**Questions, 1st year, 1st semester**

**Unit 1**

1. **How do you define education?**

In my opinion, education is one of the most important things in everyone life, and on which the opportunity to get a promising job depends. And in addition, education contributes to a person's development and intellect, which affects all of them life.

1. **When is education effective? What makes it effective / ineffective?**

What makes an effective education is diligence and an approach to learning. If you systematize your approach to education, you can make education most effective. It will be ineffective if you learn new material without a plan.

1. **Does the university curriculum seem difficult to you?**

The university curriculum is not difficult for me, but I have a lot of questions about new material, and I spend a lot of time trying to understand it. In my opinion, the educational program at our university (in RUDN) is not complicated in comparison to other universities, but still the progress depends on the personal qualities and abilities of everyone.

1. **Is academic performance important to you?**

Academic performance is very important to me, and I make every effort to improve it.

1. **Are you going to proceed to a master’s degree?**

I'm not going to go to a master's school. After I finish my undergraduate degree, I plan to do what I love and devote my life to a field in which I will establish myself.

1. **What is the bachelor’s degree you are studying for?**

I'm studying computer and information science. I chose this direction because I was communicated with a lot of people who were interested in IT, and they promoted my development in this field.

1. **Does a university diploma guarantee a well-paid job?**

I consider that a university diploma cannot absolutely guarantee getting a well-paid job. There are a lot of reasons for this statement: Firstly, in modern world many employers expect from potential job candidates having experience. And secondly, the labor market is constantly changing, and many professions can disappear.

1. **Do poor people have access to higher education? Prove your answer with examples.**

In my opinion poor people have access to higher education because the main things in education is your desire and your motivation, but not money. If a poor person makes enough effort to pass the school exam with a high score, he or she will have the opportunity to study on a state-financed basis. In Russia, there are education loan programs, which are supported by the state and have low interest rates. So, everyone, irrespective of their social status, can get a higher education.

1. **What are drawbacks and benefits of studying abroad?**

The advantage of an education abroad is the opportunity to learn to communicate in English or another language. Education abroad is also an opportunity to explore the culture of another country and meet many interesting people. One of the disadvantages of education abroad is a different mentality and homesickness, which sooner or later arises. It can also be difficult for many people to adjust to a new environment.

1. **What mandatory and optional courses do you take at the University? Which of them do you enjoy studying? Which seem difficult to you?**

At our university, we study mathematical analysis, algebra, discrete mathematics and mathematical logic, computer architecture and operating systems, basic programming, basic life safety, basic rhetoric and communication, data processing and visualization, and English language. For me the most difficult ones are mathematical analysis and English language, and my favorite ones are basic rhetoric and basic programming.

1. **Do typical students spend enough time on their course?**

In my opinion, typical students spend a lot of time on their courses. University material takes a lot of effort to digest.

1. **Does the use of new technology increase the education efficiency?**

I believe that the use of new technology has a very positive impact on the effectiveness of education. Thanks to advances in technology, the scientific literature is more accessible, you can work from anywhere in the world, and you can keep in touch with your teachers.

1. **Is education quality improving nowadays?**

In my opinion, education is not evolving right now. Because our scientists have lost access to many international studies and databases, which will negatively affect the quality of education.

1. **What types of universities are there in Germany? What degrees do they offer?**

In Germany are both public and private universities. You can pay for your education or try to enroll for a state-funded place. At German universities you can get all the usual degrees, such as a bachelor or master's degree, and there is also a special Staats-examen degree.

1. **Why are costs of education rising nowadays? How do students feel about that?**

I believe that the cost of teaching is increasing because many areas are developing, and teachers need more time and effort to give knowledge in those areas. And, of course, students are not positive about this.

1. **What can online courses bring about according to Bill Gates? What are their benefits?**

According to Bill Gates, online courses will not replace textbooks and teachers, but can supplement knowledge. I agree with that, and I think online courses will help with that. The main advantage of online courses is that you can get knowledge at any place.

1. **What is the role blended learning models play today?**

The main role of blended learning is to improve the quality of learning. Online courses can help improve grades, reinforce material, and get new knowledge.

1. **What is personalized education based on?**

Personalized education is based on an individualized approach. The most important things in it are the attention to each student's problems.

1. **What are outcomes-based curriculum focused on? Speak about the College of America as an example.**

**God, please, help and save me.**

1. **What is gamification? How is it used in modern learning?**

Gamification is the use of games to raising interest in learning. It is also used during distance learning, for example, it was used in one of the universities in Germany, where they conducted lessons of mathematics in Minecraft.

1. **Compare online / offline studies.**

In my opinion, offline learning helps to better understand many topics because people are more receptive to information in person. And online learning helps you to study anywhere, and sometimes at any time, using records.

1. **What University in the world except RUDN would you like to study at? Why?**

I would like to study at the Higher School of Economics (HSE) because it is the best Russian university with the highest level of education, and their graduates are in demand on the labor market. And besides, many of my friends study there.

1. **Is education among the possible factors which lead to success in life? Why? / Why not? What are the others?**

I believe that education is one of the factors leading to success in life. If you get a good education, you can get a good job and money that will affect your life and make it better.

1. **Do Universities teach modern courses to meet the needs of labour market? Give examples to support your opinion.**

I think that universities teach modern courses that meet the needs of the labor market. For example, many universities, including the RUDN, teach IT courses and marketing. And in addition, SMM, IT law and courses creating artificial intelligence.

1. **What does getting a bachelor’s degree suggest? A master’s degree?**

A bachelor's degree requires a basic higher education, while a master's degree requires a more specialized and professional education.

1. **Which type of University gives more prerogatives to students? Private or public? Why?**

In my opinion, more prerogative is given by the public university, because many employers do not consider the fact that they graduated from a private university.

**Unit 2**

1. **What are possible reasons for learning foreign languages? What reason (s) for learning foreign languages is / are most important to you?**

There are many reasons to learn foreign languages. For example, moving to another country, wanting a new job or learning another country's culture. The most important reason for me to learn a foreign language is the advantage for work and the opportunity to communicate with people from different countries.

1. **He who does not know foreign languages does not know anything about his own. How far do you agree to this statement by J.W.Von Goethe?**

I absolutely agree with this statement. And I consider that a person who does not know his own language cannot learn foreign languages.

1. Compare any two languages in terms of phonology, grammar, spelling etc. etc.

**God, please, help and save me.**

1. **Give examples of countries where people speak several languages.**

I have several examples. First, the population of Ukraine uses two languages - Ukrainian and Russian. Second, the population of Finland uses two languages - Finnish and Swedish. Or, for example, in Belgium people speak three languages - French, German, and Dutch.

1. **Choose a foreign language (except English) and name possible reasons to study it.**

I will choose the English language. There are several reasons for learning this language. First, the desire to communicate with people from different countries or to make foreign friends. Second, to move to an English-speaking country. Thirdly, to get a job abroad.

1. **What qualities does a person need to master a foreign language?**

I think that the main quality that a person who learns a foreign language need is motivation and perseverance, because without it a person will give up.

1. **What foreign language(s) do you speak? How long have you been studying it / them? Does it seem difficult to you?**

I speak English. I've been studying this language since I was 14, actively since I was 17. And despite of that, now I have a bad level of English, because it's very difficult for me.

1. **Which skills are most challenging to you while mastering foreign languages (speaking / listening / reading / writing)? What do you do to improve them?**

For me, the most difficult skill in learning a foreign language is speaking, because I find it hard to express myself in any foreign language. And I communicate with foreigners with the help of voice messages to correct this.

1. **How will you use foreign languages in your future career?**

I will use English in my future career, communicating with different IT professionals in Internet forums or discussing work with foreign colleagues.

1. **Do you read foreign books in the original? Have you ever watched films in English? Share this experience.**

I have not read foreign books in the original language, but I have watched different movies and TV series. For example, the German series Dark, because I consider that only in the original you can fully feel the actors' acting.

1. **What educational opportunities does studying foreign languages open up?**

Studying foreign languages will help you study abroad. It will also be a great opportunity to study foreign academic materials

1. **Have you ever applied for some scholarships programmes? Share your experience or list tips to prepare for the scholarship interview.**

No, I have not applied for scholarship programs

1. **What questions can be asked at the interview for a study grant or a scholarship?**

The interview for a study grant or a scholarship may ask questions about your goals, desires, motivation, favorite subjects, and reasons why you are studying them.

1. **If during an interview you were asked about your most meaningful academic class, project, etc., what would you say?**

If during an interview I were asked about my most meaningful academic class or project, I would like to say about basic programming and English, because this is ones of the most important university courses in my future career.

1. **What benefits does mastering a foreign language give people? Support your answer with arguments.**

Mastering a foreign language gives people an advantage in their future career and the opportunity to communicate with different people from other countries. For example, you can move abroad, to give a job and make a new foreign friends.

1. **Do you think English native speakers should study any other foreign language? Why / why not?**

I consider that English native speakers should study any other foreign language because learning foreign languages gives you many opportunities. For example, if person say German, he or she can watch German series or read German books in original language. And in my opinion, learning foreign language give much knowledge in learning process.

1. **Do you think that studying foreign languages will become obsolete soon because the technology will solve the problem of interlingual communication?**

I believe that learning foreign languages will not become obsolete, because nothing can replace human knowledge, and besides (or in addition), there is not always access to technology such as an Internet translator.

1. **Do you know any robot teachers? Speak about them. Can they replace humans?**

I know about the robot teacher. It can teach many subjects, talk about different learning materials, and check students' answers. In my opinion, robot teachers can replace humans, but not completely, because robot teachers cannot teach creative subjects like humans.

1. Why is English so popular in the modern world? Name some facts from its history.

English is the most popular language in the world today because it is easy to learn and easy to communicate in. And in addition, a few years ago, Great Britain was one of the most influential countries in our world.

1. **What are three major factors that make language learning difficult?**

I consider that three major factors that make language learning difficult is laziness, lack of motivation, and an unsystematic approach.

1. **What tips can you give to make learning languages easier?**

I can give a few tips that can make learning foreign languages easier. First, watch movie, TV series and try read book in the original language. It’s so efficient and will help make your learning easier. Secondly, do more practices. Make a foreign friend, communicate with your friends and family in a foreign language and make you speaking better (or so you will speak better). And thirdly, make time to study every day.

1. What are ways of acquiring foreign languages beside traditional classes?
2. How to make language learning an enjoyable process?
3. What unusual techniques of studying languages do you like the best?
4. **Do you think you could become a polyglot? Why / why not? Speak about any polyglot you have ever heard / read about.**

I don't think I could be a polyglot because knowledge of several foreign languages is so difficult for me. You asked me about any polyglot and I would like to talk to you about Leo Tolstoy.

1. Is it easier to have a good level of fluency for children than adults? Give arguments to support your answer.
2. “Learn a new language and get a new soul”. How do you understand the statement? Elaborate on it.

**Unit 3.**

1. Remember a quote about a city. How far you agree / disagree to it?
2. What is your home town / city? What is it famous for?
3. What are the issues modern cities face? How to solve them?
4. Imagine a city of the future. Do you have a dystopian / optimistic vision of it?
5. What will futuristic cities look like?
6. Give examples of smart technologies used for developing cities.
7. What did the project in Dibuque, Iowa, result in?
8. What will the future cities be shaped by?
9. According to Jane Jacobs, who should cities be created by?
10. Is it true that a city dweller carbon footprint is larger than that of a person from the countryside?
11. How will cities of future change versus current metropolises?
12. What is urban design? What is its purpose and how is it different from architecture?
13. How does design influence our political and social interactions?
14. **Can smart cities be well designed?**

I believe that good cities can be well-designed, because there are many technologies now that make it possible.

1. **Will the quality of life in cities improve or become even worse in the days to come?**

It is impossible to say reliably whether life in cities will improve or worsen. In my opinion, in most cities the quality of life will improve, because we live in a globalized world and various urbanistic trends are only gaining popularity

1. **What are advantages and problems of living in your area?**

There are lots of advantages like closeness of infrastructure facilities, lots of entertainment places, but also a lot of trash, smoke, and now snow – I mean that it is not so clean on streets, and it is hard to walk.

1. **What ways of improving urban design can you offer?**

I think that we need to make everything smarter to reach the goal with “right urbanization”. Introduction of modern and advanced technologies can truly make our lives easier and more comfortable.

1. **Name some problems that affect your native city. What are possible solutions?**

The most affective problem for me is a lot of smoke in air in Moscow, that cannot be very healthy for all of us, and we can see that with the advent of electric cars and different machines we can solve this problem very quick.

1. **What are possible ways for individuals to help fight the problems of litter in streets?**

To solve this problem, everybody should take care of it and at first, do not scatter garbage on streets (you can use trashcan for this), and the second – for example – we can sort glass, paper, and plastic to recycle them into smith useful. As I understand, this is a continuous circle, that can solve the problem with the ‘litter-streets’.

1. **Should contemporary architecture seek extraordinary new ways of designing cities? Use zoo design as an example.**

I truly think that architecture should seek new ways. For example, to build a zoo zoologist, biologists, animal psychologists, architects and designers have to closely work together as a team to create an environment that optimizes the living conditions for the animal.

1. **How are historical houses maintained today? Use British practice as an example and compare it to Russian experience.**

In Russia, historical houses guarded as Tower, lots of them are restoring. Mostly, this house became museums, dedicated to somebody, who lived in this house many years ago.

1. **How can cities change in the face of uncertain future food, energy and water supplies?**

I think now is the best time we should think about it, because water and air supplies are being depleted daily. It will be dystopian view for the city, where people fight for a cup of water or a piece of dried bread.

1. **What will the world of 2050 look like according to well-spread forecasts?**

It will be something like in post-apocalyptic dystopian visions, where we will live in clouds because of mountains of trash on surface. Also, we will buy air in bottles and out food will be awful.

1. What is Plastic Bank? How does it contribute to cities’ development?
2. Should there be more initiatives like Plastic bank? Would you support them? Why / why not?
3. What is design for health? Is it a doable idea?