

## **Topic - Friends:**

- Q. Do you have many friends? [Why/Why not?]
- Q. How often do you go out with friends? [Why/Why not?]
- Q. Tell me about your best friend at school.
- Q. How friendly are you with your neighbours? [Why/Why not?]
- Q. Which is more important to you, friends or family? [Why?]

### **Q. Do you have many friends? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I have more than 10 friends and I am not sure if I should say this is many! However, I had more than 30 friends in my school days. With the passage of the time, the number plummeted. If I count my Facebook friends as real friends, the number would go high!

### **Q. How often do you go out with friends? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I meet my friends almost twice a week. I love to spend my weekends with them and sometimes I visit different places, watch movies and discuss different topics with them. I do not go out with all of my friends. I mostly hang out with 2-3 close buddies and go out with them almost 3-4 times a month.

### **Q. Tell me about your best friend at school.**

**Answer:** My best friend at school was Sabbir and he was a great friend. He was tall and brave. He taught me how to show courage when we are in trouble. He has a great impact on my life. Though he lives in Australia now, we regularly communicate via Facebook and other social media. I specifically liked him because he was more like a brother than a friend to me.

### **Q. How friendly are you with your neighbours? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I must say I am quite lucky to have good neighbours who are always supportive and well-behaved. I am quite close to them. We have been living in our neighbourhood for more than a decade and our neighbours have become our close relatives. We have a mutual understanding and an invisible bond that ties us together as good neighbours. I respect their opinion, privacy and try to step forward whenever they need me.

### **Q. Which is more important to you, friends or family? [Why?]**

**Answer:** To be honest, family comes first. However, there are some friends who become our family members. The bond between family members is often stronger but this does not mean that we do not have friends who are less important in our life. Being with the family makes us who we really are and friends make our life worth living.

## **Topic - Names:**

- Q. Did your parents choose your name(s)?
- Q. How did your parents choose your name(s)?
- Q. Does your name have any special meaning?

Q. Is your name common or unusual in your country?

Q. If you could change your name, would you? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. Did your parents choose your name(s)?**

**Answer:** Yes, my parents selected my name. When I was born, my parents wanted me to have a great name, at least to them. I have heard from my mother that my father brought a baby-name-book even before I was born. So the credit of my name solely goes to them.

**Q. How did your parents choose your name(s)?**

**Answer:** I learned that they were inspired by a name they found in the book and they took the surname from my grandfather. Thus they combined the name and selected it for me. However, this was the final step they went through to pick my name. As far as I know, they had to choose from hundreds of names, spend considerable hours to finally become satisfied with the name.

**Q. Does your name have any special meaning?**

**Answer:** My name is very special to me as it is to my parents. The first part of my name, Clyde, came from the name of a river, more specifically it is a Scottish river. The river was close to the location where I was born and I believe my parents wanted me to be as big as a river! The second part of my name, which is 'Entriken', is the family name of a famous ancient dynasty from Great Britain.

**Q. Is your name common or unusual in your country?**

**Answer:** Statistically speaking, this is not a very common name. However, from my experience, I can tell that I have personally met at least 10 others with the same name but with a different family name.

**Q. If you could change your name, would you? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** My name is very special to me and I would never change it. For anyone, his/her name is quite unique and significantly important. I might take an alias someday if I need to ghost-write some articles, but changing my real name to something for the sake of modernism or style, is something I will never accept.

## **Topic - Food and cooking:**

Q. What sorts of food do you like eating most? [Why?]

Q. Who normally does the cooking in your home?

**Q. Do you watch cookery programmes on TV? [Why/Why not?]**

**Q. In general, do you prefer eating out or eating at home? [Why?]**

**Q. What sorts of food do you like eating most? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I prefer homemade food and a fan of my mother's recipe. She is an amazing cook and I always enjoy her cooking. Whenever we go to a restaurant, we like to order Chinese menus. Apart from that, I like buttered popcorn, pizza, Indian Masala dosa, Mexican Tacos, doughnuts and sandwich - a mixture of many foreign food items actually.

**Q. Who normally does the cooking in your home?**

**Answer:** My mother does the cooking in our house and as I have said, she is a magnificent cook. I often compliment her and inspire her to start a restaurant in the city and she always laughs hearing this. Sometimes, my elder sister Emma assists my mother in the kitchen. I, on the contrary, in charge of the grocery and daily shopping.

**Q. Do you watch cookery programmes on TV? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Not much, I would say. I am not a big fan of TV programmes and mostly watch movies on my laptop. Once in a while, I watch programmes related to travel and cooking and 'Hell's Kitchen', 'Iron Chef' and 30 'Minute Meals' are my favourite.

**Q. In general, do you prefer eating out or eating at home? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I like to eat at home. Homemade food has better food value and offers a wide range of choices. It is more hygienic and less expensive. However, we like to eat at a restaurant whenever we have special occasions to celebrate. As dining out in a restaurant offers my mom plenty of time to socialise rather than getting stuck in the kitchen, my father and I often insist her to go to an eatery on occasions like wedding anniversaries and birthdays.

**Topic - Photographs:**

Q. What type of photos do you like taking? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What do you do with the photos you take?

Q. When you visit other places, do you take photos or buy postcards? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Do you like people taking photos of you? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. What type of photos do you like taking? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I often experiment with my camera and mobile phone camera and that's why I like to take a wide range of photos that include nature, people, gift items, sky, river, flower and so on.

However, I am inclined to take photos of people. Some of the best photos that I took were taken in unknown places where people posed for my camera. Their genuine smile, sad expression and sometimes bewilderment make the photograph worth cherishing.

**Q. What do you do with the photos you take?**

**Answer:** After I take around 20-30 photographs in my camera or my mobile phone, I connect it to my laptop and sort out the best clicks. Then I name those photos according to the theme and prepare those to upload to my Flickr account. Flickr is a great photo storing and sharing website owned by Yahoo! and it offers enormous storage space. Sometimes, I share a few pictures with my friends on Facebook and Instagram. I usually print a photo if I want to gift it to someone or frame it.

**Q. When you visit other places, do you take photos or buy postcards? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I used to buy postcards whenever I visited a new place with my parents in my childhood. Perhaps I did so to bring souvenirs of the places I had been to. But with the increasing use of the smartphone and cameras, we can now take our own picture and video and frame it to our digital storage. In this age of technological advancement, we are more inclined to take picture and video and then share those with friends and family rather than purchasing souvenirs, especially postcards.

**Q. Do you like people taking photos of you? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** If someone asks me firsts and I feel like being captured in a photo, I do not mind. Otherwise, I do not prefer to be in a photograph, especially with less known or unknown people. I think this is a personal choice and I am not the type of person who likes taking selfie or self-photograph now and then.

## **Topic- Bicycles:**

Q. How popular are bicycles in your hometown? [Why?]

Q. How often do you ride a bicycle? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Do you think that bicycles are suitable for all ages? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What are the advantages of a bicycle compared to a car? [Why?]

**Q. How popular are bicycles in your hometown? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Well, I would say bicycles are moderately popular in my hometown. It was widely used when I was a child and I have seen so many people using bicycles to reach their destinations. In fact, the majority of people used to ride bicycles to travel to and from their offices at that time. But, the motorized vehicles have become more popular these days and this trend has decreased the prevalence of bicycles. However, It's a good sign that many young people these days are using bicycles.

**Q. How often do you ride a bicycle? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Honestly speaking, I scarcely ride a bicycle these days. Busy lifestyle, faster speed of motorized vehicles and our apathy to get involved in physical activities have forced us to use a bicycle less often. Once in a while, I ride a bicycle and that's primarily to have fun and not to travel. Personally, I more often use a car than a bicycle because the former one is faster and more comfortable to ride in.

**Q. Do you think that bicycles are suitable for all ages? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, I absolutely believe that bicycles are suitable for people of all age groups. Bicycles are cheap, have almost zero maintenance costs, and good for the environment and for our health. Since it doesn't take much physical labour, children, youth and senior citizens alike can ride it without any hassle. The health benefits of riding a bicycle are unparalleled and that's why people from all age groups should consider this as their primary means of transportation.

**Q. What are the advantages of a bicycle compared to a car? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Bicycles have far more benefits than cars except for the fact that a car is faster. The most important advantage of riding a bicycle is that it keeps us healthy. Bicycles do not pollute the air and they are environment-friendly. They are cheap and requires no costly maintenances or services. While cars take larger spaces to be parked into, bicycles do not. Considering the environmental consequences, bicycles could be a great replacement for motorised vehicles in our hometown.

### **Topic - Giving gifts:**

Q. When do people give gifts or presents in your country?

Q. Do you ever take a gift when you visit someone in their home? [Why/Why not?]

Q. When did you last receive a gift? [What was it?]

Q. Do you enjoy looking for gifts for people? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. When do people give gifts or presents in your country?**

**Answer:** In my country, we mostly give gifts to others on a special day like a birthday, a wedding ceremony, and on an anniversary day. It's a widely followed custom to exchange gifts during the Christmas holidays. We often buy gifts for a classmate, colleague or a teacher on their farewell days.

Besides, we often buy candies to children and flowers to our relatives whenever we visit their house.

**Q. Do you ever take a gift when you visit someone in their home? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, I most often buy a gift on such an occasion. I do it as it is a broadly followed convention in our country, and the idea of giving a host some sort of gifts is exciting, especially when the host loves the gift. Besides, it's a token of appreciation and a good gesture as a guest.

**Q. When did you last receive a gift? [What was it?]**

**Answer:** Well, that's an interesting question and it reminds me of a gift that a close friend of mine gave me a few weeks ago. Maria went to Italy last November to visit her grandparents and after she returned, she gave me a perfume made in Italy. 'Gucci Premiere Eau De Parfum' that she gave me was expensive and I really appreciate her gift.

**Q. Do you enjoy looking for gifts for people? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, most of the time I love to browse different shops to find a suitable gift for someone I care for. Finding a suitable gift idea and then getting the item can be time-consuming, but it represents our care and love for the person we are presenting the gift. If the person likes the present, the time we spend to find it worths every second of it.

## **Topic - Games:**

Q. What games are popular in your country? [Why?]

Q. Do you play any games? [Why/Why not?]

Q. How do people learn to play games in your country?

Q. Do you think it's important for people to play games? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. What games are popular in your country? [Why?]**

**Answer:** People in my country are crazy about football. You will find most of the youths playing football in the evening. Among the indoor games, people love to play chess and cards most of the time. Finally, computer games are highly popular among the young generation.

**Q. Do you play any games? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, I like to play badminton most of the time. Football was, and still is my favourite sports, but I can't manage time to practice football in the evening. I am a great fan of chess and I often visit a few of my friends who are also passionate about playing chess. Sometimes, a single chess match between me and my friend takes multiple days to finish!

**Q. How do people learn to play games in your country?**

**Answer:** I think most of the people in my country learn to play different games in their childhood and their family, classmates and friends have a great role in teaching these games to them. Young children often mimic elders and play games that are popular in their area.

Those who are serious about sports or want to become professional sportsmen often get admitted to different training institutes to develop their skills.

**Q. Do you think it's important for people to play games? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, I do believe that sports and games are vital for a balanced life. Games are highly entertaining and beneficial for our health. Many games are helpful for children's physical and cognitive developments. It also teaches them important skills like how to be a team member and develops their decision-making capabilities

**Topic - Telephoning:**

Q. How often do you make telephone calls? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Who do you spend the most time talking to on the telephone? [Why?]

Q. When do you think you'll next make a telephone call? [Why?]

Q. Do you sometimes prefer to send a text message instead of telephoning? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. How often do you make telephone calls? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I do not use a landline that much except for some official purposes, but I use a mobile phone very extensively and daily.

I use the mobile phone to make or receive calls, send or receive text messages and sometimes to use the internet. I often play games on my mobile phone and listen to my favourite music. There is scarcely any day when I do not use it.

**Q. Who do you spend the most time talking to on the telephone? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I believe that would be my mom. She is very close to me and starts worrying if she does not hear from me for more than a few hours. She calls me a few times each day whenever I am out and I can tell her virtually anything. For these reasons, she is the person I spend the most time talking to on a telephone or on a mobile phone.

**Q. When do you think you'll next make a telephone call? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I will call my mom after I leave the exam hall to let her know that I am fine and my exam went very well. I will call her as I am sure she is eagerly waiting to hear from me and to know how well I had performed in the exam.

**Q. Do you sometimes prefer to send a text message instead of telephoning? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, sometimes sending a text message is more convenient and makes more sense than calling someone. For instance, if I'm in a meeting or in a crowded place, I would prefer SMS than phone calls. Moreover, if I need to send an address, a number or an email ID, I would rather send a text message than to call the intended recipient.

**Topic - Your friends:**

Q. Do you prefer to have one particular friend or a group of friends? [Why?]

Q. What do you like doing most with your friend/s?

Q. Do you think it's important to keep in contact with friends you knew as a child? [Why/Why not?]



not?]

Q. What makes a friend into a good friend?

**Q. Do you prefer to have one particular friend or a group of friends? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I think it's a tough question to answer. But I will try. Naturally, I would like to have a group of friends from my school, my neighbourhood and a few online friends but someone truly special would become my best friend. One particular friend, who I believe would be a truly great friend and completely reliable, is hard to find but will remain my buddy for a long time while many other friends would be for a short span of time.

**Q. What do you like doing most with your friend/s?**

**Answer:** I like to have conversations with my friends and hang out with them. I often play indoor and outdoor games with them. Since we can virtually say anything to our friends and do anything with them, we can be truly ourselves with our friends. I sometimes, prefer to travel to different cities with my friends, and I went to Milan a few months ago with two of my close buddies.

**Q. Do you think it's important to keep in contact with friends you knew as a child? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I think childhood friends are special in a sense. We make friends during this phase of life very innocently and without any expectation from them. Besides, childhood memories are truly special and our childhood friends are a part of these reminiscences. So keeping in touch with those buddies are important. However, from a practical point of view, having regular contact with all childhood friends is not possible as we lose contacts with many of them as we grow older.

**Q. What makes a friend into a good friend?**

**Answer:** I believe it takes time, common interests and similar mentally to bring friends even closer. We make many friends in our life and some of them become close friends as they prove through their activities that we can trust them and share anything with them.

### **Topic - Musical instruments:**

Q. Which instrument do you like listening to most? [Why?]

Q. Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument? [Which one?]

Q. Do you think children should learn to play a musical instrument at school? [Why/Why not?]

Q. How easy would it be to learn to play an instrument without a teacher? [Why?]

**Q. Which instrument do you like listening to most? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I mostly like the sound of a piano. The note that a piano produces is so delightful and melodious. It soothes the ear and refreshes my mind. The guitar is perhaps my second most preferred musical instrument and it is widely used with most of the music types.

**Q. Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument? [Which one?]**

**Answer:** I once tried to master the skills of playing the guitar. I even got admitted to a music



school to learn to play the guitar but could not finish the whole course. I can play some basic tones and music in the guitar but I am not a skilled guitarist.

**Q. Do you think children should learn to play a musical instrument at school? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I believe schools should have the facility for the interested students who want to learn to sing and play a musical instrument, but it should not be forced to all. If a child at school feels passionate about learning it, he/she should be given the choice to do so.

**Q. How easy would it be to learn to play an instrument without a teacher? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I think it was quite impossible in the pre-internet era. However, the online courses and the interactive video tutorials make it a bit easier to learn to play a musical instrument like a guitar or a drum without the direct supervision of a mentor these days. Nevertheless, having a teacher is tremendously beneficial as he /she inspires to learn and can be a role model for mastering the skills of playing a musical instrument.

### **Topic - Living place:**

Q. Where do you live?

Q. What kind of place is it?

Q. What's the most interesting part of your town/village?

Q. What kind of jobs do the people in your town/village do?

Q. Would you say it's a good place to live? (why?)

**Q. Where do you live?**

**Answer:** I live in (...say your area name...) in (...say your town/village/city name...). I have been living there as long as I can remember as it is our permanent residence.

**Q. What kind of place is it?**

**Answer:** This a large town where more than 2 million people reside in. It's a beautiful town and the people are nice and friendly. The area where I live in is in the north of the town centre and a magnificent place, especially because of the quiet environment and good neighbours.

**Q. What's the most interesting part of your town/village?**

**Answer:** Well, there are actually more than one interesting parts and facts that I can recall about our town and among them, the most interesting part is that the entire town is an island. You have to take a ferry or a launch or cross a bridge on a bus to reach our town. Perhaps the second most interesting fact of the city is that wind power provides all the electricity we need. If I tell about the most intriguing area of our town, it would be the north part of the town which is the hub of the town.

**Q. What kind of jobs do the people in your town/village do?**

**Answer:** That would be tough to answer because the types of jobs people do in our town vary to a great extent. However, construction engineers, IT professionals, fishermen and salespersons

would dominate the list, I believe. Many young people run online businesses and a few rich people own hotel chains in our town. Since it is a popular tourist destination, many locals are indirectly involved in the hotel and tourism sectors.

**Q. Would you say it's a good place to live? (why?)**

**Answer:** Having a great neighbourhood where people are nice and the environment is quiet is always preferred by people as a living place. From this regard, our town is a great place to live in. Because it's an island, you can get fresh fishes, vegetables and if you are fond of seafood, you will love our cuisine. Finally, job opportunities in our area is another reason people often move to our town. I am happy to be a resident of this town.

**Topic - Accommodation:**

Q. Tell me about the kind of accommodation you live in?

Q. How long have you lived there?

Q. What do you like about living there?

Q. What sort of accommodation would you most like to live in?

**Q. Tell me about the kind of accommodation you live in?**

**Answer:** I live in an apartment with my family and the apartment is approximately twenty-five hundred square feet. Our apartment is on the fourth floor and it has four bedrooms, a guest room and a large dining space. The building is located near the city centre and we enjoy a good view from our apartment.

**Q. How long have you lived there?**

**Answer:** My father bought this flat almost 3 years ago, and since then we have been living there. Before that, we used to live in a rented flat in the same area.

**. What do you like about living there?**

**Answer:** We are happy with the apartment we live in and a great lake view from the apartment is the best thing about it. Since the building is located beside a lovely lake, we enjoy the fresh air and can walk by the lake in the morning and evening. I also like the area because almost all the modern amenities we need are present in the vicinity.

**Q. What sort of accommodation would you most like to live in?**

**Answer:** Honestly speaking, I prefer a house over an apartment as a place to live in. However, due to increasing housing and accommodation demands, owning or renting a house in the city centre is really impossible. So for the time being, we are happy with the apartment we live in. But if I have a choice, I would relocate to a town and own a large house with a beautiful lawn in front of it.

**Topic: Colour**

Q. What's your favourite colour? [Why?]

Q. Do you like the same colours now as you did when you were younger? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What can you learn about a person from the colours they like?

Q. Do any colours have a special meaning in your culture?

**Q. What's your favourite colour? [Why?]**

**Answer:** My favourite colour is *pink* and I guess many other girls like me also have a fascination with this colour. Pink, a delicate colour that means sweet, nice, playful, cute, romantic, charming, feminine, and tenderness. Pink is the colour of the universal love of oneself and of others. I love it more than any other colour.

**Alternative Answer:** My favourite colour is *blue* - the colour of the ocean and the sky. This colour is associated with depth and stability and symbolizes wisdom, trust, confidence, intelligence, faith, and heaven. From my childhood, I had been attracted to this colour and always preferred blue pairs of jeans. I believe blue is a colour that suits me and perhaps this is one of the reasons I like it so much.

**Q. Do you like the same colours now as you did when you were younger? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, *pink* has always been my favourite colour. My father bought me a beautiful pink doll when I was only 4 years old and my parents painted my room pink in my childhood. Since then I am in love with this colour and interestingly it is still the same.

**Alternative Answer:** White and red were my favourite colours up until I turned 19. Strangely, I started realising the importance of blue colour when I started travelling extensively. I watched a movie titled 'Blue' and then did some extensive research on this colour. Besides, my fascination with the blue pair of jeans also enhanced my weakness in this colour.

**Q. What can you learn about a person from the colours they like?**

**Answer:** I believe the choice of colours often represents some personality traits and this tells a lot about a person. For instance, people who choose black as their favourite colour are often artistic and sensitive and those who love the green colour are often affectionate, loyal and frank. Clearly, these are generic descriptions but provides the clue to assessing different personality types that exist within a group. More scientifically speaking, the choice of colours defines someone's preference and could be used to speculate that a person's life experience and preferences.

**Q. Do any colours have a special meaning in your culture?**

**Answer:** White is considered the symbol of peace and red for violence in our culture. Interestingly, red is sometimes referred to as the colour of friendship and sacrifice which contradicts the earlier meaning of this colour! As far as I know, Green, in our country, represents nature and prosperity while yellow is the colour of sunshine and happiness. Finally, black is considered something gloomy and sad and relates to the dark past in history. However, black is often revered, by some people in our country, as the colour of intelligence and mystical world.

## **Topic: Flowers**

Q. Do you like to have flowers in your home? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Where would you go to buy flowers? [Why?]

Q. On what occasions would you give someone flowers?

Q. Are flowers important in your culture? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. Do you like to have flowers in your home? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** This is an interesting question and I would be delighted to answer that. In fact, whenever we have a special occasion at our home, we buy flowers and consider it an integral part of the celebration. For instance, if it's a birthday or a marriage anniversary, we buy different types of flowers and love to have them at our home. Flowers are refreshing and enhance the appeal of the celebration.

**Q. Where would you go to buy flowers? [Why?]**

**Answer:** If I need to buy some common types of flowers, I go to a nearby floral shop that sells a good variety of flowers and flower bouquets. It offers fresh flowers and home delivery. However, if I need to purchase a flower which is not so common like chocolate cosmos or night lily, I order them from a large online shop which specialises in making bouquets for different occasions and has a great variety of flowers.

**Q. On what occasions would you give someone flowers?**

**Answer:** In our country, we can give someone flower almost on any occasion to congratulate or wish good luck to this person. Perhaps giving flowers in a sad and mournful event is not recommend and apart from that, I can present someone flowers anytime for any occasion.

**Q. Are flowers important in your culture? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Flowers are extremely important in our culture. They represent purity, innocence, happiness, selflessness and good fortune. A large number of people offer flowers to the deity they pray to while others find it a source of freshness and beauty and give them to their dear and near ones.

## **Topic: Friends**

Q. Are your friends mostly your age or different ages? [Why?]

Q. Do you usually see your friends during the week or on weekends? [Why?]

Q. The last time you saw your friends, what did you do together?

Q. In what ways are your friends important to you?

**Q. Are your friends mostly your age or different ages? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Most of my friends are about my age. Only two or three of them are junior to me by five to six years. As my friends are mostly from my class, it's natural that we do not have a noticeable age gap. For the junior friends, they are from my neighbourhood and were my playmates in my childhood. So they became good friends of mine over time despite the age difference.

**Q. Do you usually see your friends during the week or on weekends? [Why?]**

**Answer:** As I am still a student and have a few good friends in my college. So I mostly see them during the weekdays when we have classes to attend to. If we have something special to do or a

plan to execute, we even meet on weekends. As for my friends from my neighbourhood, I mostly see them in the evening on weekends.

**Q. The last time you saw your friends, what did you do together?**

**Answer:** We watched a movie together at our house. That would be around two weeks ago and we watched the latest Avengers series movie. After the movie, we had numerous conversations and we talked about our plans after we graduate from college. Since I was preparing for my IELTS exam, we did not meet afterwards. But we will hopefully meet again within two to three days.

**Q. In what ways are your friends important to you?**

**Answer:** My friends actually represent me. As it is commonly believed, a person could be judged by the companies he keeps, and this is true in my case as well. They are my friends because we are like-minded. They often inspire me to attain excellence and carry on in my troubled days.

I can be absolutely myself with my friends, can share anything with them and they are by my side whenever I need them. From this regard, they are important to me to a great extent. I can recall numerous occasions when they selflessly supported me. I believe friends make life worth living and more colourful.

**Topic: Neighbours**

Q. How well do you know the people who live next door to you?

Q. How often do you see them? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What kinds of problem do people sometimes have with their neighbours?

Q. How do you think neighbours can help each other?

**Q. How well do you know the people who live next door to you?**

**Answer:** I know my neighbours very well. Mr and Mrs Patrick, who live adjacent to my house, are more than our neighbours and in fact, they are like close friends. Mr Albert, who lives across our house, is a great person and I often visit him to play chess with him. I have a few neighbours who are close family friends. Thus some of my neighbours are intimate and dear to us and we have a great relationship.

**Q. How often do you see them? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I see them almost every day. Every time I go out, I see someone waving his hands at me and I do the same whenever I see them. Besides, some of our neighbours who walk in the park in the morning often exchange greetings with me. In terms of visiting each other, we go to their house, and they also visit us quite frequently - I would say at least once a week. Since our neighbours live close to us, we see them more frequently and have more conversations with them than our relatives.

**Q. What kinds of problem do people sometimes have with their neighbours?**

**Answer:** I believe the dispute with the fence and boundaries is a common issue among

neighbours and that could be sometimes the reason for their animosity. Besides, lack of mutual respects, irrational behaviour, letting pets run wildly could be a few other reasons people do not have a healthy relationship with their neighbours. Sometimes jealousy can crack their bond as well.

**Q. How do you think neighbours can help each other?**

**Answer:** Neighbours are often more important than relatives in the sense that our neighbours would be on our side whenever we need their help and they share our happiness and sorrows alike. Thus a good neighbour can be helpful in a tremendous way by extending his or her supporting hands in times of distress and discomfort. They look after our property when we are away and can also become our good friends over time. To cite an example, when my grandfather became severely ill all of a sudden in the middle of a night almost six months ago, my neighbours came to our help and we could have been in great turmoil without their prompt support and assistance. Thus good neighbours are a blessing for us.

**Topic: Your favourite place**

- Q. What place do you most like to visit? [Why?]
- Q. How often do you visit this place? [Why?]
- Q. Why do you like it so much?
- Q. Is it popular with many other people? [Why?]
- Q. Has it changed very much since you first went there? [In what way?]

**Q. What place do you most like to visit? [Why?]**

**Answer:** The place, I like to visit the most, is called the “White Cliffs of Dover” in Kent. I like to visit this stunning coastline, which has been saying ‘hello’ and ‘farewell’ to thousands of people crossing the English Channel for centuries because of its gorgeous geology with dazzling white chalk faces, sharp edges rising 350 feet above the sea level along with the layers of wild and lush grasses.

**Q. How often do you visit this place? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I like to visit this place, one of the most famous landmarks in the UK, if not the most, twice a year because visiting beautiful places is one of the few things that I really enjoy out of my very busy work life, and White Cliffs of Dover seems to top the list of those places which helps me relax the most because of its stunning natural beauty.

**Q. Why do you like it so much?**

**Answer:** I like visiting this place so much because of its unique feature. In fact, there are very few places on this earth where one can see such a long stretch of coastline which is completely made of white chalks. I like it also because this place, standing tall as the guardians of the island, has witnessed many historical events such as the unsuccessful Roman invasion of Julius Caesar and being on the frontline of the First World War and the Second World War.

**Q. Is it popular with many other people? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Yes, it is popular with many other people because of Dover Castle the largest castle in

the UK, and the Bronze Age boat apart from the stunning looking White Cliffs are the centre of attractions to many visiting tourists. In fact, in the past few years, an average of 3.4 million people chose Dover for a day trip, and of them, over 500,000 people chose to stay there overnight.

**Q. Has it changed very much since you first went there? [In what way?]**

**Answer:** Yes, it has changed since I visited this place last time as people can enjoy an annual plant fair event now where beautiful flower plants, as well as vegetable plants, are displayed for the public view. Besides, the number of visitors had also significantly increased since I visited there last time.

### **Topic: Leisure**

Q. Do you have any hobbies or interests? [What are they?]

Q. How did you become interested in (whatever hobby/ interest the candidate mentions)?

Q. What is there to do in your free time in (candidate's hometown/village)?

Q. How do you usually spend your holidays?

Q. Is there anywhere you would particularly like to visit? [Why?]

**Q. Do you have any hobbies or interests? [What are they?]**

**Answer:** I have a number of hobbies such as watching movies, gardening and reading story books. While I enjoy having all of those hobbies, depending on my location, mood and weather condition, the most special one to me is "reading storybooks".

**Q. How did you become interested in (whatever hobby/ interest the candidate mentions)?**

**Answer:** I became interested in some hobbies since my early high school days. In fact, my school would declare nice "awards" for the best storytellers in order to encourage students like me to take part in the storytelling competition from our favourite storybooks. I became interested in "gardening" rather recently after learning how we could stop the greenhouse effects by planting more trees. As for watching movies, I became interested in it as long as I remember. This is entertaining, educational and one of the most popular hobbies in our country.

**Q. What is there to do in your free time in (candidate's hometown/village)?**

**Answer:** During free time, where I live in Dubai, one can visit the Dubai Coffee Museum in the Al Fahidi neighbourhood in order to enjoy some of the best coffee in the world but also to learn about the history of coffee as well as the history related artefacts. Besides, one can also enjoy public sandy beaches in Dubai during his/her free time.

**Q. How do you usually spend your holidays?**

**Answer:** I usually spend my holidays by visiting my parents and relatives who are living outside of Dubai. I also like to take my family to one of my favourite restaurants in order to enjoy some of my favourite dishes. And finally, sometimes I enjoy sports competitions on TV on holidays.

**Q. Is there anywhere you would particularly like to visit? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Yes, I would like to visit many places in the world, given that I have enough money and



time. But one place, which I would really like to visit, is “Niagra Falls” in Canada, and the reason is obvious. I want to visit it because it is a geographical wonder and one of the most famous waterfalls in the world

### **Topic: Television**

- Q. How often do you watch television? [Why/Why not?]
- Q. Which television channel do you usually watch? [Why?]
- Q. Do you enjoy the advertisements on television? [Why/Why not?]
- Q. Do you think most programmes on television are good? [Why/Why not?]

#### **Q. How often do you watch television? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I am studying to pursue a post graduation degree at one of the leading Engineering universities in China, and I also work at a shopping mall after my school hours until 9:00 pm. By the time, I arrive home after finishing everything, either it is a bit too late to do anything, or I am just exhausted. Therefore, I don't really get to watch TV often unless there is a valid reason to do so.

#### **Q. Which television channel do you usually watch? [Why?]**

**Answer:** As I have mentioned earlier, I don't really have much time to watch TV, but when I do get some time and opportunity, I like to watch “Discovery” and “AXN Asia”. I watch Discovery mainly because it allows me to learn about some of the most amazing and coolest things in the world, and I like watching AXN because it helps me to improve my English by offering subtitles for the contents the channel shows.

#### **Q. Do you enjoy the advertisements on television? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I don't exactly enjoy watching advertisements on television simply because I think of them as a waste of time. Besides, I also think that most advertisements have poor contents and try to deceive prospective customers into buying something that they don't need.

#### **Q. Do you think most programmes on television are good? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Well, it depends on what kinds of programmes I am watching. However, having said that, I would say that many programs on television are not good because they offer a few educational perspectives. Even the news shows these days are not “objective” enough to offer the values of “news” and therefore, are not trustworthy.

### **Topic: Entertainment**

- Q. Do you prefer relaxing at home or going out in the evening? [Why?]
- Q. When you go out for an evening, what do you like to do?
- Q. How popular is this with other people in your country?
- Q. Is there any kind of entertainment you do not like? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. Do you prefer relaxing at home or going out in the evening? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I usually prefer going outside in the evening. I think the evening time is suitable for meeting friends outdoor and doing some exercises rather than staying at home. I have been doing this for a very long time and if I stay home during the evening, I feel bored.

**Q. When you go out for an evening, what do you like to do?**

**Answer:** I mostly like to walk in a park or spend some time with my friends in the evening. I often take my bicycle and ride it for an hour or so once or twice a week. Sometimes, I go to a movie with my friends and have fun.

**Q. How popular is this with other people in your country?**

**Answer:** Walking in a park, hanging out with friends and riding a bicycle as part of the outdoor activity are common among people in my country. Many young and elders do these often in the afternoon. Families often visit the theatre in the evening and spend some quality time together.

**Q. Is there any kind of entertainment you do not like? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I guess I hate to see people wasting hours after hours in front of a television set. I do believe that television is a great media to get news and watch entertaining programmes, but some people are addicted to watching TV and they spend almost 6-8 hours a day watching television programmes. I just dislike this as I believe this time could be better utilised

**Topic: Newspapers and Magazines**

Q. Which magazines and newspapers do you read? [Why?]

Q. What kinds of article are you most interested in? [Why?]

Q. Have you ever read a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language? [When/Why?]

Q. Do you think reading a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language is a good way to learn the language? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. Which magazines and newspapers do you read? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I read the Indian Express, which is a daily newspaper, every day, and the magazine I like to read the most is "The Week". I like reading newspapers and magazines whenever I get an opportunity in order to keep myself informed of what is happening in my part of the world as well as the rest of it. I like reading the magazine because I get to learn about the various subjects of my interest.

**Q. What kinds of article are you most interested in? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I am into learning important tips about how to remain healthy both physically and mentally, so I read health-related articles. I am also interested in learning about the latest trends in computer technologies since I am a student of computer science, and as a result, I never like to miss any technology related articles. But it doesn't necessarily mean that I don't like to read other kinds of

articles such as those which talks about sports and foods.

**Q. Have you ever read a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language? [When/Why?]**

**Answer:** I have always wanted to read and communicate in a different language(s) other than English and Hindi. But, I have found out that it's not really easy. However, I know "Bengali" (mother tongue of a neighbouring country of India called "Bangladesh") a little which has helped me to read and understand some "Bengali" texts on their newspapers lately. I became interested in reading Bengali newspapers after meeting a Bangladeshi girl who happens to be one of my best friends now.

**Q. Do you think reading a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language is a good way to learn the language? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Of course, I think reading a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language is an excellent method to learn the language because it helps us to understand the texts of a particular language and their meanings at our own pace and also at a time of our convenience. In fact, English is also a foreign language to me, and I have learnt it by reading English newspapers and journals in addition to following the language on radio and television.

## **Topic: Living Place**

**Q. Which part of your country do most people live in?**

**Q. Tell me about the main industries there.**

**Q. How easy is it to travel around your country?**

**Q. Has your country changed much since you were a child?**

**Q. Which part of your country do most people live in?**

**Answer:** German is an urbanized country. In other words, most German people live in urban city areas as opposed to living in rural areas. Anyway, most Germans live in the state of Berlin, followed by Hamburg and Bavaria States. However, of all the states, Bavaria is the most densely populated area.

**Q. Tell me about the main industries there.**

**Answer:** Germany is one of the most industrialized nations in the world, and one of the richest in that because of its spectacular industrialization efforts over the last century. German is famous for its heavy manufacturing industries, but the main among them are automotive, chemicals, metals (iron and steel), electrical equipment, ships and machine tools.

**Q. How easy is it to travel around your country?**

**Answer:** Having one of the best road transportation systems, if not the best, in the world along with one of the fastest and reliable rail services, Germany makes it incredibly easy to travel around the country at an affordable cost. Besides, Germany also has a very efficient air travelling system in place for those who don't want to travel by road and railway system.

**Q. Has your country changed much since you were a child?**

**Answer:** Germany is not the same country anymore as it was 30 years ago or so. One of the most noticeable changes is, in my opinion, Germany has more foreign-born population now than at any time in its history. Besides, Germany has also become more industrialized and developed over the years and playing a crucial role in shaping the future of this world.

## **Topic: Laughing**

**Q.** What kinds of thing make you laugh?

**Q.** Do you like making other people laugh? [Why/Why not?]

**Q.** Do you think it's important for people to laugh? [Why/Why not?]

**Q.** Is laughing the same as feeling happy, do you think? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. What kinds of thing make you laugh?**

**Answer:** They say that laughter is a great medicine, and I also believe it. So, I like to laugh whether my friend is cracking a joke or watching a comedy movie with my family and friends. But, what really makes me laugh the most is the funny activities of my pet cat. In fact, my cat makes so many "funny" moves to make me laugh that I even record them in my video camera.

**Q. Do you like making other people laugh? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Well, it depends on how much I actually know them, and what kind of circumstances is prevailing. But, in principle, I don't really like to make people laugh because sometimes, the humorous act might actually offend them, since I wouldn't really know what they have been going through, or what kind of mood they are really in.

**Q. Do you think it's important for people to laugh? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, I do think that it is important for people to laugh whenever an opportunity arrives because a good laugh almost always helps us relieve physical and mental tension and stress. Besides, laughter also helps promote an overall sense of well-being and can even temporarily relieve pain in us. Finally, laughter is important also because it brings us closer to each by remaining positive about ourselves and our lives.

**Q. Is laughing the same as feeling happy, do you think? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I do believe that we like to laugh when we are happy and that is a universally accepted expression for us- the human.

But, that does not mean that laughing is the same as feeling happy. In fact, people can be in pain and sad and still they are able to laugh to cheer others. Then, there also are many people in this world for whom laughter is just an "expression". For example, we can laugh in a "party" or some other social gatherings in order to just go along with the "flow", but it doesn't necessarily mean that we are happy.

## **Topic: Food and cooking**

Q. What kinds of food do you like to eat?

Q. What kind of new food would you like to try? [Why?]

Q. Do you like cooking? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What was the last meal you cooked?

Q. Do you prefer home-cooked food or food from restaurants? [Why?]

**Q. What kinds of food do you like to eat?**

**Answer:** I like to eat pretty much all kinds of food whether they are European, American or Oriental. But, since I am an "Aussie", I mostly like to eat meat or fish no matter what kind of dishes I am being offered to eat. However, my most favourite dishes are chicken parmigiana, a classic Aussie chicken dish, and a burger with "the lot" with lots of "goodies" in it.

**Q. What kind of new food would you like to try? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I have heard a lot about Indian foods, and I would really like to try them sometimes because, as I have heard, they are not really fatty like the other food. Besides, I would like to try them also because they taste really good because of using different kinds of spices in perfect combination, and the dish I would really like to try is "palak chicken curry" made with spinach and chicken.

**Q. Do you like cooking? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Cooking is like a great hobby to me, and I do like to cook once in a while as it allows me to cook my favourite dishes just the way I like them! Besides, I like to cook also because it allows me to be creative and to indulge in some "fun and play" time by getting busy in chopping, stirring and tasting. Finally, I like cooking because it gives me an opportunity to express my love and care for them.

**Q. What was the last meal you cooked?**

**Answer:** The last meal I cooked was a chicken parmigiana, which is one of my favourites, about a week ago. Of course, it took me a while to prepare the food, but it was just perfect in its taste and texture at the end of the day.

**Q. Do you prefer home-cooked food or food from restaurants? [Why?]**

**Answer:** While I enjoy eating at restaurants from time to time, I certainly prefer home-cooked foods primarily because they are usually more healthy with less fat and more nutritional values. Besides, eating at restaurants can be expensive. Finally, enjoying a home-cooked meal over dinner with family members, while enjoying laughs and chats with them, is way better than eating some food, being surrounded by some completely unknown faces.

## **Topic: Daily Routine**

Q. What would you like to change in your daily routine?

Q. Are all your days the same?

Q. Tell me about your typical weekday and your typical weekend.

Q. What is the balance of work/study and free time in your normal day?

**Q. What would you like to change in your daily routine?**

**Answer:** Spending too much time in watching too much television after coming back from my work has become like a daily routine to me for the last several months, and I would really like to change it. It is not that only my wife dislikes this terrible routine, I also dislike it a lot because this extra television watching habit/routine doesn't allow me to have enough sleep at the end of the night.

**Q. Are all your days the same?**

**Answer:** No, all my days are not the same just like a day in the winter time and a day during the summer season are not the same. And, as a result, I remain happy some of the days while "not-so" happy during the others. Also, some days, I become very productive at my work while some other times, I only wish that I could be more "productive."

**Q. Tell me about your typical weekday and your typical weekend.**

**Answer:** My typical weekday starts with paying little "tribute" to my "Goddess" mother (which I do every day regardless of the weekday or the weekend). Then after taking my shower and breakfast, I hit the road in my motorbike to go to my work and arrive there at around 9 am. I finish my work at around 6 pm and then go to a nearby and local market place to buy some fresh groceries and meats/fishes. By the time, I return home, it is almost 8 pm in the evening. I finish my meal after that and immediately start watching TV and continue watching it until I go to bed after midnight most of the days.

My weekends are pretty much the same as the weekdays except I don't go to work on the weekends. Of course, sometimes, during the weekend, I do take my wife and family out to a nearby park or restaurant to enjoy some quality time together.

**Q. What is the balance of work/study and free time in your normal day?**

**Answer:** I like to believe that my work life and free time for leisure and other activities in a normal day is pretty balanced since I almost always have enough time at my disposal, after my work hours, in order to interact with my family members and attending other important things, like doing grocery shopping and worshipping at temples.

## **Topic: Travelling to work or college**

Q. How do you usually travel to work or college? [Why?]

Q. Have you always travelled to work/college in the same way? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What do you like about travelling to work/college this way?

Q. What changes would improve the way you travel to work/college? [Why?]

**Q. How do you usually travel to work or college? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I usually travel to work on my motorbike since I live in a remote village area where we don't

really have any reliable public transportation system to commute back and forth from our works. Besides, I like my little motorbike as it is convenient to use, and I can park it anywhere very easily.

**Q. Have you always travelled to work/college in the same way? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, I have always travelled to my work in the same way with my bike mainly because using a bike is very convenient for me since I have the freedom to go anywhere at my own pace. Besides, I have found out that travelling on my bike costs me significantly lesser than travelling in a public bus which, by the way, is not very reliable because of the poorly-built roads in the area where I live.

**Q. What do you like about travelling to work/college this way?**

**Answer:** The best thing, which I really like about travelling with my little motorbike, is that I can reach my destination within a short period of time which certainly wouldn't be possible if I was to commute by a bus. Besides, after finishing my office works, I have to go to different places sometimes, such as visiting my relatives and doing grocery shopping, and doing those things on time would be really difficult for me if I didn't have my bike with me.

**Q. What changes would improve the way you travel to work/college? [Why?]**

**Answer:** As far as changes are concerned, I would certainly like to see a much better public transportation system in the area where I live because, sometimes, on the rainy days, it becomes really difficult and dangerous to commute on a motorbike. Besides, the roads in my areas need to be rebuilt since they haven't been repaired or rebuilt in a long time.

**Topic: Cold weather**

Q. Have you ever been in very cold weather? [When?]

Q. How often is the weather cold where you come from?

Q. Are some parts of your country colder than others? [Why?]

Q. Would you prefer to live in a hot place or a cold place? [Why?]

**Q. Have you ever been in very cold weather? [When?]**

**Answer:** I live in the Southern Bhutan area bordering India where the weather is hot and humid with the effects of a monsoon season. However, I did live in very cold weather for some times when I visited the northern part of Bhutan, bordering with Tibet, in order to live with my paternal aunt for sometimes when I was about a 10 years old boy before almost 20 years ago. Of course, I loved the snow there, but it was just way too cold for me probably because I am born and raised in a different kind of weather.

**Q. How often is the weather cold where you come from?**

**Answer:** Where I live in Bhutan, the weather remains cold for about 3 to 4 months from Mid-November to February, sometimes stretching till the month of March. However, our winter period can be really dry where temperatures can vary from 10 degree Celsius to 25 degree Celsius.



**Q. Are some parts of your country colder than others? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Bhutan is a rather small country, but its temperatures can vary extremely from the North to the South as well as valley to valley, depending on the elevation. For example, the northern part of Bhutan, bordering with Tibet, can be extremely cold, and can be covered with snow because it sits on a rather high altitude while the western, the eastern and, central Bhutan (cities like Ha, Paro, Thimphu, Wandue, Tongsa, Bumthang, Trashigang, Lhuntse) mostly experience European-like weather because of its little lower altitude where winter typically lasts from November to March.

**Q. Would you prefer to live in a hot place or a cold place? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Sometimes, I feel cold even during the summer time (probably because of my low body temperature, I suppose). Therefore, the hotter the weather is, the better it is for me. Besides, I feel that putting on too many clothes every time I go out, and then take them off after coming back to home, is just a terrible waste of time. Then again, I could be wrong too about this “whole practice” of changing clothes!

**Topic: Keeping in contact with people**

Q. How do you usually contact your friends? [Why?]

Q. Do you prefer to contact different people in different ways? [Why?]

Q. Do you find it easy to keep in contact with friends and family? [Why/Why not?]

Q. In your country, did people in the past keep in contact in the same ways as they do today? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. How do you usually contact your friends? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I usually contact my friends by phone or email if they are far from me because it is more convenient and easy than meeting them in person. However, if my friends live within the close proximity of where I live, I always try to meet them in person because the practice helps create a stronger bond of friendship.

**Q. Do you prefer to contact different people in different ways? [Why?]**

**Answer:** No, I don't try to contact different people in different ways. My preferred method of contacting people, be them my friends, family members or relatives, is to call them on their phones because it helps me to convey my message and feeling in a more direct and effective manner. Of course, if there is a situation where no phone number is listed to reach, and if somebody prefers me to contact him/her in email for more formal reasons, then I don't mind using email to contact.

**Q. Do you find it easy to keep in contact with friends and family? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** With the advent of mobile phones and the internet, contacting friends and families has certainly become very, very easy. In fact, contacting with friends and family has become much more personal also these days because we can not only talk with them but also “view” them at the same time on our phones or computers, no matter whether they live next door or in another corner of the world.

**Q. In your country, did people in the past keep in contact in the same ways as they do today? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** No, people in my country didn't exactly keep in contact with each other in the same ways in the past as they do today. In fact, in the past and before the arrival of smartphones and the internet, people used to contact each other via postal mails and land phones. And, if there was a situation where one would need to contact the others on an urgent basis in the past, people would choose to take the help of "telegram" as well

## **Topic: Visitors**

**Q.** What would you suggest a visitor should see and do in your country?

**Q.** Are there any traditional arts or music you would recommend?

**Q.** Tell me about the kind of foreign visitors or tourists who go to your country.

**Q.** In what ways has tourism changed your country?

**Q. What would you suggest a visitor should see and do in your country?**

**Answer:** Bhutan is a very beautiful country to visit, and there are just too many things to do there. Once you visit this Himalayan country, you will be able to see some of the most beautiful and, of course, the tallest mountain ranges in the world apart from the Himalaya. One can also see beautiful forests and ancient Buddhist architectural sites.

Once arriving in Bhutan, one chooses to do a lot of things, but one thing which almost everybody wants to do is to hike The Tiger's Nest Monastery (Paro Taktsang), which certainly is one of Bhutan's most iconic landmarks and is located at the side of a steep cliff wall in the Paro valley. But, if you are really into learning the festivals of the Bhutanese people, you can always enjoy some religious festivals (called "Tsechus") from up close apart from meeting the locals and enjoying their traditional foods.

**Q. Are there any traditional arts or music you would recommend?**

**Answer:** Bhutanese arts, culture, traditions and music are well-rooted in the religion of Buddhism. As far as music is concerned, I would recommend folk songs (traditional music) which can be classified as Zhungdra and Boedra. Zhungdra is sung by the use of extended vocal tones and relatively simple instrumental melody. I would also recommend "Cham" dance which involves a series of masked dances by wearing colourful costumes during the religious festivals.

**Q. Tell me about the kind of foreign visitors or tourists who go to your country.**

**Answer:** Most tourists, who come to visit Bhutan, arrive on a short term basis, and they are mostly the nationals of Asian countries, followed by the Europeans and the US. Since tourism began in Bhutan in 1974, the number of visitors to this Himalayan country has only increased with 260,000 people arriving in the year of 2018.

**Q. In what ways has tourism changed your country?**

**Answer:** Tourism has changed Bhutan in many ways. Because of tourism, seeing teenagers in jeans and

hooded sweatshirts, smoking cigarettes, instead of wearing the traditional Gho (a knee-length robe) is a normal phenomenon these days. It is because of tourism that Bhutan has seen better roads being built, instructions in English for schoolchildren is being mandated, as well as the television network and the Internet service being introduced.

## **Topic: Travelling**

Q. How did you reach the examination centre?

Q. Do you like travelling?

Q. How do you usually travel?

Q. What are the most common types of transportation run on the streets in your country?

Q. Which types of transportation do people in your country often use to move?

**Q. How did you reach the examination centre?**

**Answer:** The examination centre is far from where I live. So, I had to take a bus to reach the examination centre by road.

**Q. Do you like travelling?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do like travelling, whenever I get an opportunity, to see what my country and the rest of the world has in store for us. So far, I have travelled to India, Nepal, Turkey, Malaysia and Bangladesh outside of my country.

**Q. How do you usually travel?**

**Answer:** I usually travel by road on a bus unless I am going to my work, in which case, I take my motorbike. In case I am travelling to a foreign country, then I, of course, take a plane.

**Q. What are the most common types of transportation run on the streets in your country?**

**Answer:** The most common types of transportations in my country are public bus and Taxi. We also do have a railway system and the government is planning to expand our water transportation system.

**Q. Which types of transportation do people in your country often use to move?**

**Answer:** People mostly use public buses and four-wheel-drive pickups to move around. A large number of them use their own bicycles and motorbikes while affluent people use private cars.

## **Topic: Festivals**

Q. Tell me about the most important festival in your country.

Q. What special food and activities are connected with this festival?

Q. What do you most enjoy about it?

Q. Do you think festivals are important for a country? [Why?]

**Q. Tell me about the most important festival in your country.**

**Answer:** Malaysia is a multicultural country where people of all religions and faiths live in peace and harmony, and one of the most important religious festivals in my country is called “Vesak day” (or Wesak) to commemorate the Lord Buddha’s Birthday which is usually observed during the first full moon in the month of May. To all Buddhist people in Malaysia, this is a very, very important festival because they believe that the Lord Buddha’s birth, enlightenment and death had occurred on the same calendar day.

**Q. What special food and activities are connected with this festival?**

**Answer:** A typical Wesak Day usually begins at dawn at Buddhist temples throughout Malaysia by getting devotees to gather in order to meditate on the Eight Precepts as well as having Monks in saffron-coloured robes to chant the sutras in unison. A candle procession is also the highlight of the celebration, and at the same time, offerings of prayers and burning of joss sticks/incense also run in full swing.

As far as the question of special foods, connected to this particular festival, is concerned, well-wishers and devotees do come together, at the end of their prayers, to dine on simple offerings of vegetarian food and drinks while providing the same to the poor and needy. Donations are also made available to the deserving ones

**Q. What do you most enjoy about it?**

**Answer:** What I enjoy the most about the “Visak” is that it manages to bring people from all walks of life in the spirit of “giving” and “charity” in order to help the “less privileged” section of our society.

**Q. Do you think festivals are important for a country? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I don’t just think, but I actually believe the festivals are absolutely important for any country as it helps bring all kinds of different people together so that they could learn about each other and appreciate them, in a world which has seen too much hatred and animosities already towards each other. They spread brotherhood, faith, love, sense of respect and duty among the people without destroying others emotions and beliefs.

**Topic: Traffic where you live**

Q. How do most people travel to work where you live?

Q. What traffic problems are there in your area? [Why is that?]

Q. How do traffic problems affect you?

Q. How would you reduce the traffic problems in your area?

**Q. How do most people travel to work where you live?**

**Answer:** I live in Kuala Lumpur where most people travel to work by bus since it is, by far, the cheapest transportation mode in Malaysia. Besides, these buses, fully air-conditioned and equipped with free Wi-Fi, are hard to miss and can be boarded at any of its stops, and has a frequency rate of about 15 minutes.

**Q. What traffic problems are there in your area? [Why is that?]**

**Answer:** With the rapid growth of population, urbanization and transportation, traffic problems in the area, where I live, has become a real cause for concerns because vehicles run at a snail's pace not only during the peak hours but also during the "off-peak" hours sometimes. These traffic problems are not only causing us to lose very valuable 'working hours' but also causing extra fuel consumption and air pollution in an otherwise clean city of Kuala Lumpur.

**Q. How do traffic problems affect you?**

**Answer:** Traffic problems affect a person both mentally and physically. Because of the traffic problems, I actually have to get ready well ahead of my regular travel itineraries in order to allow myself enough time to reach my workplace. Then, by the time I reach my office, I am already tired because of "struggling" extra time on the roads. Besides, when I can't reach home after work on time, because of the huge traffic problems again, sometimes, I just don't have enough time to relax in the company of my loved ones.

**Q. How would you reduce the traffic problems in your area?**

**Answer:** First, I would try to reduce the number of private cars and vehicles and increase the number of public transportation to ease the traffic problems in my area. Secondly, I would encourage using bicycles more and more since improvements and construction of the bicycle infrastructure, and the introduction of the urban bicycling program is already underway. Finally, new roads and streets should be built with a better plan in order to connect different parts of the city since we already have enough empty space to be used for building new road infrastructures.

**Topic: Family**

Q. Do you have a large family or a small family?

Q. Can you tell me something about them?

Q. How much time do you manage to spend with members of your family?

Q. What sorts of things do you like to do together?

Q. Do you get on well with your family? [Why?/why not]

**Q. Do you have a large family or a small family?**

**Answer:** I have a small family of 5 people which includes me, my brother, my sister, my father and my mother. We all live together, except my sister, who is married and has her own family now. We enjoy our life as caring members of an extended family.

**Q. Can you tell me something about them?**

**Answer:** My parents are retired old citizens, and they have raised their family and children really well. My father used to work as a Director at the Agriculture Ministry in our country before retiring from his job about a few years ago while my mother has been a housewife for all of her life. Both my parents have lived most of their lives in the countryside before moving to (...say the name of the city where you live now...) with us because of our careers. My elder brother is a software developer and married to a lovely lady while my sister lives in another country with her

husband. We are a family of great traditional values where we love and care for each other as best as we can.

**Q. How much time do you manage to spend with members of your family?**

**Answer:** In this busy modern life, unfortunately, I don't get as much time as I would have preferred to spend with my family members except during the weekend. Of course, if I ever manage to get back to my home from works earlier than usual, then I certainly try to make the best use of the extra time, added to my life.

**Q. What sorts of things do you like to do together?**

**Answer:** They say that nothing brings a family together than a great meal. So, as a family, our most favourite time also is when we all get to cook some of our favourite dishes and enjoy them together. And, we do this whenever we get an opportunity, but it happens mostly on the weekends. We also like to enjoy a nice movie, when my sister is around, together during the holidays and at the weekends. By the way, my younger sister has a "bubbly" personality, and she just loves birds. So, whenever she is around, she never forgets to "force" (to put it jokingly) all of us to join her in visiting her favourite "Bird Park" which is home to pretty much all kinds of birds from all over the world.

However, another thing, that we really enjoy doing together, is when we all get to travel to our hometown which is located far outside of the city. We all enjoy being there as this place reminds us of a lot of our memories.

**Q. Do you get on well with your family? [Why?/why not]**

**Answer:** We are blessed to have such a family where we all get along with each other very nicely primarily because we all try our best not to "impose" anything on the others. Besides, the mutual respect and appreciation, we have for each other, helps us get on well with each other. On top of that, as a great functioning family, I never shy away from sharing my thoughts and experience with any of my family member which always helps us to put things in proper perspectives. Finally, we never stop offering "gifts" to express our love for each other because "gifts" help build a stronger bond among the family members in my opinion.

**Topic: Your friends**

Q. Do you prefer to have one particular friend or a group of friends? [Why?]

Q. What do you like doing most with your friend/s?

Q. Do you think it's important to keep in contact with friends you knew as a child? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What makes a friend into a good friend?

**Q. Do you prefer to have one particular friend or a group of friends? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Having one friend is certainly good, but having a group of friends is even better primarily because you get to lean onto more people than just one when you are in need. Getting to know different people with different backgrounds and interests helps me to grow as a dynamic person. When

you get the chance to learn about someone new, you have a new insight, and you get to experience new things because he/she will almost inevitably introduce you to different ideas and thoughts.

Besides, allowing myself to step out of my comfort zone and letting my guard down with new friends will really help me build up my strengths and confidence which are absolutely essential to succeed in future not only in my personal life but also in professional life.

**Q. What do you like doing most with your friend/s?**

**Answer:** I mostly like to hang out with my friends over a cup of coffee or some snacks that we all like. Then, there are times, when we just love to hit a movie theatre to enjoy one of our favourite movies together. Another thing also, which we really like, is to have some stimulating conversation and/or debate among ourselves about the various aspects of our societies as well as what is happening in our part of the world.

**Q. Do you think it's important to keep in contact with friends you knew as a child?**

**[Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Friendship is like a special “gift” to me, and I try not to take any “friendship” for granted. Therefore, if someone was my friend as a child, I would certainly make every effort to keep in touch with him because this kind of friendship carries special memories. Besides, when we develop a friendship as a child, we usually do it without any expectation of “personal gains”, and as a result, this kind of friendship paves the way for even a better and stronger kind of bond between two friends later on in our life.

**Q. What makes a friend into a good friend?**

**Answer:** I am not really into judging whether someone is a good friend or not. In fact, the very fact that someone chooses to “befriend” me is a matter of great joy and happiness for me. Therefore, I would say that every friend is a “good” friend to me. But, in my opinion, a good friend would turn into even a better one if he or she remains by my side not only during my happy days but also during the ‘not-so’ happy days because as they say, “a friend in need is a friend indeed”, and I happen to agree with it whole-heartedly.

**Topic: Travel**

Q. Do you enjoy travelling? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Have you done much travelling? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Do you think it's better to travel alone or with other people? [Why?]

Q. Where would you like to travel in the future? [Why?]

**Q. Do you enjoy travelling? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Ibn Battuta, one of the world's famous travellers of the middle ages, once said that “Traveling leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller”. Now, I am not too sure if there are any people in this world who don't like to travel, but I do- I really, really like travelling whether it is inside my beautiful country or outside of it.



I love travelling because it reminds me of how “unimportant” I really am and my life is to this big and wonderful world in the grand scheme of things. Getting exposure to new places, new customs, new traditions, new cultures and new people can take our life experience to a whole new level by opening our eyes and hearts to new possibilities which just wouldn’t really be possible otherwise. Travelling helps me realize that my life isn’t the only life I could live as I could be anywhere and anybody at any point of time without getting caught up so much in my daily routine life.

**Q. Have you done much travelling? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I am not too sure how much exactly is ‘much’, but I think that I have done my fair share of travelling. In fact, having travelled extensively not only inside my own country but also to some Asian, European and North American countries so far, I guess it is fair to suggest that I am a well-travelled person. I have been lucky to travel these countries mostly because of family reasons, either to see some of the family members who are already living in some of those countries, or to take some of them there for the purpose of providing better treatments. Of course, I am looking forward to the days when I will have to travel to some countries purely for fun and adventures.

**Q. Do you think it’s better to travel alone or with other people? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I think that it is better to travel with other people because we should be able to share the fun and adventures of travelling with somebody on the spot. Besides, wandering around alone in a new place can be a bit tiring and boring sometimes. Friends are like families when you are travelling in a country, far away from your home. So, if you ever are not feeling well, or if you ever get into to “troubles”, you know that your friends are there to support you and take care of you, particularly if you are travelling abroad.

Finally, if you are with your friends, you don’t really have to worry about planning your trips alone because your friends can help you with this, especially, when you don’t know for sure what things/activities are more fun and adventurous than others.

**Q. Where would you like to travel in the future? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I would like to travel to many places in future, but one particular place, which comes to my mind, is Japan. Having carried some of the most interesting cultures and traditions for thousands of years, Japan certainly is one of the most beautiful and clean countries in the world worth a visit. Besides, the people of Japan interests me a lot because of their very gentle and calm demeanour. I would also like to visit Japan as I would just love to witness the Sakura, Japanese Cherry Blossom and the best in the world, from up close during the spring festival in Osaka which attracts more than 1.5 million visitors from all over the world over the entire 4 weeks of the festival. Finally, the marvellous architecture of Japanese temples, castles and shrines are just too unique and great to be missed.

**Topic: School**

Q. Did you go to a secondary/high school near to where you lived? [Why/Why not?]

Q. What did you like about your secondary/high school? [Why?]

Q. Tell me about anything you didn't like at your school.

Q. How do you think your school could be improved? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. Did you go to a secondary/high school near to where you lived? [Why/Why not]**

**Answer:** Yes, I did attend a high school which was close to where we lived. In fact, it was very much within the walking distance which would take me only about 8 to 10 minutes to reach my school at a moderate pace. I attended that high school primarily because of the convenience, safety and security. Having lived close to my high school, it would always be easy for me to commute back and forth from my home without getting tired. Besides, my father had to live away from us because of holding a government service, so living close to high school would provide my father with a greater sense of safety and security for me as I wouldn't need to travel far to attend my school.

**Q. What did you like about your secondary/high school? [Why?]**

**Answer:** Getting an opportunity to study in a high school, after passing the elementary/primary school, is completely a new experience with new teachers, new books and new library to be accustomed to. However, one of the best things, which I really liked about my school, was that it had plenty of open space in and around it with beautiful garden and a lake with crystal clear water for students like us to enjoy during the breaks in between our classes. Another thing that I really liked was our school would provide funds for us to organize picnics every month so that we could travel to some remote picnic spots (not too far from our school, of course), like in a park or forest site, and enjoy the outdoors while enjoying some delicious meals, cooked by none other than ourselves. Of course, the best thing about my high school was the opportunity, I got, to make friends who I still treasure to this date.

**Q. Tell me about anything you didn't like at your school.**

**Answer:** Well, my high school was great for me for the most part except the fact I didn't exactly like the idea of wearing the same shirt, the pant and the same shoes every day. Neither did I ever like the fact that my school offered us the same "boring" tiffin every late morning. Another thing that I really dislike about my school was that I had to face more "bullies" than I was perhaps ready to deal with.

**Q. How do you think your school could be improved? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Again, I liked my high school, for the most part, as it always tried its best to bring the "best" among us academically. But, it didn't exactly encourage us enough to take part in "extracurricular" activities such as creating a school debate team or culture clubs. So, my high school certainly would need some improvements on those fronts. Besides, little works on to fixing and repairing some of the old building structures (by the way, it was a really old high school) of the high school would also go a long way to improve the "looks and sights" of an otherwise great school.

## **Topic: Weekends**

Q. How do you usually spend your weekends? [Why?]

Q. Which is your favourite part of the weekend? [Why?]

Q. Do you think your weekends are long enough? [Why/Why not?]

Q. How important do you think it is to have free time on the weekends? [Why?]

**Q. How do you usually spend your weekends? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I usually spend my weekends by mostly doing the outdoors like enjoying swimming (on summer days), fishing and gardening. I enjoy these outdoor activities mainly because I spend too much of a time indoor at my work. Oh, by the way, I also like to go to my favourite restaurant with my friends in order to enjoy some “relaxing and fun” time. I enjoy doing all these outdoor activities because they make me strong, positive and rejuvenated to deal with “all-so-familiar-struggles” of our modern, tough and complicate world.

**Q. Which is your favourite part of the weekend? [Why?]**

**Answer:** My favourite part of the weekend is certainly the “morning” when I don’t have to worry about waking up early and getting ready quickly to get to work. Then, of course, I also like the part when I don’t really have to worry about going to bed “early” or staying up late at night. Even more special are the Friday nights when my mind is pretty much “occupied” with the very thoughts of enjoying a long weekend, waiting ahead of me.

**Q. Do you think your weekends are long enough? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, I do think that my weekends are long enough because it helps me to rejuvenate for the challenges of the next week by allowing me to do the things that I really enjoy. Of course, an extra weekend day would certainly be welcome by many people like me, but I don’t see it happening in the near future. So, essentially, whether our weekend is long enough or not depends on how we plan to spend the time.

**Q. How important do you think it is to have free time on the weekends? [Why?]**

**Answer:** There is no doubt that work is important, but so is the recreation, families and friends. But, without enough free time, be it on the weekends or some other times, we just won’t be able to “recharge” ourselves, nor will we be able to interact with our families and friends enough in order to show them that they really matter in our lives. Therefore, it is absolutely important that we have enough free time in order to ensure a “balanced” life so that not only we can succeed in our professional life but also in personal life

## **Topic: Music**

Q. What types of music do you like to listen to? [Why?]

Q. At what times of day do you like to listen to music? [Why?]

Q. Did you learn to play a musical instrument when you were a child? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Do you think all children should learn to play a musical instrument? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. What types of music do you like to listen to? [Why?]**

**Answer:** We all have our own taste and preferences when it comes to listening or liking a particular type of music. As for me, I like “soft rock” or mellow music as opposed to the hard rock or intense ones. Soft rock is a subgenre of light, melodic, radio-friendly pop (some would say “rock”) music which employs clean and a highly polished piano and/or acoustic guitar, aided

by some bouncy and harmonious bass guitar as well as the smooth and restrained use of electric guitar.

I listen to soft rock mainly because of its “ambience” as it creates a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere around me on a subconscious level and thus allowing me to be anywhere I like.

**Q. At what times of day do you like to listen to music? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I like to listen to my favourite soft rock at night before going to bed as its mellow and smooth sound, together with a slow rhythm, help me to get rid of the tiredness of a stressful day.

**Q. Did you learn to play a musical instrument when you were a child? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** No, I didn't learn to play any musical instrument when I was a child. I did, however, wanted to learn to play the guitar, but unfortunately, my parents were against it as it would, according to them, impact my studies negatively.

**Q. Do you think all children should learn to play a musical instrument? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Yes, I do really think all children should learn to play a musical instrument if they are interested in it. They should learn it because it requires good hand-eye coordination which is crucial to a child's healthy development. Children also need to read the music and then convert that in their brain to the physical part of playing the instrument which helps them develop not only good coordination but also fast thinking. In fact, studies have shown that learning to play an instrument can make a difference in a child's academic performance by helping him/her develop better listening skills.

**Topic: Dancing**

Q. Do you enjoy dancing? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Has anyone ever taught you to dance? [Why/Why not?]

Q. Tell me about any traditional dancing in your country.

Q. Tell me about some popular dancing in your country?

Q. Do you think that traditional dancing will be popular in the future? [Why/Why not?]

**Q. Do you enjoy dancing? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** I don't exactly dance primarily because I am not really good at it. But, please don't get me wrong as I don't have anything against “dancing”, and I do like to watch “dancing” but it is just that I never feel the “desire” myself or the passion to “shake” my body at the beat or sound of any music. I guess that it is just not in my “gene”. However, I do think that “dancing” is a “domain” which should be left only for the people who know how to dance.

**Q. Has anyone ever taught you to dance? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Nobody has ever taught me how to dance because I was never really interested in learning it and nobody in my family was a dancer.

**Q. Tell me about any traditional dancing in your country.**

**Answer:** Our country has a rich culture, because of its multi-cultural and multi-racial heritage,

with its fair share of traditional dance and music. Malaysia, sometimes referred to as ‘truly Asia’, has at least 15 different kinds of dances. However, the most popular type is called “Joget” which is a lively dance with an upbeat tempo. It is usually performed by couples who combine fast, graceful movements with playful humour, and it has its origins in Portuguese folk dance, which was introduced to Melaka during the era of the spice trade. Some of the other dances are also a bit more popular than the others, depending on which part of Malaysia you live in.

**Q. Tell me about some popular dancing in your country?**

**Answer:** In Malaysia, Chinese Lion Dance is very popular which is performed during the Chinese New Year festival. Dragon Dance, another popular dance type, is typically performed to usher in the Chinese New Year.

Besides, the Indian Bharata Natyam, a classical Indian dance, is famous in my country which is poetry in motion based on ancient Indian epics. Moreover, I can recall "Bhangra" which is lively folk music and dance form of the “Sikh” community. Then "Zapin" is a popular dance in Malaysia that has its root in Islamic tradition finally, "Bamboo Dance" is a highly popular and entertaining traditional dance in which two long bamboo poles are held horizontally above the ground at ankle-height and then they are clapped together to a high-tempo drumbeat.

**Q. Do you think that traditional dancing will be popular in the future? [Why/Why not?]**

**Answer:** Malaysia is a very diverse country with many traditions and heritage which have survived for centuries. Many traditional dances have also survived for centuries just as they exist today because we, Malaysians, always try to promote and practice them in every kind of celebration and social gatherings one way or another. Therefore, it is only natural to assume that traditional dance in Malaysia will become more and more popular in the coming days.

**Topic: Job**

- Q. Are you working or studying?
- Q. How long have you been working for this company?
- Q. What are your job responsibilities?
- Q. What do you like about work you do?
- Q. What do you want to change or improve in it?

**Q. Are you working or studying?**

**Answer:** I am currently working as a Manager at one of the leading chocolate manufacturing companies in my country.

**Q. How long have you been working for this company?**

**Answer:** I have been working for this company for almost 3 years in the same position. However, I have 6 years of professional experience in total.

**Q. What are your job responsibilities?**

**Answer:** I have varieties of responsibilities like developing a strong working relationship with internal & external partners, implementing and influencing the best practices within the 'Supply

Chain' department, facilitating the internal approval process for importing/exporting products raw materials, and working with third-party transportation groups, distribution centres and store operations team in order to forecast store delivery effectively and efficiently among other responsibilities.

**Q. What do you like about work you do?**

**Answer:** I like a number of things about my job, but it is the “challenge” that I really like about my job the most. In fact, I never have a “dull” moment at my job since I have been given the authority to “try” new things to improve the supply chain process of my company. Another thing that I really like about working at my company is that it makes me feel “important” since I am allowed to voice my concerns and opinions without any fear.

**Q. What do you want to change or improve in it?**

**Answer:** There are plenty of areas in my department which beg for improvements one way or another. But one thing that I would certainly like to improve is the overall knowledge of our "supply chain Executives" in order to keep them up to date with the relevant rules and regulations of storage, shipping and logistics since we are not only operating locally these days but also globally

**Topic: Travelling**

Q. Which city in the world you would like to visit? Why?

Q. What will you suggest to a tourist who will come to visit your country?

Q. Why travelling is important?

Q. Have you ever been to a foreign country?

Q. How do you compare the country you have visited with your own?

**Q. Which city in the world you would like to visit? Why?**

**Answer:** I would like to visit Brussels, which is the Capital of Belgium. This city is quite distinctive and after I saw a documentary about this city on the Discovery Channel, I made my mind to visit this city someday. The heart of the city has the ornate Grand-Place and many cafes and fast food shops inside the 17th-century guild houses. This city is the symbol of ancient prominence and the intricate Gothic Hôtel de Ville (town hall) with its distinctive bell tower is something worth visiting.

**Q. What will you suggest to a tourist who will come to visit your country?**

**Answer:** I would suggest any foreign tourist for visiting the National Museum first. This would be an excellent opportunity for him/ her to learn about our history and tradition. I would also advise this person to stay in the northern rural part of the country to observe some of the historically important sites of the 17th century. The "city centre" in the west part of our capital offers an excellent chance to observe the lively gathering of people from different areas. The main attraction of this place is actually the most popular coffee shops in our city and one of the best places to know about the people of our country. The Beach in the city of Graham is another attractive place this person should visit. The exotic food, the tranquillity of the nature and wild beauties of the birds and animals will surely amaze him/her.



**Q. Why travelling is important?**

**Answer:** Travelling is, in fact, a unique experience and a great source of firsthand knowledge. Travelling helps us to broaden our horizon of knowledge and deepen our understanding of the world, people and different cultures. Lessons learned from travelling to different places are proven to be quite effective in practical life. Knowledge gained from books is often theoretical in nature while travelling, gives us an excellent opportunity to learn about life, culture, history and geography. There is a quite interesting saying that represents the true significance of travelling "The more you will read the more will you learn. And the more you will learn the more places you would want to travel."

**Q. Have you ever been to a foreign country?**

**Answer:** Yes, I have been to several foreign countries including the UK, India, Malaysia, Spain and Nepal. Each country has its own tradition and infrastructures so they gave me a whole new experience as a visitor.

**Q. How do you compare the country you have visited with your own?**

**Answer:** Well, the countries I have visited are quite different from my home country in terms of people, their way of grooming, the language they use, the buildings, the history, the food and many other aspects. While my countries have very few skyscrapers and high rising buildings, the UK and Spain have plenty of them. The food and people's interactions in these countries were somewhat different. Finally, I am accustomed to all the aspects and ways of life in my home country while these were quite new for me in other countries.

**Topic: Birthday celebration**

Q. What is your date of birth?

Q. When was the last time you celebrated your birthday?

Q. Describe a birthday party you have attended?

Q. Do you celebrate your family members' birthday?

**Q. What is your date of birth?**

**Answer:** Well, I was born on September 20th in 1996. So every year, I celebrate my birthday on the 20th of September.

**Q. When was the last time you celebrated your birthday?**

**Answer:** I celebrated my birthday last year. My parents do not miss the opportunity to celebrate any of our birthdays! It was mostly a family celebration where a few of my relatives and friends were present.

**Q. Describe a birthday party you have attended?**

**Answer:** I went to the birthday party of one of my closest buddies a few months ago. Some other intimate friends were also invited to the party. A beautiful birthday cake was made marking the day. The dishes were delicious too. I gave a nice looking T-shirt and a small perfume bottle for my friend and he was happy with the gifts. He also received many other gifts on this day. We all enjoyed the party at the



rooftop of his residence. It was a memorable event indeed for all of us.

**Q. Do you celebrate your family members' birthday? [Why/why not?]**

**Answer:** Ummm... actually, my parents love to celebrate our birthdays and I love to have those happy events. I have three brothers and sisters and all of our birthdays are celebrated - sometimes at home and sometimes at restaurants. However, my parents avoid celebrating their own birthdays by all means. It was a perplexing issue for me as a child but now I realise why many adults do not like to celebrate their own birthdays.

**Topic: Humour**

1. What types of programmes do you find funny on TV?
2. What types of programmes are most popular in your country? Why do you think this is the case?
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?

**Q. What types of programmes do you find funny on TV?**

**Answer:** Personally, I do not watch TV that much though once this has been a great source of entertainment for me. On average, I watch TV for 5-10 hours a week. I find reality TV shows, comedy TV series and celebrity talk show quite funny and entertaining. TV series like 'How I met your mother', and 'The big bang theory' are very funny.

**Q. What types of programmes are most popular in your country? Why do you think this is the case?**

**Answer:** Talk shows, news, and TV series are very popular among TV viewers in my country. Based on a recent survey published online, talk shows and news analysis are rapidly gaining popularity. I believe that watching the news is quite popular in the whole world. It's easy to watch, provides updates around us, informs us about the current events and entertain us. Unlike other programmes, we can start watching a news programme anytime and we do not need to pay a great deal of attention to grab the information or the theme of it. Similarly, talk shows give us insights into an event and let us know what experts have to say about an event. Sometimes people with opposite opinions and views sit together and analyse something from their viewpoints. Those sorts of programmes are both entertaining and informative and I guess this is the main reasons people in my country watch these programmes more than other programmes.

**Q. What kind of things make you laugh? Why?**

**Answer:** I guess this is a tough question to answer as I had to think really hard to come with an answer to this question. I think a good sense of humour, a funny joke, a funny activity of a child, a comedy movie, a serious attitude of a child, an activity or a pet or a funny childhood or adolescent memory make me laugh. I love children, especially for their innocence. Sometimes the acts like adults and this is an enjoyable thing for most of the people. A good movie that has a funny storyline or funny characters makes me laugh as I seriously enjoy these types of movies. A

sense of humour, an enjoyable and funny joke is also very refreshing and helps me laugh for a while.

**Q. Do you like to make people laugh? How?**

**Answer:** Definitely, I love to make people laugh. But that does not mean that I act like a joker or a clown or I try to make others laugh all the time. I sometimes tell a funny joke or story which often make others laugh. Besides, I sometimes mimic someone and that makes my friends laugh. For instance, we had a very funny neighbour and whenever I act like him in front of my friends, they all find it very funny and they laugh quite loudly. I am not sure if I have an acute sense of humour but I believe that this is an important quality to make others enjoy someone's company and laugh a lot with his story and way of presenting a story or event.

**Q. Do you think it is important to have a sense of humour?**

**Answer:** As I have just said, a sense of humour is a great quality for anyone and it attracts others to become friends with the person who has a great sense of humour. Having a sense of humour is a great skill and this quality puts someone stands out of the crowd. A good sense of humour also represents someone's intelligence and wit.

**Topic: Countryside**

Q. Can you tell me your full name, please?

Q. What shall I call you?

Q. Tell me about the countryside outside your town/city.

Q. Would you like to live in the countryside or a metropolitan city in the future? [Why?]

Q. Why do some people move to a city from a rural area? Do you know someone who did so?

Q. Do you enjoy visiting large cities or small villages? [Why?]

**Q. Can you tell me your full name, please?**

**Answer:** Sure! My full name is Hoang Pham. People call me by "Hoang".

**Q. What shall I call you?**

**Answer:** Please call me "Hoang". Thank you.

**Q. Tell me about the countryside outside your town/city.**

**Answer:** I live in Hanoi, the bustling capital city of my country. But, our countryside, at least 60-70 kilometres outside of my city, is peaceful and has a very tranquil atmosphere, surrounded by amazingly refreshing landscape. You will also get to see shades of green, covering the entire landscape, as far as your eyes can see, so much so that you will not ever want to leave!

**Q. Would you like to live in the countryside or a metropolitan city in the future? [Why?]**

**Answer:** In the future, I would want to live in the countryside mainly because I love nature, and I like to stay close to Mother Nature. Besides, I firmly believe that living in the countryside is healthier than living in the city as it would allow me to breathe fresh air and drink fresh and uncontaminated water. Finally, I love the simplistic lifestyles that people in the countryside have.

**Q. Why do some people move to a city from a rural area? Do you know someone who did so?**

**Answer:** I would assume that some people move to a city from a rural area primarily because it allows them to have better income opportunities. Besides, some people would move to a city because they become attracted to the “flashy” city life in order to enjoy life more. Finally, some people would move to a city because of better educational opportunities. For example, I know of one of my distant cousins who moved to Hanoi to attend a good technical university a few years ago.

**Q. Do you enjoy visiting large cities or small villages? [Why?]**

**Answer:** I always enjoy visiting small villages, instead of large cities, mainly because small villages in my country don't have traffic problems. Besides, more often than not, people in the small villages are way friendlier and simpler than the people in large cities. Finally, of course, I enjoy visiting villages in my country, whether it is big or small because they are very beautiful with clear lakes and natural green

## **Speaking part-3**

### **Useful Expressions to use in IELTS Speaking part 3:**

#### **Giving opinion/ Expressing Opinion:**

In my opinion/ In my view...  
My view is that/ My point of view is that...  
I reckon/ I feel/ Personally speaking...  
As far as I am concerned...  
It seems to me that...  
Well, I would say...  
I would like to point out...  
If you want my opinion...  
The way I look it...  
As I see it...  
The point I am trying to make is...  
I think/believe that...  
I suppose/ presume/ would say...  
I think most people would agree that...  
I believe it is hard to deny that...  
I strongly believe that...  
I think none would deny that...

#### **Examples:**

1. In my opinion, we should encourage children to have more outdoor activities than playing computer games.
2. Personally speaking, the trend has changed to a great extent than that of our forefathers' era.
3. I would like to point out that having a part-time job is advantageous from various aspects.
4. The way I look it is a waste of time and resource which could have been better utilized in academic fields.
5. The point I am trying to make is that it is not entirely our fault.

#### **To repeat a statement/ Rephrasing:**

What I actually meant was...  
To express it another way...  
Another way to say it...  
Another way of saying it is...  
Let me put it this/another way...  
What I mean is...  
To rephrase what I have just said...  
What I want to say is...  
What I am trying to say is...

**Examples:**

1. What I actually meant was space research might be important but not more than feeding the hungry mouths.
2. To express it another way, parents have a far greater role to play.
3. Let me put it another way and express my strong agreement in support of the year gap for university students.
4. To rephrase what I have just said I believe that parents should spend more time with their children despite their busy schedule.
5. What I am trying to say is books are better than movies as it has a lasting impact on readers' mind.

**Giving an Example:**

Take ....., for example...  
A good example of this is...  
To give an example...  
I can give a relevant example here...  
Look at....., for instance.

**Examples:**

1. Take my country, for example, where most of the people still believe in strong family ties and support each other no matter what.
2. A good example of this is cricket fans who not only follow every single tournament of their favourite team, their own country in this case, but many of them appear on the stadium to cheer up and support the entire team.
3. To give an example, such professionals not only makes an extensive amount of money but also have a great influence on their fans.
4. Look at famous artefacts, for example in London that attracts a great number of tourists each year.

**Asking for help/ Asking to repeat something/ Asking for an explanation:**

I am not sure what you meant by (...)  
Could you please, say that in other words?  
Could you please, repeat the question?  
Do you mean.....?  
I am sorry. Could you please, repeat that?  
I beg your pardon...  
Could you please repeat that...?  
Could you please explain it to me in another way?  
I did not quite get that. Did you mean...?

**Examples:**

1. I beg your pardon, I could not catch the last sentence.
2. I did not quite get that. Did you mean what social changes occurred during the past two decades?

### **Agreeing with an opinion:**

I quite agree...  
I completely agree that...  
Yes, Indeed...  
I could not agree more...  
I entirely/totally agree with you on that...  
That's exactly how I see it...  
That's exactly what I think/ believe...  
Precisely/ Exactly/ Certainly/ Definitely...  
You are quite right about...  
You have just read my mind...  
Yes, that's obvious...

#### **Examples:**

1. I quite agree that music choice by the young generation is often considered tasteless by the senior citizens.
2. Yes, indeed, it is our responsibility to save the endangered species.
3. You are quite right about difficulties in adopting these changes but that's what the human race has always done.
4. You have just read my mind as I was considering the same example.
5. Yes, that's obvious and the way we are treating them is a shame.

### **Disagreeing with an opinion:**

I possess a different view...  
I must disagree with the view that...  
I am afraid I believe/ see it otherwise...  
This might be true in some context but...  
I am inclined to oppose the view that...  
I am afraid I disagree...  
Yes, perhaps, but...  
Well, it depends...  
I see what you mean, but this is not the whole story...  
Yes, but there is also another aspect to consider...  
I don't quite agree that...  
Well, that's one way to look at that, but...  
I am not quite so sure that...

#### **Examples:**

1. I am afraid I believe otherwise and feel that ordinary citizens like us have a much greater role here.
2. Yes, perhaps, but my experience has taught me that I should plan beforehand rather than ruining it.
3. Well, it depends, and from my personal experience, I can say that such activities are really helpful.
4. I am not quite so sure that I would contradict my parents on issues like that.

### **Self-correcting:**

I mean...  
Or, should I say...  
Or, rather...  
... would be more precise...

#### **Examples:**

1. Or should I say international movies have better quality than those of locally produced movies in such countries?
2. I mean we can implement the law but that should not be done too hastily.

### **Buying some time/ Stalling for time:**

That's an interesting/ difficult/ tough question...  
I have never really thought about it, but...  
I don't know much about it but...  
I have not given enough thought on that...  
Well, not sure where should I start...

#### **Examples:**

1. That's an interesting question and I would like to thank you for asking me this. I believe that waste recycling is not a choice but a mandatory task.
2. I don't know much about it but from my personal experience, I can say that we should focus on more pressing issues rather than wasting money on things that are yet to bring any positive output.
3. I have not given enough thought on that but I feel the trend is not a good one.

### **Commenting on your own ideas:**

I know this may sound obvious but...  
This may sound strange but...  
I am not sure if this is the correct example...  
Strange it may seem but...  
I am sorry to have to say this but...  
Though this is very sad, this is the reality...

#### **Examples:**

1. This may sound strange but who should we blame for the environmental degradation than ourselves?
2. I am sorry to have to say this but not all employers treat such employees with respects.



3. Though this is very sad, this is the reality that money and power exercise have made things worse.

### **Getting to the point:**

To get to the main point...  
Anyway, to get to the point...  
The main point I want to make is that...  
So, to turn to my original point...

### **Examples:**

1. To get to the main point, enhanced life expectancy is basically the result of advanced medical research.
2. So, to turn to my original point, rich nations should help such poor nations to maintain the world peace.

### **Expressing certainty:**

I am absolutely convinced that...  
There is no denying that...  
Nobody will deny that...  
It is a fact that...  
Undeniably

### **Examples:**

1. I am absolutely convinced that money may be important to purchase things but not to buy happiness.
2. It is a fact that many countries are struggling to fight corruption and citizens have a great role to play here.
3. Undeniably, education makes the difference and that's why the government has to increase its budget allocation for this sector.

### **Introducing other ideas/contrasting ideas:**

On the other hand...  
On the contrary...  
To look at it another way...  
Then again...  
From a different perspective...  
From a different point of view...

### **Examples:**

1. On the contrary, youngsters have fresh ideas and a much better understanding of the technology.

2. Then again, I think we should keep the CO2 emissions as low as possible.
3. From a different perspective, those tourists contribute a lot to the national economy.

### **Making a complaint or showing frustration about something:**

Can't something be done to/about...  
Forgive me for mentioning it, but...  
It really is terrible/ridiculous that...  
I wish someone did something about it...  
Something ought to be done about it...

#### **Examples:**

1. Forgive me for mentioning it, but people sometimes are careless enough to harm themselves.
2. It really is terrible that even after knowing the consequences, we are damaging the environment.
3. Something ought to be done about it and there could be no better time than right now!

### **To interrupt:**

Sorry to interrupt...  
If I may interrupt...

#### **Examples:**

1. Sorry to interrupt but I would like to say that I come from a city which has better facilities than the one you mentioned just now.
2. If I may interrupt, I would like to finish by saying that this is what most of the ordinary citizens believe about our legislative system.

### **Drawing the conclusion/ Ending a point/ discussion:**

In summary, I can say that...  
So, that's why I think that...  
Anyway, that's why...

#### **Examples:**

1. Anyway, that's why we are the supreme being and we should act accordingly.
2. In summary, I can say that we still have to monitor this closely before taking any whimsical decision.

### **IELTS Speaking Part 3 Topic: Family.**

1. Is family important in your country?
2. How has the size of the family changed in the last few decades in your country?
3. How do you think the family will change in the future?
4. What role do grandparents play in the family in your country?
5. Who do you think should be responsible for the care of the elderly, the family or the government?
6. Why is the number of joint families decreasing in modern time?

**Q. 1: Is family important in your country?**

**Answer:** Thank you for this question. Well, people in my country believe that family comes first and they put their family ahead of anything else. They would do anything for the family and I am proud that family bonding in my country is quite strong.

**Q. 2: How has the size of the family changed in the last few decades in your country?**

**Answer:** From my experience, I can say that my grandfather had an extended family and people at that time used to live together with close relatives. As far as I have heard, their forefathers also live in a joint family and the number of family members was sometimes more than twenty. However, the trend of living in an extended family has changed remarkably in cities where most of the families are nuclear in nature. The villages in my country still have large families who live together but the number is shrinking day by day.

**Q. 3: How do you think the family will change in the future?**

**Answer:** I believe more people will have a nuclear family and the size of the family will be small in the future. People do not like to have more than two children nowadays and who knows they will consider having one baby policy in the distant future. The very norm that a man gets married to a woman and have their own children to form a family is being challenged by the concept of same-sex marriage and this trend will increase in the future.

**Q. 4: What role do grandparents play in the family in your country?**

**Answer:** Grandparents in a family are like the pillars of virtue and they play an important role. They maintain a balance for the family by nurturing the old traditions and values and teach how to adhere to the roots. With the increasing number of both working parents, grandparents often look after the children. They often advise the rest of the family time to time regarding family matters as they have more experience and thus their advice often saves us from taking wrong decisions. From this sense, they act like reliable mentors.

**Q. 5: Who do you think should be responsible for the care of the elderly, the family or the government?**

**Answer:** I believe the family has the major responsibility to look after their elder family members and support them personally as they did in their youth age. These senior citizens have sacrificed a lot

throughout their lives to form a family and then to make them happy. The young members should do everything in their power to accompany their elder members and provide them with their necessities.

Having said that, the government has some responsibilities as well. These elder members were once taxpayers and thus they deserve healthcare, entertainment and other facilities from the state.

**Q. 6: Why is the number of joint families decreasing in modern time?**

**Answer:** I believe the city-centric life which is highly competitive and busy has diminished the concept of joint family and created the nuclear family. Besides the urban influence, ever increasing inflation, our affection towards a materialistic life and less inclination towards the traditions and values have ended up making our own nuclear family.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 Topic: Choosing work & Work-Life balance.**

**Q. 1. What kinds of jobs do young people not want to do in your country?**

**Answer:** Well, in my country, we have almost always had a big problem of unemployment among young people, and therefore, there aren't exactly too many jobs that they don't want to do. However, as far as I have found out, jobs like "outside sales", "medical representatives" and other "service-oriented" jobs, that require longer hours of work, are not looked upon very favourably by the young adults in my country. They don't also like "elementary teaching" job because they require a lot of patience (after all, teaching little kids can be really challenging).

**Q. 2. Who is best at advising young people about choosing a job: teachers or parents?**

**Answer:** In my humble opinion, teachers are best at advising young people about choosing a job primarily because they are usually the ones who work tirelessly at schools and colleges to unlock the potentials of young adults. Besides, through the continuous interaction with their students in classes, it is the teachers who are better positioned to identify the skills and expertise of the young people and thus being able to guide them to choose careers that are suitable for them.

**Q. 3. Is money always the most important thing when choosing a job?**

**Answer:** No, I don't really think that money is "always" ("always" is the keyword here) the most important thing, when choosing a job, primarily because money doesn't always buy "happiness" or the "job satisfaction" no matter how much of it, we really have. Besides, if I am being paid a lot of "money", but what I do as a "job" is not considered to be "important", then the chances are that I won't be able to perform to my full potential despite my best intention. Money is an important thing for us to do a job but I do not believe that it is the most important aspect of a job.

**Q. 4. Do you agree that many people nowadays are under pressure to work longer hours and take less holiday?**

**Answer:** Yes, many people are indeed under huge pressure nowadays to work longer hours and enjoy fewer holidays mainly because most of them are struggling to keep up with the soaring living expenses. Then, some people are under pressure to work extra hours also because they are simply being "exploited" by their employers. Then, there is another group of people who are

under pressure to work longer hours because they want to meet their additional demand for more comfort and luxuries of lives.

**Q. 5. What is the impact on society of people having a poor work-life balance?**

**Answer:** The impact of people, having a poor work-life balance, on society is multi-dimensional. In a society, where people are either working too much or sitting idle for too long, there won't be enough people to take responsibility in order to carry forward the nation to its full potentials. Working too much would without enough opportunity to relax with families and friends, the people in a society would go through mental depression which, in turn, would result in inefficiency and lesser productivity at works. On the other hands, if people in a society are "sitting idle" for too long, the entire society would be negatively affected by crimes and other anti-social activities.

**Q. 6. Could you recommend some effective strategies for governments and employers to ensure people have a good work-life balance?**

**Answer:** Governments and employers can do several things to ensure a good work-life balance for the employees. First, employers can offer "flexibility" with work schedules, whenever possible, so that the employees can have little time to spend with their families and friends in between the work hours. Employers can also allow some "unpaid time off" (not getting paid for the off days) so that their staffs can attend some fun and family events. As for the governments, they can create awareness among people by using different media outlets in order to highlight the benefits of a good work-life balance. Governments can also arrange for an "annual award" option for the companies/employers who actively work to promote "work-life" balance among their employees.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 Topic: Sports and competition.**

1. Why are some sports fans so passionate?
2. Is there any violence at sporting events in your country?
3. Should athletes be better role models?
4. What benefits do international sporting events bring?
5. Is it important for a country to win lots of medals?
6. The money professional sportsmen earn is significantly higher than that the earning of other professionals. Is it justified?

**Q. 1: Why are some sports fans so passionate?**

**Answer:** I believe some people love sports than other forms of entertainment and competition and they always follow their favourite sports on TV. 'Watching and playing sports' is their favourite leisure activity while many of those passionate fans once were players themselves and played the game in their youth. Growing up, they see their family, friends, and city go wild when a goal is scored or a game is won. So, it's natural to follow other's enthusiasm and cheer for their local teams. Such attachment often increases their love for sports. In my country, many youths are ardent fans of football and they have their favourite teams. When their favourite team plays, they take every opportunity to support them and sometimes go to the stadium to show their

support. Sportsmen are often idolized by youths and they love to follow their favourite sportsmen as enthusiastic followers.

**Q. 2: Is there any violence at sporting events in your country?**

**Answer:** Generally speaking, such violence is very rare in my country. However, a dispute among fans are quite common and most of the time they are verbal than physical. They often take social networking platforms and blogs to criticise their rivals. I can, however, recall a very unfortunate event that took place probably three or four years ago when the fans of two competing teams got agitated and three people died due to this incident while several others were critically injured. The security of the stadium has been revamped to address such unexpected events and hopefully, it wouldn't happen again.

**Q. 3. Should athletes be better role models?**

**Answer:** I believe most fans start adoring an athlete or a sportsman due to the spectacular performance he or she shows. Thus football magicians like Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi have several million fans and many of them started idolising them without knowing them personally. However, when these youths start following their favourite sportsmen or athletes, they sometimes follow them blindly. Thus considering the impact, famous sports personality should always try to lead exemplary lives as thousands of others mimic them. They are also famous and the media is always watching them. Any bad conduct can bring controversy to their fame and they should try to become better role models for youths as it is a social and moral responsibility for any celebrity.

**Q. 4. What benefits do international sporting events bring?**

**Answer:** International sporting events bring nations together and eliminate the tension and hostility among them. Such an event is highly popular and can be a great reason for people to enjoy the competition in the stadium. Thus such competitions foster tourism and help local businesses to flourish. Such prestigious events sometimes encourage young children all around the world to take some sort of sports. This is good for spreading the essence of sports globally and I think sports have economic, political and cultural impacts on society.

**Q. 5. Is it important for a country to win lots of medals?**

**Answer:** I believe every country wants to win as many trophies as possible since it represents how great a nation is in sports and athleticism. Being at the top of the medal list is often considered a great achievement but I personally believe that it is not absolutely necessary. Participating in international sporting events like the Olympic is often inspiring for many small nations. A few medals could be often satisfying and inspiring for them. The most important thing in international sporting competition is being able to perform and enjoy it, not the number of medals won. When athletes and sportsmen from all around the world gather at a common platform, they not only represent their own country but also the whole humanity and this is important for maintaining global peace and harmony.

**Q. 6. The money professional sportsmen earn is significantly higher than that the earning of other professionals. Is it justified?**

**Answer:** I think a very few fortunate sports celebrities earn a hefty amount of money while most others do not. Considering the training, dedication, challenge and sacrifice that are part of their

lives, the earning, in my opinion, is justified. We have to keep in mind that their career is short spanned and they earn because they perform really well. The payment to those celebrities is high because people buy tickets when they perform and different companies that earn millions of dollars each day want them as brand ambassadors. Since these payments are legit and transparent, I do not see any problem if they earn a lot.

### **IELTS Speaking Part 3 Topic: Historic Place.**

1. How do people in your country feel about protecting historic buildings?
2. Do you think an area can benefit from having an interesting historic place locally? In what way?
3. What do you think will happen to historic places or buildings in the future? Why?
4. How were you taught history when you were at school?
5. Are there other ways people can learn about history, apart from at school? How?
6. Do you think history will still be a school subject in the future? Why?

#### **Q. 1: How do people in your country feel about protecting historic buildings?**

**Answer:** I believe people from my country would want to protect and preserve important historic buildings except maybe a few who put business ahead of their morality and rational thinking. We had our moments when people spontaneously protested the plan to demolish such sites in the past. Due to a huge public backlash and outcry, the authority had been forced to abandon their plan to build multi-storied commercial buildings by smashing the old buildings that have historical significance. Thus citizens in my country are sensitive about protecting anything that has historical importance.

#### **Q. 2: Do you think an area can benefit from having an interesting historic place locally? In what way?**

**Answer:** Definitely an area with an interesting historic place can reap the benefits from different perspectives. First, such a place would attract a huge number of tourists and help grow different local businesses. Besides, such areas are strategically important for the local government and it can bring more development projects to the area. The government takes extra measures to protect such areas from natural disasters and thus get more attention. On top of that, the flourishing tourism of the area spreads the local custom and tradition to other parts of the country. Thus the development of such a region occurs faster than other areas.

#### **Q. 3. What do you think will happen to historic places or buildings in the future? Why?**

**Answer:** That is hard to tell and all would depend on the future generation. If they feel that such locations and buildings are worth preserving, the authority would take steps to protect them. Otherwise, many of them, which are less internationally known, would disappear and would be converted to ultramodern commercial buildings. Prominent sites, on the other hand, would be preserved as they will attract many international tourists. Some of them will be debilitated due to the lack of maintenance and a few new ones would emerge as historic places and buildings in the distant future. The main reason some of the historic places and building will disappear is that they are less popular and can't sell tickets to tourists. So the authority or the owner would like to



convert them for business purpose. The urbanisation, pollution and the need for more buildings for the increasing population are threats to such historic sites.

**Q. 4: How were you taught history when you were at school?**

**Answer:** Our teachers mainly taught us history from the textbooks and we were lucky to have a few amazing teachers who explained how history is important to understand the future. They often explained important events and characters from history and told us how these events and powerful men have shaped future events. We were required to study history books and watch documentaries made on real historical facts and those were not included in our syllabus. Thus we were able to learn more about history. Our school authority took us to different museums and historic sites, generally two to three times a year, and those excursions were our chances to explore more and witness the artefacts from the past. I can recall one particular occasion when we were taken to a war museum and we learned how wars that we hate so much had such profound impacts on our human society.

**Q. 5: Are there other ways people can learn about history, apart from at school? How?**

**Answer:** I believe reading about history and researching them online is the best way to learn more about it. What we learn about history in our school is just the beginning. To truly explore the past, we need to read a lot of books and the book choices should be based on the interests of the readers. The Internet is an amazing tool that can help us learn about our past and the interactive videos found on different websites are truly helpful. It offers us to dive deeper into history. Finally, travelling is an excellent way to learn about the world we live in and how this world was shaped by different civilisations. Someone who travels extensively learns about history faster and witness history instead of assuming them.

**Q. 6: Do you think history will still be a school subject in the future? Why?**

**Answer:** I believe history is not merely a collection of past events, stories of civilisations and powerful characters. It is rather a way to look at the future. Thus the importance of history in the future will increase and more students would be interested to learn about it than today. We are yet to comprehend the full potential of history and it is still frowned upon as a subject for weaker students. But in the future, we will realise how important it is for people to learn it for a prosperous future. So I do not see any reasons history will disappear from the school syllabus.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 Topic: Films/ Cinema.**

1. Do you think the cinema has increased or decreased in popularity in recent years?
2. In your opinion, will this trend continue in the future?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of making films of real-life events?
4. How important do you think it is for a filmmaker to remain true to the original story?
5. Should films and television be censored or should we be free to choose what we see?
6. How do you think censorship laws will change in the next 20 years?

**Q. 1: Do you think the cinema has increased or decreased in popularity in recent years?**

**Answer:** That's a bit complex issue as the answer might seem paradoxical. Well, I heartily believe that more people enjoy movies today than ever before but most of them do not go to a

movie theatre to enjoy a movie. Thus the cinema halls have lost their glorious days, especially in my country, but an increasing number of people make time to watch movies either on TVs or on their computers. Gone are the days when my parents used to take me to a movie theatre and that was once in a while. These days we enjoy more than 3-4 movies a week but do not go to a cinema hall at all. I believe the popularity of international movies, low-quality local movies and amenities to get great movie-viewing experience at home are the reasons for this shifting trend.

**Q. 2: In your opinion, will this trend continue in the future?**

**Answer:** Unless radical changes are brought to the cinema halls and restrictions are imposed on the way we stream and watch the latest movies at home, the trend will continue in the future. Movie theatres would lose their attractions further and technology would assist us to watch movies on demand at home. However, some people will still go to the cinema with friends and family to enjoy a movie on a day out.

**Q. 3: What are the advantages and disadvantages of making films of real-life events?**

**Answer:** Among the advantages, I assume, those movies have a ready-made plot, the storylines are already popular and the producer can think of characters easily. Such movies often win awards considering their historical values and are positively taken by the audience and critics.

However, there are some drawbacks in making such movies based on real-life events. First and foremost, people and critics scrutinise such movies more thoroughly and they are often subject to controversy. Secondly, the story is already known to people and the movie has to promise something more than its storyline. Furthermore, making such movies require a huge sum of money and they often end up poorly in the box office.

**Q. 4: How important do you think it is for a filmmaker to remain true to the original story?**

**Answer:** I believe true facts from history should be intact in a movie and every filmmaker should adhere to the truth as much as possible while making a movie based on a real-life event or a prominent historical figure. Otherwise, the film would end up receiving resentments and negative criticism from ordinary viewers as well as from movie critics. Sometimes, a filmmaker needs to add some surprises and twists to make such a movie more appealing but they can always do so by not distorting the main facts. We should keep in mind that children who watch such movies often take them as evidence of real events from history. So such movies should not misrepresent history and invite controversy.

**Q. 5: Should films and television be censored or should we be free to choose what we see?**

**Answer:** I believe some sort of censorship is required in the TV and film industry so that we can enjoy movies and watch TV programmes without embarrassments and getting offended. For instance, if I start watching a movie with my parents and the film has too many sensual and violent scenes, we would feel embarrassed. Since movies have a major impact on the viewers' mind, we should not allow too much violence, hatred and offensive scenes to be shown. However, I also believe that creative artists should be allowed to express their feelings and thoughts through these media. Hence, too much tight censorship, that we see in some countries, is not desirable as well. We, as adults, might often choose what we want to watch but we should always monitor what our youngsters are watching for their own good.

**Q. 6: How do you think censorship laws will change in the next 20 years?**

**Answer:** Well, that's a tough question to answer, but I will nevertheless try! In my opinion, after two decades or so, some first world countries, where censorship laws are too much flexible, would find themselves amending laws to make it more a bit rigid. While an opposite approach would be taken in developing countries to give more freedom to creative artists. All countries, in my opinion, will try to make a balance in censorship laws to make it more friendly and helpful to the viewers.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 Topic: Travel and transport.**

1. How easy is it to travel around your country?
2. Which method of travel do you consider safest? Why?
3. Has travel become safer in recent years than that was in the past?
4. What are the pros and cons of low-cost air travel?
5. How do you think people will travel in the future?
6. Should the government in a country focus more on rail transports or road transports? Why?

**Q. 1: How easy is it to travel around your country?**

**Answer:** We have a good number of public transportations including bullet trains, modern buses and aeroplanes and I would say someone can travel in my country very easily. Major cities in my country have airports and it makes commuters' life hassle-free. Since we have eight-lane highways and they are maintained periodically, someone can drive his/her own car to commute from one area to another smoothly. Besides, metro rails are convenient for city-dwellers to commute to and from their offices and citizens can take long-route trains to visit other districts and they are comparatively cheaper.

**Q. 2: Which method of travel do you consider safest? Why?**

**Answer:** Despite some common misconceptions, I believe airways are the safest means of transportation. We have frequent national and international flights and the service is really excellent. Aviation accidents are deadly and claim the lives of many, and such accidents often make headlines which gives an impression that air travel is nocuous. However, if we compare air casualties with that of road accidents, we can easily learn that air travel is the safest. Flying is the most secure way to get around in my country as flights are well-organised and the air traffic is controlled more efficiently by trained professionals.

**Q. 3: Has travel become safer in recent years than that was in the past?**

**Answer:** Some people would say that accidents and casualties are higher in modern time than in the past. But I believe that travelling in recent years has significantly improved and offers more convenience to commuters. We see more accidents these days because they all are being reported in the news unlike the past when we could hear about only major accidents. In recent days, we have more strict traffic rules, acute safety-measures including biometric checking, and modern transportations which are built considering safety in mind. Rigid airport rules make terrorist attacks almost impossible.

A typical train station in my country has more than 15 train schedules and they carry thousands

of passengers each day. Such a station used to have only three to four trains a day. If we consider the number of vehicles and commuters with that of the past, we would get a real picture of road safety, which I believe has advanced in recent days.

**Q. 4: What are the pros and cons of low-cost air travel?**

**Answer:** The major benefit of cheap air travel is that many people can afford to visit more places around the world and thus foster the tourism industry. More frequent travels by ordinary people make them tolerable to other cultures and it maintains global peace.

Among the demerits, increasing flights are responsible for air pollution. Cheap air travel attracts more passengers and thus they indirectly contribute to air pollution. Moreover, low-cost air tickets do not ensure desirable comfort and amenities which people often regret. Food and drinks in such a journey are unreasonably expensive and it often includes hidden fees and charges.

**Q. 5: How do you think people will travel in the future?**

**Answer:** That's an interesting question and I will be both realistic and imaginative to answer this. I believe people will prefer to take aeroplanes and speedy trains in the near future to travel to long-distance and flights will be cheaper to attract more passengers. Cars would be our constant companion and we would rely on our automobiles more than ever to travel within the city.

After 30 or 40 years, our cars would be able to fly short-distance and even run on the river, much like a science-fiction vehicle. After 50 years or so, we will have flying cars that will take us to our offices and the software instead of human will drive those cars. After a century later, we will have personal pods of SkyTran carrier that would use the airways rather than moving on a road. After a few centuries later, who knows, we might even teleport straight to our destination from our home!

**Q. 6: Should the government in a country focus more on rail transports or road transports? Why?**

**Answer:** I believe the decision should be made based on the geological condition, existing infrastructure, population and economic condition of the country. For instance, if a country has mostly hilly tracks and rivers, developing rail tracks is both challenging and expensive. For such countries, connecting highways and road transports are more practical and cost effective. Moreover, if the country does not have enough rail tracks already, it should focus on developing and enhancing roads rather than rails. Finally, countries with higher population should consider developing their railroads as it can carry a great number of people at a time. Whether to invest in road or rail transportation, thus, should be made based on a number of factors rather than a single one.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Universities.**

1. Is higher education too expensive in your country?
2. Should all students pay for their university education? Why?
3. What advantages do universities bring to the society? Is it the same in your country?

4. Which is more important, research or teaching? Why?
5. How should students spend their summer vacations? How do/did you spend it?
6. What are the advantages of private universities than public universities?

**Q. 1: Is higher education too expensive in your country?**

**Answer:** Universities in my country, that are run by the government, offer higher education for free. The cost to pursue higher education in such a university is much cheaper than that of private universities. However, the number of students seeking to enrol in post graduation courses is much higher than the actual number of seats offered by the state-run universities and colleges. As a result, many students mostly from affluent families, get admitted to private universities and pay a hefty tuition fee.

**Q. 2: Should all students pay for their university education? Why?**

**Answer:** I do not think that the university cost should be paid solely by the students and their guardians. Since the government allocate budget for the education sector and a major portion of it goes for higher education and research facilities, state-run universities must offer free education. On top of that, the government has a responsibility to spend the taxpayers' money in social welfare and free or cheap education should be a top priority.

**Q. 3: What advantages do universities bring to the society? Is it the same in your country?**

**Answer:** Universities are the lighthouse of society and they produce enlightened citizens who lead the country. Universities not only educate the youth and prepare them for their future but also carry on important research works that benefit the society as well as the country. For instance, many inventions and medicines that we are familiar with were actually the results of university projects and research. Thus universities serve both the society and the country in numerous ways that have a direct correlation with the overall development of a nation. I am proud to say that universities in my country also play the same role.

**Q. 4: Which is more important, research or teaching? Why?**

**Answer:** I think that's a tough question to answer. However, my personal opinion is that both are required. While proper teaching ensures that young students are getting the education they need to prepare themselves for future, research works, on the other hand, help solve practical problems and contribute to the advancement of the country. I also feel that more students, along with the teachers, should be involved in research works in our universities.

**Q. 5: How should students spend their summer vacations? How do/did you spend it?**

**Answer:** I personally feel that long vacations should be spent wisely. Since students have more than two months during their summer vacations, they should plan prior to the vacation to make the best out of it. They can travel for one to two weeks, get involved in some sort of paid job to gain some practical experience, enrol in skill development courses, study the subjects they find challenging and can do some voluntary works for the community they live in.

I usually plan well-ahead of the vacation and so far I have travelled extensively, done some part-time jobs, read many books, visited my grandparents and taken three skill development courses including a language course during my summer vacations in my college. Next year I am planning to visit Italy for a couple of weeks and take a graphic designing course.

**Q. 6: What are the advantages of private universities than public universities?**

**Answer:** From my personal experience I can say private universities are more disciplined and update their curriculum frequently to make the course more useful to the students. The study environment in a private university is often better as the authority does not allow politics or such activities there. Many private universities have better labs and research facilities which is an added advantage. Since they finish the course within the speculated timeframe, they help students avoid session jam and start their career early. Harvard, Yale, Stanford, MIT are a few of the world-renowned private universities which have maintained an excellent academic environment and research works and show how some private universities could indeed be better than many public universities.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 Topic: Reading Books.**

1. Do you generally read a lot of books or do you prefer watching TV? Why?
2. What kind of books are considered good reads in your opinion?
3. Do you think that people read nowadays as they did in the past?
4. Do you regard famous writers as good role models?
5. If a movie is based on a book, would you prefer to read the book or to watch the film? Why?
6. How our reading habit changes as we grow up? Why does it happen?

**Q. 1: Do you generally read a lot of books or do you prefer watching TV? Why?**

**Answer:** I prefer reading books over enjoying random programmes on television. However, that does not mean that I hate watching TV. I just feel that reading is a far better habit than watching TV. Every book gives us the opportunity to learn something new and the time spent on reading a book is more constructive. I can't say the same for the TV. We often watch TV to kill our time and end up surfing through channels rather than watching something meaningful.

**Q. 2: What kind of books are considered good reads in your opinion?**

**Answer:** I believe books that are suitable for a reader's age and does not contain any hate speech or offensive materials are a good choice. Generally speaking, if a book can grab readers' interest, makes them think, or helps them learn something new then it is a good read. For me, a captivating story and character development in it are always key indicators for a good read. However, I often enjoy books simply because they are educative and are based on real events.

**Q. 3: Do you think that people read nowadays as they did in the past?**

**Answer:** I believe we always had readers in our society and we still have who enjoys reading books more than any other activity. However, the way people read in the past has changed. We now have digital devices to read books and the Internet to download and read any book we like. These days the young generation seems more interested in technology than books but as I have said, we still have a good number of readers who use the technology to read books of their favourite writers. Online platforms also enable us to express ourselves about a writer and his/her books more openly.



**Q. 4: Do you regard famous writers as good role models?**

**Answer:** If we consider famous writers in general, they are better role models for us than many politicians, celebrities and athletes. However, we should follow them through their writings, their contribution to society and their good deeds, not the few who set bad examples in their personal life. Writers have always inspired us and they still do in numerous ways. So if we consider famous writers as our role models, we will have more to gain than to lose.

**Q. 5: If a movie is based on a book, would you prefer to read the book or to watch the film? Why?**

**Answer:** I would not mind both reading the book and watching the movie. However, my personal experience has taught me that books are better than movies in most of the cases. To many, watching a movie is more exciting, and interesting visual effects of the film make it more appealing. However, books can touch a reader more profoundly than the movie. While movies can bring whole worlds to life before our eyes, make characters into living, books ignite our imagination and take us to a world unknown to us and the journey allows us to feel every experience of the characters, thus leaving a lasting impression in our memory. So, I might skip watching a few good films based on books but would not want to miss those books.

**Q. 6: How our reading habit changes as we grow up? Why does it happen?**

**Answer:** As we grow up, we tend to read more and the reading habit is solely based on our interests than academic requirements. In our childhood, we are so innocent and thus a fairy tale can take us to a wonderful mythical world. We want to be like the hero or heroine who has magical powers to destroy the evil. This is however not the case when we grow up as our mind gets maturity and it requires more practical ingredients to be challenged and entertained. Thus in our adulthood, we want to be like a real-life hero who has no mysterious power but has sheer willpower and determination to face the challenges and change the world or at least change people around him. Our perspective to view the world around us changes as we grow up and so does our book choice.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 Topic: Media & News.**

1. How do most people get their news in your country?
2. How do you think people will get their news in the future?
3. Do you believe everything you read in the newspapers?
4. How has TV changed people's lives?
5. What do you think of children watching TV?
6. How has social media changed the way we get and share the news?

**Q. 1: How do most people get their news in your country?**

**Answer:** Thank you very much for this question. Most adults in my country rely on newspapers and television channels for news. However, a good number of office-goers also visit online news portals to find out the news updates and recent events. Young people heavily rely on online newspapers and their preferred social networking platform to get such news.



**Q. 2: How do you think people will get their news in the future?**

**Answer:** I think technology will change the way we will get and share news in the future. Most people will rely on their handheld devices, that are connected to the Internet, as the primary source of news and information. Traditional newspapers and news channels, on the other hand, will become less popular in the future because of the time lag between when something happens and when readers get the chance to read or view them. Since mobile devices can offer instant updates, they will be a powerful way of getting news updates. Listening to the preferred type of news by using small devices attached to our ears would become more popular and the type of news we would like to listen to shall be determined by our activities and interests.

**Q. 3: Do you believe everything you read in the newspapers?**

**Answer:** No, I do not believe everything newspapers publish for the public. That's why I read newspapers that are mainstream and have strong authority and authenticity. Thus I avoid reading most of the fabricated and fake news which are usually published in less authoritative and unreliable newspapers. I am also wary of politically biased and sourceless news articles that my friends or their friends share on Facebook and Twitter.

Sometimes the process of gathering news is done hastily and irresponsibly, which results in unreliable information even in the mainstream newspapers. In such cases, I try to verify the news from other reliable sources. In fact, the forged and made up news is all around us and without being watchful and experienced, we can't recognise lies hidden in plain sight.

**Q. 4: How has TV changed people's lives?**

**Answer:** If I am asked what is the single most influential invention that has changed people's lifestyle, my answer would be 'the television'. Television is a mandatory home appliance in all households in my country. It is a source of education, information, and entertainment for many. People watch TV to get news, weather updates, learn about foreign cultures, relax and even plan their next day based on information gained from the TV. They watch TV in the morning, evening and even before going to bed. TV programmes entertain them, keep them together in the drawing room and eliminate many elder's loneliness. TV stars have shaped fashion, TV advertisements have changed people's purchasing habits and quiz shows have made many young become more inquisitive. Personally, I believe that television helps to bring families and communities together.

However, this device has its dark side as well. State TV channels are often the tool for political propaganda, and people who watch TV too much often suffer from dangerous diseases like diabetes and obesity.

**Q. 5: What do you think of children watching TV?**

**Answer:** I think if children watch educative, entertaining and creative TV programmes then they can learn from it. However, their parents should monitor what their children watch on TV and for how long. Watching TV is beneficial for children in some ways as it helps them relax and become inquisitive. On top of that, some TV programs provide useful academic knowledge to children. But, if children watch TV all day long, it can harm them both physically and psychologically. Such children lose their interests in outdoor activities and become addicted to TV and video games.

**Q. 6: How has social media changed the way we get and share the news?**

**Answer:** Social media is an excellent tool that connects people and let us share updates, news and information with the people we care. It has made it possible not only to read the news but also to raise our voice and concern. Thus it has made a common platform for ordinary citizens to express themselves and their opinions about the world. Getting and sharing interesting news is easier than ever before.

However, people's tendency to share news without verifying authenticity has also made it chaotic. For instance, half of the news found on such social media is either fake or fabricated

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 Topic: Internet.**

1. Do most people have a computer at home in your country? What do most people use it for?
2. Do you think all the information on the internet is true?
3. How can people find reliable information on the internet?
4. How has the internet changed the way we live?
5. How has the internet changed the way we work?
6. Do you think the internet is safe for children to use unsupervised?

**Q. 1: Do most people have a computer at home in your country? What do most people use it for?**

**Answer:** Well, to answer this question, I should first mention that the ownership of computers is almost ten times higher in cities than that of villages in my country. Thus most of the families living in a city own at least a computer except for poor people while almost one in twelve families in rural areas have a computer or a laptop.

The activities on a computer vary based on the users' age group. For instance, children like to watch cartoons, draw pictures and play games on a computer while teenagers mostly use the Internet on a computer or laptop to use their favourite social networking websites, find information to complete their school assignments and for entertainment purposes. Adults often use a computer to connect to the internet, check emails, learn new software, create presentations, do online shopping and listen to their favourite music.

**Q. 2: Do you think all the information on the internet is true?**

**Answer:** I believe without an authentic source and credible publisher, we should be wary of information we see or find online. The Internet is an astonishing source of information but the fake news and fabricated information are all around there. Thus, I would not believe everything I see online except they are from an authoritative source. For instance, if I find a piece of information on a website like [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com), from the official government website or from a prominent and mainstream online newspaper, I would believe it. However, any news found on a social networking website like Facebook, or from a dubious website should always be verified before believing it to be true.

**Q. 3: How can people find reliable information on the internet?**

**Answer:** People have to rely on credible websites with many years of reputation, mainstream online newspapers that are famous, government websites and fact-finding sources to get authentic information. Anything found on social networking platforms should always be verified before sharing as these are often targeted by spammers and fake news producers.

Google Scholar is an excellent place to find academic papers which are real and to be sure if an image is fake or real someone can take advantages of Google image search feature. Popular encyclopedia offers real information and they could be trusted. Another excellent way to filter away the bogus news is to look for the author and publisher's credentials. Lastly, people should use their common sense. If an offer is too good to be true or if a story has so many unbelievable facts, people should check further to find out more about it.

**Q. 4: How has the internet changed the way we live?**

**Answer:** Honestly speaking, the Internet has revolutionised the way we live. Many of us can't believe how the people in the pre-internet era managed to do all their works at home or at the office! The Internet allows us to work more proficiently at home, work more productively at the office and let us communicate with anyone from the far distance of the world. We make video calls to be in touch with our loved ones, do online shopping, participate in meeting in another city and even drive our cars with the help of the Internet. With this technology, we have amazing access to information and they are just a few mouse clicks away. These days we even do banking online and the need to travel to long distance for ordinary tasks are no longer required. Thus the present era with the spectacular power and blessings of the Internet is truly remarkable.

However, there is a downside to this fabulous technology. Our overreliance on the internet has made us home-centric and we prefer to stay at home rather than going outside and socialising. This is detrimental for our social and personal life that we often fail to realise.

**Q. 5: How has the internet changed the way we work?**

**Answer:** The Internet has dramatically changed the way we work as well. A large number of people work from home nowadays and the Internet has created thousands of jobs for the new generation and this has been possible due to the widespread acceptance of this technology. The Internet allows us to save a huge amount of data and they are easily accessible at a later date. We use emails, video conferencing, project management software and blogs and these are essentials for an office these days. Without the Internet, we would still have to keep track of every calculation with the help of papers and pens and the mistakes would have been more frequent. Employees in most modern offices have computers to help them finish a task and learn new things.

**Q. 6: Do you think the internet is safe for children to use unsupervised?**

**Answer:** I believe, children should not be allowed to use the Internet without some sort of supervision from parents. The Internet is a great source of information and entertainment but it also contains harmful contents that could psychologically damage children and the predators often search for children to harm them. Thus parents should either enforce a rigid parental control on the browser and network level which would monitor online activities of children and

filter out bad contents or should be present physically when their children use the Internet. It is not to take away children's freedom but for their safety.

### **IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Art.**

1. Describe the general purpose of art. And say why do people enjoy art?
2. Do you think that art is as important as academic subjects when it comes to educating children?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of art education?
4. Why do you think some people enjoy looking at paintings and sculptures and others do not?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an artist?
6. Do you think that some people are naturally better artists than others?

#### **Q. 1. Describe the general purpose of art. And say why do people enjoy art?**

**Answer:** We, humans, are “unique” in our existence and experience. Therefore, it is only natural that we have our needs and expectation that are unique as well. But among those unique needs and expectation, that separates us from animals, enjoying art seems to be something that makes us “truly” unique as humans.

So, what is the general purpose of art? Well, the answer is, art helps us to look at ourselves little “closer” in a different light by explaining our desire and expectation in more details which otherwise wouldn’t be possible. With the help of art, we are able to communicate our social, political, cultural and spiritual ideas in a much more organized manner so that we feel “challenged” to rethink over the issues and the subjects that are affecting us and our surroundings on a daily basis.

We enjoy art because it stimulates our hearts and minds to appreciate our lives in a more positive light. We enjoy art also because it makes us feel “different” by combining our “unusual motifs” that weave their way into our “subconscious” (or the “hidden” us) and alter our mood so that we feel free to travel into a different realm.

#### **Q. 2. Do you think that art is as important as academic subjects when it comes to educating children?**

**Answer:** Pablo Picasso once said that “every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up”. Therefore, offering children the much-needed space to create, to explore and to express themselves through art is absolutely important so that a holistic approach to education can be ensured. However, the purpose of art as academic subjects is not, and should not be, taught just to produce some “world-class artists”, but to provide a means of exploring feelings and experiences and expressing them beautifully which “words”, that we use on a regular basis, can’t do alone. This is something that every child can experience and benefit from. In other words, the children should be able to find the true value of “art” in the process itself as well, not only in the “end product”.

#### **Q. 3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of art education?**

**Answer:** There are a number of advantages of art education. In fact, many studies suggest that art

education has many social and academic benefits to students as it promotes self-directed learning and sharpens creative problem-solving skills and critical thinking. The arts provide challenges for learners at all levels by connecting students with their own culture as well as with the rest of the world. Studies also suggest that Integrating art education with other disciplines helps reach the students who otherwise wouldn't feel "engaged" and interested in class works.

However, there are some disadvantages to art education as well. Learning art can be time-consuming and sometimes can take "decade" to succeed in the "business" of art. Another major disadvantage of art is, people, in general, don't exactly understand the idea of "art", and therefore, don't exactly learn to "appreciate" art, whether it is drama, painting, or music, which can be really depressing and demotivating for the aspiring artists.

**Q. 4. Why do you think some people enjoy looking at paintings and sculptures and others do not?**

**Answer:** The fact, that some people enjoy looking at paintings and sculptures while others don't, can be attributed primarily, in my opinion, to how much "art education" one has received. Besides, this is also an issue of "sensibility" and how emotionally we get triggered by certain artworks. In fact, there is a theory which explains that because colours, shapes, sounds and thoughts are all waves form, and the more we are sensitive to these kinds of waves, the better we can understand an emotional message, considering that a piece of painting or sculpture essentially is an expression of an emotion, or transmit it. Besides, another "theory" suggests that most "visually intelligent" people love art while people who cannot concentrate upon a single detail for more than 10 seconds cannot enjoy art.

**Q. 5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an artist?**

**Answer:** On a metaphysical level, an advantage of being an artist is that he/she has a heightened sensitivity to the surroundings and being able to nurture it with a childlike playfulness towards experiences throughout the entire life by having the satisfaction by creating something "beautiful and special". But on a practical level, being an artist allows one to become his or her own "boss" without having to worry about 'satisfying' others.

However, one of the major disadvantages of being an artist is that he/she is not financially solvent most of the times, and he/she has to rely on some other sources of income to survive. And, as a result, an artist has no or a very limited social life. Another disadvantage of being an artist is most people don't take "art" as an actual "profession" which can be equally demoralizing and frustrating for a person with a sense of "self-respect".

**Q. 6. Do you think that some people are naturally better artists than others?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do think that some people are naturally better artists than others, just like somebody is better in science and mathematics academically, primarily because of their genetic structure and disposition towards "creativity". In fact, it is my opinion that it is the "genetic disposition" of some children who spent much of their time in their childhood by engaging in creative activity, whether it was drawing or singing, or whatever that they enjoyed, in order to develop their skills from the early years of their lives in the process of play.

Of course, some people would choose to argue that it is their “passion” that drives them to become “better” artists. But, even if I agree with them to some extent just for the “sake of debate”, I would still argue that if it is not for their “natural inclination or disposition”, they wouldn’t be able to turn themselves into some “better” artists.

### **IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Eating habits.**

1. Tell me about the types of food that people eat in your country.
2. How are the eating habits now in your country different from eating habits in the past?
3. How healthy is your country’s food?
4. Why do you think different cultures have different table manners?
5. How may eating habits change in coming decades?
6. What one aspect of a foreign tradition you like about their eating habits? Why?

#### **Q. 1. Tell me about the types of food that people eat in your country.**

**Answer:** I guess that it is fair to say we all love to eat, but what we eat largely depends on where we live, and what kinds of foods are available there to consume. For example, where I live, our main foods are steam rice and curries- curries that are made with vegetables, meats and fishes by mixing them with varieties of spices in proper measures. We also eat a lot of “bread” in combination with curries or some sweets that we like.

Of course, the food, which I just mentioned above, are regular day foods for regular occasions. When there is a special occasion, we cook foods like “chicken biriyani” or “mutton biriyani” by mixing a certain kind of long grain rice, such as basmati with a great aromatic flavor, with meats of our choice while adding a mixture of freshly-ground spices in it in order to make the dish even more delicious. Then, there are of course fast foods which we also enjoy eating on a limited scale.

#### **Q. 2. How are the eating habits now in your country different from eating habits in the past?**

**Answer:** Traditionally, in the past, people in my country relied heavily on home-cooked food, such as steam rice, curry and bread along with local fruits and vegetables. But, in the last couple of decades, we have seen that some “not-so” traditional food items (of course, in the context of my country’s food habits) such as pasta, pizza, French fries, burgers and sandwiches, mostly cooked and served at restaurants and fast food places, have also made their ways into the menu of our regular foods. As a result, we are becoming more and more “reliant”, especially in the big cities, on fast food instead of home-cooked food which has ruled our appetite for hundreds of years. We are even ordering for “home delivery” which was almost impossible to imagine even a decade ago!

#### **Q. 3. How healthy is your country’s food?**

**Answer:** There are some people in the world who eat food “purely” because of their nutritional values while there are the others who choose to eat their food primarily because of their “awesome taste” and then for their nutritional values secondarily. For better or worse, we fall into the category of “food lovers” we eat foods primarily because of their “awesome taste”, but luckily the type of foods, which we choose to consume in our country, are not any lesser healthy.



In fact, the only reason, for which I would say that our food are not always as “healthy” as we would prefer them to be, is that people in my country, in general, like to eat a bit too much spices in their foods purely because of “additional taste and flavor”. But, other than that, I am pretty confident that food in my country is pretty healthy because we boil them and cook them properly.

**Q. 4. Why do you think different cultures have different table manners?**

**Answer:** People from different parts of the world with different cultures choose to eat different kinds of food, and therefore, it is only natural that their table manners would be different. For Example, the people in China, Japan and much of East Asia relies heavily on wooden or bamboo-made chopsticks to eat their food, especially rice. And they chose chopsticks because of Confucius who believed that sharp utensils like knives would remind eaters of the gruesome way the meat finally made their way into the bowl.

Chopsticks, on the other hand, had dull ends, thus sparing their users from images of the slaughterhouse. But, the very knives, which got rejected by the people in East Asia on the ground it would remind the “gruesome” image of the slaughterhouse, became the symbol of “aristocracy” at the dinner table in the medieval Europe probably because they were and still are used to eating meats and fishes that are usually cut into rather “large pieces” instead of small ones.

In the same way, people in the Arab world, including Iran, and some parts of Africa like to eat by making themselves comfortable on the floors, while eating at homes, in order to uphold one of the many traditions of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon Him). This “sitting habit” is practised also because people would feel that their stomach is getting full by eating much less than they would normally like to eat, which is actually in a way healthier than eating on a table.

**Q. 5. How may eating habits change in coming decades?**

**Answer:** I firmly believe that with “globalization” at such a rapid pace, people will actually forget about the “idea” eating traditional food as we all will start preparing and enjoying all kinds of food from different parts of the world. In fact, I wouldn’t be surprised if we see that each and every country in this world is organizing some kinds of international food festivals or international cooking competition in the coming decades in order to encourage their citizens to change their food habits so that they don’t have to rely only one certain kind of food to “survive” when there is a “famine” or “drought”.

Besides, I also wouldn’t be surprised if most of the people in different parts of the world stop cooking at home completely because of making fast food available at a very affordable price. However, at the same time, I wouldn’t also be surprised if we see “obesity” becoming an epidemic problem or disease all over the world.

**Q. 6. What one aspect of a foreign tradition you like about their eating habits? Why?**

**Answer:** I like pretty much all the traditions with regards to eating habits of all countries and cultures as they all help me to understand and appreciate the “diversities” in our world in a better



way. But one particular tradition, which I really like, is the habit of eating fishes by the Japanese people. In fact, fish is featured so much prominently on the Japanese food menu that the average Japanese person consumes more than 154 pounds annually - or about a half pound a day!

The Japanese are so “mad” about eating fish that they collectively consume 12% of the world’s fish while accounting for only 2% of the global population. I like this particular habit because the health benefits of eating fish are just too many to count, and I also happen to enjoy eating fish too much! Besides, who doesn’t know that fresh, cured, smoked, or salted, fish, loaded with vitamin A and omega-3 fatty acids, help to protect against various types of cancer!

### **IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: [Work](#).**

1. Do you think job satisfaction is more important than salary when choosing a job?
2. What skills do you think are needed to get a good job these days?
3. Do you think women should be able to do all the same jobs that men do?
4. How has technology changed the way we work?
5. What is the difference between white collar and blue collar jobs?
6. What jobs do you think are most valuable to society?

#### **Q. 1. Do you think job satisfaction is more important than salary when choosing a job?**

**Answer:** When it comes to seeking satisfaction from work, the basic philosophy is pretty simple - get a job that you love and work your way up to earning a lot. But, unfortunately, life isn’t really that simple, especially, when options are rather limited and the choices vary greatly from person to person.

I would say that salary is more important to many than their job “satisfaction” from where they see the life as the more money they have, the better they will be able to take care of their “needs”. But to me, job satisfaction is far more important than the money I will earn from my job.

#### **Q. 2. What skills do you think are needed to get a good job these days?**

**Answer:** In the past, we could get good jobs if we have a good degree or certification and a good result. But, these days, things are a bit tricky when it comes to landing on a good job as just a good degree and good result are not enough. We need to have some “soft skills” also, such as great people and communication skills, planning and organizing skills, good team works, problem-solving skills and great time management skills. On top of that, we also need to be “connected” to a network of professionals in the same fields in which we are looking for jobs.

Finally, knowledge and skills in technology, especially in computer and internet, are also important these days to get a good job.

**Q. 3. Do you think women should be able to do all the same jobs that men do?**

**Answer 1:** This is a difficult issue to deal with. However, I will be completely honest in my opinion. I don't necessarily think that women should be able to do the same jobs that men do primarily because of their different job expectation, physical built and safety issues from a job.

Women shouldn't be really doing works like operating drilling machine to make holes in the streets nor they should be working in military engineering core to build a bridge overnight. Women should also not be doing jobs that require them to do some "heavy lifting" or climbing up to an electric power plant. In fact, I would dare to say that women were not created to do everything that men can do but rather, women were created to do everything that men are not able to do.

**Answer 2:** There is no doubt that women are just as much capable as men in doing many jobs, and perhaps sometimes better in some jobs, which are not really that physically demanding and does not pose threat to women. So I would say a female can do any job that a man can do. But I also believe that just because women are equally adept to do some jobs that men can do, they should not take up any jobs especially if the job environment is not safe for them.

**Q. 4. How has technology changed the way we work?**

**Answer:** Technology has changed the way we work by improving things at our workplaces so much so that it will be literally impossible to work without the help of technology these days. If we go to talk about communication at our workplaces, we will see how communication among the employees or management to subordinates or management to management has become fast, instantaneous, collaborative, and more unified because of technology.

Because of using computer system like project management software, our businesses and workplaces are way more organized than before as it helps in building, delegating, reviewing, and assessing a task much more efficiently and thus helping in keeping everything on track. Businesses, big and small alike, are now able to use science and math more than ever before, because of using technology, to determine what their customers want, when in the past, they did this mostly on a "hunch". There are so many other examples like these.

**Q. 5. What is the difference between white collar and blue collar jobs?**

**Answer:** In an organization, there are hundreds of people who are distinguished by the colour of the dress they worn, and the colours of the uniform specify the "type" of jobs performed by the workers in that organization. Blue collar jobs in an organization are the jobs which are taken care of by manual labourers who get an hourly or daily wage, based on the performance of their works. Blue collar jobs do not require very higher education. However, a worker should be skilled enough in a specialized field to perform the tasks in an efficient manner. The jobs may include manufacturing, mining, construction, repairs and maintenance, installation of machinery and so on.

On the other hands, the white collar jobs, wherein the employee does clerical works in an office,

without getting their clothes “dirty”, and draws a monthly salary at a fixed rate. White collar workers usually have a higher degree or certification.

The difference between blue collar and white collar jobs is fading away with the passage of time due to the low pay scale of the white collar jobs and high demand for skilled labourers.

**Q. 6. What jobs do you think are most valuable to society?**

**Answer:** In my opinion, this is a very “subjective” question because the answer pretty much depends on the individual needs and preference of a person. In a society, where an engineer or medical doctor is highly valued, it won’t exactly be able to understand and appreciate the value of a “trash collector”. Similarly, in a society, where agricultural works are highly valued, it won’t exactly very much for the profession of a “teacher”. However, if I must name jobs that are most valuable to society, then I would go for “farming” and “medical doctor” because both jobs save lives. Farmers save our lives by producing food so that we can eat while a medical doctor saves our lives by diagnosing the disease and prescribing medicines for us when our lives are in danger.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Transport.**

1. How do most people travel long distances in your country?
2. Have the types of transport people use changed much over the last few decades?
3. What kind of improvement have there been in transport in your country in recent years?
4. Do you think transport is likely to continue to improve in the future?
5. Do you think most people should use public transports? Why/ why not?
6. Why some countries impose higher taxes on car ownership? How is the scenario in your country?

**Q. 1. How do most people travel long distances in your country?**

**Answer:** In Bangladesh, where I live, most people use either buses or trains when travelling a long distance. Bangladesh has about more than 21,000 kilometres of road, crisscrossed all over the country while about 3000 kilometres of railway. In the year 2017, almost 75 million passengers travelled by rail. However, there is a very tiny percentage of wealthy people who have started to travel by domestic aeroplanes as well. In the past, water transports were highly used throughout the country but in recent days, the use is restricted to villages only.

**Q. 2. Have the types of transport people use changed much over the last few decades?**

**Answer:** As a developing nation, Bangladesh still is heavily reliant on affordable public transports, but over the last few decades, the country has gradually started to prefer a bit expensive private transports, such private cars, private minivans and private commercial buses, over the public transports because of their “easy” availability. This change has taken place, of course, because of the steady economic growth in the country over the last few decades. Another significant change, which my country has witnessed in the last few decades, is that the number of motorbikes has skyrocketed (because of their availability and affordability) as more and more people are relying on these two-wheeled vehicles in order to travel short distance rather easily and conveniently.

**Q. 3. What kind of improvement have there been in transport in your country in recent years?**

**Answer:** In recent years, the road and transportation system in Bangladesh has significantly improved as more wide highways and roads have been built to facilitate the transportation a greater number of vehicles from one part of the country to another. Major bridges over the large rivers, connecting one part of the country to another, and elevated expressways have also been built in order to significantly reduce the travel time and length.

As for the improvements in vehicles, more and more luxurious buses and trains with air conditioning systems have been added, both in private and public sectors, in order to ensure the comfort and luxury for the passengers recently. The number of domestic flights of aeroplanes has also increased significantly over the last few years as more and more passengers are becoming interested in using aerial routes.

**Q. 4. Do you think transport is likely to continue to improve in the future?**

**Answer:** Yes, I have every reason to believe that the improvement in our transportation sector will continue to improve in the future as the country is well on course to become a middle-income developed country in the next decade or so. Besides, with the ever-increasing economic and development activities in the country, Bangladesh has no choice but to develop its road infrastructures and overall transportation system sooner rather than later. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if I see that a significant number of people are taking the aerial routes to travel from one part of the country into another in the near future in order to save time.

**Q. 5. Do you think most people should use public transports? Why/ why not?**

**Answer:** Yes, I think that most people should use public transports, depending on their availability, as they seem to be more affordable and more reliable in most cases. Besides, in a developing nation like Bangladesh, allowing private citizens to dominate a particular service sector almost inevitably will pave the way for "abuse" and "exploitation" of the existing system in order to "reap off" the citizens financially. On top of that, with more and more people using public transportation systems, the country will be able to put a "cap" on the "indiscriminate use" of private transports, even when not needed, in order to prevent the roads and streets from getting over-crowded. And, as a result of this, we will be able to keep a "cap" on air pollution as well in our country.

**Q. 6. Why some countries impose higher taxes on car ownership? How is the scenario in your country?**

**Answer:** The primary reason to impose hefty taxes on car ownership is to discourage citizens from buying and using more and more private cars and to curb air pollution.

The scenario in my country is not much different when it comes to imposing higher taxes on car ownership. In fact, over the last decade, the number of private cars has increased to such extent that the government has been forced to put a tax on the ownership of a new car as high as 300% of the purchasing price in some cases!

This kind of high taxes is only natural in countries where there are a huge number of travellers with significantly limited road infrastructures as this is how the government of a country tries to

limit the number of private cars on the streets. This should be also a familiar scenario in countries where there are risks of higher air pollution than its normal danger level.

### **IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Famous Person.**

1. Do you think that famous people are generally happier than ordinary people?
2. What qualities does a person need to have in order to be famous?
3. Is it easier or more difficult to achieve fame today than in your grandparents' time?
4. Describe the ways that famous people influence the public.
5. Do you think more is expected from famous people than ordinary citizens?
6. What types of people become famous in your country? Do you want to be famous?

#### **Q. 1. Do you think that famous people are generally happier than ordinary people?**

**Answer:** The problem with the definition of “happiness” is that it just has no common definition and meaning that is accepted by all. In fact, every individual chooses to define happiness in his/her own unique way the way he/she deems it.

So, are the famous people are generally happier than ordinary people? Well, I would venture to say that being “famous” has nothing to do with being “happier” simply because “happiness” is nothing but just a state of mind. Of course, famous people are usually more satisfied than the average people because their “needs and wants” are easily met at their wills. But, unfortunately, we tend to confuse ‘satisfaction’ with ‘happiness’. However, does that necessarily mean that famous people can’t be happier than ordinary people? Well, the answer is, of course, they can be, but it will be so not because they are “famous”, but because they just “choose” to remain happy with or without having the “satisfaction” in life just like the “ordinary” people.

#### **Q. 2. What qualities does a person need to have in order to be famous?**

**Answer:** Becoming a famous and “successful” person is not really easy. But, a person can become famous in his/her own right by winning against all the challenges and battles, thrown at him or her, because of carrying certain qualities in his or her life. And, some of these qualities are 'passion, persistence (or patience), hard works, positive attitude, self-reliance, self-confidence, integrity and rock-strong willpower'. Of course, a person also needs to have his or her fair share of “luck” as well in order to become famous. But, of all these qualities, I would say that “patience” may prove out to be the most important and decisive factor in attaining the “fame” as one may need to wait a long time to achieve it. However, it is worth mentioning here that if a person’s sole intention is to become “famous” by hook or by crook, without necessarily understanding the “value” of it, the “success” will probably be a very “short-lived” matter for him or her at the end of the day.

#### **Q. 3. Is it easier or more difficult to achieve fame today than in your grandparents' time?**

**Answer:** Yes, for better or worse, it is easier, generally speaking, to “achieve” fame today than in our grandparents' time primarily because today people have more scopes and opportunities at their disposal to advertise themselves on different kinds of media channels due to the technological advancements. Besides, we also seem to have “compromised” a lot with the traditional social and cultural values in becoming famous. In fact, it looks like the more one can

behave “out of the box”, the easier it gets for him or her to be famous. I have a friend who has more than 80 thousand YouTube followers and he is kind of famous in his community. It was unheard of during my grandparents' era, thanks to the technological advancement we have in our modern days.

**Q. 4. Describe the ways that famous people influence the public.**

**Answer:** Famous people, be them in sports, politics, cinema, business or whatever, can influence and inspire people with their talent, hard work, sincerity and styles. Sometimes, the way famous people lead personal lives, handle problems and relationships, they can actually set examples for the general public. But, the problem is, sometimes, people tend to forget about their own responsibilities as they may not be able to accept the mistakes of their favourite famous person(s). Sometimes, they even try to justify not only the mistakes of their favourite famous persons but also their own, which can actually be misleading for the rest of the general public.

**Q. 5. Do you think more is expected from famous people than ordinary citizens?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do think that more is expected from famous people than ordinary citizens as being famous usually mean that they have more “power” and “influence” to accomplish good things economically, socially and culturally in order to help the average people with no or very limited “power”. Famous people also have the power to communicate or to reach a large segment of ordinary citizens as they are the leaders to their followers more often than not. Therefore, it is only natural for the ordinary citizen to expect that famous people must have a good sense of responsibility to guide their followers towards a better life.

**Q. 6. What types of people become famous in your country? Do you want to be famous?**

**Answer:** People, who work in the film industry and play sports, usually become famous in my country rather quickly. And politicians don't really lag very far behind them either. However, the difference is, in my opinion, the famous people in the film industry and sports are “famous” because most of the average citizens genuinely like them because of their creativities and performance while people “like” the famous politicians out of “fear”.

Yes, I would like to be famous one day, but I am certainly not looking to be famous “overnight” as many of the “so-called” famous people these days who have pretty much changed the “rules of the game” for worse.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: [Holiday](#).**

1. Why do you think people go on holiday?
2. How important is it for families to go on holiday together?
3. Why do some people go on holiday alone?
4. What kind of holidays will be popular in the future?
5. Is it better to take a holiday in your own country or in a foreign country? Why?
6. What problems can people have on holiday in a foreign country?

**Q. 1. Why do you think people go on holiday?**

**Answer:** Life is too short to spend in doing the same things over and over again for all of our



lives and become “bored” to death. The only way we can get rid of this “boredom” is to do something different from time to time, and there just seems to be no better way of doing this than going on holidays. So, people go on holidays to enjoy their lives a little and have some fun as it helps them to reduce their stress and increase the level of immunity. In fact, some reports suggest that people, who do not take vacations, have a 21% higher risk of death from all causes. When you go on holidays, you become more positive about your life and surroundings around you as you get exposed to new environments, different human behaviours, cultures and diverse ways of doing things. In other words, going on holidays serve for you as an unstructured education for you where you absorb “treasures of lessons” which is not possible to gain otherwise.

**Q. 2. How important is it for families to go on holiday together?**

**Answer:** It is absolutely important for families to go on holidays together because when working or doing something, we tend to compromise on our relationships, especially within our families. In fact, as “work deadlines” take priority in our lives, we usually miss out on family gatherings and regular bonding opportunities. Now, if we wait for our retirements to compensate for our lost time and opportunities, we will have to wait for a long, long time.

But, luckily we can make up for those lost time and opportunities by going on holidays with our families together by carefully planning them whenever we get an opportunity. In other words, we should never underestimate the power of holidays as a very good way to create an even stronger bond with our families even if it means to spend an hour enjoying a family meal together.

**Q. 3. Why do some people go on holiday alone?**

**Answer:** Some people go on holiday mainly because travelling alone can be an incredibly liberating experience with the freedom to do exactly what you want to do, when you want to do, and how exactly you want to do. If you go on holiday alone, there will be no arguments, no compromises and no worrying about which place to visit and what foods to eat. Some people also prefer to go solo because they just don’t like to put up with some “annoying” habits of their fellow travellers.

**Q. 4. What kind of holidays will be popular in the future?**

**Answer:** We can debate all we want on what kind of holidays will be popular in the future, but one thing is for sure that some are going to be real “hi-tech” and much more “luxurious” than what it is in the present days. Interestingly, the popular UK newspaper, The Guardian, published a news article in 2014 on what kind of holidays would be popular in the future (in 2024, to be precise) in which it predicted that travellers will “have no need to encounter a single human being” from the moment they check into the hotel to the moment when they check out! In other words, robots will do the job. In fact, hotel rooms will be transformed into digital, hyper-interactive spaces in which even the pillows will be “embedded” with electronic device(s) to massage your neck and wake you up in the morning! Now, if that wasn’t enough surprising for you, please wait till you read what else the newspaper had to say! Anyway, it went on saying that “the walls will display high definition images of your friends and family, hologram personal trainers will hang out with you and the shower will use sound technology to “agitate” dirt from your body, using a traffic light system to indicate when you’re clean enough to get out.” Sounds pretty cool! Doesn’t it!



**Q. 5. Is it better to take a holiday in your own country or in a foreign country? Why?**

**Answer:** I would say that I would prefer to take a holiday in my own country since my country has pretty much everything from blue and beautiful oceans to mountains and from snow to plenty of green spaces and plenty of unique architectures. In fact, my country is among the top 10 visited countries in the world with more than 30 million travellers visiting it every year. So, I would rather be interested to see my own beautiful country than some distant foreign lands. Besides, I would certainly feel more comfortable and secured when having holidays in my own country. On top of that, I haven't also travelled to most areas and locations in my own country since it has a rather large area. So, if I visit some of those locations, the chances are I will get to see something very unique right here in my own country without ever needing to see them in another country. Of course, I have nothing against visiting another country, but, given what I already have in my country, I would always prefer my own country as a popular holiday destination over others.

**Q. 6. What problems can people have on holiday in a foreign country?**

**Answer:** People can have a number of problems, especially if they don't know the language of the locals, when enjoying a holiday in a foreign country. For example, you may lose your important stuff, or you yourself might get lost in the process of travelling from one place to another, and you would be in real trouble if you couldn't communicate your problems properly to the locals. You would also have trouble getting used to the food of a foreign land no matter how "exotic" and delicious they may sound. However, the biggest problem of having holidays in a foreign country would be getting really sick. With no family or close friends (considering that you are travelling alone) and no proper health insurance policy, your life could be in real danger in a foreign country if you were ever to fall sick.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Technology.**

1. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of modern technology.
2. In what ways has technology changed your society?
3. How has technology changed the way we communicate?
4. How has technology changed the nature of long-distance relationships?
5. What are the limitations of technology when it comes to interpersonal relationships?
6. How could technology be considered a hindrance for us? Can we overcome it?

**Q. 1. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of modern technology.**

**Answer:** Modern technology today is an integral part of our lives, and therefore, we will have to live with it whether we like it or not.

Among the advantages of modern technology, I can say that it has made our lives much easier than it used to be ever before a few decades ago. It has revolutionized our production systems in all kinds of businesses and industries by increasing the output, quality and efficiency at all levels. The advancement in the communication technology, with the advent of the internet, has made communication among us so easy and fast that we can actually talk to each other on video even if we are a world apart from each other. Besides, modern technologies also made it pretty easy for us to get access to virtually any kind of information at any time and anywhere through smart

gadgets like the iPad, iPhone, Galaxy tablets and etc. Finally, the use of modern technology has also made it very easy for us to travel long distances really fast. In fact, nowadays, we can travel a 10 miles distance within just a few minutes, if not any lesser, by using electric trains, aeroplanes and fast cars which were almost impossible even a few decades ago.

On the other hand, one of the greatest disadvantages of using modern technology is it makes us “idle” to a point that we don’t even make an effort to do a calculation as simple as adding or subtracting and use a calculator to do it. But the problem with such “inaction” is that we are actually killing some of our memory cells in our brain. Modern technology is also being used to bring deaths and destruction upon this earth as it helps in building such advanced new war weapons that it was even impossible to imagine them even a few decades back. Finally, as most technological discoveries aim to reduce human efforts, it would only mean that more work is done by machines instead of humans. And as a result, more and more people are losing their jobs to machines as processes are becoming automated, and humans just can’t compete with such processes.

**Q. 2. In what ways has technology changed your society?**

**Answer:** For better or worse, technology has changed our society in the way we are earning our livings and the way we interact with each other. It also has changed our “mobility”. Nowadays, because of technology, we don’t rely on just one source of income, and as a result, society has become more “affluent” than in the past. Another remarkable change, that has taken place in our society for good, is that we can travel to any place at any time without wasting our time. Besides, with the advancement of information technology such as the internet and smartphones, my small society feels like it has suddenly become a part of a “much bigger global community”.

**Q. 3. How has technology changed the way we communicate?**

**Answer:** Technology pretty much has changed each and every aspect of our lives, but perhaps it is safe to say that it has changed the way we communicate with each other the most with the advent of the internet, mobile phones and smart gadgets.

Technology has indeed proved the age-old saying “talk is cheap”- so cheap that we talk to each other by using our phones pretty much always, whether we are staying close to each other or far apart, even when we don’t need it. We have also become lazy to walk even 100 feet or a few minutes these days if we are in need to communicate something to our friends or families since we can do the same in seconds just by pushing a button on our phones. But, if we are not in a mood or feel really lazy to “talk” sometimes, we simply leave or send a message on social media networks and “messenger” to inform others about our “status”. Finally, technology has made communication really “personal” as we can see each other on live video while communicating, no matter where we live with the use of the internet.

**Q. 4. How has technology changed the nature of long-distance relationships?**

**Answer:** Technology has changed the nature of long-distance relationships mostly for the better. In the past, we would have to rely on “postal mails”, or expensive “long distance” calls from our land phones, to communicate with each other. But even that was not always possible due to the limited “infrastructure” necessary to ensure these services efficiently. But, with the improvement in the communication infrastructure and communication technologies, such as internet and

smartphones, we can not only communicate with each other in seconds, but we can actually see each other live on video, even if we live in another corner of the world. So, by the way, we wouldn't be really very surprised if we see one day that the 'postal mails' are being preserved in a museum as a "thing of the past".

**Q. 5. What are the limitations of technology when it comes to interpersonal relationships?**

**Answer:** Continuing a healthy "interpersonal relationship" is very important for our overall wellbeing. But, unfortunately, modern technology has affected our lives rather negatively by taking the all-important "emotion" away from us to a large extent. In fact, with the advancement of technology, we have become so busy and "robotic" that we don't even care to say "hello" to the closest members of our families, let alone spending some quality "family time" with them. As a result, the "personal ties and bonds" are becoming very loose with our family members, especially when it comes to the elderly ones, and friends which certainly doesn't augur well for the wellbeing of our society.

**Q. 6. How could technology be considered a hindrance for us? Can we overcome it?**

**Answer:** Modern technology can be considered as an impediment for us when we are relying too much on it. In fact, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to suggest that technology is limiting our potentials and growth, as humans, both physically and mentally. For example, before the advancement of modern technology, we used to walk to a local grocery shop, in order to buy our groceries, which was certainly good for our health and minds (since we could feel more closed to our natural surroundings). But, now, we simply ride in our vehicles to do the same task because we just feel too lazy to get out of our comfort zone. The end result of such "laziness"? The answer is "Obesity" with a big "O"!

However, the greatest, and also the most dangerous at the same time, in my opinion, hindrance is that we have actually started to believe that without technology, we just won't be able to survive. In other words, we are leaving ourselves to the "mercy" of technology, and if, God forbids, it ever stops working, our very existence, as a human race, will be at stake. So, can we overcome this hindrance? Yes, we sure can if we just reduce our reliance on technology a little and make ourselves a bit more "active" both physically and mentally.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Decision Making.**

1. Why do some people find it hard to make decisions?
2. How important is it to get advice from other people when making decisions?
3. Why is it sometimes difficult to accept advice?
4. What are some of the most important decisions young people have to make?
5. Do you agree that parents should make important decisions for their children?
6. Is it better to make a decision thinking about what you want or thinking about what other people want?

**Q. 1. Why do some people find it hard to make decisions?**

**Answer:** Why do some find it really troublesome to make decisions? Well, they are probably of "libra" zodiac sign! Well, putting that little joke aside, I really wish that the answer to this

question was a simple one, but unfortunately, it isn't. However, I would like to attribute such "indecision" mostly to the "fear" of what kind of outcomes we would come up with after the decision was made and implemented, simply because we humans, in general, are fearful of the "unknown" even at a time when the "odds" are very much in favour of some positive results. Making decisions for some people becomes hard also probably because they are just not good enough in gathering all the necessary data and information to make an "informed" decision.

**Q. 2. How important is it to get advice from other people when making decisions?**

**Answer:** It is very important, in my opinion, to receive advice from other people always, when making decisions, primarily because it would help one become familiar with an array of ideas and possibilities with regards to the kinds of outcomes he/she would need to expect. Besides, when we are opened to receiving advice from others, the chances are that we would be able to learn about the outcomes when somebody took the same kind of decisions in the past. Finally, we should be opened to receive advice from others, when making decisions, even if they don't serve our purposes in the present since there is always a chance that they would benefit us in the future.

**Q. 3. Why is it sometimes difficult to accept advice?**

**Answer:** It is difficult to accept advice sometimes for some people mainly because of an inherent human characteristic called "ego". It is because of this "ego", we sometimes fail to see the "truth" just as we fail to accept advice. In other words, we feel that we know "better" than others and that accepting advice from other people will "belittle" us in front of them. Of course, it also has something to do with the "reliability and trustworthiness" of the persons who are offering advice.

Whether a piece of advice will be accepted or not depend largely also on the "location" where the advice is being offered. For example, if we want to advise a person on not do something while he is terribly busy with his works at his office, the chances are that he won't pay any attention to that advice.

**Q. 4. What are some of the most important decisions young people have to make?**

**Answer:** Young people are not "exempted" from making important decisions just because they are called "young". In fact, they also have to make some important decisions in their lives such what kind of career path to choose; what kinds of subjects to study at universities, or when to get married and start a family. Finally, what kind of "financial" habit and "health" habit to practice is also a very important decision, along with the decisions above I just mentioned, for young people to make if they want to live happy and healthy for the rest of their lives.

**Q. 5. Do you agree that parents should make important decisions for their children?**

**Answer:** Parents should make important decisions, in consent with the inputs and opinion of the children, for their children until they reach their "adulthood". But once they are grown up and ready to leave the "nest", parents should leave their children alone to make important decisions on their own. If the parents don't allow their children to make important decisions, they will probably never learn how to take "risks" in life and live on their own. In fact, parents should always encourage their children to make decisions even if their children are reluctant to do so.

After all, parents will never be around them forever to help their children out during crucial times.

**Q. 6. Is it better to make a decision thinking about what you want or thinking about what other people want?**

**Answer:** Yes, it is always better to make a decision thinking what I really want instead of worrying about what others really want primarily because it will be me who will have to live with whatever decision I make for the rest of my life one way or another. Of course, it never harms to consult with the people, we love or care for, and ask them what they also want, from time to time in order to bring them on board with my decision, but the decision will always be mine based on what I really want.

One thing, which is worth mentioning here, is that one doesn't worry what others want, not because he/she has total disregards for others, but because it would be easier for the decision-maker to achieve his/her goal rather easily since he/she is so intimately involved with the decision made.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Natural environment.**

1. Why is it important to protect the natural environment?
2. What environmental problems are common in your country?
3. What can the government in your country do to deal with those problems?
4. What technological innovations should the world develop to protect the environment?
5. Do you think the youth these days care about the environment? Why do you think so?
6. Environmental problems are too big to be dealt at the individual level? Do you agree? Why/Why not?

**Q. 1. Why is it important to protect the natural environment?**

**Answer:** The natural environment is probably the most important resource around us as it pretty much protects and governs our lives by providing us with whatever we need to survive. It provides us with food, water, oxygen, power, energy and many, many other things. It also helps us to live a healthy life by clearing the pollution of our atmosphere. Finally, it is important to protect the natural environment around us in order to maintain the biodiversity (having varieties of plants and animal species) for the overall well-being of our planet. Our very existence in this world is dependant on the natural environment we live in. So we should take every step possible to protect it for our own survival.

**Q. 2. What environmental problems are common in your country?**

**Answer:** There are a number of common environmental problems in my country. To start with, a certain part of my country is turning into a "semi-desert", due to the lack of water, where temperatures are rising. Besides, the number of forests, as well as the number of some rare species of animals in them, is also getting reduced alarmingly, threatening to destroy the biodiversity of my country. Finally, our lands and waters also are becoming increasingly polluted with plastic products and other harmful substances because of the unavailability of proper waste disposal systems.

**Q. 3. What can the government in your country do to deal with those problems?**

**Answer:** The government can do plenty in my country to deal with these problems. First, they can completely ban the use of plastic products and replace them with some environmental-friendly products. It can also offer some incentives for not using these harmful products. The government can also take the necessary steps to plant more and more trees to make up the loss of forests while improving the waste disposal systems in order to reduce the land and water pollution. However, it is also important to understand that the government alone is not able to deal with these environmental problems successfully unless it takes concrete steps to raise public awareness about the dangers of environmental pollutions.

**Q. 4. What technological innovations should the world develop to protect the environment?**

**Answer:** Technology has fundamentally changed the way we live and work, and so, it is about time that we develop and use technological innovations to protect our environment also. For example, “advanced remote sensing technologies” can help us plan, monitor and evaluate the impacts of building “extractive” industries, involving “extraction” of raw materials from the earth, in the ecologically-sensitive areas. In the same manner, “drone” technology can help us monitor the health of our forests and wildlife in some remote and otherwise inaccessible areas. Finally, we can also use AI (artificial intelligence) driven technologies to carry out our environmental conservation efforts by having much more precise information on the extreme climate changes, affecting our earth’s environment negatively.

**Q. 5. Do you think the youth these days care about the environment? Why do you think so?**

**Answer:** No, I don’t really think that the youth these days like to care about the environment primarily because they are just too pre-occupied with either enjoying the comforts and luxuries of their lives or running to “acquire” them as if there is no tomorrow. In fact, German “Federal office for the Environment” conducted a survey in 2016 and found out that just 21 per cent of 14-to-25-year-olds believed that an intact natural environment and the chance to enjoy it were important parts of having a "good life". Besides, it is also possible that the electronic media, along with the authorities, today are not exactly doing a good job in raising the awareness of taking care of the environment among the youth.

**Q. 6. Environmental problems are too big to be dealt at the individual level? Do you agree? Why/Why not?**

**Answer:** Yes, I have no doubt in my mind that environmental problems are too big to deal with at the individual level simply because they don’t have the required resources, knowledge and the technologies to solve the problems of such big magnitude. Besides, there is no boundary between our rivers, forests, earth’s atmosphere, as well as the air, we breathe. Therefore, no matter how hard, some individuals, in some parts of a country or the world, are trying to clean up their “environment”, if it is not “coincided” and “coordinated” with the others somewhere else, then the chances are that it is doing no good. And, unfortunately, “coordination” is something which can’t be “enforced” without the governments’ active involvement in such cases.



1. Do you think people are born to be leaders? Why/ Why not?
2. Can leadership skills be taught? Why/ Why not?
3. Why are elected politicians often so unpopular?
4. What should a leader do to remain popular?
5. Do you think unelected heads of state are a good idea? Why/ Why not?
6. In your opinion what qualities a political leader should have?

**Q. 1. Do you think people are born to be leaders? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** No, I don't really like to think that people are born to be leaders. Rather, leaders are made by the circumstances one lives in as well as the people one likes to identify with. Of course, it takes some special skills and "abilities", which may or may not be inherited, to become leaders, but one has to work really hard to master those 'skills and abilities'. However, just mastering those skills and abilities are not enough either as one would also need to put those skills and abilities to proper use in order to overcome the right challenges at the right times to be considered as "leaders".

**Q. 2. Can leadership skills be taught? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do think that "leadership" skills, just like any other skills, can be taught and learned because "leaders" are not a different breed of people, nor they are "born" as leaders. However, the difference between the "prospective" leaders and the others is that the prospective leaders make a huge stride and are motivated to climb the ladder of success in order to help others and lead in an organization where everybody else fails. Of course, some people have some natural leadership skills and qualities, but it doesn't necessarily mean that others can't achieve them with hard work and dedication.

**Q. 3. Why are elected politicians often so unpopular?**

**Answer:** Well, I can provide at least "trillions" of reasons for which many elected politicians are often so unpopular. But, I will mention here only a few of them to save the so-called politicians some "embarrassments" except, of course, they just have no "shame". Oops! It looks like I've just mentioned one of the reasons! Anyway, to continue, politicians are often so unpopular because they have some "unparallel" abilities to "lie" to their teeth as long as they are "awake". Finally, they are often so despised because they are "financially corrupted", and they can go to any length in order to oppress the poor and silence their "critiques". They often fail to fulfil the promises they themselves make to ordinary citizens and amass wealth in unfair ways. Once elected, these politicians forget their responsibilities and exercise power for their own benefits while ignoring the wellbeing of the mass people.

**Q. 4. What should a leader do to remain popular?**

**Answer:** Remaining popular for a leader is a very tricky business because the very reasons, for which they are popular at a certain point of time, can make them unpopular at other times also. But, generally speaking, a leader has to understand the 'pulse' of his or her supporters most of the time. He also has to be honest about how he chooses to fight for the causes of his support base. Besides, a leader has to make sure that he doesn't earn his livings by corruption or by "flexing" his muscle in order to remain popular. Finally, a politician has to work really hard to deliver on his promises in order to remain popular.



**Q. 5. Do you think unelected heads of state are a good idea? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** Honestly speaking, I really think that it is a great idea to put unelected officials as the heads of the states as long as there is solid transparency in accountability. The election in these days can be rigged easily, and, as a result, it is very possible that the real “winners” or elected officials are not exactly getting the chances to hold the office. However, it wouldn’t really be so bad itself if not so much money and time were invested in holding these elections. Besides, in some “developing” countries, we also witness a lot of violence during the election times which can actually divide an entire nation.

**Q. 6. In your opinion what qualities a political leader should have?**

**Answer:** In order to be a good political leader, a person has to have some common qualities which may include patience, fairness, commitment, and good educational qualification to understand the different situation dynamics, and the ability to arouse the public passion in a positive way. Besides, a political leader should also have the quality to connect with his supporters on a grass root level so that he is able to know about what makes his supporters happy and what makes them unhappy. Finally, he also has to be honest and dedicated to the causes of bringing solutions to the problems, not only for his supporters but also for those people who don’t support him.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Life experience.**

1. Do you agree that we learn best from our mistakes?
2. What’s the best way to gain experience in life? Why is so?
3. Can we gain life experience from books and movies? Why/ Why not?
4. Which is more important, experience or potential? Why?
5. What experience do you wish you had gained? Wh do you think so?
6. Why do some people fail to learn from their experience?

**Q. 1. Do you agree that we learn best from our mistakes?**

**Answer:** People say that the mistakes we make are our best teachers because they can teach us many things. In fact, some of the most important life lessons, we would ever learn, will be from our mistakes or bad decisions. So, I do agree with the suggestion that we learn best from our mistakes, only if we choose to learn from them, by not committing the same mistakes in the future. However, whether we learn best from our mistakes or not depends a lot on how much damage is inflicted upon us. If we are made to “pay” very little or nothing for our mistakes, the chances are that we will never learn from our mistakes.

**Q. 2. What’s the best way to gain experience in life?**

**Answer:** Well, in my opinion, the best way to gain experience is to do some experimentations, and take some calculated risks and random decisions even when we know that we would

probably “fail” in some real-life situations. And, as we make those little experimentations or make random decisions, we can reflect on the outcomes or experiences, whether we fail or succeed, so that when we face the same kinds of situation in the future, we exactly know from our previous experiences as to what kinds of adjustment are needed, if any at all, in order to get the best possible results. If we never try, we will never know what we are good at and without trying we can never gain any experience.

**Q. 3. Can we gain life experience from books and movies? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** No, we can't really gain life experiences from books and movies mainly because one actually has to live through real-life situations in order to gain experience. No doubt that books and movies can present some real stories and experiences of individuals in a very rational and realistic manner except, of course, the problem is each and every person in this world is different with different mindsets, skills, abilities and talents. Therefore, just because one individual experiences something in a certain situation, it doesn't necessarily mean that another person will experience the same thing in the same manner.

**Q. 4. Which is more important, experience or potential? Why?**

**Answer:** I would say that "experience" is more important than "potential" at any time of the day. Having experience usually means that a person has the proven track records of getting things done. Having experience, more often than not, makes somebody confident about doing something very challenging in adverse condition. Besides, having experiences helps somebody to make wise decisions, especially when facing difficult choices. Finally, experience makes someone mature and respected, and as a result, others around him feel confident enough to follow his lead. On the contrary, "potential" of a person is often unexplored and untested unless a really good mentor or our confidence bring it to work.

**Q. 5. What experience do you wish you had gained? Wh do you think so?**

**Answer:** Well, I am lucky that I really have some great experiences in my life, but more is always better. Isn't it? So, sometimes, I really wish that I had the experience of travelling at least two to three countries from each continent in order to experience what this beautiful world has in store for us. Besides, I also want to be able to write on my own travel experiences as well in my own website, which I am planning to launch in near future, in addition to the experiences of other travellers in my country. Besides, I wish I were able to write the way some good writers can tell their stories.

**Q. 6. Why do some people fail to learn from their experience?**

**Answer:** Some people fail to learn from their experience probably because they are too arrogant to understand they can also learn something, well, from “anything” or “anybody”. Then, there are some other people who fail to learn from their experiences because the experiences are probably too “embarrassing” for them sometimes, and as a result, they just don't like to remember any part of it. Finally, some people don't learn from their experiences because they like to “justify” them, no matter how “undesirable” the experiences really are, by essentially blaming the others for their own experiences and fate.

1. How popular is watching television in your country?
2. Tell me about the types of programmes that are generally on television in your country.
3. Why do people like watching television?
4. Which one do you think is better - state or private television? Why?
5. What effects can watching television have on children?
6. How TV programmes differ now than that of 10 years ago?

**Q. 1. How popular is watching television in your country?**

**Answer:** Watching television is very popular in my country because it is one of the two major traditional media (the other one is “movie theaters”) which offers entertainment to our people. In fact, it is very hard to find a household in my country which doesn’t have at least one TV, if not more, in it. Even stores, businesses, and offices in my country have televisions so that people and workers get to enjoy some news and entertainment in order to relax a little during their break times.

**Q. 2. Tell me about the types of programmes that are generally on television in your country.**

**Answer:** There are all kinds of programs on television in my country which are watched fairly on a regular basis. These programs include hourly news programs, political talk shows, musical programs, education quiz shows, movie shows, documentary programs, magazine shows, dance shows, cooking shows, drama serials, travel adventure programs, sports shows, and agricultural shows.

**Q. 3. Why do people like watching television? Why?**

**Answer:** People like to watch television because it helps them to unwind from a stressful day. It also allows them to spend some quality times with their loved ones and families while watching some entertaining and funny shows, sports and comedy movies, with them. People like to watch television also because they want to remain informed about what’s happening in their parts of the world as well as the rest. Finally, they also want to educate themselves by watching some educational programs in order to connect with the world on an intellectual level.

**Q. 4. Which one do you think is better - state or private television? Why?**

**Answer:** I would say that state television is better primarily because they have a more diverse program set in order to engage their audiences. Besides, state TV channels usually exercise better caution and jurisprudence in airing the “controversial” programs so that they don’t spark any further controversy. Finally, state TV is funded by the general public, and as a result, the programs, it usually broadcasts, are lesser biased and more objective (unless, of course, it is controlled by the government for “propaganda” purposes) than private TV since it has to rely heavily on private funding.

**Q. 5. What effects can watching television have on children?**

**Answer:** Television watching can affect children both negatively and positively. Talking about positive effects, it entertains them and educates them by giving them a chance to learn about the world they live in. Television watching can also expose the children to new cultures and new ideas so that they learn to respect and love others, no matter how different they really are. It is also beneficial for them to learn a second language. However, television watching can also

prevent children from enjoying healthy activities like playing sports with their friends. As a result, they may end up becoming “unsocial”. Besides, it also affects children’s studies, grades, behavior patterns, sleep and weights in a negative manner.

**Q. 6. How TV programmes differ now than that of 10 years ago?**

**Answer:** In my opinion, we certainly have more TV programs today than that of 10 years ago, but the overall quality of the programs has gone down. TV programs today focus more on “glamour” and commercialization than the actual messages or substances than what it used to be 10 years ago. Finally, they also contain more “nudity”, “violence” and “vulgarity” than what we saw before 10 years ago

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Retirement and old age.**

1. At what age should people retire from work? Why do you think so?
2. What problems can people face after their retirement?
3. How important are retirees to your country’s economy? Why/ Why not?
4. When should you start saving for retirement?
5. Why do some companies encourage early retirement?
6. Do you think the state should take responsibility of retirees who worked in private companies rather than government organisation

**Q. 1. At what age should people retire from work? Why do you think so?**

**Answer:** If it were me, I would choose to “retire” at an early age, with the required financial security of course, primarily because it would allow me to do and enjoy the things when I would still remain “healthy and active” both mentally and physically. Besides, the issue of the “retirement age” becomes a bit irrelevant as long as someone is enjoying his or her works/activities unless, of course, a company or organization has the policy of enforcing a strict “deadline” for retirement. Anyway, ideally, if a person enters his career at the age of 25 and spends his time wisely and efficiently, then he should be good to “retire” at 50, which would allow him a good 10 year to enjoy his life before starting to consider him as a “senior” citizen at an age of 60.

**Q. 2. What problems can people face after their retirement?**

**Answer:** It all depends on how people choose to face “retirement”. However, people usually face two major problems after their retirement: one is related to “finance”, and the other one is “health”, both physical and mental. We all know that once people retire, they usually struggle to meet their financial needs since the source of a “steady” income dries up. Besides, they also suffer from health-related issues because they become physically “old” and “inactive”. Now, of course, we can debate whether one feels “old” because of becoming “physically inactive” or become “physically inactive” because of getting “old”, but one thing is for sure that their “mental health” deteriorate rapidly because they feel that they are not “useful” for their families and society anymore.

**Q. 3. How important are retirees to your country’s economy? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** The retirees are considered to be an important component of my country’s economy

primarily because they help keep our economy running by saving their money little by little which then, in turn, get used by our government for different kind of development works. Besides, many retirees in my country just don't sit "idle", and, instead, choose to use their wealth of past work experiences to generate some incomes for themselves and their families which certainly contribute to the growth of our economy. However, some will argue that the retirees are some kind of "drag down" for our economy because they collect money from the government, but they forget that it's their money, and the government is just supposed to "manage" them.

**Q. 4. When should you start saving for retirement?**

**Answer:** Well, the act of saving for retirement should start as soon as people start to earn, ideally speaking of course. But, unfortunately, we are not exactly living in an ideal world where our all financial needs are met just the way, we like. Therefore, saving, sometimes, can be the last thing in our minds which we really worry about. Besides, when we are young, we tend to be "carefree", and we also want to enjoy our lives to the "fullest" by spending whatever money we have. As a result, we can't, more often than not, really save any money despite our best efforts and intention when we are young and "restless". Nevertheless, saving should always be a priority for us, and as such, we should get on it as soon as it is convenient for us.

**Q. 5. Why do some companies encourage early retirement?**

**Answer:** Some companies "encourage" early retirement for a number of reasons. For example, they may want to make rooms for younger candidates with fresh and more dynamic ideas. Some companies also would encourage early retirement because they want to cut cost by getting rid of highly paid employees. Finally, some companies promote early retirement also because they have hit their "financial goals" and that they are not expecting any more growth for their companies. However, these kinds of early retirement are not necessarily so bad because they usually involve good "financial incentives".

**Q. 6. Do you think the state should take responsibility of retirees who worked in private companies rather than government organisation?**

**Answer:** Yes, the state should have a responsibility in taking care of retirees of the private companies in some capacity primarily because they also contribute to the economy of a country. However, it doesn't necessarily mean that the private retirees are also "paid" by the government just like the government retirees, but rather the government should extend its helping hands to private company retirees also in order to ensure a "minimally secured financial future" for them should the private companies fail to do so. After all, it is also the responsibility of the government to encourage, if not "force", the private companies to take care of their 'retirees' in whichever capacity they can afford.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Photography.**

1. Is it easy to take good photographs? Why/ Why not?
2. What are the pros and cons of digital photography?
3. Should people share their photographs online? Why/ Why not?
4. When can an image be worth a thousand words?

5. Is a photograph a reliable form of identification? Why/ Why not?  
6. Is it necessary to take a course to become a good photographer? Why/ Why not?

**Q. 1. Is it easy to take good photographs? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** Well, from my own experience, I can say that it is never really easy to take good photographs mainly because there are just so many things which come into play when trying to take excellent photographs. In fact, one has to have perfect ideas about things like proper exposure, building rapport with the subjects in order to find the perfect angle, lens focal length selection, the right aperture white balance and composition, among other things, to take good photographs. However, as if it is not already difficult enough, one also has to understand, what really works in what situation, in order to take an excellent photo.

**Q. 2. What are the pros and cons of digital photography?**

**Answer:** Digital photography has become the norm today than the exception when capturing any images, primarily because they offer better quality pictures. Besides, cost and times are also significantly reduced when taking digital photographs as there is no film costs, no processing and proof costs, and no unnecessary printing costs if not needed. So, the end result is an ‘instant’ opportunity to view pictures right after taking them. Finally, another great advantage of digital photography is that one can have complete and instant control over the pictures, especially, if he/she wants to edit them on a computer with some imaging software. However, digital photography is not as good as film camera in capturing motion. Besides, capturing photos with a digital camera is generally easier, but doing anything with the photographs afterwards almost always requires some computer or technological skills.

**Q. 3. Should people share their photographs online? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** No, I am not really very comfortable in sharing photographs online unless it is absolutely necessary for official works mainly because they can be stolen and used by complete strangers for nefarious purposes. Besides, pictures, taken by smartphones or other devices with GPS technology in it, may contain tags which can reveal the exact location where the pictures were taken. In other words, if a picture, shared online, with such tags, it is possible that others will know about his or her location which is a violation of privacy. Having said that, a photo taken on a holiday could be shared online with selected people but people should never share personal photos publicly which is accessible by anyone from anywhere.

**Q. 4. When can an image be worth a thousand words?**

**Answer:** As humans, we are largely responsive to visual cues as they have the ability to make us feel happy, sad, disgusted, excited and curious. So when we see a picture, which arouses these human emotions, in order to convey some complex or unique messages and ideas, we say that an image is worth a thousand words. Besides, there are some “truths” or “realities” which are just impossible to describe no matter how many words we use, and hence the phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words”.

**Q. 5. Is a photograph a reliable form of identification? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** No, a photograph by itself is not a reliable form of identification unless it is attached with some forms of government-issued documents. Even then, it may not be reliable enough to properly identify a person simply because the facial features of a person, showing on the



photograph, might just look different from the features on the real person, as those facial features can change over time because of the age or because of living under different conditions.

**Q. 6. Is it necessary to take a course to become a good photographer? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** In my opinion, it is not exactly necessary to take a course to become a good photographer, but it would certainly help if one chooses to take one in order to learn just the basics like camera bodies, lenses, lighting and processing. However, if one really wants to be a good photographer, he just needs to go out and take as many pictures as he likes. Then he also needs to look closely at his own works and compare them with the styles of works, which he likes, in order to adapt to his own methods accordingly.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Gift.**

1. What is the purpose of gift giving?
2. How has gift giving changed since your grandparents' time? How?
3. How important is gift giving in a relationship?
4. What is more important when it comes to giving a gift, cost or effort? Why?
5. Do you think that people have become more materialistic when it comes to giving gifts, as compared to your grandparents' time?
6. How has modern technology changed the nature of gift giving? How?

**Q. 1. What is the purpose of gift giving?**

**Answer:** People love giving gifts primarily because it is just “customary” to give gifts in order to celebrate on some occasions with her friends and families. However, on a deeper level, we give gifts because it helps to create a stronger bond between the gift recipients and the persons, offering the gifts, by showing their love and appreciation for each other's valuable role and presence in their lives. Besides, a person exchanges gifts with somebody also because it provides a tremendous psychological boost to the recipient which, in turn, helps strengthen his/her resilience to cope with the adverse moments of life.

**Q. 2. How has gift giving changed since your grandparents' time? How?**

**Answer:** Yes, I would say that gift giving has changed since my grandparents' time. Back in those days, people used to give gifts mostly on some special occasions, such as birthdays and wedding anniversaries, but today, one doesn't really have to have an occasion for it. Besides, unlike in the past, people today expect “personalised” gifts with some kinds of thoughts behind them. Finally, today we can choose a lot more things as gift items which we didn't have in the days of our grandparents.

**Q. 3. How important is gift giving in a relationship?**

**Answer:** I think that it is absolutely important to exchange gifts in a relationship between partners because it would help cement and carry forward a healthy and loving relationship. Besides, exchanging gifts is not just a simple gesture of appreciation, but giving the right gifts at the right time also shows how much a person really cares for his/her partner or understands his or her partner. Finally, when a relationship goes through some troubling times, a well-thought gift can go a long way to repair the “damage” by bringing the partners closer to each other.



**Q. 4. What is more important when it comes to giving a gift, cost or effort? Why?**

**Answer:** In my opinion, the effort is more important than the cost when it comes to giving a gift. For example, if a person chooses an expensive gift for his or her partner, but the partner doesn't like it because it just doesn't go with him/her styles or colour preferences, then the costly gift actually becomes "useless". On the other hands, if a person gives a lot of thoughts and times in choosing a gift in order to make sure that he/she really understands what his/her partner likes or prefers, then the gift, no matter how "cheap" it is, would surely go a long way to impress the partner.

**Q. 5. Do you think that people have become more materialistic when it comes to giving gifts, as compared to your grandparents' time?**

**Answer:** Yes, I would certainly like to think that people have become more materialistic, when it comes to giving gifts, primarily because we are living in a very "materialistic" society. Besides, our culture has grown more commercial, where "gift giving" – expensive gifts that is, has turned into a booming industry. Finally, media these days also play a crucial role in fostering an "unrealistic" expectation among people to buy "perfect gifts" without necessarily understanding the idea of a "perfect gift".

**Q. 6. How has modern technology changed the nature of gift giving? How?**

**Answer:** Modern technology, like the internet, e-commerce and online shopping, has revolutionized the nature of gift giving by making it fast, affordable and convenient. In fact, we can choose the perfect gifts for our loved ones for any occasion, even if they live in another corner of the world, from the comfort of our homes on the internet and have them delivered to their doorsteps in hours, if not any quicker! The best thing about this modern technology is that we can actually get the opinions on the "gift ideas", before actually buying them, from our friends and families almost instantly because we can send the 'pictures' to them through emails or messenger services. We can even send someone a gift card so that the recipient can choose his/her own gift from a collection of items.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: The internet and its impact on our social life.**

1. What types of websites are popular among your generation?
2. Is using the internet a social or solitary activity? Why?
3. How has the internet changed social behaviour?
4. Should companies check job applicants' online profiles? Why/ Why not?
5. What will be the next big development online?
6. How has the internet changed the way we communicate with others?

**Q. 1. What types of websites are popular among your generation?**

**Answer:** Being a person of the young generation, who have either finished their studies or have just started their careers, I would say that websites on news, job postings, social networking, entertainment industry, sports and e-commerce are probably the most popular among our generation. However, job sites probably would top them all because there is a huge number of unemployed youth in my country, and they just like to surf through those websites in order to improve their opportunities to land on a new job or better job. E-commerce websites don't fall

very far behind the job sites because they also attract a lot of young visitors for obvious reasons. Finally, social networking websites like Facebook and Twitter are hugely popular among those youths.

**Q. 2. Is using the internet a social or solitary activity? Why?**

**Answer:** In my humble opinion, I would say that it is a solitary activity for many because people don't really need or are "required" to interact with other people in their society in order to use the internet. Besides, when somebody is using the internet, he or she is usually busy finding some information or looking at something on their screens. Therefore, even if there are other people around him/her, he or she doesn't exactly pay much attention to them in order to make it a "social" thing. However, if we consider the purpose or function of social networking websites, they are often meant to help us connect more people and become more social by bringing friends and relatives together and letting people find like-minded people over the internet so that they can meet and work for a common cause.

**Q. 3. How has the internet changed social behaviour?**

**Answer:** The use of the internet has significantly changed our social behaviours and attitude. Today, we spend more time on surfing on the internet, talking with some people with probably some "false" names on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, while completely forgetting to have even a casual conversation with friends and families around us. As a result, we are "isolating" ourselves more and more from the "realities" around us. Besides, since some people are glued to the internet for long hours, they don't really feel like going out to enjoy the normal thing in life which is actually causing "depression" in many of the internet users.

However, there is a completely different side of the use of the internet which connects friends and relatives and give people a common platform to raise their voice or share information for good. A year ago, our local administrator decided to build a factory near our neighbourhood and many people learned about it via the internet. They shared their thoughts and finally met to protest it personally. I see this event as a great example of how the internet can strengthen our social relationship and bring good things to society.

**Q. 4. Should companies check job applicants' online profiles? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** Yes, I think that companies should check job applicants' online profiles in order to get a better understanding of the prospective applicants' lifestyles and behaviour pattern. But, it is also important for companies not to make any decisions, based solely on what they see or find on their online profiles, simply because they may be just some of the "glimpse" of moments on some special occasions. Besides, just because somebody does something on the internet (unless it is absolutely stupid and offensive), it doesn't necessarily mean that he or she will do the same thing at works.

**Q. 5. What will be the next big development online?**

**Answer:** I am not an internet or technology expert, but I think that the next big development online will be the ability to connect computers, smartphones, TV, fridges, and other electronic devices and gadgets through the cloud networks. Besides, I also think that all televisions, computers and smartphones in the future will have an internet connection in them. In other words, as soon as we power on these devices, the internet connection will be running

automatically in them without the need of doing anything extra to connect with internet. So who will pay for the internet? Well, the companies, manufacturing these devices, will. Besides, AI (Artificial Intelligence) will do most of the things for us like ordering items online for us or sending an email we need to send.

**Q. 6. How has the internet changed the way we communicate with others?**

**Answer:** The internet has very significantly changed the way we communicate with others. In fact, it has made communication easier and faster, especially, when sending or receiving a huge amount of data and information. Besides, the internet has made communication very affordable too as we can write messages or letter as large as we can and then send them to our friends and families by using emails without spending virtually anything. Finally, it has made communication very “personalized” also. In fact, we can view anybody live on camera, while also talking to them at the same time, no matter if we live a world apart from each other.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Sports.**

1. What types of sports are popular in your country? Why?
2. What are the benefits of playing a sport?
3. Do you often play a sport? Why/ why not?
4. Do you think the types of sport that are popular will change in the future?
5. How can sports bring people from different countries closer together?
6. Why are some international sports more popular than others?

**1. What types of sports are popular in your country? Why?**

**Answer:** People in my country love all kinds of sports. However, sports like Football/soccer, English cricket, field hockey, volleyball, badminton and swimming are more popular in my country primarily because there is no age bar or any other kinds of restriction on anybody for taking part in these sports. Besides, playing these sports involves a very little cost, if any at all, and as a result, people can play these sports easily. Finally, successful sportspersons, taking part in these games, generally enjoy a very “glamorous” life in my country which acts as a motivating factor for their fans to watch and play these games even more.

**2. What are the benefits of playing a sport?**

**Answer:** Depending on what type of sports one plays, there are several benefits of playing sports. For example, if one plays sports like soccer and cricket, which require a high degree of physical activities, they will help one to remain physically fit and healthy by reducing the possibility having obesity, heart diseases, cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Besides, these sports also help people to get rid of depression and other mental illnesses. Finally, game, like “chess”, stimulates the brains which are really good to develop our memories.

**3. Do you often play a sport? Why/ why not?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do like to play soccer whenever I get a chance, especially during the weekend, because it helps me stay fit and healthy, especially, when I gain a bit extra weight for my age. Besides, it helps me rewind from the monotonous and hectic schedule of my daily life. On top of that, playing soccer also allows me to socialize with my friends outside of my work life and have some fun with them. And, all these, when put together, help me remain confident and competitive in this modern, tough and complicated world.

**4. Do you think the types of sport that are popular will change in the future?**

**Answer:** Yes, it is very possible that the types of sports, that are popular today, would change in the future mainly because we will become even busier with our works, and our priorities most likely would change with it as well in the process. So, the chances are that we will probably play only those sports which require very little time. Besides, the chances are that those sports (ie. video games and computer games), which we are able to play at home with our families, will also become popular in the future. Finally, more and more sponsors and businesses would try to make other forms of sports popular because of more financial gains.

**5. How can sports bring people from different countries closer together?**

**Answer:** Sports play an important role in bringing people from different countries together by organizing different forms of international sports tournaments so that teams from those countries can learn about each other and become each other's friends in the process of playing against each other, but that's only a part of it. Sports also bring the supporters of one particular country closer to another country because they happen to love the team or certain players of that country due to their great performance in the field.

**6. Why are some international sports more popular than others?**

**Answer:** Some international sports are more popular than others because of their long history in our countries as well as because they are more intricately ingrained into our cultures than other international sports. Besides, some sports are not just given the chance to truly shine and show what they are capable of simply because they are perceived to be "not as exciting as others". Finally, it is so also because the businesses and sponsors keep promoting and "patronizing" certain sports over the others purely because of additional financial gains.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Advertising.**

1. What makes an advertisement effective?
2. What is the purpose of advertising?
3. How have advertisements changed since you were a child?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of advertising?
5. Do you think that advertisements should be strictly regulated?
6. How important is it for advertisers to tell the whole truth in advertisements?

**1. What makes an advertisement effective?**

**Answer:** There are a number of facts that makes an advertisement effective. To begin with, the advertisement on a particular product has to be absolutely relevant and specific on its message

while also describing at the same time what exactly set the product apart from others in terms of its benefits. Besides, for an advertisement to be effective, the language or the wording has to be unique to the target audience, based on their age, gender, race, culture, religion and geographic location. Finally, the advertisement should include a clear “call for action” such as asking to buy the product or contact.

## **2. What is the purpose of advertising?**

**Answer:** For a given market segment, there are six main purposes of an advertisement, which include informing the consumers about a certain product and convince customers, changing the belief about a certain brand, enhance the image of the company, point out and create a need for products or services, generating new direct sales and announce new products and programs. Some advertisements may also want to demonstrate new uses for established products and send a reminder to use an existing product.

## **3. How have advertisements changed since you were a child?**

**Answer:** Advertisements have changed significantly over the years since I was a child. For a starter, when I was a child, if I remember correctly, there were only radio, TV and print media to show us the advertisements, but today there are computers, smartphones, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram also on which advertisements are being displayed continuously. We can also see billboards, neon signs, and other vibrant and visually captivating printed designs, that are placed at strategic locations with high volumes of human traffic, which were not seen when I was a child.

## **4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of advertising?**

**Answer:** The main advantage of advertising is that they allow us to learn about new products and services that we may need badly. Advertising also helps us compare among different kinds of products, in terms of their costs and qualities, so that we can make an informed decision when making a purchase.

The main disadvantage of advertising that I think of is that they increase the cost of the products because it costs to advertise and the companies pass those advertising cost to be picked up by the customers. They sometimes mislead the customers because not all the products, that are advertised, are good for them.

## **5. Do you think that advertisements should be strictly regulated?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do think that advertisement should be strictly regulated because, without it, misleading information on the products will keep deceiving the customers into buying wrong and defected products. Besides, without strict regulation, bigger companies will always have undue advantages, because of their higher budget for advertisements, over the smaller and local manufacturers/companies even though the products of “bigger” companies are of inferior quality to those of smaller companies. In other words, advertisement kills competition and gives larger companies an unfair advantage over smaller companies.

**6. How important is it for advertisers to tell the whole truth in advertisements?**

**Answer:** It is absolutely important for advertisers to tell the whole truth in advertisements for trust issues. Advertisers should tell customers exactly what they are buying or getting because if there is a discrepancy between the expectation of the customers and what the advertisers advertise, then the trust would be lost, and the customers most likely would never come back to buy the same products again in the future. Besides, some customers may also go as far as “suing” the company, if they think that they are lied to, which certainly is not good for the lasting image of a company.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Childhood Memory.**

1. Is it important to have pleasant childhood memories? Why?
2. Do you think that people are permanently affected by negative childhood memories? Why do you think so?
3. What do you think it means to ‘live in the past’?
4. Nowadays many parents try to make their children happy by buying them many toys. How do you feel about this?
5. Is it important for a child to have a lot of toys in order to be happy?
6. What is more important for a child’s happiness, many toys or many friends?

**1. Is it important to have pleasant childhood memories? Why?**

**Answer:** It is absolutely important to have pleasant childhood memories because, without them, negativity will creep up into our lives when we grow up to become adults. In fact, without pleasant childhood memories, we would develop mistrust, sense of unnecessary shame, doubt and guilt, sense of inferiority, confusion with playing a proper social role in the community in our lives while most likely remaining isolated also from the fun and productive activities. Childhood memories often make or break our future life and that is why it is imperative to have a pleasant childhood and positive memories associated with it.

**2. Do you think that people are permanently affected by negative childhood memories? Why do you think so?**

**Answer:** Negative childhood memories have some impacts on our future like but I don’t think that people are permanently affected by negative childhood memories just as they aren’t by the positive memories because if they did affect, it would be very difficult for us to make decisions quickly, and we would always carry a huge load of complex emotional bag on our back to be “functional”. Besides, the fact, that we are able to treat some of our mental illnesses (which are essentially nothing but a collection of negative memories from our past childhood sometimes) with “psychiatric” treatments, proves to us that people aren’t affected by childhood memories permanently. If we were enduringly affected by our negative experiences in childhood, it would have been quite impossible for us to carry on as adults.

**3. What do you think it means to ‘live in the past’?**

**Answer:** “Memories” are lifetime things that remain with us for the rest of our lives, and when we think and talk about these memories by forgetting about the normal activities of our lives, we



call it “living in the past”. Of course, “living in the past” is not that bad when cling on to the “pleasant” memories because they sometimes motivate us to have positive views about life, but if we cling on to the “unpleasant or negative” memories most of the time, we become depressed and find it really hard to enjoy the “normal” things in our lives.

**4. Nowadays many parents try to make their children happy by buying them many toys. How do you feel about this?**

**Answer:** Generally speaking, it makes me feel good when I see that parents are buying their children many toys in order to make them happy because it helps create “good memories” in the minds of the children. Besides, the practice also helps create a stronger bond between the parents and their children. However, while the practice of buying many toys may seem to be an “innocent” act in isolation, parents would do good on their parts if they also care to teach their children sometimes not to get “mad or unhappy”, when they (the children) don’t receive something they really like, in order to help children understand the “realities” of life.

**5. Is it important for a child to have a lot of toys in order to be happy?**

**Answer:** No, it is not important for a child to have a “lot” (because this is the “keyword” here) of toys in order to become happy as long as they are taught what it really means to be “happy”. If the children are taught that the “real happiness” lies in celebrating life and many of its occasions without receiving any “material” things in return, then the chances are that they wouldn’t exactly dig too much into the idea of receiving a “lot” of gifts to become happy. Besides, children are “innocent” minded, so if they are treated with genuine love and care, they wouldn’t really mind too much about the “number” of toys they are getting.

**6. What is more important for a child’s happiness, many toys or many friends?**

**Answer:** A child needs both the toys and friends to become happy in his or her life, but they certainly don’t need “many” of either of them. Contrary to popular belief, I really like to think that children are “rational”, and they don’t exactly care to understand the complicated issue of “being happy”. Rather, all the children care is to “enjoy and have fun” in their lives whether they get them from playing with their friends or by playing with their toys.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Photography.**

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking photographs?
2. How has modern technology changed the way we take photographs?
3. How has sharing photographs changed since your grandparents’ time?
4. How well do photographs capture special moments?
5. Do you think that people nowadays spend too much time taking photographs?
6. Why do you think people photograph themselves?

**1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking photographs?**

**Answer:** The primary advantage of taking photographs is that it helps us preserve the memories of both of our good times and “not-so” good times. By taking photographs, we can also establish a truth, especially, in situations where people are “maligned” unfairly. Besides, when choosing it as a “hobby”, we can always enjoy having a good time with our cameras by taking pictures of different “good” things



randomly that we really like.

Among the disadvantages, sometimes, you might get so obsessed with photography that you forget to live and enjoy your life in the present moment. Besides, depending on the photographs in order to get the whole picture about a person or a situation can be misleading at times.

## **2. How has modern technology changed the way we take photographs?**

**Answer:** Technology, especially in the form of digital photography, has made taking photographs way more easy today than at any other time in the history of photography. With the digital camera, today we have more opportunities to take the photo from any location, distance and angle, take as many photos as we want, view them instantly, process it and then share it more quickly and efficiently than ever before. Besides, because of technology, messy and unnecessary paper prints are becoming more and more obsolete as there are many other ways to view photographs today.

## **3. How has sharing photographs changed since your grandparents' time?**

**Answer:** Photographs sharing have changed very significantly since our grandparents' time for better, of course. Back in our grandparents' time, we used to rely either on postal mails and other forms of "human courier" which would take days and weeks to share the photographs, sometimes damaged because of bad weather, with our families and loves ones. But, today, we can share our pictures "intact" with anybody in the world in the blink of an eye, courtesy to the internet and computer technology. Besides, unlike during our grandparents' time, we save our photographs on computers and "cloud servers", for sharing purposes instead of a paper-based, and physical photo albums.

## **4. How well do photographs capture special moments?**

**Answer:** How well photographs capture special moments entirely depends on the skill level of the photographers as well as the "environment" in which the photographs are being taken. However, with the digital technologies, we have today, as well as with the many advanced university photography courses, it is fair to assume that photographs manage to capture special moments rather nicely. And, its proofs can be found in many "extra-ordinary" photographs that we see today in our daily life on different print media and picture galleries. People who are on the photo or had been present in an event where the photographs were taken can get back to the memory lane and cherish the moment once more.

## **5. Do you think that people nowadays spend too much time taking photographs? Why?**

**Answer:** If you are asking about the 'social media' generation, who are using Facebook, Twitter and Instagrams pretty much 24/7, then the answer is that they do spend a lot of time in taking photographs of virtually anything and everything in order to share them with their friends and families on the internet. But, outside of this social media generation who are glued to the internet 24/7, I don't really see that many people are spending much time in taking photographs unless, of course, there is a very valid reason to do so.

## **6. Why do you think people photograph themselves?**

**Answer:** Well, people choose to photograph themselves for several reasons. First, they probably

can't really rely on the "skills" of other people as they believe in their own skills. Secondly, taking photographs of one's own has become really, really easy with smartphones and other advanced digital cameras and "selfie" is a modern craze popular among the young generation. Finally, some people photograph themselves because they don't have any other people or expert photographers around them to take their pictures at some special moments.

### **IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Inventions and copyright.**

1. Which invention has transformed your country most? How?
2. What inspires some people to be inventors?
3. How long should someone be able to profit from an idea? Why?
4. Do you think intellectual property laws are too strict? Why do you think that is?
5. What is your opinion about the copyright of an intellectual property and idea?
6. Can you cite one example when you noticed a copyright violation? What was it?

#### **1. Which invention has transformed your country most? How?**

**Answer:** In my opinion, the invention of computer technologies has transformed my country the most, first, by changing the mindsets of millions of young people where they think that they are able to do anything to improve their life. In fact, today we can see that a huge number of educated youth and professionals are working with computers one way or another who otherwise would have remained "unemployed". Secondly, computer technologies have automated many offices and workplaces in my country which, in turn, certainly has helped in increased productivity and efficiency of our workers.

#### **2. What inspires some people to be inventors?**

**Answer:** I think that primarily three factors drive people to be inventors. One of those factors is that some people want to become inventors because they genuinely want to help people and improve their lives one way or another. Then the second factor is that some people see an opportunity to inventing something because that would allow them to make some huge profit financially. Finally, there is another group of people who like to be inventors because that's just their hobbies, or they just like to experiment with their certain skills and talents.

#### **3. How long should someone be able to profit from an idea? Why?**

**Answer:** In my opinion, one should be able to profit from an idea as long as the common people receive the benefits from it. But, in reality, it doesn't happen because different countries around the world have different patent rules (legal protection for the "inventor" or "the idea"). For example, the USA grants a 20-year "patent" while the UK has about 4 years. But, that's just one side of the story because a patent does not automatically grant the patent owners any right to make their own inventions. Rather, the patent just gives the "owner of the idea" the right to exclude others from making, using, selling, or importing the invention. In other words, the "inventor" or the "owner of the idea" actually may not get any profit at all from his or her idea if it doesn't gain any "traction", and if nobody is willing to use his/her ideas.

#### **4. Do you think intellectual property laws are too strict? Why do you think that is?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do think that sometimes intellectual property laws are too strict because most of

the copyright laws aren't exactly aimed at protecting profits of the person, owning the work, but rather, the laws have become obsessed with the "rights" to show the copyrighted work in situations where it has very little or no effect on the sales and profit of the owner of the copyrighted work.

I think, most of the copyright laws for intellectual properties need an amendment to make it more practical and modern.

**5. What is your opinion about the copyright of an intellectual property and idea?**

**Answer:** In my opinion, there should be the copyright laws of intellectual property and idea in order to protect the interests of the companies and organizations. However, it should also be said at the same time that most of the copyright and intellectual property laws are generally written by lobbyists of major companies and organizations without thinking about the interests of the common public in most cases. Besides, in my opinion, copyrights should be valid for a much shorter period of time for the purpose of encouraging "fair competition".

**6. Can you cite one example when you noticed a copyright violation? What was it?**

**Answer:** Yes, I have noticed a number of examples where copyright violations had occurred. For example, incidents like downloading music online which harms the music recording companies financially. Similarly, I have also found that people are using the copyright images of other individuals and companies without their permission. Finally, I have also found some fake companies in my country producing some products without the knowledge of the original companies or any legal authority.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Leisure Activities.**

1. What type of leisure activities are popular in your country?
2. Why it is important for people to have leisure activities?
3. Why are some leisure activities more popular than others?
4. Do you think that parents should choose leisure activities for their children? Why/Why not?
5. Has free time activities among people in your country changed much than that of 2 decades ago?
6. What changes do you think technologies has brought in the way people enjoy their leisure activities?

**1. What type of leisure activities are popular in your country?**

**Answer:** Well, the leisure and recreational activities in my country greatly vary based on the age group, economic and employment status, gender and location of people. However, watching TV, surfing the internet, walking in the park, reading daily newspapers and participating in sports like cricket and football are some very common past time activities of the people in my country.

To be more specific, teenagers and young people mostly like to watch TV programmes, use the internet and social networking sites like Facebook, play online games, sometimes collect stamps, and play outdoor games and sports while adults most of the time Watch TV, walk in the park and read newspapers. The choice of hobbies and leisure activities are quite different between city-

dwellers and villagers. For instance, a teenage boy in a city would mostly play a video game or chat with friends online in his free time, a teenager in a rural area, on the contrary, would be busy fishing or playing outdoor games.

How these activities vary are quite prominent in our country. Even I can feel that by just looking at the different members of my family. While my younger brother loves to travel, my elder brother plays cricket. Two of my cousins collect stamps and coins while I mostly read books and magazines. My parents walk in the park and other family members mostly enjoy movies and other TV programmes.

## **2. Why it is important for people to have leisure activities?**

**Answer:** I believe that leisure activities are quite important for us as these activities often define who we are, what we like and how we chose to spend our time. Furthermore, these activities refresh our mind, motivate us and help us reinvent ourselves. For instance, one of my cousins started taking painting classes as his hobby a few years back. Initially, it was a simple past time activity has was passionate about. Later on, he found that he had great potential in painting and now he is a full-time artist. This is a real-life example of how a simple leisure activity can help us re-explore our hidden talent and passion.

Human, physically and psychologically, is not prepared to work stay idle all day long. They need a perfect schedule for working, relaxing, and enjoying their free time. Thus leisure activities help us enjoy our time, get refreshed, relax, and get recharged for working more. Interestingly, people who work very hard need more enjoyable free time activities. Otherwise, they will suffer from fatigue and get distracted soon.

## **3. Why are some leisure activities more popular than others?**

**Answer:** It is quite natural that people would prefer some sort of leisure activities than others. The preference and choice depend on the way someone has spent his childhood and how he was influenced by the other family members. Besides, it varies from country to country and sometimes even cities to cities. The history and socio-cultural background of a nation also influence the type of leisure activities people have. To cite an example, teenagers in some Asian countries often make kites and fly them while this is not the case in many western countries.

Personally, I believe that the leisure activities of people are often determined by the society they live in and their socio-economic status. Finally, some leisure activities are more common and popular due to their attractions and engagements.

## **4. Do you think that parents should choose leisure activities for their children? Why/Why not?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do think that parents should choose leisure activities for their children primarily because the practice will allow the parents to have enough oversight over the activities of their children as in whether they are picking up any bad habits or hanging out with wrong the crowds. Besides, children are not always intelligent or smart enough to understand what are good for their proper physical and mental growth, and as such, would require advice from their parents so that the children are able to extract maximum benefits from the leisurely activities.

**5. Has free time activities among people in your country changed much than that of 2 decades ago?**

**Answer:** I am not sure if I will be able to give a full account of free time activities before two decades because of my rather young age, but I think that the free time activities in my country before two decades were pretty much limited to going to a movie theatre, visiting friends and families, just going to enjoy some snacks or refreshments at a local coffee shop or watching some games. However, now free time activities have changed a lot because people today go for frequent shopping at big shopping malls/centres, visit restaurants to try some international cuisines, and travel to some distant tourist spots in addition to watching movies at home (not theatre) and surfing on the internet.

**6. What changes do you think technologies has brought in the way people enjoy their leisure activities?**

**Answer:** I think that technologies today have brought significant changes in the way people enjoy their leisure activities. For example, internet technologies have made it possible to listen to our favourite music or watch our favourite movies anytime whether we are at home or on the go. Internet, together with mobile technologies, also has made communication with our friends and families possible (my favourite leisure activities) even if we live the world apart. Technologies have also given us “speed” with which we can travel to some interesting lands, far away from home, in minutes which would probably take hours before, if not days.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Studies.**

1. What are some popular subjects that university students study in your country? Why?
2. Do you think that university education should be free for students? [Why/Why not]
3. Do you think students from all majors should study subjects like math and history? Why/ Why not?
4. What are the differences between a private university and a public university? Which one do you prefer?
5. How technology has brought benefits to the way students prepare for their exams?
6. How the use of technology in the classrooms will bring more benefits to teachers and students? Why?

**1. What are some popular subjects that university students study in your country? Why?**

**Answer:** For years, we have seen that subjects like computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering, pharmacy, business administration, medical science, public administration, international relationship, marine science and engineering, and other engineering subjects (like architectural and mechanical engineering) have remained popular. These subjects have remained popular primarily because they offer better employment and earning opportunities. They are popular also because they usually bring a greater social status and prestige for people that are not exactly associated with other subjects.

**2. Do you think that university education should be free for students? Why/Why not?**

**Answer:** No, I don't really like to subscribe to the idea that university education should be free for students because that would tempt students to take education for granted, meaning that they

wouldn't possibly be enough serious about their studies. Besides, free education would also mean that universities wouldn't probably have enough funds to put forth for high-level research works and structural improvements (ie. building new university residences and faculty halls) which would certainly harm the interests of students in the long run.

**3. Do you think students from all majors should study subjects like math and history? Why/ Why not?**

**Answer:** In principle, I am in favour of studying all subjects, including math and history, because the more we learn, the better will it prepare us to face the challenges of the real world. Studying math equip us more analytical and reasoning capabilities which may prove out to be crucial in looking for a solution for complicated problems while studying history would allow us to take a more informed decision in the light of previous success and failures for identical problems or challenges.

**4. What are the differences between a private university and a public university? Which one do you prefer?**

**Answer:** Well, as the name suggests, private universities are privately owned universities contrary to the government or state-owned public universities. Private universities are quite expensive and in many cases, offer a few selected courses. On the other hand, public universities are funded by the state and do not require high tuition fees for the students. From my personal experience I can say that, public universities large campuses and a great number of students while the opposite is the case for private universities.

Which one do I prefer? Well, as a public university student I personally prefer a public university over a private university. However, I am quite broad-minded in terms of accepting some advantages of studying at a private university. For example, a student from a private university can complete his course in due time while this is not possible at many public universities.

**5. How technology has brought benefits to the way students prepare for their exams?**

**Answer:** Technology has brought a number of great benefits to the way students prepare for their exams today. For example, today students can easily do research works on their computers by using the internet from the comfort of their homes without really going to a library. Students can also share and transmit important data and information, which are necessary to prepare for exams, in seconds by using their emails anytime and anywhere. Finally, technology has also helped students prepare for exams by allowing them to solve very complicated problems on their computers with the help of many math and engineering software and applications which wouldn't be possible otherwise.

**6. How the use of technology in the classrooms will bring more benefits to teachers and students? Why?**

**Answer:** The use of technology can bring more benefits to teachers and students by allowing them to collaborate with each other because, in that way, both students and teachers can engage themselves in a more fun but challenging manner. For example, today, there are many teaching/learning apps, to be used on our computers, for individualized instruction. And with these apps, while students can learn at their own pace according to their abilities, the teachers can also, at the same time, work with the individual students who might struggle to learn.



## **IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Ceremony.**

1. How important are ceremonies in our lives?
2. Do you see the role of private and public ceremonies changing in the future?
3. Have attitudes towards marriage changed in recent years?
4. In what ways do men and women feel differently about marriage, in your opinion?
5. What sort of national events makes headlines in your country?
6. Does the media in your country pay more attention to global or national events?

### **1. How important are ceremonies in our lives?**

**Answer:** Ceremonies are a part of our very existence and they represent our cultural Identity, religious norms, traditions, patriotic feelings and often our inner joys and expectations as humans. From this regard, they are quite significant. Without ceremonies, life would have been monotonous and we would have very few occasions to enjoy, celebrate and have reasons to be surrounded by friends and relatives. Personally, I feel more alive and more socially connected during the major celebrations we observe.

### **2. Do you see the role of private and public ceremonies changing in the future?**

**Answer:** No, I don't really see the roles of private and public ceremonies are changing in the future because, both the private and public ceremonies, as they are now today, are being observed for an array of reasons which have existed and remained the same for thousands of years. For example, the roles (which is to share fun and happiness among friends and family members) of birthdays or wedding ceremonies are the same today as they were before centuries ago. The same can be said pretty much for all other ceremonies.

### **3. Have attitudes towards marriage changed in recent years?**

**Answer:** Marriage is still an influential aspect of our social bonds, but thanks to the changes in our mentality about marriage and that help prevent early marriage which was so common even only 30 years ago. In the past, late marriage for females was unacceptable and often considered an unfortunate event. However, this is no longer the case, and both males and females, these days, want to have a career before getting married which, in my opinion, is a positive trend. However, an increasing number of single parents and unmarried population are often indicated by many to be a concerning issue and I accord with them in this regard.

Overall, our perceptions and attitudes towards marriage have changed to a great extent and I believe the changes are mostly positive.

### **4. In what ways do men and women feel differently about marriage, in your opinion?**

**Answer:** I think that depends on the type of marriage we are considering and the country where the marriage is taking place. For instance, both girls and boys in our country cordially accept love marriage while they feel differently about settled marriage.

Moreover, a boy has to be an earning member before he can get married while this is not the case for girls. Since a bride starts living with her husband's family in our country, this is a major shift



for a girl. Grooms, on the other hand, focus more on starting his own family and thus their thoughts and preparation for the marriage are different.

**5. What sort of national events makes headlines in your country?**

**Answer:** Any major political decision, crisis or agenda get attention from mass media and become headlines in our country. Besides, whenever our national cricket team wins a game, that is also a piece of major news. I can recall a few occasions when the achievement of an individual, who brought glory for our country, also became headlines in newspapers and television news. Any catastrophic event that causes loss of life and property are often the headlines of the news. Finally, our Independence day is highly focused on different media throughout the month.

**6. Does the media in your country pay more attention to global or national events?**

**Answer:** This depends on the type of media we are talking about. If it's a national TV channel, for instance, it primarily focuses on national events. An English newspaper or a satellite TV channel that has a global audience, on the contrary, has more global than national news.

However, as a whole, national news and events get more attention from the media while prominent and important global events are also highlighted in the media we are talking about.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Role models.**

1. Which types of people become role models in your society?
2. Do you agree that famous people have more responsibilities than ordinary people?
3. What happens when young people lack good role models?
4. What standards of behaviour should teachers set?
5. Do you agree that you should never meet your heroes?
6. What benefits a famous person get that ordinary people cannot?

**Q. 1. Which types of people become role models in your society?**

**Answer:** Unfortunately, gone are those days when young people used to consider their fathers, teachers and medical doctors as their role models. Nowadays, it is mostly movie stars and famous sports persons who become role models in my society. Some of us would even argue that anybody, with plenty of money, has a shot to becoming a role model in our society which is really unfortunate.

**Q. 2. Do you agree that famous people have more responsibilities than ordinary people?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do agree that famous people have more responsibilities than ordinary people because ordinary people look up to them for some kind of leadership roles in fixing some of their problems. And, that's exactly why sometimes we see world-famous persons like Angelina Jolie (Hollywood actress) and David Beckham (British soccer superstar) acting as some special UN (United Nations) envoy and goodwill ambassador in order to raise awareness on different urgent issues that are affecting our world community negatively.

**Q. 3. What happens when young people lack good role models?**

**Answer:** If young people lack good role models, it is very possible that they are becoming very

confused over time with what kinds of roles they should take in their families and societies. Besides, without strong and good role models, young people very easily become 'prey' to the "bad" elements of our society. As a result, our society will have to struggle with generations of young people devoid of any good morals and values who would bring no good except chaos, crimes and social unrest.

**Q. 4. What standards of behaviour should teachers set?**

**Answer:** We, more often than not, look upon the teachers for guidance since they are still some of the most valued and respected members of our society because of their tremendous contribution to building the nation. Therefore, it should be incumbent upon our teachers to set some good behaviour standards for others, as well as for themselves, by teaching discipline, good moral values, honesty, the value of hard works, and respect. With these behaviour standards, we can expect to build an ideal and functioning society where we will be able to live and co-exist happily with each other.

**Q. 5. Do you agree that you should never meet your heroes?**

**Answer:** I have never found a reason which would suggest that I should never meet my heroes. On the contrary, I have always believed in meeting my heroes since it would inspire me, even more, to become like the heroes I have always admired.

**Q. 6. What benefits a famous person get that ordinary people cannot?**

**Answer:** A famous person gets plenty of benefits that ordinary people like us don't. First, they get preferential treatments wherever they go. For example, if I and John Travolta (the famous Hollywood star) visit the same restaurant or a football stadium, one doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that the Hollywood movie star will get the best seats, best amenities and best treatment. Besides, when you become famous, you will become richer much quicker than ordinary people like us. So, your dreams of owning luxurious homes, cars, fancy gifts and expensive clothes become a reality. Finally, when you are famous, everybody recognizes you, and you usually have a huge number of fans and followers who would do pretty much anything just to get an autograph from you.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: [Mobile Phones](#).**

**1. Which one do you use more often – a mobile phone or telephone? Why?**

**Answer:** I mostly use a mobile phone because I can carry it with me all the time. I sometimes use a landline at home or at my office, but this is not that frequent. The main reason for my preference is that a mobile phone is absolutely mine, unlike a telephone which is shared by the whole family or the office staffs. Most of my friends and relatives own their personal cell phones and they prefer to call on a mobile phone as well. I can be reached at my cell phone 24/7 which

is not possible through the landlines. The cell phone, moreover, offers the SMS facility that makes it more useful than the landline. Finally, the cell phone I own is an Android-powered smartphone which I can use to browse the internet, play games, chat with friends, install useful applications and the list goes on and on. For all these reasons, I use my mobile phone more often than the telephone.

**2. Are international phone calls expensive in your country?**

**Answer:** Compared to the local phone calls, international calls are expensive. However, with the widespread use of the internet, people most of the time use online calling instead of international phone calls in my country. If I compare the cost of international phone calls between now and that with a decade ago, it was far more expensive in the past.

**3. What is the best way to keep in touch with friends abroad?**

**Answer:** Well, social networking websites, online chatting and online video calls are convenient options to keep in touch with friends who lives in a different country. Mobile phones are also a handy tool for that. These means of communication are cheap and widely available. With the advancement of technology, our way of communicating with friends and relatives who are far away has changed drastically.

**4. What is the impact of the online-based chatting systems and social networking websites on the way we make friends and contact our friends?**

**Answer:** The impacts of technology on the way we communicate and make friends have both advantages and drawbacks. To start, Online chatting and social networking websites have enabled us to keep in touch with friends and relatives more often than ever before. We can now make friends beyond boundaries and keep in touch with them whenever we want from wherever we are. For instance, Facebook has helped me find a few friends from my school after a decade later. Who knows, without the use of Facebook I could have never found them. Letting people know what I am up to, or getting updates of dear ones is only a mouse click away these days.

However, all these conveniences do not come without a cost. Technology-based communication systems like online chatting and social networking platforms are often attributed as the primary reason for our apathy to go outside, spend quality time with family, and meet our friends outdoor. It has created a generation that feels more comfortable staying in front of a computer screen than having fun outside or talking to their friends in person. Even worse, on a social networking platform, anybody can pretend to be someone he or she really isn't.

**5. Which one do you prefer - SMS or voice call? Why?**

**Answer:** Well, that's an interesting question. I have always preferred sending and receiving SMS over the voice calls. However, people, these days tend to call more often than sending SMS. I believe cheap call rates could be a reason for that. So in a way, despite my preference for the SMS, I am forced to

make calls.

However, when I need to send an important information to someone, I always send an SMS. For instance, if I need to send someone my home address, I'll never call and tell him, instead, I will send an SMS that contains the address.

**6. How dangerous it is for someone to use his cellphone while driving a car?**

**Answer:** Using a cell phone while driving is a felony in our country. I am always against this heinous and senseless act. Personally, I never use a cell phone when I drive. I believe when someone uses a phone while driving takes a great risk. It is a well-known fact that human brains cannot concentrate on multiple tasks at a time. So, somebody should never use a mobile phone while driving as it puts his life as well as the pedestrians life at risk

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Education.**

1. What makes a good student?
2. What role should the teacher have in the classroom?
3. Do you think computers will one day replace teachers in the classroom?
4. How has teaching changed in your country in the last few decades?
5. What is the difference between the way children learn and the way adults learn?
6. How can a teacher make lessons for children more interesting?

**Q. 1. What makes a good student?**

**Answer:** A student is a good student when she/he learns new things at every opportunity not only what is taught in the classroom, but also what is taught by nature and his/her surroundings. We would call a student a “good student” also when he/she asks many pertinent questions and tries to find out their answers that ultimately lead him/her to find the “truth”. And finally, obviously, ordinary people would judge a good student by the grades she/he gets in important exams and tests.

**Q. 2. What role should the teacher have in the classroom?**

**Answer:** The primary role of a teacher should be to teach his/her students the curricular lessons of the school. But, at the same time, a teacher should also act as a “mentor” or “role model” in the classroom so that his/her students can learn many other important “lessons of life”, such as the value of discipline, punctuality, hard works, honesty and respect for others, from him or her. In fact, the role of a teacher in the classroom should also include teaching a student how to become a decent and responsible member of society. A good teacher doesn't just teach what is written in the books but also what is not “written” on the books sometimes.

**Q. 3. Do you think computers will one day replace teachers in the classroom?**

**Answer:** I wouldn't really like to think that computers will and should replace teachers one day in the classroom because students require “human touch” to behave and act like a “human” in the real world unless, of course, we want our children to become like “human robot”. A computer can certainly teach students how to become “smart” in the classroom, but it won't probably be

able to tell when to behave like one. A computer won't certainly be able to teach many other "real-world" human behaviours, emotions and moral disciplines to students in the classroom like a human teacher.

**Q. 4. How has teaching changed in your country in the last few decades?**

**Answer:** In the past few decades, teachers used to rely mostly on chalk pencils, marker pens and writing boards to teach students in the classrooms, but those teaching materials have been replaced by computers, keyboards, projectors and wall screens. In these days, teachers and students are much more connected to each other which were almost impossible even a decade ago. In fact, with the tremendous advancement in the information and mobile technology, learning through digital games and learning apps have become more and more popular these days. Finally, both students and teachers are learning more and more new things and sharing their information among each other since collecting data and information have become much easier these days than it was about a few decades ago.

**Q. 5. What is the difference between the way children learn and the way adults learn?**

**Answer:** Children and adults learn in fundamentally different ways. Adults are self-learners and decide what is important to be learned next while young students are dependent on adults (teachers) for their next lessons, assignments and subjects. The children usually tend to accept the information, presented to them, based on their face values, since they have no or very little experience upon which to draw ( any conclusion) while the adults usually try to challenge information and accept them only after validating them in the light of their beliefs and experience. Finally, children are usually motivated to learn because of rewards or punishment, but adults tend to learn because of their "interest".

**Q. 6. How can a teacher make lessons for children more interesting?**

**Answer:** In my opinion, the best way to make the lessons interesting is to make them more and more interactive by allowing the children to ask more and more questions no matter how "weird" they sound. And, the more they are allowed to ask questions, the more "empowered" they feel in the classroom to learn.

The lessons can be interesting also if the children are allowed to make their own "choices" on what contents to learn and how to learn them. Teachers can make lessons interesting for their children by creating contents are which are more "real-life" oriented such as allowing their students to do their math based on how much money they would like to spend in buying their favourite ice creams and so on.

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Influences on the young.**

1. What type of people influence the young in your country?
2. Why is it important to have role models?
3. Do you think the education system in your country influences young people's behaviour?
4. What type of person (parents, teachers, friends etc) are best to influence young people's behaviour?

5. What do you think young people will be most influenced by in the future?
6. Who do you believe have more influence on young children - parents or teachers? Why?

**Q. What type of people influence the young in your country?**

**Answer:** People like movie stars, singers, top-class business executives, academics, famous world political leaders, famous scientists and successful sportspersons usually influence the young in our country. Besides, any other successful persons with money and other kinds of power also influence the young in my country. However, it all depends largely on how young people like to see themselves in future.

**Q. Why is it important to have role models?**

**Answer:** We all like to fully explore and utilize our potentials in order to become successful people in our lives, both personally and professionally, except, of course, we don't know how to go about it most of the times. For this reason, it is important for us to have role models in our lives so that we can receive guidance from their values, wisdom, behaviour and actions to overcome the challenges and weaknesses.

**Q. Do you think the education system in your country influences young people's behaviour?**

**Answer:** Yes, I do think that the education system in my country influences young people's behaviour. Fortunately, we have a great education system in my country that teaches young people to be responsible, honest, compassionate and respectable citizens. But, does it influence all young people in the same way? The answer is "no" because we all live under different conditions, and we all have different backgrounds and upbringings. So, at the end of the day, it all depends on how we choose to "behave" in a certain situation because we all have a "choice".

**Q. What type of person (parents, teachers, friends etc) are best to influence young people's behaviour?**

**Answer:** Ideally speaking, parents and teachers are the best people to influence young people's behaviour because they are the ones with whom young people spend most of their time when growing up as "children". And, we all know very well that whatever we learn as "children" at our houses and schools, they are likely to remain with us for the rest of our lives. But, again, it all depends on how much time young people spend with these persons, and what these young people learn from them.

**Q. What do you think young people will be most influenced by in the future?**

**Answer:** I think that in the future, young people would be most influenced by what they see on the internet because they will spend most of their time on it. Besides, it is also possible that the young people will also be influenced by other forms of technology, such as robots, because the chances are robots will teach the students and young people in the future.

**Q. Who do you believe have more influence on young children - parents or teachers? Why?**

**Answer:** In my humble opinion, parents are supposed to influence young children more than the teachers because of biological and emotional attachment. Besides, from the day, a child is born, he or she remains with the parents. So whatever, the parents say or do, the children pick that up unconsciously. Besides, there is a "parents' fear factor" among the children which make the

children learn whatever their parents tell them to do. Finally, parents usually are the “designated legal guardians” of the children, and as such, they have the “right” to teach their children whatever they find “fit”.

### **IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Nature.**

1. What are the main environmental problems in your country?
2. Why should people be concerned about the environment?
3. How can people protect the environment?
4. Do you think money should be spent on protecting animals?
5. Do you think more should be done to protect natural beauty spots in your country?
6. What can a government do to encourage people not to harm the environment?

#### **Q. What are the main environmental problems in your country?**

**Answer:** The main environmental problem, which my country is facing, is that my country is “overpopulated”, and as such, it is straining our rather limited resources. We also have terrible air pollution in our cities because of the excessive level of smokes from the industries and vehicles. Then, my country is also facing the “global warming” problem, because of which, one part of my country becomes extremely hot during the summertime. Finally, we also have bad water contamination in our lakes, rivers and oceans because of industrial and plastic wastes.

#### **Q. Why should people be concerned about the environment?**

**Answer:** People should be very concerned about their natural environment because it is the environment which keeps them alive and healthy. Without protecting their natural environment, people won’t be able to breathe fresh air and drink fresh water. Besides, once the environment is damaged, plants and wildlife become negatively affected which will ultimately degrade our living on earth. And when that happens, the all-important bio-diversity on this earth is lost. Finally, if people fail to take care of their natural environment, the sea level will rise, because of global warming, and which mean that many low-lying countries would submerge under the sea.

#### **Q. How can people protect the environment?**

**Answer:** People can protect their environment from their respective positions by becoming conscious about their natural environment and then by doing small things. For example, we can develop proper waste (any kind of waste) management systems so that they don’t contaminate our earth and waters indiscriminately. Besides, we can also try to live “economically” so that we don’t put too much pressure on our natural environment in order to use its “resources” for our luxury and comfort.

#### **Q. Do you think money should be spent on protecting animals?**

**Answer:** In my opinion, everything, including spending money, should be done to protect animals. If we don’t do that, the chances are that we will lose many more other rare species of animals in addition to others, which we have already lost. The end result will be a very limited and weak bio-diversity to bring proper ecological balance on our planet.



**Q. Do you think more should be done to protect naturally beautiful spots in your country?**

**Answer:** Yes, I think more should be done to protect the naturally beautiful spots, like sea beaches, lakes, mountains and forests, in my country. We will have to make sure that our natural sea beaches and lakes don't become dirty and contaminated, not only because of tourists but also for protecting seafood. Special efforts should also be made to protect the mountains from becoming "residence" and "industrial sites". Finally, our natural heritage forest sites should also be protected from unauthorized "deforestation" in order to protect our wildlife.

**Q. What can a government do to encourage people not to harm the environment?**

**Answer:** To start, a government can take all the necessary steps to increase awareness, either by using different kinds of print and digital media or by introducing details school curricula on environmental protection, among its citizens so that they are encouraged to take care of their natural environment. Then, a government can also introduce stringent laws in order to punish its citizens who harm their environment willingly. Finally, a government can also introduce "award system" for those people who successfully keep the environment clean and safe in their own towns or places.

### **IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Environmental Problem.**

1. Tell me, what do you think are the greatest environmental problems facing your country at present?
2. And what has been done so far to solve these problems?
3. How successful would you say these measures have been?
4. Do you think things are likely to get better or worse in the future?
5. Is what you are going to study likely to be of any use to solve these problems?
6. Should countries try to solve climate change problems together or individually? Why?

**Q. Tell me, what do you think are the greatest environmental problems facing your country at present?**

**Answer:** There is hardly any country in the world which is not facing serious environmental problems today. However, some of the greatest environmental problems, my country is facing today, include extreme high temperatures in some parts of my country (due to the greenhouse effects) and surface water contamination because of many industrial toxic and plastic waste. In fact, the high-temperature problem is so serious in my country that some parts of it are becoming like deserts slowly but surely. Then, there is the issue of serious air pollution as well, especially, in the big cities of my country.

**Q. And what has been done so far to solve these problems?**

**Answer:** To deal with these serious environmental problems, my country has taken slow but effective steps such as, planting more and more trees in the affected areas and dredging the rivers and lakes in order to keep a larger reserve of water so that they can help keep temperatures low during the hot season. Besides, my country has also taken steps like closing down coal-based industries slowly in order to limit the carbon emission and greenhouse effects. Finally, my government is also trying its best to increase awareness about the dangers of environmental problems among its citizens.

**Q. How successful would you say these measures have been?**

**Answer:** I would say that these measures are bringing some success slowly but surely because the high-temperature problem in the affected areas of my country has not got any worse during the last couple of years. Besides, many people these days are also seen to becoming serious about keeping their neighbourhoods clean and garbage free. However, we have some serious environmental problems, which have compounded over the decades if not centuries, and therefore, we will have to work even harder and be patient before we can achieve any measurable success.

**Q. Do you think things are likely to get better or worse in the future?**

**Answer:** Well, it is going to get worse in the future before getting better because unfortunately, we are way too late in addressing these serious environmental problems on a “macro” level. Besides, countries around the world can’t seem to agree upon the best courses of actions in order to deal with these environmental problems on a larger scale. Finally, it is going to get worse in the short run also because we don’t see any sign of slowing down in (mis)using the “resources of the earth” in order to feed our “greed” to ensure the comfort and luxury of our modern life.

**Q. Is what you are going to study likely to be of any use to solve these problems?**

**Answer:** No, my study has nothing to do whatsoever with addressing these environmental problems. But, then again, just because I am not studying to solve these problems, it doesn’t necessarily mean that I won’t be able to do anything about them. In fact, I can also try to raise awareness on the dangers of environmental problems from my own position on “micro” level, in addition to doing little things like planting trees at my front yard or not throwing any plastic waste in the lakes, wherever I go, and whatever I do.

**Q. Should countries try to solve climate change problems together or individually? Why?**

**Answer:** In my humble opinion, countries should try to solve the climate change problems collectively, as opposed to doing it individually, because while countries may have “land boundaries” between them, they don’t have any boundaries between the oceans, they share, or any “wall” to separate the “air” between them. In other words, the action of a few countries is enough to spoil the good environmental works of all other countries because, again, we share the same ‘air’ and ‘water’ one way or another. Besides, global warming and environmental problems are global concerns and are not manageable by countries individually. Therefore, we need collaborative planning and initiatives to address them.

## **IELTS Speaking Part 3 topic: Clothes.**

1. Can clothing tell you much about a person?
2. Why do some companies ask their staff to wear uniforms?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having uniforms at work?
4. When do people wear traditional clothing in your country?
5. How have clothes fashions changed in your country over the last few decades?
6. What is the difference between clothes that young people and old people like to wear?

### **Q. Can clothing tell you much about a person?**

**Answer:** No, I don't think the clothing of a person tells "much" about a person except only how much "fashion-conscious" he or she really is. Besides, I never really feel "comfortable" with "judging" a person based on his or her "clothing". However, sometimes, the clothing of a person provides a special "clue" to what a person does for his or her job. For example, a person with "workboots" and "dirty trousers" would most likely tell us that he or she works in the "farms" or he works in "construction".

### **Q. Why do some companies ask their staff to wear uniforms?**

**Answer:** Companies generally ask their staffs to wear uniforms mainly because they want to ensure "uniformity" across all levels of their "staffs". This is done either to help employees identify with their companies or to boost morale at all levels of their staffs. For example, if a "lower" level employee at a company finds that he and CEO are wearing the same kinds of "dress", the "lower" level staffs feel that he is no "less" than his CEO and that both contribute equally for the profit of the company. Besides, some companies want their employees to be easily recognisable by customers, for example, employees in a restaurant, and therefore ask the staffs to wear uniforms during office hours.

### **Q. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having uniforms at work?**

**Answer:** The main advantage is that it helps reduce the "psychological and ego" gap between the high-level employees and those of the lower levels because they all wear the same kind of "dress". Secondly, it helps promote the company "brand", especially, when wearing the uniforms outside of the work. Thirdly, the uniform helps identify and separate the employees from the customers, when working in an environment that involves serving customers by remaining physically present with them.

The disadvantage, of course, of wearing uniforms at work is that it limits "self-expression" of the employees as they can't seem to "wear" what they like. Besides, some uniforms may also be considered as "objectionable" to some employees on religious and cultural grounds.

### **Q. When do people wear traditional clothing in your country?**

**Answer:** It all depends on the moods of the people involved as well as the weather. However, generally speaking, people in my country like to wear traditional clothing during religious festivals and ceremonies and wedding ceremonies. Many people also choose to wear traditional clothing during "New Year" celebration (different from the English "New Year" calendar).

**Q. How have clothes fashions changed in your country over the last few decades?**

**Answer:** Clothing styles and fashions have significantly changed in our country over the last few decades. As a result, traditional clothing today is “frowned upon” unless they are worn during some “traditional festivals and celebration”. In fact, today we can see that even a 60-year-old person is wearing “blue jeans” and “t-shirt” which was almost impossible to imagine before a few decades. Besides, there are many more choices of clothing fabrics today than what it used to before a few decades. Anyway, these changes are not unexpected because the clothing companies are coming up with newer and newer fashions in order to “break” into the new market segments.

**Q. What is the difference between clothes that young people and old people like to wear?**

**Answer:** As far as I can see, today there is a very small difference, if any at all, between what young people and old people like to wear. However, it is not unusual to see some old people still are choosing to wear traditional clothing most of the times while young people have no interest in wearing them whatsoever. Besides, both the “young” and “old” people today want more from their lives, and therefore, it is only natural that both generations would want to bring some “styles” and “colours” in their lives by wearing dresses that are trendy and fashionable.

## Describe a competition you want to take part in

*You should say:*

- *What the competition is*
- *How you knew it*
- *What you need to prepare for it*
- *And explain why you want to attend it*

### BAND 9 MODEL ANSWER

I'm going to tell you about my real dream. First, let me give you some background. I think that I have a pretty decent singing voice, but I'm rather shy so I usually limit myself to singing in the shower. I've always dreamt of having the courage to **sing my heart out (sing passionately)** in front of a large audience. I've always **dreaded (not looked forward to)** being in the spotlight, but I think I must do this to force myself to new limits.

- I recently read on a facebook ad that there is a singing competition in Istanbul, about 100km in my house in November 2018. I know it's a bit far, but I really want to make that journey. You must pay \$500 dollars to enter, but I feel that this is a worthy investment. Last year's winner, Aybars, won a new car and singing lesson with the American winner of The Voice. There will be over 100 contestants, so the competition is **stiff**. There is a **preliminary round** to see if you are able to continue, then there will be two other elimination rounds. It will even be **on live air** on the local Turkish television.
- I feel really nervous and **apprehensive** because I have never sung in front of an audience, **let alone (neither)** on TV. I'm afraid that I may do something embarrassing like **trip and fall** on TV, or even not make it past the preliminary round. I even have nightmares about these situations sometimes! However, I feel quite confident with my voice so I think I can **make it far (do something successfully)**. Even if I don't win, I would still love to have this experience. It will be one **for the books (something memorable)**.

## Part 3

**Why do you think some school teachers use competitions as class activities?**

Well, there are many competitive people in this world. Many people **thrive on (makes them excited)** it, so learning would not be fun without it. For this reason, I think teachers use it to appeal to all different types of personalities. Secondly, it gives us **incentive (motivation for a reason)** to pay attention and try harder in class. If we are never **tried (tested)**, we may keep silent in the back of the classroom. When there is a prize **at stake (something you are able to get)**, people tend to put a lot more effort forth. All in all, it is a fun way to spark interest and

attention in the classroom, not to mention students of all ages smile when they receive some sort of prize.

**Is it a good thing to give prizes to children who do well at school? Why?**

I would say yes, because it is an incentive to put effort into your studies. However, I don't think the teacher should build a prize into every lesson because then the children may focus on that instead of actually gaining knowledge, which is the real prize. I think it's fun and healthy competition to bring in a small prize for pupils, such as candy, but definitely not something to do on the daily.

**Would you say that schools for young children have become more or less competitive since you were that age? Why?**

It's tough to say really, but I would say that they are becoming more competitive. I think one of the reasons for this is the social media. Now that our lives are **on blast (something everyone can see)**, students see this and begin to compare themselves to other students. For example, maybe students post pictures of their high scores online or their parents praise them on their Facebook status. So, this creates more of a competitive sense. Furthermore, the job market is quite competitive, so as a society we must put more effort into **standing out (being remembered; being different from others)**. Maybe the students aren't aware of this, but this I would imagine that the parents put more pressure onto their children to be better than the others.

**Part 2 – Describe a time when someone didn't tell you the whole truth about something**

*You should say:*

- when this happened*
- what the situation was*
- who you were with*
- and why the person didn't tell the whole truth*

**Sample Answer**

I'm going to tell you about a time I was really upset about someone lying to me. As I **wholeheartedly** value the truth, I feel very disappointed when I find out that someone has lied to me, especially when it's someone **close to** me. So, I'll share this situation with you.

I had just started dating a new guy and felt that I really liked him. I was 24 at the time, and he had said that he was 30. He appeared to be a bit older than that, so I tried to clarify his age twice, which he insisted was exactly 30. So, I decided to believe him. I was chatting with his best friend

one day who was 32, and he made a comment saying that he was younger than Manny, which I was **confused about** at first. Later that day, I **called Manny out (confronted)** about that over text, in which after several lies finally confessed that he was actually 33 years old. I knew it wasn't the most terrible lie someone could tell, but I felt that my trust in him was tested. I thought, "if someone lies about simple personal details, what else do they lie about?"

He never stated his intentions about his lie, but I would imagine that maybe he felt he was too old for me. I guess that he was afraid to lose me if I knew he was 33, which wasn't a problem for me. Furthermore, maybe he was struggling with accepting his age himself, so he wanted to keep believing that he was 30. I'm sure it was related to his insecurities one way or another. Anyway, whatever his reasons were, I decided to give him another chance although I wasn't happy that he was dishonest.

### **Describe a time you spend with your friend in your childhood / Describe a childhood friend of yours**

*You should say:*

- *Who is this friend*
- *What did you do at that time*
- *How did you know about each other*
- *And explain why you describe this time*

### **Band 9 Model Answers**

Luckily, I had a happy childhood, free from study burdens that many children today are facing up to. Off the top of my head, I would describe a time that my soul mate and I used to hang out frequently at a rural spot near our house, which I guess was at least 15 years ago.

At that time, industrialization and modernization are the terms that no one heard of. Paddy fields cover a big area, and there were meadows, streams, ponds

and lakes, giving quite an idyllic and tranquil atmosphere. I and my friend, who is my next-door neighbor and have known each other since we were knee high to a grasshopper, often played together at this rural area.

The reasons I describe this time is because it helps me reminisce of my past when I had the total freedom to explore and enjoy life to the fullest. Catching crickets at dawn, going fishing in the early afternoon, swimming in the crystal clear water and other activities did fill me with great excitement. Especially, hanging out together with my best buddy was just an out-of-this-world experience; we had the time to confide in each other our secrets and ambitions share ups and downs in life together.



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My friend's now residing in the US, so I really miss him. We still keep in touch often and are still proud of our happy childhood.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Are you still in touch with your childhood friends?**

Not many of them really, we launched on our own paths ever since we left, primary school. And as a matter of fact, I can't recall the face or the names of my classmates in grade 4 or 5, if I happen to bump into them, they would just, look as strangers to me. Having said this, I still keep some close contacts ever since, and such friends have become my soul mate. To be honest. I couldn't think of how miserable life would be if living without such friends.

#### **Why some people lose contact with their childhood friends?**

As for my generation, at the time we didn't have any smartphone to keep contacts, so it's easy to lose precious relationships. In contrast, today we can snap some photos, add friends on face book, to name but a few, which is hugely conducive to the maintenance of personal contacts. Another reason can be that there are some friends we often do not get along well, and there's no point in keeping such contacts. At the end of the day, it's quite a matter of taste and preference in friend selection that really counts.

#### **Who is more important to you, friends or family?**

In the deepest part of my heart, I think family matters more to me, although sometimes I may spend more time with my friends. You know, we can only be born once by our parents, but we can make new friends all the time. Besides, in this benefit-oriented society, only parents truly love us. Therefore, family should, carry more weight.

#### **Do you have any foreign friends?**

I have a foreign friend whose name is Martina. She comes from America and studies in the same college with me. We met accidentally. She was lost on the way to the language center and I happened to there. Martina is not a complete beauty, but she is always confident and optimistic, which makes her very attractive. She has bright eyes full of wisdom and curiosity but the bad thing about her is that she's got a quick temper.

#### **How do people in your country make friends these days?**

Well to be honest, I would say that people have many different ways to get to know one another. The most common place is at the coffee shop where people of different ages would gather together and share their own stories about themselves. The second way is via Social networking websites like Facebook or Twitter. Needless to say, many teenagers today would log on the web and join some chat groups, which I reckon is the quite useful but may have some potential risks

#### **Do you trust friends that you meet on the internet?**

When it comes to friends on the virtual networks, I am pretty cautious. Although, social networking websites like Facebook or Twitter are wonderful platforms for people of all ages to get to know one another, most of the time it's not reliable to lend your trust to those online friends. This is simply because some guys may treat you nicely and act like your close friends but the reality is that they are, trying to con some money out of your pocket. So the point is we should try to be on red filter when making use of the internet in general and social networks in

### **How do you get along with people you don't like?**

Well, there is a couple of ways that help when trying to be on good terms with those you don't want to have a talk with. The first method lies in a person himself. It is true that we should open our hearts and make efforts to make others feel at ease. During a conversation, it's better if we feather our confidence and bring up the topic first rather than waiting for others to break the ice. Secondly, individuals had better find more time to be close to each other and find out what they have in common. For example, after watching a comedy at the movie theater, two people found out that they love this type of film, and then they tried to arrange time to spend more time together. The two people ended up being intimate friends forever.

### **Why is it hard to maintain friendships for some people?**

Generally speaking, several factors are to blame when it comes to why some people have a hard time getting along with other surrounding people. The first cause usually lies in the person himself. They tend to distance themselves from others and don't have frequent talks and time to spend together. As a particular consequence, less mutual understanding is established and the relationship becomes weaker and weaker. Another culprit might be fast-paced lifestyle people suffer from nowadays. After a stressful day at the workplace, it is not uncommon to see many lose their temper or just want to stay home to let their hair down. This makes people spend time on their own, which means less time is spent on others.

### **Would you only make friends with people who are similar to you? Do you like to be friends with someone who is different from you?**

Yes, certainly. It is no doubt that we can make incredible headway in our relationships if we socialize with those we have at least something in common. We may share some interests in or passion for movies or books. This is probably due to the fact that we can easily bring up conversations and keep the talks going when we have shared hobbies. Otherwise, both friends would remain silent all the time, which means less mutual understanding is established. Such a relationship is not going to last long, I reckon.

**Do you like to have many friends?**

Yes. of course. I'm an extrovert and would love to hang out with a group of friends instead of a few close friends. This is simply because I can become more independent and mature if I'm able to mix with people of different backgrounds, learn their life experiences. It is not wrong to say the bigger your social circle is, the more opportunities in life you can have. Some of your friends may help you find a decent job or lend you a hand Sometime in the not-so- distant future.

**Do you think it is possible to be friends with someone if you never meet them in person? =  
Why Is it easier to make friends on the internet than in reality?**

This is advanced age and many of our real life tasks are done virtually by using few mouse clicks. To be a friend, one does not need to be physically present with the others to make a friendship. Using different social communication platforms, we could easily make friendship with the other people living at different parts of the world. They do not need to meet every day in person to share their feelings and emotions. Rather, they are communicating easily using the social communication platform features like chatting or messaging, sharing their pictures etc. As a result, the necessity of licet ins physically every day or after a specific period appears to become less and less.

*Describe a song or a piece of music you like*

*You should say:*

- *What the song or music is*
- *What kind of song or music is it*
- *Where you first heard it*
- *And explain why you like it*

I have always been a **huge fan of** music. I love listening to music because good music helps me **recharge my battery and energy** as well as **uplift my spirit** after a long day **overloaded with** work and study. I listen to many different kinds of music from Rock to Jazz, depending on where I am, who I am with and how I feel at the time. Today I'm going to tell you about one of my favorite songs titled 'Hello'.

The genre is pop, as characterized by its **upbeat music** and simple, **down-to-earth** lyrics. It's actually a single that just **went platinum** this week. The song is **incredibly popular** at the moment, I mean, it's **the talk of the town**. It's been **topping the charts** for weeks, and has got millions of streams on music sites.

The person who performs the song is Adele, an **internationally acclaimed** artist, hailing from the UK. She's **made a killing** with her albums, but she's maintained a somewhat **low-profile**

lifestyle. I am a huge fan of her. I have an impressive collection of her records that I really treasure. Maybe I would have the fortune to attend one of her concerts.

I first listened to the song last week. It was when I was **in the middle of** finals. I was **up to the ears in** revision and it was incredibly **nerve-racking** time, so I needed something to **let my hair down**. That's when I went to YouTube to watch some music videos. The minute I heard Adele's voice, I was **hooked** and totally **blown away**. I've **put the song on repeat** ever since.

I am keen on the song for a number of reasons. First, it was her voice that struck me, which is incredibly soothing, and has a nice warm quality to it. The lyrics is also **dope**. It talks about emotions after two people **part ways** in a relationship and I can definitely relate to that.

**A huge/big fan of (phrase)** really like someone

**Uplift one's spirit (phrase)** fill with high spirits; fill with optimism

**Overload with (phrase)** to put too many people or things in or on something

**Down-to-earth (adj)** practical

**Go platinum (phrase)** to sell 1 million copies of an album

**The talk of the town (idiom)** if something is the talk of a place, people there talk a lot about it

**Acclaim (verb)** praise

**Make a killing (phrase)** to have a great success, especially in making money

**Low-profile (adj)** deliberately not attracting public attention

**In the middle of (doing) something (phrase)** busy doing something

**Up to the ears/neck/eyes in (idiom)** involved in a difficult situation, or with more work to do than you can deal with

**Nerve-racking (adj)** making you very nervous or worried

**Let one's hair down (idiom)** to relax and enjoy yourself because you are in a comfortable environment

**Hooked (adj)** if you are hooked on something, you find it so attractive or interesting that you want to do it as much as possible

**Blow away (phrasal verb)** impressive greatly

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**Dope (adj)** very good

**Part ways (phrase)** end a relationship

## Describe an occasion when the vehicle you took broke down during your travel/ Describe a time the vehicle you were travelling in broke down

You should say:

- where you were going;
- who you were with;
- how long it took to fix the vehicle;
- and explain how you felt about it.

### Model Answer

- This actually happened the last time I took the IELTS test. It started at 8 in the morning so naturally I had to get up at 6. When I got out of the house it was still dark outside.
- The test was going to take place at a hotel, which is only 20 minutes from my home. So actually if everything'd gone according to plan, I'd have had an hour or so to relax or revise. But unfortunately, it didn't.
- After riding for about 5 minutes, my bike started to make weird noises, then the whole engine began shaking violently. I hurriedly shut the engine, getting off the bike to examine it. But I was no mechanic. And as I suspected, the engine wouldn't start again.
- So I had to drag it along the street, looking for a repair shop. Luckily it didn't take me long to find one, and the repairman only needed 10 minutes to fix my bike. It wasn't a happy experience but at least I wasn't late for the test.

## Describe someone who is a good parent/ Describe a good parent you know

You should say:

- *Who the parent is*
- *How you know the parent*
- *What the parent looks like*
- *And explain why you think the parent is good.*

Ok right then, off the top of my head, the parent I'd like to talk about is the mother of a good friend of mine, and the reason for choosing to talk about her is that my friend is always **going on about** how lucky he is to have such a nice mum. And from what I know about her, I'd say he's absolutely right.



Anyway, as for how I know her, well it's basically due to the fact that I went to the same middle school as her son. And because we became pretty good friends, we **ended up** seeing quite a lot of each other's parents, especially during the holidays when we often went over to each other's homes.

And regarding what his mother looks like, **well interestingly enough**, she actually looks pretty similar to my own mother, because they both have **quite round faces and long wavy hair**. **Having said that**, I've noticed that my friend's mother often **ties her hair up in a bun** whereas my mother usually always **keeps it down**. And another thing to mention would be that whenever I see her, she always seems to be wearing red clothes, which I guess is probably because red suits her quite well.

But anyway, finally then, with regard to why I think she's a good parent, well I'd say there are quite a few reasons, one of which would be that she's always been **very supportive to her son**. And just to give you an example, when he wondered what major to study at university, he ended up choosing music. And his mother **gave him her full support**, which is probably not what many other parents would have done, as music doesn't really leave open a lot of career choices.

And I think it's fair to say that nowadays, a lot of parents persuade their children to do things which they think are best for them, but my friend has said that his parents have never been like this with him, especially his mother. So I kind of **get the impression** that she's never forced him to do anything **against his will**, and has always **let him make his own decisions**, which I think's really great.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

**In a typical family, who plays the leading role?**

Well, the stereotype is that the father is the **breadwinner** of the family, the person who makes the decisions and **takes responsibility for** the whole family. This can be understandable because the father tends to occupy high positions in society while the mother tends to be housewife or only gets involved in some trivial work like cleaning or babysitting. However, this is not really the case in modern society where freedom and equality is being **put a higher emphasis on**. Women are as successful as men and are no longer in charge of the **monotonous household chores** like they were in the past

**In your country, what kinds of family members usually live together?**

Well, **to the best of my knowledge**, despite the increasing popularity of **nuclear families**, extended ones still exist in our society. Usually both parents and one, two or three kids would **live together under the same roof**. In other cases, a grandmother or grandmother joins them to take care of the small kids while the parents are away for work, for example. Other less common situations are many generations reside in the same house, usually a multi-story house. Families like these often consist of an uncle, aunt, and their families and so on. Typically, many problems occur when a great many members are in a similar place

### **Do young and middle-age people live with old people?**

Frankly speaking, unlike in Western countries where it is common to send older grandparents to nursing homes, most people are bound by their duty, which means that they should or, in another sense, have to **pay back** what their parents have given them. As a consequence, the young generations and **middle-aged** people tend to share the same house with older people. This can be beneficial since small children can receive special care from their grandparents, obtain invaluable hands-on experience and tend to develop a good code of conduct later on.

### **What would children do to make their parents proud?**

I guess kids can have good performances at school and behave well to their teachers and the elders. Parents usually take a great pride in their kids if their children get a good score at school, or when others tell them that their kids are nice people. As well as this, I deem it a necessity if children help their parents out with mundane tasks ground the house like sweeping the floor, or washing the dishes.

### **Should teenagers have freedom?**

To be honest, they should be given freedom **to a certain extent**. **At this impressionable age**, most teenagers can **undergo a tough time** in their personality growth and they're **particularly rebellious to** their parents. Given this, parents should allow them to do what really interests them rather than forcing them to **adopt certain behavioral patterns**. **Having said this**, the role of parents is to **monitor and advise** their children to **be on the right path, intervening** when possible if their child makes mistakes or does something unacceptable.

### **Do you like to spend time on your own or with your family/friends?**

I would love to hang out with my families more. As my parents are always **pied up at work** we can hardly manage time for one another. So, we often try our best to spend time by having a dinner together at some restaurants at the weekend or see a movie together **if time permits**. For me, it's much better to **build a close-knit family and strengthen our bonds**.

### What are parents' responsibilities for their children?

Primarily, they are responsible for the **safety and upbringing** of their children. Obviously, it includes a lot of things, such as feeding them, comforting them and looking after them **under any circumstances**. They need to make sure that their children have everything they need and are **well looked after**, have opportunities to learn about things, grow up and develop as **well-mannered** individuals.

### What's the influence of parents on their children?

At first, parents' behaviors **influence their children greatly**. If parents are polite, generous and kind, their children tend to be like this. Besides, parents have influence on their children in **making some great decisions**. I think good parents should help their children **make better decisions** and **offer them useful guidance**. What's more, **parents' attitudes to work, marriage and life** can also influence their children. The children may **lose confidence in love and marriage** if their parents often quarrel.

### Describe a person who has interesting ideas or opinions

- *who this person is*
- *how you know this person*
- *what interesting ideas/opinions he or she has*
- *and explain you think why his/her ideas are interesting.*

### MODEL ANSWER

- I'm going to talk about my friend, Hardy, who is very good at languages and always has a lot of interesting ideas when it comes to language learning and teaching. He is a **fellow** teacher at my workplace so we have had lot of opportunities to work together.
- He is fluent in THREE foreign languages, English, Chinese and Japanese, in addition to his mother tongue. So you can imagine, as a language teacher, he has great advantages.
- Although language **comes to him naturally**, he knows that for others it may not, and always tries to **come up with** new methods to help language learners improve faster and achieve better results. In addition to **imparting** knowledge, he also does it in an interesting way. For example, at the start of each class, he would have all the students stand up and play some warm-up games instead of going straight into doing routine

teaching stuff. Some of the games are even invented by himself and I must say they are all **well thought out**. I learn a lot from observing his classes and look forward to working more with him in the future.

### *Describe a water sport you would like to try in the future*

- **What is it**
- Where you will do it
- Whether it is easy or difficult
- Why would you like to try it

### **MODEL ANSWER BY IELTS SPEAKING BAND SCORE 8.5 CANDIDATE**

I'm going to talk about **snorkeling**, which is quite popular nowadays but for some reasons I haven't had the chance to try. So you can do this sport pretty much everywhere **provided that** there's **a body of water**, preferably a beach with some beautiful **submarine** landscape.

I've heard that the ideal place to go is Coron island where there's gorgeous **coral**. If you can afford overseas travel there's plenty to choose from, like the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

The equipment required for this sport is quite simple, you just need a snorkel to help you breathe underwater. Obviously it is better to wear a mask to prevent water from coming into your eyes and fins to swim faster.

I think that there are only definite areas off a beach where you can safely dive. And also we should not get too far away from the shore or the boat. Anyway I think I'll try this sport some time this summer, when it gets too hot in the city.

### ***Describe a famous person that you admire/Describe a famous person that you are interested in:***

- ***Who is this person***
- ***What is their specialty***
- ***Why do you admire him***
- **Sample Answers**
- In my to-meet list, there are so many **well – respected** celebrities whom I am desired to meet and spend time with. However, I would like to share about Pele, who is nicknamed as the greatest soccer player around the Globe.
- Initially, I really need to kick off with the point that Pele was just seventeen when he first played in World Cup in Sweden of 1958 for Brazil. Despite his very young age, he was selected for the national team participating one of the biggest sport competition on the

planet. Back then, he was not the star player but when his teammate was hurt, Pele went into the game. He immediately scored goal and Brazil won the World Cup. By his amazing **aptitudes** and skills, Pele was feared by other teams. The Brazilian government even named him as a **national treasure**. It is not doubtful to say that Pele is one of the biggest factors making Brazil's soccer so well – known. His last World Cup was in Mexico in 1970. Brazil scored 4 goals against Italy to win the World Cup for the third time. Another point that I would like to share is that Pele owns an admirable career that every soccer players crave for. Pele **holds many soccer records** such as having over 1000 goals in his career. He was nominated athlete of the Century in 1980 and became a member of a soccer Hall of Fame in 1993.

Although he's now retired from professional competition, Pele is still considered as a great inspiration for soccer players and lovers.

There are a multitude of **well – respected** celebrities whom I have a burning desire to have chance to talk to. However, the **public figure** I want to share with you today is [.....].

### **Describe a time you spent a lot of money on something.**

**You should say:**

**What you bought**

**When you bought it**

**Where you bought it**

**And explain why you spent a lot of money to buy it**

Well, let me tell you about a time I spent a lot of money. It was Christmas time, but also it was time to get a gift for myself. After a long year of hard work, not to mention a **grueling (very difficult)** one, it was time to **spoil** myself a little bit.

I knew exactly what I wanted, which was the latest iPhone. I had had mine for about 3 years and I knew it was time for an **upgrade**. So, I carefully **saved up** money throughout the year so make sure I could provide this for myself at the end of the year.

The day before Christmas I went into the C Train that takes to downtown and from the train station, I walked to about 15 minutes and I arrived at the Apple Store. I knew it was going to be a lot of money but I was aware that those products last for a very long time, that's why I decided to get it. After leaving the cashier counter and leaving most of my money, I **rapidly (quickly)** went back to the train station with my bag on my hands and headed home. When I arrived there, I was so excited to open it as test the new phone. In conclusion, it was worth it!

### **Part 3**

### **Why do young people tend to waste money?**

People tend to waste more money because they like **to flex (try to look cool)** or pretend in front of their friends. They want to show that they can afford things that maybe the other can't like the latest iPhone or expensive vacations. So, it's all something superficial for young kids.

### **Why is it important for people to save some of their money?**

Saving money is important because you don't know how the future is going to be, maybe you will go through rough times where you wish you've saved all the money you spent on mundane objects. Still, I think it's all about balance. Don't **fret (worry)** over money too much, but also don't spend it like a **drunken sailor (like a crazy person)**.

### **Should children be taught how to manage money?**

Children should be taught how to manage their money, it is very important that from the very beginning we all know how to give the best use of our money- it could be saving or investing. Instead of learning so many mathematical skills that we may never use in the school system, I think they should have more classes like this.

### **Who is better at saving more money, men or women?**

I would say that it does not depend on the gender, it depends fully in the kind of education we received as kids and also in schools. They say that men can be impulsive, but I know a fair share of women who are the same way. On the other hand, perhaps women spend more on physical maintenance, but **by the same token (in the same way)**, there are also many men who do so.

### **Describe an important plant in your country**

*You should say:*

- *What it is*
- *What it looks like*
- *Where and how it is grown*
- *Why you like or dislike it*
- *And explain why it is important*

I'm going to tell you about an extremely widespread plant in my country, the coca leaf. Although it's controversial in other countries, as this plant is used to produce cocaine, it's said to heal the symptoms of altitude sickness and give you a boost of energy while climbing the high Andes Mountains. Actually, it's considered a sacred plant in my country due to its healing tendencies. Let me tell you more about it!

It's a green color and not very large in size. I'd say each individual leaf is about 4-5 cm in length and 2-3 in width. This plant is native to western South America, meaning Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, and Ecuador, cultivated in both the lowlands and highlands of the Andes mountains. Moreover, people can also grow this plant in the comfort of their homes with seeds. It's recommended to keep the plant inside in a warm, sunny environment.

I really **cherish (appreciate)** the coca leaf because I believe it carries medical value. I really believe that it cures the headaches, nausea, and light-headedness associated with altitude sickness. Furthermore, it's what I turn to when I get any type of headache, not associated with altitude sickness and I feel that it's a healthy alternative to drinking coffee. All in all, I feel it's better to use something natural rather than a manufactured pill.

Coca is important to the people of my country for several reasons. Firstly, it is a cash crop. Secondly, this plant is regarded as a sacred plant, so they play an important role in our offering ceremonies to Mother Earth. Lastly, it cures a multitude of illnesses! As you can see, we love this plant.

### **Describe an occasion that you wore formal clothes**

*You should say:*

- *What occasion it was*
- *When it was*
- *Where it was*
- *And explain why you wore it*

### **Band 9 Sample**

I'm going to tell you about the time I was a bridesmaid in my cousin's wedding last year. It was a spring wedding, so she wanted us to wear light shades of purple with the men in silky, gray suits that were just divine. The exact date was May 13, 2017 held in a town known for its beautiful horse farms and **sprawling (open, never-ending)** fields called Hunt Valley. My cousin is a **devout Christian (serious Christian)**, so she decided to get married in a Catholic Church with a backdrop of the gorgeous fields behind us.

Although the wedding was held on this day, I ordered my dress 3 months in advance and had it altered two times before the big day. I had put on weight during the months leading up, as I was going through a stressful **break-up (end of a relationship)**. So although I had ordered a size 10, I had to have it taken out by a tailor to make it a size 12. Moreover, at the last minute, I realized my heels weren't tall enough so the bottom of the dress was dragging along the floor, picking up dirt. So, I had it altered again by about 6cm. When all was said and done, the **dress fit me like a**



**glove (fit perfectly).** The day before I went to get a French manicure and tips and had my hair and make-up done the morning of. My cousin provided us with bouquets, a flower bracelet, and a set of gold earrings to thank us for being a part of her special day.

Although the dress wouldn't be my personal taste, I felt that I had to **put on a face (smile even when you don't like something)** for my cousin's **sake**. I know that your wedding day is a day one dreams of for their entire life, so I certainly didn't want to **put up a fuss (complain)**. Furthermore, a wedding especially in a church is a formal event, so I wanted to dress accordingly. All in all, I did it for her!

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **What kinds of clothes do people wear after work?**

There are a wide range of clothes people can choose to put on when people go home from their office. One of the most popular types is shorts and T-shirts, which I think is favored by both sexes. I guess this is simply because at the, workplace staff are supposed to dress formally and such clothes are pretty uncomfortable. So, casual wear helps the blood circulate better and thereby relaxing their body. Many people are also keen on gym clothes, pajamas or skirts as it doesn't increase their laundry, which means they don't have to wash their clothes frequently.

#### **What kinds of clothes should people wear at work?**

Actually, I think it depends on what people do. One of the most popular types among manual laborers is thick pieces of garments with protective gear as these help them to prevent injuries and dirt. However, those working in the office have different dress code for sure. To be more precise, office workers tend to dress more formally like a pair of trousers and shirts for males or a dress for females. This is probably because they have to present a professional Image in the eyes of the customers or wearing such clothes gives staff more confidence in their ability.

#### **Do you think it is necessary for children to wear school uniforms?**

As far as I'm concerned, I strongly believe that it's absolutely vital for school children to wear uniforms. The most convincing reason is that in a developing country, if all students wear the same clothes, which are white shirts and blue pants, then poor students will feel less humiliated and embarrassed about the financial conditions and consequently can focus more on their academic study. The second reason is that uniform brings and cultivates a sense of belonging and unity in a group. Besides, it will be pretty pleasing to the eyes, if you see students in their uniforms in the schoolyard line up to enter the class, which I think is unique in my country.

#### **Where do people in your country buy clothes?**

Actually, there is quite an array of places people can purchase their clothes. The most typical one is at the supermarket where clothes of all price ranges are on display. I reckon it absolutely caters for consumers' interest as they are able to pick whatever item of garment they like and try it on.

ask their buddies' opinion and so on. Another place is at the market or alongside the streets. Clothes sold at these points are often of lower quality but at more reasonable prices, which is quite a popular choice among less well-off folks. Needless to say but most people are short of cash at times so this alternative seems to be pretty good.

### **When do people wear formal clothes?**

Formal attire is often a must on important occasions such as meetings, ceremonies and other solemn events. Having said this, it's becoming more and more popular that people nowadays prefer casual wear on nearly all occasions and it's a standard practice in my country, I'd have to admit. For example, it's absolutely normal to wear jeans and T-shirts to weddings, birthdays, meetings and so on, if the nature of the event is not too serious. This is quite in contrast to that of Westerners who often put on a suit or a dress every time they join a formal event.

### **Do people wear formal clothes more often or less often than the past?**

I'd say casual attire is gaining more popularity as people in modern society prefer flexibility and convenience. For example, it's absolutely normal to wear jeans and T-shirts to weddings, birthdays, meetings and so on, if the nature of the event is not too serious. This is quite in contrast to that of Westerners who often put on a suit or a dress every time they join a formal event.

### **Will the way we dress influence the way we behave?**

This is an interesting question, and my answer is yes. For those creative people, they often choose a combination of diverse colors in their clothing style and such people tend to be fashionist as who have a firm grasp of a hat to wear to make them look best. These people are dynamic, energetic and love to socialize. On the other hand, those who often wear plain clothes to belong to a group which doesn't have much enthusiasm about fashion and is willing to put on anything they can find in their wardrobe every morning

## **Describe a time that you invited family or friends to have dinner at home or in a restaurant**

- *who organized this meal*
  - *where you had it*
  - *what you talked about during the meal*
  - *what you ate and drank*
- and explain why you had this meal with your friends.*

## **MODEL ANSWER**

Ok, so I'm going to talk about a time when I invited my friend to have dinner at a famous pizza restaurant called Pizza 4p's.

This friend of mine came to my city **on a business trip** and we wanted to **catch up**. I had to **reserve** the seats a day in advance since the restaurant was always **fully booked**. We both arrived at 6 in the evening and were led to our table, located near the entrance of a big dining room, with tall trees planted around us and some layers of black net over head to prevent leaves from falling into our food. I was told that there is a glass roof above the trees to stop rain from coming in as well. A nice environment, polite waiters and waitresses, everything was going great. We ordered cheese, pizza, pasta and some wine. I think the food here is a blend of Italian and Japanese cuisine, which somehow **appeals** to consumers. The **portions** were **moderate**, leaving us satisfied but not full.

We talked happily over the dinner, catching up on each other's lives, asking after our mutual friends. The night was great.

**Describe an occasion when you showed something new to younger people/ Describe a time you taught a young person how to do a thing.**  
**You should say:**

- what you taught;
- who you taught it to;
- why you taught it to this person;
- and explain how you felt about it.

## **MODEL ANSWER**

As an English teacher and an interpreter, I sometimes take on the role of a tour guide. So when I have friends coming for a visit, I'll take them to some of the most famous places in my city.

Just last month, a friend of mine who comes from a different part of my country took his kids here. They were all excited to see my city and were particularly interested in historical places, which they'd all read about in textbooks but hadn't had the chance to visit in person.

On the first day I took them to ABC, which is the first university of my country. The place is situated in the centre of our capital, its architecture typical of the feudal times, looking very distinct from the modern buildings in its surroundings.

At the entrance we noticed people in traditional clothing offering calligraphy service. My friend decided to ask for some 'lucky phrases' to bring home.

Passing the gate, we started walking down the main path and arrived at a temple where people can wish for luck before exams. There were also stone turtle steles lining the walls. It is said that if you touch their heads luck will come to you during your exams. But in recent years these

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heads have been touched so much that they are now off-limits. I specifically warned them not to do that.

**Describe an occasion when you showed something new to younger people/ Describe a time you taught a young person how to do a thing.**  
**You should say:**

- what you taught;
- who you taught it to;
- why you taught it to this person;
- and explain how you felt about it.

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## Describe a piece of information that you think is not correct/ Describe a time when you got wrong information

- *what information*
- *where you heard/read this information*
- *when you heard/read it*
- *and explain why you think it is incorrect.*
- 

### MODEL ANSWER

- Wrong information is something we simply cannot avoid in life. I remember this one time when I got wrong results for one of my IELTS tests.
- Apparently there's a 13-day wait before the result is out, and almost every test-taker feels nervous, hopeful and worried at the same time during this period. I was no exception. I did pretty well and was hoping for an 8.5. So you can imagine how disappointed I was when I received a message from the test organiser (IDP) first thing in the morning telling me that I got a THREE. A freaking THREE.
- I wasn't overconfident and I knew I couldn't have gone lower than 7. So I immediately called IDP and complained. They soon admitted that there was a 'systematic issue' and would come back to me soon with the latest information.
- I needed to wait for a further 2 weeks to get the result, and luckily this time I got what I wanted.
- I think the lesson is that if you get some wrong and bad information, try to be calm and find a way to deal with it.

## Describe a healthy lifestyle you know

*You should say:*

*What is it?*

*How do you know it?*

*When you do it?*

*and explain why do you think it is healthy?*

### Model Answer

I think people who live healthily always **have one thing in common**: they manage to **strike a balance** between work and life, between exercise and diet.

Even when you're too busy, try to do some exercise or have some entertainment. You don't need to go to the gym and spend 2 hours doing physical activity. Maybe just a small break from work and some **stretching** exercise is enough to keep you fit and healthy. Nowadays, more and more people **suffer from a sedentary lifestyle** so we always have to remind ourselves not to sit too much.

Diet is also very important. I know food can be very **tempting** but try to **stick to** healthy food, food that you know is **hygienic** and carefully prepared. Of course, **once in a while**, we can give ourselves a nice little **treat**, like the cheese pizza I had yesterday.

Drink a lot of water too, as water **accounts for** 60% of the human body weight and is key to effective **metabolism**.

## **Describe a TV program that made you laugh a lot**

*You should say:*

*What it is called and what it is about*

*Who the main characters are*

*What made you laugh*

*And explain why you remember this TV program so well*

### **MODEL ANSWER**

Ok, I'm going to talk about "Friends", obviously a very famous comedy series aired in the 90s, but it's still very popular today.

There are six main characters in the sitcom: three girls (Rachel, Monica, Phoebe) and three boys (Ross, Joey and Chandler). The stories revolve around their work life and love life. Each of the characters has very distinct personality traits that make them unique, and I guess that's one of the reasons why they're funny.

For example, Rachel was born beautiful and rich, so apparently she's got a lot going for herself, but she's sometimes oblivious to problems of people who are less lucky. Monica, despite being very beautiful as an adult, struggled with obesity as a teenager, so you can imagine there's always some competition going on between these two girls. Phoebe, on the other hand, seems like a weird but carefree person, so I guess she's there to smooth things out for everyone. Anyway the director and producer managed to turn their rivalry and friendship into something that is quite intriguing to watch.

And as the story develops, their dynamics evolve; they've even become lovers, breaking up and making up. It's hard to elaborate how funny it is and maybe some of the jokes are no longer appropriate today, but all in all it's still worth a watch.



## Describe an occasion you borrowed something from somebody

- *What was it*
- *When did you borrow*
- *Whom you borrowed it from*
- *What you did with it*
- *Why you borrowed it*

### Model answer

Last year I applied for a master's degree because I wanted to **further** my education. I was accepted by one of the very prestigious universities, but didn't have the money for the course.

The tuition was quite expensive and there was no **installment plan** available, so I had to pay it in one go. So I had no choice but to borrow some from my parents and promised to pay back this year.

As a result, I've been working pretty hard and have almost made enough money to repay the debt. Studying and working part-time at the same time isn't easy, but I think that life is only meaningful if you always try to achieve a goal or **overcome** some difficulty.

I don't think borrowing money is something bad either, as long as you keep your promise.

## Describe a subject you used to dislike but now have interest in

- *You show what it is;*
  - *when you studied the subject;*
  - *why you didn't like it before;*
  - *and explain why you have interest in it now*
- 
- It would probably be English. I used to dislike and even fear this subject so much that I felt a lot of pressure in English lessons. There are many things about this language that frustrates a person like me. For example, English has a very different system of sounds, grammar and vocabulary, making it very hard for us to get correct pronunciation, remember words and form sentences.
  - I used to struggle a lot too but with some persistence I managed to get past the most difficult period. After that everything gradually became easier. Especially when you start to understand English movies or articles, you have this huge sense of achievement and that moves you forward even faster.
  -

So my advice for anyone who struggles to learn a new skill is, invest a lot of efforts at the start; the moment you get the hang of something you'll be motivated and just keep going from there.

### **Describe a time when you received money as a gift**

*You should say:*

- *Who gave it to you*
- *When it was given to you*
- *Where it happened*
- *How you felt about it*
- 

#### **MODEL ANSWER**

- I'm going to tell you about my college graduation gift from my grandparents. They have 4 grandchildren, so they **made a pact (made a promise)** to give us all the same graduation gift. With this said, they decided to give all of us \$2,000 upon completion of our Bachelor's Degree. I graduated back in May 2015 and received the gift about a month after, since they live 12 hours away.
- I had a late graduation party in my backyard in June since some family members were busy during the month of May with their own children. My grandparents suffered through a 12 hour car ride just to make it to my special day- I was so very grateful! So, they slipped me a card while I was opening my other cards and gifts and I could not believe my eyes! I had heard that he gave all of us a generous gift, but I didn't expect **the gravity (how serious or big)** of just how much. When Monday came, I immediately deposited it into my savings account, as I'm quite a frugal person. However, months later, I decided to treat myself to a solo trip to Prague. Considering I had always dreamt of going to Prague, I felt that I put the money to good use.

Since I had never received a gift quite like this, I felt extremely excited. I felt that this money gave me new opportunities to travel and enjoy my future, especially if I save it. Moreover, apart from the money, I felt very appreciative that my grandparents traveled all that way for me. All in all, I felt almost in disbelief along with **elated (extremely happy and proud)**!

### **Describe a time you gave advice to others**

*You should say:*

I have this friend who I've **grown up with**; we're pretty close. And this advice I gave him had to do with his career.

Last year he was working in an international company and doing quite well, so he was offered a big **promotion** to become a manager. But he had also been looking for opportunities to study abroad, and received an offer from a **prestigious** university around the same time he got the job

offer. It was a scholarship that would cover all expenses, including tuition and accommodation, an **enviable** package.

Apparently he was **in a dilemma**, not knowing whether to stay and further his career or to go and **further his education**. When he asked for my advice, I was like, If you want to go far in this field, you have to possess excellent qualifications, because if you don't there's a limit to how far up you can reach, this promotion may look good now, but as far as I see there's little room left for development. He finally took my advice and is now studying in STANFORD.

### Describe a person who encouraged you to achieve a goal. You should say:

- *What this person is*
  - *What this person encourage you to do*
  - *What this person have help*
- And explain why this encouragement help you to achieve the goal*

### MODEL ANSWER

I believe that everyone has that special person who always supports and encourages you to become better. For me that person is my mum.

I was pretty good at school but somehow that didn't translate to good performance at work, at least when I first started working. I thought it was because I hadn't found **the true calling**, that one line of profession that really suits me.

So, there was a period of time during which I changed jobs rather frequently. You know, it's not easy being a newbie in a field, you have to **start from scratch**, work hard but earn little. During this whole time, my mum was nothing but supportive, she didn't even complain at all. And I am really thankful for that, because in my country when you've graduated from college you're expected to have a **stable** job and support your family immediately. My mum was generous and let me experiment with whatever I felt like doing for some years. Without her financial and emotional support, it's likely that I would be doing something that I have no interest in just to **make ends meet**.

### Describe a time when you got up early in the morning. You should say:

**when it happened**  
**why you got up early**  
**who you were with**  
**and explain how you felt about getting up early.**

### Sample by IELTS Speaking High Scorer

The first thing I want to say is that I hardly ever get up early, so when I do it must be something important.

So the nearest occasion when I had to be up early was last year when I took the IELTS test. It started at 8 in the morning so naturally I had to get up at 6. When I got out of the house it was still dark outside. It took me 20 minutes by motorbike to arrive at the hotel where the test was going to take place. Some other test takers had already come and were sitting inside the lounge, all looking quite drowsy and nervous.

I found myself a seat and started taking out a book to read. I normally find it useless to cram right before a test so I just do something to relax. At 8 everyone was called into a large meeting room where the organisers would have a short presentation on the test process. We were all required to leave our personal belongings outside the exam room.

Anyway, the test went well and I got the result I needed. I think I could've done better if I hadn't been sleepy at the start of the test.

***Describe a game (not a sport) you enjoyed as a child / Describe a game that you played in your childhood.***

You should say:

### **Model Answer**

As a child I enjoyed playing chess. It is probably the best known board game in the world, where two players try to defeat the other by taking his or her pieces and finally trapping his King. This final move is called checkmate.

You probably know the Western version of this game, which is known as King chess. The former is more popular among younger generations, whereas the latter is mostly played by older people. I personally enjoy both of them equally.

These games are difficult in that you have to think ahead and plan your steps carefully, while keeping an eye on your opponent's moves. This is exactly the kind of challenge that I relish, and I feel excited whenever I manage to outwit the other player.

Chess games are also a good way to build a bond with your friends, since they encourage healthy rivalry and prevent you from being arrogant, because there's always someone who's able to beat you.