

What was your favourite toy when you were a child?  
Is it important for children to have fun? Why?

**Sample answers:**

**Examiner:** What is your most vivid childhood memory?

**Candidate:** Without a doubt it's getting my two pet tortoises for my sixth birthday. It was such a surprise and I was so pleased because none of my friends had such unusual pets. They were tiny – they could both sit in the palm of my hand – and I really enjoyed looking after them.

**Examiner:** Are you still in touch with your childhood friends?

**Candidate:** Some of them, yes. We've all moved on and have very different lives now, but it's nice to catch up from time to time and reminisce. You may have more in common with more recent friends but childhood friends feel almost like brothers and sisters, and there's something very special about that relationship.

**Examiner:** What was your favourite toy when you were a child?

**Candidate:** I always liked toys other children had! For example, a toy-car garage with various levels and ramps. That was great fun. My best friend had it and whenever I went over to his house I would ask to play with it. Sometimes he didn't want to, so I played with it on my own. I loved making the cars whizz around the tracks and crash into each other!

**Examiner:** Is it important for children to have fun?

**Candidate:** It is important because I believe children learn a lot through play. They learn about the world around them, they learn how to interact with other people, they learn about possible dangers through acting them out. Children shouldn't be made to grow up too fast, they should be allowed to experience the world of make-believe first. They spend long enough in the real world as adults.

**Track 14**

**Sample answers:**

**Candidate:** I grew up very far from most of my family so I only saw them once a year. Every summer I would go to stay with them, while my parents continued working. Although I missed my parents, I used to really enjoy spending time with my grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles. I spent all summer there, nearly two whole months, so from time to time my cousins and I would get bored. We would ask my grandparents if they had any ideas for interesting things we could do. Sometimes they suggested going for a bike ride, sometimes into town to do some shopping. At other times, they showed us a new game to play. Then we were happy again.

One day – it must be about 25 years ago (doesn't time fly!) – all of us got really, really bored and we kept complaining to my grandparents. They were tearing their hair out, trying to think up ideas of where we could go and what we could do. Suddenly, my granddad came up with the idea of going to a new water park that had opened that summer. I hadn't heard about it but my cousins had, and they told me all about it. It was a park with vast numbers of different pools, some inside, some outside. There were water slides as well. And, on top of that, there was not one, but two playgrounds with swings, a merry-go-round, see-saws. We were so excited.

We set off and on the way we were all singing songs and laughing. We couldn't wait to get there. When we arrived, my cousins and I ran into the park and changed into our swimming costumes. Then we went looking for the most exciting-looking pool, and we found it, one with brightly coloured tiles and slides, we jumped straight in. We played all day in the park and had a lovely lunch, sat on some benches in the sunshine.