

**Track 15**

My name's Mubarak and I'm from the United Arab Emirates. My favourite subject at school was Maths. I really loved it, I think primarily because I liked being able to use logic to work out answers, rather than having to speculate and theorise, as you often do in arts subjects.

I went on to study for Bachelor's and Master's degrees, both in Mechanical Engineering at Leeds University in England. I chose that subject because, although I was more keen on Maths, engineering is more practical. My decision to study in Britain was motivated by the high prestige of British qualifications back in my home country. The tuition fees are very high for foreign students but my family paid them for me.

I found the course very challenging. English is, of course, not my mother tongue so I found some of the lectures and seminars hard to follow. As a result, I failed my first year exams. I had to retake them all, but then, thankfully, I passed. I always did well in my coursework because I could take time to research the topic and check my English.

My dream job would be to work as a mechanical engineer for the United Arab Emirates' Army. The reasons are that such a job carries high prestige, it would be interesting, and there would be good job security – if I got such a job, I would probably have it for life.

**Track 16**

Do you work or are you a student?

Why did you choose that course or job?

What is the most difficult thing about your studies or job?

**Sample answers:**

**Examiner:** Do you work or are you a student?

**Candidate:** I've just finished secondary school. I got the best results in my year so I'm hoping to get a scholarship to study English Literature.

**Examiner:** Why did you choose that course?

**Candidate:** Because I love literature. I love getting lost in a book; I mean, it's a form of escapism for me. But I also enjoy learning about the historical and cultural contexts that influenced a work and I'll have ample opportunity to learn about these things at university.

**Examiner:** What was the most difficult thing about your studies?

**Candidate:** At secondary school, the most difficult subject for me was Chemistry. I can't stand Science, and I would dread every lesson! I struggled in Chemistry lessons, and I had to work really hard to pass my exam. For some reason, I just couldn't remember all those chemical symbols and equations no matter how long I spent revising.

**Track 17**

**Candidate:** My dream job would be to teach children to sail. I have some qualifications, in skippering, for example, but it's very likely I would need more, such as a teaching certificate from the Yachting Association. I have some of the right experience in that I've been sailing a long time – I'm confident in handling a yacht and I've dealt with many minor crises in my time, like getting trapped in storms and saving someone who'd fallen overboard. It's true that I've never taught anyone but I don't think that would be a problem, provided I was given adequate training – I'm quite good with people and can explain things clearly. I imagine the job would involve encouraging youngsters to try sailing for the first time; and also teaching them that by working together as a team they could discover they have hidden strengths. The most difficult thing would be having sufficient patience when the children didn't do as they were told. I suspect it would be frustrating if they didn't realise that the rules were there for their own safety. Why is it my dream job? It's my dream job because I