps your mind off your symptoms. I think my family get a little fed up with me when I'm ill though. I tend to feel sorry for myself and lie on the sofa all day as if I'm *at death's door*, but as I said earlier, on this occasion, it was nothing serious and didn't really cause me any problems.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: What costs are involved when you are ill in your country?

Student: Well, people have to pay *prescription charges* which can be quite expensive, but fortunately general healthcare is free. Unless you want to *go private* of course, and then you can pay a fortune for your treatment.

Examiner: In your experience are people too quick to take time off work when they're ill?

Student: Yes, I've got friends who have a day off work if they wake up with a *runny nose*. And in most cases, they seem *to make a speedy recovery* after they've *phoned in sick*.

Examiner: Do women pay more attention to their health than men?

Student: I think so, yes, women are more likely to see their *GP* for a *check-up* if they're concerned about something. Men tend to avoid facing up to any health problems they have. My dad always seems to have a very *chesty cough* but refuses to go to *make an appointment* to see the doctor.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. How often do you have a health check-up?
2. Are gyms and health spas popular in your country?
3. Have you ever tried some traditional medicine?
4. Do you prefer western or natural medicine?
5. What do you often do when you catch a cold?
6. What do you do to stay healthy?
7. Do you suffer from an allergy?
8. Have you ever broken a bone?
9. Who looks after you when you are sick?
10. Do you often take days off sick from work or studies?

Part 2:**Describe an unhealthy habit you have.**

You should say:

- what it is
- when and how often you do it
- why it is unhealthy

and explain what you can do about it.

Describe a doctor you know or have visited.

You should say:

- who he/ she is
- when and how you met this doctor
- what kind of medicine he/ she practices

and explain how effective he/ she is.

Describe a time when you or someone you know were injured.

You should say:

- how the injury occurred
- what treatment was taken
- how the lifestyle of you or the person you know was affected

and explain how you or the person you know felt during the time

Part 3:

1. How effective is the healthcare system in your country?
2. Do you think people will become more or less healthy in the future?
3. What are the benefits and drawbacks of not seeing a doctor when you are sick?
4. How can we encourage people to stay healthy?
5. Can you explain the relationship between food and health?
6. How have the eating habits changed in Vietnam?
7. Could you compare the healthcare facilities in rural and urban areas?
8. What can governments do to improve health conditions for the elderly?
9. What responsibilities do doctors have?
10. Do you think that doctors are underpaid?

TOPIC 20: BUSINESS

VOCABULARY

1. **to balance the books:** to not spend more money than you are earning
2. **to be self-employed:** to work for yourself/to not work for an employer
3. **to cold call:** to make a sales call to someone without asking them for permission first
4. **cut-throat competition:** when one company lowers its prices, forcing other companies to do the same, sometimes to a point where business becomes unprofitable
5. **to do market research:** to do research into what potential customers would or wouldn't buy
6. **to draw up a business plan:** to write a plan for a new business
7. **to drum up business:** to try to get customers
8. **to earn a living:** to earn money
9. **to go bust:** when a business is forced to close because it is unsuccessful
10. **cash flow:** the money coming in and going out of a business
11. **to go into business with:** to join another person to start or expand a business
12. **to go it alone:** to start your own business
13. **to go under:** (see 'to go bust')
14. **to have a web presence:** to have a website or social media profile that showcases your business
15. **to launch a product:** to start selling and promoting a new product
16. **to lay someone off:** when a company ends an employee's contract of employment
17. **lifestyle business:** a business that is set up to bring in a sufficient income and no more
18. **to make a profit:** to earn more money than it costs to run the business
19. **niche business:** a business that serves a small, particular market
20. **to raise a company profile:** to make more people aware of a business
21. **to run your own business:** to have a business of your own
22. **sales figures:** a report of the income a company generates through sales of products or services
23. **to set up a business:** to start a business
24. **stiff competition:** strong competition from other companies in the same area of work
25. **to take on employees:** to employ people
26. **to take out a loan:** to borrow money
27. **to win a contract:** when a business gets legally-binding work with an individual or company
28. **to work for yourself:** (see 'to be self-employed')

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

PART 1 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Do you work or are you a student?

Student: I *run my own business* actually. I have an online business selling cosmetics. I *set up the business* 5 years ago and I'm really enjoying *working for myself*.

Examiner: What is your ideal job?

Student: I don't think I'd enjoy working for a big company. I think I'd like *to go it alone* and be *self-employed*. I'm not sure what area of business it would be but I think I'd enjoy the process of *drawing up a business plan* and seeing if I could be successful.

Examiner: Is your town a nice place to live?

Student: It's OK. The main problem we have is our local high street. It used to be a busy centre but lots of shops have *gone bust*. It must be very difficult *to make a profit* when you have huge supermarkets in the area and a lot haven't been able to survive with such *cut-throat competition*.

PART 2: Sample Questions & Answers

Describe a business you know that you admire.

You should say:

- what this business is
- what the business sells
- how long you have known about the business

and say why you like it so much.

Sample answer:

Actually, I discovered a business very recently that I like so much I'd like to do something similar in the future. It's a small *niche business* that runs courses in how to cook, especially bread. The owner uses his kitchen for the courses and *went into business with* a local community shop and sells a lot of the bread and cakes they make in the shop. I first got to hear about the business last year. My wife paid for me to do one of the baking courses and I got to know the owner during the training. It's a *lifestyle business* really. He doesn't have plans *to take on employees* or expand into new areas. He's happy *earning a living* doing the thing he loves. I really admire what he does and I'm sure a lot of people would love to do something similar. He *has a web presence* in fact that's how we got to find out about his company, and he uses social media *to raise the company profile*. However, he's the only person involved in *running the business* so he's in complete control of where the business goes. That's something that must make it really satisfying as long as he's managing *to balance the books* and the *cash flow* is healthy. I'm sure he must be very pleased with what he has achieved.

PART 3 – Sample Questions & Answers

Examiner: Why do some people decide to set up their own business?

Student: I suppose it's the idea of being in control of your own destiny or of believing in a product or service idea you may have. Plus, it must be very exciting. *Launching products, winning contracts* and seeing your *sales figures* improving must be wonderful.

Examiner: What are some of the dangers involved in starting a business?

Student: Well, obviously you need to have a good idea. Some people say you need to do *market research* beforehand, so you know what the market wants. If you don't do this you could *go under*, if someone else is doing the same thing so you could end up facing *stiff competition*.

Examiner: What are some of things you have to do when running your own business that might not appeal to everyone?

Student: Personally, I don't like being in debt, so *taking out a business loan* wouldn't suit me at all, and I know a lot of companies do *cold calling* to try and *drum up business* that's something I'd hate to do and *laying people off* if the business gets into trouble. That would be horrible.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Part 1:

1. Do you work or are you a student?
2. What do you like about your job?

3. What don't you enjoy about your work?
4. Would you like a job in which you could travel?
5. What training do you need for your job?
6. Is your company a good one?
7. Would you like to run your own business?
8. What is an ideal work environment?
9. Do you like your boss?
10. What is the best way to prepare for a job interview?
11. Do you prefer male or female bosses?

Part 2:

Describe a successful company you know.

You should say:

- what it is
- what you know about the company
- why you like this company

and explain how it became successful.

Describe the kind of boss you like.

You should say:

- what they teach you
- what qualifications they need
- what qualities they need

and explain why they would be a good boss.

Describe a memorable day you had at work.

You should say:

- when it was
- who was there
- what made it memorable

and explain how you felt that day.

Part 3:

1. What are characteristics of good employees? And employers?
2. How important is teamwork?
3. What problems does unemployment cause?
4. What can be done to reduce unemployment rates?
5. Why is it difficult to find a good job?
6. Which is more important: a good salary or a job you enjoy?
7. Why do many people become workaholics?
8. What factors influence job choices?
9. How could the government improve employment conditions?
10. How have jobs changed over the past 50 years?
11. How will jobs change in the future?
12. Do you think young people are becoming less or more hardworking?
13. Which is more important, educational qualifications or work experience?
14. Does the education system in your country adequately prepare people for the workforce?

SAMPLE TEST 1

Part 1.

Hello, my name is _____. What's your name, please? Now we will start with Part 1. I would like you to talk about shopping.

1. Do you like shopping?
2. Do you prefer shopping alone or with others?
3. Have you ever bought anything online?
4. Do you like to shop in a regular store or do you change the place you buy frequently?

Thank you. That's the end of Part 1.

Part 2.

You must speak for 1-2 minutes. Before you speak you will have one minute to prepare or make notes. Here is your topic:

Describe a bad weather experience you have had.

You should say:

- what sort of bad weather it was
- when it happened
- where you were when it happened

and explain how it affected you.

Thank you. That's the end of Part 2.

Part 3

Let's talk more about the weather.

1. Does the weather in your country ever affect transportation?
2. What do you think are the reasons for climate change?

Thank you. That's the end of Part 3.

The Speaking test is complete.

SAMPLE TEST 2

Part 1.

Hello, my name is _____. What's your name, please? Now we will start with Part 1. I would like you to talk about music.

1. Did you learn music at school?
2. Did you enjoy music lessons when you were at school?
3. Do children have to learn to play a musical instrument at school in your country?
4. What do you think is the best age to start to learn to play a musical instrument?

Thank you. That's the end of Part 1.

Part 2.

You must speak for 1-2 minutes. Before you speak you will have one minute to prepare or make notes. Here is your topic:

Describe a piece of clothes that was given to you by someone.

You should say:

- what the piece of clothes was like
- when you received it
- who gave it to you

and explain how you feel about it.

Thank you. That's the end of Part 2.

Part 3

Let's talk more about clothes and fashion.

1. Why do people spend lots of money on clothes?
2. Do you think people behave differently in different kinds of clothes?

Thank you. That's the end of Part 3.

The Speaking test is complete.

SAMPLE TEST 3

Part 1.

Hello, my name is _____. What's your name, please? Now we will start with Part 1. I would like you to talk about music.

1. What kinds of films do you like most?
2. Who are your favourite actors?
3. How often do you go to the cinema?
4. Do people in your country love watching movies?

Thank you. That's the end of Part 1.

Part 2.

You must speak for 1-2 minutes. Before you speak you will have one minute to prepare or make notes. Here is your topic:

Describe a country you would like to visit in the future.

You should say:

- where the country is
- when you will go there
- why you would like to go there

and explain why this is a good country to visit.

Thank you. That's the end of Part 2.

Part 3

Let's talk more about travel.

1. What problems can people have when they are on their daily journey, for example to work or school? Why is this?
2. Do you think that the possibility of working from home via the internet will lead to many people going back to the countryside?

Thank you. That's the end of Part 3.

The Speaking test is complete.