

1. Describe a person you have seen who is beautiful or handsome	5
2. An intelligent person that you know	8
3. Describe a time when you were cheated/ when someone lied to you / someone did not tell you the complete truth	10
4. Talk about an interesting old person you met	12
5. Talk about a time when you travelled with an old person	14
6. Describe one of your grandparent's jobs	15
7. Food that people eat on special events	17
8. Describe a special date in your country's history	18
9. Good news that you heard/received/read on the internet	19
10. A subject you did not like when you were at school but now you find interesting	21
11. Describe a time when you showed or taught a young person how to do a thing	24
12. A person you would like to study or work with	25
13. Something you bought but did not use much	26
14. Talk about a public facility that improves/influence local life quality	27
15. A book you want to write	27
16. Talk about a friend or person who recently got success	29
17. Describe a person you wanted to be similar to when you were growing up	31
18. Describe a situation when you did not have enough time	32
19. Historical period you want to know more about	33
20. Describe a time when you found something that someone lost	36
21. Describe your idea of a perfect home or dream house	38
22. Describe a place such as a park or sports ground which has developed in your city for the betterment of people	42
23. Things you usually do well (or do regularly) for your job or study	43
24. Describe a good law in your country	44
25. Describe something you made yourself for your friend (handmade present)	47
26. Talk about a skill that takes long time to learn	50
27. Talk about a beautiful city	52
28. Describe a family business	54
29. Describe a time when you searched/looked for information from the internet	59
30. Describe when someone gave you something you really wanted	61
31. Talk about an equipment that was broken and you got repaired (or which had a problem)	63
32. Describe about a faraway(remote) place that you would like to visit	66
33. Talk about a foreign language you want to learn (other than english)	69
34. An important decision you made with help of someone	71
35. Talk about a time when you received money as a gift	73
36. Talk about a thing you complained about something ( but finally got a good result)	75
37. Talk about a place where you like to study (indoors/outdoors) or where it is easy for you to study	78

---

38. Describe a teenager you know	79
39. Interesting part of your country or A place that is interesting in your country	82
40. Talk about an interesting talk or a lecture	84
41. Talk about something that you borrowed from your friend	86
42. Talk about a game or sport you enjoyed when you were young	88
43. Describe a person whom you have never met but heard a lot about him and would like to meet	90
44. Talk about a TV Program that made you laugh a lot	92
45. Describe a plant grown in your country that you think is important	94
46. A talkative person	95
47. An animal you like the most (Strange/ seen for the first time)-	97
48. Design of a building you visited and liked / Talk about a building	102
49. A street market in your city / A street market where you did shopping	103
50. Describe an outdoor sport that you haven't done yet and would like to do in the future. Please say	106
51. Describe a time when you had to change your plan / you changed your mind	108
52. An exciting book you read or a book you read recently	110
53. A website which helped you to do something / website you visit often/ use regularly	114
54. Describe a famous person that you are interested in	116
55. Describe a quiet place	118
INTRO QUESTIONS	133
	165

## 1. Describe a person you have seen (met) who is beautiful or handsome

- When and where you saw or met this person
- Talk about the personality
- Why do you think this person is handsome or beautiful (@makkariELTS)

**Note:** This is the first version of the makkariELTS Jan-Apr 2019 Speaking Topics, for updates refer to instructions on Page 2. The updated version will have additional cue cards and follow up questions.

- I have seen many beautiful and handsome people in my life.
- Here, I would like to talk about a person whom I find the most handsome.
- He is none other than my father.
- His name is .....
- He is in his early fifties.
- He is not tall, but looks very handsome.
- His hair has started greying, but he doesn't colour or dye his hair.
- He believes in growing grey naturally.
- He generally wears kurta pajama, but on formal occasions he wears pants and shirt
- He is very health conscious and is very particular about his morning walk.
- He runs his own business and has about 10 people working for him.
- He is a very down to earth person and is loved by all in our family and neighbourhood.
- The reason I find him the most handsome is not just because of his looks, but also because of his loving and caring nature.
- I remember, once a person in our neighbourhood met with an accident and needed blood transfusion.
- All his relatives backed out, but my father donated blood without even thinking twice.
- Whenever anyone needs any help, he goes out of the way to help him in whatever way he can.
- He is my father, but in him I find a considerate friend.

- He listens to all my problems very patiently and guides me whenever I am in a difficult situation.
- Even in his business, he is loved and respected by all his employees.
- He believes in leading by example.
- He is always on time to work and so his employees also do the same.
- So, because of his qualities, I find him the most handsome person.

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions -- makkarielts

1. Is it too easy to become beautiful?

I really believe that beauty is more about a person's actions than his looks. So in this respect, it is about doing good deeds and helping others. This sounds easy but it is really difficult. If we talk about physical beauty even that is difficult. A person not only needs to be regular with physical exercise but also manage his or her diet.

2. The disadvantages of being beautiful?

The biggest disadvantage of being beautiful is the unwanted attention a person receives. Sometimes, it is too much and a person might not be able to handle it. Also, there is common misconception that beautiful people are not intelligent. I think pretty people have to work extra hard to show their other talents.

3. Does someone face a lot of pressure if they are beautiful?

I think it depends on the person. Some people are beautiful, but don't bother much about the attention they get because of their beauty and behave normally. Some beautiful people may not be able to handle the attention they get and may feel stressed. I also think that beautiful people have the stress to maintain their beauty.

4. Is looking beautiful a good thing or a bad thing?

Well, it is good to be beautiful, but I also feel that it is the inner beauty that ultimately matters. So having a beautiful heart is better than having beautiful looks. Outward beauty remains of no value if the person is impolite and has no empathy for others. A not so beautiful person, who always has a warm and

welcoming smile may look more beautiful than a very beautiful person with a snobbish nature.

5. Should clothes selling companies hire beautiful models? Why

Well, companies have to sell their products and beautiful models can make their clothes look very good. Their sales can skyrocket because of these models. So, they should hire such models.

6. Do you think when companies or business shops hire beautiful models to stimulate or increase their sales is a good thing?

Yes, it is good for the companies, because in this way they can increase their sales considerably. But, people should always try those clothes before buying. They have to realise that those beautiful models have maintained beautiful bodies, and any clothing which looks good on those models may look very unbecoming on them.

7. Do you think beautiful appearance is important?

Yes, beautiful appearance is very important nowadays, because many jobs require a presentable appearance. But I feel that a very good appearance can be maintained by dressing nicely and carrying yourself well. Very beautiful features are not necessarily needed for beautiful looks.

## 2. An intelligent person that you know

- Who is the person?
- What does he do?
- Why do you think he is smart?
- How do you feel about him? (-m a k k a r |ELTS)

*Note: This is the first version of the makkarielts Jan-Apr 2019 Speaking Topics, for updates refer to instructions on Page 2.*

- I know many intelligent people.
- I find some of my friends, teachers and neighbours very intelligent.
- Here I would like to talk about my friend Sonia, who is very brilliant.

- She is 18 years of age.
- She is not tall, but looks very beautiful.
- She has curly hair and has sparkling black eyes.
- We studied together from 1st to 10th.
- Then she chose the medical stream, whereas I opted for commerce.
- I remember vividly, that she always stood first in class.
- We used to study together at home also because we were neighbours.
- I was weak at maths, but she guided me in such a way that I started getting good grades in maths also.
- She was in the good books of all teachers.
- She was not only good at studies, but also participated very actively in extra-curricular activities.
- She participated in a state level quiz show organised by the Rotary Club and bagged the trophy for our school.
- She has a great sense of humour and can turn any tense situation into a happy one by cracking jokes.
- She has a lot of ready wit.
- I just love her company.
- She has recently taken the IELTS and has scored 7.5 band overall.
- She has motivated me also to take the IELTS so that we can study together in some good college in Canada.
- So, Sonia is the person whom I find very intelligent.

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions - m@kk@rl3LTS

1. Are most intelligent people happy? Why?

Not necessarily. Intelligent people have high expectations of life. They may feel unhappy if things don't go according to their expectations. But, at the same time I think it is difficult to generalise. Intelligent people know that happiness is a state of mind, and so they may try their best to stay happy.

2. Do you think intelligent people are selfish?

No, selfishness has nothing to do with intelligence. I think it is personal nature to be selfish. A person who is intelligent may get success in his life and may seem to be selfish, but actually he is not. Even people who are not so intelligent may be selfish. It is basic human nature to look after one's own interests first. So, it cannot be said that intelligence makes people selfish.

3. Do you think intelligent people are helpful?

Well, a helpful nature also has nothing to do with intelligence. Anybody can be helpful, but intelligent people can help in better ways with their intelligence. People who are not intelligent but have money can help by giving money, but intelligent people can help by educating the poor.

4. Who do you think plays a more important role in children's education, parent or teacher? Why?

Well, both have a vital role in children's education. The role of both parents and teachers is different, but equal. So, it is difficult to say, who has a greater role. In social education, parents have a greater role, but in academic education, teachers have a greater role.

5. What qualities do you think a good teacher should have?

A teacher should have good communication skills. Without good communication skills, a teacher cannot teach well. Secondly, he should have depth of knowledge of the subject. Then, he should be impartial. He should have no bias towards the rich or poor students. He should be able to come down to the level of the student to teach well.

6. How do teachers help children in their education?

Teachers help in all possible ways. They work hard to provide good academic knowledge to the students. They have to keep themselves up-to-date with the latest syllabi and teach students according to the requirement of the time. They can also do some career counselling and advise the students any career path according to their aptitude.

### 3. Describe a time when you were cheated/ when someone lied to you / someone did not tell you the complete truth

- What was the occasion
  - Who was the person
  - What did he hide about
  - Why do you think he did not tell the whole truth
- 
- There have been many times in my life when I felt cheated.
  - Sometimes the person lied to me and sometimes some truth was hidden, which is also as bad as being lied to.
  - Here, I would like to talk about an occasion when my mother lied to me.
  - Actually, it was my 16th birthday, and my mother had planned a surprise party for me.
  - When I got up in the morning, I observed that everybody was behaving strangely and nobody in the home wished me properly.
  - When I asked them what the matter was, they just shrugged their shoulders and said that it was a routine day and they refused to admit that their behaviour was any different.
  - I was very upset, but I got ready and went to school.
  - My friends were also behaving very strangely on that day and were discussing things with each other, but when I went near them, they would stop talking or change the topic.
  - Actually, my mother had invited all of them and were making plans to come to my home that evening.
  - My mother had obviously told them to keep it a secret from me.
  - I could smell something fishy in their behaviour, but could not make out what it was.
  - I felt very low and sad.
  - After school when I reached home, I found that my mother had decorated the drawing room with balloons and bunting and had baked a special chocolate cake for me.
  - All my sadness disappeared and I hugged my mother tight.

- She had hidden the whole plan from me because she wanted to give me this surprise.
- She just wanted to see my happy face.
- When my friends came, we all had a hearty laugh and then we enjoyed the snacks prepared by my mother. We also danced a lot.
- It was a day to remember.

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think telling White lies is acceptable sometimes?

Yes, it is. White lies are good lies. They are told so as not to hurt the sentiments of the other person. They have a good cause and so it is alright to tell white lies. For example, a mother may hide from his child that he is suffering from a fatal disease and may not live long.

2. Do you think honesty is the only important quality that should be in a person.

No, I don't think so. Honesty is important, but intelligence, helpful nature, a good sense of humour and many other things are equally important.

3. Do you think children should be taught honesty in young age.

Yes, they should be taught honesty at a young age. Honesty is something parents can teach without any extra effort. All they have to do is to lead by example. Children imbibe everything from their parents. They generally act and behave as their parents do. As such honesty has no lessons. Children are natural apes. So, if parents are honest, so are the children.

4. Do you think being completely honest all times can be not good?

Yes, sometimes being too honest means being too blunt and may sound rude or even hurt the other person's self esteem. For example, if a four year old makes a drawing which you think is not at all good, you can still tell the child that she has done a good job. That will encourage the child to draw again and become better. Similarly, at times a doctor may have to tell a cancer patient that he will get well, even if the chances of recovery are next to nil.

#### 4. Talk about an interesting old person you met

- Who is this person?
  - How you met him?
  - Why you found him interesting?
- 
- I know many old persons, but here I would like to talk about my friend Sonia's grandfather.
  - I met him about 6 months ago and I found him very interesting.
  - His name is Mr Jaswant Singh.
  - He is in his mid seventies.
  - He is not tall, but looks very handsome.
  - Even at this age he is very lithe and agile.
  - Sonia tells me that he is very health conscious, and never misses his morning and evening walk.
  - He retired as a colonel from the Indian army.
  - Once i visited Sonia's place to work on a project and there I met him for the first time.
  - He was sitting in the lobby doing something on his laptop.
  - I found it very interesting that a person of his age was so comfortable with a laptop.
  - He was placing an order at Amazon.in for some headphones.
  - My parents find it difficult to handle a smartphone and he was using a laptop like a pro.
  - He greeted me very warmly and so I started chatting with him.
  - I was amazed at his vast knowledge.
  - He told me stories of his life in the army.
  - He told me how he participated actively in the Kargil war.
  - So now whenever I go to Sonia's house, I make it a point to sit with him for some time and learn something new.

## Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think old people and young people can share the same interest?

It may sometimes be difficult for old people and young people to share the same interests. Young people are generally more energetic, so they prefer outdoor sports, but old people can only play those games which are not physically trying. It would be wrong to say that they cannot share the same interest. They both can share the same interest in TV programs, movies, indoor games, etc.

2. What skills can the old teach the young?

Old people today have seen a lot of changes in their lifetime. My grandfather has told me many stories of how difficult his life was when there were no vehicles and horses were used for transportation. He has also seen a lot of technological advancements. For example, the evolution of music started with radio and was followed by gramophones, cassette players, cd's and dvd's, and finally I-Pods and Mobile Phones. The most important life skills such as adaptability, versatility and openness to change, can be taught by the old to the young.

3. What skills can the young teach the old?

Young people are faster at learning about modern technology and better at operating gadgets. They can definitely teach these skills to old people. Also, since young people are now entering various businesses, other young people understand them and can do a better job of negotiating prices of goods and services. This too is an important skill for old people who are always keen to get a good bargain.

## 5. Talk about a time when you travelled with an old person

- When and Where?
- What was the conversation you had?
- How you felt about it?

**Note:** This is the first version of the makkarielts Jan-Apr 2019 Speaking Topics, for updates refer to instructions on Page 2. The updated version will have additional cue cards and follow up questions.

- There have been many instances in life when I travelled with my grandparents, but here I would like to talk about a time when I travelled with my friend Sonia's grandmother.
- Actually, it was Sonia's cousins wedding and she had invited me also.
- All her other family members went by car, but Sonia, her grandmother and I went by train.
- We went by Chandigarh express, which starts at 7 pm and reaches Chandigarh at 9.30 pm
- I had met her grandmother many times, but that was the time I realised how lively she was.
- Her name is Parkash Kaur.
- She is in her early seventies.
- She has grey hair and wrinkled skin, but looks very beautiful.
- All through the journey we kept chatting with each other.
- She has excellent culinary skills, and as I am also fond of cooking I started asking her about her recipes.
- She shared many recipes and many cookery tips with me.
- I made quite a few notes in my cell phone.
- Sonia told me that the aroma coming from her grandmother's kitchen is irresistible and that she has magic in her hands.
- The two hours journey seemed to pass in two minutes.
- The train was also very comfortable.
- Sonia's brother had come to the station to receive us.
- So, this was the time I travelled with an old person.

## Part 3 Follow Up Questions

Same as those of cue card number 4.

### 6. Describe one of your grandparent's jobs

- What was it
- When
- Where
- Most young people are very close to their grandparents.
- Our grandparents pamper us with their unconditional love.
- They always have a lot of stories to share about the challenges they faced as youngsters.
- My grandfather was born in Lahore in the year 1925 which now falls in Pakistan
- He was married at the age of 12 and started working as a farmer at the age of 16.
- He was very gifted and innovative in his work. He changed the crops every year and made his own organic fertilizer.
- By the age of 20, he was able to double his land holding and employ others to work in his farm.
- When the partition between India and Pakistan took place, he had to leave all his land behind and move to Phagwara with his family.
- This was very difficult for him since he had no land, and only knew farming as a source of livelihood.
- He started by working in somebody else's field as a farm hand, and with his unrelenting hard work and honesty, he was able to acquire land and send all his children to college
- When my father completed his Bachelors in Agriculture and joined my grandfather, he inherited 250 hectares of land and 200 cows.
- Today, I have joined the family business. Most of our land is now rented to other farmers.
- However, my grandfather still works as a farmer by caring for our kitchen garden and always reminds me of the value of doing things with our own hands.
- He is 93 years old and is a source of inspiration for everyone.

## Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. What do you think is the most difficult job?

The most difficult job is that of a Judge. Judges need to listen to all sides of the story, examine the evidence and take decisions which can make or break an innocent person's life. Their judgement should always be unwavering from the rule of the law. They cannot be hasty or too slow in giving their judgement. They must take a side based on the information available and this often leads to one side always being unhappy. Hence, their job is the most difficult. In fact, an examiner is also a kind of judge as the score that they assign based on their assessment is also a huge responsibility.

2. What are other difficult jobs?

Some other jobs are difficult as well. For me, any job which disturbs our natural body-clock or social life is difficult. For example, many professions such as the police, armed forces, doctors, airport / other transportation staff and even call centre employees have to be on call and work around the clock. This is very difficult.

3. Do difficult jobs deserve high salary?

While simply giving a high salary does not offset the long term damage to one's health; it does give a feeling of satisfaction and prevents employees in difficult jobs from feeling exploited or disgruntled. Owing to their frequent absence from home or lack of a social life, they have to give a lot more gifts to their family and loved ones to keep them happy. Whatever you pay such professionals will never be high enough for the price they pay in the service of the economy or community. Professionals in difficult jobs definitely deserve a high salary.

## 7. Food that people eat on special events

- How is it cooked
  - Why do people eat it
  - Why you like it
- 
- India is a diverse country.
  - There are many types of food that people eat on special events.
  - These food vary from the north to the south and from the east to the west.
  - For example, in North India, people eat jalebi as a dessert on dussehra, they eat rice pudding on Lohri, fritters on Diwali and makki ki roti and Sarson ka saag on family functions in winters. Makki ki roti is a chapati made of maize flour, and sarson ka saag is a dish made of mustard leaves.
  - People eat these foods for many reasons.
  - First, it is a custom to cook and eat these foods on these occasions. Second, these foods are tasty and loved by all. Finally, all the ingredients are easily available everywhere.
  - Here, I would like to talk about Jalebi, which is a hot favourite of the people of Punjab.
  - It is customary to eat jalebi on dussehra, but it is also eaten on other festivals and occasions like birthdays and weddings
  - It is made by deep frying maida batter in circular shapes and then soaking in sugar syrup.
  - Jalebi can be served warm or cold, but I like it more when it is warm.
  - It is orange in colour
  - It can be made in various thicknesses, but I personally like the thin and crisp jalebis.
  - So, jalebi is a food that people eat on special occasions.

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. Which food is generally popular in your country?

India is a diverse country. Different types of food are popular in different parts of India. For example, in North India, wheat chapati and dal sabzi is a common food, whereas in South India, idli dosa is eaten in routine.

---

## 2. Why some people prefer planting food themselves?

People prefer planting food like vegetables themselves because they want to eat vegetables grown without insecticides and pesticides. Moreover, when they eat something they have grown at home, they pluck the vegetables just before cooking. This retains the freshness of vegetables.

## 3. Will there be more and more people planting food in future?

Yes, I definitely believe that more and more people will be maintaining kitchen gardens. Vegetables and fruit available in the market has been sprayed with many harmful chemicals. Therefore, urban farming is becoming very popular and will grow in popularity in the future also.

## 8. Describe a special date in your country's history

- What was it?
  - When did it happen?
  - What people did on that day?
  - Why is it special?
- 
- India has a rich historical background.
  - There are many special days in Indian History like Republic Day, Independence day and so on, but here I would like to talk about a special day, which has become a matter of pride for all Indians.
  - It was 25th June 1983, when India won the first ICC world cup in England by defeating West Indies.
  - Whenever there is a cricket match going on, my father brings up his memories of that day.
  - He watched that match at one of his friend's house and after the match, they celebrated by eating out.
  - It was a nail biting finish as India had only managed to score 183 runs overall in 50 overs and were in low spirits.
  - The Indian skipper Kapil Dev, used all his experience and put up a brave fight.

- He made the impossible possible, by defeating the opponents in a remarkable way.
- After that win, many Indians started looking at cricket as a good career option.
- Cricket was a popular game but after this day people started worshipping it.
- This victory won millions of hearts.
- India won two more world cups after that, T20 in 2007 and The World Cup in 2011, but the world Cup win will always be remembered.
- So 25th June 1983, is a date which has become as important as 15th August or 26th January for the Indians.

## 9. Good news that you heard/received/read on the internet

- What was it about
  - When did you hear it
  - Why do you think it was good
- 
- The Internet has shrunk the whole world.
  - People are connected with hundreds of friends and relatives through social networking apps and sites like facebook and Whatsapp.
  - Now face to face meetings have become very few and people share their joys and sorrows through status updates on these sites.
  - Here, I would like to talk about a good news that I received from the Internet
  - It so happened that my cousin Prabhjeet, my maternal aunt's son, who is in Chandigarh put up his status that he was flying to Canada for his higher education after Senior secondary.
  - I had met him about 6 months ago at a family function
  - But he hadn't shared anything about his plan to go abroad.
  - Last month, i read his status that he had got his Visa and was going to Centennial College Canada to do a course in Business Management.
  - My joy knew no bounds.
  - I called him immediately and congratulated him.
  - I told him that I was very happy about his plan, but at the same time I was a bit angry that he hadn't told me anything about it before.

- He told me that it had all been a sudden plan, and that he had no intention of hiding anything.
- Immediately after his plus 2 result, he joined college for doing graduation in Commerce.
- But there one of his classmates had enrolled himself in an IELTS coaching centre.
- So he motivated him also to join him.
- Till he took the IELTS he had no intention of going abroad.
- But then he and his friend both got 7 band each and then they both consulted an agent, who told them all the details for a study visa.
- Prabhjeet had a tough time convincing his parents to send him abroad, but then they agreed and he applied
- He was very busy in the application process, but luckily he got the visa on the fifth day after submitting his file.
- He has also motivated me to take the IELTS and join him in Canada.
- That is why I am taking the IELTS.
- So, this is the good news I received through the internet.

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. Is it important to read the news?

Yes, it is. News keep us connected with the outside world. We come to know what is happening around us. They tell us what our government is doing for us and also update us with the weather conditions. We also come to know about the lives of the people we follow, such as celebs in the field of entertainment and sports.

We also come to know what is happening in our whole country and even the world.

2. What kind of news do people in your country like to read?

People like to read all sorts of news. They read sports news, political news, weather updates, employment news, and so on.

3. Are young people and old people interested in same kind of news?

Their tastes are different, but then there are individual variations among the people of the same age group too. Generally, youngsters are more into sports news and Bollywood news, whereas the elderly are more into political news.

#### 4. Is it important to keep reading up to date news?

Yes, it is important to be abreast of the latest happenings around us. We can be prepared to face any problems if we are aware of the situation outside.

### 10. A subject you did not like when you were at school but now you find interesting

- What was the subject
  - Why you did not like it then
  - Why do you find it interesting now
- I studied many subjects at school such as Punjabi, Hindi, English, physics, chemistry, biology, maths, history, geography and environmental science.
  - I was good at all of these, but I was not much fond of studying EVS, that is environmental science.
  - I remember it was added in our school curriculum when I was in 5th.
  - I always took it as an extra burden and never liked to study it
  - Perhaps, I was not aware of the importance of environment at that time.
  - Moreover, as it was a new subject, our teachers also didn't take much interest in teaching us in a way that ignited our interest.
  - However, now I realise that the environment is deteriorating very fast and we all need to put in our bit to prevent further damage as far as possible.
  - Many programs on TV stress the importance of our environment.
  - Once I was watching Ted Talks India - Nayi Soch, a show hosted by the king of Bollywood, Shahrukh Khan, in which he calls different people to talk about various things. One such person he called was Shubhendu Sharma, who talked about the method of growing a tiny forest of 300 trees in a small area.
  - Ever since that time I got interested in the environment.
  - Governments around the world are taking steps to save the environment.
  - But what most people fail to see is that their small steps at individual level can also cumulatively lead to massive results.

- For example, if every person planted a tree and nurtured it for the first few months, in a few years we would have more than a hundred crore fully grown trees.
- If each one of us started saying no to plastics, it would make a huge difference.
- So, EVS was the subject I didn't like at school, but like now.

## Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. What is your opinion of modern education (in schools)?

I think that modern day education has changed for the better. The schools today have smart classes and technology has been incorporated really well in the classroom. Also, the focus now is also shifting from an exam-based approach to a more learner friendly approach that leads to a better understanding of concepts and various subjects.

2. What school subjects do you think are most important (in primary school or high school)? Why are they important?

I think that all the subjects currently a part of school curriculums are essential for the holistic development of a child. These subjects range from sciences, languages, literature, history, social science, moral science, etc.

3. What subject or subjects do you think will be the most important in the future?

I think all the subjects are important, however, it is becoming increasingly important that all the schools incorporate technology and have computer science and applications as an important part of the school curriculums. There are many schools in India and many other developing and under-developed countries, where the students still don't have the access to technology.

4. What school subject do you think will be the most useful in adult life? (or most useful for society?)

I believe that all the subjects that we are taught in the school time help lay the foundation of a good citizen. Through mathematics we learn to do everyday calculations, through history we stay connected to our roots, through social sciences we get to know about society, laws, rules and so on.

5. Which subjects do you think should be optional and which should be compulsory?

Subjects like mathematics, history, the sciences – like biology, physics, chemistry, computers, social, etc., languages, literature, etc. should be compulsory. Besides these, sports should be a part of the school curriculum, as a compulsory subject. However, the students should have an option to choose from different sports. Arts & crafts should be included as well, and the type of art and craft can be an option for the students. Studying of any foreign language can be an optional subject.

#### 6. What are the advantages of studying computing in high school?

Studying computing is very advantageous. We need computing in our everyday life- when we shop, pay bills, and so on. When we set deadlines we calculate the days and time we have, we need to compute taxes, interests when saving money, and it is needed in so many other everyday things.

#### 7. In the west, (upper) high school students are allowed to choose many of the subjects they study. Do you think it would be a good idea in India?

I think in India, all the subjects should be taught till high school and like it happens now, students have an option to choose the subjects they want to study in the senior secondary education. I think we have a good education system and it builds a strong foundation, which is evident from the fact that many Indians are working in the western countries and are in great demand there, especially in the IT and finance sectors.

## 11. Describe a time when you showed or taught a young person how to do a thing

- Who was the young person
- What did you teach him/her
- How did you feel after teaching
- Do you think the young person was benefited
- Learning and teaching is a part of life that we sometimes don't even realise we are doing.
- We observe others and learn things, and similarly others may be observing us and learning things.
- Here i would like to talk about a time when i taught my 8 year old niece Gia how to make a 3d origami swan.
- Gia is very fond of arts and crafts

- I had made a 3d origami swan, which she liked a lot.
- I liked her enthusiasm to learn and so taught her very patiently.
- I took 16 sheets of A4 paper and folded it twice lengthwise and then cut the strips.
- Then I cut each long strip into 8 equal parts.
- From one A4 sheet I had 32 pieces.
- Then I taught her to fold each small piece into triangles.
- Basically, we have to make triangles and then fit them into each other to form different shapes.
- I had learnt that from a youtube video on the net.
- I took a long time to learn as there was noone to guide me.
- But Gia picked up very fast.
- One month later, I went to her house and I saw that Gia had made a vase and an owl using the same 3D origami technique.
- My cousin told me that Gia had become obsessed with 3D origami.
- I felt very happy that I had taught my little niece something so artistic.
- Gia participated in a contest - Best out of waste
- She made 3D origami from old magazine paper.
- She won the first prize.
- We are all so proud of her.
- My cousin tells me that Gia has taught this technique to many children of the neighbourhood and all mothers are very happy that their children have become so creative.

## 12. A person you would like to study or work with

- Who is that person?
  - Why would you like to study with him/her?
  - What will you study?
- 
- I normally study alone as I find it hard to study with someone else.
  - However, there are times when I don't feel like studying and it helps if someone can motivate me.

- Moreover, there are subjects like history, which I find really boring to study alone.
- In these cases, I do prefer studying with someone else.
- I had a classmate, Yash in 10th standard and many of my friends told me that he was a very good study partner.
- So if I do get a chance, I would like to study with him.
- He has many unique qualities.
- First, he has a very good grasping power, so he was always able to understand things really quickly.
- He is also very patient. I have heard from friends that he can sit and explain things for hours.
- One of my major problems in studying has been my inability to memorise facts and figures and he is very good with mnemonics, which I feel like can be really helpful for me.
- I remember in school days, he made a mnemonic for the first twenty elements of the periodic table and it became so popular in the school.
- Everyone used it and that's why perhaps my entire class found chemistry very easy.
- That's one more reason I would like to study with him. He is willing to share his knowledge.
- I have heard him saying many things in class that the best way to increase one's knowledge is to share knowledge.
- At the moment he is doing masters in economics in Canada.
- He is at the same college I am interested in attending.
- Hopefully, I would get a chance to meet him there and study something together.

### 13. Something you bought but did not use much

- What was the thing
  - When did you buy it
  - Why did you not use it
- 
- We all like to do shopping
  - We see beautiful things around us and want to buy them even if we don't need them much.
  - I have also bought many things which i haven't used much, but here I would like to talk about a watch which I bought 6 months ago.
  - One day, while I was surfing the net, I came across an ad of a Titan watch which caught my fancy.
  - There was a discount offer going on.
  - Fortunately, I had saved up some of my pocket money
  - So, I ordered it online
  - I was very happy when I received it.
  - It is a beautiful watch, with a square dial and a golden strap
  - I wore it regularly for a few days.
  - But very soon I started forgetting to wear it.
  - My cell phone is always there with me and I can check the time on that.
  - Last month my cousin came from Canada and brought for me a fitbit smart watch.
  - Since then my Titan watch has become redundant.
  - It is lying in my room on my bedside table.
  - I have got a lesson that whenever we do any shopping, we should think ten times about its usefulness for us.
  - Otherwise we will be piling up things we will hardly ever use.
  - Whether we realise it or not this clutter adds stress to our lives.
  - As it is we are filling up our landfill sites by our use and throw culture.
  - We keep on buying new things and the old ones keep piling up.

---

## 14. Talk about a public facility that improves/influence local life quality

***Answer will be provided in next version of the speaking file***

## 15. A book you want to write

- When you had this idea
  - What kind of book do you want to write
  - Is it difficult or easy
  - And explain why you want to write this kind of book
- 
- It's an uphill task for me to write a book
  - I am very fond of Punjabi food and my grandmother is an excellent cook.
  - She also maintains a diary with various recipes for food and traditional medicine.
  - If I have to write a book, I would like to compile all her recipes in one place and index them
  - It will not be easy since her recipes are in Punjabi and hand-written on very old notebooks.
  - She inherited this knowledge from her grandmother.
  - The writing and ink has faded with time but their efficacy has not reduced.
  - Whenever someone is hosting a party or is feeling unwell in our village, they consult my grandmother
  - In fact, once there was a cooking competition in my school. I used her recipe to make a lemon pickle and everyone who tasted it was licking their fingers. I won the first prize, all thanks to her recipe.
  - There are other incidents as well where her knowledge has helped people
  - Once a child from our village had very low blood count because of dengue. My grandmother suggested a soup of boiled Papaya leaves and overnight his health improved.
  - She taught me that sharing knowledge and wisdom is our moral responsibility
  - These recipes will benefit everyone and help in passing on the knowledge
  - Just thinking about it, makes me excited
  - I will dedicate this book to my grandmother

## Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. What inspires you to write this book? Why do you want to write it?

My inspiration to write this book is that I want to share my grandmother's knowledge with the rest of the world. Anyone who tastes her dishes asks for the recipe. If I am able to present it nicely, I am sure this book will sell. Then I will be earning a lot also.

2. Who will this book appeal to?

This book will appeal to food lovers and those who want to cook some sumptuous dishes. It would also appeal to those who want to learn cooking, because I would be writing it in very simple words and adding some pictures too.

3. How will this impact the readers?

The readers will learn many tips and tricks of cooking well. They will be able to cook some really mouth-watering dishes.

4. Who will you dedicate the book to?

I will dedicate this book to my grandmother, of course. Although I will be translating her recipes and adding some pics, ultimately she has done the whole work and she deserves the credit.

## 16. Talk about a friend or person who recently got success

- Who was the person
  - When did he get success
  - How you felt
  - Why you think it is important
- 
- We all strive to be successful in our endeavours
  - It is a fantastic feeling when our efforts result in success

- Recently, my very successful friend Shruti sent me a thank you note.
- Knowing that I played an important part in her journey, filled me with pride
- Shruti's grandmother is an excellent chef and ever since I have known Shruti, I have visited her house every week to have her "Ammi ji ki chai" - a special tea with hand picked spices
- Last year, Shruti and I were discussing how much we enjoy her Grandmother's tea.
- We knew that every tea lover would relish it but to be sure, we also wanted to do a small test
- Hence we hosted a party for 100 people. We served 2 different teas at the party and asked people to write how they felt about both the teas. Ammi ji ki chai was a huge hit!
- This led to the birth of the Brand "Ammi ji's"
- While Shruti took care of the packing and sourcing, I held the responsibility of Marketing.
- We started taking orders through Facebook, and gradually expanded our online presence to Instagram.
- People from across India can now place orders of "Ammi Ji's" products on Amazon, Flipkart and on their own website too.
- Today Shruti employs 10 people to take care of different aspects of her business.
- Her product portfolio has expanded to include pickle's, Marmalade and chutneys. Ammi ji herself oversees the quality and ensures that all ingredients used and the taste is authentic.
- Shruti's success is an inspiration to all women across the nation, and her and Ammi Ji's journey has been published in various business magazines

## 17. Describe a person you wanted to be similar to when you were growing up

- Who is this person?
- Where and under what circumstances did you meet him/her?
- What were the physical attributes - eg. height / hair / eye colour / scent?
- What quality about him / her inspired you?
- How was the attitude of this person towards you and towards others

- I have wanted to be similar to many people when I was growing up.
- Here, I would like to talk about my aunt, Jyoti, whom I really wanted to be like.
- She is my father's cousin and is a doctor.
- She is in her early forties and is tall and beautiful.
- She has a wheatish complexion and has short curly black hair.
- When she smiles, she has a deep dimple on her right cheek, which makes her look very beautiful.
- I vividly remember, the first time I met her in a family function when I was in 8th.
- She had come from Canada and seemed to be the hot favourite of all family members.
- I was impressed by her way of talking.
- I could see the look of admiration everyone had for her.
- When my father introduced us, she gave me a warm smile and hugged me tight.
- I immediately developed a liking for her.
- The whole day I remained with her like her shadow.
- I really wanted to be like her.
- My father invited her to spend a day or two with us at our home.
- She spent the weekend with us.
- I can never forget those two days.

- Now I am planning to go to Canada for my higher education.
- My favourite aunt is there, so even the thought of being with her makes me happy.

## 18. Describe a situation when you did not have enough time

- What were you trying to do when you didn't have enough time
  - Why was this task important to you
  - What circumstances led to you not having sufficient time
  - What did you do to improve the situation
- 
- One thing that is very bad in me is my habit of procrastination.
  - I keep putting off things till the 11th hour
  - Because of this I have landed up in situations when I don't have enough time to do things.
  - I had my finals of Senior Secondary in March.
  - Naturally, I had reserved the month of February for preparation.
  - So, I just took things lightly.
  - I was sure one month would be enough for me to do well because I had been fairly regular till my pre-boards.
  - In January, my paternal uncle came from Canada for his dental checkup.
  - Dental treatment is very expensive in Canada.
  - He had a lot of problem.
  - Whenever he comes, he stays with us.
  - He went for his check up the very next day
  - Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of the jaw bone.
  - He had to receive radiotherapy and chemotherapy and stayed with us for almost 40 days.
  - Helping my mother and father to take care of him was more important than anything else, and so I did not have any time for studying.

- I remember I had to study till late at night and sometimes had to get up very early to study.
- But I could not do that much justification as I had intended to.
- I got a good lesson that we should not put off doing things unnecessarily for the last minute.
- It is always better to be more organised.
- Future is never predictable.
- So, we should value our time and manage it effectively.

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. What could you have done differently

I could have been more regular in my studies and should not have wasted time when I had it. It was wrong of me to while away my time on useless things such as watching daily soaps on TV, and hanging out with friends.

2. What was the outcome and was it positive or negative?

Ultimately, I passed with good marks, but I could have done better. However, I am happy that I helped my parents in taking care of my uncle. He is absolutely OK now. So, the outcome was in all positive

3. Did you take any corrective measures to avoid such situations in the future? How did that help you or changes you saw in yourself.

Now, I don't put off doing things. I am more organised. I feel better. It was a good lesson I learnt.

4. How do you help others from your experience?

I keep telling my friends and cousins about my experience. Hope they learn something from me.

### 19. Historical period you want to know more about

- What period do you want to know about

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

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think nowadays children are learning too much about history?

No, I don't think so. Though there are more sources for learning about history today, like museums, the internet and films, but children don't seem interested in the past, somehow.

2. Many children tend to get bored with history because of all these dates, time and names to remember, do you agree with that?

Yes, I do agree because even I am intimidated with dates. When there are too many dates to remember, it becomes boring. However, if history is taught through movies and TV serials, then many people would start taking interest in history.

3. Some people tend to go against the idea of learning from past experiences, what about you?

Well, everyone looks at things differently. I believe that the past is a good teacher of life. You learn from the past and try to avoid those mistakes, which were made then. Many politicians have handled tough times with lessons from the past.

4. Do you think it is important to know about history? OR What can we learn from history?

Yes, it is very important to know about history. History tells us about our past. It teaches us many things. Everything has its history. We enjoy the freedom we have today only because we knew that once we were slaves. History also teaches us not to repeat the mistakes of the past. We learn about the progress we have made through history.

5. How can people get reliable historical information?

People can get reliable and historical information from books written by eminent historians, from museums, and from art galleries. Nowadays many reliable sites have information about history on the Internet.

6. How do you think famous historical figures can serve as models for young people today?

Famous historical figures can definitely serve as role models for the young people of today. For example, when the young people of my country learn about the sacrifices done by our great martyrs, they are filled with a sense of patriotism, and want to do something for the country.

7. Do people in your country like to visit museums?

Yes, people in my country like to visit museums. They learn a lot from them. The modern interactive museums are more interesting for the young people and children. For example, people of my state like to go to Pushpa Gujral Science City museum more than the other museums because they have a lot to do and see over there.

8. Who do you think likes to go to museums more – children or adults?

Both, children and adults like to go to museums, but children enjoy those museums, which are interactive.

9. Do you think museums should be free of cost to enter?

No, I do not think museums should be free of cost. These museums require a lot of maintenance. So a minimum fee should be there. Moreover, people do not value something, which is given to them absolutely free.

10. Do you think local people and tourists should pay the same amount to enter a museum?

Yes, local people and tourists should pay the same amount to enter museum. If tourists were charged more it would be unfair. Some people think that local people are already paying for the upkeep of the museums through taxes, so it would be okay if tourists were charged more. But I feel that tourists are helping in the economy in many other ways, so there is no need to charge them more for museums or other historical sites.

11. How do you think the museums of the future might be different from the museums of today?

What the future holds in store, no one can tell, but as far as I can see, the museums of the future would be more interactive. New things would be added to them from time to time. Activities would be there to entertain the children and others. Audiovisual aids would be used more.

12. How do you think the museums of the future might portray the 21st century?

Museums of the future might portray the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as an era of rapid progress in the field of technology, transport, education and health.

## 20. Describe a time when you found something that someone lost

- What did you find
- When did you find
- Where you found it
- How you returned it back to its owner
- How you felt?
- There have not been many times when I found something important that someone lost.
- But, I remember that once I was walking from the bus stop to my home, that I saw a small string like thing popping out of a heap of dust

- It was golden in colour, and out of curiosity I pulled it up.
- I was surprised to see that it was the string of a small pouch.
- It must have fallen off and got buried in the dust.
- I opened it and there were about Rs500/- in it and an EasyDay membership card.
- There was no other thing in it.
- There is an EasyDay store in Phagwara, and I thought that I would go there the next day and try to know the owner.
- I told my mother about the pouch, and she was happy that I had thought of trying to know the owner.
- The next day, I went to the Easy Day store and showed them the card.
- They told me that the card belonged to Harpreet Kaur and gave me her number.
- I called her and told her about the pouch.
- She told me that she had lost it only a day before and had searched for it everywhere she thought it could be.
- She told me that it had Rs. 500/-
- She told me to leave the pouch at the store and that she would pick it up from there later.
- She asked my name and address.
- Two days later, someone knocked at our door in the afternoon.
- My mother and I had just taken lunch, and were sitting in the lobby.
- We opened the door and saw a good looking lady standing there.
- She said that she was Harpreet and that she had come to thank me.
- She said that although the amount was not much, she appreciated my effort of going out of the way to return it.
- She had brought a Cadbury's Chocolate for me as a token of thanks.
- Believe me it was the sweetest chocolate I had ever eaten.
- We asked her to have tea with us, and now she is a good friend of my mother and they both are in touch through Whatsapp.

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. What are the things that people always lose?

People lose all sorts of things. They lose money, credit cards, cell phones, their certificates, luggage and many more things

---

2. Why some people are able to find things easily?

Some people can find things easily because they try to figure out where they might have lost them and then try and look for them. Some people have anti-theft tracking devices fitted in their bags, which help them track those things. Apple iphones have the feature - Find my iphone, which can tell where the phone is.

3. Should parents teach children on what to do when they find lost things?

Yes, parents should teach children to return the thing they found. They should teach their children the ways to track the owner. If the thing is very important such as someone's certificates, then they can be reported in the police station.

4. Why are historical items important for a country?

They are important because they tell about the past. Archaeologists can get valuable information about the life of people from those things.

5. Should we preserve the item there itself?

Yes, we should ideally, but if that place has no infrastructure to preserve that thing, then it is better to shift it to some good museum.

6. Why do people vandalise historical things?

People do so because they don't realise the importance of those things.

## 21. Describe your idea of a perfect home or dream house

- Features
- Why

*Sample answer (For those who live in villages)*

- Presently, I live in a village.

- My house is very big and has many rooms and open space in the front and back.
- But, for every small requirement, we have to rush to the village.
- My dream home would be in the suburbs of my hometown.
- There I would get the best of both worlds.
- I would be near the facilities of the city as well as be able to enjoy the calm and peaceful atmosphere of the village
- I would not like to live in a big house.
- Big houses are difficult to maintain.
- My house would have three bedrooms, a lobby, a kitchen a small lawn in the front and a kitchen garden in the backyard.
- I am very fond of gardening.
- I would grow coriander, mint, aubergine, okra, tomatoes, green chilly and some other seasonal vegetables.
- I would use only organic fertilisers, such as home made compost from the kitchen waste.
- I would not use any insecticides and pesticides.
- All the rooms of my house would be well lit and airy.
- The bathrooms and kitchen would have the latest fittings.
- I would have solar panels set up on the terrace to harness solar energy.
- I would like to welcome and entertain friends and relatives in my house.
- I would keep it spic and span.
- I hope to live in such a house one day.

*Sample answer (For those who live in cities)*

- Presently, I live in a city.
- My house is not very big but has three bedrooms and some open space in the front and back.
- But, it is a very noisy and congested area.
- My dream house would be in the suburbs of my hometown.
- There I would get the best of both worlds.
- I would be near the facilities of the city as well as be able to enjoy the calm and peaceful atmosphere of the village
- I would not like to live in a big house.
- Big houses are difficult to maintain.
- My house would have three bedrooms, a lobby, a kitchen a small lawn in the front and a kitchen garden in the backyard.
- I am very fond of gardening.

- I would grow coriander, mint, aubergine, okra, tomatoes, green chilly and some other seasonal vegetables.
- I would use only organic fertilisers, such as home made compost from the kitchen waste.
- I would not use any insecticides and pesticides.
- All the rooms of my house would be well lit and airy.
- The bathrooms and kitchen would have the latest fittings.
- I would have solar panels set up on the terrace to harness solar energy.
- I would like to welcome and entertain friends and relatives in my house.
- I would keep it spic and span.
- I hope to live in such a house one day.

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. Do most Indian people live in an apartment or house?

I think it depends on the region they are living in. In most of the big cities, like the metropolitan cities, people live in apartments, as there is a scarcity of land in such places and to accommodate the ever-increasing population, there are more and more apartment buildings being built. However, in the small cities, towns and the countryside, we can find people mostly living in houses, rather than apartments.

2. Do young people in your country like to live with their parents or by themselves?

In my country, young people like to live with their parents, unless they have to move to another city or country, for higher education or for better career prospects. It's a part of the Indian culture for children to live with their parents.

3. Do Indian people like to rent a place to live?

No, Indian people do not like to rent a place to live. I think it's the dream of almost every Indian to own his/her own house.

4. Would you live in a foreign country in the future?

Yes, definitely. I would like to live in a foreign country in the future. I plan to pursue my education abroad. I think there are better education facilities and better job opportunities in developed countries.

5. How is modern home design in your country different to that of the past?

The modern home design is very different to that of the past, in my country. The material being used now in the construction of houses is much advanced, like weather proof paints, insulated walls, soundproof windows, etc. The design of the modern houses is according to the space available. There is better utilization of space in the modern home designs. The homes in the past used to be more spacious and not equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and equipment, like washing machine, microwave, dishwashers & so on.

6. In your country what type of home do most people live in?

India is a vast and diverse country. People live in different types of houses, depending on the region and the climate in that region. For example, in the eastern parts of India, houses made from bamboo are very common. In regions where there is snowfall, sloped houses are common. In plain areas, people design their houses, as per the area and space available.

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

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

8. How are modern homes different to older homes?

Modern homes are quite different from the older homes, in terms of the design, material used and the structure of the building. Older homes were more spacious, with proper ventilation. Modern homes are designed to properly utilize the space, due to the shortage of land these days. These days, people employ interior designers and architects to plan and decorate their homes. Older homes may not be equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and appliances.

## 22. Describe a place such as a park or sports ground which has developed in your city for the betterment of people

- Where is the place
  - How did you come to know about it
  - What difference has it made to the people
- 
- I belong to Phagwara.
  - It has developed a lot in the past few years.
  - All the developments have been for the betterment of the people.
  - One big development that has brought a lot of change for the people is the opening of the Gold's Gym.
  - There are many other gyms in Phagwara, but this gym has the finest equipment and state-of-the-art infrastructure.
  - They have certified trainers who help each member to achieve their individual potential.
  - They also provide nutrition counselling.
  - It is right next to the bus stand and so it is very accessible to people of the neighbouring villages.
  - My friend took its membership a year ago.
  - He was very fat, but in just three months he started looking much fitter.
  - He told me the trainers there in Gold's gym guided him very nicely as to how much time he should spend on each machine.
  - He motivated me also to join.
  - He told me that although the monthly subscription is about 3600/-, the annual membership with a student discount is only 16,000/-
  - They provide two days trial also.
  - When I went for the trial, I saw that almost 200/- people of all age groups were exercising there.
  - I saw many elderly people there.
  - As it is, we are all leading sedentary lives.

- This gym has brought a ray of hope for those who need to exercise under the guidance of good trainers.
- Some people need to burn fat, some need to tone their body and add muscle, some need to increase flexibility and some need to increase cardiovascular health.
- This Gym has the atmosphere and the experience to provide all that.
- People's consciousness of their health has increased because of this gym.
- So, this is the recent development in my city for the betterment of the people.

### **23. Things you usually do well (or do regularly) for your job or study**

- What are the things
  - Where do you do
  - When do you do
- 
- We all make efforts to work or study well.
  - I am a student and I also do certain things so that I can study well.
  - One such thing is that I always study on my study table and chair and never on my bed.
  - I have seen that when I study on my bed, I fall asleep very soon and all my plans of studying till late night go unfulfilled.
  - I can also concentrate better when I study on my study table.
  - Secondly, I make it a point to switch off my cell phone when I have to study.
  - Cell phone is very distracting and if open Whatsapp, then I start chatting with friends and waste precious time
  - Another thing I do is that I shut the door of my room so that my siblings don't disturb me.
  - Sometimes I play some music while studying.
  - This kills the background noise
  - I also make it a point that my bed is not cluttered and when I hit the bed, I can sleep soundly.
  - I usually study at home, so I take all these steps at home.

- I study mostly in the evening for 3-4 hours every day.
- When I have to study seriously, such as near my exams, I take all these steps.
- By taking all these steps I can study better and also sleep better.

### Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. What kinds of jobs need patience?

All jobs need patience. Without patience, things can go wrong and then even more patience is needed, as more time is wasted. So, one can do things better by doing things with patience, and it also saves time.

2. Do you think people need to be patient in their free time?

Yes, of course. The age old adage - Haste makes Waste - has a great meaning even today.

Time is the most precious commodity. So, even free time should be managed well and with patience.

3. Do you think Indian parents should allow their children to do whatever they want to do in free time?

Parents should plan the free time of their children to some extent, especially when children are very small. Even after that parents should keep a watchful eye on them, even if they loosen the reins.

## 24. Describe a good law in your country

- What is the law
  - How you came to know about this law
  - Whom does it affect
  - Why is it good (makkarIELTS)
- 
- Laws are made by the government for the smooth running of the society .
  - Without these laws we would be living in utter chaos and anarchy.

- There are many laws worth mentioning, such as - ban on smoking in public places, wearing helmet while riding a two wheeler, law against female foeticide and against cutting trees
- But here I am going to talk about a law on banning the use of plastic carry bags
- I came to know about this law from TV news.
- This law affects each and every person on Earth.
- In 2016, India banned the use of carry bags below 50 microns thickness, but it was could not enforced well, because of lack of alternatives.
- However, in June 2018, on World Environment Day, the theme was “Beat Plastic Pollution”, and so the government has planned to be strict in the implementation of this law.
- Actually, this year, India was the global host of the World Environment Day.
- So, our PM Mr Narendra Modi asked every state and Union Territory to launch a massive campaign against the use of plastics.
- Plastic in all forms, such as carry bags, drinking straws and plastic bottles have been banned and strict fines are imposed on the violators of this law.
- Plastic is non-biodegradable and fills up our landfill sites.
- If burnt, it emits harmful fumes in the air.
- So, I think this is a good law and we all need to cooperate with the government by abiding by this law.
- We should make it a habit to carry our tote bags with us when we go shopping and refuse to accept plastic bags.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think this law is acceptable to the people?

Yes, I think this law has been accepted well by the people of India. There is growing awareness about the environmental issues and Indians too are making their efforts to save and preserve the environment.

2. Is there any situation wherein people may disobey the law?

Yes, there are situations when people disobey the/this law. The main reasons for such laws not being followed by the people are personal profits/benefits and the convenience that they may have to give up.

3. Do people like being a police officer in your country?

Yes, many people in my country like being a police officer. Every year there are several people who take the tests to become a police officer. The competition that exists for such exams is a clear indicator that many people strive to become police officers and serve their country.

4. What qualities should a police officer possess?

A police officer should possess many qualities. He/she should be physically fit and active and should have a passion to serve the people and the Nation. Some other qualities are honesty, eagerness to search for the truth and bring justice to people, some skills like martial arts or other such combat skills to fight the criminals, courage, fearlessness, determination, and many more such qualities.

5. Why some people prefer to be a lawyer?

Some people prefer to be a lawyer because they want to ensure that everyone receives justice and is treated fairly by the law. They may have a desire to fight for others' rights and ensure that everyone gets a fair chance to justify their actions. Some people choose this profession because of the prospects of earning money and fame.

6. Should people be penalised when they use mobile phones while driving?

These days vehicles are well equipped with a system wherein you can connect via bluetooth to your mobile and you can be handsfree and still use your mobile. but if a driver is talking or texting on the phone while driving he should be heavily penalised.

7. Is kindness the most important quality of a police officer?

No, kindness is certainty not the best quality of a Police Officer. A Police officer has to be honest, straightforward and very curious while performing his duty..

Unfortunately we cannot afford to be very kind as the criminals may take advantage of the situation

8. Do you think both men and women can be police officers?

These days we are living in an egalitarian society so gender bias doesn't hold ground in any profession. Every man and every woman is worthy of any profession .So both men and women are equally capable of serving in the police department

9. Do you think the police officers are paid too much?

I think in the Western world police officers are paid well in accordance to their duties but in the developing countries their salaries do not match the work they do, they deserve better salaries. But I do not agree that they are paid too much because they face too many dangers of life and limb while performing their services.

10. Do all Indian people obey the law?

Human psychology is the same everywhere in the world when the citizens know that they are going to be caught, penalized ,put behind the bars ,they will obey the law.A law well implemented is well obeyed. I think Indian people know they can find loopholes to save themselves they do not obey the law .I have come across very honest Indians and very dishonest people from other nations so system that has to get strict .

## 25. Describe something you made yourself for your friend (handmade present)

- What it was
- When did you make it
- Who you gave it to
- How did you and your friend feel about it

### makkarIELTS Books Available in Market and on Amazon

- *IELTS Academic Essays From The Past Exams*
- *IELTS Graphs From The Past Exams*
- *IELTS General Training Essays and Letters From The Past Exams*

- **IELTS Speaking From The Past Exams**

- I am not very gifted in arts and crafts and so I normally don't make things myself.
- I prefer to gift people cards and flowers.
- However, a few years back when I was in 9th standard , one of my closest friends decided to immigrate to the US.
- On his last birthday before leaving, I wanted to do something really, special for him.
- But unfortunately, I did not have much saved pocket money.
- So, I went to my mother to get some money to buy him something expensive.
- But, my mother suggested me to personally make him something rather than buying him something, which he may not even care to take with him.
- At that moment, I came up with an idea of drawing a sketch of me and him together.
- It took me a lot of time to come up with something satisfactory since my drawing skills were not so good.
- I remember I spent nearly 4- 5 hours making that sketch.
- My mother helped me a bit too.
- Then I handcrafted a wooden frame for the sketch and gifted it to him on his birthday.
- I still remember his shock when he opened my present since he expected it to be a wall painting because of the shape of the present.
- But after finding out what it was, his eyes swelled up with tears.
- He didn't say anything, we just hugged each other.
- 2 months later, when I was talking to him on facetime, I saw our portrait hanging on the wall in the background.
- At that time, I realised that nothing could ever be as special as a handmade present.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Have you received anything that was handmade by the person who gave it to you?

Yes, I have received handmade cards many times from my students .But I particularly remember a time when I received the handmade bag from my friend . It was finished to the minutest details and it was made as if it was tailored for me. I still carry it with pride wherever I go.It is a very smart shoulder sling bag

2. When receiving a gift, do you prefer something that was self-made, or something bought in stores?

When I receive gift ,it is the intention that matters to me the most not whether it is expensive or inexpensive. When I know I am receiving something from a friend who has made it for me sparing his or her time it certainly feels good but the giver should be as happy to give as I am to receive.That matters to me the most.

3. Which is better, self-made food or food that you buy?

When it comes to food, I always prefer self made food and I enjoy the compliments I receive after the guests relish the food that I serve. I certainly love to cook at home rather than buying food from the market or opening the packet and eating the food that is stuffed with preservatives and harmful additives.But sometimes when I am busy at work I can buy food from outside but I am very selective about the food being freshly cooked.

4. Are art classes important in schools?

These days children are under lot of stress from their academic workload. Art classes are stress busters. Moreover, art has been known as a fine value from times immemorial.Why would people work if there were no amusement and entertainment activities available.Hence art classes are very important for the holistic development of the children.

## 26. Talk about a skill that takes long time to learn

- What is the skill
- Why does it take a long time to learn
- Where/How can you learn it
- How do you feel about learning this skill

**NOTE: This question can be asked in past tense as well (Describe a skill that took you a long time to learn ), so please read the question carefully before giving your answer**

- Each one has different learning ability.
- Therefore, the time taken to learn a skill is also different for different people.
- What is easy for one person, may be very difficult for the other
- Some people find cooking difficult, whereas others find knitting difficult.
- Here, I would like to talk about a skill, which I believe takes a long time to learn.
- The skill is learning a foreign language.
- I feel learning a language is a lifelong process.
- Punjabi is my mother tongue, but sometimes I come across an idiom or proverb, which is very new for me.
- So, naturally, mastering a foreign language is an arduous task and may take a long time.
- My father tells me that my great grandfather knew 10 languages.
- I wonder, how talented he must have been.
- English is a foreign language for us.
- Even though, I have been learning English from class 1, I still struggle for words at times.
- Pronunciation is another aspect, which makes learning a foreign language difficult.
- There are nuances in every language, which may be very difficult to master
- By nuances, I mean a very slight difference in meaning
- For example, jealousy and envy have only one word in Punjabi.
- But envy has a positive connotation, and jealousy has a negative connotation.
- Then, there are idioms and proverbs in every language, which have different literal meaning, but are meant to convey something else.

- That is why I feel that learning a foreign language is a skill that takes a long time to learn.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. What type of skills may take a long time to learn?

Writing skills like calligraphy take a long time to be learnt. It is a Chinese art that needs practice and meticulous training and observation. As a matter of fact any skill needs training and patience. In most of the skills some dexterity is required so to achieve that proficiency one may require training for a long time

2. Why would people spend a lot of time learning one skill?

Some people are very passionate about your hobbies and they want to learn it to the levels of perfection. So people spend a lot of time learning that kind of skills that they enjoy doing. On the contrary there are certain skills where children do not have an aptitude for. But there still useful to be learnt so that it longer learning that skill.

3. Do people feel happy after they have learned a new skill?

Yes whenever you create something there is a sense of achievement and you feel happy about it. So most of the people do feel happy when they learn a new skill. Simple procedures like cooking, stitching, knitting make provide immense happiness when they tried for the first time

4. Why are some people unwilling to learn new skills?

Sometimes people are unwilling to learn new skills because this fear did I go wrong. Fear of failure should not be a hurdle to create something new. Better to have tried and failed than not tried at all. Sometimes people face lot of criticism at work or some children face lot of Criticism at school so they fear to try something new.

5. Do you think it takes a long time to learn a language?

Ability to learn a language may vary from person to person. Some individuals learn languages very fast as they are very good at the uptake of new vocabulary, while other people might face difficulty learning new words. To gain superficial knowledge of any language is not difficult but to learn it fluently takes a long time.

## 27. Talk about a beautiful city

- Where it is
- How do you know it
- What is it famous for
- Why do you think it is a beautiful city/Special points of the city

For IELTS Classes please visit our Coaching Centre in Phagwara or Mohali. Actual exam questions for Writing, Speaking and Reading are asked from makkarielts Study Material. Visit our facebook page [www.facebook.com/makkarielts](https://www.facebook.com/makkarielts) to see the latest IELTS tasks asked in the exam.

- India is a diverse country.
- There are many beautiful cities in India.
- Some are beautiful because of their historical buildings, whereas others are beautiful because of their modern architecture. Some cities are beautiful because they are in the mountain valleys, whereas some are beautiful, because of the beautiful and warm smiles of people.
- Here, I would like to talk about Chandigarh, which is also known as 'The City Beautiful'
- It was designed by the French architect Le Corbusier.
- It is the first planned city of India after independence.
- Chandigarh is the cleanest and the happiest city of India according to two different surveys held in 2010 and 2015.
- It is also the first smoke-free city in the country.
- It is a union territory and is also the capital of two states - Punjab and Haryana.
- The Rock Garden in Chandigarh is a masterpiece out of waste material.
- Sukhna lake, is the biggest man-made lake. It is a beautiful place for the people to enjoy with their families.
- The sector 17 market is a shopper's paradise.
- The Rose Garden is Asia's largest garden
- The city has 47 sectors.
- Each sector has residential and commercial zones
- The roads are designed and oriented in such a way that most of the time of the day, they are under shade.
- There are huge parking areas in the commercial zones so that the parking problems don't create a havoc on the main roads.

- The Parking lanes are as broad as the main roads.
- So, you see, while the city was planned in 1952, it is still the most well planned and beautiful cities of India

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Why do some people like to visit historical places?

People go to historical cities to learn/gain knowledge about the past, the way of life of the people in the past, their culture, their roots, and the architecture.

2. Why do people go to modern city

People visit modern cities for various purposes, some go for work/business reasons, and some for tourism. Those who travel for pleasure to modern cities is to experience a life, where modern technology is incorporated in every aspect of life and to learn and see how people there are using technology in their daily lives. Singapore is a very good example of such a city, where we can not only experience the modern way of life, but also see how they have used modernization to help preserve and enrich the environment.

3. What are the problems caused by maintaining historical city?

The problems that maintenance of a historical city perhaps can cause are related to the funds required for the restoration and upkeep of the city. Another issue could be the pressure on the resources of that city because of tourism.

4. Do you think having too many tourists is a positive thing for historical attractions?

No, I don't think so. I believe that too many tourists will lead to pollution and also will affect the upkeep of historical sites. Such sites need a lot of care and maintenance and limiting the number of visitors to such sites can help maintain them, prevent damage to such sites, and also sustain tourism.

5. What can we do to stop visitors from damaging historical places?

To prevent the damage to historical places by the visitors to such places many measures can be taken. There should be strict punishments, like high fines for the people who try to cause harm. There should be security personnel employed to ensure that no one tries to damage the historical places and along with that there should be security cameras installed to monitor the activities of the tourists. There can be tourist guides appointed, who also can ensure that no one causes any damage.

## 28. Describe a family business

- What is the business
- What type of customers
- How you know it
- What product it sells
- Why do you like it

*makkarielts Printed Books and PDF's can be ordered at  
[www.instamojo.com/makkarielts1](http://www.instamojo.com/makkarielts1)*

- I belong to Phagwara and it is the hub of small scale industry.
- There are many spare part industries run by families.
- My friend Aman's father runs an industry by the name of Akal Industries.
- I can say that it is a successful business because I have seen it grow to great heights in the past few years.
- His father, Jatinder Singh and his uncle, Parminder Singh are partners in this business.
- One brother looks after the sales and the other looks after the manufacturing section.
- Four years ago Aman's cousin, Inderpal joined them and now Aman is planning to join them after completing his course in Business Management.
- This business was started by Aman's grandfather with a handful of workers about 50 years ago but now they have 300 people working for them round the clock .
- They manufacture and supply auto spare parts to various countries like Germany, France, US and Canada.
- They have a very good rapport with their workers and whenever they fulfil big orders, they give bonus to them.
- Aman tells me that his mother and aunt look after the needs of the workers' families from time to time.
- They make them feel part of their family and that is why they have never faced shortage of labour.
- Aman tells me that if any worker is absent or not well, his father takes his place and does not let the work suffer.
- They also give a lot of emphasis on quality and that is why their products are in great demand in Germany and France.
- Although Aman's family is very rich, they are very humble and magnanimous.
- His father keeps donating for charity on special occasions.

- So, this is the successful family business that I know of.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think governments should regulate exports?

Yes, of course. Regulation is very essential. The quality of goods to be exported should be checked, otherwise it may ruin the reputation of the exporting country.

2. Do you think globalization is a positive development ?

Yes, globalization is a positive development. It has not only brought people closer, but also helped them prosper by providing more opportunities to travel, study, and work anywhere. This has also led to greater exposure to other cultures, making people more broadminded and accepting. Also, trade with other countries has become easier.

3. How to be a successful businessman in your country?

The government in India is encouraging self-employment. However, to be a successful businessman/woman, one needs to have good business management skills and also, leadership skills. Hard work, determination, dedication, perseverance, patience are some of the traits that a person should have. Besides these skills and qualities, market demand and consistency in providing good quality products and service can make any business successful.

4. Do people in your country like to work for big companies or small companies?

I think that it is a matter of personal preference, as both the big and the small companies have their benefits and drawbacks. So people choose an organization according to their interests, career aspirations, circumstances, accessibility, and many more such factors.

5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having relatives in a family business?

### Advantages

It keeps the family together. Family members understand each other better. Maximum efficiency is ensured. They are more committed than outsiders. Most family members have good informal internal training. This is because such businesses are usually passed down the family..

### Disadvantages

- Misunderstandings at home could also be brought to the office and the family expenses could be deducted from the business.

- Some of the family members might become too comfortable knowing that their own family is working, and as a result there may not be proper planning and budgeting which may result in misunderstandings later on.
- Family businesses also tend to appoint family members even if they lack training or experience. Outsiders might have ideas and skills that can be useful to the family business but their ideas won't be incorporated because they are outsiders.
- There can be conflicts among the family members, which may result in total collapse of the business at times.

6. Are men and women equally good at running a business?

There are no gender differences nowadays. It is a matter of personal aptitude. As more and more girls are opting for management courses, they are successfully entering the world of business. We have many examples, such as Kiran Majumdar, who is the CEO of Biocon company.

7. Is market research important for export business?

Yes, definitely. Market research is important for any business and not just for export business. If China exports those products which are not in demand, then it will be out of business very soon. Even if we talk about small scale business, without adequate market research nothing will sell properly. For example in a poor country, branded showrooms will not survive.

8. Is it important to be competitive and why?

Yes, it is very important to be competitive nowadays. We belong to an era of competition. Today, we are not competing with the person next-door or in the same town or country. We are competing with the people of a global village.

9. In business, do companies need to be competitive?

Yes, definitely. Business is all about competition. If you don't compete how can you run a business? You have to sell your products and for that you have to compete with your rivals. Otherwise they will succeed and you will lose.

10. Should companies promote competition and why?

Yes, surely. Companies should promote competition because if they don't compete how can they run a business? They have to sell their products and for that they have to compete with their rivals. Otherwise they will fail and others will succeed. However, they should promote healthy competition and should not use unethical means to compete.

11. What challenges and difficulties people face when they try to have a successful small business?

They have to do proper market research and see if there is demand of their product or service. They also have to see if they will be getting competition from the international sector. For example, a bicycle manufacturer from India may not be able to compete with the cheaper and better looking bicycles from China. Then there are other formalities like government approvals etc.

12. What should be the government's' role in how small businesses are run? Government should promote small businesses by providing subsidies to budding entrepreneurs. This way unemployment will be reduced. It should do careful and fair evaluation of the business plan of the person and help in all the ways it can. Prime Minister Modi's 'Make in India' Campaign is a step in this direction.

13. What are the advantages and disadvantages of small businesses compared to large companies? (Difference between big companies and small companies?)

There are many differences between big and small companies. To begin with, big companies offer bigger pay packages than small companies. Secondly, these companies give many perks and bonuses from time to time. These companies give benefits like health insurance and travel allowance. Another big advantage of big companies is that it is a status symbol to work in these companies. Furthermore, they provide opportunities to travel overseas. Moreover, in a big company hands on training is provided to all new workers.

On the other hand, in a small company, everybody knows everybody. You are not part of a big crowd as in a big company. If you do some good work, you are applauded for it.

If you open your own small business, you are your own boss. You decide your paycheck. The more you work, the more you earn. The disadvantage is that there is a lot of risk and in case you don't do well, you can suffer a heavy financial loss.

14. How can businesses benefit the community in which they are located?

Businesses can benefit in many ways. They can provide scope for many supporting businesses to flourish. For example, restaurants, hotels, and many more.

15. What are the advantages of exports?

Exporting is one way of increasing your sales potential; it expands the "pie" that you earn money from, otherwise you are stuck trying to make money only out of the local market.

16. What kinds of small businesses are most popular?

All types of small businesses are popular. My home town is the hub of small scale industry, such as motor parts. Jalandhar is famous for sports goods. Ludhiana is known as the Manchester of India because of small scale industry, especially the hosiery industry.

17. Why do some people open their own business?

Some people open their own business because they want to be their own boss. They know they can grow big that way.

18. What qualities does a small business owner need to have?

He should have the competitive spirit. Should have the ability to take risks. He should be hard working and know how to get work from his employees.

19. Are there many big companies in your country?

Yes, there are. India is a fast developing country. There are many Indian companies, which are very big such as Tata, Mahindra, Godrej, Reliance, Videocon, Onida and so on. There are also many multinational giants which have opened branches in India, such as Samsung, LG, Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and so on.

20. How can a small company grow big?

Small companies can do so in many ways. They can work hard, employ skilled workers, focus on quality and employ good marketing strategies.

21. Should big companies donate more to charities?

Yes, they should. I believe that anyone who has enough should help the needy on humanitarian grounds. Many big companies help the NGOs and NPOs. This is a win-win situation for both. When they get publicity for their charity work, they are getting advertisement for free.

22. Should big companies be punished more seriously if they break the law?

No, they should not. Law should be the same for all – big as well as small companies. Usually, big companies have big connections. So, they try to get away with their wrong doings. This also should not happen. Punishment should be equally serious for all law offenders.

#### **RECENT QUESTIONS FROM makkariELTS Books, asked in IELTS exam**

- **IELTS Academic Exam, 11 Aug 2018, India - Essay no. 144 from makkariELTS Book Academic Essays From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS General Training Exam, 18 Aug 2018, India - Essay no. 2 from makkariELTS Book GT Essays & Letters From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS Academic Exam, 25 Aug 2018, India - Essay no. 39 from makkariELTS Book Academic Essays From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS Academic Exam, 13 Sep 2018, India - Graph no. 116 from makkariELTS Book Graphs From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS Academic Exam, 25 Aug 2018, India - Reading Passage 3 from makkariELTS Book Reading From the Past Exams - PDF Edition Volume 1**
- **To refer the questions coming in actual IELTS exams and the answers, please visit [facebook.com/makkarielts](https://facebook.com/makkarielts) after the exam.**

## 29. Describe a time when you searched/looked for information from the internet

- When was it
- What information were you looking for
- Where you were searching on the internet
- How did it help you (how you felt about the information)

### makkarielts Books Available in Market and on Amazon

- *IELTS Academic Essays From The Past Exams*
- *IELTS Graphs From The Past Exams*
- *IELTS General Training Essays and Letters From The Past Exams*
- *IELTS Speaking From The Past Exams*

- Internet has become part and parcel of our lives.
- Not a single day goes without its use by the youngsters of today.
- I too use the internet for many things.
- Every now and then I see what my friends and family have posted on Whatsapp or Facebook.
- Here, I would like to talk about a time when I searched ideas for a handmade gift on the internet.
- It was my sister's birthday and I wanted to make something for her.
- YouTube is a wonderful resource for videos of all types of creative projects.
- I came across this 3D origami project.
- It looked fabulous.
- I decided to make it.
- All it needed was 16 sheets of A4 size paper and a paper cutting knife.
- The instructions in the video were very easy.
- While I was making it, it did not look so good, but as I went on, the shape became clear and it started looking awesome.
- When I presented it to my sister, she was stunned, because the swan looked stunning.
- Everyone complimented me for that artwork. She has kept that swan on her bedside table.
- So, the internet helped me in creating a masterpiece from ordinary paper.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Is online information reliable?

I believe that there is unreliable information available online because there are no restrictions on the information anyone can post. However, most of the users know which sites are trustworthy and which information cannot be trusted/relied upon.

2. Do you think there is too much information online

Yes, there is a vast amount of information available online. There are thousands of articles, websites, blogs available for any topic one searches for.

3. Is the information provided on television useful?

Yes, there is a lot of useful information provided on television through various educative and informative shows like on National Geographic, Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, etc. There a lot we can learn about the culture, language and lifestyle even from the daily soaps. Besides, there are advertisements about social issues and products which also add to our awareness and knowledge.

4. What are some other ways of searching information?

Some other ways are from magazines and books, which we can find in libraries.

5. What kind of information do people trust more?

People trust information from books more, because there is no authenticity of the information on the internet. Anyone can post anything.

6. What should be done to critically analyse the information people get from internet?

It is essential to know the site from where the information is being taken. Some sites are authentic and secure.

7. What are the differences between getting information from library and getting information from newspaper?

Libraries can provide access to information related to a variety of topics and also an environment/atmosphere which is conducive to concentrate better. While

newspapers largely have the most latest news from all over the world. Newspapers cover various topics too, but cannot compare to the variety available in a library.

## 30. Describe when someone gave you something you really wanted

- Who gave it to you
- What was the thing
- When you received it
- Why you needed it?
- How you felt about it

For IELTS Classes please visit our Coaching Centre in Phagwara or Mohali. Actual exam questions for Writing, Speaking and Reading are asked from makkarielts Study Material. Visit our facebook page [www.facebook.com/makkarielts](https://www.facebook.com/makkarielts) to see the latest IELTS tasks asked in the exam.

- In my life, I have never asked anyone for anything but there have been occasions when people have given gifts to me and it made me feel really happy.
- Today I would like to talk about once such occasion when someone gifted me a thing that I was planning to buy on my own
- It was given to me by my brother who is working as an engineer in Canada
- My brother loves me very much and is a kind hearted person
- He gifted me the latest iphone X and I was completely astonished (greatly surprised) when I came to know that he got this phone for me.
- Actually I had been saving for this phone for a lot of months but still i didn't have enough money to buy it
- I also read a lot of reviews about this phone and watched a lot of videos on youtube as well about this phone
- It's an awesome phone with lot of great features like face recognition, wireless charging and dual cameras.
- My brother was visiting us during the last winters and he saw me doing a lot of research about this phone on the internet
- He knew that I wanted this phone badly
- So he went ahead and bought this phone for me without letting me know
- He gave this phone to me as a surprise on Christmas

- When I woke up on Christmas morning the phone was lying inside a sock next to my bed.
- At first I didn't believe if it was real or a dream but then when everyone started congratulating me, I felt elated.
- I thanked my brother a lot and I called him my Santa Claus.
- So this was the moment when I felt extremely joyful on receiving something I really wanted.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. What is the relationship between shopping and economy of your country?  
Shopping improves the economy and as economy improves, people do more shopping. So, both things depend on each other.
2. What are the things young people like to buy?  
Young people like to buy clothes, shoes, electronic gadgets and many other products.
3. How your friends influence your shopping choice?  
Friends suggest me things to buy. My friends are very brand conscious. So, they keep a lookout on the various offers by various branded stores. For example, recently, there was an offer on Levis jeans. Two jeans were free on purchase of one. So, we bought one for Rs 3000/- and got two free. Each one had to pay only 1000/- for the Levis jeans.
4. Is consumption important to a country?  
Yes, consumption is very important to a country for its economy to grow/progress. Consumption means customer demand and that leads to mass production, employment and makes any business profitable. However, over consumption can be negative as it leads to a consumerist and materialistic society. It also leads to environmental damage. So, people should draw a line on their consumption of consumer goods and it shouldn't lead to the above mentioned drawbacks or a throw away society.
5. What should parents do when their children ask for things their friends have?  
Parents should make the children understand the difference between needs and desires. Parents should also be transparent about the affordability and family budget limitations so that children become more responsible and don't demand things from their parents only because of peer pressure.
6. Why do people buy things that are not necessary?  
People sometimes buy things that are unnecessary because of their materialistic nature. It could also be due to peer or societal pressures. Sometimes people may stock things in the hope that it is something that they may need in the future.

### 31. Talk about an equipment that was broken and you got repaired (or which had a problem)

- What the equipment was
- What was the problem
- When and how you got it repaired
- How you felt about it

For IELTS Classes please visit our Coaching Centre in Phagwara or Mohali. Actual exam questions for Writing, Speaking and Reading are asked from makkarIELTS Study Material. Visit our facebook page [www.facebook.com/makkarielts](https://www.facebook.com/makkarielts) to see the latest IELTS tasks asked in the exam.

- With the rapid growth in the number of technological appliances we use everyday, there are lot of instances when something fails and we have to get it repaired.
- Today, I would like to talk about my Apple laptop, which got damaged recently and I got it repaired from IT market in Delhi
- What happened was that I was working on an assignment late night and I was using the laptop while lying on the bed.
- I didn't realise when I fell asleep and when I got up in the morning I saw my laptop lying on the floor, probably it fell down when I was sleeping.
- I immediately picked it up, only to realise that there was a huge crack in the screen of the laptop.
- I tried to turn it on but it was not working.
- I felt really bad at that time and was scared to tell my family about it.
- So I decided to consult my friend and he told me to visit the nearest Apple store to figure out the damage.
- I reached there immediately and the technician told me that the display had broken and needs to be replaced.
- He told me the cost of screen replacement would be 40,000 Rs
- I was shocked to hear such a huge repair cost as I had already spent a hefty amount on the laptop
- So I came back home disappointed.

- Suddenly, it came to my mind that one of my other friend, who was in Delhi, had also faced the same problem.
- So, I called him and explained the situation to him.
- He told me that I can get it repaired from IT market in Delhi for just 5000 Rs and the technician will replace my screen with a used one.
- After that, I decided to tell my family about it. Initially, they felt sad like me but then they suggested me to be careful about how I handle electronic gadgets in future and gave the money for repair.
- Finally, I went to Delhi and got it repaired. The technician changed the display and luckily the used display looked like a new one and I was able to use my laptop again.
- Nowadays I am very careful about how I use the electronic equipments, I guess, I learnt the lesson, the hard way.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. What are the common home appliances that people use these days?

There are multiple appliances that people use at home today like vacuum cleaner, microwave ovens, washing machine etc. These appliances help in automating a lot of manual work and thus reduce human effort and time, making our life more comfortable.

2. Do you think modern technology makes people lazier?

Yes, I think modern technology is making people lazier because people have become dependant on the machines and technology for every little task. People use cars instead of walking to nearby places, and play video games and watch television instead of doing physical exercise

3. What can people do to protect their equipment from technical problems?

People should protect their equipment from dust and get it serviced regularly to avoid any technical glitches. They should also read the instructions carefully before using the equipment.

4. When an electronic item of yours does not work, would you repair it or buy a new one?

I would try to get it repaired first because repair would probably cost me less money as compared to buying a new one.

5. Are you good at handling problems on your own?

Well it depends on the type of problem but still if it is a small problem, i initially try to solve or handle it on my own but if I don't have expertise in solving that

problem, I like to take it to an expert who can solve it for me quickly and efficiently.

## 32. Describe about a faraway(remote) place that you would like to visit

- What place is it
- Where is it located
- How would you go there

### makkarielts Books Available in Market and on Amazon

- *IELTS Academic Essays From The Past Exams*
- *IELTS Graphs From The Past Exams*
- *IELTS General Training Essays and Letters From The Past Exams*
- *IELTS Speaking From The Past Exams*

- I am a person who loves to travel and explore different places.
- I feel travelling is a great way to rejuvenate and through travelling we can also learn a lot.
- Today, I would like to talk about one of my dream destinations that I would like to visit
- It's a city called Ladakh located in the northernmost part of India.
- Ladakh attracts a lot of tourists especially youngsters from different parts of India and the world.
- Ladakh is renowned for its mountain beauty and culture
- The mountains in this region do not have any trees, rather they are dry mountains
- Due to this reason, Ladakh is sparsely populated
- There are lot of famous places to visit here like Pangong lake, Nubra valley etc
- A lot of popular Indian movies have been filmed in Ladakh.
- The distance between Delhi, capital of India and Ladakh is approximately 1000 kms
- Like many youngsters in India, I want to visit Ladakh on a Royal Enfield Bike
- It normally takes 6-7 days to reach Ladakh on a motorcycle from Delhi
- One has to travel across 4 states in India to reach Ladakh
- I have heard from a lot of people who have done this trip, that it is one of the best experiences of life
- I am planning to go there during the next summers as the roads to Ladakh are open during summers only.

- It will be a camping trip and I would carry all the necessary tent equipment and food supplies with me
- I have also asked a lot of friends who will be accompanying me on this trip
- I think it is always better to travel in a group rather than travelling alone.
- I would also take a lot of pictures during this trip and enjoy the local food in Ladakh
- So Ladakh is one faraway place I am looking forward to visit soon and check it off my bucket list.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Talk about tourist places in your country?

There are several tourist places in my country. Some are visited for their natural beauty, like the hill stations, beaches, forests, etc. Some are popular for their historic, architectural, and cultural importance, like the Taj Mahal, Rajasthan, temples in the South of India, etc. There are many places which are known for their wildlife and natural environment, like the Kaziranga National Park is popular for the Rhinoceros, Corbett National Park and Satpura forests for the Tiger, Gir Forests for lions, Bharatpur for the bird sanctuary, and many more such places are popular tourist destinations.

2. What are the benefits of tourists to region

There are many benefits to the tourist destination. Tourists spend money on their stay/accommodation, travel, food, souvenir and other shopping, which makes the region progress economically and develop better facilities for the tourists, as well as the local people. When the infrastructure is developed for the tourists, it is the local people who benefit from it as they get to use and enjoy those amenities too. The standard of living of the local people becomes better; they are able to earn more because of tourism.

3. What environmental effects are caused by it

Tourism does have its downside and the major impact is seen on the environment. The use of various modes of travel and transport used by the tourists causes all types of pollution. There is a lot of pressure on the natural

---

resources, like water, forests. It is observed that there is more litter at a tourist destination and it may lead to soil or land pollution if that waste is not disposed off properly.

4. Why tourists throw their waste in tourist places

Tourists litter the tourist places as some of them feel that one plastic bag or bottle or a wrapper they throw doesn't make a difference. Also, some tourists feel that it is the government's or the local people's responsibility to keep the city clean. Sometimes there may not be good waste disposal facilities provided by the local government.

5. Do people in your country want longer holidays? Why?

I believe it depends on the work schedule of people. These days people are busy working and earning more money for their family and for leading a comfortable life. However, many people who have children go on longer holidays, especially during the summer vacations, or other such long vacations that their children have during their school years. Mostly the other working professionals prefer taking short breaks, like on long weekends.

6. Why do people like to stay at home?

People like to stay at home when they get some free time so that they can spend some quality time with their family members and also get some relaxation. For them going out or travelling might mean stress and tiredness, so they prefer spending their free time or off days at home with the family.

7. What activities do people do during holidays?

There are many activities people like to do during holidays. Some people stay at home and spend time with their family, or watch TV or movies. Some like to go out on a holiday with their friends or family. Some people utilize that time to pursue their hobbies or learn something new. Some people go out for a movie or shopping and some go out on picnics or short trips.

### 33. Talk about a foreign language you want to learn (other than english)

- What language would you like to learn
  - Where will you learn this language
  - Why you want to learn this language
  - How will you learn this language
- 
- A language I would like to learn apart from English is French
  - There are many reasons for this
  - The first and foremost reason is that I want to visit my uncle and aunt who live in France
  - They told me that if you wish to communicate with Franco phones it is very essential to know some French
  - There, very few people know English
  - My uncle has also offered to sponsor my fees for higher education if I decide to study in France.
  - In that case, if I choose to study there, then learning French would be a necessity
  - Another reason is that my parents are planning to move to Canada
  - So, my knowledge of French would come very handy there
  - It might help me in getting a job
  - French is spoken in 33 countries
  - It is the second most commonly taught language after English
  - Even in my country, if I know a foreign language, then I can get a good job in the tourism industry
  - Everyone knows, tourists from all parts of the world flock to India
  - Those who are multilingual definitely stand a better chance in the job market.
  - Fortunately, a language training Institute by the name of Aroma Language Centre has opened in my hometown
  - They teach French, German and Italian.
  - Their next batch is starting soon.
  - I would enroll in that batch.
  - Two of my friends have started learning French there.

- They told me that the teacher is very nice.
- They also told me that French is a beautiful language.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. What can people do to learn a second language?

People can do many things to learn a second language, like they can join formal language classes, learn through the online resources, travel to the country where the language is spoken, or watch movies in that language.

2. Is it popular to learn English in your country?

Yes, it is popular to learn English in India. In fact, it is the language of instruction in most of the schools in India. It is also the official language in India.

3. What are the difficulties to learning a new language?

There are some difficulties learners may face when learning a language. The grammar and other rules need to understood and learned. Vocabulary and pronunciation may also be difficult to learn. Some other challenges could be comparisons with one's own language which cause an hindrance in learning the new language.

4. What is the best way to learn a new language?

I think there are many good and effective ways to learn a new language. I consider classroom learning the best because we can learn from an expert and also get some practice with our peers, which helps with learning a language faster.

### RECENT QUESTIONS FROM makkarielts Books, asked in IELTS exam

- **IELTS Academic Exam, 11 Aug 2018, India - Essay no. 144 from makkarielts Book Academic Essays From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS General Training Exam, 18 Aug 2018, India - Essay no. 2 from makkarielts Book GT Essays & Letters From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS Academic Exam, 25 Aug 2018, India - Essay no. 39 from makkarielts Book Academic Essays From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS Academic Exam, 13 Sep 2018, India - Graph no. 116 from makkarielts Book Graphs From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS Academic Exam, 25 Aug 2018, India - Reading Passage 3 from makkarielts Book Reading From the Past Exams - PDF Edition Volume 1**
- **To refer the questions coming in actual IELTS exams and the answers, please visit [facebook.com/makkarielts](https://facebook.com/makkarielts) after the exam.**

## 34. An important decision you made with help of someone

- What was the decision
  - Who helped you
  - How he helped you
- 
- I think that decision making is an integral part of our life and we are constantly making decisions, either big or small.
  - If we do not make decisions then life will become boring and we will not be able to move forward in life.
  - Today, I would like to talk about an important decision which I made with the help of my sister.
  - I have recently completed my schooling/graduation and it was time for me to decide what I wanted to do in my life.
  - I was confused about what course should I opt for my further studies as I did not want to opt for traditional courses like engineering or medicine.
  - I wanted an option which would provide me a bright future and at the same time should be interesting as well.
  - I searched a lot on the internet about alternative courses and colleges but as there was too much information, i got more confused.
  - So, I decided to consult my elder sister who is living in Canada.
  - She is working in the Media and entertainment industry.
  - When I asked her for advice, she suggested me to pursue a course in Animation as she knew about my interests in this field.
  - She also suggested me some good colleges in Canada for this course and she explained me about the job opportunities that I will get after completing this course.
  - Animation is quite popular these days and in future there will be a huge demand for people who are certified in this field.
  - My family also liked the idea when I told them that I have finally decided to pursue a course in Animation.
  - So, this was one of the most crucial decisions of my life, which I made with my sister's help.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do you always ask for help when making decisions

Yes, I mostly seek my parents' or siblings' advice when making decisions. I feel that they understand me and are able to give me the best guidance and suggestions.

2. Do you think teenagers are able to take decisions on their own

Today, the teenagers are very well-informed and have a great exposure because of the access to technology. So, most of the teenagers are able to take good decisions when it comes to small, everyday decisions. However, for the bigger decisions like choosing a career path, they still need the experience and the guidance of their elders.

3. Why some can make quick decisions and some cannot?

Some people who can make quick decisions are very clear about what they want and do not waste any time making decisions. They have a clear, straightforward approach to things. However, there are some people who are not very quick at making decisions, as they may be confused and have a lot of external factors which affect their decision making skills. It could be because of a lot of and varied advice from family, friends, and relatives. Some people may feel pressured due to personal circumstances and other societal constraints. So they take a lot of time to decide on what to do or choose.

4. What should national leaders consider when they make decisions?

National leaders consider the public interests when they make decisions. They also consider the future of the nation when making certain decisions.

### 35. Talk about a time when you received money as a gift

- Who gave it to you
  - When did they give it to you
  - Why they gave money
  - How did you feel about it
- 
- Money as a gift is extremely popular in my country.
  - In fact, it can be called a tradition as well.
  - People usually gift money to each other during weddings, birthdays etc
  - Today, I would like to talk about one such occasion (out of so many others), when I received money from someone instead of an actual gift item.
  - The occasion was my 18th birthday.
  - And as per Indian laws I became an adult on this day
  - My parents gifted me a motorbike on my birthday as I was now eligible to drive a motor vehicle
  - When my friends came to know about this, all of them wanted a party from me.
  - Unfortunately I did not have much savings at that time, to give a party to my friends.
  - But luckily my grandparents were visiting us during that time.
  - They had come to spend their winters with us.
  - I love my grandparents a lot, they are really humble and polite.
  - They always teach me a lot of good moral values and they love me a lot as well.
  - Since my grandparents are too old, they could not go to the market to buy a gift for me.
  - Moreover they were not sure about what gift they should buy for me, which will make me happy.
  - So they decided it was best to give me money as a gift, so that I can use it for buying anything I like.
  - Initially I refused to accept the money but then my parents said I should not say no to the elders as it would be a disrespect to them.
  - I then thanked my grandparents and they gave me their blessings as well.

- I also told them that I had everything that I need but my friends were asking for a party so I will use that money for the purpose of celebrating my birthday.
- My grandparents were happy that I was using the money to spend a good time and share happiness with my friends and not spending it alone on myself.
- They wished me good luck for the party.
- I had a great outdoor party with my friends.
- So, this was one of the occasions when I received money as a gift and I used it for celebrating with my friends.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. In your country, do parents give children money for doing housework?

In my country, India, it is not very common for parents to give money to their children for housework. There maybe very few parents who do this and it is mostly considered as the children's responsibility to help with the housework. In terms of money, children get pocket money for their daily/weekly/monthly expenses.

2. Is it important for children to have a right attitude towards money?

Yes, it is very important for children to have the right attitude towards money. Children should learn the importance of money and saving it/not wasting it starting at an early age, so that this habit continues in the future when they start working and earning.

3. What do you think of the saying; love of money is the root of all evil?

I think this saying has a lot of truth in it. Love or obsession for money is not only the root cause of unhappiness, but also brings many other problems in a person's life, like insecurity, not being able to trust others, unhappy family life, selfishness, etc.

4. Is it important to teach children how to manage their pocket money?

Yes, it is very important to teach children to manage their pocket money so that in their adult life they understand the value/importance of money, not waste it and are better at managing their finances in the future.

5. What kind of occasions require people to send money as gifts?

Occasions like birthdays, weddings, congratulating someone on the birth of a baby, and some other such occasions require people to send money as gifts, especially in the Indian culture.

### **36. Talk about a thing you complained about something ( but finally got a good result)**

- What did you complain about
  - Who you complained to
  - When it happened
  - What was the result and why you were satisfied with the result?
- 
- Well, I am a kind of person who usually does not like to complain a lot.
  - But when something is not done in the right way, I feel it's my duty to get it corrected, because complaining about it will make sure that it does not happen again.
  - Today, I would like to talk about a situation when I complained about a service and eventually got it corrected
  - It happened during last month when I had to get my account statement from the bank, which I needed for applying my visa
  - When I reached the bank in the morning, the officer told me that the bank's printer was broken.
  - He asked me to come back again the next day.
  - When I went to the bank the next day he again told me the same reason.
  - I requested them to get it fixed as it was an urgent requirement for me, but the bank officials did not seem to bother much about it.
  - So I decided to file a complaint with the higher authorities.
  - I came back home, opened the bank's website and sent an email to the bank management at their headquarters
  - I immediately got a call back from them and they said they will take strict action against this complaint.
  - I thanked them and went again to the bank.
  - To my surprise, as soon as I entered the bank, the manager came to me with my account statement.

- They had got the printer fixed immediately after my complaint.
- I came to know that a lot of other people were also suffering because of this issue.
- The manager asked me to take my complaint back as senior management issued a notice to him for not listening to the customers, but I refused to do the same.
- I told him it is his responsibility to look after the customers and listen to their problems.
- He then apologised for it and promised me that in future he will take great care about it.
- So this was a time when I complained about something and got a good result.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. When do people usually complain?

People usually complain when they have been inconvenienced or face a discomfort. The other main reason for people complaining is when they have been duped or cheated by someone. There are also many people who may complain without any valid reason, as they may have a complaining attitude.

2. Can complaining help solve problems?

Yes, there are many scenarios when complaining helps solve problems. For instance, when a product/appliance/gadget stops working or malfunctions, complaining to the customer support or service helps solve the problem. There are many situations when people get duped or cheated and if they complain to the authorities, they are very likely to get justice.

3. What other measures you should take to solve problems rather than complain

Sometimes complaining is not the best solution to problems that we face. For instance, the traffic problems in many cities are due to people themselves not following the traffic rules. However, complaining about it doesn't solve it, taking steps and initiatives at the individual level can help resolve such issues.

4. What kind of people complain

---

People who are aware of their rights and entitlements complain when they do not receive what they deserve or have been promised. However, there maybe some people who complain without any valid/solid reason. Such people are usually unaware and do not want to take responsibility for their actions.

5. Do you usually get angry?

No, I do not usually get angry. However, there are situations which make me angry, like when I see someone doing or saying something wrong and inappropriate. Sometimes reading or watching the news about crimes, corruption, and terrorist attacks and innocent people losing their lives makes me angry.

6. Do you think customers' complaints will improve product or services?

Yes, definitely. Every company knows that the customer is the king nowadays. If they get a complaint, they listen to it and try to improve. If they improve only then they retain their customers.

7. Is it necessary for companies to set up customer service?

Yes, it is necessary for companies to set up customer service. They have to listen to their customers. Positive feedbacks, as well as negative feedbacks are important for every company.

8. Are there any disadvantages to set up customer service?

Yes, sometimes some rival company may misuse and put up negative things just to spoil the name of the company.

9. Would you buy things in the shops in which you have made complaints before?

If my complaint has been listened to satisfactorily then I would go there again. This means they care for their customers.

10. What product or services do people in your country like to complain about?

People complain about everything that doesn't live up to their expectations. Supposing, someone has paid a heavy amount for some product or service and they don't get back what they expected, they complain.

### 37. Talk about a place where you like to study (indoors/outdoors) or where it is easy for you to study

- Where is it
  - When do you study there
  - What you study there
  - Who you go with
  - Why do you like to study in this place
- 
- There are numerous indoor and outdoor places where people likes to go to study
  - But I prefer to study indoors.
  - My Favorite place to study is a library.
  - There is a huge library named as The Central Library which is situated in sector 34, Chandigarh.
  - It is approximately 5 Kms away from my house.
  - The building of the library can easily accommodate more than 1000 students at one time.
  - The whole building is centrally air conditioned.
  - There is ample parking space in front of the building.
  - I visited that library for the first time with my elder sister.
  - After that I became regular visitor.
  - The membership of this library is very reasonable.
  - A person has to pay only Rs.500/- for one year.
  - I usually go there to prepare my assignments.
  - Even in my leisure time I like visiting to this library to read books like novels, journals etcetera.
  - I like to study there because of the ambience of that place.
  - Most of the people who visit this library are college going students who are preparing for competitive exams.
  - In fact, I have made quite a lot of friends at the library.
  - It is a very quiet place and extensive study material is available in this library.
  - Sometimes I get the books issued and take them to my home.

- The library also has a Internet cafe, where one can search for information on the Internet and have some coffee.
- It helps me to concentrate better as the location of this library is peaceful and noise free.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do you like to learn on your own or with others?

Sometimes, I like to study alone and sometimes in a group. For things that I need to concentrate and focus, I like to study alone. For boring things, I like to study in a group.

2. Do you prefer to study at home or study in other places?

I like to study at home, but sometimes, I go to a library. There I get an atmosphere to study.

3. What's the difference between leaning face to face with teachers and learning by yourself?

Teachers keep me focused on study, but when I study by myself, I tend to lose my concentration and then I waste time.

### RECENT QUESTIONS FROM makkarIELTS Books, asked in IELTS exam

- **IELTS Academic Exam, 11 Aug 2018, India - Essay no. 144 from makkarIELTS Book Academic Essays From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS General Training Exam, 18 Aug 2018, India - Essay no. 2 from makkarIELTS Book GT Essays & Letters From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS Academic Exam, 25 Aug 2018, India - Essay no. 39 from makkarIELTS Book Academic Essays From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS Academic Exam, 13 Sep 2018, India - Graph no. 116 from makkarIELTS Book Graphs From the Past Exams - 2018 Edition**
- **IELTS Academic Exam, 25 Aug 2018, India - Reading Passage 3 from makkarIELTS Book Reading From the Past Exams - PDF Edition Volume 1**
- **To refer the questions coming in actual IELTS exams and the answers, please visit [facebook.com/makkarielts](https://facebook.com/makkarielts) after the exam.**

## 38. Describe a teenager you know

- Who is he/she?
- How you know this teenager?

- What this teenager likes to do?
  - How you feel about this teenager?
- 
- I know many teenagers but here I would like to talk about my cousin Rania.
  - She is eighteen years old.
  - She has just completed her senior secondary in commerce stream.
  - She is not tall but very beautiful.
  - She has curly black hair and a very fair complexion.
  - She generally wears jeans and T-shirts but on formal occasions she wears traditional Punjabi suits.
  - She is very polite by nature and respects elders.
  - She has a great sense of humour and can turn any tense situation into a happy one.
  - She is also very good at studies and many times used to help me when I had any problem in Mathematics.
  - Now also she helps me in any situation when I need her help.
  - Although she is younger to me she is like a true friend.
  - She is so trustworthy that I can open my hearts secrets to her and be sure that she would never let me down.
  - Actually she is my paternal uncle's daughter and lives next door.
  - We see each other daily and sometimes even play badminton in the park opposite our house.
  - Teenage is a very stressful period of life as there are physical and hormonal changes going on at this time.
  - At the same time there is the stress of choosing subjects on which the future career depends.
  - A great support of family is needed at this time.
  - I am fortunate my teenage was a very happy one and so is Rania's.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. What is the difference between teenagers and children

The main difference is the level of maturity. Children are more innocent and immature as compared to the teenagers. Life is less complex for children. However, for teenagers, life seems more complex and confusing as they are going through physical, biological, and mental changes. They are neither adults nor children. Those are the most impressionable years of a person's life and it's the time when they make very important decisions about their career goals.

2. Why do you think this difference can classify teenagers and children

I think this difference is natural because of the changes that they undergo biologically during the teenage years. It is also because of the awareness and the exposure that the teenagers have as compared to children.

3. Who do you like teenager or children?

I like both, but I like teenagers better because I can share my feelings with them and be friends with them. Their company makes me feel young.

4. What is the attitude of teenagers towards old people in India?

It is difficult to generalise and put all teens in one group. Some teens in India think that the old people are too nagging and dislike their ways, so they avoid them. Some always respect them and take their advice for every matter.

5. Do you think teenagers today are better than those 30 years ago?

I think teenagers were always the same. Their opportunities have made their outlook of life different. Today's teens are the most well informed than ever before. They have the power of the internet and the satellite TV. They know or you can say have access to all knowledge. Earlier teens had to listen to their elders because their elders were their only source of knowledge. They were dependent. Today they are more independent. So, they behave differently.

6. What are the differences between teenagers and old people?

Old people have the experience of life, which the youth do not have. So old people are not hasty and impatient like the teenagers. Moreover, teens are very comfortable with the latest technology. Old people find it very daunting to learn about the latest gadgets.

### 39. Interesting part of your country or A place that is interesting in your country

- Where it is
  - How you got to know about it
  - What is it famous for?
  - Explain why you think it is interesting
- 
- India is a diverse country.
  - There are many interesting places in India.
  - There are interesting tourist places, buildings, beaches and many more such areas.
  - Here, I would like to talk about the Taj Mahal i Agra, which is a very interesting historical building.
  - It is one of the most flawless architectural creations of the world.
  - It is also one of the seven wonders of the world.
  - In fact it has been ranked as the first of the seven wonders.
  - It is a magnificent building built of white marble.
  - Mughal Emperor Shahjahan got it built in the loving memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz.
  - About 20,000 workers put in their best efforts for 17 long years to complete this masterpiece.
  - The hands of the master mason were cut off after completion of the building so that such a building could not be made again.
  - I first saw it 7 years ago when I went with my school tour.
  - I was awestruck to see the picturesque beauty in front of my eyes.
  - The tombs of Shahjahan and Mumtaz lie in the basement.
  - I like it because it gives an identity to India in the world.
  - I am proud to be a part of a country with such historic background.
  - Tourists from all over the world flock to see this ultimate memorial of love
  - It has incomparable beauty.
  - A few years ago there were reports that the white marble of the Taj was turning yellow because of pollution.
  - So, the government has taken many steps to save the Taj.
  - Vehicles are banned within a 2 km radius.
  - Electric and battery driven cars and buses now take tourists to the site.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think cities worth visiting is also suitable to live in?  
It depends. For some people such places are sources of income. For others, these places are overcrowded and expensive to live in.
2. Do you think cities worth visiting is also suitable to live in?  
The place should have good employment opportunities, recreational and educational facilities and the healthcare facilities should also be good.
3. Do you think cities worth visiting are also suitable to live in?  
No, I don't think so. A detailed plan can guide people about the place they want to settle in or just visit.
4. What is the difference between the people living in the city and people living in the countryside?  
People are the same everywhere, but the life in countryside is slower, and so people have more time for each other. They have fewer needs and so life in villages is not that expensive. So, people care for each other. On the other hand, life in cities is faster, so people are living isolated lives. They are running after material wealth and in doing so have become workaholics. They have no time for each other.
5. What is the difference between big cities and small cities?  
Big cities are overpopulated and so have their own set of problems. There is a lot of traffic congestion. During peak hours, it may even take hours covering a few kms by car. The traffic moves at a snails pace. Small cities are better in this respect. Moreover, cost of living is higher in big cities. Small cities are relatively easier on the pocket. Big cities have their set of advantages also. Job opportunities are more and the jobs are also better paid. Small cities have fewer job openings and pay packages are also not that handsome. Crime is also more in big cities just because of the anonymity it offers.
6. What is the difference between north and south part of your country?  
There is a lot of difference. The weather is different, so the life is different. People have different cuisines and the clothing styles are also different. Despite all these differences, people embrace each others culture and tradition and live as one.
7. What makes one country different from the other?  
Well, almost everything, from clothes to food to language to customs and traditions to rules and laws. Similarities are there because of globalisation, but differences are always there, some minor and some major.
8. Do you like living in big cities or small ones?

I like the life of small cities. I live in a small city and I love it there. I went to Delhi once to visit some relatives, and I found that life is very fast there. I like the peace and calm of small cities.

## 40. Talk about an interesting talk or a lecture

- When did you hear
  - Where you heard it
  - What was it about?
  - Who was the speaker
  - Explain why you think it was interesting
- 
- I have heard many talks in my life.
  - But here I would like to discuss with you a talk which I heard recently in the environment fair held in my home town
  - This environment fair is held every year in December in my home town.
  - I was surprised to see my old school principal S. Gurbax Singh over there.
  - He is very famous person in my home town and is known for his oratorical skills.
  - He talked on the topic of global warming.
  - The whole globe is involved in it.
  - The way he described the causes and effects was very interesting.
  - It was an eye-opener for me.
  - He said that we humans are the causes and we humans can lessen it.
  - He also told us how the pollution which is caused by cutting trees, having more industries and cars and other human luxuries - is leading to global warming.
  - Then he told us about the effects of global warming.
  - First effect is the rise in the sea level.
  - This is because of the melting of mountain peaks.
  - Second effect is the changing climate.
  - We all know that summers are getting hotter and winters are getting colder.
  - Finally, we are having epidemics of diseases like malaria and dengue.
  - This is because mosquitoes and flies prosper in the heat.
  - He also told how to lessen this phenomenon by simple measures like
    - Not cutting down trees.

- Planting more trees.
- Using recycled materials.
- Saying no to plastic bags.
- I felt very enlightened after listening to his spellbinding speech.
- I try to avoid using plastic bags and also accept recycled material even though quality is low.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. What kind of people are invited to give a speech?

The people who are invited to give a speech are those who are experts in their field and have great/in-depth knowledge about their field. Also, people who can inspire/motivate the audience are invited to give a speech. Besides being knowledgeable they should be good orators/should have good oratorical skills.

2. On what occasion, one has to be a good listener?

I think we should be good listeners at all times. Besides listening carefully and attentively to our parents, elders, teachers, lecturers, leaders, etc., I believe that if we listen to others even during normal conversations, there will be fewer conflicts.

3. Is listening to speeches important for children?

Yes, listening to speeches is important for children. Children can gain knowledge and it also makes them patient by sitting in one place and listening.

4. What is required to be a good public speaker?

There are many traits/qualities required to be a good public speaker. The main one is of course to have good, in depth knowledge of the subject/topic/field. Some other qualities required are confidence, good command of the language, good oratorical skills, and the ability to keep the audience interested and engaged.

5. Do Indian people feel nervous when it comes to public speaking?

Yes, I think that the fear of speaking in public is one of the most common fears in India and around the world. Many people in India have the phobia of speaking in public.

## 41. Talk about something that you borrowed from your friend

- What was it
  - When did you borrow
  - Whom you borrowed it from
  - What you did with it
  - Why you borrowed it
- 
- I think that sharing things with others is a good habit, in everyday life a lot of people borrow and lend things to each other.
  - Some people might feel uncomfortable about borrowing and lending things but it is a practice that has existed for such a long time.
  - Today, I would like to talk about a book that I borrowed from my best friend
  - It was during last summer when my final exams were going on.
  - I remember the weather was extremely hot during these days
  - I studied at the library which was close to my home and I found a good environment to study there.
  - One day I forgot my economics book while studying at the library and I was not able to find it after that.
  - I became anxious and started panicking as my economics exam was two days after that and I badly needed that book for the preparation.
  - I called my best friend who was an year elder to me and had given the same exam last year.
  - Luckily she still had the same book with her and she said that I can borrow the book from her.
  - I immediately rushed to her place and got a sigh of relief when she gave me the book.
  - She also said that she can help me prepare for the exam, it was really a nice gesture from her
  - So I studied really hard for the next two days and I felt confident about the exam despite of losing some precious preparation time.
  - Fortunately my exam went really well and I returned the book to her on the next day with a note of thanks.
  - After few months when my result was declared, I was surprised to see that I scored the highest marks in economics.

- I felt so happy and grateful for my best friend.
- I bought chocolates for her to express my gratitude.
- Without her help this score would not have been possible for me.
- So this was a time when I borrowed a book from someone.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Why do some people borrow things instead of buying them?

Some people borrow things because they may not be able to afford buying those things, or perhaps they would not need to use those things more than once. So, instead of buying some people prefer borrowing such things.

2. What would you do if people don't return the money they borrowed from you?

I would request them/remind them to return the money they owe to me, maybe once or twice. If they still do not return the money, I would not ask them again. I believe that it is the individual's responsibility to return what they have borrowed.

3. Why are people embarrassed when they borrow money from others?

People are embarrassed to borrow money because it develops a feeling of inferiority and people feel ashamed that they are not able to manage their finances well.

4. Do you often borrow things in your daily life?

Yes, unfortunately I am very forgetful with stationery items like pencils, erasers, pens etc. I have to often borrow them from my peers and friends at school and school. Many of my friends and peers borrow them from me as well.

5. What things you usually borrow from your neighbours?

I remember few years back I used to borrow things like sugar, salt, basically cooking items. But now we have shops very close to our home so it is very convenient to buy them. I don't believe there is anything wrong with borrowing them in the case of emergency.

6. How you like when some people borrow money from others?

This is something that I am completely against. I believe borrowing money impacts relationships like nothing else and if there is ever a delay in returning money it sours relationships even more.

7. What kind of problems are associated with borrowing things?

I don't believe that there is anything wrong with borrowing things except money. Borrowing money affects relationships especially if there are large sums involved. The lender may feel worries if the money would be returned or not and the borrower feels like he owes something.

8. What is your opinion about the phenomenon of borrowing in society?

Again, I think it is acceptable unless it is about borrowing money. We are social animals. Borrowing and lending is the manifestation of this social dependence. In case of money I believe , a person can take a loan from a bank instead of asking a friend or a relative.

## 42. Talk about a game or sport you enjoyed when you were young

- What was the game
- When did you play it
- Who did you play with
- How you felt about it

*Or A game which is not a sport which you played in your childhood.*

- *What was this game.*
- *Where you played this game.*
- *With whom you played this game.*
- *What is the importance of this game in your life.*

- I used to play many games in my childhood such as carrom board, hop scotch, hide and seek and snakes and ladders.
- Here I would like to talk about hide and seek.
- It was my favourite game.
- I used to play this game in my house and sometimes in my friends and neighbours homes too.
- I also used to play in my school in the recess.
- I used to play with my friends, family members and children of the neighbourhood.
- This game was very important to me because I loved hiding in the oddest places and would feel very happy when no one could find me.
- This game also taught me an important lesson that everything should be done within limits.
- I remember vividly that once I hid myself in my mother's clothes almirah and I got locked inside.
- My friends were very scared and told my mother.
- I cannot forget the tight slap I got from her.
- From that day onwards, I never hid myself in unsafe places.

- There is no limit to the number of players in this game.
- This game also requires no special equipment.
- Just two people can play it but it is more interesting when more number of players is there.
- Sometimes I pestered my grandmother to play with us but she could not run fast and was out easily.
- I also played snakes and ladders with my grandmother but hide and seek was my all-time favourite game.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. What kinds of games do children play these days?

Children mostly play electronic games these days. They hardly play outdoors. They play games which are technology oriented. In fact , computer gaming has become a major addiction among today's children and teenagers.

2. Why do people play different kind of games when they grow up?

First reason is that they become more mature and they are able to understand more complex games. Secondly, they outgrow certain games, they find them boring or too simple sometimes. Lastly, they are also limited by the time available. I remember I used to love playing monopoly when I was young but today I don't have the time to play it.

3. Do you think winning is the most important goal for playing games?

Winning is definitely important but I believe there are so many other purposes of games. They teach us cooperation, competition, how to accept a loss. Playing games also enhance our imagination, they make us think outside the box.

4. Do parents in your country encourage children to play games?

No, most parents encourage children to study and not play. It's mainly because of competitions, children need to score higher and higher to get into colleges and to clear entrance exams. Thus parents mainly tell their children to study and to focus on exams.

5. What kind of games do children play at school?

During my school days , we used to play games like hide and seek, chess , carrom board and so on. Then we also invented certain games like statue - a game in which we had to freeze all moments when the other person said statue. I am not sure, what new games children play nowadays but I am pretty sure the old games like hide and seek are still popular.

### **43. Describe a person whom you have never met but heard a lot about him and would like to meet**

- Who this person is?
- What this person does
- Why you think this person is interesting
- What you want to do with this person?

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

OR

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

- Every country needs people like him to take their nation to the top.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. In what ways can we meet new people?

We can meet new people in many ways. But for me the best way to meet new people is to travel to new places. There are also other ways like joining book clubs, gyms where a person can find like-minded people.

2. Do you think can we get some information from person's dress

Yes, we can get a lot of information from a person's dress like his culture, his place of upbringing -rural , urban and so on. Also , there are other things like if the person is organized or not. I normally think a person wearing shoes and socks to occasions is more formal , more organized whereas people in sandals are more carefree.

3. Do you think our guess about a person is always right?

No, I believe our guess about a person is not always right but in most cases it is. However, I think we have to make guesses about people, it makes our life easier. It simplifies life. Many people later on prove us wrong.

4. Do you have many friends in your community?

Yes I have many friends in my neighbourhood.In fact, two of my closest friends are my neighbours. We regularly borrow and lends things too.

5. Do people feel safe in India?

Yes, India is a diverse country. Many parts of India are very safe but then are parts like Kashmir and the North-East which do face a lot of terrorism. So I think it depends upon the place of the residence. I live in Punjab and it is a very peaceful place. There is some crime but nothing that keeps me up at night.

---

6. How does technology help in relationship between people?

Technology enables faster and easier connectivity. It also enables us to keep in contact even if we are far-away. I don't think it enables us to make new relationships but it does enable us to maintain relationships, which I believe is very essential in today's fast paced life.

#### **44. Talk about a TV Program that made you laugh a lot**

- What is the program
  - When and with whom you watched it
  - What are the characters
  - Why did it make you laugh
- 
- I have seen a lot of comedies and sitcoms in my life.
  - Here I would like to talk about an interesting TV program which is Comedy Circus
  - It comes on Sony Channel every Saturday and Sunday at 9 pm
  - I watch it with my family.
  - We all enjoy this program over dinner.
  - Last Sunday also I watched this program.
  - The performance by Kapil and Bharti were awesome.
  - We all laughed a lot that time.
  - Kapil is very good as a stand-up comedian but Bharti can also do slapstick comedy very well.
  - Last time she became a cat and really looked like a cute little fat cat.
  - Bharti has really cashed her obesity.
  - She is an excellent dancer too.
  - Archna Puran Singh and Sohail Khan are the judges in this program.
  - Sudesh Lehri and Krushna got the highest points last Sunday
  - Krushna is Govinda's nephew.
  - But because of this program he has made a name for himself.
  - On Saturdays and Sundays, my family and I finish all our household tasks and sit together at the dining table and watch this program
  - The best thing is that the comedy is clean and has no vulgarity in it.
  - Laughter is needed by all of us these days.
  - It helps to remain tension free.

- It is a good stress-buster.
- Nowadays even doctors recommend this as a therapy for depression.
- There is a laughter club in my home town in which many elderly people are members and they assemble in a park and laugh out loud.
- This program fulfills my quota of laughter.
- All channels have sitcoms but I just love this program.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. What makes people laugh in your country ( your culture)  
People laugh at all sorts of comedy. They enjoy slapstick as well as stand-up comedy.
2. Is comedy very popular in your country?  
There is a lot of importance of comedy in my country. Lots of sitcoms are now telecast on TV. Even doctors prescribe laughter therapy for many depressive disorders. Laughter clubs are also gaining popularity among the people.
3. Which comedy TV shows are very popular in your country?  
Comedy Circus, The Great Indian Laughter Challenge, Laughter the Master, Hasde Hasaunde Raho and Chhote Miyan are just a few of them.
4. What do you think are the differences between seeing comedy on TV and reading funny materials in a book?  
Seeing a comedy is different as you can enjoy slapstick comedy, which you cannot read. Slapstick comedy is one which is based on simple actions, for example people hitting each other, falling down, etc.  
Even stand-up comedy makes you laugh because of the way people speak the jokes. Reading funny things also can make you laugh, but you have to do the effort of reading. It is an active activity, whereas watching comedy is a passive activity.
5. Would you like to appear in a TV comedy program?  
No, I don't think I have the talent to do comedy good enough to be shown on TV.
6. Is comedy used much in ads in your country? Why?  
Yes, it is. Ads are made humorous and attractive to attract people and so the product they advertise also stays in the mind.
7. Do you think funny ads on TV are effective?  
Yes, they are. They incorporate the audio and visual component, which stays in the mind longer and people are influenced by these when they go shopping.

8. What do you think are the benefits of laughter?

Laughter is the best medicine for many mental ailments. Laughter also brings people together. It has no language. Everyone understands laughter.

9. Do you think there are differences between what males and females think as humorous?

I don't think there is any difference in genders as far as jokes and comedy is concerned. There may be individual differences but definitely both genders enjoy same jokes and comedies.

## 45. Describe a plant grown in your country that you think is important

- What it is
  - Where it is grown
  - Why is it important to your country
- 
- India is a diverse country
  - There are many kinds of plants in India
  - All the plants are useful in some way or the other
  - The plant I am going to talk about here is the bamboo plant.
  - It is a very versatile and useful plant
  - There are more than 1500 species of this plant all over the world.
  - It can be grown in a multitude of habitat from sea level to 12000 ft.
  - It is one of the most adaptable plants with many uses.
  - For instance, it can grow in very degraded soils.
  - Because of this it can be used to repair soil damaged by overgrazing and poor agricultural techniques.
  - In addition it has a complex root network.
  - This is ideal for preventing soil erosion and flooding
  - Unlike most tree species, harvesting does not kill the bamboo.
  - So, topsoil erosion and other adverse effects of tree felling are kept to a minimum.
  - The most important point is that bamboo produces 35% more oxygen than other trees.
  - Research has shown that bamboo can absorb as much as 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide per hectare per year.
  - So, this plant can play a great role in stabilizing our country's atmosphere.

- It can prove an eco-friendly alternative to slow-growing hardwoods.
- It is also being used by the construction industry for wooden flooring.
- It is very durable.
- It has resistance to shrink or swell.

## 46. A talkative person

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

- I love this cute chatterbox and when she is quiet, I feel something is wrong and I don't like it.

At present we have coaching centres only in Phagwara and Mohali only.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. What communication skills are important?

I believe verbal communication skills are the most significant and must be honed in every individual. The communication in everyday life revolved mostly around verbal skills rather than written communication or non verbal communication.

Good interpersonal skill is also a top requirement in the jobs these days.

2. Are you talkative?

No I am not a person who speaks a lot. I mostly speak when I am asked to or when some situation requires my opinion. I believe in the philosophy that one should speak less and think before speaking.

3. Are most Indian people talkative?

I guess, yes, most of the Indian people love to talk and it is evident by the large amount of noise you can hear at the public places like railway stations, malls etc. I think one of the primary reasons that Indian people love to talk is the fact that Indians love to socialise. They like to know each other's well being and discuss what is going in one's life

4. What jobs need employees to be talkative? m a k k a r \_ | E L T S

The first job that comes to my mind would be of a Radio Jockey because talking is the primary thing they have to do in their job. They are supposed to entertain people by talking a lot, cracking jokes. Another job, I would say, could be a teacher as they have to give lectures to the students, which involves a lot of speaking.

5. Should children be encouraged to talk more?

I believe teaching communication skills to children is very important and they should definitely be encouraged to speak. They should also be taught when they should speak more and when they should speak less because speaking more is not important but speaking the right thing is.

We are currently redesigning [www.makkarielts.com](http://www.makkarielts.com)

Soon, it will be the BEST WEBSITE to prepare for the IELTS exam with all the LATEST TOPICS, ANSWER KEYS, TIPS and STUDY MATERIAL to help you prepare for the exam and discuss your queries ☺

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

Elephant

- India is a diverse country
- There are many types of animals found in India
- There are pet animals, domestic animals and wild animals
- Here I am going to talk about an animal which I saw for the first time in Mini zoo at Chandigarh.
- OR
- An animal I like the most is an elephant.
- OR
- Here I am going to talk about an animal which I find strange
- It is the elephant
- The elephants are the biggest land animals.
- They are herbivorous and can be identified because of their trunk.
- The trunk is the projection of their nose and the upper lips.
- There are two types of elephants, the Indian and the African.
- African elephants are bigger than their Indian counterparts.
- They have comparatively larger ears.
- Among the African elephants both the males and females have tusks whereas, only the males among the Indian elephants have tusks and so they are called tuskers.
- The back of the Indian elephants are convex whereas that of the African elephants are concave.
- Indian elephants can be tamed and they are more beautiful.
- Elephants are gregarious animals and live in herds headed by tuskers.
- They have a well structured family life.
- The young ones, called the calf, are looked after by the cow elephants.
- Their cry is called trumpet.
- In India, elephants are captured, tamed and used for various purposes.

- Elephants are among the few animals whose existence is not endangered till now.

---

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

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

**We are currently redesigning [www.makkarielts.com](http://www.makkarielts.com)**

**Soon, it will be the BEST WEBSITE to prepare for the IELTS exam with all the LATEST TOPICS, ANSWER KEYS, TIPS and STUDY MATERIAL to help you prepare for the exam and discuss your queries**

### **Part 3 - Follow Up Questions**

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

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

2. Why and how are these beneficial?

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

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

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

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

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

5. What should we do to protect endangered animals?

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

6. Do you support experiment on animals?

No I do not support experimentation on animals as I believe it to be morally wrong.

I think with advancements in technology humans can do experimentations with help of computers and robots

7. Why do some people refuse to eat animals?

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

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

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



## 48. Design of a building you visited and liked / Talk about a building

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

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do you think the governments should maintain the historical buildings?

Yes, of course, the government should maintain historical buildings. They are our pride and heritage. We also earn revenue from these buildings when tourists visit them.

2. Why people like to visit historical buildings

People like to visit such buildings because these portray (tell us about) our past and how people lived then. India has a rich historical background, and these buildings are architectural marvels. They also show the grandeur with which our rulers lived.

3. What kinds of buildings are popular in India?

The old historical buildings are popular, no doubt, but the new and modern buildings are also very popular. The examples of popular modern architecture in India are the Lotus Temple in Delhi, the Naga Towers in Gandhinagar, Cybertecture egg shaped building in Mumbai and many more

4. Should government try to make buildings look more beautiful?

Yes, of course. Every building should be aesthetically appealing. It should be a combination of utility, durability and beauty.

- MakkarIELTS BOOKS are also available at BOOKSTORES IN GUJARAT AND PUNJAB.
- To buy our books, type makkar IELTS on your AMAZON app or AMAZON website
- Or you can visit [www.makkarielts.com](http://www.makkarielts.com) and click on buy books

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

- Where is it
- What can you buy there

- How you felt about it

It could also be asked in past tense

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

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do you like shopping online or going out for shopping?

I do a mix of both. Sometimes I shop online if I get a good deal. Many sites such as Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal, which give discounts

2. What is the difference between shopping with friends and shopping alone?

It's fun to go shopping with friends. You can discuss things and take each other's advice. When I go with my parents, they cannot guide me about the clothes, which are in trend.

3. What are the disadvantages of shopping in a big mall?

In big malls, nobody guides you about any product. You have to use your own judgement. Secondly, you cannot get things on credit, which a small shopkeeper in your town would give you if he knows you. Another disadvantage is that mostly big malls are outside in the suburbs, and so it is only possible to go by your car.

4. Why do people like to buy branded products?

Brands are popular because they provide quality, good after sale service and also provide status.

5. In your opinion are big discounts real or just an advertisement?

Big discounts are real in the case of branded products, but in most cases they are just an eyewash. Sometimes, outdated or defective pieces are sold by giving big discounts.

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

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

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Why do old people like to watch sports on TV?

I think people of all age groups except the children like to watch sports on TV.

Watching sports is an individual liking or choice. It does not necessarily depend on the age group.

2. Are there many sports programs on TV?

Yes nowadays there are actually TV Channels which are dedicated to sports and they telecast sports events from all over the world. If you switch to any of these channels you can see the live or recorded coverage of lots of different sports

3. How often do you play sports?

Well I am a cricket fan and I love to play cricket whenever I get free time, which is normally over the weekends.

4. Should children spend more time playing sports?

Children should maintain a healthy balance between sports and academic life.

They should devote equal time to both as all round development is more important than focusing on just one skill

5. Do you think that group sports are more useful than individual sports?

I think both types of sports have individual importance, like group sports teach us about teamwork and coordination, individual sports help in improving our decision making skills.

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

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

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do old people often change plans?

I think by the time one becomes old, he/she has learnt the importance of planning and doing things on time. So they like to go as per the plan because deviations from plans often create problems which old people do not like

2. Do young people like to change plans?

Young people nowadays are working on multiple things, they like to do multitasking, in order to achieve this, they make frequent changes in their plans. But at the same time young people like to be in control of things they do and if it is often interrupted by changes then they won't like them.

3. What are the common reasons when people need to change plans?

The reasons for changing plans are mostly circumstantial. Changes are hardly planned. If something or other comes up then people have to change their plans.

4. How would you tell your friends when you must change your plan?

If I make any changes in my plan then I will immediately inform it to my friends or anyone else who is involved in the plan. I will explain to them the reasons behind the change. Informing immediately is necessary because then other people can understand and plan their time accordingly.

5. What kinds of plans are practical?

I think simple plans which involve less people are always practical like planning for a trip or outing etc. But plans which involve a lot of people and are hard to achieve tend to be less practical as they need a lot of time to execute and there is dependency on too many people.

## 52. An exciting book you read or a book you read recently

Describe an exciting book you have read

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

- In him we find a person with insatiable quest for knowledge & great love for suffering fellow beings.
- Unfortunately, we don't have Dr Kalam with us today, but he will live in the hearts of all Indians.
- I would like to read this book again, because it is a very motivating book.

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do people in your country like to read books?

Yes, people of my country like to read books. There are bookshops in most towns and cities, which are all doing good business.

2. What kinds of books are most popular in your country?

All types of books are very popular. India is a diverse country. People have diverse tastes in everything, including reading.

3. Do you think reading is important?

Yes, reading is very important. It develops imagination and also develops language skills.

4. Do you think electronic books will eventually replace paper books?

Not completely, but to a large extent yes. E-books have a lot of advantages

Benefits of e-books over traditional books

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Some people like to collect books. Why do you think they do this?

They do so because they love books. They treat books as collectibles, and are proud of their collection.

6. Is compulsory reading (in school) is a good idea?

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

- Reading is a Good Workout

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

- Reading Builds Vocabulary

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

- Reading Helps Self Esteem

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

- Reading Improves Creativity

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

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

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

8. Why men and women prefer different books?

This is because they have different tastes.

9. Why some books become internationally popular?

This is perhaps because these receive a lot of publicity.

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

Nowadays, generally speaking, the reading habit of the children is on the decline. Whatever books they read are based on fantasy, fiction and supernatural characters like Barbie, superman and Shaktiman.

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

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

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

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

12. Can storybooks be an ideal gift for children?

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

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

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

14. How does reading help a child?

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

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

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

16. How much should a child read every day?

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

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

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

### 53. A website which helped you to do something / website you visit often/ use regularly

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

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Who in your family use the site?

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

2. Can internet help children in their study?

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

3. Will the internet replace the teacher?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Some people who are against technology and have orthodox thinking do not use the internet. But mostly poor people do not have access to internet. These people are not aware about things happening around them and how technology has brought convenience to our life. So they are dependent on others all the time for information.

## 54. Describe a famous person that you are interested in

You should say:

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

## Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

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

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

2. What do you know about celebrities?

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

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

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

4. Were they different in the past?

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

5. What does motivate people to become well known?

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

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

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

## 55. Describe a quiet place

You should say:

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

- Even though there is always a great rush in this temple, yet one can find peace and quiet over there.
- Sometimes, I offer voluntary services in the community kitchen over there.
- Free food is offered to one and all in the community kitchen and this service is round the clock.
- I generally go there on weekends and spend a good two hours over there.

### Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Why do some people not like quiet places?

Some people do not like quiet places because they want fun and frolic all around them. They want activity and noise all around them.

2. Do you know other quiet places?

There are many quiet places in the countryside. Many of my friends live in villages. Whenever I go to their homes, there is no noise of traffic, and you can hear the chirping of the birds and the rustling of leaves, which is very soothing to the ears.

3. Do you need a quiet place when you are working?

Yes, I do appreciate a quiet place when I'm working, but unfortunately it is not always possible. So I've got used to some amount of noise around me.

4. Why do people like to spend time in quiet places?

People like to spend time in quiet places because sometimes they want to be with themselves, then they go to temples or quiet places, and feel relieved of their stress.

5. Do you know anyone who likes noise?

I have many friends who like listening to loud music. They say that it kills the background noise of the vehicle

# SPEAKING PART 1

## INTRO QUESTIONS

---

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

1. Work or studies
2. Festivals
3. Running
4. Sky
5. Being Bored
6. Cities
7. Color
8. Cooking
9. Drink Water
10. Foreign Food
11. Gift
12. Holiday
13. Home
14. Hometown
15. Letters
16. Map
17. Morning Routine
18. Movies
19. Music
20. Paintings
21. Park or Garden
22. Photos
23. Plants
24. Rainy Days
25. Save Money
26. Shoes
27. Sports
28. Sunglasses
29. Teachers
30. Transportation
31. Watch
32. Weather
33. Space Travel

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

1. May I know your full name?

My full name is Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar.

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

2. How may I address you?

You may address me as Kiran.

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

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

3. May I see your ID?

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

4. Where do you come from?

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

## 2. Work or Studies

(General Training students are likely to be asked questions related to their job experience which could be personal)

### WORK

1. What work do you do?

(personal answer)

2. Why did you choose to do that type of work (or that job)?

I chose that work, because I was interested in it.

3. Do you like your job?

Yes, I like my job. It is very interesting.

4. Is it very interesting?  
Yes, it is very interesting.
5. Do you miss being a student?  
Yes, I miss being a student. Now, when I look back I realize that they were the happiest days of my life.

## STUDIES

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

## 3. Festival

- a. What is your favorite festival?  
My favorite festival is Diwali. It is also known as the festival of lights and is celebrated during winters.
- b. How do you celebrate this festival?  
I do a lot of things on Diwali. I buy new clothes, clean my house and decorate it with colorful festive lights. I also distribute sweets with my friends and exchange gifts. In the evening, I light the candles at the temple and burst firecrackers.
- c. What is the most popular Indian festival?

Diwali is the most popular festival in our country as people from all walks of life celebrate it with great enthusiasm.

- d. Do you like Western festivals?

Yes, I like to celebrate Christmas. It is a beautiful festival. I like to wear red clothes on Christmas day. I also go to the Church and enjoy Christmas cake with my friends.

## 4. Sky

- a. Do you like to see the sky?

Yes I love to see clear blue sky and appreciate the nature. Looking at the sky reminds me that there are no limits and boundaries in life and we can achieve anything we want.

- b. How about stars?

Yes i also like to see the stars sometimes. I read about constellations during my childhood and I like to find them in the sky. My favourite constellation is Orion.

- c. Which is a good place to see the stars?

I think mountains are the best place to see the stars. There is less pollution in the mountains so the stars are clearly visible and they also appear more closer.

- d. Do you know something about stars?

There are millions of stars in our galaxy and our nearest star is sun. It provides us the energy that makes life possible on our planet.

## 5. Sunglasses

- a. Do you have a pair of sunglasses

Yes, I have Rayban aviator sunglasses. I bought them from Sector 17 in Chandigarh. They look really nice on me.

- b. How often you wear them?

I wear them whenever I go out in the sun, sunglasses help in protecting your eyes from the harmful UV rays of the sun

- c. Have you ever lost sunglasses?

Yes, unfortunately, I have lost my sunglasses couple of times. It feels very bad when you lose an valuable item but now I try to be careful and always remember where I have kept them

- d. Do people in your country wear sunglasses?

Yes people in my country do wear sunglasses. Some people wear expensive sunglasses whereas some buy the lesser expensive one's as a style accessory

## 6. Drinking water

- Do you think we should drink a lot of water?

Yes we should definitely drink a lot of water as it is good for our health. Drinking water has lot of health benefits, it keeps our skin and body hydrated. If we do not drink enough water, our body will suffer from dehydration.

- How often you drink water?

I try to drink at least 3-4 litres of water everyday, so I normally have water after every 2-3 hours during the day.

- Do you drink bottled water or water from machines?

I like to drink water from machines like water purifier because I believe water in machines is more pure and safe as compared to water that is packed in plastic bottles

- What kind of water do you like to drink

Well, I like to drink water at room temperature because when I drink cold water I get a sore throat

## 7. Maps

- Do you often use maps?

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

- Who taught you how to use a map?

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

- Do you prefer electronic map or paper maps?

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

## 8. Being Bored

- a. What do you do when you feel bored

When I feel bored, I call my friends and talk to them in order to pass time or I see updates on social media. Sometimes I watch videos on youtube when I feel bored.

- b. What kind of things are boring to you ?

Well, there are lot of activities that I find boring like Reading a novel. I find it very boring to wait for someone.

- c. Do you think young people are more likely to get bored?

Yes younger generation gets bored easily when they have nothing to do, the primary reason behind this is that the younger generation is very impatient and wants immediate results without working hard.

## 9. Foreign Food

- a. Have you ever tried foreign food?

Yes, I have tried a lot of different cuisines like Italian, Mexican, Japanese Chines, etc.

- b. Do you like to try new food?

Yes, I call myself a foodie, I absolutely love to try new food, especially the local food of any new place that I visit.

- c. What kind of new food you have tried recently?

Recently, I went on a holiday to Thailand and I tried the street food over there. I dont remember the name of the dish, but it had noodles, prawn and vegetables.

- d. What kind of foreign foods are popular in your country

In my country most popular cuisines are Italian and Chinese. Most of the people like to eat Pizzas and Noodles when they eat outside

## 10. Saving Money

- a. Did you save money when you were young

Yes, when i was young I saved some funds from my pocket money and I later used them for buying books.

**b.** Have you ever given money to other children

No, I have never given money to other children. I believe only parents should give money to their children and they should teach them to use it wisely

**c.** Do you think parents should teach children to save money.

Yes, as I already mentioned parents should teach children about money management as it is an important skill in life

**d.** Do parents give pocket money to children in your country

Yes, parents in my country do give pocket money to their children.

## 11. Physical Exercise

**1.** What kind of exercises you do?

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

**2.** Do you think children should play sports regularly?

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

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

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

**4.** Do you like extreme sports?

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

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

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

## 12. Travel (Space Travel)

1. Do you want to travel in outer space?

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

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

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

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

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

4. When was the last time you went traveling?

Personal answer

5. Do you like to travel by air?

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

## 13. Plants

1. Do you keep plants at home?

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

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

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

3. Do you know anything about growing a plant?

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

4. Do Indian people give plants as gifts?

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

## 14. Dream job

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

When I was young I wanted to become a pilot

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

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

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

Personal Answer

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

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

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

Personal Answer

## 15. Animals

1. Do you like animals?

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

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

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

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

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

4. Are people in your country fond of animals?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Do you think pets are important?

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

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

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

### Farm Animals

10. What farm animals do you have in your country?

There are many farm animals in my country, like cows, goats, sheep, buffalos, horses, hens, etc.

11. Do you think farm animals are important?

Yes, I think farm animals are important. They are a source of income for many people, especially in the rural areas. They provide us many products like milk, eggs, wool, meat and they can be used for farming, like to plough and till the land.

12. How are these animals used? OR In what ways are animals used in agriculture in your country?

Farm animals are used for their products, like eggs, milk, meat etc. or in the fields to plough and to till the land for the crops.

13. Do you think raising farm animals is important?

Yes, it is important to raise farm animals, as it is a source of livelihood and income for many people living in the rural areas. Also, they provide us with many products.

### Wild Animals

14. What's the most famous wild animal from your country?

India is a diverse country and many wild animals are found in India. However, I believe that the Bengal Tiger is the most famous wild animal in my country and it is also our national animal.

15. What's your favourite wild animal (from your country)?

The Bengal Tiger is my favourite wild animal.

## 16. Dictionary

1. Do you often use a dictionary? If yes, how often and what for? If no, why not? If not very often, say how often and why not very often?

Yes, I use a dictionary very often, in fact daily. I am a student and I read a lot of text related to my studies. I often come across words I don't know the meaning of and I use the dictionary to look up the meaning and synonyms.

2. Do you prefer to use an electronic dictionary or a dictionary made of paper?

I prefer to use the electronic dictionary now as it is very convenient and I can easily search for a meaning in a matter of a few seconds. I have a dictionary app downloaded on my phone.

3. If someone gave you a dictionary as a gift, how would you feel?

I will feel happy, as it is a very useful gift for me or for anyone. We keep coming across new words everyday and everyone should have a dictionary.

4. Do you think it would be interesting to write a dictionary? OR Do you think it would be interesting to be part of a team that is writing a dictionary?

Yes, I think so. It will be very interesting to understand the details of all the words, like which part of speech they form, what the origin of the word is, its synonyms and many more such details.

5. What kind of person do you think writes a dictionary?

A person who writes a dictionary has to have an in-depth knowledge of the language and also needs to know the origin and history of the language. It requires a great deal of work and thoroughness, so the person has to be very patient and thorough.

## 17. Mobile Apps

1. Which mobile apps do you use?

I use a lot of mobile apps for different purposes like Whatsapp for sending messages to my friends and family members. For social networking I use facebook and for sharing my pictures I use Instagram. Apart from this I use apps to read news or do banking services on my phone

2. Which ones do you want to use?

I would like to use apps to know more about jobs or studies related to my field. I believe there is a huge requirement for apps related to specific jobs or courses and these can help people in becoming good and what they do or study.

3. Which ones are popular in your country?

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

4. Do you want to make an app?

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

## 18. Sleep

1. How many hours you sleep everyday

I sleep around 7-8 hours everyday. I think it is necessary to sleep for atleast 6 hours everyday.

2. Is it necessary to take a nap everyday

Yes it is very important to take a nap everyday because it gives a much needed break to our body and we feel refreshed after sleep.

3. Do old people sleep a lot? Why

Yes old people tend to sleep a lot because due to old age they get tired easily and they need more rest as compared to young people.

4. What time you usually go to the bed?

I normally go to the bed around 11 PM but if I have important work or have to prepare for exams I sleep early so that I can study or work by getting up early in the morning.

5. Do you always have a good sleep?

I am a happy person so I normally have a good sleep, but if I am disturbed about something or my health is not good I find it difficult to sleep.

## 19. Handwriting

1. Do you think handwriting is still important?

Yes, I think so. Handwriting skills will always be important. Formal letters are needed in business. Writing skills are also needed in writing resumes. We all know that we belong to a global village. Today we have to compete with children all over the world. We have to apply for jobs in multinational companies. So we need good writing skills.

2. Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?

Even though technology has reduced the need of writing skills, still, I feel that it is very important in today's world and will remain in future as well.

3. Do you usually write by hand or write using a computer?

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

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

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

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

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

6. Do you write letters?

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

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

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

**Most of the Essays in 2017-18 IELTS Exams have been from our book, "IELTS Academic Essays from the Past Exams"- (available on Amazon).**

**You can also check them at our facebook page [www.facebook.com/makkarielts](https://www.facebook.com/makkarielts) or watch the Youtube videos of our essays on [www.youtube.com/makkarielts](https://www.youtube.com/makkarielts)**

## 20. Fruit

1. What is your favourite fruit?

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

2. Why do you like it?

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

## 21. Sunshine

1. Do you like sunny days?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 22. Weekends

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

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

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

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

3. When do you spend time with your family?

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

4. What did you do last weekend?

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

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

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

6. What are you going to do next weekend?

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

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

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

8. Do you like working on weekends?

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

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

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

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

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

## 23. Transportation

1. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?

The most popular means of transportation in my hometown is the bus. My hometown is on the national highway, and there is bus service to different places every two minutes.

2. How often do you take buses?

I take the bus pretty often, in fact three or four times a week.

3. Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?

Trains are cheaper than planes, but planes are much faster than trains. In trains you can take as much luggage as you want to, but in planes there is a restriction. Railway stations are there in almost all towns and cities, whereas airports are there in only a few places.

4. Is driving to work popular in your country?

Yes, driving to work is popular in big cities, and in places where transport facilities are not so good.

5. Do you think people will drive more in the future?

It is difficult to say about the future, but at the rate at which traffic congestion is increasing on the road, I think people will use public transport more.

6. Would you ride bikes to work in the future?

No, I don't think I would ride bikes to work, as I think they are not very safe.

7. What will become the most popular means of transportation in India?

I think road transportation will remain the most popular means.

8. Do you prefer public transportation or private transportation?

I prefer private transportation for short distances and public transportation for long distances.

9. How did you come here(get here) today?

I came here/got here by bus/car/bike today.

10. Why did you choose that form of transport?

I chose it because I think it is very convenient and comfortable. (You can add 1-2 advantages of the mode of transport you used that day)

11. What form of transport do you usually use?

I usually prefer private transport to public transport. I feel that the public transport is not very comfortable and leads to wastage of time.

OR

I normally use public transport/bus. It is very convenient, comfortable and easy on the pocket.

12. Is it convenient to take a bus/taxi in your city?

Yes, it is very convenient to take a bus or a taxi in my city. It is a small city and the bus stand and taxi stands are very approachable

## 24. Music

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

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

2. When do you listen to music?

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

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

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

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

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

5. What's your favorite kind of music?

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

6. Have you ever been to a concert?

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

7. Do you like to listen to live music?

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

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

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

9. Where do you listen to it?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 25. Home/Accommodation

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

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

2. Please describe it a little.

---

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

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

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

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

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

5. Who do you live with?

I live with my parents and brother.

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

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

7. How long have you lived there?

I have lived there since my birth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. Do you plan to move?

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

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

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

14. Are you prepared to move?

No, I am not prepared to move.

## 26. Hometown

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

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

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

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

3. Please describe your hometown a little.

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

4. How long have you been living there?

I have been living there since my birth.

5. Do you like your hometown?

Yes, I love my hometown.

6. Do you like living there?

Yes, I like living there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. Is there anything you dislike about it?

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

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

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

12. Are there any tourist attractions in your hometown?

---

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

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

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

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

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

## 27. Watch

1. How often do you wear a watch?

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

2. What was your first watch like?

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

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

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

4. Do people still wear watches in your country?

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

## 28. Visitors

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

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

2. Do you like visitors coming to your home?

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

---

3. Do people often visit you at your home?

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

4. How often do visitors come to your home?

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

5. When do visitors come to your home?

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

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

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

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

When we have visitors over, we usually sit and chat, discuss the day's happenings or any social or national issues. Sometimes we share jokes and have a good laugh and all this happens usually over of a cup of tea or coffee and some snacks. Sometimes we also have visitors over for lunch or dinner.

8. When someone visits you, how do you usually show hospitality (or, entertain them)?

Hospitality towards visitors is in our culture. In India, guests are treated like God. We show our hospitality by making them feel comfortable and offering them drinks and snacks or food, depending on the time of the day.

## 29. Dream

1. Do you often have dreams at night?

Yes, I often have dreams at night. Sometimes I have very pleasant dreams, and sometimes I have bad dreams. But I'm not really superstitious about these dreams.

2. Have you had a bad dream before?

Yes, many times I have bad dreams. But I have never seen them turn into reality.

3. What was the strangest dream you have had?

The strangest dream I had was that I am going for my exam, and things are going wrong and I can't reach, and then I get up and feel so relieved that it was a dream.

---

4. What do you usually dream about?

I dream about weird things. Sometimes I am in Canada in my dreams and sometimes in America. My relatives have told me a lot about Canada and USA, and I keep picturing them in my dreams.

## 30. Colours

1. What colours do you like?

I like all colors but red is my favorite color.

2. What is the most popular colour in India?

India is a vast country. It is difficult to generalize one color as the most popular color. I think all colors are equally popular, but the three colors off a national flag are the most popular. Green stands for prosperity, saffron stands for sacrifice and white stands for peace.

3. Do you like to wear dark or bright colours?

I like to dark or bright colors in winters, but in summers I like to wear light shades.

4. Do colours affect your mood?

Yes, colors affect my mood. When I see you bright colors I feel energetic, but light shades make me feel calm.

5. Did color matter to you when you were a child?

Yes, colour mattered to me when I was a child. My mother tells me I always wanted things in red colour. My school bag was always red and my clothes also had shades of red.

6. Does color matter when you buy things?

Yes, definitely. Colour is very important while shopping. I like my clothes in light pastel shades but household items like bed sheets and dinner sets in bright shades.

7. Which color you don't like to have in your home?

I like all colours but I wouldn't like grey on the walls of my house because I find grey to be a dull colour.

8. What is the difference between men's and women's preference on colours?

There are no gender differences nowadays. Both men and women wear on types of colors.

---

9. Have you ever seen a rainbow?

Yes, I have seen a rainbow many times. It looks very beautiful. Generally, it is seen in the rainy season. There are seven colors in the rainbow – violet, indigo, Blue, Green, yellow, Orange and red. I feel really happy when I see a rainbow. In Hindu mythology, it is called Indradhanush, or the bow of the Lord indra, the Lord of thunder and lightning.

## 31. Family

1. How often do you meet with your family?

I stay with my family. I meet my family members every day.

1. How do you spend the time with your family?

I spend time with family in many ways. We eat together, cook together, watch TV together and do many things together.

1. Do you want to live with your family in the future?

Yes, definitely. My family is my life Even though I go to some foreign country temporarily, I finally want to be with my family.

1. Are you close to all of your family members?

Yes, we are a very close-knit family.

1. How has your family influenced you?

My family has influenced me in many ways. We depend on each other for many things. We guide each other from time to time and we do many things together.

## 32. Friends

1. Do you have many friends?

Yes, I have many friends, but only a few close friends.

2. How often do you talk to your friends?

I talk to my friends every day. By best friend is also my neighbour. We are together most of the time.

3. How do you communicate with your friends?

I communicate face-to-face and also through cell phone and apps like Whatsapp.

4. What do you think makes people have a long friendship?

---

Mutual understanding makes people have a long friendship. If people can tolerate each other's shortcomings and be simple and straight forward, then friendships can be for a long time.

5. Does it make things easier in a friendship if you have similar interests?

Yes, definitely. With similar interests friends can spend time together and not get bored. They will also have similar topics for discussion. In a lasting friendship it is very essential that your likes and dislikes are similar.

6. How do people make friends now?

Now a days, people make friends through internet by joining social networking sites like face book, twitter and whatsapp.

7. Do you think we meet new people differently now than in the past?

Yes, definitely. Nowadays, we meet new people through internet by joining social networking sites like face book, twitter and whatsapp. Earlier, people had lots of free time and they made friends by meeting personally.

8. Is friendship (= are friends) important to you? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, friends are very important for me. I can share all my feelings with them, and they understand me very well because they are mostly my age.

9. Do you prefer to spend time with friends or spend time alone? (Why?)

I prefer to spend time with my friends. I love their company and I enjoy with them.

10. What kind of people do you like to have as friends?

I like my friends to be honest, trustworthy, helpful and intelligent. I also like friends with a good sense of humor.

11. Do you like to spend time with friends? (Why?)

Yes, I like to spend time with friends because I enjoy their company. I like to go out with them for movies, for shopping and for walks.

12. What do you and your friends do together?

We study together, go for walks together, watch movies together and sometimes eat out together.

13. What do your friends think of you? (Do your friends think that you are a good friend? Why?)

I think my friends like me. We spend a lot of time together and they never seem bored. I am honest and straightforward with them. So I think they like me.

14. Are friends more important than family? (Why?)

Friends and family both are important. But, I think Family is definitely more important than friends. Friends can turn out to be fair-weather friends but family is always with you in your good times and bad times. It has been rightly said that in prosperity your friends know you, but in adversity you know your friends.

15. How do Indian people make friends? (= where, in what situations, e.g. at school & at work.)

Indian people make friends in schools, colleges, while travelling, during family get-togethers, during outings and in many other ways. Nowadays making online friends has also become very popular.

16. Do adults and children make friends in the same way?

Adults and children do not make friends in the same way. Children are very innocent and make friends from the heart. They don't judge a person before making friends. Adults, on the other hand, are very calculative. They make friends after judging whether that person could be helpful to them or not.

### 33. Advertisement

1. Are there many advertisements in your country

Yes, there are too many advertisements in our daily lives. In fact advertising has become an industry. It has become the backbone of many economies of the world. Ads are ubiquitous nowadays. We see ads on TV, newspapers, hoardings and flyers. We also get ads through the radio, cell phone and the Internet.

2. Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?

There are so many advertisements because there are many products, and the manufacturing companies are competing with each other. They have to advertise to stay in the race. So we have an advertisement for almost each and every product that is available.

3. What are the various places where we see advertisements?

Advertisements are all around us. We have advertisements in newspapers, magazines, on TV, on radio and on the Internet.

4. How do you feel about advertisements?

I feel that advertisements are a necessity. Apart from telling us about products they are also telling us about the working of these products. Ads also touch social issues. However, I also feel that ads are very disturbing at times.

5. Do you like advertisements?

Yes, I like advertisements. I think they are very informative and keep us updated about the latest products and offers.

6. What kind of advertisement do you like the most?

I like adverts that have a touch of humor. I also like advertisements that touch social issues.

## 34. Art

1. Do you like art?

Yes, I like art. Art gives meaning to life. Art is what differentiates us from animals. I like all sorts of art. I like drawing and painting. I also liked performing arts like music and dance.

2. Do you think art classes are necessary? {Why?}

Yes, I think art classes are very necessary. Art brings out peoples creativity. Art preserves our culture and tradition.

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

Art classes affect children's development in many ways. Art brings out the hidden creativity of children. Art is a form of communication. People can convey their feelings through their paintings and through their songs.

4. What kind of paintings do Indian people like?

Indian people like different kinds of paintings. It is a matter of personal choice. Some people like portraits, some like paintings of landscapes, some like the traditional forms of painting and some like the modern art forms.

5. What can you learn from western paintings?

We can learn many things from western paintings, in fact from any form of art from anywhere. Sometimes it is related to a culture, sometimes it maybe someone's expression of their perspective, sometimes it's a social message and we can also learn about the types of material (canvas, paints, etc.) used to create that work of art.

6. What benefits can you get from painting as a hobby?

Painting as a hobby can bring out your hidden talent. Painting can relax you. You can even sell your paintings and earn money. You can also gift your painting to someone you love.

## 35. Bags

1. Do you like bags?

Yes, I like bags. I have different bags for different occasions. I carry a backpack to my school/college/classes, as I can easily carry my books in it. I have special bags for formal occasions, shopping and everyday use.

2. What types of bags do you like?

I like bags that are easy to carry, like backpacks, sling bags and totes, and I can use such bags to easily accommodate the things I need. I also like bags that have a few compartments, so that I can keep my things organized. m a kkar IELTS

3. Do you usually carry a bag (when you go out)?

Yes, I usually carry a bag when I go out, however, the type of bags I use for different occasions vary.

4. What types of bags do you use (in your everyday life)?

1. (Similar to above) Do you have different bags for different occasions (or, different purposes)?

Yes, I have different bags for different occasions. I use a backpack when I go for my classes, for formal occasions I have formal bags, for shopping I use totes and sometimes I use a sling bag when I don't have to shop and the occasion is not formal.

5. What do you put in these bags?

For my classes or when I go to school/college I usually carry books and stationary in my bag. When going for shopping I carry my wallet, cellphone, and a bottle of water and when travelling I also put medicines and a book or a magazine in my bag. On formal occasions I carry only my wallet and my cellphone.

6. What sorts of bags do women like to buy?

I don't think it can be generalized, as it depends on the individual choice of the women. Some women like big bags and some like smaller ones, some always use a sling bag and some like a particular color or material of bags. Some women also choose bags from a particular brand

## 36. Books

1. How often do you read?

I like to read quite often. I read magazines and newspapers and my textbooks. Apart from that I have read a few novels by Amrita Pritam. I have read her Pinjar, which means skeleton.

2. Do you have many books at home?

No, I do not have any books at home. I only have my textbooks at home.

3. Do Indian people do enough reading?

Yes, Indian people do a lot of reading. They read magazines, newspapers, fiction and nonfiction such as biographies and autobiographies.

4. Do Indian people like to read?

(similar to above)

5. What kind of people like reading and what kind of people don't like reading very much?

People who are literate like to read. Many people don't like reading because they don't have interest in reading.

6. What type of books children read nowadays?

Nowadays, generally speaking, the reading habit of the children is on the decline. Whatever books they read are based on fantasy, fiction and supernatural characters like Barbie, superman and shaktiman.

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

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

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

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

8.

1. Can story books be an ideal gift for children?

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

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

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

---

**10. How does reading help a child?**

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

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

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

**12. How much should a child read every day?**

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

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

In the past, books related to culture, tradition, religion and history were sold. Nowadays, books are mostly based on fiction and fantasy.

## **37. Celebrity**

**1. Who is your favorite celebrity in India?**

My favorite celebrity in India is Amir Khan. He's an actor par excellence. Recently I saw his movie Dangal, which I liked very much.

**2. Do you like any foreign celebrities?**

Yes, I like some cricketers of Australia and South Africa.

**3. Would you want to be a celebrity in the future?**

No, I would not want to be a celebrity in the future. I am happy with the quiet and peaceful life of a commoner.

**4. Do you think we should respect famous people's privacy?**

Yes, we should respect famous people's privacy. They have a right to their privacy. It can affect their performance if anyone invades their private life. Makkar IELTS

- 
5. How do celebrities influence their fans in India'?

Celebrities are role models for their fans. People like to follow their celebrity, and do what they do.

## 38. Chocolate

1. How often do you eat chocolate?

I do not eat chocolate very often. I eat chocolate once or twice a month. Usually I like dark chocolate, which is not very sweet.

2. What's your favorite flavor?

My favorite flavor is Cadbury's dark delight.

3. Is chocolate expensive in India?

Yes chocolate is expensive in India, especially the chocolate of foreign brands, which is available here.

4. When was the first time you ate chocolate?

I don't remember exactly, but I have been eating chocolate since I was very small.

5. Is chocolate popular in India?

Yes, chocolate is very popular in India. We can get all varieties of Indian and imported chocolate.

## 39. Outdoor activities

1. What do you do in your spare time?

I do many things in my spare time. I watch TV, listen music and do a little bit of gardening.

2. Do you like outdoor activities?

Yes, I like outdoor activities. I go for walks in the morning. I play badminton at times and I also do some gardening.

3. What outdoor activities do you (most) like to do?

( same as above)

4. How often do you do that?

I do these activities almost everyday.

5. What outdoor sports do you like? (Why?)

I like many outdoor sports such as cricket, hockey and football, but I play only badminton.

6. How much time do you spend outdoors every week?

I spend about 30 to 40 hours outdoors every week.

7. How often do you do outdoor activities?

I do these outdoor activities very often, almost everyday.

8. What (types of) outdoor activities are popular in your country?

India is a diverse country. All types of outdoor activities are popular. But, I think cricket is the most popular outdoor sport.

## 40. Photography

1. Do you like to take photographs? (Why?)

Yes, I like taking photographs. Photographs are the memories of good times and special events. We can capture special moments, interesting things or beautiful sceneries through pictures. They are reminders of good times.

2. Do you prefer to take photos yourself or to have other people take photos? (Why?)

I prefer taking photos myself, as everyone has a different way of looking at things. Another person may not like what I find interesting.

3. How long have you liked taking photographs?

I have liked taking photographs since I was a child. We used to take our camera to all our vacations and I used to be very fascinated with it. Now I mostly use my cellphone to take pictures.

4. How (why) did you become interested in photography?

I became interested in photography because my father was very fond of taking pictures and he always had a good camera. We used to take a camera to all our vacations and take pictures.

5. How often do you take photographs?

I take photographs very often, in fact almost everyday.

6. In what situations do you take photographs?

---

I take photographs in many situations. Sometimes it's during friends or family get-togethers, sometimes it is a beautiful scenery, like of the sky or the sunset or when I travel to another city, I take pictures and on many more such situations.

7. What kind of photos do you like to take? (Why?)

I like to take photos of different things. Sometimes it is a beautiful scene, which can be of the clouds, sky, sunrise, sunset and so on. Sometimes I take pictures of plants and animals. I also like to capture the different expressions on people's faces.

8. Do you prefer to take pictures of people or of scenery?

I do not prefer one to the other. I like taking pictures of various things, sometimes it's scenery and sometimes I like capturing a person's expressions.

9. Who do you take photos of?

I take photos of family, relatives, friends, my dogs, other animals, etc.

10. How do you keep your photos?

I save pictures mostly in online albums, like Google photos. Sometimes, I get them printed also.

11. Do you keep your photographs on your computer?

Yes, I keep my photographs on the computer. I always backup my phone photos onto the computer.

12. Are there any photos on the walls of your home?

Yes, there are photos on the walls of my home. We have pictures of all special family events, like birthdays and weddings and also of all of us growing up and at different stages of our lives.

13. Do you frame (or have you framed) any of your photos? (If yes, which? & why?)

Yes, I have a family photo framed. It is from my sister's wedding. All five members of my family are there in this picture together and everyone is looking cheerful and happy. It is one of my favorite photographs.

14. Do you prefer to send postcards to people or to send photos that you took yourself? (Why?)

I prefer to send photographs I took myself, as they are a way to share your experiences with your near and dear ones and letting them know that you are thinking of them.

## 41. Television and Radio

1. What kind of entertainment do you prefer, TV or radio? (Why?)

---

I pay for TV to radio because TV is both audio as well as visual. I listen to radio only while traveling.

2. How are radio programs and television programs different?

While listening to radio you can do other things such as cooking and driving. This is not possible while watching TV. Radio programs are cheaper as you do not have to subscribe to radio channels. Watching television is costlier in comparison. Radio programs have only the audio component whereas TV is audio as well as visual.

3. What programs do you like to watch/listen to?

I like to watch sitcoms like comedy night with Kapil. I also watch some daily soaps, some sports channels and news programs.

OR

I listen radio Mirchi and other such radio channels from where I can listen to the latest songs.

4. When do you watch TV/listen to the radio?

I watch TV mostly in the evenings. At that time we all family members sit together and watch some sitcoms or news channels.

I listen to radio only when I'm traveling with my parents in our car.

5. In India, has television/radio changed much in recent years?

Television has changed a lot in the recent years. Many new channels and programs have been added. High-definition TV has become very popular. You can also watch some TV shows of other countries almost at the same time.

In the radio also many new channels have been added. So there is an improvement in both TV and radio.

6. How do you think TV/radio broadcasts in India could be improved?

Some new shows on education could be added. Otherwise I'm quite happy with the TV programs and the radio broadcasts.

7. Do you prefer TV news or news on the radio? (Why?)

I prefer news on TV to news on radio. This is because TV has both the audio as well as a visual component.

## 42. Teacher (More questions with sample answers in the end)

1. What kind of teachers do you like best?

I like teachers who are friendly and have patience; who do not get mad at me when I don't understand anything. I like teachers who have depth of knowledge of the subject, and who have good communication skills to teach well.

2. Who was your favorite teacher when you were young?

When I was young Mrs. Promilla was my favorite teacher. She used to teach me maths. I remember I used to be very weak at Maths, but Mrs. Promilla taught us so well that Maths became my favorite subject.

3. Would you want to be a teacher in the future?

Yes, I would definitely want to be a teacher in the future. I think I have the patience. Moreover, teaching is a very lucrative profession nowadays.

4. Have you ever had bad teachers before?

No, I have never had bad teachers in my life. All my teachers have been very nice.

## 43. Newspapers

1. Do you often read newspapers?

Yes, I often read newspapers. I read the newspaper every day. I come to know what is happening around me and in the world.

2. Which do you prefer reading, magazines or newspapers?

I prefer reading newspapers because I like to know what is happening around me.

3. What kinds of (types of) newspapers (or magazines) do you usually read?

My father has subscribed to the Tribune. So I read that daily. It is a National newspaper, but has a maximum circulation in Punjab.

4. How old were you when you first started to read newspapers?

I remember I was 10 years old when I started reading the newspaper. I started from the sports section.

5. Do you think it's important to read newspapers? (Why?/Why not?)

It is very important to read newspapers. We feel connected with the whole world.

6. Why do (you think) people read newspapers?

---

People read newspapers to know what is happening around them. They also read newspapers for the international news. They also read newspapers for the employment advertisements and matrimonial.

7. What different types of newspaper are there in India?

There are broadsheets and tabloids. There are newspapers in English, Hindi, Punjabi and other regional languages.

8. Do you care about the news?

Yes, I care about the news. I think news is very important. We should be aware of what is happening around us and in the whole world.

9. Is the news important (to you)?

(same as above)

10. What kinds of news do Indian people read in newspapers?

Indian people like to read fall types of news. They read local news, National news, International news, Sports news and many other news.

11. Do you prefer to read about domestic (or local) news or international news? (Why?)

I like to read domestic news as well as international news.

12. What are some methods that newspapers use to attract readers?

Some newspapers use colourful graphics. Some use very bold headlines. Some newspapers add puzzles like Sudoku and crossword puzzles to attractive readers.

13. What influence do you think newspapers have on society?

Newspapers have a lot of effect on society. They shape people's opinions. Through letters to the editor they are a link between the government and people. They also entertain us.

14. Do you think the Internet is a good way to get news?

Yes, the Internet is a really good way to get the news nowadays. People subscribe to the e-newspapers. There are many apps off the TV News channels, which help the people to be updated all the time.

## 44. Mirrors

1. How often do you look at yourself in the mirror everyday

I look at the mirror at least once a day when I go out for my work. Apart from that whenever I get a chance I flatter myself by looking at the mirror. I think if you are a confident person, looking at the mirror always boosts your confidence

2. Have you ever bought mirrors?

Yes, I bought a beautiful mirror when I went to Jodhpur last month, it has a nice wooden frame and a clear mirror to look at. It also has carving on the frame

3. Would you use Mirrors to decorate rooms?

Yes I would like to use Mirrors to decorate the rooms. Mirrors add space to the room and also enhance the lighting effect. My interior decorator friend also recommended it for my study room recently.

4. Do you check yourself when you decide to buy a mirror?

Yes, I check for any defects or flaws in the reflection, when buying a mirror. I also check for any physical damage, like cracks or dent

## 45. Robots

1. Do you like robots?

Yes I like robots as they can do so much for you these days. There are simple robots to clean the houses and sophisticated ones to perform surgeries.

2. What kind of robot would you like to have

Recently I have heard about a robot that cleans your room I would like to process one. It is like an automatic vacuum cleaner that picks up the dirt from all the looks and corners

3. Will robots change society significantly?

Yes, robots will changes in society. In fact they have already done so, most of the jobs that were done manually earlier are performed with the help of robotics and with more precision.

No I don't think robot will change the society it will only changed the way we work

## 46. Gifts

1. What is the importance of gifts?

Gifts are gestures of love. They strengthen bonds of friendship. Gifts make the recipient feel special.

2. Is there any pressure on us to buy presents?

As such, there is no pressure on us to buy presents. But sometimes when we receive costly presents then there is a pressure to reciprocate in the same way. Then it may cause pressure. I believe that gifts should be just gestures of love. Too costly gifts should not be there.

Nowadays, we belong to a consumerist society. There are so many choices of gifts. This may seem good to some, but I often get confused when it comes to selecting a gift.

3. How often do you buy others gifts?

I buy gifts very often. I buy gifts for my friends and siblings, but I don't buy expensive gifts. I am not earning yet. So, my budget is restricted to my pocket money only.

4. Do you like to send expensive gifts?

No, I don't buy expensive gifts. I am not earning yet. So, my budget is restricted to my pocket money only.

5. What kinds of gifts are popular in your country?

All sorts of gifts are popular in my country. People buy gifts according to their choice and pocket.

6. Why do people send gifts?

Gifts are tokens of love. They give happiness to the giver and receiv

## 47. Shoes

1. How often do you buy shoes?

For me comfort of shoes is more important than the looks, so whenever I find a pair of shoes that are very comfortable I don't miss the chance to buy .As a matter of fact I end up buying a pair of shoes every month.

2. Have you ever bought shoes online?

Yes, online shopping these days offers a wider range of products, than conventional shopping in the stores. So I prefer to buy shoes online these days. I just bought a pair yesterday.

3. Do you know anyone who likes to buy a lot of shoes?

Yes I have come across many people who like to buy a lot of shoes. My sister, my aunt ,my mother all of them have a good collection of Shoes in all colours .

4. What's your favourite type of shoes?

As I just mentioned my favourite type of pair of shoe is the one that offers comfort rather than good looks only. I like shoes that are simple in design and polishable.

---

## 48. Forget things

1. What kinds of things do you have to bring when you go out?

When you go out you should have your purse with some money, an ID card and your cell phone.

2. Did you ever forget to bring something?

Yes, once I had to go to Ludhiana by bus. I forgot my wallet at home. Fortunately, I knew someone in the bus, who helped me. Otherwise, I would have had to get down midway.

3. How do you remind yourself?

I have become very forgetful. I try to repeat things in my mind and sometimes I set reminders on my cell phone.

4. Do you carry different things in the morning and in the evening?

It depends on where I have to go. In the morning, it is generally to school or college. So, I carry my bag and books. In the evening, I may have to go shopping. So, I carry my purse and shopping bag.

## 49. Indoor games

1. Do you play any indoor games?

Yes, I play carom board and cards with my siblings and parents.

2. Do you prefer to play indoor games or outdoor games?

It depends on the weather outside. In hot summer afternoons, I play indoor games. But, when the weather is good, I play cricket and badminton outside with my friends.

3. What indoor games did you play when you were a child?

I played carom board, ludo and snakes and ladders as a child.

4. Is there any particular indoor game that you liked (when you were a child)?

I liked ludo and snakes and ladders.

5. What sorts of indoor games do children play now?

Nowadays, children are of the digital era. They play electronic games on the computer.

6. Do you play video games?

Yes, I play Mario and tetris sometimes on my phone.

7. What kinds of video games do you like to play?

I play Mario and tetris only. Sometimes I feel I have wasted a lot of time on these two games.

8. Is it good for young people to play video games?

Yes, video games are good, but only if played in a limit. These introduce children to computer technology, and teach strategy building skills.

## 50. **City** Life

1. Do you live in the city or the countryside? (countryside = village)

I live in the countryside. (----Then go about talking about your village)

I live in the city. (----Then go about talking about your city)

2. Is it good for young people to grow up in the city?

Yes, it is good for young people to grow up in the cities because cities provide many facilities. There are good education facilities, recreational (entertainment) facilities, and health facilities. There are also good job opportunities in cities.

3. Is your city/village a good place for young people to grow up?

Yes, my village is a good place for young people to grow up. First, it is very near to the city. It is as good as being in the suburbs of the city. We can enjoy all the facilities of the city as well as the clean and pollution free atmosphere of the village.

OR

Yes, my city is a good place for young people to grow up. There are good education facilities, recreational (entertainment) facilities, and health facilities. There are also good job opportunities in my city.

4. Have you ever been to the seaside?

No, I have never been to the seaside. My cousin went to Goa last year. He told me that beaches are fun places. I would like to go there whenever I get a chance.

OR

Yes, I have been to the seaside once. I went to visit relatives in Mumbai. They took us to the Juhu Beach

5. Do you often eat out (go to restaurants)?

I eat out very often, in fact two or three times a month.

6. What food do you like?

I like traditional Punjabi food, such as dal roti. I also like Chinese Manchurian and cheese chilly. I love eating Italian pizza and pasta.

## 51. Foreign language

1. Why do you think it is important to learn a foreign language?

It is important to learn a foreign language because it helps you connect with more people. As it is, today we do not belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village and to survive in this global village, it is necessary to be multilingual. For example, English is spoken in 86 countries. If you know English you can communicate with people of 86 countries.

2. How is it helpful to you to speak a foreign language?

I know English which is a foreign language. It is very helpful for me. Knowledge of English makes me feel more confident as it increases my communication skills and also it helps me in surfing the net because most websites are written in English.

3. What is the most difficult part of learning a foreign language for you?

I find some pronunciations very confusing at times. For example bough is pronounced 'bo' whereas tough is 'tuff'.

Sometimes the spellings which have silent words also confuse me. For instance 'b' is silent in doubt and debt.

4. What is the best way to memorize new words?

The best way is to start using them in daily life so that they become part of your natural spoken English.

5. Is it better to learn a new word from translation or by definition?

I think both ways are equally good. Sometimes some words are learnt best by translation and some by definition.

6. Why don't some people know the language of the society they live in?

This is perhaps because they live in their own shell and don't intermingle with those people.

7. What do you think of children learning a foreign language?

I think children should learn a foreign language. It is very easy for children to learn a foreign language as they are very receptive and they are not hesitant about making mistakes. They also have a benefit of not knowing any other language too well, to make comparisons and assumptions about the difficulty of language learning. In this era of globalization, knowledge of a foreign language is very beneficial for a better career and a brighter future. It opens more avenues for the students for higher education and good jobs.

8. Why are some language classes boring?

Some language classes are boring because of the teaching methods used. If there are no interactive and fun activities involved in teaching a language and only textbook teaching methods are followed, students become bored easily. Incorporating technology in classrooms, keeps the students interested in learning and they learn it easily. For example, there should be audio-visual means used.

9. Some students hate to learn foreign languages, what can teachers do to develop their interest?

Some students hate to learn a foreign language mainly due to lack of interest and uninteresting teaching methods used. Teachers play an important role in developing students' interest. Interactive and fun activities should be included to keep the children involved and interested in learning. If students are taught only from text books and there is a pressure of examination, it leads to students becoming bored or disliking language classes. Teachers should also use contexts and examples to which the students can relate in their day-to-day life. If they understand how the language can help and benefit them, students would be motivated to learn that language.

10. Some people travel for learning a foreign language, what do you think?

I think that traveling is a very good way to learn a foreign language. It is true that the more we use a language, the better we get at it. So, if we travel to a country/region where that language is used, we will interact more with the local people in that language and learn its nuances better. Also, language is related to the culture. If we travel, we learn more about the culture and can learn the language better.

11. What's the best way to learn a foreign language?

I think the best way to learn a foreign language in a classroom environment, from a teacher who has in-depth knowledge of that language. The teacher should preferably be a native speaker of that language or should have a high proficiency level in that language. It is very important to incorporate technology and audio-visual methods to teach that language. Also, travelling to that country/region where the language is spoken is also a good way to learn it. These days learning a language through videos and online classes has become very popular, as the students get a chance to interact with the teachers and also with native speakers of that language, through the

internet. There are many apps also available, which can be downloaded on smartphones, which help learning a foreign language in a fun and interactive way. For example, the Duolingo app.

### 12. Why can some people learn languages fast while others learn slowly?

Some people learn language faster than some others because of the teaching methods used to teach them. Interacting more with the native speakers also helps with learning a language better and faster. Also, there may be a motivating factor, like a job that requires them to learn that language, which makes people learn a language faster than others, who don't have any motivation behind learning a language.

### 13. Does one's age affect their language learning?

Yes, I think age affects language learning. I think the learning curve goes down with increasing age. Also, at an older age, people try and compare the new language they are learning with the language they already know. That may cause a hindrance in the learning of a language. People also become more hesitant about making mistakes and feel more embarrassed, at a later age, as compared to young learners.

#### Advantages for children to learn languages – Why it is good to learn languages at younger age

1. When children learn multiple languages at a younger age, they develop a lifelong love of communicating with others.
2. It is much easier to learn foreign language when young. At a later age it becomes harder to become fluent.
3. Learning a foreign language helps a child's mind develop. Such children do better in other subjects. It helps their intellect to develop more.
4. Learning a foreign language helps children to expand their knowledge of the world. They want to know about other people and other countries. They would want to understand them instead of being afraid of them.

#### Advantages for the adult learner of a foreign language

He has his own language to compare with the second language. So new terms or concepts are easily understood.

They have a strong motivation to learn a new language especially if it is connected to an employment opportunity.

Most adult learners have participated in study earlier, so they know what method of learning works best for them.

## 52. Birds

1. How do you feel about birds? (Why do you feel that way?)

I feel that birds are very special. They are beautiful creations of God. They add diversity to nature.

2. How do Indian people feel about birds?

India is a diverse country. Everyone has different feelings. Some love birds, and keep them as pets. Others just admire them flying in the sky. Some even eat birds.

3. Are there many birds near your home?

Yes, there are birds near my home. I can see pigeons, crows, sparrows and even the cuckoo bird occasionally.

4. Have you seen many different kinds of birds? (near your home)

Yes, I have seen many different birds. Apart from the birds I see routinely around my house, I have seen peacocks in my neighbouring village. I have also seen some rare birds, in the Chhattbir zoo. There were different varieties of parrots and the ostrich and emu over there.

1. Do any birds have any particular significance in India? For example, does India have a national bird?

Yes, peacock is our national bird. It is a beautiful bird. The male looks very beautiful with its plumes spread out.

1. Do you think birds should be protected? (Why? / Why not? How can they be protected?)

Yes, definitely. They are beautiful creations of nature. They add diversity to our environment. Apart from that, they are the best pollinators. Also, birds eat insects. That is why crops are protected. They are part of our ecological chain. We all know that if any link of our ecological chain is not there, then the whole ecology can collapse.

Birds can be protected by having strict laws against catching and selling birds. The NGOs like SPCA, which means Society for prevention of cruelty to animals, and the PFA, which means people for animals can also help in this matter.

5. Do Indian people like raising (keeping) pet birds?

Yes, they do. Some people keep birds as pets. They keep colourful parrots and pigeons as pets.

6. Have you ever raised (kept) a pet bird?

No, I have never raised a pet bird. There is a lot of work involved.

### 53. Boats

1. Do you often travel by boat?

No, I don't often travel by boat. I don't live in the coastal area and where I live people do not travel by boat. Boating is done only in places with water such as the Sukhna Lake.

2. Have you ever been on a boat while you were on holidays (on vacation)?

No, I have never traveled to a coastal area for holiday. I never got a chance.

3. (Similar to above) Have you ever been on a boat tour while you were on holidays?  
(Same question as above. Can be answered differently)

No, I have never been on a boat tour, but yes, I did boating once then I went to Chandigarh to visit my relatives. They took me to the Sukhna Lake.

4. Would you like to go on a boat tour? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, I would definitely like to go on a boat tour. I think it would be great fun. My relatives live in USA. They told me that there's a cruise to Alaska. One day I would love to do that cruise.

5. (Similar to above) Would you like to have a holiday on a boat?

6. Where in your country do people most often use boats? (or, travel by boat)

India has a long coastline. The coastline is more than 7000 km. People living near the coast use boats very often.

7. Do many people in your country own their own boat?

Maybe people living near the shores have their own boats, but people living off shore do not have their own boats.

8. Would you like to buy a boat?

No, I would not like to buy a boat. I think it would be a waste of money.

1. If you had your own boat, what would you do with it?

If I had my own boat, I would buy a house near the beach and do boating everyday.

## 54. Relatives

1. Do you often visit your relatives?

No, I don't often visit relatives. I visit them once or twice in six months.

2. What do you do when visit them?

Whenever we visit relatives, we have lots of fun. We visit some historical places, eat out, watch movies and do lots of other activities.

3. Do you prefer to spend time with your relatives, or your friends?

I prefer to spend time with my friends. I like the company very much. We have lots of fun together.

4. (Possibly the question above is this) Do you prefer visiting your relatives, or your friends?

5. (Similar to above) Who is the more important to you, your relatives / your family, or your friends?

Both are important for me, but my friends are more important than my relatives. Of course, my immediate family is more important than friends.

## 55. Shopping

1. Do you like (going) shopping? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, I love going shopping. I love doing window shopping. I come to know about the latest trends on fashions going on. I feel like buying so many things, but I'm not earning yet, and so my pocket doesn't allow me to buy everything.

2. What do you think is the most difficult (or, unpleasant) part about shopping?

The most difficult part about shopping for me is selecting things. The markets today are flooded with choices. I find it very confusing. I also don't like to go to the shops, which are not fixed price shops. I hate bargaining.

3. Is there anything you don't like (or, dislike) about shopping?

I don't like bargaining. That is why I generally go to fixed-price shops.

4. What don't you like about shopping?

5. Do you prefer shopping alone or with others?

I do not like to go shopping alone. The market is flooded with choices, and I find it very confusing to select things on my own.

6. Who do you (usually) go shopping with?

I usually go shopping with my mother. Sometimes I go with my friends.

7. Do you prefer to go shopping with family members or with friends?

It depends on what I have to buy. If I have to buy costly things then I like to go with my family, but for stationery items and other small things I go with friends.

8. What do you usually buy when you go shopping?

I buy clothes, shoes, cosmetics, stationery items and many other such things when I go shopping. Sometimes I go with my mother to do the grocery and buy vegetables.

---

## 56. Sports

1. Are you interested in sport?

Yes, I am interested in sports. I like watching cricket and hockey on TV. Sometimes I play badminton with my brother, on the terrace of our house.

2. (Similar to above) Do you like sport?

3. What sports do you like? (Why?)

I like cricket, hockey, badminton and many other sports. I like watching these on TV. But I play only badminton.

4. Do most people in your country like sport?

Yes most people in my country like sport. Cricket is the most popular sport. People also like hockey and football.

5. (Similar to above) What sports do people in your country like to play?

India is a diverse country. People like to play all types of sports, but cricket is the most popular sport.

6. What benefits do you think sport can bring us?

Playing sport and bring us many benefits. By playing competitive sports, we learn competition, and by paying team sports we learn cooperation.

## 57. Daily routine

1. Do you like to plan what you will do each day? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, I like to plan what I do each day. If I do not plan I tend to procrastinate and then all my work piles up and I start getting stressed.

2. Please describe your typical daily routine.

I get up at around six in the morning. Then I freshen up and go for a walk. I walk for around 5 km every day. If for some reason I do not go for a walk, then I feel something is missing from my life. After coming home I help my mother in household chores. Then I go to school/college. In the evening, I hang out with my friends for about an hour or so. Then I study for sometime. We are family members have dinner at around eight. We all watch TV together for about an hour. I go to bed at around 10.

3. What's your favourite time of the day? (Why? What do you do at that time?)

My favorite time of the day is evening time. We are family members have dinner together. We share our day's happenings with each other. We watch TV together. Sometimes we go for walk after dinner. So this is my favorite time of the day.

4. What do you usually do at this time of day?

( same as above)

5. Do you usually do the same things at the same time each day?

No, my timetable is not that fixed. Dinner time is more or less fixed. Sometimes I go to bed late, if I have to complete an assignment or prepare for some test.

6. How do you plan (organize) your study time?

I plan my study time very meticulously. I'm usually very diligent and try to study for 2-3 hours on school days, and 5 to 6 hours on weekends.

7. Do you ever (or, do you often) change these plans?

Yes many times, I have to change my plans. Sometimes there are guests at home and I have to help my mother. Then my timetable gets disturbed, but I usually make it up the next day by studying more.

## 58. People's ages

1. What do you think is the most important age in a person's life? (Why?)

(Similar to above) In India, what's the most important age in people's lives?

I think the most important age is eighteen in India. At this age adulthood starts and with it a lot of legal rights, like the right to vote, legally obtain a driving license for four wheelers, making independent financial decisions and many more.

2. Are birthdays important in Indian culture?

(Similar to above) Do people in India celebrate birthdays?

Yes, birthdays are important in the Indian culture. Birthdays are celebrated but in different ways by different people. Sometimes it's a party with the relatives and friends, sometimes people celebrate with only their family and eat out and sometimes it's a movie and a meal with friends.

3. What birthday is most important in Indian culture? \*

The most important birthday in the Indian culture is the 18th one. (rest can be the same as in the answer to Ques.1).

4. What age in life is the most difficult? (Why?)

Every age has its own challenges and joys. I don't think that we can call any particular age the most difficult. Teenage years may be a little challenging, as in those years of adolescence

children undergo both physical and hormonal changes, which may be a little difficult to deal with. They are neither children nor adults at that age.

## 59. Punctuality

1. Do you wear a watch?

(Similar to above) Do you think everyone should wear a watch?

Yes, I wear a watch and I think that everyone should wear one too, or keep a check on the time. These days please check time on their cell phones, however, the point is to be on time and not waste time.

2. In your country is it important to be on time (= be punctual)? (e.g., for meetings, work, classes)

Yes, it is very important to be on time to meetings, classes or for work. Time is valued a lot in India, as unlike money, time once gone doesn't come back.

3. Do you like to be on time?

(Similar to above) Is being on time important to you?

Yes, being on time is extremely important to me. I ensure that I am never late for my classes and other appointments and meetings. I understand that time is much more important than any other material thing or money.

4. How do you feel when others are late?

When others are late occasionally, it maybe due to a genuine problem, however, if someone is late very often, then it's definitely a habit that I do not appreciate or like.

5. How do you remind yourself to be on time?

I usually remember the appointments and meetings, but sometimes I set reminders on my phone to be on time.

6. Why are some people always late?

Some people are always late because they do not plan well and are not good at time management. They may also not value time.

7. Do you think it's important to be punctual?

I think it's very important to be punctual. It saves our time and the other person's time also. Time is the most precious commodity.

8. What will you do if you are waiting for someone?

If I am waiting for someone, I'll probably pass time by playing games on my phone or reading the news or chatting with my friends.

9. Do you think people these days are as punctual as they were in the past?

I think people are as punctual these days, as they were in the past. However, sometimes due to the traffic situation of today, despite wanting to be punctual, people are sometimes not able to reach on time for their work, meetings, appointments etc

## 60. Names

1. Does your name have any special meaning?

Yes, my name has a special meaning. My name is Kiran. It means a ray of light. My name is very significant for me. It has been my identity for the last 56 years. It is a gift given to me by my parents. It brings out positive feelings from within me. I am proud of my name.

2. Is your surname very common in India?

My surname is Makkar. I think it is very common. I know many people with this surname.

3. Do you like your name?

Yes, I love my name. It is my identity. It is the meaningful name. It is my parents gift to me.

4. Would you like to change your name?

No, I would never like to change my name. I love my name as it is.

5. Do people in India ever change their names?

Yes, sometimes people change their name. Sometimes, when a girl gets married, her in-laws give her a new name and start calling her by that name. However, it is a very cumbersome process to change one's name in papers.

6. What name do people at home (your family members) call you?

My nickname is Mohini. At home everyone calls me by that name.

## 61. Birthdays

1. How do children celebrate birthdays in your country?

Children celebrate birthdays in different ways. Some children invite friends and cut the cake. Older children take their friends out for a party. Some people celebrate by donating for charity.

2. How did you celebrate your last birthday?

I took my friends out for dinner at Rangla Punjab, a famous restaurant in the suburbs of my hometown.

3. What kinds of birthday gifts do you like to receive?

I like to receive clothes, books, flowers as gifts. I take gifts as gestures of love. So I happily accept anything that anybody brings for me.

- 
4. Is there a difference between the way you celebrated your birthday in the past and the present?

When I was younger, my mother used to make snacks at home and bake a cake. I used to invite my friends, but now I prefer to take them out for lunch or dinner.

## 62. Computer

1. Do you use computer very much?

Yes, I use computers a lot. I have a laptop I use for my studies, to stay connected to my friends and relatives living far away, to research on various topics, for entertainment I watch movies and play games.

2. When do you use a computer?

I use the computer everyday at home, usually in the evenings and after dinner. I use it to research for my assignments and to check my emails, check Facebook updates and post messages and sometimes I use it to watch movies or play games.

3. What do you use computer for?

I use it to research for my assignments and to check my emails, check Facebook updates and post messages and sometimes I use it to watch movies or play games.

4. What was your impression when you used a computer the first time?

I remember the day when I used the computer the first time. I was in class 6 at that time. I vividly remember how fascinated I was with the computer.

5. How did you learn to use a computer?

I learned to use a computer through school lessons. Later I got my own personal desktop at home and I learned a little more by using it more at home. Now I have a laptop that I use regularly.

6. Have computers changed your life in anyway (if yes, How?)?

Yes, definitely. Computers have changed my life. I am well connected with all my friends and relatives, irrespective of which part of the world they are in. It has made the research work for my assignments very convenient. I think it's a very good source of entertainment and with the Internet it is a boon for the humankind. Many everyday tasks can be done in a matter of a few clicks and in a few seconds, be it banking, shopping, etc.

7. Are computers used much in your country?

---

Yes, the use of computers has increased greatly in my country. It is a common household electronic equipment and almost all the workplaces make use of a computer, like in a grocery store, bank, coffee shop, school, post office, etc.

8. Do you think computer are useful in everyday life (how)?

Yes, computers are very useful in everyday life. We can pay our bills, book tickets, shop for anything, set reminders, connect with relatives and friends, research, entertain ourselves, create new things and do umpteen other things by using a computer.

9. Computers are now used a lot in education. What do you think of this?

I think it is the need of the day to make use of computers in education. It not only makes the lessons more interesting, it also helps make the children more techno-savvy, as technology is used in almost all fields.

10. Do you play computer games?

Yes, sometimes I play word games, puzzles or card games on my computer.

11. Do you think computers are perfect now or do they still need to be improved?

I think the computers technology, in terms of both hardware and software keeps changing and there is always something new that needs to be added as time passes. So, in the future I can foresee a lot of changes and improvements that are made to the computers.

### 63. Being in a hurry

1. When was the last time you did something in a hurry?

The last time I did something in a hurry was two months ago. I remember my exams were going on. I slept really late because I was studying and in the morning I did not hear the alarm. So I got ready in a hurry, and forgot my wallet at home.

2. Do you like to finish things quickly?

If I don't like what I'm doing, then I like to finish things quickly. But, if I am enjoying what I'm doing then I take my time.

3. What kind of things you would never do in a hurry?

I would never drive in a hurry, or cross the road in a hurry.

4. Why do people make mistakes more easily when they are in a hurry?

It is easy to make mistakes in a hurry, because the mind is preoccupied and so it is easy to forget certain things. That desire it has been rightly said that haste makes waste.

## 64. Museums

1. Are there many (or any) museums in your hometown?

No, there are no museums in my hometown. That is one museum of our great martyr Bhagat Singh, which is 30 km away. There is another Sikh museum in Amritsar in Golden Temple.

2. Do you think museums are useful for visitors to your hometown/country?

Yes, museums are very useful for the visitors. Museums provide knowledge and information. They also provide entertainment. Museums preserve a collection. Museums inspire people to do things.

3. Do you often visit a museum?

No, I don't often visit museums. I visited a science museum about a year ago. This museum is also near my hometown.

4. Did you go to any museums when you were a child?

Yes, I saw the Sikh museum in the Golden Temple when I was a child. I also saw the Bhagat Singh Museum during my school days. Our school organized an educational tour to this museum.

5. When was the last time you visited a museum?

The last time I visited the Museum was about a year ago.

6. Do you think museums are important?

Yes, museums are very important. (as answer 2)

7. Do you think it's suitable for museums to sell things to visitors?

No, I do not think museums should sell things to visitors. If museums start selling things then the whole purpose of museums would be lost.

## 65. Dance

1. When was the last time you went to a place where people go to dance in your country?

I have never been to any such place where people specially go to dance. In my country people specially go to dance in discos, pubs and clubs. But there are no such places in my home town. I love to dance on family functions.

2. When was the last occasion when you danced a lot?

---

The last occasion I danced a lot was last Sunday. It was my friend's birthday. He invited us to his home. We danced a lot on that day.

3. Do you like dancing?

Yes, I love dancing. I dance on all family functions like marriage parties and birthday parties.

4. Have you ever learnt dancing? Why? / Why not?

No, I have never learnt dancing. Unfortunately, there are no places in my hometown where dance is taught. All the steps I know, I've learnt from TV programmes and movies.

OR

Yes, I've learnt dancing. There is a very nice centre in my village which teaches Punjabi folk dances like Giddha and Bhangra.

5. Did you learn to dance? Why? / Why not?

No, I did not learn to dance. Unfortunately, there are no places in my hometown where dance is taught. All the steps I know, I've learnt from TV programmes and movies.

OR

Yes, I learnt dancing in my childhood. There is a very nice centre in my village which teaches Punjabi folk dances like Giddha and Bhangra.

6. Why do you think people love to dance?

People love to dance because they can express their joy. Dance is a form of expression. Dance is a good way to relieve tensions and worries. It also keeps the body fit.

7. Do you think children love to dance?

Yes, children love to dance because they can express their joy. Dance is a form of expression. Dance is a good way to relieve tensions and worries. It also keeps the body fit.

8. Do you see dance on TV?

Yes, I see a lot of dance reality shows like Dance India Dance, NachhBaliye and Dancing Superstars.

## 66. Hats

1. Do you like to wear hats?

No, I don't like to wear hats. I find them very uncomfortable.

OR

Yes, I wear hats when I go out in the sun, or when watching a match in the stadium.

2. What kinds of hats do you have?

I have a baseball cap, woolen caps for winters, a beret and some fashion hats.

3. Where do you like to buy hats?

I usually buy hats at a store where such accessories are available and some such stores are there in a nearby mall. I have also bought a couple of them online.

4. Is wearing hats popular in your country? M a kk a r IE LTS

Yes wearing hats is popular in India. In different states of India there are different types of hats that are a part of the traditional attire. These days hats are very popular among the young generation. They wear them as a fashion accessory.

## 67. Singing

1. Do you often (like to) sing?

Yes, I like to sing, but as my singing abilities are not pretty good so I sing only in the bathroom.

2. When do you like to sing?

Whenever I'm alone I hum some songs to myself.

3. How much time do you spend in singing every day?

Not much, a few minutes perhaps.

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

I mostly like to sing film songs. I like Punjabi folk songs also.

5. Is it difficult to sing well?

Yes, it is difficult to sing well. I think only talented people can do it.

6. Do you want to be a singer?

No, I would not want to be a singer. I know I don't have the abilities.

## 68. Noise

1. How is the noise level in your city?

My city is an industrial city and on top of that it is on the national highway. So, the noise levels are very high.

2. Where does noise in urban areas come from?

The noise in urban areas comes from pressure horns of vehicles, industries and loud speakers.

3. Do you think it is important to be alone sometimes?

It is very important to be alone sometimes. Everyone needs to introspect at times. One needs to know about ones likes and dislikes and everyone needs time for one's personal work which can be best done in solitude.

4. What is the importance of belonging to a certain group?

There is a lot of importance of belonging to a social group. Man is a social animal and cannot live alone for long. One needs to share one's happiness and sorrows with others. That is why we join social groups and feel part of these groups. Social groups are a sort of support system. They give us support when we are low in life. It is mentally unhealthy to be alone for long.

5. What are problem you could have if you go out together in big group?

There could be a lot of problems in a big group. It is difficult to organise a big group. Mismanagement can lead to conflicts. It could end up in a lot of wastage of time. It has been well said that "two is a company and three is a crowd".

## 69. Bus or Taxi

1. How often do you take the bus?

I take the bus everyday. I go to school/college by bus.

2. When was the first time you took a taxi?

The last time I took a taxi was about two months ago. I went to Delhi to visit my relatives. I hired a cab from the railway station to their home.

3. What are the advantages of taking a taxi compared with buses.

The advantages of taxi are that you don't have to wait for the bus. You can start at anytime. A taxi takes you from one destination to the other whereas the bus will drop you at the bus stop.

4. Is it convenient to take the bus/taxi in your city?

The bus service in my city is very good and frequent. The taxi service is also very good, but I normally take the bus as it is much cheaper.

## 70. Mobile phones

1. How often do you use your mobile phone?

I use my mobile phone very often, in fact every day.

---

2. Can you describe your mobile phone?

I have an iPhone 5s. It is in golden color. It is rectangular in shape. It has two cameras. It has a 8GB Space. It has many features. It is like a mini computer in my hands.

3. What was your first mobile phone?

My first mobile phone was a Nokia phone. I don't remember the model but it was a very basic phone.

4. Would you buy a new one in the future?

I don't have any plans to buy a new phone in the future. I'm quite happy with my iPhone.

5. How has your mobile phone changed your life?

My basic mobile phone was it enough to change my life. It kept me connected with my family all the time, but my iPhone is a smart phone and is much more than a phone for mere connectivity. I can check my emails on my phone. I can surf the net on my phone. I can play games on my phone. I can do calculations on my phone. I can do so many other things on my phone.

## 71. HISTORY

1. Do you like (to learn about) history?

Yes, I like to learn about history. It is through history we come to know about the important events that gave way or shaped the way to progress or changes in any country. Also, history teaches us important lessons and we can learn from the achievements or mistakes of our ancestors. Everything in this world has its history. It's through that we value what we have today. For example, we value our independence today because of the knowledge of the independence struggle.

2. What historical event do you find most interesting?

The historical event I find the most interesting is the day India became an independent nation, on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947.

3. Do you think history is important?

Yes, I think history is very important. We can learn a lot from history. We come to know about the way of life, culture and traditions of the past times. We can come to know about the important historical events that paved way for progress and development, like the Industrial revolution. We can get motivation by learning about the achievements of some people and we can also learn from the mistakes of our ancestors.

4. Do you like to watch programmes on TV about history?

Yes I like to watch programmes on TV about history. In fact, the History channel is one of my favourite TV channels. It has some great shows about history of different parts of the world.

5. Do you think you can really learn history from films and TV programmes?

Yes, definitely. TV programs and films make learning about history interesting and easy. Reading about history may become very boring after a while. Children also learn history better if an audiovisual medium is used.

6. Do you think the Internet is a good place to learn about history?

Yes, Internet is a good way to learn about history. It is a vast source of knowledge. We can search about any topic related to history and get all the information we need. There are also videos, documentaries, podcasts, e-books etc. also available on the Internet.

7. Can you name a person from history whom you would like to learn more about?

I would like to learn more about martyr Bhagat Singh, who was a freedom fighter in the struggle for Independent India.

8. Why would you like to learn more about him/her?

I would like to learn more about him because he is a motivation for the youth of today. I do not know much about him, but I know that his role in India's freedom struggle was integral and the British rulers hanged him at a very young age of 23 for the assassination of a British police officer.

## 72. Magazine

1. Do you read magazines?

Yes, I read magazines. Reader's Digest is the one I usually read.

2. Who prefers to read magazines – younger or older people?

I think it is a matter of personal choice and is not related to age.

3. Have you ever read online magazines?

Yes, I have read online magazines. But I prefer traditional printed magazines to online ones.

4. Did you read magazines when you were young?

No, I didn't read magazines, but I read comic books and other children's books when I was young. I started reading magazines in my late teenage years.

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

There are many types of magazines popular in my country, like fashion magazines, sports magazines, housekeeping magazines, automobiles magazines, art & craft magazines and many more.

### 73. Internet

1. Do you use internet (very much)?

Yes, I use the internet a lot, especially for research for my studies. I also use the internet for chatting with my friends, watching movies and playing games.

2. When was the first time you used the internet?

The first time I used the internet was when I was around 10-11 years old. We got a computer and an internet connection set up at our home.

3. Is the internet very important (or useful) to you?

Yes, the internet is very important/useful for me. I mostly use it for research purposes for my studies. It also helps me stay connected with my friends.

4. Do you think you can (or could) live without the internet?

It is very hard to imagine a life without the internet. The communication and connectivity we have now because of the internet will suffer greatly. I would feel alienated/cut off from the world without the internet.

### 74. Neighbor –

1. Do you know your neighbors?

Yes, I know my neighbors well. I meet them daily and we are like a family.

1. Do you like your neighbors?

Yes, I like my neighbors. They are very friendly and helpful. In fact, we are like a family.

1. Why are neighbors important?

Neighbours are very important because they are next to our family. In fact, in today's era of nuclear families, neighbours are the only family we have in times of emergencies. Neighbours are the people with whom we share our walls. They are the first ones to help us in times of need.

1. When do you meet your neighbors?

I meet my neighbors in the evenings. We usually meet them in the park or outside my home. Sometimes we have some celebrations in our neighborhood or some community programs, where I get to meet my neighbors.

1. How often do you meet your neighbors?

I meet my neighbors very often, in fact almost daily.

## 75. Pop star

1. Who's your favorite pop star?

My favorite pop star is the famous Punjabi singer, Diljeet Dosanjh. He is an excellent singer, performer and an actor.

2. Do you want to be a pop star?

No, I don't have the qualities or talent to be a pop star.

3. Do you like to go to concerts?

Yes, I like to go to concerts. I think live performances are very enjoyable and much different from listening to recorded music. We get to meet like-minded people, with similar interests.

4. Do you prefer live music or recorded music?

I don't prefer one to the other. I enjoy both equally. Live music has its own charm and energy, whereas recorded music can be enjoyed anytime, anywhere

## 76. Teenagers –

1. Do you like to spend time with teenagers?

I have a few cousins who are in their teenage years and I like to spend time with them. I get to know about what is the latest trend and what kinds of apps are popular among them.

2. Do you know anything about the kind of fashion that teenagers like?

Yes, I know about the kind of fashion that teenagers like, through the TV shows and movies. I also see a lot of teenagers when I go out and get a sense of the kind of fashion they follow.

3. What are the best things of being a teenager?

I think that the best part of being a teenager is the sense of responsibility that is developed in those years. It is also a stage of life, which brings a little more freedom, than the younger years.

4. How do teenagers entertain themselves?

Teenagers usually entertain themselves by watching movies, listening to music, hanging out with friends, chatting online with friends, playing outdoor sports, and other such activities.

## 77. Mathematics

1. When did you start learning math?

I started learning numbers in the nursery classes, but the basic math of addition and subtraction, started when I was in the 1st standard.

2. Do you like math?

I am not very good at math. However, I don't dislike math. I think it is very useful in our everyday lives.

3. Who taught you math?

I have had many math teachers throughout my school and college years, who taught me math.

4. Who's your favorite teacher so far?

My favorite math teacher is Ms. Roy, who taught me math when I was in the 7th grade.

5. Is math difficult for you to learn?

I don't consider myself very good at math. I find certain aspects of it very difficult to understand. I don't do manual calculations; I use the calculator app on my phone most of the times.

6. Do you like to use a calculator?

Yes, I use the calculator app on my phone whenever I have to calculate something. I think that it is very useful, accurate and saves our time.

## 78. Films

1. Do you like to watch films?

Yes, I love to watch films. I think it is a very good form of entertainment and gives us the much-needed break in our busy life. It is also a good way to spend quality time with friends and family.

2. Do you prefer foreign films or Indian films?

---

I like watching both, Indian and foreign films. I think that the Indian films keep us connected to our culture and roots and through the foreign films, we get knowledge about other cultures. Both are an equally good source of entertainment.

3. How often do you go to cinema to watch a movie?

I go to cinema to watch a movie quite often, at least once or twice a month.

4. Do Indian people like to go to cinema to watch a film?

Yes, Indian people like to go to cinema to watch films. It is evident from the increasing number of multiplexes that are opening in every city and are almost always full of people.

5. What kinds of movies do you like the best?

I like movies that have a good story, with some good lessons or a message and those with good acting and direction.

6. What was the first film you watched?

I don't remember exactly, but one of the first films I remember from my childhood is \_\_\_\_\_ . (Add a couple of lines about the kind of movie and the story/what was it about).

## 79. Social Network

1. What kind of social networking websites do you like to use?

I mostly use the Facebook website for social networking. These days all the social networking sites have an app that we can install and use on our phones, so I don't usually visit the websites. I use my cellphone apps.

2. Are you a social person?

I am not a very social person. However, I have a good social circle of friends. I like to meet them at least once in two-three months.

OR

I am a social person. I like to meet new people and make new friends. I have a big social circle of friends.

3. What kinds of people do you like to be friends with on those websites?

On those websites, I only have friends whom I already know or whom I know through someone. I do not make new friends on such websites.

4. Is it easy to find real friends on a social networking website?

No, it is not at all easy to find real friends on social networking websites. People make fake ids, with fake information and dupe people.

5.What kind of chatting app or software do Indian people like to use?

Indian people like to use chatting apps like, Whatsapp, Snapchat, Hike, V-chat, Viber, etc.

## 80. POLITENESS

1. 1. Who teaches you to be polite?

Our parents, teachers, relatives, friends and other acquaintances, teach us politeness. We also learn about the importance of politeness from stories we read and movies we watch.

2. 2. How do Indian people show politeness?

Indian people show politeness in their actions, like talking softly, spending time with the elderly, helping people, greeting others with a smile and many other such small gestures reflect politeness.

3. 3. Has the way people show politeness changed in India?

Yes, I think with the advancement in technology, the way we show politeness has changed. With the advent of the internet and social networking, it is very important to show respect to others in the way we write messages or emails, so as to not offend others. For example, when chatting with someone, it is not acceptable to type in capital letters. It is considered rude and impolite.

4. Are you angry with people who are late?

Yes, definitely I am angry with people who are late. I am very punctual myself and I feel irritated when somebody keeps me waiting.

5. Do you think that people have less free time today than in the past? Why?

Yes, I do feel that people have less free time today than in the past. Today, people have become workaholics. They run after money and in doing so they work longer hours. Moreover, today we belong to a materialistic society and to buy the luxuries we have to work more. In earlier times, life was slower and the needs of people were limited. So people had a lot of free time.

6. Do you think that the quality of living is increasing? How?

I feel that the quality of life has increased in many ways and in many ways it has gone down. People today enjoy greater comforts and have more money to enjoy life but on the other hand we face many problems today such as pollution and global warming which make the quality of life bad.

7. Today people use machinery to automate everything, is it good or bad?

It is both – good as well as bad. In many ways it is good. We have more time because of machines. We get good quality things because machines make uniform things. We do mass

production because of automation and this boosts our economy as we can export things to other countries when we produce them in bulk.

On the other hand, many people have lost jobs because of automation. So, unemployment occurs and this leads to many other problems in society. Machines can also not give a personal touch to things.

8. How does modern technology help to save time?

Modern technology has touched all aspects of life. In transport industry we have much faster means of travel. In communication, technology has given us tools to connect to others at the click of a mouse. In the homes, we have washing machines and microwave ovens, which save our time.

9. Do you agree that people should let machinery do everything?

I do not agree that machines should do everything. In that way we shall become slaves of our own creation. We should know when, where and how much we have to use machines. We should know where to draw the line. When we need mass production, we should take the help of machines. In doing repetitive and boring work we can let the machines take over. But where creativity is needed, we should do with our own hands.

## 81. TIME MANAGEMENT

1. Are you ever late for anything?

No, I am a very punctual person. I value time and am never late for anything, unless it is due to some unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances.

2. What excuses do you use when you are late?

I am usually not late for any meetings or appointments. However, if at all I am getting late due to an unavoidable circumstance, then I inform the person I am meeting, beforehand. I don't make excuses.

3. What excuses do people have when they are late?

People give excuses like car or bike breakdown or that they were stuck in traffic, when they are late

4. Are you good at organizing time?

Yes, I am good at organizing time. I set up reminders for important events and meetings. I am never late for an appointment.

5. How do you usually organize time?

I sometimes set up reminders for important events or meetings, sometimes I make lists of tasks to complete, sometimes I set deadlines for myself, especially when working on an important assignment/project.

6. Do you think planning is important for time management?

Yes, planning is essential for good time management. If we don't plan ahead, we will tend to waste time doing tasks/things which are unimportant or unnecessary.

7. Why do you think some people pay to learn time management?

Time management has become very important in today's fast-paced world. Some people pay to take courses on time management so that they can succeed and excel at their work. Some people are not very good at organizing and managing time, so they need to take up courses on managing time well.

8. Do you think children should learn to manage time?

Yes, definitely. We live in a fast paced world and children too need to manage their time well, so that they can deal with the competition and do well at their studies and later, at their jobs.

9. Why do some people find it hard to follow their plans?

Some people find it hard to follow their plans because of other pressing commitments, like family commitments. Some people maybe too lazy to follow their plans.

10. 10.How would you teach your children time management?

Time management can be taught to children by helping them make a timetable and ensuring that they follow it. Also, children can learn easily from stories or movies, which teach them a lesson about the importance of time and managing it well. The parents are role models for children and they should set a good example for their children.

11. 11.Do old people and young people manage time in a similar way?

No, old and young people do not manage their time the same way. Old people have more life experience and they understand the importance of time management better than the young generation. The young people may be too impulsive or impatient and may not understand the importance of planning ahead. Another difference is the way the younger generation manages time. They make more use of technology and the old people may use the traditional methods, like a timetable or writing down a list of tasks.

## 82. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

1. Do you like fruits and vegetables? OR Do you like to eat fruit(s) and vegetables?

Yes, I like fruits and vegetables. In fact they are a part of my daily diet.

2. How often do you eat fruits and vegetables? OR Do you often eat fruit(s) and vegetables?

I eat fruits and vegetables daily. In fact seasonal fruits and vegetables are part of my daily diet.

3. Why do you think fruits and vegetables are important for us?

I think they are important because they have essential vitamins and minerals, which we must eat to be healthy.

4. What kind of fruit do you prefer?

I prefer all kinds of fruit. But I prefer seasonal fruits because they are readily available and cheap.

5. What fruit(s) (and /or vegetables) do you especially like to eat?

I like to eat allfruits and vegetables, but I especially like the okra and broccoli among the veggies and my favourite fruits are watermelon and mango.

6. Do you like the same fruits and vegetables today as you did when you were a child?

As a child, my favourite fruit used to be grapes, but now I like mango and watermelon more. Also, I wasn't very fond of vegetables as a child. Now I love all kinds of vegetables and fruits.

7. What fruit and vegetables did you like to eat when you were a child?

I liked all fruits as a child and my favourite fruit used to be grapes. I wasn't very fond of vegetables when I was a child.

8. Is it easy (or, convenient) to buy fruit and vegetables where you live?

Yes, it is very convenient to buy fruits and vegetables where I live. I live in a city and there are many fruit and vegetable sellers, who have stalls/standsset up in many parts of the city. In grocery stores also we have a fruits and vegetables section.

9. Do you think people should eat more fruits and vegetables?

Yes, I think people should eat more fruits and vegetables, as they contain essential vitamins and nutrients needed for a healthy body and mind. Also, it has become all the more important now to eat healthy food as most of the people lead a sedentary life.

10. Do you think it's (really) necessary to eat fruits and vegetables? OR How important is it to eat fruit and vegetables? OR What are the benefits of eating fresh fruit (or, fresh fruits and vegetables)?

Yes, certainly. It is essential to eat fresh fruits and vegetables, as they contain nutrients like vitamins and minerals, which our body needs to function properly and to remain healthy. Also, having a healthy diet makes us feel more energetic.

11. How much fruit and vegetables do you think a person needs to stay healthy?

I think fruits and vegetables are needed as a part of our everyday diet. Many dieticians suggest that we should eat fruits and vegetables of at least five different colors everyday.

### 83. High school

1. Are you still in contact with your friends from high school?

Yes, I am in contact with my friends from high school. Many of them are now in different cities and countries. But we stay in touch through social networking apps and we also have reunions sometimes.

2. What is your high school like?

Give a brief description of your school – describe building(s), garden, playground and other facilities)

3. What happened on the first day of high school?

I don't remember exactly what happened. However, I do remember that all my classmates and I were feeling like we have entered an important stage in our lives and that we are grown ups now.

4. Did your parents choose your secondary school (= high school) for you?

Yes, my parents chose my secondary school. My high school and primary school were the same.

5. What subjects did you study in secondary school (= high school)?

I studied many subjects in secondary school like, social sciences, mathematics, the Hindi and English languages, science subjects like biology, chemistry, physics and geography, art and crafts, etc.

6. What was your favourite subject (= class) in secondary school? (= high school)

My favourite subject in secondary school was science. I liked science subjects because I learned about the basic principles of the way things work all around us.

7. And which class (= subject) did you like the least? (Why?)

There wasn't any subject I liked the least. I liked all the subjects in secondary school.

8. Which secondary school subject do you think is most useful for people in adult life?

I think all the subjects that we study in secondary school are useful for people in adult life. A strong foundation is built in primary and high school years that helps us throughout our life.

9. What part of your secondary school education did you enjoy most? OR Did (do) you like your secondary school life?

I enjoyed my secondary school education a lot. There is no one part that I liked more than the other. I liked the fact that our school had an equal focus on extra curricular and physical activities, and not just on the academics.

10. How do you feel about your high school (secondary school)?

I think that high school years were the wonder years and I miss those times.

11. Why did you choose to attend (= to go to) that particular school?

My parents chose my school for me. I think I was too young to decide on my own and my parents chose the best school for my siblings and me.

12. Which class did (do) you enjoy the most? (Why?)

I enjoyed all the school years a lot. However, there was a lot of excitement and a feeling of pride when I got promoted from the primary wing of the school to the high school wing

## 84. Emails

1. Do you often write (or, send) emails?

No, I don't often write/send emails. I sometimes write official emails, like for sending in a job application through email and sometimes I write to my friends.

2. What do you write about?

I sometimes I write official emails, like sending a job application. When I write to my friends or relatives, it is informal and I ask about their health and wellbeing and tell them about what's going on in my life.

3. Do you think emails are useful?

Yes, I think that emails are very useful. Emails are convenient, timesaving, cost-effective and easy to send and receive. These days, emails are a good way to communicate for both formal and informal purposes.

4. What kinds of emails do you send and receive?

I mostly receive promotional or spam emails advertising various shopping websites or products. I sometimes receive emails from my friends who are living in another country and at times I receive official communication, e.g. emails from the bank or the Income Tax department.

5. Do you think it is a good thing that some companies send out letters/spam emails for the purpose of advertising?

I think sending spam emails for the purpose of advertising is a good marketing strategy and promotes a product or a service. However, it sometimes becomes a nuisance when it is sent repeatedly.

6. How often do you write letters?

I don't write handwritten letters any more. If I need to, I send an email. All official and personal letters can be sent through emails now.

7. What do you write about?

It depends whom I am writing to. When I'm writing to my friends and relatives, it's usually about what's happening in my life and to ask about their wellbeing. When writing an official letter, it is for a specific purpose and it is formal.

8. On what occasions do you write letters?

I write letters very rarely and there are no specific occasions when I write them.

9. Do you like writing letters to your relatives and friends? (why/why not?)

Yes, I like writing to my relatives and friends, but I write emails or messages to them. I don't write handwritten letters now.

10. 10. Do you and your friend keep in touch by (handwritten) letter?

No, I don't stay in touch with my friends through handwritten letters. I text them or chat with them or send them an email.

11. 11. How do you keep in touch with your friends and relatives (by email, letter, by phone or by any other way)?

I stay in touch with my friends mostly through the online social media apps and websites, like Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, etc.

## 85. RAINY DAYS

1. Does it rain much in India? (Where? When?)

India is a diverse country with different climatic conditions in different regions. So there are some parts of India that receive a lot of rain, like Cherrapunji in Meghalaya, Amboli in Maharashtra, etc. Some places receive a lot of rainfall only during the monsoon season, like Mumbai, Chennai, Goa, etc.

2. Does it rain much in your hometown? (Include how often)

It doesn't rain much in my hometown. It is only during the monsoon season, that is in the months from June to August that we receive some rainfall.

3. In what season does it rain the most? OR When (in what month/season) does it rain most in your hometown?

It rains the most in my hometown in the monsoon season, that is in the months from June to August.

4. What about the other parts of India? OR In which season does it rain most in other parts of India?

India has a varied terrain. In many parts of India, it mostly rains in the monsoon season. However, it also depends on the geographical location as it affects the rainfall in many regions.

5. Would you prefer to have, more rain or less rain (in your hometown)?

I would prefer to have more rain in my hometown. In the last few years, there has been a drastic change in the seasons and the summers get very hot. If there is more rainfall in the summers, there will be respite from the heat.

6. Do you like rainy days? OR How do you feel on rainy days? OR Do you feel sad on rainy days?

I like rainy days in the summer season because the temperatures drop and we get respite from the summer heat. In winters I am not too happy when it rains, as it becomes very cold after it rains.

7. How does rain affect different people's moods? OR How does rain affect people's lives?

I think rains affect people's moods when it restricts their activities or leads to a loss in the work or business. Some people feel happy when it rains as the weather becomes pleasant and people can enjoy hot beverages and fried snacks.

8. Do you prefer rainy days or sunny days?

I prefer rainy days in the summers and sunny days in the winter season. Rains give us respite from the heat in the summers and we can enjoy sitting out in the sun on a cold winter day.

9. What do you do on rainy days (or, on a rainy day)?

I enjoy hot beverages, like coffee and fried snacks like fritters and samosas on rainy days. It gives us an opportunity to stay at home with family and spend quality time with them.

10. What do you usually do when it rains (or, when it starts to rain) and you are outside?

If it rains when I am outside, I usually look for a café or a place where I can sit and enjoy coffee and some snacks.

11. Do you think rain is good? (Why?)

Yes, I think rains are good. Rains are important to maintain the ecosystem's balance. Rains help with maintaining the groundwater levels. They make the dust settle down and help clean

the environment. For agriculture-based economies, rains during the rainy season are very important for a good crop.

12. How does rain affect (life in) your country?

Agriculture is a major part of India's economy and that is largely dependent on timely rains. So a lot of farmers depend on a good monsoon season for a good crop. Unseasonal rains can have an adverse effect on agriculture, as it can destroy crops. In places where there is water shortage, people depend on rains and save rain water in reservoirs.

13. Is there any part of India where it doesn't rain much? (Where?) OR Is there an even distribution of rain throughout India?

India is a diverse country with different climates in different parts. There are many parts in the east of India that experience a lot of rain throughout the year. In most parts of India, monsoon season is the time when most of the rainfall happens. In some western parts, like in the deserts of Rajasthan, there is very little rain. Sometimes some states experience droughts because of no rainfall for a very long period of time.

14. What effects can a shortage of rain (a drought) have on people's lives?

Droughts/Shortage of rain can have adverse effects on the livelihoods of many people, especially those who are dependent on agriculture. Sometimes people are forced to leave their hometowns due to water shortage and start afresh somewhere else and face hardships. Many people die each year in India and all over the world because of droughts.

15. Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your hometown? (When?)

Yes, I remember that during my childhood it used to rain continuously for days and the roads and parks got filled with water. We used to enjoy a lot playing in the rain and in the pools of water. This used to happen during the monsoon season. Now the amount of rainfall has reduced drastically due to climate change.

16. Does rain ever affect transportation in your hometown? (How?)

Yes, sometimes the rain affects the transportation. It is mostly on some roads where the drainage system is not good or when it is blocked. At such times the water logging happens on the roads and the movement of traffic is affected.

17. Do you think the seasons have changed in recent years, compared to the past? (Why? How?)

Yes, I think seasons have changed in the recent years because of global warming and the consequent climate change. The summers last longer and the winters are shorter. Also, the amount of rainfall during the monsoon season has reduced. Sometimes we hardly get any rains during the monsoon season.