

But anyway, I won a few matches against older players and then I ended up playing the final against my best friend. And that was another difficulty. He was my best friend so I didn't want to play it too mean with him but at the same time I wanted to win. At least the fact that he was my best friend meant that I knew exactly how to beat him, though, because I had played against him many times before. We had a very long game and it was nerve-wracking. It wasn't very good tennis but in the end I won.

I'm very proud of my achievement because I managed to reach the goal I set for myself and it was something that I know neither the spectators nor the other players would have expected me to accomplish.

Examiner: Thank you. Was your family proud that you won the tournament?

Candidate: Yes, they were. We had a big meal to celebrate, and my dad cooked all my favourite things. He's a great cook so that was a real treat for me.

Examiner: We've been talking about achievements. I'd like to discuss with you some more questions related to this topic. First, let's consider the role of achievements in the world of education. Do you think that in your country academic success is more valued than other kinds of achievement, such as achievements in sport?

Candidate: No, I don't. I think in my country, successful sportspeople are looked up to more in society at large as well as at school.

Examiner: Why do you think that is?

Candidate: Well, I think people who are good students are often thought of as nerds and are teased by their classmates, whereas being good at sport is considered 'cool'. Maybe this is due to the role of celebrity sportspeople, David Beckham being the most prominent among them in recent years. They are chased by the paparazzi, and given lucrative sponsorship deals and so on.

Examiner: Yes, I see. In your opinion, is it recognition and prizes that motivate students to succeed, or is it a personal sense of achievement?

Candidate: I would say they hanker after recognition from their teachers and perhaps envy from other students. I know that was the case with me, if I'm honest! It may be, though, that if someone is particularly timid, they would actually shy away from any special recognition of their efforts.

Examiner: Right. And what do you think makes some students more successful than others?

Candidate: Although, as I said, most students are motivated by recognition, I do think that those who are the most successful in the long run are those who have intrinsic motivation. And that is because you don't always get congratulated publicly for everything you do, so someone who does things only for that, would soon stop making an effort, you know?

Examiner: Yes, that's a good point. Now, we're going to discuss motivation and achievement in the workplace. Some people think that a successful person is someone who earns a lot of money. Do you agree?

Candidate: No, I would define it as 'someone who benefits others'?

Examiner: Right. Can you explain what you mean?

Candidate: Yes, I mean that working just for the money could be considered selfish. Most people do it, and I don't judge people for having that as their primary objective. Nevertheless, those who work to help others are more inspirational: nurses, for example, who really don't earn much, or youth workers, who often don't get much appreciation for their hard work, or those who do volunteer work with the homeless or something like that.

Examiner: Yes, so you would say that most workers in your country were motivated primarily by money?

Candidate: I would, yes. It's only normal. People have families to feed and, given the choice of a low-paid job that benefitted others and a higher-paid job that benefitted their own family, it's only reasonable that most would choose the latter. It's possible that those who choose the former kind of job are single or young, and so don't have that many responsibilities.