

**Track 03**

**Candidate:** One of my best friends is a guy called Raúl. I met him at uni in Barcelona where we were in the same study group. When was that? I suppose it was over 10 years ago now, so, yes, we've known each other for a good decade. We got to know each other on the tennis courts because the first few days of our course were so boring that we both decided we'd be better off outside playing tennis.

What kind of person is he? He's very active, a sporty type, involved in hiking and mountain biking – a bit of an adrenalin junky. He's also a very determined person. When he gets into something, he gives one hundred per cent. And he changes passions often. That makes him a bit of a self-absorbed person actually, which I'd say is a drawback. And I think he comes across as full of himself sometimes; I mean a bit too sure of his own opinions! As for why I like him, well, he's actually quite different from me. At uni, he'd often suggest doing something and I'd go along with it, and because I'm laid back I never felt overwhelmed by him. We've never fallen out or anything.

**Examiner:** How often do you see your friend?

**Candidate:** Well, because we live in different countries, we don't see each other that often, but we try to catch up on a fairly regular basis, say three times a year.

**Tracks 04–06**

See pages 12–13 for text.

**Track 07****Modern families**

In what ways have families changed in the last hundred years?

Should we rely heavily on our families or is it better to try to be independent?

The elderly are sometimes considered the wisest members of society. What do you think we can learn from them?

**Friendship**

What do you expect from a good friend?

Are friends as important to you as family?

Do you think friendships change as we get older? How?

**Sample answers:**

**Examiner:** In what ways have families changed in the last hundred years?

**Candidate:** In Western countries, I would say families have become more widely dispersed and less close. People travel more, and then end up living far from their families. I think this is a shame because it means there is a breakdown of communities. I also think that because families are spread over a wider geographical area, elderly people tend to be forgotten and usually live on their own.

**Examiner:** Should we rely heavily on our families or is it better to try to be independent?

**Candidate:** People seem to like living independently from each other these days, but I do wonder if that's the best way. Relying on people is seen as a weakness by some, I think. However, having family nearby is invaluable when you have children, in my opinion. Who else can be called on to babysit at a moment's notice?

**Examiner:** The elderly are sometimes considered the wisest members of society. What do you think we can learn from them?