

Hometown

I'd just like to ask you some questions about your hometown or city.

1. What type of place is it?
2. What was it like growing up there?
3. Has it changed much since you were a child?

Studies

I'd just like to ask you some questions about your studies.

1. What are you studying?
2. Why did you choose that particular course?
3. What job would you like when you have completed all your studies?

Work

I'd just like to ask you some questions about your work.

1. What work do you do?
2. What do you enjoy most about your work?
3. What are your main duties?
4. Is there any other work you would like to do in the future?

Free Time

I'd like to move on and ask you some questions about your free time

1. What type of activities do you like to do in your free time?
2. How long have you been interested in these activities?
3. Do you like to do these activities alone or with other people? (Why)?
4. Do you think people have enough free time? (Why/why not)?

Family

I'd like to move on and ask you some questions about your family.

1. How many people are there in your family?
2. Do you all live in the same house? (Why/why not)?
3. What things do you like doing together?
4. Who is your favourite family member?

Timing

Let's move on and talk about being on time for appointments.

1. Is being late acceptable in your culture? (Why/why not)?
2. Are you ever late for appointments? (Why/why not)?
3. What type of excuses do you think are alright for lateness?
4. How do you feel when someone is late for an appointment with you?

Neighbours

Let's change the topic and talk about your neighbours

1. Do you know the people who live next door to you?
2. How often do you see each other?
3. What kind of relationship do you have?
4. How can neighbours be helpful?
5. What kind of problems can people have with their neighbours in a big city?

Food

Moving to a new topic, I'd like to discuss cooking and meals with you.

1. Do you enjoy cooking? (Why/why not)?
2. What type of things can you cook? (Why)?
3. What kinds of food are popular in your country?
4. Is it an important part of your culture to have dinner parties? (Why)?
5. Do you prefer to eat with other people or on your own? (Why)?

Dreams

I'd now like to discuss your night time dreams with you.

1. Do you dream much at night?
2. Do you often remember your dreams?
3. Do you think we can learn anything from dreams? (Why)?
4. Do people in your country talk about their dreams? (Why)?
5. Do you think that dreams can come true?

Magazines and Newspapers

Okay, let's move to a different topic and discuss magazines and newspapers.

1. Which do you prefer reading, newspapers or magazines? (Why)?
2. What type of stories do you like to read about? (Why)?
3. Do you think reading a magazine or a newspaper can help you learn a language? (Why)?
4. Why do you think some people prefer magazines to newspapers?

Humour

Let's change the topic and talk about comedy and humour.

1. What type of programmes do you find funny on TV?
2. Which types of programmes are most popular in your country? (Why)?
3. What kind of things make you laugh? (Why)?
4. Do you like to make people laugh? (How)?
5. Do you think it is important to have a sense of humour? (Why)?

1. Describe a museum

- How often do you visit the museum?
- Which type of museum is popular in your country?
- Why do you want to visit the museum?

Follow-up:

- What do you think of the importance of museums in history?
- How do you think of the heritage of a country?
- Compare the museums nowadays and in the past

2. Describe your favorite photograph

- Where was the photo taken?
- Who took the photo?
- What can be seen from the photo?
- Explain why it is the favorite photograph for you.

Follow-up:

- How to take good photo?
- When do people use camera?
- How can the new technology put cinema's skill advanced?

3. Describe an area of your country you know and like

- Where is it?
- What are its special features?
- What do you and other people do in this area?
- Explain why you like it.

Follow-up:

- What do you think of the historic place in the future?
- Will the government increase or decrease the safety guard?
- What are the changes to the local people and economy?
- What is the impact on the historic place by tourists?

4. Describe a party

- What is the party?
- Why was the party held?
- Who attended the party?
- What did you do for that party?

Follow-up:

- What's the difference between serious party and friendly party?
- Why are some people late for parties intentionally?

- Why do some people like party while others hate it?
- What would you do if the guests feel bored?
- Will there be more and more people to attend parties?

5. Talk about a subject you are studying

- What subject are you studying?
- What is the subject about?
- How do you feel about it?
- Explain why you are interested in it.

Follow-up:

- Is there any difference between the traditional and modern educational systems?
- What are the pros and cons of the current educational system in your country?
- Do you think it is necessary to give comment or criticism to teachers?

6. What is the important invention before the age of computer?

- What is the invention?
- Why do you think it is very important?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the invention?

Follow-up:

- What is the significant impact of modern inventions on life?
- Which skills do you want to study in the future?
- Do you think it's necessary to develop modern invention in the countryside?

7. Describe an interesting city you know and like

- Where is it?
- How did you go there?
- What did you do there?
- Explain why you found it so interesting.

Follow-up:

- Say something about the tourism development in your country, facility, services and the effect on environment.
- What is the importance of travel and tourism industry?
- What do you think the function of tourist guides?

8. Describe your favourite movie

- What's the name of the film?
- What's the theme of the film?
- Why do you like it?

Follow-up:

- Describe a type of movie you like.
- What's the difference between Chinese and American movies?
- What do you think of the violent films (Hollywood films)?

- Why movies need computer techniques? Any example of movie using computer techniques?
- Which parts of cinema are the most important and how to improve it?

9. Describe a newspaper or magazine you enjoy reading

- Which newspaper or magazine do you read the most regularly?
- Which parts of it do you like?
- When and where do you read it?
- Explain why you enjoy reading it.

Follow-up:

- What do you think the important qualities for a news reporter?
- What's the function of a report to the society?
- What kinds of books/newspapers/magazines do Chinese adolescents read?
- With the popularity of Internet, do you think newspapers and magazines will disappear?

10. Describe a children's game (sports not suggested)

- How is it played?
- What can you learn from the game?
- What impact does it bring on your growth?

Follow-up:

- What do you think of the benefits of children's games?
- Nowadays children have less and less time for game, what do you think about it?
- What do you think the difference between games nowadays and in the past?
- What's the negative aspect of games?

11. Describe a special occasion in your life

- Where did it take place?
- When did it take place?
- Who was there?
- Explain your feelings on this occasion.

Follow-up:

- Tell me how you organize your study time.
- What do you think is important in achieving happiness?
- How do Chinese celebrate some happy events?
- What do the camera and video play in celebrating?

12. Describe something you own which is very important to you

- Who gave it to you?
- What is it?
- What does it mean to you?

Follow-up:

- What are the changes of city between now and past?
- Does money represent happiness and why?

- How do you regard as the things people want to earn?

13. Describe one of your neighbours

- When did you become neighbours?
- Do you often meet?
- State whether your neighbour is a good one.

Follow-up:

- What is the difference between neighbours and friends?
- Why do people like to watch TV serials in their houses?
- How do you think of the relationship in the city?
- How to improve the neighbourhood?

14. Describe one of the shopping centers you often go to

- Where is the shopping center?
- How often do you go to the center?
- Why do you often go to it and its characteristics?

Follow-up:

- Will smaller shops survive in the current business system?
- What are the characteristics of shopping malls and smaller shops and their difference?
- What is the trend of future shopping centers?
- Talk about online shopping.

15. Describe your favourite animal

- What kind of animal is it?
- Describe it briefly.
- Why do you like the animal?

Follow-up:

- What do you need to do to take care of it?
- What's the future trend of the animal?
- How do you think of the poaching of some precious animals such as pandas?

16. Describe a historical place

- What is the place?
- Where is it located?
- What is the historical meaning of the place?

Follow-up:

- What do you think of the future trend of historic places?
- Will government strengthen its protection toward historic places?
- What are the changes brought about by the historic place in local economy, people, etc?
- What is the effect of tourists on the place?

17. Advertisement

- What are the forms of advertisement?
- What are the functions of advertisement?
- What is the effect of advertisement to people?

Follow-up:

- Do you feel bored and disgusted about advertisement?
- What do you think are the criteria of assessing a good piece of advertisement?
- What will happen if unauthoritative advertisements prevail in the market?

18. Describe an important letter

- When did you receive the letter?
- From whom did you receive the letter?
- Explain the reasons why it is important.

Follow-up:

- What is the significance of handwriting?
- Does your country have handwriting lesson now?
- Compare the handwriting now and past.
- With the popularity of computers and Internet, will people lose their ability to write letters?

19. Describe the best present you have received

- Who sent it to you?
- When did you receive it?
- Detailed information about the present.

Follow-up:

- Do you think that present giving will play an important role in Chinese daily life? Why?
- Do you think that the brand name is very important for sales?
- In terms of the media, which do you think will play a main role in present giving, television, newspaper or Internet?

20. Describe your holidays

- Where do you go for the holidays and how long do they last?
- Who do you go with?
- Talk about any interesting things happening during your holidays.

Follow-up:

- What do the Chinese people mostly do in their leisure time?
- What's the difference between holidays today and 5 years ago and the reasons for the change?

- Do you think people will spend more time on leisure or working in the future?

YOU

Describe yourself.

FAMILY

- Describe your family?
- Do you have a large or small family?
- How much time do you spend with your family?
- What do you like to do together as a family?
- Do you get along well with your family?
- Are people in your country generally close to their families?

WORK

- What do you do?
- What are your responsibilities?
- How many hours do you work each day?
- Do you enjoy your work?
- Is there some other kind of work you would rather do?
- If you could change your job or profession, what would you do?
- Describe the process of getting a job in your country.
- Describe the company or organization you work for.
- What is your position?
- What do you like about your job?
- What do you dislike about your job?

EDUCATION

- Describe your education.
- What kind of school did you go to as a child?
- Did you go to a co-educational school?
- What was your favourite subject as a child?
- Who was your favourite teacher?
- What is the education system like in your country?
- Do you think your country has an effective education system?

STUDIES

- What are you studying now?
- What is your area of specialization?

HOMETOWN

- Describe your hometown.
- What's special about it?

- Where is your hometown located?
- Is it easy to travel around your hometown?
- What is it known for?
- What do people in your town do?
- What are the main industries in your hometown?
- What problems face your hometown?
- What languages are spoken in your hometown?
- What are the advantages of living in your hometown?
- What are some problems faced by your hometown?
- Compare your hometown with another city.
- What are some environmental problems faced by your hometown?

WEATHER

- What's the weather like in your country?
- Does the weather affect your mood?
- How do rainy days make you feel?
- What's your favourite season of the year?
- What do you like to do when it's hot?
- What do you usually do in the winter?
- How many seasons does your country have?

HOME

- Describe your home.
- What kind of building do you live in?
- How long have you lived there?

WEDDING

- Have you ever been to a wedding?
- Whose wedding was it?
- Where was it held?
- What clothes do people wear?
- Describe the wedding ceremony.
- What sort of gifts do people buy for the bridal couple?
- What kind of clothes did the bride and groom wear?

TRAVEL

- Do you like to travel?
- What kind of places have you visited in your life?
- Which place would you really like to visit? Why?
- What's the best place you've ever visited?

COMPUTERS

- Do you think computers help society?
- Do you think computers are bad for health?
- How do you think computers have changed the world?

INTERNET

- Do you use the Internet much during the day?

- What do you usually do on the Internet?
- What are some advantages of the Internet?
- What are some disadvantages?
- Do people in your country use the Internet a lot?
- Do you do any shopping on the Internet?

EMAIL

- Do you send and receive email regularly?
- Who do you usually communicate with?
- How often do you check your email?
- Do you think writing email has strengthened or weakened people's writing skills?
- What are some disadvantages of email?

FRIEND

- Describe a friend.
- How long have you known each other?
- What do you usually do together?
- What do you like the most about him / her?
- How often do you see each other?

PLACE

- Describe a place you like to go.
- Why is this place special to you?
- When did you first visit this place?
- Where is this place located?
- What language is spoken here? Do you speak this language?

SMOKING

- What do you feel about smoking in public places?
- Do you think smoking should be banned in people's homes?

MARRIAGE

- What is the attitude toward marriage in your country?
- Do most young people plan on getting married in your country?
- What are some of the advantages of marriage?
- What are some of the disadvantages?
- Is the divorce rate high in your country?
- Do you think people should be allowed to get divorced?

HOBBIES

- Do you have any hobbies?
- What are some of your hobbies?
- When did you first develop this hobby?
- What are some of the advantages of having a hobby?
- How much time do you spend on your hobby?

FILMS

- Do you enjoy watching movies?
- What's your favourite film?
- Who are your favourite actors?
- How often do you watch films?

SHOPPING

- Do you enjoy shopping?
- How do you feel about shopping?
- Do you like shopping on the Internet?
- Do you have any favourite stores?
- What don't you like about shopping?
- Which is the most popular place to shop in your hometown?

SPORTS

- Do you like sports?
- Do you enjoy watching sports?
- Do you enjoy participating in any sports?
- Which sports are most popular in your country?
- What's your favourite sport?
- When did you first become interested in sports?
- How often do you participate in sports?
- What equipment do you need for your favourite sport?

FOOD

- What are some of your favourite foods?
- What foods are popular in your country?
- What are some of the famous dishes of your country?
- Do you enjoy cooking?

FESTIVAL

- What's the most important festival in your country?
- How do people celebrate this festival?
- What special food is associated with this festival?
- What special activities are associated with this festival?
- What do you enjoy most about this festival?
- Do you think festivals are important for a society?

TELEVISION

- Do you watch television a lot?
- What do you usually watch on television?
- How many hours of television do you usually watch?
- What are the most popular shows in your country?
- What kind of shows do you like to watch?
- What are some advantages of television?
- What are some of the disadvantages of television?
- What did you last watch on television?
- Why do you think certain TV shows are so popular?

TOURISM

- Which places would you recommend to a visitor to your country?
- Do a lot of tourists visit your country?
- What do they usually do there?
- How has tourism changed your country?
- Is your country expensive for most tourists?
- What are some famous landmarks in your country?

DAILY ROUTINE

- Describe your daily routine.
- What do you usually do?
- What do you do on the weekend?
- What is your typical weekday like?
- Does your life change much from week to week?
- Do you have any free time during the week?

YOUR COUNTRY

- Which country are you from?
- Where is this country located?
- Which part of the country do most people live in?
- What are the main industries in your country?
- Is it easy to travel around your country?

CLOTHES

- What type of clothes do you like to wear?
- What kind of clothes do people in your country usually wear?
- How important is fashion to you?
- What kind of clothes do you dislike?
- Do you think people behave differently in different kinds of clothes?
- What kind of clothes do people wear to work in your country?
- Are clothes expensive in your country?

GOING OUT

- Do you like going out or staying at home?
- What do you like to do when you go out?
- How often do you go out?
- Do people in your country go out a lot?
- How and where do people in your country usually socialize?
- What kind of entertainment is popular in your country?

GAMES

- Do you enjoy playing any games?
- What kind of games do you play?
- Do you think adults should play games?
- What do children learn from games?
- What kind of games did you play when you were a child?
- What games are popular in your country today?
- What kind of games were popular when you were young?
- Do you think mental games like chess are good for you?

- COLOURS

- Do you have a favourite colour?
- What are your country's colours?
- Do you think colours affect our moods?
- Can you learn anything about a person from the colours he / she likes?
- Do you like the same colours now as you did when you were a child?

MUSIC

- Do you like music?
- What kind of music do you like?
- When do you usually listen to music?
- What kind of music did you like when you were younger?
- What kind of music is popular in your country?
- Do you play any musical instruments?
- Do you wish you could play any musical instruments?
- Which is your favourite instrument?

Describing things (1 test item)

1. Describe a piece of equipment you often use at home or at work.

You should say:

- What it is
- What you do with it/ How to use it
- How long you have had it
- How important it is to you

Discussion:

- What are the impacts of electrical equipment on human's life in the past ten years?
- What are the differences of the life in the past and at the present?
- What role does technological development play in people's life?
- How will technology develop in the future?
- Do you have a mobile phone? What are its advantages?
- Why do many foreign countries develop faster than China?
- Why does the China's West develop faster than China's East?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of computer and internet?

Describing people (3 test items)

1. Describe a well-known person.

You should say:

- Who he/she is
- What makes him/her famous

- Why you admire him/her

Discussion:

- Do you want to become famous?
- How to become a well-known person in China?
- What kind of people can become famous in China?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of being famous?
- What do you think of the privacy of a well-known person?
- What do you think of the relationship between a well-known person and advertising?
- Would you be influenced by the well-known persons in TV commercials?
- Do you often talk about singers with your friends? What do you often talk about?

2. Describe a friend in your school time you like most.

You should say:

- Who he/she is
- When did you become friends?
- Why do you like him/her or why do you think that he/she is important to you?
- How he/she influences you

Discussion:

- What are the differences between adults and children in terms of making friends?
- Can adults make friends with children?
- What do you think are the most important factors when making friends?
- What are the possible factors that cause the break-up of friendship?
- Why is it difficult for adults to make friends?
- What will the friendship become like when getting old?

3. Describe a person whom you like to work or study with.

You should say:

- Who is he/she?
- When did you work/study together?
- What do you often do together?
- Why do you like to work with him/her?/ What can you learn from him/her?
- Why is he/she particular?

Discussion:

- Do you like to work alone or with a partner?
- What do you think of teamwork and team spirit?
- What kind of people are good to work with?
- Do you like group work or group learning?
- What is your opinion on efficiency?
- What are the advantages of studying by yourself?
- What do you think of efficiency?

Describing places (2 test items)

1. Describe a restaurant or a cafe.

You should say:

- Where it is
- What it looks like
- What kind of services are provided
- What kind of food you like there/ What kind of food is famous?
- Why you like it

Discussion:

- Do you like cooking?
- Will you cook for your friends when they visit you?
- Who cooks in a Chinese family?
- What do you think of the advantages and disadvantages of fast food?
- Why is fast food so popular?
- Where would Chinese go when they eat out?
- What changes would take place in terms of Chinese eating habits?
- What food is popular?
- What is the difference between fresh food and canned food?
- What can we do to solve the problem of food shortage?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of family food?

2. Describe an interesting building.

You should say:

- Where it is located
- What it looks like
- What services are provided
- How you like it

Discussion:

- What role do old buildings and new buildings play in modern society?
- What changes have taken place in architecture in the past two decades?
- Do you think it necessary to protect old buildings?

Describing media and communication (4 test items)

1. Describe a kind of book you like.

You should say:

- What kind of books you like most
- What they are about
- Why you like them most

- What effect have books brought on you?

Discussion:

- What is the difference between men and women when choosing what to read?
- What kind of books do children like? Why do they like reading?
- What is the difference between reading and watching TV?
- What is the relationship between reading and computer?
- What are the advantages of reading books?
- Why do children like pictorials?
- What books are popular in China?

2. Describe one of your favorite books.

You should say:

- What kind of books you like
- What is your favorite book?
- What it is about
- When did you get it?
- Why you like it

Discussion:

- Do you like other books?
- What kind of books do Chinese people like?
- What kind of books do Chinese women like?
- What kind of books do Chinese children like?
- What kind of books do you recommend to others?

3. Describe a letter.

You should say:

- When you received it
- Who sent it to you
- What it is about
- Whether it is important to you

Discussion:

- What is the difference between letter and e-mail?
- Do you often keep diaries?
- What is the difference between diary and letter?
- What is the difference in the past and at the present as regards communications?
- What is the role of letter 50 years ago and at the present?
- What do you think of the role 50 years later?
- What do you think of creative writing?
- Would post office disappear 50 years later?
- What role does computer play in our society?
- What changes have been brought by the computer? What is professors' attitude?

4. Describe a kind of music.

You should say:

- Whether you like music
- What kind of music you like best
- What role music plays in people's life

Discussion:

- How long do you listen to music everyday?
- Why is it easier for children to learn playing a musical instrument?
- What are the benefits of learning to play musical instruments?
- Discuss the impact of western music on the world music?

Describing celebration and leisure time (4 test items)

1. Describe a traditional festival in China.

You should say:

- What it is
- When is it celebrated?
- How to celebrate? / what you usually do on that day
- What you like and what you don't like

Discussion:

- What is the concept of holiday in China?
- Why is holiday so important to modern people?
- Do you think it is necessary to observe the traditional customs?
- What changes in terms of spending festivals and holidays have taken place in the past decade?
- What is the difference as regards celebration in different part of the country?

2. Describe a perfect trip/holiday.

You should say:

- Where you would go
- When would you go?
- Whom you would go with
- What you are going to do

Discussion:

- What is the difference in the past and at the present as regards travelling?
- How would the tourist industry develop in the future?
- What should the government do to attract tourists?
- What should the people do to attract tourists?

3. Describe an interesting trip you have taken.

You should say:

- Where you went
- When you went there
- Whom you went with
- What you did there
- Why you like it

Discussion:

- What is the difference in the past and at the present as regards traveling?
- How would the tourist industry develop in the future?
- What should the government do to attract tourists?
- What should the people do to attract tourists?

4. Describe an interesting hobby.

You should say:

- What it is
- How long you spend on it
- How often you do it
- Why you like it

Discussion:

- Do you think that surfing the Internet, watching TV, listening to music or keeping a pet are interesting hobbies?
- Do you think it will cost too much time to do them?
- Do you like hobbies requiring teamwork?
- Why do people usually do in their spare time?

Additional test items (4 test items)

1. Describe an environmental problem.

You should say:

- What it is
- How long it has existed
- What effect it has brought to people's life
- What we can do to solve it

Discussion:

- What causes environmental problems?
- What should the government do to protect the environment?
- What should we do to protect the environment?

- What other measures can you think of to protect the environment?
- How should we educate children to protect environment?
- What's the difference between the old and the young as regards environmental protection?

2. Describe a kind of extreme weather.

You should say:

- What it is
- When did it happen?
- Where you were
- How you felt at that time

Discussion:

- What should you do in a bad weather?
- Will bad weather mould or change people's personality?
- What is the relationship between weather and culture?
- The climate has changed these 50 years. Have you noticed the changes?
- What changes do you predict in the following years?
- Are the people interested in gathering the weather information in your place?
- How does weather influence people's personalities in your country?

3. Talking about learning English.

You should say:

- When and where you began studying English
- What is the most interesting thing in an English class?
- What is the most effective way of learning English?
- What difficulties you have when learning English
- What are the advantages of learning English?

Discussion:

- What problems do you have when studying English?
- Do you think that English is the most important language in the world?
- Can English take the place of Chinese in China?
- What other languages are taught in China?
- Do you think that age is the most important factor of learning English? Why?
- What difficulties would a foreigner have when he learns your native language?
- What problems would Chinese people have when communicating with foreigners?
- When would be most suitable for children to learn English?
- How will translation and interpretation develop in the future?

4. Describe different ways of getting news.

You should say:

- Whether you get news every day
- Whether the news is national or international
- How you get news (via newspaper, TV, Internet, radio or other people?)

- How do most Chinese people think about the importance of getting update news everyday?

Discussion:

- Do you think the information on the Internet believable or not?
- What is the most effective way of getting news?
- How do reporters gather information?
- What do you think of the importance of privacy?
- How do journalists entertain their customers?
- What role do media play in people's life?
- How do Chinese people gather information?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of different media?
- Do you think it necessary to control the news coverage?
- What kind of news do you think should be controlled?

5. Describe a skill you want to learn.

You should say:

- What it is
- Why you think it is important
- How you are going to learn it
- What role it will play in you future life

Discussion:

- What do you think of the traditional skills?
- What skill do you think the university has provided for your job?
- What skills can you learn in school?
- What kind of skills have your parents learned?
- What do you think of the role of family for children to learn skills?
- What is the most popular skill that people want to learn?
- What kind of school would you send your children to? Why?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of school education and family education?

Beautiful places

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.
Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.
You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe a beautiful place to visit in your country.

You should say:

- **where it is**
- **how to get there**
- **what there is to do when you are there**

and explain why you recommend this place.

Part 3

Attitudes to tourism

- Why do you think people like to travel to different places in their free time?
- How do you see tourism changing in your country in the future?

Conserving the countryside

- Why is it important to protect the countryside?
- In what ways is the countryside in danger in your country?

Historic buildings and monuments

- Why are historic buildings and monuments important to a city?

- Is it better to keep old buildings, or build new modern ones?

Family

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.
Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.
You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe the person in your family who you most admire.

You should say:

- **what their relationship is to you**
- **what they have done in their life**
- **what they do now**

and explain why you admire them so much.

Part 3

Attitudes to family

- In what ways have families in your country changed in recent years?
- Should husbands and wives have different roles within the family? Why (not)?

Family or friends

- Which are more important to you: your family or your friends?
- What conflicts can arise between a person's family and a person's friends?

Family responsibilities

- What responsibilities do parents have towards their children?
- What responsibilities do children have towards their parents?

Shopping

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.
Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.
You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe your favorite shop.

You should say:

- **where it is**
- **what things it sells**
- **what sort of people are its customers**

and explain why you like the shop so much.

Part 3

Things to buy

- What typical things can visitors to your country buy?
- What things do young people like to buy in your country?

Money

- Is it a good idea to save money? Why (not)?
- Do you think that people are happier if they have money? Why (not)?

Shopping

- What can shops do to make shopping more pleasant for their customers?
- Do you think that in the future people will do most of their shopping using the Internet? Why?/ Why not?

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.

Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.

You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe an open-air or street market which you enjoyed visiting.

You should say:

- **where the market is**
- **what the market sells**
- **how big the market is**

and explain why you enjoyed visiting this market.

Part 3

Shopping at markets

- Do people in your country enjoy going to open-air markets that sell things like food or clothes or old objects? Which type of market is more popular? Why?
- Do you think markets are more suitable places for selling certain types of things? Which ones? Why do you think this is?
- Do you think young people feel the same about shopping at markets as older people? Why is that?

Shopping in general

- What do you think are the advantages of buying things from shops rather than markets?
- How does advertising influence what people choose to buy? Is this true for everyone?
- Do you think that any recent changes in the way people live have affected general shopping habits? Why is this?

Eating and food

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.
Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.
You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe a special occasion when you had a really enjoyable meal.

You should say:

- **what the occasion was**
- **who was at the meal**
- **what you ate**

and explain why the meal was so enjoyable.

Part 3

Attitudes to food

- What do you think a healthy diet consists of?
- Which do people in your country prefer: traditional food or fast food such as hamburgers or pizzas?

Learning about food

- Do you think children should be taught about healthy diets and cooking at school? Why (not)?
- At what age do you think children should be taught to cook?

Food aid

- What can be done to prevent poor people in the world going hungry?
- Should rich countries help poor countries with more than just food?

Travelling

IELTS Tip

Travel is a verb: *I enjoyed my trip very much.* It is only used as a noun in a general sense, e.g. *travel broadens the mind.*

Trip refers to both a journey: *the trip there was fine*; or a short stay: *a business trip*; or a holiday: *I'm going away on a trip.*

Journey only refers to getting from one place to another: *the journey there was very uncomfortable.*

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.

Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.

You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe a memorable journey you have made.

You should say:

- **where you were going**
- **how you were travelling**
- **why you were making the journey**

and explain what made the journey so memorable.

Part 3

Travelling and learning

- What do people learn from travelling?
- Do you think the growth of international tourism is a good thing? Why (not)?

Tourism and culture

- How has tourism changed the way people in your country live?
- How should tourists behave when they visit your country?

Ways of travelling

- What do you think is the best way for a tourist to travel if they want to learn about your country?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling by plane?

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.

Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.

You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe a journey that you remember well.

You should say:

- **where you went**
- **how you travelled**
- **why you went on the journey**

and explain why you remember this journey well.

Part 3

Reasons for daily travel

- Why do people need to travel every day?
- What problems can people have when they are on their journey, for example to work or school?
Why is this?
- Some people say that daily journeys like these will not be so common in the future. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Benefits of international travel

- What do you think people can learn from travelling to other countries? Why?
- Can travel make a positive difference to the economy of a country? How?
- Do you think a society can benefit if its members have experience of travelling to other countries?
In what ways?

School

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.

Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.

You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe a school which you went to.

You should say:

- **when you went there**
- **how many people studied there**
- **how long you spent there**

and explain what you liked and disliked about it.

Part 3

Attitudes to education

- How has education changed in your country in the last ten years?
- Is a good education more important to a boy or a girl? Why?

The focus of education

- How well do you think schools prepare young people for working life?
- Do you think schools should teach subjects like art, music and dancing? Why (not)?

Education and technology

- How important is it for schools to have computers for their students?
- Is the Internet a valuable educational tool?

Adventure

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.
Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.
You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe an exciting experience in your life.

You should say:

- **when the experience took place**
- **where the experience took place**
- **what happened exactly**

and explain why the experience was so exciting.

Part 3

Safety and danger

- In what ways is life becoming safer, and in what ways is it becoming more dangerous?
- Should people always avoid danger, or is it a good idea sometimes to take risks?

Taking risks

- What risks should people try to avoid?
- Do you think people take fewer risks as they grow older? Why (not)?

Adventure

- How important is it to have adventure in our lives?
- What do people learn about themselves from having adventures?

Newspapers

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.
Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.
You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe a newspaper or magazine you enjoy reading.

You should say:

- **what kind of newspaper or magazine it is, e.g. fashion**
- **how often you buy it**
- **what articles and information it contains**

and explain why you enjoy reading it.

Part 3

Attitudes to newspapers

- In what ways are newspapers better for learning about the news than listening to the radio or watching television?
- Do you think newspapers should be completely free to say whatever they want?

Tastes in reading

- What do people enjoy reading in your country?
- Do you think it is important for people to read a lot? Why (not)?

Public and private lives

- What sort of stories do newspapers and magazines publish about well-known or famous people in your country?
- Do you think the media should be allowed to publish stories about the private lives of public figures?

Sport

Part 2

Take one minute to prepare a talk on the following subject.
Take notes if you like and remember to include reasons and examples.
You should then speak for between one and two minutes.

Describe an exciting competition or sporting event you have witnessed.

You should say:

- **what the competition or sporting event was**
- **when and where it took place**
- **who won**

and explain why it was exciting.

Part 3

Sport & Health

- What do you do to keep fit?
- Are you good at sport?
- What sports do you play?
- What is the most popular sport in your country?
- What are the best ways to keep fit?
- Do you think most people consider exercise a chore or do they find it fun?
- What is the most popular form of exercise in your country?
- Do you think people in your country are less healthy than they used to be?
- How can we encourage young people to stay healthy?
- Should governments intervene to force people to be healthier?