



# **IELTS SPEAKING AND ACTUAL TESTS**

**SUGGESTED ANSWERS**

**(SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2018)**

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- 25- An interesting animal
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- 27- A quiet place you visited
- 28- A subject that you like most
- 29- A time you looked for information on the Internet
- 30- A time you were scared / A frightening experience you had
- 31- A time that you took medicine
- 32- An occasion when someone took a good photo of you
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- 35- An unusual meal / An unforgettable meal
- 36- A kind of weather that you like
- 37- A special period of time in the history of your country
- 38- A piece of technology you like using (not computer)
- 39- An important river / lake in your country
- 40- A photo of yourself that was taken by others
- 41- An occasion when you were polite
- 42- Something you learned in a place or from someone
- 43- A place in your city that you would like to visit
- 44- A recent development in your city
- 45- A public facility that you think needs improvement
- 46- A magazine you enjoy reading
- 47- Something interesting that your friend has done but you haven't
- 48- Something you own that you want to replace
- 49- A time that you wore a type of clothes for a special occasion
- 50- A competition you want to take part in

# **IELTS Speaking Actual Tests and Suggested Answers**

## **(September – December 2018)**

### **Preface**

Most candidates like to read model answers as a very powerful way to get the best possible Band score when they are preparing for the IELTS speaking module. This ebook provides model answers for IELTS Speaking Actual Tests that appears in the IELTS speaking module. Even if your English is not perfect, you can transform your IELTS Band score by using this book.

The model answers are intended as a guide and candidates should modify the answers to suit their own circumstances and add to them wherever appropriate. In other words, candidates should consider using the vocabulary and grammatical structures in this book to help them to create their own answers.

**Don't just trust to luck in your IELTS exam – the key is practice!**

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# PART I

## 1. Morning

### 1.1. Do you usually do the same things in the mornings?

As I'm a creature of habit, I would say yes. I always get up at 6:00 am, have noodles and tea for breakfast, brush my teeth, then **brush up (quickly study)** on what we learned the day before in class to make sure I'm well-prepared. After all of this, I start heading to class at 8:30am. However, on weekends, I tend to hit the snooze button and end up sleeping till 9:00am then start my day.

### 1.2. Do you think breakfast is important?

Absolutely. Many experts state that it is the most important meal of the day. I believe it gives me the fuel I need to **tackle my day (to strongly take on the day)**. Moreover, I think it's critical to have a balanced breakfast to make sure I get all the proper nutrients. I cannot imagine starting my day on an empty stomach!

### 1.3. Did you do the same morning routines in your early ages?

Yes, pretty much! As I've always been a scholarly person, I've always had the motivation to get myself up earlier than expected to have a balanced breakfast and prepare myself for the day ahead of me. However, I used to **have** more of **a sweet tooth (a person who lives sweets)** as a child, so I used to **munch on (eat)** some sweet bread instead of noodles.

### 1.4. Do you want to change your daily routines in the future?

I think it's inevitable since I'll soon be joining the workforce! I want to keep my organized, prepared habits, but I hope to sleep in a bit more in the future. I would like to at least sleep 30 minutes to an hour later, and not have to spend as much time preparing for my day. Furthermore, I hope to have my own car instead of taking a Grab every morning.

## **2. Study time**

### **2.1. What can you do to improve your learning efficiency?**

Hmm, I would say that meditation and physical exercise can certainly be of help. I believe that meditation can help you to become more aware of yourself and find your center of concentration. Furthermore, exercise releases tension and brings you back to focus. When I feel overwhelmed with my studies, I often take a break to go work out at the gym then afterwards feel more productive.

### **2.2. Do you prefer to study in the morning or in the evening?**

Definitely the evening. When I have an exam the next morning, I feel that the information stays with me much more clearly when I **cram (study at the last minute)** the evening before. When I try to study in the morning, I often feel rushed or cannot stay focused, as I know all my daily tasks are awaiting me.

### **2.3. What time do you like to study?**

Around dinnertime after I've finished all my tasks for the day; I feel most at ease at this time. When I study right before bed, I tend to even dream of that information, helping me to remember clearly for that exam.

### **2.4. Why do people find it difficult to focus on studying?**

Well, for one, studying isn't something enjoyable for many people, so it's hard to concentrate on something you dislike. Moreover, it's difficult with all of the distractions of today- such as texting, instagram, facebook, etc. Lastly, some people become preoccupied with other tasks they need to do, such as cleaning or cooking.

### **2.5. Do you like to study alone or with your friends?**

Both can be nice. But, I tend to be more efficient when I study alone. Sometimes when I study with friends, we get off topic and don't get much done. However, it is effective to quiz each other. So all in all, there are benefits to both.

## **3. Plants**

### **3.1. Do you like plants?**

Frankly speaking, I'm quite drawn by plants and vegetation in general. I often find myself wandering about in the parks gazing aimlessly at the flowerbeds and enjoy the aroma that some beautiful flowers give off.

### **3.2. Do you think plants can be a good gift?**

Definitely, plants usually feature in many occasions from casual birthdays to more formal dinners. It's common to bring a bunch of newly picked flowers or a bouquet of flowers to the host family.

### **3.3. Can you grow plants? Do you know anything about growing a plant?**

I don't have a knack for gardening, so it's quite over my head when it comes to growing certain types of plants. My mother often takes care of this instead.

### **3.4. Do you keep plants at home?**

Yes, I do. I mean I keep lily in my bedroom and I also plant some vegetables like cucumber, onions and tomatoes in the balcony. Now you can see everything covered in green.

## **4. Transportation**

### **4.1. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?**

**Without any doubt** I would say motorbikes. Almost everyone travels by motorbike. The reason why motorbike is so popular I think is due to their reasonable price and convenience. They also extremely varied in terms of size, color and quality, thus **a wide variety of** choices is available for everyone.

#### ***Vocabulary***

**Without any doubt/There is no doubt that (expression)** a phrase expressing certainty or agreement; yes

**A wide variety of (collocation)** a number or range of things of the same general class that is distinct in character or quality.

### **4.2. How often do you take buses?**

Almost every day. Since my house is so far away from my university, it's impossible for me to travel by motorbike. In addition, the air is heavily polluted

by **exhaust fumes** and **traffic jams** always take place, especially during **peak hours**. Thus, I'd prefer to take the bus, to save time, save gasoline and causing less pollution.

### ***Vocabulary***

**Exhaust fumes (n)** waste gasses or air expelled from an engine, turbine, or another machine in the course of its operation.

**Traffic jam (n)** a line or lines of stationary or very slow-moving traffic, caused by roadworks, an accident, or heavy congestion.

**Peak hours/Rush hours (n)** the busiest hours

### **4.3. Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?**

Planes and trains regularly depart and arrive on time. Plus, there are many convenient facilities **catering** particularly to certain groups of passengers. However, traveling by plane is clearly time-saving and enjoyable in terms of **on-board services** like meals or comfortable seats, while traveling by train offers you a chance **to see the world outside, admire the views** from their seats. It's totally a great experience for most train-travelers.

### ***Vocabulary***

**On-board services (n)** provided on or within a vehicle

**Cater (v)** provide with what is needed or required

### **4.4. Is driving to work popular in your country?**

Although cars themselves and gasoline are expensive, a lot of people prefer driving, possibly because driving is more comfortable in such weather, with such polluted and noisy surroundings.

### **4.5. Do you think people will drive more in the future?**

If you're talking about India, no, I don't think it's possible, even in the future. Cars and gasoline are becoming unaffordable for many people these days. Plus, the **transport infrastructure** in various regions in India is not appropriate for cars.

### ***Vocabulary***

**Transport infrastructure (n)** the framework that supports our transport system

#### 4.6. Would you ride bikes to work in the future?

Definitely not. Riding a bike means you're exposing yourself to the **unpredictable weather** and to air pollution. What is worse, I'm afraid the main streets or the highway are too dangerous for cyclists, as cars, motorbikes and buses will travel at a very high speed. Thus I'd rather ride a motorbike or take the bus instead.

##### ***Vocabulary***

**Unpredictable weather (n)** to not able to be predicted; changeable

#### 4.7. What will become the most popular means of transport in your country?

I think buses will **take the lead**. You can **travel the distance** without much worries about ticket price or rainy weather outside. Also new buses now offer better services like comfortable seats for the elderly or good air conditioning systems.

##### ***Vocabulary***

**To take the lead (v)** to start winning a race or competition

#### 4.10. Do you prefer public transport or private transport ?

I think I'd prefer public transport. It's much more inexpensive and because it can contain a large number of people, it helps ease the **intensity** of traffic jams during peak hours and reduce the **greenhouse gas emissions** caused by vehicles. Private transportation is more costly in terms of fees, taxes and gasoline.

##### ***Vocabulary***

**Intensity (n)** of extreme force, degree, or strength

**Greenhouse gas emissions (np)** the emission into the earth's atmosphere of any of various gases, especially carbon dioxide, that contribute to the greenhouse effect

## 5. Films

### 5.1. Do you like watch films?

Absolutely! They are an excellent way to **unwind (relax; free your mind)**. Moreover, my friends are really into films, so it's a fun, relaxing way to spend time together. Afterwards, we discuss and debate the film that we have just watched. Apart from just relaxing and enjoying the film, I like to **delve deeper (get to the deeper meaning)** to discover the subliminal messages.

### 5.2. What kinds of movies do you like best?

Well, I would say I'm **still a kid at heart (a person who still feels like a child in their heart)**, so I really enjoy watching kids' movies. Although they seem simple and innocent, there are often many life lessons packed into these films. Moreover, I'm really into drama and historical movies. When I watch these, I feel that I can more deeply understand human emotions and re-live historical moments, like the Vietnam-America War or World War II.

### 5.3. Do you prefer foreign films or films made in your country?

Since my country doesn't have a huge film industry, I've always been really into American films. Not to **knock (to insult; discredit)** other film industries, but American ones are incredibly entertaining and well-made; the evolution of film continues to amaze me. Moreover, I only watch films in English so it helps me to learn new slang and expressions.

### 5.4. How often do you watch films?

Well, I am quite a **busy bee (a busy person)**, but I manage to see about one or two films a week at home. After a long day of studying, I love **snuggling up (getting comfortable with blankets)** on the sofa and watching a film to unwind. I tend to do this on Friday and Sunday evenings with my friends.

### 5.5. How often do you go to a cinema to watch a movie?

Not too often actually. As the prices in my country are quite high, I usually **opt to (choose)** watch a movie at home instead to save on costs. Actually, I think it's kind of a waste of money to see a movie at a cinema when you can watch it

from the comfort of your living room. I only go when a friend invites me, which is maybe 4 times a year.

### **5.6. Do people in your country like to go to a cinema to watch a film?**

I would say so. Since people like to go out with their families on the weekends, this is often an activity that they would choose. Moreover, teenagers enjoy this activity as a way to get out of the house. Furthermore, it's often a popular date option for many people!

### **5.7. What was the first film that you watched?**

Hmm it's hard to say the first, but I think it was the Lion King. I know it first came out in the early 90's when I was a child. It was my absolute favorite- I used to watch it repeatedly until my parents were really tired of it! I even built "pride rock" out of rocks that I found when we would go to visit my relatives who have a garden.

### **5.8. Do you like to watch movies alone or with your friends?**

Both! On one hand, I find it extremely relaxing to chill out and fall asleep to a film by myself, but it's also enjoyable to have company. So, all in all, I prefer films with friends, since they are also into film. Afterwards, we can discuss the meaning and carry on **inside jokes (jokes among friends)** from quotes from the film later on!

### **5.9. Would you like to be in a movie?**

Not one bit! As I have **stage fright (fear of being on stage)**, I would never **have the guts (never be brave enough to)** to do it. Secondly, I feel awkward when I try to act and I have the **memory of a goldfish (short memory)** so I know I could never memorize my lines! All in all, acting is simply not my thing.

## **6. Spare time/Hobbies**

### **6.1. Do you have any hobbies?**

Of course! My number one hobby is playing golf. Actually, my entire family, grandparents included, are really into golf. Ever since I was a child, my father

used to take me to the **driving range (the place to practice hitting golf balls)** with him to practice. This planted the seed of interest for me. Now we all play together as a family, and actually I beat them all most of the time!

### **6.2. What do you do when you have free time?**

My favorite things to do are play golf and see my friends and family. My top priority is spending time with those I love- and luckily most of us share the common interest of golf. For those who don't like golf, I enjoy spending time eating or at a coffeeshop together.

### **6.3. What free time activities are popular with people in your country?**

As most countries in the world, soccer is quite popular. Furthermore, people tend to enjoy playing cricket and drinking tea with one another. Nowadays, backpacking across Southeast Asia is becoming quite popular too!

### **6.4. What do you usually do after work or classes?**

Since I have an exhausting day in the office, I don't like to stay sedentary all day. I usually hit the gym and go to the driving range after work almost every single day. If I go straight home, I become **glued to (attached to)** the **couch (another word for sofa)** and don't do anything worthwhile.

### **6.5. Do you prefer staying at home or going out during evenings?**

As I'm an extroverted, active person, I'd definitely rather **hit the town (go out)**. I really enjoy going out with my college and golf mates for some beers every weekend. Moreover, I always dedicate Sunday to my family. We usually have a lunch and tea time at my grandmother's house.

### **6.6. What free-time activities would you like to try in the future?**

Lately I've had a growing interest in yoga and meditation. Some of my friends and family have recently gotten involved in it, and I see that it helps them maintain their calm regardless of the chaos around them. Furthermore, it improves balance, coordination, and body toning. I think it could benefit me, as I have a stressful office job.

### **6.7. Do you like to spend your free time with families or friends?**



It's equal! I need both. However, family will always be my number one priority. Unlike some people, I always let loose and have fun with my family. On the other hand, I really enjoy spending time with my friends and discussing topics that would be inappropriate in front of family members.

## **7. Saving Money**

### **7.1. Is money important to you?**

So-so. To be honest, money can help your life. As I know I'm a person who likes traveling abroad, I know I must have a high-paying job to be able to attain this lifestyle. When I have this freedom to have new experiences, I feel a lot happier. So, because of this I'd say money matters to me.

### **7.2. How do you save money?**

I think it's always important to have a certain number in mind. I think of a goal amount to save each month and pretend as if I don't have it. This has been a huge success for me. With these savings, I've been able to take my dream vacations and buy nice gifts for my family.

### **7.3. Did you save money when you were young?**

As I've always dreamt of traveling the world, I used to save money in a piggy-bank! Although these savings never amounted to anything substantial, maybe just some movie tickets or candy, I'm glad I did it as a way to teach myself to save. I'll never forget how sad I felt when we broke the piggy-bank!

### **7.4. Why do people save money?**

Various reasons! I think the main reasons are to have a safety blanket in case emergencies or unexpected costs arise, such as a flat tire or a broken hot water heater, or to save for a vacation or something specific that they would like to buy. Moreover, many parents are focused on saving for their children's schooling and college later on.

### **7.5. Have you ever given money to the children?**

Certainly! Although I don't have any children of my own yet, I like to slip a 20 dollar bill into birthday cards for my young nieces and nephews. Furthermore, when I've traveled, I often buy things from children selling on the streets.

## 8. Sports/Physical Exercises

### 8.1. Do you often do exercises?

I'm sort of a sporty guy/girl and **work out** at the gym **day in, day out** to **keep myself in the pink**. Compared with others at my age, I must admit that I'm **as fit as a fiddle**.

### 8.2. What kinds of exercises do you do?

As a rule, I work out at the gym on a regular basis. I lift weights, run on the treadmill or do some push-ups and press-ups. These exercises are quite exhausting but it is really good to **build muscle and burn fat**.

### 8.3. In the future, do you want to try some new ways of exercises?

I'd prefer to **take up** jogging in the morning; it's quite a recommended way to work out in the morning. However, **for the time being**, because of my workload and laziness, waking up early is **out of the question**.

## 9. Ideal Job

### 9.1. What was the dream job for you when you were young?

Ok, well when I was a child, probably one of my biggest ambitions was to become a professional footballer, which, I should admit, was a bit of a ridiculous dream to have, considering my football skills at that time were **by no means** great. But still, that's what I wanted to be, at least until common sense **got the better of me**.

**Get the better of someone**: become superior to or master someone or something; win out

### 9.2. Have you changed your mind on your dream job?

Sure, when I grew up, I realized that I am **not really cut out** to be a footballer, as I'm not physically strong enough to **stand a chance**.

**Not be cut out for something/ to do something:** to lack the right qualities or character for doing something

**Stand a chance:** to be likely to achieve something

### 9.3. What do you plan to do in the future?

I'm planning to pursue overseas study to **hone my expertise in** my chosen field first, then I will make a decision later. The future is hard to predict and I may **end up** doing stuff that I won't ever imagine of.

**Expertise in something:** special skill or knowledge that you get from experience, training, or study

**Hone:** to improve a skill or talent that is already well-developed

## 10. Flats/Houses/Accommodation

### 10.1. Do you like a house or a flat/ an apartment?

I believe most people would prefer to have their own house rather than to rent a place and so do I. Hence, if I **have my way**, a house with a small garden would be my choice since I don't enjoy the constant disturbance from next-door apartments and elevator rides everytime coming home.

#### ***Vocabulary***

**Have/ get one's way** (idiom): get or do what one wants in spite of opposition

### 10.2. What kind of housing/accommodation do you live in?

For the past 21 years I have lived in a house with my family. And I think if I can move out and start **making a living** on my own, I would try my best to have an independent place where I can plan and design a house layout to **suit myself** since sharing a room or a flat with strangers sounds so **troublesome** to me.

#### ***Vocabulary***

**To afford (v)** to be able to financially support/have enough money to pay for Sth

**Suit myself (v)** to do exactly what you like/want

**Troublesome (adj)** causing difficulty or annoyance

**To make a living (v)** to earn enough to support one's self

### **10.3. What do you usually do in your house/flat/room?**

Well definitely I'll spend some **me-time** there. I study, I **chill out** by reading, drawing and dancing **all by myself**. Sometimes I also invite one or two friends to spend time with. We'll watch some movies together and tell each other endless stories.

**Chill out (phrasal verb)** relax

**Me-time (phrase)** time for one's self alone

**To do Sth all by one's self (phrase)** to do Sth alone

### **10.4. Who do you live with?**

I live with my family. There are 5 of us and we all have our own room, which is way more comfortable as the older we grow, the more privacy we need for ourselves. I think our house is big enough for us yet still a **warm and cozy** place that I call home.

### **10.5. How long have you lived there?**

Although during my childhood my family had to move a lot, I've lived in the most recent house for almost ten years. Comparing to the old houses, I think this house has been the best so far.

### **10.6. Do you plan to live there for a long time?**

The answer would be yes if the respondent is my parents, since moving in and out is too time-consuming and exhausting. Cleaning and arranging everything **all over again** would be like **torture** to them. For me, on the other hand, as I'm thinking of moving out to start my adult life, hopefully soon I'll be able to afford to live in a flat or an apartment.

### **Vocabulary**

**All over again (idiom)** used for saying that you do the whole of something again starting from the beginning, or that the whole of a long process happens again

**Torture (n)** great physical or mental suffering

**10.7. What's the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?**

As I've already mentioned my family moved several times when I was younger. And the most current house where we've been living for about ten years is the best house so far. All of us have separate rooms for our **need of privacy** yet a big dining room where we can spend the whole evenings together watching TV or having dinner.

**Vocabulary**

**Need of Sth/doing Sth (phrase)** circumstances in which something is necessary; necessity

**10.8. Can you describe the place where you live?/ Please describe the room you live in**

Briefly, my **humble** house locates in a small and quite street, so coming home to me is like all the craziness happened outside is left behind. Just beside my house stands a big old tree. I have my own room with walls painted violet, which is kinda a peaceful color. The air outside is fresh. I usually open the window to enjoy the wind and sunshine, which will help cool down my room without an air conditioner. Since I spend most of my time staying at home, my room means the whole world to me. It's like a friend who is always there to **share ups and downs** with me. So yeah, I would always miss my house, my room whenever I'm away.

**Vocabulary**

**Humble (adj)** having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance

**To help (SO) do Sth (v)** to make it easier or possible for (someone) to do something by offering them one's services or resources.

**To share ups and downs (v)** together being through good and bad times

**To be away (adj)** to or at a distance from a particular place, person, or thing

**10.9. Which part of your home do you like the most?**

It's the dining room where my family spends our time together. Not only lunch or dinner but all our **family reunions** take place in the dining room where we can enjoy a **harmonious** atmosphere. We always try to keep the family dinner as something we **cannot go a day without**, since for us it's the family bonding that lies behind.

### **Vocabulary**

**Reunion (n)** a social event for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time

**Harmonious (adj)** friendly and peaceful

**To go a day without Sth/doing Sth (v)** to feel not necessary to do Sth on a day

### **10.10. Why do you think some people invest a huge amount of money in buying houses?**

People certainly have different reasons to buy a **property**. I believe the most important one is privacy. You will gain much more independence and freedom to **refurbish** the place **as you please** since you are the owner. Besides, it would create a **pride of ownership**. No matter how small or big your house is, it is yours to **renovate** or brag about.

**Property (n)**: a building or buildings and the surrounding land

**Refurbish (v)**: to clean and decorate a room, building, etc. in order to make it more attractive, more useful, etc.

**As one please (idiom)**: whatever you like, or in whatever way you prefer

**Ownership (n)**: the fact of owning something

**Renovate (v)**: to repair and paint an old building, a piece of furniture, etc. so that it is in good condition again

**Brag (+about) (v)**: to talk too proudly about something you own or something you have done

### **10.11. Should we live in a flat or a house?**

It heavily depends on people's preference and **affordability** since each type of property has its own **perks**. If one enjoys the modern **amenities** that an

apartment complex can provide such as gyms, swimming pools and convenience stores and, of course, he has money, an apartment would be a great choice. In contrast, houses are usually suitable those who prefer privacy and a quiet lifestyle.

**Affordability** (n): the fact of being cheap enough that people can afford to buy it or pay it; how affordable something is

**Perk** (n): a benefit or advantage that you get from a situation

**Amenity** (n): a feature that makes a place pleasant, comfortable or easy to live in

## 11. Foreign food

### 11.1. Have you ever tried foreign food?

Of course! Since Germany welcomes many immigrants and refugees, we embrace a multi-cultural cuisine. Since there are many with Turkish roots living here, we are huge fans of kebab. Moreover, we enjoy many asian cuisines, especially Vietnamese, since there is a large Vietnamese community living here.

### 11.2. Do you like to try new food?

Absolutely! I think it adds color to our live and **tastebuds (part on our tongue that controls taste)**. As I'm a big foodie, I'm always open to trying new cuisines. I've never been very fearful nor picky when it comes to trying new foods. Even sometimes the scariest looking dishes I've tried have ended up being delicious, such as sheep head soup in Peru and tarantula in Cambodia.

### 11.3. How often did you eat foreign food when you were young?

Since my father is of Turkish decent where my mother is German, we have always had a **fusion (mixture)** of cuisines in my home. Furthermore, my father only eats halal meat, so we would often go Middle Eastern or Indian restaurants to accommodate this. Moreover, my mother has always had a taste for Asian

cuisines, so we have always incorporated Vietnamese, Chinese, Thai, etc foods into our eating habits as well.

#### **11.4. Do you like any food from countries near yours?**

Certainly! One of the things I like most about living in Europe is that each country has it's own unique cuisine. I really enjoy the waffles, chocolate, and beer from one of our neighbors, Belgium, as well as the one of a kind **perogies (a traditional Polish dish)** from Poland. All in all, I'd have to say that Mediterranean cuisines, especially Greek and Italian, foods are my favorite. There are few things that compare to those fresh ingredients and delicious olives!

#### **11.5. Do people in your country like foreign food?**

As Germany welcomes many immigrants into our country, I would say yes, since people have always been exposed to different types of food. In my experience, I see that all of the people in my circle **embrace (to take advantage of)** the unique variety of flavors that we have here in Berlin. To be honest, I don't know anyone who doesn't enjoy a juicy Doner kebab!

#### **11.6. Will people eat more or less foreign food?**

More! Since Germany continues to be one of the most desirable migration destinations in the world, I'm sure that even more foreign cuisines will be introduced into our country. Moreover, I think that the traditional German food may become a fusion with other popular cuisines here. I really look forward to this! I think that multi-cultural foods bring more culture and **richness (diversity)** to a place.

### **12. Boredom**

#### **12.1. Do you ever get bored?**

Of course! But recently I have been so lost in my medical school that I haven't really had time to feel bored. Since I work and study from **sun up to sun down (all day)**, I embrace my downtime much more than I did when I was younger.



Nowadays I really enjoy having time to **unwind (relax after a long day)** doing mindless activities, such as watching TV or reading a book.

### **12.2. What kinds of things are boring to you?**

Museums and people who talk too much. I've never been a big fan of museums for some reason. I get extremely bored when everyone is in complete silence observing artifacts and reading information. When I travel, I much prefer to walk around and **soak up (absorb)** the local surroundings. On the other hand, I cannot stand people who **talk my ear off (talk too much)**! I lose focus and cannot wait to get away from them!

### **12.3. What will do when you feel bored?**

I always call my mom! We have an extremely close relationship, so I know she is always just a phone call away. As she is also in the medical field and shares many similar interests with me, we always have endless things to talk about. Moreover, we both enjoy gossiping!

### **12.4. When you were young, what would you do if you felt bored?**

When I was young, I would always **venture (explore)** outside when I was stuck in the house all day. It always kept me entertained to go outside and **people watch (sit outside and observe people)**. Moreover, there was a small pond and park near my house, so I would often go there to play at the playground. The swings were always my first choice.

## **13. Maps/ Navigation**

### **13.1. Do you use maps?**

Well, I **tend to (I usually)** have a good sense of direction, so I prefer to use them only when there is no other option. I'd rather get directions from someone using landmarks, as I have a **photographic memory (when you can easily remember images rather than words)**. However, when I find myself completely lost, especially in a foreign place, I will **resort to (do as a last option)** tourist maps or google maps.

### 13.2. How often do you use them?

I would say a few times a week. Since I don't usually go outside of my daily routine, I have no reason to use a map. When I get on my bicycle every day, I know **every niche (every small detail)** of my city. If I find myself lost, you can always rely on a stranger to help in my small town.

### 13.3. What kind of maps do you use? Why is that?

For some reason paper maps just don't seem to **click (make sense)** in my mind. Because of this, I prefer google maps since they give me verbal instructions. I find this a lot easier to follow, as well as much safer especially when I'm driving. Furthermore, the estimated time and walking, biking, or driving option is super helpful.

### 13.4. How long have you been using them?

I've been using online maps for the past few years, and well, paper maps for my entire life. I followed my first paper map while driving when I was 16. I got so lost and ended up calling my father **in tears (crying)**! Since online maps and GPS, it has become much easier to get around.

### 13.5. Did you use paper maps before?

Oh, I can remember those days (an expression when talking fondly about the past)! The glove box(the place in front of your carseat to store things) in my car was full of maps and my father used to draw them for me when I was new to the road. Furthermore, even nowadays when I travel, I often stop by the tourist information desk and get a free map.

### 13.6. Have you ever asked somebody/passers-by for directions?

I believe that people will help you in most cases, so I certainly have. I know some people feel shy or maybe too proud to ask for help, but I'm not one of these. Although I've been rejected a few times, more times than not people **have gone out of their way (put in a lot of effort to help you)** to give me detailed directions with landmarks included to my destination.

### 13.7. What type of maps do people use the most nowadays? Why?

Google maps or other online maps/GPS have completely **taken over (became popular)**. Nowadays, you don't even need to know where you're going. Since we have these modern day conveniences, less and less people are going through the **hassle (inconvenience)** of reading a paper map. Furthermore, since GPS and online maps are so popular, perhaps people are losing the skill to read and follow a map.

## 14. Teachers

### 14.1. Do you like any teachers of yours?

There were a few teachers that I was particularly fond of. I'll tell you about my high school PE teacher, Mrs. Burrier. Since she knew I was painfully shy and especially **clumsy (can easily trip or fall)** when it comes to gym class, she allowed me to do the dance routine that she assigned to us in a private room only in front of her to save me from embarrassment. I so appreciated it!

### 14.2. Do you still keep in touch with your teacher?

I've lost contact with all elementary and middle school teachers, but I keep in touch with a couple university professors. As uni professors are allowed to have more of a relationship with students, it was easier to get to know them. My Spanish professor and I message back and forth every year to catch up.

### 14.3. Do you want to be a teacher?

As I'm not a patient person, I don't think teaching is for me. Furthermore, I **dread (don't look forward to)** the thought of standing in front of the classroom trying to get the class's attention while the children **fool around (play)**. I think it takes a special person to be a teacher, and unfortunately I don't meet the criteria!

### 14.4. Do you remember your fav teach from primary school?

Of course! I'll tell you about my second grade teacher, Ms. Puleo. She was always kind, encouraging, and incredibly patient, even with us little **rascals (slang for kids)**. I always felt a sense of warmth in her classroom, which the students responded well to. The world needs more teachers like her.

#### **14.5. Did you pretend to be a teacher in the childhood?**

Oh yes! I remember playing teacher with a small chalkboard my friend had at her house. I used to think it was so entertaining to be the teacher and give the class assignments to do; I usually focused on Math and Art. I loved pretending to give orders!

#### **14.6. What qualities should a good teacher have?**

Firstly, I think a teacher needs to be patient. Secondly, I think the teacher must be kind and encouraging, which creates a warm, open learning environment. I also think they should have interpersonal skills to be able to understand the needs of all different students. There are different kinds of teachers, but I would use this as **rule of thumb (a general rule)**.

### **15. Punctuality/Time Management**

#### **15.1. How do you organize you time?**

I often **prioritize** things that **matter to me** most, in the order of urgency and importance. Usually, I often spend the evening **planning out** what to do the next day.

#### **15.2. Do you think young people organize their time in the same way?**

No, it depends on each individual. Some prefer to **have no plans** at all as they can **improvise** quite well no matter what situations. For me, I always plan out my schedule **in advance** as I'm a safe guy/girl and don't want **to take risks**.

#### **15.3. Are you ever late for anything?**

Yes I had a few times late last week for work, but I didn't **get into big trouble** because most of the time I was early.

#### **15.4. How do you feel when you are late for an appointment?**

I really don't like to keep others waiting. I feel very apologetic and **guilty of** not being punctual. Usually I'm late because I'm trying to fit too many things into my schedule.

#### **15.5. Do you like to wear watches?**

Well, I am more a cosmetics girl than clothing and accessories, hence, there are not many watches and jewelries **in my possession**. However, I **have nothing against** wearing a beautiful piece of art on my wrist and do own a few exclusive timepieces which suit perfectly with my clothing **on some special occasions**, giving me a **sense of identity** and uniqueness.

**In someone's possession:** if something is in someone's possession, they have it

**Have nothing against:** to dislike or not approve of someone or something for a particular reason

**On (special) occasions:** from time to time; now and then

## 16. Watches

### 16.1. Do you usually wear a watch?

As I'm a very punctual person, yes I do. I like to be able to quickly check my wrist instead of going through the **hassle (inconvenience)** to check it on my phone. Furthermore, I like the way they look!

### 16.2. Where did you get your watch?

A thrift store near my house. Since I didn't want to **splurge (spend a lot of money for luxury)** on a new Rolex, I bought a vintage one that I found. Actually, I like it more since it's unique! I really enjoy thrift store shopping since you can find high quality for low prices.

### 16.3. What kinds of watches do you like to wear?

High quality yet reasonable prices. I'm not the type of person who likes to have the same watch that **everyone and their brother (an expression meaning everyone)** has, so I really enjoy when I find unique pieces. With this said, I often go to vintage or thrift shops.

### 16.4. Why do some people like to wear expensive watches?

Well, I think there are 2 reasons. One is that it is a **status symbol (something that shows your economic class)**. They know that if someone **catches a**

**glimpse (a quick look)** of their watch, they will know that he/she has money. Furthermore, perhaps they really like to appearance of it or they are the type of person who likes high quality products.

#### **16.5. Have you ever received a watch as a gift?**

Not since I was a child. I remember my mother gave me a pink, shiny digital watch for my 11th birthday and I was ecstatic about it! I wore it everyday at every moment till I went swimming with it on one day and broke it.

### **17. Parks/ Public Gardens**

#### **17.1 Are public gardens very important in your country?**

Yes, absolutely. This is simply because people can enjoy a great time with their friends or families in public gardens via some activities like **going for a stroll** or looking at the **beautiful flowerbeds**.

#### **17.2. Are there many public gardens in your country?**

Not much I have to say. People tend to be so **tied up at the workplace** or at school, therefore, there is no need to have many public gardens, from the government's perspective.

#### **17.3. Do you think there are enough public gardens in your hometown?**

I think it's pretty enough as I am more concerned about the quality rather than the quantity. And most of the public gardens in the place where I am living, which is also my hometown, offer me a great experience you know, looking at the beautiful plants and flowers every time I **tire myself out**.

### **18. School**

#### **18.1. How old are you when you started school?**

Well, **to the best of my recollection**, I attended kindergarden at the age of four. And then when I turned six, I entered primary school.

#### **18.2. Where did you go to school?**

I lived **on the outskirts of** town ages ago, so I entered a primary and secondary school in my little town. But when I got into high school, my parents decided to move to live in the city so that I could study in a more **prestigious** school with modern facilities.

### 18.3. How did you get to school each day?

My school was within walking distance so I just walked there. My parents also bought me a bike so that I could get to the school easily, but I preferred to go by foot as a means of taking exercises to strengthen my lower body.

### 18.4. Did you enjoy it?

Yes, for sure. Unlike some of my friends who **had aversion to** school and just wanted to **play truant from school**, I just really loved to go to school everyday. Maybe the reason is that I was **eager to learn** new things from my teachers and friends.

### 18.5. Have you ever returned to see your old school again?

Yes, **once in a while** when I **was off from work** and back to my hometown, I **paid a visit to** my old school as well. It **reminds me of** sweet memories when I was still a naughty kid who liked to **pull other's leg**.

## 19. Work/Study

### *Study*

#### 19.1. Describe your education

I graduated from High School for the Gifted and **got into** an International University because I think 2-year study at this university would prepare me well, especially my **critical thinking** skills before I finish another 2 years abroad at the University of Nottingham.

### *Vocabulary*

**Critical thinking (n)** the objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgment.

**Get into something (phrase)** to be accepted to study at a school

## 19.2. What is your area of specialization?

My **major** is Plant Biotechnology. I have been into Biology since I was in high school and I think a **shift** to a field where Biology and advanced technology are associated would be interesting and promising for my future career.

**Major (n)** the most important subject that a college or university student is studying

**To be into something (phrase)** really like something

## 19.3. Why did you choose to study that major?

There are many reasons for my choice. As I've already **explained about** my long-term interest in Biology and plants, another reason could be because of science itself, since I've found my personalities have changed in a positive way, you know, like I've become more patient and skillful.

## 19.4. Do you like your major? (Why?/Why not?)

**To tell you the truth** it was quite challenging for me **at first**, because the university's requirements are especially high and you know science itself highly demands skillful hands and curious mind. However, as time **goes by** I think I'm **getting used to** an **insurmountable** amount of pressure and actually enjoy my study.

**Go by (phrasal verb)** if time goes by, it passes

**Get used to Verb-ing/something (phrase)** If you get used to something, you become familiar with it

**Insurmountable (adj)** incapable to overcome (problem/difficult)

## 19.5. What kind of school did you go to as a child?

Well just like most of the pupils, I spent five years at the government's primary school. It took me only 10 minutes to go to school and I had my parents take me to school everyday. Classes start at 7 in the morning and end at 5 in the evening.

## 19.6. What was your favourite subject as a child?



To tell you the truth, I was quite good at Literature **back then**. Besides, my Literature teacher was really dedicated and caring, thus I always tried my best to get high score and impressed my teacher.

**Back then (phrase)** an expression you can use in order to refer to a specific period of time in the past

### 19.7. (Possibly) Are you looking forward to working?

To be honest, working is actually my **plan B** just in case I need to **make ends meet**. In the future I think my higher degree is my priority.

#### **Vocabulary**

**Plan B (n)** back-up plan

**To make ends meet (v)** to make money, to earn a living

#### **Work**

### 19.1. What do you do?

For the past few months I've been working for *The Guardian* as a news editor. In fact this is my first job ever, I'm working really hard to contribute to the success of this prestigious newspaper.

### 19.2. What are your responsibilities?

As a part-time editor, I am responsible for editing news related to different **current affairs** as well as collecting information for the newspaper edition.

### 19.3. Why did you choose to do that type of work (or, that job)?

I guess it's mainly because of the **job flexibility** & my passion for journalism. To be more specific, this job offers me alternatives to the typical **nine-to-five work schedule**, enabling me to find a better balance between work and life. Besides, this job gives me opportunities to **pursue my dream** to become a journalist down the road.

#### **Vocabulary**

**Job flexibility (expression)** gives employees flexibility on how long, where and when they work.

**Nine-to-five work (phrase)** the normal work schedule for most jobs

#### 19.4. Is there some other kind of work you would rather do?

At present I don't think I'm able to **dedicate** myself to any other job rather than this one. In fact, to me it's the experiences and opportunities I can gain that really matters.

#### **Vocabulary**

**To dedicate to Sth (v)** devote (time or effort) to a particular task or purpose

#### 19.5. Describe the company or organization you work for.

*The Guardian* is a National British daily newspaper which offers free access both to current news and an archive of three million stories. In April 2011, MediaWeek reported that *The Guardian* was the fifth most popular newspaper site in the world. I personally believe that the guardian is the inspirational workplace for all people who dream of becoming a journalist.

#### 19.6. Do you enjoy your work?

Most of the time. Contributing to the news production for a **world-class** newspaper gives me a sense of satisfaction and pride.

#### **Vocabulary**

**World-class (adj)** of or among the best in the world

#### 19.7. What do you like/dislike about your job?

Well **the perk** of being a news editor is that you'll **surround yourself with** inspiring news **on a daily basis**. What I don't like about this job is that I have to do a thousand edits to get the final one to **meet the requirement** of my boss. Sometimes I feel a bit overloaded with tons of tasks.

#### **Vocabulary**

**Perk (n)** an advantage or something extra that you are given because of your job

**Overloaded (adj)** to give excessive work, responsibility, or information to

#### 19.8. (Possibly) Do you miss being a student?

I surely will miss my student life once I **get involve in the workplace**. For me I think when I'm a student, at least I have someone guide me, whereas at work mostly you must guide yourself. The academic environment appears to be a

**comfort zone** for me, while I'm sure I'll struggle with **fitting in** the working environment.

### ***Vocabulary***

**To get involve in (v)** to become a part of (an organization)

**To fit in (v)** to become suitable or appropriate for Sth or SO

## **20. Travel**

### **20.1. Do you like to travel by air?**

Certainly! It's the quickest and most efficient way. I would choose this over a 12+ hour bus or car ride any day! Furthermore, whenever I **set foot on (enter; step into)** a plane, I tend to feel sleepy and end up **drifting off (sleep)** for pretty much the entire flight.

### **20.2. What do you think about travelling to the outer space?**

I think it's quite intriguing, as I believe that other life forms may exist. Moreover, it's fascinating to find out more about the other complex galaxies surrounding us. I believe there is much more to the universe than only Earth.

### **20.3. Do you want to travel to the space?**

Yes, of course! I would be really interested to see what else it out there. I'm not sure if this would happen in my lifetime though. However, I've heard that one day we may be able to take trips to space. I think it's a possibility! The future never **ceases (fails)** to amaze me.

### **20.4. Who would you like to go with?**

At this point in time, I can just imagine going alone with a specialized person. **Down the road (in the future)** I could imagine going with my partner, and perhaps my children as well. I would love for all of us to share this experience together.

### **20.5. What would you prepare on a trip to the outer space?**

Definitely appropriate astronautical gear, as I've seen in pictures. Furthermore, I would like to bring some kind of camera or video to be able to show my friends

on earth what I saw. Lastly, I would like to bring some kind of gift from earth just in case I **came across (encountered by accident)** another life form there.

## **20.6. Where would you like to go to?**

The moon or mars! I would say the moon because I'm interested to know what it feels like to walk on it. I'm also curious if the myth that it's made out of cheese is accurate. On the other hand, I've heard there is water on Mars, suggesting that there could be life there, so I'd be fascinated to investigate that firsthand.

## **20.7. Do you think it's necessary to see other planets?**

I would say it's a luxury more than a necessity for average people. However, I think it's necessary for scientists to investigate other planets so that we have better research and understanding of what is going on around us. Lastly, it's good for us humans to realize that Earth isn't the only planet.

**Plunge oneself into something (phrase)** to suddenly start doing something with energy and enthusiasm, but sometimes without thinking about it first

**Every now and then (idiom)** sometimes

**Get-together (noun)** a small informal meeting or social gathering

## **21. Shoes**

### **21.1. Do you like shoes?**

Yes, of course! I'm quite a **girly girl (very feminine)**, so I've always been into shoes since I was a little girl. My mother used to catch me trying on her high heels in her closet! Moreover, I'm a **fashionista (a person who likes fashion)** so I feel that shoes really tie the whole outfit together.

### **21.2. How often do you buy shoes?**

Mm I would say every couple months. I'm trying to save up for a new car right now, so I don't like to spend too much unnecessary money. With this said, I usually buy a new pair at the start of every season.

### **21.3. Do you like to wear shoes that are comfortable or good looking?**

Definitely good looking, hopefully comfortable too! I care much more about the appearance and if they complement my outfit. However, I try to buy nicer brands so that more comfortable should be expected. Moreover, many comfortable shoes are often unattractive, like Crocs for example.

#### **21.4. What is your favorite type of shoes?**

High heels 100%! I feel that they really tie the whole outfit together. Moreover, I feel feminine when I wear them, not to mention that they accentuate my legs. I have spent several years getting used to them so I can now **strut my stuff (walk confidently)** in heels everywhere I go!

#### **21.5. Why do some people have too many shoes?**

Well, there could be various reasons. I think one is that perhaps they see shoes on sale so they buy them **on a whim (buying something without thinking about it)**, even if they don't need them. Moreover, some people are really into shoes so they like to collect them. Lastly, maybe they keep their old shoes so their collection keeps growing.

#### **21.6. Have you ever bought shoes online?**

Of course, although I don't prefer it. I have only bought shoes online from familiar stores, like Aldo and Zara, which I know fit me well. On the other hand, I don't like to buy shoes from new stores when I'm not able to try them on first.

#### **21.7. Are people willing to buy expensive shoes?**

Some people! I think people who are wealthy are more **apt to (likely to)** buy expensive brands. On the other hand, there are some people who would rather have a few quality items rather than a bunch of cheap quality pairs. So, I think this type of person often tends to buy more expensive shoes also.

## **22. Rain**

### **22.1. Does it rain much in your country? (Where? When?)**

I would say yes. It rains a lot in the summer when **tropical storms strike** our country. There is **torrential rain** in the region in June, July and August, and the rainfall tends to be higher in the North than in the South.

**22.2. Is there any part of your country where it doesn't rain much?**

To tell you the truth, I have no clue about this. I do not **give a hoot about** geography and the amount of rain in my country. I think the most rainfall is in the North where there is an **intricate** system of rivers.

**22.3. Does it rain a lot in your hometown?**

Well, it depends on the season. In winter and spring, there is a **dearth of rain** associated with the **arid weather**. In contrast, it is usually **raining cats and dogs** in summer and august, causing **loads of troubles** for people travelling on the road.

**22.4. Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your hometown?**

That would be last summer. I was going to work and then **all of a sudden** it started to rain, followed by a **deluge**. I was soaked to the skin and couldn't attend a very important meeting.

**22.5. Does rain ever affect transportation in your hometown?**

Yeah, of course. **Traffic is often held up** when it rains. All the **roads are clogged**, and people find it difficult to **escape from traffic congestion**. I would stay at home and watch TV rather than going out and being caught up in traffic.

***Vocabulary***

**Tropical storm (phrase)** A tropical storm is an organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds between 34 knots (63 km/h) and 64 knots (119 km/h).

**Torrential rain (phrase)** If it's raining extremely hard, then the rain is torrential

**Give a hoot about something/someone (phrase)** to not be interested in someone or something

**Intricate (adj)** very complicated or detailed.

**Dearth (noun)** a scarcity or lack of something.

**Arid (adj)** (of land or a climate) having little or no rain; too dry or barren to support vegetation

**Rain cats and dogs (idiom)** rain heavily

**All of a sudden (phrase)** happening, coming, made, or done quickly, without warning, or unexpectedly

**Deluge (noun)** a great flood of water

**Hold someone/something up (phrasal verb)** to delay someone or something

## 23. Letters / Handwriting

### 23.1. Do you like to write a letter or an email?

Due to **time constraint** and professionalism, emails are much more favorable than traditional **handwritten correspondence**. However, I still enjoy the **sophistication** and **artfulness** of handwritten letters since each one is unique and **intensely** personal. Therefore, unless in business context, I usually send written notes or invitations for my friends and family for their **intimacy**.

**Constraint** (n): a thing that limits or restricts something, or your freedom to do something

**Correspondence** (n): the activity of writing letters

**Sophistication** (n): the quality of being sophisticated

**Artfulness** (n): the quality of being artful or of acting in an artful manner

**Intensely** (adv): in a way that shows very strong feelings, opinions or thoughts about somebody/something

**Intimacy** (n): the state of having a close personal relationship with somebody

### 23.2. Do you think emails are useful?

Obviously yes. It's one of the most primary tools in **business communication** as well as personal correspondence. **On the business front**, emails are immediate, direct and efficient for both **internal** and **external** communication. Parties can send and receive **inquiries** or contracts in the matter of seconds, which helps keep **the flow of information** and business process going.

**Internal** (a): involving or concerning only the people who are part of a particular organization rather than people from outside it

**External** (a): happening or coming from outside a place, an organization, your particular situation, etc.

**Inquiry** (n): a request for information about somebody/something; a question about somebody/something

### **23.3. Who do you usually write to and what do you write about?**

I write to my family, and to my friends; we keep each other posted about our lives and work, and also we have heart-to-heart talks about our opinions and feelings.

### **23.4. What sorts of letters (or emails) do you think are most difficult to write?**

In my opinion, complaint letters are one of the toughest **pieces of writing** because of the **discomfort** they may cause. Since I'm an easy-going and **conflict-averse** person, I don't usually complain when I should, whether it's a **poor service experience** or product. Hence, writing a formal letter of complaint is even more difficult, especially when I have to carefully choose my words and tones so it can be less critical and more **constructive**.

**Discomfort** (n): a feeling of worry or embarrassment

**Conflict-averse** (a): having a tendency to avoid conflicts

**Constructive** (a): having a useful and helpful effect rather than being negative or with no purpose

### **23.5. Do you think email might one day replace handwritten letters?**

Regarding the **widespread** use of emails in modern communication, it's understandable that some might think handwritten letters could be completely replaced one day but I don't. Since handwriting is the most **primal** tool of human **interaction** and closely connected with **cultural identity**, it would be preserved and promoted. Besides, many have preferred handwriting in more personal notes or letters since it can express how special the **recipients** are.



**Widespread** (a): existing or happening over a large area or among many people

**Primal** (a): connected with the earliest origins of life; very basic

**Cultural identity** (n): the identity or feeling of belonging to a group

**Recipient** (n): a person who receives something

### **23.6. How do you feel when you receive a letter or email?**

I will be very glad to receive a letter or email, because it means that there is someone who **cares for** me and sends me something for greetings, or if they have something to discuss with me, I am also pleased to reply to them.

### **23.7. Who do you usually write to and what do you write about?**

I write to my family, and to my friends; we **keep each other updated about** our lives and work, and also we have **heart-to-heart talks** about our opinions and feelings.

## **24. Daily Routine**

### **24.1. Do you like to plan what you will do each day?**

So far, planning has become one of my **unbreakable habits**. The more I get older, the more I learn about the importance of **planning ahead** even though I have just started this lately. Every night before I go to bed, I would **make a to-do list** for the following day, then **scan through** my monthly planner for any upcoming events such as deadlines, meetings or travel trips. Such organizing activity has helped **ease my life**.

### **Vocabulary**

**(An) unbreakable habit(s) (n):** habits that you keep for a long term

### **24.2. Please describe your typical daily routine**

A typical day of mine starts at 8 am. After waking up, I would just go for some basic getting-ready steps just like other girls. On weekdays I usually have classes so I would leave home at around 8.45 am to be there on time. After classes, I have lunch and go straight back home for some rest as I find morning classes are quite **overwhelming**. Meanwhile, on weekends when I don't have

classes, I would spend my morning on assignments. In the evening I would do some workout, take a shower and then cook dinner with my friends in order to supply ourselves some healthy foods and **save money on a budget**. I also **eat out** sometimes if we're both busy or we run out of food. After I finish my dinner, I check my planner and **get myself back to work**. Additionally, as I'm not a **night owl**, I try to manage my time as efficiently as possible until around 12 am. Before I brush my teeth and go to bed at around 1 am, I would scan through my planner for what to do on the following day and maybe listen to some relaxing music and **do some meditation**.

### **Vocabulary**

**To be overwhelming (adj):** Sth which is difficult to fight against

**To save money on a budget (phrase):** to save money

**To eat out (v):** to go outside to eat

**To do some meditation (v):** some therapeutic methods to release stress

### **24.3. What do you usually do at this time of day?**

As usual I would still be working on my assignments. I always spend loads of time and efforts on researching for materials, organizing ideas and writing a number of drafts as I always aim to get good marks. Between duration of hard work when I find myself quite **drained out**, I take a 15-minute break to go online, drink some water or listen to some music to **refresh my mind**.

### **Vocabulary**

**To be drained out (v):** to be exhausted by Sth

### **24.4. Do you usually do the same things at the same time each day?**

Well I guess I would say repeating similar things everyday is not my lifestyle. A meaningful life to me is when I can balance between my personal life and my social life. What I mean is, I always **seek for** opportunities to see, interact and maybe involve in other people's lives to **open my mind** and learn great things from them. Thus, instead of studying, I would love to spend some evenings or nights, either outdoor or indoor, with my family and friends. Besides, I also

participate in social activities held by my university. I believe that this is the right time for the young generation like me to discover the outside world.

### **Vocabulary**

**To seek for (v):** to look for Sth important (jobs, scholarships, etc.)

#### **24.5. How do you organize your study time?**

Maybe because I am very keen on study, I keep studying as a daily routine. Normally I start after lunch or dinner everyday and try to finish it before midnight. However, sometimes it appears to be so boring for me, after I go out and have fun, I would either **stay up late** or wake up early in the morning to study depending on how tired I am.

### **Vocabulary**

**To stay up late (v):** to go to bed late at night

#### **24.6. Do you ever change your plans?**

Well I guess I have to say I've changed my plans a number of times actually. Beside those events such as appointments, meetings or travel trips could barely be **put off**, I tend to be flexible and **go with the flow**. Some people who manage their time exactly to every minute but that's just not my style. If I feel changes do not significantly alter other activities, I would just **go for it**.

### **Vocabulary**

**To put off (v):** to postpone, to delay

**Go with the flow (phrase):** let things happen | cope with the adversity

**To go for it (phrase):** to encourage SO to go ahead and do Sth

#### **24.7. What's your favorite time of the day?**

I guess from 4pm to 6pm, when I have some rest after class and a little workout, is my favorite time of the day. I find myself highly awake and process things much more effectively during these hours. This is also a good time to spend on going outside and meeting up, as there is a wide variety of places to choose from and the weather is cooled down.

#### **24.8. What do you want to change in your daily routine?**

I guess I would definitely have to change my routine once I **jump into the workplace**, especially if I work in an office. I think I firstly have to **get myself used to** unchangeable events, then manage myself to adapt to the new working environment, as I am actually not good at dealing with changes.

### **Vocabulary**

**To get used to (doing) Sth (v):** to get familiar with doing Sth

## **25. Friends**

### **25.1. How often do you go out with your friends?**

Well, I'd say that I **hang out with** my friends **on a weekly basis**. We often gather at a coffee shop or movie theater to share moments together. To tell the truth, I can't live without my friends.

### **25.2. When was the last time you went out with your friends? & What did you talk about?**

Well, it was last week when we **threw a party** at my close friend's house to celebrate her birthday. We **had a whale of time** at the party and didn't want to go home at all. So, we decided to stay and **had a chit-chat** all night about our favorite topics like shopping, travelling, etc.

### **25.3. What is fashion among teenagers?**

Probably, many teenagers now are **slaves to fashion** and never stop **keep up with the latest trends** in fashion. Most teenage boys and girls **show a big preference for** clothing styles just like those from their idols, especially **world-class** singers and actors.

### **25.4. Do you think friends are important in your life?**

Sure, they **play an important role in my life**. I agree that **friends are your relatives chosen by yourself**. My friends **accompany me when I am going through ups and downs**. I think your **happiness will be doubled and sadness will be halved** if they are shared by your friends. In addition to that, good friends **offer me valuable suggestions** when I feel lost.

Or:

Well, honestly, besides my family, my friends **play an important role in** my life. With them, I am able to share all the problems that I find difficult to talk to my parents. They're also the ones who I can trust and enjoy the most beautiful moments of my youth.

**Go through (phrasal verb)** experience something bad

**Ups and downs (idiom)** a variety of situations and experiences that are sometimes good and sometimes bad

### 25.5. What does friendship mean to you?

I think friendship is a necessary part of life. Friendship, in my opinion, means you have somebody who can **share your happiness and pain**. Friends are those **whom you feel easy with**. They are always your good listeners. And they are the people you can **discuss the interesting issues with**.

### 25.6. What is the best part of being a teenager?

The teenage years are the most dynamic stage of life since teenagers really **hang out a lot** with their friends. You can also date with your beloved friends, and enjoy the freedom you have. **There's no need to** worry about your job, money and teenagers simply **enjoy their life to the fullest**.

### 25.7. What qualities do you value in your best friend?

Honesty and faith, I think, are the most important. We needn't agree on everything, but we can trust each other totally. I don't like being with a person who always tells lies. It's too boring to judge all the time whether he is telling the truth or not. If I **go astray** he will point it to me frankly without hesitation. I don't like the friends who often **flatter** me. In fact they are not real friends.

Or:

Well, it's hard to say anything. Though making friends is easy, **maintaining** that relationship is much harder. Therefore, I think my best friends are those who should be honest and **sympathetic** because I am a kind of person that prefers the truth and easily **get affected** my emotions.

**Go astray (phrase)** do something wrong

**Flatter (v)** to praise someone in order to get something that you want, especially in a way that is not sincere

### **25.8. How do people make friends with others? How do you make new friends?**

Besides being classmates and colleagues, I think the most common way to **make friends** is through other friends. It is especially true for people like me, because I am **introverted** and not used to introducing myself to strangers. In addition, with the development of the Internet more and more young people enjoy **making friends online**.

**Or:**

Let me see, I come from a country which is agricultural, so it means that the people are very friendly and **warm-hearted**. In my country, it is very easy to make friends just by saying hello to someone, then asking about other's health. Sometimes, just a smile can bring people close to each other.

### **25.9. What are the differences between adults and children in making friends?**

I think children make friends just for playing together. If they can play with each other, they will become good friends. A toy or a candy can make them become friends. **Their friendship is rather pure**. But of course they are likely to **break up easily and make up again**. When they grow up, they will not **make friends very readily**. Adults **choose friends more cautiously**. And they may have many kinds of friends, such as business partners, colleagues. The friendship has some profits or advantages for them.

**Or:**

Well, this question is such an interesting one. In fact, adults and children do have a difference in making friends **owing to** their age and their interests. While adults prefer friends who have the same jobs and goals in life, children make friends as they simply want to find someone who can play and have fun with them.

### **25.10. Where do young people usually meet in your city?**

Well, it's difficult to say because there are many **good meeting places** in my city, like cafes, cinemas or parks. **As far as I am concerned**, I usually meet my friends in the cafes. They have **comfortable seats and pleasant background music**. We can chat without being disturbed while **enjoying a cup of coffee or juice**. If the weather is fine we will go to the parks. It is agreeable to sit on the bench near the lake, enjoying the pleasant scenery far away.

**25.11. Have you made any friends on the Internet?**

Yes, I'm keen on surfing the Internet, especially chatting with others on Facebook. I have made many friends via the Internet. In my opinion, they are not different from other friends of mine. We know each other's personal information and trust each other. We often discuss something we are both interested in. The only difference is that we meet online but not in real places

**25.12. How can you keep in touch with your friends if you two are not seeing each other frequently?**

Everything becomes easy with modern technology. We call each other or send messages. Sometimes we chat online and even see each other on the screen with the help of a small camera. We often send pictures and letters by Internet as well.

**25.13. Do you prefer to spend time with friends or alone?**

To me, friends are the best thing that I've ever had, so whenever I am free, I usually would like to spend time with my **beloved** friends. We often **hang out** at the coffee shop in the weekends, **gossiping** about our daily **issues**.

**25.14. Do you have many friends?**

Oh, many friends? I am a kind of person who is **fun-loving** and outgoing. Therefore, that I have many friends is just a matter of time. I have my friends, most of whom are my classmates from my high school and my university. We find it very exciting to **be friends** for such a long time.

**25.15. Do you like meeting new people?**

Honestly, I am a kind of person who is very **reserved** and quite, so I prefer meeting my acquaintances rather than try to make new friends. I don't like

meeting new people since I have to start all the things to **get to know** those and **balance** the new relationship, which takes a lot time and efforts.

### 25.16. What kind of friend do you want to meet in the future?

In the future? Oh well, I prefer making friends who are better than me both in **general knowledge** and **soft skills**. Therefore, in the future, I would like to meet friends that may **set the same goals** as mine in their careers and in their lives. Besides, those who **master** in English do catch my attention a lot since English is my favorite language.

## 26. Weather

### 26.1. What do you like to do when the weather is great?

I'd love to participate in some outdoor activities like meeting up with some friends or do some sports, especially swimming. Or I'll **grab the chance** for a photography tour. Everything becomes so clear and stunning on sunny days, no matter it's **early in the morning** or **late in the afternoon**, as long as the sun shines, I'm sure I'll find inspiration almost everywhere.

### *Vocabulary*

**To grab the chance (v)** to have an opportunity to do Sth

### 26.2. Would you like to stay at home or go outside when the weather is great?

It's recommended that people should spend more time outside for both **physical and mental benefits** and there's no reason not to, especially when the weather is great. I usually get out of the house for a walk or short break just to enjoy the fresh air. It's also a really helpful **tactic** to **boost creativity** and **regain focus** after long working hours.

**Tactic (n)**: the particular method you use to achieve something

**Boost (v)**: to make something increase, or become better or more successful

**Regain (v)**: to get back something you no longer have, especially an ability or a quality



## 27. Music

### 27.1. Do you often (like to) listen to music? Or Do you like listening to songs?

So far I haven't met anyone who dislikes listening to music. However, when the **workload** is too heavy that requires me to **stay highly focused**, music is a **huge distractor**. Unlike many people who like listening to instrumental music because it highly benefits for their concentration and study, in my case the music makes me feel instantly sleepy.

### 27.2. When do you listen to music?

Well, music is essential to human in the whole world so I'm **no exception**. I usually listen to cheerful music when I need motivation while sad music is my **go-to choice** during emotional days.

#### *Vocabulary*

**To be no exception (adj)** if someone or something is no exception, they are the same as all others so they can be included in a general statement

### 27.3. How much time do you spend listening to music every day?

As I've mentioned I prefer working in silence. **To put it simply**, no music is allowed during my working hours. After a long day at school, I probably want to **chill out** for like half an hour with music to help me stay energetic so I can get back to work later.

#### *Vocabulary*

**To put it simply (expression)** used for saying that you are explaining something in a clear and simple way

**Chill out (phrasal verb)** to relax

### 27.4. What kinds of music do you like to listen to? Or What's your favorite kind of music?

My music taste varies widely from West to East and from the 90s to modern EDM. But if Korean pop is considered as a kind of music, then yeah, that's my

favorite of all time. More than half of my playlists are Korean songs and I always **keep myself updated** with the news related to Korean showbiz.

### ***Vocabulary***

**To keep updated (v)** to follow a celebrity by frequently reading news about them

### **27.5. Have you ever been to a concert before? Or Have you ever been to a musical performance?**

**Once in a blue moon** I attend a concert, since the ticket price for foreign artists' concerts is so **out of my reach** that I can only stay home and watch online. It was 2014 that I finally did go to a concert **on my own**, obviously it was an international music concert. It was absolutely **mind-blowing** and unforgettable for me.

### ***Vocabulary***

**Once in a blue moon (idiom)** rarely

**Out of my reach (idiom)** to be unable to afford

**On one's own**

**(idiom)** Responsible for oneself, independent of outside help or control

**Mind-blowing (adj)** Sth overwhelmingly impressive

### **27.6. Do you like to listen to live music?**

Unless it's live at a coffee shop, where literally there are only you and music, then yeah I would love to. But I would **change my mind** if it's a concert. The crowd is too crazy. It's completely **a mess** that most of the time I **end up** having serious dizzy and headache.

### **27.7. When did you start listening to this type of music?**

Since the day a friend of mine introduced her favorite group to me. She **couldn't help herself talking on and on** about them that I thought I somehow needed to catch up with her. And the more I know about Korean pop, the more passionate I've become.

**Couldn't help one's self doing Sth (n)** continuously doing Sth

**On and on (expression)** continually; at tedious length

### 27.8. Where do you listen to it?

Almost everywhere, except for classroom. It's the **golden era** of mobile devices, everyone carries earphone and phone with them all the time, music therefore **is on their fingertips**.

**Golden era (n)** a certain period of time that Sth vastly develops

**On their fingertips (phrase)** easy to reach

### 27.9. How do you feel when you listen to this music?

Well I'm a **type of person** whose mood is easily affected by what I'm listening to, thus as the music changes, my mood also fluctuates. But most of the time, listening to some music helps me **pick up my energy** and chill a bit.

#### ***Vocabulary***

**To be a type of person (that) (phrase)** to belong to a group of people who share a similar characteristic

**Pick up my energy (phrasal verb)** to get better, stronger

### 27.10. Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument?

I learned to play the organ when I was in kindergarten. It was quite funny because I **started out** as one of the performers, then my teacher told my mom that I had better play the organ instead of performing, so I became her trainee and it continued for around 4 to 5 years until I was 10.

#### ***Vocabulary***

**To start out (v)** to begin

### 27.11. Is music an important subject at school in your country?

Music is one of the **compulsory** subjects for primary and secondary students in my country. However, mainly singing is focused. We can also add some movements to make the songs more lively. Only those who are selected for the big performances are allowed to use musical instruments.

#### ***Vocabulary***

**Compulsory (adj)** to be required

### 27.12. Did you often listen to music when you were a child? (If yes give details.)

Since my parents are **music-lovers** and they also have very good tastes, I was exposed to the old kinds of music at a very young age. Sometimes my mom **sang me to sleep** with her **lullabies**. Although I can't get the message at that time, my mom said that I **buoyed up** when listening to them.

### ***Vocabulary***

**Bouyed up (adj)** feel cheerful

#### **27.13. What kinds of music are (most) popular in your country?**

Beside pop music, the young generation nowadays expose to a number of different types of music. It is indeed difficult to tell which is the most **in demand**, since from my point of view each type has roughly the same popularity. But I guess pop music is the most **sought-after** now. At least I've never met someone who completely doesn't know a single pop song.

### ***Vocabulary***

**Sought-after (adj)** in demand

#### **27.14. Do you like traditional songs?**

Well, it's easy for me to name some traditional songs, some of which are even quite familiar to me. But to be honest, I think **I'm not that into** this kind of music.

## **28. Gifts**

### **28.1. What is your favourite gift?**

I received lots of gifts from my relatives and friends, among which I show a great preference for the bicycle best. It's a birthday present from my parents when I was ten, and it's rare to have a mountain bike at that time. I used to ride it to school and it makes my life more at ease.

### **28.2. Do you often give gifts to people?**

Yes, I really love giving people gifts as they are always so happy and thankful and it is such a good feeling. Even something small pleases anyone.

### **28.3. What was the last gift you received?**

A lovely watch, but the sentimental value counts even more. I was very touched by her thoughtfulness. My girlfriend gave me a watch a few weeks ago because

she thought I'd like it. It's The last gift I received was a birthday present of some kind. I don't recall exactly.

**28.4. When considering a present to give to someone, how do you select this gift?**

It can be pretty tricky trying to find the perfect gift, especially if the recipient is already well-off. You can get clues by listening closely to their needs, and try to guess what they'd like based on their hobbies and interests.

**28.5. Have you ever received a gift that you didn't like?**

Well, I haven't received any gift I dislike, but I do have gifts I pile up for years, such as soft toys, I'm not into soft toys so much as other girls, and I have about twenty toys in various types in stock.

**28.6. Do you prefer receiving a gift or giving a gift?**

I prefer receiving a gift. For giving a gift, I need to consider the interest of the recipient, and sometimes it may not be accurate, so it is not that easy to send gifts. But for receiving a gift, you can make up your own mind if you like it or not.

**28.7. Do you think it's difficult to choose what gift to give to people?**

Of course, it is very different to choose gifts for people. Everyone is different I need to consider the interest of the recipient, and sometimes it may not be accurate, so it is not that easy to send gifts. But for receiving a gift, you can make up your own mind if you like it or not.

**28.8. What were the gifts you sent to others recently?**

I sent to my friends some cosmetics such as the eye shadow makeup or the daycare cream. Besides, I also sent one of my friends a blue bag that is very cute, and she liked it very much.

**29. Family Activities**

**29.1. How often do you meet with your family?**

Well, because all of us are fully **occupied with** our schedule, we don't see each other during daytime. In the evening we'll have dinner and watch TV together

and talk about our day. I think in the future if I'm ever able to move out, I'll try to **set aside** time to visit my parents at least twice a week.

### ***Vocabulary***

**Occupied with (adj)** busy

**Set aside (phrasal verb)** reserve for a special purpose

## **29.2. How do you spend the time with your family?**

We'll have a **delicious big dinner** together with **scrumptious** food prepared by my mom. After we have dinner at around 7 o'clock, we'll watch the news, have some chat with each other or **huddle together** to play cards. It's a precious time when we can momentarily get away from the **hectic whirlwind** of daily activities.

### ***Vocabulary***

**Scrumptious (adj)** delicious

**Hectic whirlwind (expression)** a busy schedule

**Huddle together (phrase)** gather together

## **29.3. Do you want to live with your family in the future?**

I think probably not. It's better for me to try to start an independent life as a **grown-up**. However, I still have the responsibility to **take good care of** my parents that I'll **make time** to visit them at least twice a week.

### ***Vocabulary***

**To make time to do Sth (n)** to try to spend time doing Sth that is not just for fun like hobbies

## **29.4. What activities do your family like doing together?**

Well, as I've mentioned we usually have dinner together. Besides, on weekends, we would love **to eat out** or get outdoor. Sometimes we have a family trip to the beach to enjoy ourselves on the day that all of us are free from work.

### ***Vocabulary***

**To eat out (v)** to have meal outside

**Family trip (n)** to travel with family members

### 29.5. What activities did your family do when you were young?

From my recollection, when I was **knee high to a grass hopper**, my family often went on a picnic together. On that occasion, we would prepare **slap-up snacks** to bring along and sit together to com . Such family activity did really strengthen the bonds between us.

### 29.5. Are you close to your family members?

My parents are quite traditional that they try to **form a strong bond** between all of the family members. They **take good care of** my brother and me and guide us in some of our life aspects.

#### *Vocabulary*

**To take good care of (v)**

### 29.6. How has your family influenced you?

Although my parents are traditional, they try to become my friends, by helping me and encouraging me without forcing me to **live up to their expectations**. They also **imprinted on** me proper principles like moral values, respect, humbleness, patience, **diligence**, etc. I think my family shaped who I am now. I'm deeply thankful for having such a wonderful family.

#### *Vocabulary*

**To live up to SO's expectations (v)** to try to please others

**Imprint (v)** to establish securely, as in the mind or consciousness

**Diligence (n)** careful and persistent work or effort

## 30. Politeness

### 30.1. Do you think you are a polite person?

I would say yes, but I think that manners depend on the country. Here in Denmark, it's impolite to strike up a conversation with someone in public, as you may be disturbing them. On the other hand, it's seen as rude to be unfriendly and not acknowledge others in other countries. However, I consider others, so yes I would say I am a polite person.

### **30.2. Who taught you about politeness when you were a child?**

My mother. She constantly reminded me to say please, thank you, and to greet guests that came into our home. Moreover, she was very particular about table manners and using utensils correctly. I could not **get away with (be allowed to)** talking with food in my mouth or eating with my hands.

### **30.3. Are we less polite with members of our families than with people we don't know?**

I agree, because we feel more comfortable with family. Moreover, we often take family for granted and fail to thank them for all they do for us. However, when we meet someone we don't know, we are less likely to tell them our true opinions and are always careful not to offend them.

### **30.4. Why should people be polite?**

We feel better and they feel better! When we know we are treating people in a respectful way that doesn't cause harm, we tend to feel better. When they are treated this way, I imagine they feel the same. Furthermore, all countries have different etiquette so we should consider this to not offend them.

### **30.5. In your country's culture, how do you show that you are being polite?**

We show politeness by saying please, thank you, respecting the environment, and trying our best not to disturb others. We shouldn't be overly loud and **obnoxious (causing attention to yourself)** and should never be late. Also, when we are invited to someone's house for a meal, we should bring a gift, like a dessert, flowers, or wine.

### **30.6. Have there been any changes in politeness in the past few decades?**

I would say so. Nowadays, there's a lot less emphasis on respecting the elders. We no longer have to Sir/Ma'am, etc. Moreover, people are beginning to not even acknowledge you when you enter a social circle. Furthermore, **chivalry (men being gentlemen)** is becoming to die and it isn't frowned upon for women to use curse words anymore.



## 31. Neighbors

### 31.1. Do you know your neighbors?

Yes, I do. My family has been living on the same block since I was born, so we've gotten to know each other quite well. We are close to my next door neighbor in particular, Ms. Elizabeth. As she's a **widowed (husband died)** 80 year old woman in poor health, we keep a close eye on her to make sure she's managing on her own. The other neighbors **have come and gone (many new ones have moved here, many have moved away)** so we aren't as close with them.

### 31.2. Do you like your neighbors?

Some of them! We are all quite fond of Miss Elizabeth; she has always been like a grandmother to me. She has always been there during our important **milestones (important life stages)** in life. I'm always thrilled when she turns up at our door with freshly baked banana bread. On the other hand, some of our other neighbors are quite **stand-offish ( unfriendly)** so we tend to keep our distance. However, Miss Elizabeth is family.

### 31.3. What do you think of your neighbors?

I think they are just so-so people. It seems as though they lead stressful daily lives and **cannot be bothered (making the effort would bother them)** to talk to their neighbors. They are **caught up in (lost in)** their own family dramas. We used to be friends with another neighbor, but then she ended up being too **nosey (too interested in the lives of others)**, so now we just smile at her but don't share our business.

### 31.4. How often do you see (or talk to) your neighbors?

Other than Ms. Elizabeth, I just **see them in passing (see briefly)**. So, I see them everyday but really only talk to them once or twice a week when we are forced to be in the same vicinity. For example, when I take the garbage out, we usually **make small talk (talk about unimportant things, like the weather etc.)**

## PART II & III

### 1/ Describe a good law in your country

*You should say:*

- *What the law is*
- *How you first learned about this law*
- *Who benefits from this law (who is affected by this law)*
- *And explain why you think this is a good law*

I'm going to tell you about Singapore's littering laws which I firmly believe are a great idea. As you know, Singapore is one of the cleanest countries in the world which I feel extremely proud of, considering many other countries in Asia have enormous pollution issues. Unfortunately, I think people need strict laws enforced to have the incentive not to do it. Either way, I'm glad it benefits our planet and those who reside on it.

In Singapore, a first time offender who is caught littering is subject to a max fine of \$2,000, a second time offender \$4,000 and third time \$10,000. However, this is only if a police sees you. I wonder how many people can **sneak past (do something without being caught)** this! However, there is a strong police presence in Singapore, so I hope this isn't the case.

I would say the entire country benefits from this. By having a cleaner environment, we all have uncountable health benefits. For example, we could have healthier lungs, skin, animals have improved habitats, etc. Furthermore, we attract more tourists, as many people are drawn to clean places. With this said, I know that some people financially profit from this.

Sadly, humans have a tendency to choose to see only what they want. None of us want to believe the **gravity of (how serious something is)** just how much we are harming the planet and cannot always directly see it in front of us; we

live just for today. With this said, people usually don't take initiative to protect the environment unless there are laws. So, I think this law is critical to give people incentive to not litter. As the fine is drastically high, it will scare people into making sure their trash goes into the bins. Although it must go hand in hand with education, I think it's impossible to keep a clean country without strict laws. I wish more countries enforced laws like these.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Is there any situation people disobey the law?**

To be honest, I've never actually seen anyone litter. I'm sure it must still exist to some low extent, but I genuinely think people are afraid to do so because of the fines and police presence. However, I know that no country is perfect and that there are always people who will disobey the law. On another note, I think that perhaps people who come to Singapore are more likely to throw their trash on the ground if it isn't something enforced in their home country.

#### **Do people like being a policeman in your country?**

I would say so. Actually, my father is a police officer and he seems to enjoy it quite a bit, although it is a tough job. Since Singapore has a reputation to maintain, the police force **strives their utmost (works extremely hard)** to give their all to make sure that Singapore remains among the safest countries. With this said, some police officers feel quite a lot of pressure, which makes it a challenging yet rewarding job.

#### **What qualities should a police officer have?**

Firstly, I believe that a police officer must have a high sense of integrity. As corruption is a problem in many countries which prevents progress in a place, it is important that the police officer has a sense of integrity along with morality, honesty, and a genuine concern to make the country safer. Furthermore, they

must be hard-working and not too relaxed as there are always people trying to **slip through the cracks (do something without being caught)** of the law. All in all, they must be a strict, no tolerance sort of individual to be efficient.

### **Why some people want to become a lawyer?**

To be honest, I think some people choose it for the money, as it is a high paid job in many countries. Secondly, some people feel quite passionate about the law and want to dedicate their life to it. Thirdly, there are many different branches of law, such as international, geriatric, criminal, etc., so there are many different opportunities within this career path. As with other jobs, people know in their heart which career is for them!

## **2/ Describe a mathematical skill that you learnt in primary school**

*You should say:*

- *What the skill was*
- *How you learned it*
- *Who taught you*
- *Why it was useful to you*

I'm going to tell you about when I learned multiplication in second grade, when I was 7 years old. At first it was a big challenge and a hard concept **to swallow (meaning to deeply comprehend)**, but I got the hang of it fairly quickly. The first few days I remember this was a stressful time in my household, as I always had to turn to my parents and sister to help. Since I got the hang of it, I **aced (got a perfect mark on)** almost every exam!

I started learning this skill from Ms. Puleo. The first few days she used images for us to learn the concept of multiplication, as we had already mastered addition and subtraction. We could then visualize 3 times (x) 3 by drawing a picture of 3 groups of 3 tigers for example. She had a clever way of teaching us

this by creating tables for us to get ample practice. After completing these, I was able to memorize several simple multiplication problems, like 3 times 6, 7 times 7, 8 times 8, etc. Moreover, she taught us the helpful trick that all multiplicands of 9 add to nine. With her patience and way of making us visualize and memorize, multiplication has always stuck with me.

This helped me because it only added to my knowledge of addition and subtraction. It may seem like a simple skill, but I can see that I use it regularly in my daily life. For example, when I go grocery shopping and something is \$9 and I buy seven of them, I think back to those multiplication tables and can quickly come up with the answer in my hand! Although more complex is not always applicable to life, I see that all basic math is constantly used in daily life.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **How can adults benefit from this skill?**

I've realized that the most basic mathematical skills have helped me the most. They make daily life much easier when we are able to use **mental math (math in your head)**. For example, if I had never learned this skills, I would always have to be reaching for my calculator or asking Siri for the answer. All in all, I value being able to do multiply in my head.

#### **What can government do to teach maths to adults?**

Life applicable lessons are always the way to go! As math is source of confusion and anxiety for many, Instead of having adults sit in **cold, stiff (not inviting people to talk)** classrooms, I think it would be better to have hands-on lessons. For example, they could create monthly budgets for their family with these new skills. Moreover, they could pretend that the power just went out at the supermarket and that they must add everything on paper. For more complex math which I'm not an expert on, I believe similar techniques could be applied.

I'd say that teaching people how to apply their new skill to their life is the most effective way.

### **Which one is more important, mathematics or handwriting?**

I would say mathematics. As it's still important to know how to write by hand, I would say that math teaches you new ways to think. Furthermore, as technology continues to be on the rise, handwriting is losing its value. Although people should still know how to write by hand, it's not a skill that is used very often, thanks to computers and cell phones. Looking back, I feel that learning to write in cursive was a waste of time, while math has helped me expand my mind and improved my logical thinking skills, even though it was always a struggle for me.

### **Do you think computers will make learning maths less useful?**

This is a possibility. In the beginning of my schooling, we learned everything the **old school (traditional; without technology)** way. As I progressed to high school, the technological age began; we could then plug everything in to a calculator and solve the problem. With this evidence, I've seen that all the time I invested in learning how to do everything by hand were then easily solved with a few clicks on a calculator or a google search. On the other hands, I still value these skills. There are always moments when technology fails us, so it's still good to have this back-up.

### **Do you think computers can control humans in the future?**

I could see that happening! Although it's hard to wrap my head around that now, I wouldn't be surprised if that happened. I could imagine some intelligent human mind creating an evil line of robots that would seek revenge against humanity. Moreover, I think it's possible that robots become more intelligent than humans, without many errors, like driving for example. As robots may not have as **intricate (detailed; complex)** of feelings as humans, I think that they are able

to focus and retain more attention better without distractions. This thought is a bit frightening!

### **3/ Describe a time that you were shopping in a street market**

*You should say:*

- *When it was*
- *Where it was*
- *What you bought*
- *And explain how you felt about the shopping experience*

I will tell you about a memorable experience I had at a street market in Cusco, Peru. It was in May 2014, when I went backpacking throughout South America after I finished the army. I was **on a tight budget (not having much money)**, so I **took advantage of (used in a positive way)** all the the cheap, local markets and restaurants around me. In the center of Cusco, there were two Main Street markets, so I **opted for (chose)** the one closer to where I was staying. If I remember correctly, it was called San Pedro. I had gone in just to look for some fresh veg and quinoa to cook in my hostel kitchen, but **ended up (happened without planning)** leaving with a friend!

I went to the veg stand of a woman who seemed friendly, then she ended up inviting me to have a fresh juice at her other stand. She noticed that I had a slight cough which was concerning to her, so she **whooped me up (made quickly)** a juice with ginger, lemon, honey and pineapple juice at room temperature, which she said would help my cough. Actually, indeed it did! I ended up buying some cucumbers, carrots, zucchini, garlic, and tomatoes from her, and some quinoa from her friend at the stand next to her. All in all, it cost me around \$1!

I was extremely pleased with this experience! I know that I certainly wasn't **ripped off (charged a higher price)** as a tourist for one. Secondly, I really appreciated the personal care and attention that Marcelina, the stand owner, gave to me. It would have been easy to just sell my some fruits and veggies at an outrageous to me, but instead she even went out of her way to help me out. This experience left a good impression on me.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Why some people choose to buy in the street market rather than the shopping mall?**

As far as I'm concerned, street shopping is quite cool in the aspect that people are given a combined experience of shopping and immersing themselves in the nature! When they stroll along the small shops lined along the street, they can see the items on display while being able to look up to the sky and breathe the fresh air, for example. Sometimes, it's an enriching experience as people can have casual talks with the shopkeepers and deal some bargains with them. All these can make shopping at a street market appealing to many.

#### **Do you think the discounted goods have good value?**

From my personal experience, the quality of goods sold at a discounted price is often inferior to those sold at normal prices. This can be due to the fact that the seller may want to get rid of some faulty commodities, so they may reduce the prices so as to attract the vulnerable consumers who are interested in such bargains. Additionally, lowly priced items are often out of dated. So if you're a fashion fanatic, buying discounted clothes won't be a good choice, as the items of clothing are often fading out of fashion as newer versions are being launched on the market on an hourly basis.

#### **How often do people in your country go shopping?**



Generally speaking, people are really into shopping, just like Western people and they will spend as much as time possible for this activity. Usually women will spend at least one or two times a week browsing for latest lines of products especially clothes at the supermarket or shopping mall. If they are busy, they tend to log on the Internet on some virtual stores and compare the prices of different brands: and then wait till the weekend to satisfy their desire for shopping

### **What kinds of places are popular for shopping in your country?**

Usually, there are two types of places which are popular among shoppers. The first and most prevalent one is supermarket. This is simply because there are a wide range of clothes of different brands on display and the customers can feel free to try on their favorite piece of garment, they can also take their friends along to check for them if those clothes match or not, which I think is pretty great. Another type is online shopping. The consumers can access the virtual stores on the Internet and browse for items they love. Moreover, they can compare prices and look at the Review sections and receive advice whether that product is worth buying or not

### **Do you think online shopping will replace shopping in reality?**

Not really, I think each type has its own merits. In terms of shopping at physical stores, customers there are a wide range of clothes of different brands on display and the customers can feel free to try on their favorite piece of garment; they can also take their friends along to see if those clothes match or not, which I think is pretty great. In terms of online stores, they can compare prices and look at the review sections and receive advice whether that product is worth buying or not. In a nutshell both are here to stay.

### **Did you ever have had shopping experience?**

Yes, I did. I remembered that I bought a fake Iphone 5 and ended up throwing it in the trash can after one or two uses. The problem is that I didn't receive good customer service and chose less reliable places to shop. I recalled the shop assistant was strangely nice to me but I didn't think that those nice words were her trick.

### **What would you do if you bought something disappointing from the internet?**

There can be a number of courses of actions I can consider when an item I bought online fails to live up to my expectations. The first thing would do in this case is to note down the address of the store owner and go directly there to ask him. This is simple because the sellers must have the responsibility if they provide products that don't meet the standards and fix them if there are any technical problems. Another thing I would take into account is that I would go to some local authorities and claim my rights the seller refuses to repair the item; change another one or give a refund.

### **How is online shopping so popular these days?**

It is understandable that buying stuff online is gaining tremendous popularity among people in modern society. You can see nowadays people don't have time to get to the store in person and access the virtual stores instead. There is an increase in the number of online stores, selling diverse range of products with different price ranges which cater for the needs of people of all ages.

Furthermore, the customer service is being improved greatly and I see that many people are placing their trust on online shopping these days.

### **4/ 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*

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 fashionistas 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

## **5/ 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*

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)!**

## **6/ 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*

I'm going to tell you about my best friend Chris. Well actually, we aren't **in close contact (not in touch; don't speak often)** anymore, but he still **means a lot to me (is important to me)**. We were in the same kindergarten class, so we first **hit it off (when you immediately like a person)** then. As soon as I walked into the classroom nervously on the first day, I felt **drawn to (attracted to)** him. He invited me to sit next to me and complimented me on my 100 Dalmatians backpack. Since that initial moment, we sat together in the learning circle every day. We soon started having regular **play dates (when children schedule a time to play)**. He would always share his toys with me and play nicely with me, even though I was a girl. Even better, our mothers started to become very close friends since Chris and I often had had dates at each other's homes, so our

lives became **intertwined (connected in many ways)**. Still, his entire family is very special to me. His mother became like a second mother to me. Although things aren't like the old days anything, we still usually make time during our busy schedules and get together about once every year or two years.

I still remember how he was a very fragile child. He had many allergies, so he was always sent to the hospital. I remember **worrying sick (worrying a lot)** one time when he was sent to the ER by ambulance when he had an allergic reaction to soy bean. Moreover, I remember he was always extremely talented in Math class, whereas I was really into Art. We could balance each other in that way. Actually, we balanced each other in many ways. I felt that he was always a bit feminine, where I was masculine. I was strong and nearly never ill when he was so delicate. I think this is what makes a good friendship!

### QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

#### Do you use technology to communicate with friends?

Absolutely! I think it would be impossible to do in this day and age. We coordinate all meet-ups by WhatsApp, SMS, or Facebook messenger. Moreover, I've even met friends online through different Facebook pages. **I'm not into (I don't like)** talking on the phone, so I really prefer this mean of communication. If it weren't for these apps, I may be a lot more anti-social than I am! I think the fear of strangers from the internet is lessening a lot nowadays.

#### Does social media help to build your relationships?

It certainly can! As I said, I've even met friends through Facebook pages. I think it allows you to reach a wider **spectrum (an audience; a variety)** of people. Nowadays, it isn't as common to **come across (find without planning)** new friends in public spaces. Since many people are beginning to work online, it also creates a challenge for meeting friends. The social media allows people to advertise social events which bring people together.



### **Is it important for kids to have friends?**

Absolutely. I think it's critical to learn how to be a good friend from a young age. I believe that humans need friendship to survive, like almost all species, so a child is **bound to (probably)** be happier when they are surrounded by friends from a young age. Moreover, it teaches them how to share, open themselves to others, support someone, and simply have more fun! I think life would be very lonely without friends.

### **What effect do friends have on children?**

I think friends definitely make a child's life better in various ways. For one, the child must feel a lot happier and have more fun with friends by their side. Moreover, the kid is reminded that they aren't alone in this world and have something who is an **outlet (a person to talk to to express your feelings)** for them, which definitely makes them feel comforted. Secondly, through friends, they learn how to have interpersonal relationships and treat and relate to other people outside of their family. Lastly, especially if the boy/girl is an only child, they may not have much experience sharing and they may feel as if they are the center of the universe. Friends are critical for life!

### **Are children easily influenced by friends?**

I would say yes, 100%. Children are very **impressionable (easily influenced)**, so they tend to **morph into (change into)** the people they spend the majority of their time with. If a friend has a good habit, I'm sure that the other friend will **soak it in (to absorb)** and begin to act in a similar way. On the contrary, when a friend has a bad habit, like smoking or cursing, their social circle is affected by this and begin to pick up their habits. I've noticed that children start talking, walking, and dressing like their friends. Because of this, I think it's important for the parent to teach the child to be a leader rather than a follower.

## 7/ Describe a time you borrowed something from your family or friend

*You should say:*

- *What you borrowed*
- *Who you borrowed it from*
- *What you borrowed it for*
- *And explain why it was useful to you*

I'm going to tell you about a time my grandfather lent me his car when mine **broke down (stopped working)**. My car was in the shop after it left me **stranded (stuck)** without brakes, so I really appreciated his kind gesture. If he hadn't done this for me, I would have been lost since this was the time before Uber, not to mention I live in the suburbs of Atlanta so there isn't much public transportation available.

I borrowed his Honda Civic for about a week. I used it to get to work and school as well as run other errands. As I said, it's nearly impossible to get around my town without your own personal vehicle. The brakes in his car weren't the best either, so he only allowed me to take it on short journeys. With this said, I didn't go out with friends or take any road trips with it. As my grandfather is known to have a **bad temper (gets angry easily)**, I was very careful in it to make sure I didn't scratch, **dent (to leave an indent)**, or get in an accident with it.

It was useful to me all basic ways. Without his offer, I would have been able to get to work and school which were the basis of my life. Since everything is **spread out (not close together)** and not walkable, we completely rely on our cars in my town.

## QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

### 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.

### **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 around the house like sweeping the floor, or washing the dishes.

### **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.

## 8/ Describe a skill you need long time to learn

*You should say:*

- *What it is*
- *Where you can learn it*
- *How to learn it*
- *And explain why you need long time to learn it*

I would like to talk about learning a language, which definitely requires a lot of time and patience. I think many people **go into learning** a language expecting to speak fluently after a few short months which can **lead them to disappointment**. I think to truly **be fluent in a language**, you need at least 3 years, preferably living and **immersing yourself in** that country. Language starts with the grammar and sentence structure, then being able to listen and respond, then onto reading and writing which is a **whole different ball game (a different challenge)**. Even those who can communicate effectively would still struggle to read a novel or literature in that language.

You can begin to learn a language in various ways. For one, you can learn it in school and a language center, which is a good base for grammar especially. Secondly, you can study it on your own, maybe even by watching youtube videos, series/ movies, listening to music, etc. which is becoming more of a trend nowadays due to the high costs of studying at a language center.

Moreover, you can learn it by **starting a relationship** with someone and **figuring out** a way to communicate after some time - I think it usually happens fast when you **catch feelings (to start feeling emotions for someone)** for someone who doesn't speak the same language! Lastly, you can move to that country and **pick it up** there. I would say this is the best way, although many don't have this opportunity.

I think language learning is a **tedious (long, detailed)** process because it involves many different skills, such as memorization, pronunciation, grammar, etc., and requires you to think outside of the box, which doesn't come easily for some. Moreover, I think it takes your brain a long time to accept another language when you've **spent your whole life making memories** in one. All in all, it is no easy task.

## 9/ Describe a film or TV show that made you laugh a lot

*You should say:*

- *What it was*
- *When it happened*
- *Who was with you?*
- *And explain why it made you laugh*

I'm going to talk about the American sitcom, Friends. Although it first debuted in the 90's, I just began to watch it this past year.

I watched almost the entire series by myself, with the exception of a few episodes with my ex-boyfriend. We both **chuckled at this goofy sitcom**. As I'm now in my late 20's like the characters in the show, it made me laugh a lot almost every episode because I can **relate to** many of the same situations and challenges that they face, especially dating. For example, they all are trying to get married and have children but keep finding many dating failures before

finding the **real thing (true love)**. Furthermore, I think the characters in the show are quite well-developed and each have their own unique personality, like Joey's **goofball (silly)** self and Phoebe's hippy, **zany (uncommon)** way of being. I think this is what made me want to keep watching.

I really enjoy this show because it's quite **light-hearted (easy-going, not too serious)**; it's one of those shows you can unwind to in the evening. I find shows based on simple stories, like a 20 something group of friends, quite entertaining because it's relatable. For example, I laughed at their ways of talking to each other on the daily because I imagine saying things like that to my own group of friends.

### QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

#### Why do children laugh so much?

Well, I would say because the mind of a child is a lot more simple. Take a baby for example, they laugh when you play **peek-a-boo (when you cover your face with your hands then uncover with babies)**. I think it's because they are still figuring out the world and their permanent place in it, so it seems odd and silly to them that you can "disappear" for a moment. Moreover, children are often playful and tend to giggle almost non-stop at things that adults would find immature, like **potty talk (talk about the bathroom)** for example. All in all, I think children are a lot more light-hearted, which makes laughter come easier to them. They are always looking for the next opportunity to play or giggle with their siblings or friends.

#### Why don't adults laugh easily?

Well, this really depends on the adult. Actually, I know a lot of adults with a great sense of humor, although darker than children. I believe that laughter comes more easily to adults because they have lived through more experiences, so they can simply laugh at their misfortunes at times. On the other hand, some

adults are completely consumed by their work, which may make uptight and not often laugh. Moreover, adults are more developed, so it takes a lot more to make them truly laugh- they will usually not laugh at potty talk or peek-a-boo.

### **What kind of people can make people laugh?**

It depends on their audience! For example, some people find darkness and **sarcasm (saying the opposite of what you really think as a joke)** funny, so those type of people would make them laugh. Moreover, some people are really into **whit (quick humor)** and **banter (arguing with jokes)** which would cause them to seek like-minded kinds of people or comedians. Furthermore, I think **goofy (silly; informal)** people who don't have much concern for what people think of them usually make others laugh often because they are just like a walking joke. Lastly, comedians or others in the performance industry tend to **have a knack (have a special talent)** for entertaining people and appealing to their sense of humor.

### **10/ Describe an activity you would do when you are alone in your free time**

*You should say:*

- *What do you do*
- *How often do you do it*
- *Why do you like to do this activity?*
- *How do you feel when you do it?*

I'm going to tell you about my love for reading. Ever since I was a child, I've always been more of the introverted type and have loved to **have my face buried (expression for someone reading)** in a book. Since my parents often fought when I was a child, I felt that it was an escape from reality. Moreover, I am also really into writing and I think it's impossible to be a great writer without



reading. Through reading books, I can **bask in (deeply enjoy; get lost in)** the literary geniuses of the book and find inspiration for my own books in the future. I read every single day. Actually, I can't recall a single day in my life that I didn't read. Sometimes I feel as if books are my entire life. Whether the book is my **taste (preference)** or not, the **suspense always kills me (not knowing what will happen next is exciting)** and I cannot stop flipping the pages to find out what happens next. However, **duty calls (responsibilities call)** and I must go to work at the boutique from 10-6 Monday-Friday, so I have to pull myself away from my books during that time. I usually get up around 7am and read a bit before work then come home, have dinner, and get lost in a book for the rest of the evening.

As I mentioned, books are a great escape for me as I feel my life is quite **mundane (boring; uneventful)**. Moreover, I really find deep joy in analyzing the literature, such as the character development, plot, archetypes, etc. I feel like my best self when I read; I feel I stretch my mind to new dimensions. Furthermore, reading sends me into a tranquil state. After a busy day at work, opening a book is the best way to **unwind (relax)**. On another note, I feel quite exhausted conversing with others all day at work so I feel quite **rejuvenated (fresh)** when I'm finally at home in my den in my happy place. Moreover, I feel that people who read have more interesting things to talk about so I often find myself in **engaging (exciting)** conversations with co-workers and customers at the boutique throughout the day. All in all, reading is everything to me.

## 11/ Describe someone who is talkative

*You should say:*

- *Who this person is*
- *How you know this person*
- *What this person likes to talk about*

I'm going to tell you about my stepmother's friend, Mindy. She is the **chattiest (chats a lot; negative meaning)** person I know! She absolutely never shuts up, for a lack of kinder words. Even though she constantly **talks our ears off (talks too much)**, we still love her because she is a kind, caring friend. Because of this, it would be really difficult to ask her to **be quiet (stop talking)**. My stepmom has been friends with her for over 20 years, so she's like family to us. My stepbrothers and Mindy's three children grew up together, as they were neighbors. My stepmom admits that at first she couldn't stand Mindy because of her talking, but after some time Mindy started to **grow on her (started to slowly like)**. She says that it's hard to find friends like Mindy, as she is always very loyal and would do anything for any of us; she is a very **selfless (opposite of selfish)** person.

I met her about 12 years ago when my father and stepmother first got together. At first I felt like I was going crazy due to her **constant chatter (non-stop talking about unimportant things)**, but she also started to grow on me. I see now that perhaps it is a nervous habit of hers. I have also met other people who feel the need to fill the silence with **mindless chatter (unimportant things)** to make the situation more comfortable. I also feel that when someone talks a lot, it shows that they require attention. So, actually, now I'm sensitive to her.

Mindy talks about every single detail of her life- from her children's lives to her home improvement projects. On a car ride, she was chatted the entire 45 minute ride about what colors she has been thinking about painting her kitchen. Furthermore, it's clear that her children **are her world (are extremely important to her)**, so she discusses them non-stop at well. Everything we may say turns into a story about her Peter, Tommy, and Becky. From spending time with her, I know every aspect and stage of her children's lives. I know what Peter did when he was a baby, why Becca and her boyfriend fight, and all about Tommy's new car. Although it can be quite annoying, somehow we still love her!

## 12/ Describe a family business you know

*You should say:*

- *What this family business is*
- *How you know about it*
- *Who the customers of this family business are*
- *And explain why the business is successful*

I'm going to tell you about my family's Chinese restaurant. It all started when my cousin Yvonne met her Chinese husband, Mr. B. He had just moved to America and wanted to put his chef skills to use and start his own business. So, Yvonne was **on board (agreed with the idea)** and they opened The Rice House restaurant after a few years.

Of course I know of this business from my family. Their restaurant is on the coast of Maryland, which was about 3 hours from my hometown. If I didn't know them, I would have never discovered this place. Although many people **flock to (big groups go to)** the coast in the summer, many tourists don't know about The Rice House because it's located in an **inconspicuous (not easily noticed)** mall, which most people don't visit on vacation. Furthermore, tourists tend to **gravitate towards (feel attracted to)** the seafood in Maryland which is quite famous. So, most of their customers are locals. I imagine they find out about this restaurant through Facebook advertisements and word of mouth.

Considering they have a large house, a movie theater in their home, and luxury brand cars, I can see that they do good business. I think it's because of Mr. B's expertise. I've been to many Chinese restaurants, but I **swear (to be 100% sure)** his is the best I've ever tried, not only because he's family. Moreover, they offer high quality, gourmet dishes but for reasonable prices with large portions which attracts more customers. Furthermore, many people in rural areas have one Chinese restaurant that they like to go to or order in from, so he has a good

clientele. All in all, I think a restaurant is a safe path to finding success in America as an immigrant.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Do more expensive shops provide better service?**

I have to agree with this, when you buy something that costs an arm and a leg, it means the price of the product has included the superb service that you receive in the store. For example, most luxurious items are on display at some world-renowned brand store and once you step into the store. It looks like you are being in a palace, and the chances are that the staff are polite and a good listener to provide you with details of the products.

#### **Do you often buy things at big shops or small shops?**

From my personal taste, I'd rather go for big shopping centers rather than smaller ones. The most compelling reason for this is that there is an array of goods and items for me to choose from, all being on display at the same premise. All this means that I won't have to run to different stores just to buy something else, as everything is just right there for me to choose from.

#### **If customers feel difficult in the shops, who will they ask?**

Not surprisingly, there's always someone for you to make enquiries if you want for more information on a particular item. The shop assistant would just be pleased to show you around, explain the features and functions of something for you. A prime example is when I went to purchase a smartphone, I met a nice shop assistant who instructed me in detail about different brands, and I ended up picking the most suitable one.

#### **What kinds of businesses are popular in this city?**

In my city, people prefer to open beauty saloons or small coffee shops. I can put it down to the fact that most girls or women would try their best to look gorgeous in others' eyes and spending money to beautify themselves is considered as a must for them. Or in a similar situation, the youths tend to hang out with their buddies for some casual/idle chit-chat, which means many cafes

are doing well recently. Ah, not less popular are some small restaurants that can only accommodate to more than ten people. It can be understandable that many would call on these places for a snack or drink when they have time or feel hungry.

### **What jobs require staff to get in touch with many people?**

To the best of my knowledge! any job that involves handling people' enquiries and complaints means that staff are supposed to have regular contact with a whole lot of people. Take customer service staff as a prime example, they always need to call their customers to ask whether they feel satisfied with certain products or staffs attitude after using a service or purchasing a product. Another case is teachers, whose job requires sorting out students' questions, and explaining the answers to them.

### **13/ Describe something important that you lost**

*You should say*

- *What it was*
- *Why it was important*
- *How you lost it*
- *What you did after you lost it*

I was **devastated (really sad and upset)** the time I lost my first Iphone! Let me give you some background. It was my 16th birthday and my parents had just bought me an Iphone 4. I had waited for this for so long and was filled with joy when I finally received it after getting good marks at school. It was all the rage in technology at that time, so I really wanted to keep up with my friends.

It was important to me since I know my family worked hard to be able to buy a gift like this for me. I have seen my father work hard around his law office and my mother tend to our home to create a happy, clean atmosphere for us.

Although I feel ashamed to say it now, it was important for me to have it as a **status symbol (something that shows how much money you have)** at the time.

I lost it one afternoon when I went out on a cold day with a loose, winter coat on. Unfortunately, I forgot to zip the pocket that it was in. I hadn't realized that it fell out of my coat pocket during my ride when I hit a big bump in the road. Foolishly, I had music blaring on my headphones, so I never noticed the sound of it dropping.

I tried to retrace my steps to see if I could find it along the way, but never did. I imagine that someone may have snatched it. I then went home to my parents in tears and told them what had happened. While my father was understanding, my mother yelled at me and told me that I need to be more careful. However, they both agreed that I would have to save up if I wanted another.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **How did you feel about it?**

I was devastated. I knew my parents had worked hard for this, so I felt really disappointed in myself. Moreover, I felt that I was just an ungrateful, careless teen. It reminded me that I needed to be more careful with my things in the future, especially as I didn't buy them myself.

#### **Why do children lose their things?**

Since children lack the maturity of adults, they tend to not be careful with their things. When they don't buy the things for themselves, I think they don't see the value of them as much. This is to say that children haven't developed a sense of responsibility yet. Furthermore, children are just humans as all of us, so they often make mistakes.

#### **Why do adults lose their private things more than other things?**

Well, since adults have many responsibilities and things on their mind, they tend to become **scatter-brained (many things on their mind)** and lose their things sometimes. I imagine that especially adults in a serious relationship and/or with children tend to prioritize others over themselves. With this said, they forget their own things rather than those of others.

**Studies have shown that people who are messy are more creative. Why is it so?**

I imagine that people who are messy can find beauty in chaos. They don't need to follow a strict routine, so they are more likely to think outside of the box. With this said, they are more creative. I think people who can go with the flow instead of insisting their usual organized ways can find more opportunities for creativity. Lastly, perhaps messy people find unexpected beauty more, perhaps among the trash pile in their room!

**14/ Describe a party that you joined**

*You should say:*

- *When it took place.*
- *Where it was.*
- *Who were there.*
- *What you did I here.*
- *And how you felt about the party.*

Well, I've actually been invited to quite a few parties, particularly wedding receptions as I'm now at the age when lots of my buddies are starting to tie the knot, so it was kind of tough choosing which one to give you an account! but I guess probably the easiest for me to talk about would be the most recent party I went to, which was the wedding party of one of my neighbours.

And, as for who was there, well. I couldn't tell you everyone, because there were Absolutely loads of people you know, the hall was pretty packet! so my guess would be that there were probably Something like 250 to 300 guests, and if I'm not mistaken it seemed to be that the overwhelming majority were friends and relatives of the bride and groom.

Anyway, with regard to where the party was held. well, it was actually in a small city called X, which is about an hour's drive just to the south east of Y, because that's bride's birthplace, and the reception itself was held in quite a nice-looking hotel, which was easy to spot because it was about 10 times higher than all the buildings around it!

So regarding how I felt at the party, well, to put it simply, it was an Absolutely out-of-this-world experience, and there were some parts of it that moved me quite a lot, such as when the bride broke down in tears when she was on stage expressing her gratitude towards her parents for all the support they had given her. It was also really clear to see how much the bride and groom loved each other, as they couldn't take their eyes off each other the whole evening, so I was really happy for them and was glad that I made it to their wedding.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **How do people in your country celebrate birthdays?**

Generally speaking, people like throwing a party to celebrate. Some people acknowledge their birthdays, but they don't actually celebrate them.

#### **Are birthdays more important for children or for adults?**

Birthdays are important for children, because they get to celebrate growing up and also can have fun parties with their friends and stuff. Oh and let's not forget



the cool presents. I think as adults it's not so much about the party but about the age. I think from mid 20's to mid 30's it's not important for them cause generally they are too busy with work or being a parent. But in retirement it's important again because that is a chance they get to see family.

### **What are the things the old and the young like doing in their free time?**

Truth be told, many old people spend their leisure time indoors, sitting down, reading a book or resting; or they might go outside for a brisk walk in the evening. Many of them enjoy watching TV or knitting. Young people, on the other hand, enjoy a variety of things. Many do the same things I mentioned that old people do, but in my opinion, there are many more options available if you are young. You can play sports, go clubbing all night, participate in extreme sports like bungee jumping or sky diving - that might give an older person a heart

### **Should parents spend much money on children's party?**

I guess it should depend on the financial budget of the family and the importance of the birthday party. If a family is well-off, splurging more on a grand birthday party for their beloved son won't matter a big deal, especially if it marks a milestone in their life. Having said this, those from less advantaged family backgrounds should weigh the pros and cons carefully before throwing a party for their kids, as this can make an inroad into their monthly income; so a small and cozy party enough.

### **Why some people dislike attending parties?**

People are being increasingly on the go and can hardly manage time for drinks or parties as they are overly occupied with work-related matters. Given this, a 2-hour wedding reception party, for example, can take away their precious time for work, making them delay their progress. Besides, some families are running

short of cash to cover the expenses for attending parties, so every time there's a wedding invitation, they're often Worried and helpless.

### **Why do people throw parties?**

Parties are a good occasion for reunion and bonding. A fact is that people in modern society are up to ears with their work and can hardly manage time for socialization, so attending parties can be a golden opportunity to catch up on what is going on with their friends whom they may not have met for ages. Secondly, parties often mark a milestone in an individual's life and record memorable experiences the host has with his friends and family. After all, parties can have a meaningful role to play in our life.

### **15/ Describe an interesting job that you want to have in the future**

*You should say:*

- *What it is*
- *How you might find this job*
- *What qualities it requires*
- *Explain why it is a well-paid job*

I'm going to tell you about a job I've always dreamt of doing, a National Geographic photographer. Firstly, I want to travel around the world and hear countless stories from people of all different cultures and backgrounds. I think it would be extremely fascinating to work in this changing, **enriching (makes you more cultured)** environment. For this job, you don't necessarily apply. As most of the photographers are some of the most well-known photographers in the world, they say that if they want to hire you, they already know who you are.

For this job, they require that you have a degree in a discipline other than **solely (only)** photography. They want you to have studied Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, or Journalism and have also attended photography courses. They require that you are already known for your unique skill and that you agree to work an independent, not full-time schedule. You also have to accept that they may not always pay for your travel fees.

Actually, it isn't an extremely well-paid job compared to some others. The salary is about \$50,000. Although I could get paid higher in another field, I would say it is worth it to **get your name out there (to get famous)**. I think it would undoubtedly open countless windows of opportunities if you stand out from others. Who knows, I could end up with millions later on!

I think I could be suitable for this job for many reasons. I've always **had an apt (have the ability to)** to capture sensitive, moments on the human face. I've traveled all around Asia, the Middle East, and South America working on a photo journal of people I've met along the way. Apart from this, I have a degree in Biology, so I could **venture out (travel)** into the wild to give Wildlife Photography a try. I currently have an instagram with 700,000 followers, so I'm slowly and surely getting my name out there. I do believe I'm a **good fit (suitable)**, but let's see if I could impress them enough!

### QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

**Do you think job satisfaction is more important than salary when choosing a job?**

I would say it's a mixture of both, but I'm **leaning more towards (believe more)** job satisfaction. You must spend a large portion of your life working, so you might as well do something you love. When you do something you're passionate about, I'm sure your happiness and sense of fulfillment is greatly elevated. Moreover, if you love what you do, it may not even feel like work. On the other hand, when your salary is low, people often become lazy and

motivated. Furthermore, it is ideal to have a career that can provide a comfortable life for you, with as little financial stress as possible. Money can't bring you happiness, but it can certainly be a tool in it!

### **What skills do you think are needed to get a job nowadays?**

I think that language, technology skills, and Master Degrees are becoming a necessity nowadays. As one language can be limiting, especially if it isn't English, it only makes you more desirable to an employer to have other languages. Furthermore, it would be impossible to survive in a career without technology skills nowadays, as the world is becoming more technologically advanced **at the speed of lightening (a very fast speed)**, in some countries especially. Moreover, as some job markets are more competitive than others, it may be compulsory to have a Master's Degree in some countries.

### **Do you think women should be able to do all the same jobs that men do?**

Absolutely! I believe that gender inequality in the workplace should be **a thing of the past (should disappear)**. If the person is qualified for the job, the gender should have no effect on whether they are hired or not. Sure, there may be some jobs that are typically more suitable for men, like perhaps construction or mining, but that doesn't mean a woman shouldn't **have a fair shot (have a fair opportunity)** at it if she's eligible.

### **How has technology changed the way we work?**

Wow! In many ways. Firstly, it has seriously cut time for tasks that used to **take ages (take a long time)**, thanks to email, phone contacts, writing reports, etc. Secondly, I think there is less emphasis on interpersonal skills, as you may never even have to meet the client face-to-face. With this said, maybe it is making people more antisocial. Lastly, make it has made people lazier since they can finish a task with a few clicks of the mouse. Maybe now if there boss

asks them to a tedious task, they may **scowl (an expression of anger)** and not be too thrilled about doing it.

### **What is the difference between white collar and blue collar jobs?**

Well, a white collar job is usually a job in which you wear more formal attire to work, no manual labor, in an office or administrative environment, and usually requires a higher level of education. On the other hand, a blue collar job is an informal one usually based on manual labor. People created these named as a way to classify people's **prestige (wealth)** in society. In my opinion, doesn't matter if the person is white or blue-collared, as long as they do honest work.

### **16/ Describe a building you like**

*You should say:*

- *Where this building is*
- *What it looks like*
- *what it is used for*
- *And explain why you like*

Nowadays, there are many creative modern and high-rise buildings built in my country. Among them the first one that popped into my mind is the library in my college, which is the tallest and most unique building. It's located in the East corner of the school.

Just like other buildings, made of concrete and steel but the shape and height are what sets it apart from others. If you look at the library from the outside, you'll find it resembles a big book case full of books—the shape of each window is identical to a book. The color is red and yellow because these colors are very bright and appealing to the eyes. And I wouldn't forget to mention that it is taller than any surrounding buildings, consisting of 9 stories.

The first floor is a big hall, where you can check out or check in your books. All the new books are placed there. On the second to the fourth floor, you could find all kinds of reference books about a wide range of majors, and of course, there're also some entertaining books. On the fifth floor, there's a computer lab, where students can get online or search for reference materials. The remaining floors are the entertainment areas where students can play some educational games on the computer; there are also places where they can feel free to set up their own activities. Truthfully speaking, I have never been to higher floors, so I'm pretty not sure what is there to offer.

I love reading and this gorgeous library makes me love reading even more. I'm glad that our school could have such a wonderful library building.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Are there many tall buildings where you live?**

High-rise apartments are a common sight in the vicinity of my neighborhood. Actually, they are mushrooming on a yearly basis some even have more than 20 stories, but mostly they are residential buildings.

#### **Why are there tall buildings in so many places?**

It is simply because land is a scarce resource. Its scarcity and high price have forced real estate developers to think vertically rather than constructing a horizontal building. Also I wouldn't forget to mention the fact that those buildings can act as a symbol of a city! as it can beautify the cityscape! and draw tourists as well.

#### **What role do you think old buildings play in society?**

The old buildings symbolize the ancient culture and civilization. They remind us of the ancient people's ancient people and craft. From the old buildings, we learn about people's lifestyle, customs and even social structure in the past.

#### **Do you think it necessary to protect old buildings?**

Yes. the government should fund to preserve the old buildings. They are the Representative of our long history and splendid culture! Besides, they are of research value. Finally, they can bring tourism income for the city.

**What are the differences between the constructions in your city nowadays and 20 years ago?**

The constructions 20 years ago in my city were quite single-styled, and there were no many high buildings. Most constructions were made of red bricks, and they looked the similar by appearance. But a lot of changes have taken place in the past decades and many stylish, spacious and colorful constructions have been built. The nest-shaped Olympic Stadium is a good example.

**What do you think of the constructions in the city center?**

I think the density of constructions in the city center is too high. There are fewer colorful constructions, but some don't match the surroundings. They look offensively conspicuous!

**17/ Describe a recent happy event/ Describe something have happened recently make you happy.**

*You should say:*

- *What it is.*
- *Where it happened.*
- *With w horn.*
- *And explain why you feel happy.*

Well, today I'd like to share with you about the wedding ceremony of my best friend, X. This event was the most recent one I feel delighted and enthusiastic because it was the first time I had been a best man/bridesmaid.

X has been my close friend since childhood. We have known each other for more than 15 years. When he/she invited me to be his/her best man/bridesmaid, I agreed without any hesitation.

The wedding was celebrated at ABC, one of the most famous wedding venues in my country, where guests can enjoy the stunning views of the sunset. We had a hectic but memorable day back then, which was last month I remember. The ceremony procedure was quite conventional, just like others; the bride and groom exchanged wedding rings, towed down to their parents, proposed toast took photos with guest and so on.

Since we bumped into a bunch of old friends, we turned the wedding into a big reunion party everyone had a good time together. At the beginning, I was quite nervous 'coz I had never been a bridesmaid before, and it seemed like I was going to have a big day. Before the ceremony, we had laboriously decorated and planned everything. During the ceremony, the couple recalled their love journey: they tied the knot after experiencing all sorts of ups and downs together and I was deeply touched by their stories. As their best friend, I wanted to express my overwhelming love and best wishes to them.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **How would you define happiness?**

From my perspective, the definition of happiness is subject to multiple interpretation. Some people argue that accomplishing a sense of satisfaction in life means possessing as much money as possible. Therefore, people will sacrifice whatever it takes to become wealthy. However, my view is that having a good job and a happy family life is what makes us truly happy in life. If we feel what we are doing is worthwhile and financially rewarding; or our children behave well and love their parents, that happiness is no longer out of reach.

#### **Do you think money can make people happy? =Do you think people will be happy when they become richer?**

The answer is yes for me. It is true that money cannot buy everything. However, people will enjoy a greater sense of comfort and feel better contented with their life if they are in possession of much more money. For example, a rich family can gain better access to top-notch services like healthcare or education or



spend their weekends going shopping or seeing a movie together. The second point is that although money cannot buy happiness, it is the means with which can make others happy. Take this example, you can buy a present to bring happiness to a small child or use your wealth to cover medical expenses for the less fortunate people. So you can see, it not only makes you happy but other people as well.

### **What do you do when you feel unhappy?**

It is hard to deny that everyone can come up against apparently insurmountable hurdles in their lifetime and I am no exception. At those times, I try to comfort myself by assuming the best. For example, if a person keeps me waiting for hours, I would console myself by some thoughts like he may be springing a surprise on me with something special. Or some scenarios like he may have stopped at the store to pick up a present for me. So, this could cheer me up at that instant. At other times, I often come to my soul mates to confide in ups and down and seek for sympathy, yet just for utterly miserable moments, to tell the truth

### **Do you think rich people are always happy? = Can money make person happier?**

No. they aren't, as I have mentioned. Money cannot buy happiness. It only makes life more comfortable and convenient. As you see. material wealth brings both positive and negative changes. From my experience, I have witnessed a true story about my uncle. At first he was a broke guy, however, after his business at the publishing company paid off, he turned over a new leaf. However, the more profits he made, the greater his ambition and greed became. He ended up turning into a man who values material wealth more than anything else on earth and nothing can satisfy his limitless desire. As time went by, his family broke up because he just put efforts into earning money without devoting any quality family time to his wife and children. The outcome is that they got divorced and his wife took 3 small kids with her, leaving the husband lonely in his 5 story villa.

### Is it possible to be happy during whole life?

I would have to say it is quite out of the question to stay happy all the time during one's life. Whether we like it or not, there are ups and downs: happy moments and sorrowful ones. Therefore, it would be unrealistic to expect only good things to come to us and paint a rosy picture of one's life. Rather, one is supposed to face up to unpredictable difficulties and make their best efforts to overcome them and become happy again. It's safe to say that life is a vicious circle.

### 18/ Describe an interesting song you like.

*You should say:*

- *What it is:*
- *Which country the song comes from*
- *What story the song tells*
- *And explain why you think it is interesting.*

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.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

**What do old people like to listen to? = Why do you think old people like old songs?**

My guess is that the old generation would show a big preference for old songs, particularly the ballad or love story. Those songs usually contain meaningful lyrics and give them a golden chance to reflect on their life a bit. Besides, such melodious pieces of music are great ways to let their hair down they like immersing themselves in the soft and meaningful music I'd say. I wouldn't forget to mention songs with a theme on wars as they remind the elderly of their Miserable time and all the hardship they had to suffer when the country was still ill poverty and conflict.

**How would your grandfather feel if you gave him some hip hop music to listen to?**

What an interesting question! As I have mentioned earlier, modern music like hip-hop or rap is definitely not their taste. Having that in mind, I have never thought of recommending that sort of songs to my grandparents.

**Why do you think people of different age groups have different favorite songs?**

Simply speaking, people of different ages belong to different groups and each group has its own norms. So, teenagers are under the influence of other members, in the group and would go for the latest pop songs of current artists on TV or songs that go viral on the social network. Meanwhile, the older and more mature group would rather look back on past values and prefer old songs that usually have something to do with their life some 40 years ago. What I'm trying to say is they can recall bitter or sweet memories from those pieces of music.

### **Why do some people like to play music = play a musical instrument in the open?**

As far as I'm concerned, when you are out in the open air and hold your musical instrument, sing a song, you not only give yourself but others a great time as well. From my personal experience, I have seen many university students; for instance, gather around in the park, surrounded by a lot of trees and sing group songs with their guitar. This is great fun you know', just imagine everyone feeling the heat and dance to the tunes of the songs, or many other passers-by stopping for a while to enjoy the song.

### **What kinds of songs do children like listening to?**

From my point of view, based on what I recall from my own childhood, I would have to say most kids tend to be drawn by short, simple songs which have catchy tunes and memorable lyrics, and I suppose a lot of them are the theme songs from their favourite cartoons or some songs accompanying the adverts on the TV.

### **19/ Describe a time that you had to change your plan/ you changed your mind**

*You should say:*

- *When this happened.*
- *What made you change the plan.*
- *What the new plan was.*

- *And how you felt about the change.*

Well, when I was 21 years old, I made a decision that has forever changed my life; it started in 2014. I had it all **set up (carefully planned)** to go to Chile to study for a 2 month summer semester and language immersion. However, as soon I set foot in Valparaíso, I instantly fell in love with it. I felt like that culture really **suits me (goes well with me)**, as opposed to life in Canada. I loved the art and charm that fills the street. I had finally found a place where I could learn the language I wanted and **pursue (get; follow)** my art career as well. Furthermore, the people there really welcomed me with open arms and made me feel at home. So, I decided to stay for 2 years! Fortunately, I was able to finish my Bachelor's Degree there since they are **affiliated (partners)** with my Canadian university.

This has affected my life in many different areas. For one, my parents have always put pressure on me to work in business. However, I've always known that **that wasn't for me (not suitable for me)**. After this experience, I decided to be an Art teacher to children in a part of town with many Spanish speakers. If I had never stayed for 2 years, I wouldn't have the fluency that I have in Spanish today. Moreover, I've become a lot more **well-rounded (educated, experienced)** from this. I've gotten the opportunity to travel around South America and see the way others live, as well as the **breath-taking (extremely beautiful)** landscapes. Most importantly, I met the love of my life there! He moved back to Canada with me and I'm now pregnant with our second child. Looking back, my life wouldn't be nearly what it is today without this change of plans!

### QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

**How did people around you respond to it?**

My family was quite happy for me, but it was **bittersweet (happy and sad at the same time)** for them because they really missed me. Since my parents were

immigrants to Canada, they never had these opportunities when they were young, so they were joyous that I was able to. However, they were concerned that I would party too much instead of study! Moreover, they would stress about my **whereabouts (where I was, what I was doing)** and well-being while in Chile.

### **Do you like changes? Why?**

Certainly! I'm not a **creature of habit (a person who likes the same routine)** at all. Actually, I get so bored with a **monotonous (always the same; never changing)** life. Moreover, I'm an extremely adaptable person, so I think I can **embrace (make the best of)** and integrate myself into almost any unfamiliar situation. I believe we all need changes to help us grow and simply make life more interesting.

### **Why do some people hate changes?**

Well, I would say the number one reason is fear. It often happens that people are afraid of what the change may bring. Another reason is that some people become so attached to their daily routine that they feel **off-kilter (shocked, unbalanced)** when it's tweaked. I think this especially happens to the elderly. Lastly, changes are difficult! Although we may know that the change is necessary, like perhaps leaving your current job that you hate, it's still hard to make that **first move (to make the change happen)**. Change requires discomfort and adjustment!

### **How can you change people's opinions?**

I would say that the number one way to do this would be through a peaceful dialogue. In the world today, many people resort to violence, threat, or other extreme measures to try to change someone's mind. However, I think this is ineffective. I believe all parties must sit together and listen to each other's ideas before any change can happen.

## 20/ Describe a perfect holiday/vacation from home you want to go on in the future

*You should say:*

- *Where you want to go*
- *When you would like to go*
- *What you can do for the holiday*
- *Who you would like to go with*
- *And explain why you want to have this holiday*

Frankly speaking, I'm not an **extrovert**, so I haven't been on many trips up to now. However, I would **crave for** having a pleasant experience on a **package tour/ motorbike trip** to [place] - only within a 50- kilometer drive from my house.

I intend to travel **on my own** to **do the sightseeing**, which may **save me from the hassle and nuisance** from my friends, who usually complain **all the time** while being on a long holiday. If everything goes according to my plan, the tour should be **reasonably priced**, at 40 USD for at least 2 days 1 night and it should promise **luxurious accommodation** and **scrumptious** food. So you see, I tend to go for cheap holiday without **second thoughts** as it is exactly what I want to expect. The first part of the journey will probably be good enough for me because it will take me not too much time to **reach the destination**. Besides, I am **looking forward to** chances to **engage in** any gossip with other passengers so that the trip will go by with a lot of fun.

I imagine that the moment I **check in** at the hotel near the beach, I will be really glad that the quality of the room will definitely be **up to standard**. If I recall correctly, I **made it quite clear** to the travel agency that the bed must be cozy and comfortable and the air-conditioner has to work well. Regarding the swimming and the seafood, the weather on that day will be so sunny for sunbathing, which will make me feel like jumping my feet into the seawater. **To**

**add to the fun**, because I am going to travel during **off season**, the seafood won't be too **pricey** and the **servings** will be therefore large for a person like me.

### ***Vocabulary***

**Extrovert (noun)** someone who is very confident, lively, and likes social situations

**Crave for (verb)** to want something very much

**Package tour (noun)** package vacation, or package holiday comprises transport and accommodation advertised and sold together by a vendor known as a tour operator

**On my own (noun)** unaccompanied by others; alone

**Do the sightseeing (phrase)** the activity of visiting the famous or interesting sights of a place

**Hassle (noun)** argument

**Nuisance (noun)** disturbance

**Scrumptious (adj)** delicious

**Second thoughts (noun)** a change of opinion after considering something again.

**Engage in (verb)** take part in a particular activity

**Up to standard (phrase)** good enough

**Make it clear to somebody (phrase)** If you make something clear, you say something in a way that makes it impossible for there to be any doubt about your meaning, wishes, or intentions

**Off season (phrase)** a period of the year when there is less activity in business

**Serving (noun)** a quantity of food suitable for or served to one person.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

**What can people benefit from travelling?**

Clearly, there are a number of **merits** brought by travelling. But I would probably say that the thing that really **stands out** is we can **broaden our horizons** of



the world. To be more specific, when coming to a new region or a country, we have the chances to **sample the local life**, enjoy the cuisine and learn a great deal of interesting stuff. Besides, a second positive point could be that we can **let our hair down** after **undergoing nerve-racking period of time** of hard work or study. **A flying visit to** somewhere can help us **recharge our batteries** and work more effectively afterwards.

**Merit (noun)** the quality of being particularly good or worthy

**Stand out (verb)** to be easy to see or notice because of being different

**Broaden one's horizon (phrase)** to make you see a wider range of opportunities and choices

**Let hair down (idiom)** relax

**Nerve-racking (adj)** nervous

**Flying visit to (phrase)** short visit

**Recharge one's batteries (phrase)** to rest and relax for a period of time so that you feel energetic again

**Do you like to travel on your own or with your family?**

Personally, I like the former option. Travelling on my own can **free me from** the burden of others and so I can have more freedom and independence to **explore to my heart's content**. To be more precise, when you travel on a **package tour** with your family members, you have to plan your budget, must **keep an eye on** the small kids or have to follow the instructions of the tour guide. However, when you are **on your own**, you can head to anywhere you feel like, stay with the local people, experience many different feelings, and become more independent. You can also have **me time** to reflect on your life or **contemplate** the meaning of life.

**To one's heart's content (phrase)** as much as one wants

**Keep an eye on (phrase)** to watch someone or something; to monitor someone or something closely

**On one's own (phrase)** alone

**Me time (phrase)** time that you spend relaxing and doing things that you enjoy rather than time spent doing things for other people

**Contemplate (verb)** to think very carefully about something for a long time

**Do you like to visit popular places or less-known places?**

*If you choose to visit touristy places:*

If you ask me, I would say that I'd rather **pay a visit to** popular tourist destinations. The main reason for my choice is because I will feel more safe and secure in a place that I **know like the back of my hand**. To be more precise, I could know where to **get a good bargain for** a service or won't **fear the risk of** getting lost. On the contrary, if you venture to visit tourist places of no good reputation, you may risk your life or get **ripped off** in some cases. In addition, I am not a kind of extrovert and dynamic person, so I'd prefer to go to popular sites instead.

**Know like the back of my hand** (idiom) be entirely familiar with a place or route.

**Get ripped off (verb)** to be cheated, especially by charging them too much money for something

*If you prefer less-known places:*

To be honest, I **have proclivity for** travel to not touristy places where I can have more space **to capture the breathtaking landscapes** without disturbing other travelers. Besides, visiting a site which has not yet been well-known makes me enjoy to discover more about that place. This is because I want to become the **pioneer** who can help introduce the place to more visitors with my photos I snapped and travel guidance I wrote.

**Have proclivity for (phrase)** have a tendency or inclination to do something

**Breathtaking (adj)** causing awe or excitement

**Where do people like to travel in your country?**

It depends on different preferences and ages. For example, young American, who are adventurous and **curious about** new places, tend to choose **brand new** places where haven't exploited by tourist, whilst old people prefer to stay in a resort nearby a beach or in a village in order to bring back their memories and do meditation.

**Curious about (adj)** Eager to learn more about something

**Brand new (adj)** completely new

### **What is the relationship between travel and the environment?**

Obviously, travel has an adverse impact on the surrounding environment. Air pollution is one concern. This is because people must get on a coach, a train to reach their travel destinations and these means of transport give off huge amounts of emissions into the surrounding air, making the air quality from bad to worse. Another thing is litter dropping issue. All the travelers do is enjoy the services, and throw away trash onto the ground, spit anywhere and these things really spoil the cityscape.

### **What are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling alone?**

Well firstly I'd say the good thing about travelling alone is that you get to do what you want, without having to ask for anyone else's approval. So basically, you can be really flexible with your plans. But on the downside, if you're travelling on your own, you might feel lonely at times, especially if you've got no one to talk to.

### **What are the differences between young people and old people when they go travelling?**

I guess there are **a handful of** differences, of which one would be that young people generally like doing quite exciting and energetic things, like **bungee jumping**; or, if they're going somewhere coastal, they might wanna do some watersports like jet skiing, whereas I would say the elderly, **on the whole**, tend

to simply like relaxing when they go on holiday, so they'll probably take a few books with them and spend most of the time on a deck chair next to a swimming pool **soaking up** the sun and enjoying the feeling of doing nothing.

**A handful of** (phrase) A small, undefined number or quantity

**Bungee jumping (noun)** a jump made by someone from a high bridge, building, etc, secured only by a rubber cord attached to the ankles

**Soak up (verb)** to absorb

## **21/ Describe a trip that you went on by public transportation**

*You should say:*

- *When and where you went*
- *Why you took the trip*
- *What you did and saw on the trip*
- *And explain how you feel about the trip*

Frankly speaking, I'm not fan of public transport, so I haven't been on many journeys by bus. train or taxi up to now. However, out of those I have taken, the most pleasant experience was when I travelled on a package tour to X - only within a 50-kilometer drive front my house. It was a small tour and we travelled in a bus as the travel agency owns a public transport corporation.

Off the top off my head, the tour was quite reasonably priced, at \$100 for merely 2 days as it promised luxurious accommodation and tasty foods. So you see, I just went for it without second thought as it was exactly, what I would expect. The first part of the journey was good enough for me because it took us not much time to reach the destination. Besides, I did get chances to engage in any gossip with other passengers and the trip just went by with a lot of fun. Travelling by bus like this for long distance was an experience I hadn't had before, as the bus condition was good and the service was decent.

The moment we checked in a hotel near the beach, I was really glad that the quality of the room was up to standard. The bed was pretty comfortable and the air-conditioner worked extremely well. Regarding the swimming and the

seafood, the weather then was so sunny for sunbathing and I felt like jumping my feet into the seawater. To add it to the fun, because we travelled during off season, the seafood was very cheap. This is the bus tour that left me with most profound memories, I also take pride in protecting the environment as well.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **How to encourage more people to take public transportation?**

Encouraging the public to make use of the public transit is quite a tough task as the facilities and infrastructures are not developed. So with a view to achieving that, there should be an increase in the number of public means of transport like buses, trains, and subways with better service quality so that the general population feels worth it to leave their motorbike or car at home and make daily commutes by public transport. In addition, government should run more awareness raising campaigns to educate people about the importance of conserving the environment via small actions such as taking public transport. Posters can be stuck on electrical poles on the streets, or banners should be hung outside buildings, for example.

#### **Causes and contributing factors of traffic congestion:**

Traffic congestion is caused by different factors; bad weather, poor signal timing, car accidents, inadequate roadway capacity, insufficient number of roads. Substandard road conditions, and increased number of cars; roads and transport services suffer when they are overused. Urban sprawl and unplanned urban growth contribute to the traffic congestion of large cities.

#### **What measures should the government take to solve transportation problems in traveling?**

The government can do a lot to solve traffic problems. For example, better educations of the citizens to follow traffic rules, more provision of public transportation facilities, such as buses and underground railways, as well as broadening the roads or building skyways, can all contribute to the alleviation of traffic problems.

#### **Other suggestions to reduce traffic:**

To apply automated traffic management systems, to improve public transport systems, to encourage people to use more public transport, to provide carpooling facilities, to establish car sharing schemes, to ease traffic jams through radio reports, to impose vehicle emission laws: a regulatory system planned to limit the number of cars on the roads could be introduced, to ban private cars from entering certain areas of the city, to increase the number of roads, to provide a safe network of walking and cycling routes.

### **What types public transport can be found in your country?**

Obviously, there's quite a mixed variety of public transport in my country. When we travel on the roads, it's easy to find mass of buses, taxis, or even trains. If someone wants to have an outbound trip, plane is crucial. However, the most commonly-used would potentially be buses, since they are so cheap and reliable.

### **Why types of public transport do you use most?**

As far as I'm concerned, I take buses more often than any other means of transport. That might be due to the fact that I am liable to carsickness buses aren't so stuffy. Moreover, bus wouldn't set me back because with only 200,000 dong for a monthly commutation ticket. I could commute to work every day without any anxiety.

### **Are there any public transport problems in your country?**

With an increase of private cars in my country, during the rush hour there are always jam-packed kind people often go bananas due to this, the road quality, furthermore, is too run-down to meets the needs of the overwhelming vehicular traffics. This might leads to the increase in drastic crack-ups recently.

## **22/ Describe a useful website that you often visit.**

*You should say:*

- *What the contents of this website are*
- *How you first found this website*
- *How often you go to visit this website*

- And explain how this website helps you.

When the first book out of seven in the Harry Potter series, the Sorcerer's Stone was published in the United States, I searched almost every bookstore in my country in vain. And just when I was downhearted, one of my friends recommended Amazon and I got this book sent to me.

After that, it became my favorite website. The website is a great marketplace to find anything, from books to clothes, movies and furniture. It stocks millions of products for the home, garden and office. And there is the amazing "sell your stuff" link. In the marketplace section, you can sell your unwanted things, such as books, computer games and DVD s and make a little of money back.

During my student days, I spent hours on Amazon buying all the reference books because the prices were cheaper. And now I also log onto it to buy new or second hand DVDs and CDs. After my acquaintance with Amazon, I stop throwing away things. I can always use the marketplace to offload these unwanted things onto someone else that needs them.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **When was the first time you used the Internet?**

I think it's in middle school when I first used the Internet. I watched comic cartoons, read novels on the Internet, and later. I even began to write novels by myself in the online community.

#### **Do you often buy things on the Internet?**

Not really. I don't like shopping clothes online. I prefer to go the shopping mall and try the clothes on. and then decide to buy or not. If I cannot try it. I'll feel it may not fit me well. But sometimes I will buy some daily necessities on the Internet that don't have the problem of size or fitness.

#### **What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet?**

The Internet has changed our lifestyle. People can get information of what b happening in the world at an time and at an place through Internet we may-talk to the friends who are far away from us. But I also has some downsides The

Internet IS also a Source of violence and porn which fry III do harm to Innocent children.

### **How do you think about online shopping?**

Since the introduction of online shopping in the mid 1990s. the online market has grown rapidly. The advantages of online shopping have greatly contributed to its monumental success. Online shopping offers many more options to consumers than the traditional bricks-and-mortar retailer does. Initially, the development of online stores came about in order to fulfill consumers' need for greater variety. Also, physical retail stores only order and keep a certain amount of any merchandise, so customers become frustrated when they travel to a retail store and are unable to find the particular items that they want. Online stores can offer not only a greater range of goods, but they can also eliminate the uncertainty of an item being in stock. Most "e-tailers" have a feature that can tell customers if the product they are looking for is available and, if not, how long it will take to arrive. By moving one's business to the Internet, an owner is not restricted to the confinements of a physical store.

### **23/ Describe a famous athlete you know /famous sports star / Describe a famous person**

*You should say:*

- *Who he or she is*
- *How you know him or her*
- *What he or she has achieved*
- *Why he is famous*

I'm not a sports enthusiast, so picking up this topic card seems to be my doomsday as my mind went blank just thinking how I can give you a proper account of this. But after a bit of a thought, I have finally come up with a name of a sportsperson that seems to strike me as talented and charismatic- It's Roger Federer, a professional tennis player.



Speaking of outward appearance, he's quite a good-looking guy who gives out a lot of charisma. Although he's no spring chicken, his tennis skill is still superb. I just love how he serves the ball and returns the ball with agility and precision that no other player has ever achieved. I remember a time when I was up to ears with my studies having various assignments to complete, but I still managed to watch his matches since it would be a pity to miss seeing him play tennis.

One of his accomplishments I have to mention is that he has won 19 Grand Slam singles titles, the most in history for a male tennis player. Currently, I'm too preoccupied with work, so I haven't got the foggiest idea what more achievements he has had, but I wish that my idol's career would continue to flourish so that he can bring the best of himself through his marvelous matches.

### **QUESTION FOR PART 3**

#### **Do you think sports can help people improve their health?**

I can't agree with you more. Sporting activities are a highly recommended way to keep fit and get into a better shape. Through sports like football or basketball, the body sweats profusely, which helps us lose weight and makes the blood circulate more properly! Besides, people can cultivate team spirit and enlarge their social circle! through participating in sports.

#### **What are the benefits of playing sports?**

Clearly, taking part in sports is greatly beneficial in several ways. The first merit is that we can keep our body in better shape and relieve our minds quite effectively. For example, when you join in a football match, you have to exercise your body. This builds up your muscles and by sweating profusely! you burn up some kilos and it helps your blood to circulate better. Apart from those health benefits, with your participation in sports, you can broaden your social circle by meeting people of different backgrounds, cultivating team spirit and cooperation skills.

#### **Do children need to exercise?**

Obviously, children in modern society need plenty of physical exercise. It is not surprising to see that with the fast-paced lifestyle and increase study pressure, many students fail to manage time to take part in certain forms of sports to work out. Therefore, they end up suffering from various health problems like obesity or short-sightedness. It is my recommendation that teachers and parents should encourage them to join some sports to help them relax their minds and build up their bodies as health is the most important asset of a person.

### **Why do people need to play sports?**

Needless to say, taking part in sports is greatly beneficial in several ways. The first merit is that we can keep our body in better shape and relieve our minds quite effectively. For example, when you join in a football match, you have to exercise your body. This builds up your muscles and by sweating profusely, you burn up some kilos and it helps your blood to circulate better. Apart from those health benefits, with your participation in sports, you can broaden your social circle by meeting people of different backgrounds, cultivating team spirit and cooperation skills.

### **24/ Describe a popular comic actor /actress you know**

*You should say:*

- *Who he/she is*
- *How you knew him/her*
- *What comedies /films he/she performed*
- *And explain why he's /she is popular*

The celebrity I admire very much is Maggie, a well-known actress in my country, and enjoys worldwide reputation, especially after she obtained the Best Actress Award in Cannes Film Festival when playing the role of the protagonist in a movie "ABC" last year. In this film directed by her ex-husband, she acts a hippie named Amelia, who loves rock, takes drugs and dreams of becoming a rock star. After her husband is killed in an accident, she decides to have a completely

new life. She quits drugs and tries to bring back her son from her parents-in-law. In this film Maggie had to learn to sing rocks and speak dirty words. She overcame these difficulties and showed her excellent acting skills.

I am a fan of Maggie because she has both charming face and perfect performance. She is the kind of person who has a sense of, well, a sense of camera shot. I mean, she is always eye-catching before the movie camera. It is a gift that can't be learned. Her acting is simple but touching. Besides, she is good at handling her career. She stars comedies and romantic films to earn money. It makes her known among the audience. At the same time, she appears in some serious and artistic movies, which makes her have a longer art life. As a well-known actress, Maggie is not satisfied with what she has achieved. She keeps trying to break through her former performance. It is what I admire the most.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Do children imitate stars?**

Yes, of course. Stars often bring new trends, especially when it comes to fashion. The impressionable youths often imitate their stars in their fashion styles, making the young splurge a great deal of money simply to look like their idols. They may copy their star's behavior as well. For instance, some girls may adopt certain lines from their stars' acting, or some words become buzzwords / uttered by a celebrated figure.

#### **The benefits of being famous?**

Being famous allows your opinions to be heard. You would be probably the role model or even the superhero of many people: having admirers, supporters and fans can be enticing and satisfying. It can bring you respect, status and popularity! You would have power. Influence and probably wealth.

#### **The drawbacks of being famous?**

Well, famous people are bothered by photographers and the press, it can cause insecurity. All the time, you have to act in a certain way. Fame causes confusion of identity and disorientation. It causes relationship problems. Fame can ruin

real friendships: you have friends and fans, but you can never be sure if they like for who you are or your position.

### **What kinds of people become famous/popular?**

Just as I have mentioned. Normal people can earn a great deal of fame with the support from others while extraordinary ones can also make themselves famous with their own efforts. Having said this, it seems to me that if you make it bid with your real talents, your fame lasts longer and you get much more admiration and respect from others.

### **25/ Describe an interesting animal**

*You should say:*

- *What it looks like*
- *When you saw it*
- *What you saw it and explain why it is interesting*

I recall that as a small kid. we went to the local zoo as part of school. We spent most of the day there and caught sight of many different animals, and we learned a lot about them for the class assignment we were doing. My favorite animal is the tiger, so I'll talk about that.

It was in a large cage, which was full of enormous rocks and some large trees too. It was bigger than I thought It would be. but then I was only a child at the time. I'd seen plenty of tigers on TV. in movies and TV programs, but it seemed a lot bigger in real life.

It was really like watching a big cat. the way It moved around. The colors were amazing; the yellow, white and lack stripes on Its body were spectacular. As I was watching, it jumped up and started climbing up one of the big rocks. When it reached the top it slowly turned around md then looked down at everything. moving its head from side to side, like it was observing everything going on around it. I felt very excited because I thought it was looking at me, it was really amazing!

At the end of the trip. I wrote an essay about the daily routines of the tiger and got a high score for it. Until now, the image of a tiger still lingers in my mind.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Why do people like to keep pets?**

People mostly have pets to keep their company! Besides, they are useful for US too in some cases. When a dog sees a stranger, it barks and the home owner becomes aware of the existence of someone else outside the house. Besides, cats kill mice and protect the home from different mischief treated by the tiny, creatures.

#### **What should we do to protect endangered animals?**

There are a number of courses of actions available to conserve the animals facing the threat of extinction. The first step is to actively participate in and support environmentalists' campaigns against illegal poaching which is the main cause of the issue. Meanwhile the governments should impose strict punishments on those who engage in illegal hunting. Also, they should increase their spending on expanding the reserves area for these endangered creatures so that they can live and breed well in the future

#### **Do you support doing experiment on animals? =Researchers are being conducted on animals, is this good idea?**

Studies are on over the animals and I think it will be helpful to generate newer species or will help to Sustain the endangered species! More researches should be conducted over the animals as they are the part of our ecology and their improved living condition will help Maintaining the ecological balance too. Moreover, the wildlife, around the globe, is in danger and the researches will help to discover the ways to protect them. If the researches are continued and the results are applied in the animals, it will be helpful for the animals, human and the environment

#### **What would happen when some species disappear on earth?**

There can be a number of Negative consequences if some species become extinct on our planet. The first effect is that there will be an Imbalance in the

ecosystem. If mosquitoes, for example, disappear forever, other creatures can suffer as a result like frogs or lizards which usually feed on mosquitoes. Furthermore, there could be a number of hazards! to people's lives, if there were no cats, the mice would dominate and run freely in people's houses, causing sanitary issues like food poisoning.

**So many animals are extinct these days. What do you think about this?**

**Why it is happening?**

Deforestation, new constructions, people's greed and temperature change are some of the other reasons why many animal species are getting extinct. Global warming is a threat both to human and other species. We should take every measure! to reduce the global temperature. Apart from that, hunting of wild animals should be completely banned.

**26/ Describe a situation or a time when you helped someone.**

*You should say:*

- *What the situation was*
- *Who the person was*
- *How you helped them*
- *And explain how you felt after helping them*

Well, my neighbor is an old lady living with her son in the room next to mine. She is not very old but she always daggars along on the road. She is alone at home in the day time because her son is working at the office, and she has no grandson to look after. Every time we meet in the corridor, she is likely to talk with me about her son and have quite a chat with me for a while. I think she really needs a company.

One day in the mommy, I bumped into her in the shop where she just bought a large pack of instant noodles and was ready to take the heavy box home. I walked straight to her, and told that I could help her with that big object. She

was very thankful and agreed to accept my kindness. I could feel that she really hoped someone could pop up and do her a favor at that moment.

The box was quite heavy and it took us ten minutes to move back home. I took the box directly to her doorstep, and helped open the door and brought it in for her. She really appreciated my offer and wanted to give me some gifts, but I refused. I believe that helping elder people is a kind virtue. Besides, getting along well with neighbors is also very important to lead a happy life.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Do you like helping others?**

Yes, definitely. I always hold a belief that every person has a moral responsibility to do others a favor; it is a kind of give and take. Only by lending others a hand can we expect something in return. For example, if you lend a pen to your classmate, when yours runs out of ink, the others will lend you back, for sure I believe

#### **How can we encourage children to help others?**

There is a couple of effective ways that we can help children become helpful citizens. Firstly, it is the responsibility of both parents and schools. They should make them realize that if they help a needy person, the action would mean pretty much to that person. For example, children should learn how yield their seat to the elderly on the bus or take a blind person across the street. Secondly, adults themselves should set a good role model for their children to follow. Otherwise, their words and advice will turn useless.

#### **Do you think people are less willing to help others these days, compared to the past? Why?/Why not?**

Yes, I have to admit the fact that modern people show an increasing unwillingness to lend a helping hand to their surrounding needy people in the past, people helped others out of good will and intention and were often considerate and thoughtful of others. Yet, nowadays assistance is carefully calculated to extract certain benefit. It is saddening to say but people today tend to alienate themselves from others, let alone help them. However, it is good

news to see many others are pretty eager and try to be helpful when there is someone calling for them.

### **How do people in your community help one another?**

Usually the help a person can give takes a variety of forms. Like taking an elderly person across a street, helping one's neighbors water the plants or do the babysitting when the hosts are away. Such actions are simple yet they can prove extremely helpful to a needy person.

### **How can or do charitable organizations help people?**

The aim of a charitable organization is to help alleviate the sufferings of those unfortunate or under privileged. By supplying relief food for flood-stricken people, or providing vocational training for the unemployed, charity has been playing a key role in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor, helping others to turn a new leaf in their life.

### **What are some examples of such organizations in your country?**

The Red Cross, for example, has been actively involved in providing timely assistance to many people in my country. Besides, schools and the local authorities usually join hands to hold some donation campaigns, stuff like clothes, books have been greatly helpful to the needy. Even churches and pagodas have activities that benefit those unfortunate: trips to orphanages or visits to nursing homes, and so on. These are just a few of the courses of actions the community takes to Relieve the sufferings of others.

## **27/ Describe a quiet place you visited.**

*You should say:*

- *where It was:*
- *when you went where:*
- *what you did there:*
- *and explain why you think it was quiet.*



I'm an introvert and not really keen on socializing with other, so I often find a noiseless spot to frequent to every time I'm stressed out from work or study. It's thermal and cozy café within a walking distance from my house.

Unlike other coffee shops in the vicinity of my neighborhood the atmosphere here is extremely tranquil and serene, which greatly lives up to my expectation. As a person with heavy amounts of daily workload, the cafe gives me a feeling of peacefulness and calmness, especially during nerve-racking periods like final exams when I am up to ears in revision and reviewing.

What leaves the most profound impression on me is the complete silence in the café as the shop owner fortunately is not interested in music of any kind, so 10 background music is expected when you come here. I can increase my concentration span while reading a book or other materials and finish work with great productivity compared to when I'm at home, surrounded by many disturbances like babies crying and neighbors arguing. One bonus point is that the coffee there is second to none, which caters to my unique tastes. The foods are really delicately made and sumptuous, giving me great refreshing energy when suffering from fatigue and stress, I have to admit.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Is there a completely quiet place?**

What a fascinating question! My personal thought is that there's virtually no absolutely peaceful and quiet spot in modern society. At least there's some soft background noise or music! to make the air less dull and heavy. Having said this, at night, we can catch sight of many parts of the town noiseless and dead quiet, which can be explained by the fact that most people might have fallen into a sound sleep.

#### **Do you feel like listening to music over and over again?**

To be honest with you, I'd say that I don't have a habit of replaying any song on my iPod, the main reason of which is that I've been always interested in novel stuff and repeating the same thing for me seems redundant and mundane, so I'd rather put on different song and experience different feelings and emotions.

**Where do young people usually meet in your city?**

Well, it's difficult to say because there are many good meeting places in my city, like cafes, cinemas or parks. As far as I am concerned, I usually meet my friends in the cafes. They have comfortable seats and pleasant background music. We can chat without being disturbed while enjoying a cup of coffee or juice. If the weather is fine we will go to the parks. It is agreeable to sit on the bench near the lake, enjoying the pleasant scenery far away.

**What are some of the advantages of quiet places?**

There are many advantages that being in a tranquil and serene place can give us. The first plus point is that it's easier to concentrate, to think logically and rationally! In a word, it's good for my mind work. Also, quiet places enable people to feel relaxed and light-hearted, or whatever type of positive feeling human has.

**How might the level of urban noise be reduced?**

There can be a number of approaches that can be adopted to relieve the level of noise in urban areas. The first one should be the installation of noise-proof walls, which can immensely curb the noise from neighboring houses interfering in the daily routines of other households. The second approach is that government should impose strict regulation meaning that people mustn't do things that affect surrounding people after midnight or at noon, where people are supposed to fall sound asleep take a short nap before their next hard-working period.

**What kinds of places do people want to go to when they want to be alone?**

Honestly speaking, city dwellers often try to manage a trip to the countryside, where the atmosphere is tranquil and serene away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Some others who are preoccupied with their work tend to make an escape to a secluded lake or park where they spend time reading a book or pursuing other hobbies like drawing. Also, some people would rather just stay at home, in their room listening to music or doing other trivial stuff.

**Do you think there is more noise in people's lives today than in the past?**

Well to be honest, I would have to admit that modern humankind is suffering from greater levels of noise pollution than our ancestor some decades ago. The most reasonable explanation for this is that as the population swells, people live closer and closer to one another. Consequently, some frequently complain that their neighbours are a nuisance, specially when they throw an overnight party singing karaoke loudly or have fierce quarrels. Another factor is the development of hi-tech; most people in public places are often in hold of a smartphone while having a loud conversation. Somehow, technology is to blame, I think.

**Do you think that cities will become noisier in the future?**

It is difficult to predict the future, but I reckon there are going to be some changes with regard to the level of noise future generations have to bear. I'm not sure exactly what will happen but one possibility is the rising number of vehicles on the roads and the increasing popularity of hi-tech gadgets in our daily life, which will lead to the uneasiness and bad mood among people.

**28/ Describe a subject that you like most**

*You should say:*

- *What it is*
- *Where you study/studied it*
- *What you have learned from it*
- *And explain why it is your favorite*

My favorite subject is biology. I have studied this subject for three years since the first grade of senior high school. I have always been fascinated by nature and I like all kinds of plants and animals. I began to raise dogs, birds and cats when I was only 5 years old.

The biology class unveils a more complicated world of nature. For the first time I got to know what the ecosystem is and how it runs. All the species on earth have evolved into their present forms for centuries. According to the principle of

the survival of the fittest, some of them survived and others just disappeared such as dinosaurs.

Human being is also part of the nature. Since the origin of mankind still remains a controversy. I am always furious about the human body and the genes that control our physical characteristic. Many scientists are carrying out research on genetic code which is the arrangement of genes that decides how we will develop and how one person is completely different from another. Once the code is deciphered those fatal diseases such as cancer and heart attacks will no longer be incurable. I am also interested in the cloning technology. The Korean scientists just announced the birth of a cloned dog. Though some people argue that cloning is ethically and morally wrong. I believe it is inevitable that cloning will play an important part in our life in the future for it can be used in various ways to benefit human lives. I hope one day I could work in this area. So you could see how biology is so special and intriguing for me.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

**Which subjects do you think should be optional and which should be compulsory?**

I suppose that each subject has its own role to play in the personal growth of students, so there is no need to play down certain subjects while encouraging students to learn more of something. The curriculum should be designed based on the individual interests and tastes of each student. Only when they are passionate and enthusiastic about something can they achieve the best productivity.

**How do you feel about the modern biological technology?**

There are some advantages of biological technology. It hugely benefits people's life; with this technology people can invent better medicines to cure people's diseases and make plants or farm animals grow faster. However, I think there are many potential dangers. It isn't necessarily a good thing to change the genes of certain species and clone animals. I don't think people can change the

natural rules totally. Biological technology may bring disasters to human beings if it is not properly used.

## 29/ Describe a time you looked for information from the internet

*You should say*

- *When you did that*
- *What information you searched*
- *Why you looked for it on the internet*

I'm going to tell you about a time I used the internet to look for information about social events online, which is very useful nowadays. I had just moved to Seoul and **didn't know a soul (didn't know anyone)**, so I began searching on Facebook. I found an expat page called "Expats in Seoul" which became one of my greatest resources for meeting locals and expats in the city. I believe that social media can be a great **blessing (something great)**!

I've now been living in Seoul for 10 months, so I began this search my first month here. I initially wanted to find a meditation group and a language exchange group, and I found just that by scrolling up and down the feed and even writing a post myself; there were countless people who informed me about events in the area. So, since my first month I have been attending a meditation group on Thursday evenings and have met several friends via the expat meet up. Since then, I've **expanded my horizons (opened up more opportunities for myself)** and even began regularly attending a Philosophy Forum on Wednesdays and have joined a yoga club, too!

I decided to opt for the internet to start building my social life because I didn't see many other options, as I am a freelancer. With this said, I don't have co-workers and I can be a bit **standoffish (shy; doesn't approach people)** when I go out to the bar. Although you must use your judgment when meeting people from the internet, I think it can be a great tool when you first arrive in a new city

alone. I find it to be quite an efficient way to **put yourself out there (put effort into)** to meet others. Although it can certainly be a curse at times, I certainly feel thankful for it!

### **30/ Describe a time you were scared/ Describe a frightening experience you had**

*You should say:*

- *When it happened*
- *Where it happened*
- *Why you were scared*
- *How you felt about it*

I'm going to tell you about a time that I feel I may have had a **run in (experience)** with a ghost. First, let me give you some background. After my mother's death, my father, sister, and I moved into a new house that was built in the 60's. Upon moving in, we got to know the old couple who had this house built and lived their entire lives there, now moving into a nursing home. They seemed to be quite friendly.

I know that Ruth, the woman who lived there before, had a strong connection to her kitchen. When they moved out, she left a sign in the kitchen saying "Ruth's kitchen". I left it there to pay her respect for a while. However, one day I got tired of looking at that sign and decided to put it away in a drawer in the kitchen. To my surprise, when I came home later, the sign was hung up again. I quickly asked my sister and dad if they had put it up again, which they both denied. A sense of curiosity grew inside of me and I googled her and her husband's names. Oddly enough, I found both of their names in the local obituary and discovered that they had both died just months ago, very close to one another.

I felt frightened because I was worried that Ruth felt that I was disrespecting her kitchen. I questioned if she would come to **haunt me (be evil to)** for doing such a thing; I felt that she was taking her kitchen back. With this said, I **slept with one eye open (slept in fear)** for the next following weeks. I left her sign hanging and decided to just **go on (continue)** with my life. Since this, nothing like this ever happened again and I feel that if her spirit is in the house, it is a friendly one.

### 31/ Describe a time that you took medicine

*You should say:*

- *When it happened*
- *Who gave it to you*
- *Why you had it*
- *How you felt about it*

I am going to tell you about how I am currently taking medicine for a **fungal infection** that I **picked up** in my city, either by the hot, humid air, touching an infected object, or some other unknown way- the doctor was unsure. After noticing some itchy spots **showing up (appearing)** on my body, I took the initiative to see a doctor. He **prescribed** me an anti-fungus cream to lightly rub on the spots. He said it was a mix between an anti-fungal cream and an **anti-biotic**. It seems to work at first but after a week the infection came back and this time spread to more parts of my body!

So, I am now taking a strong anti-fungal pill called Diflazon to kill the fungal infection in my body. I was instructed to take 150 mg once a week. If this still doesn't improve, he told me to come back to visit him and that he would up the dosage of this pill or find out some other treatment methods.

During this infection, I have felt very itchy, uncomfortable, and worried that I could pass this infection to my friends through direct skin contact. Moreover, when I put on the cream, I didn't feel any relief from the itching and I worried that I was **sweating it off** during the day in this jungle climate of my country. After taking Diflazon, I felt a bit **nauseous**, but so far this treatment seems **promising (reliable)**, as I am noticing that my spots are starting to look better.

### 32/ Describe an occasion when someone took a good photo of you.

*You should say:*

- *when it happened*
- *who took the photo*
- *how the photo was captured*
- *and why you think it was good.*

I'm going to tell you about a photo my friend took of me at my high school graduation. I'll always remember my graduation day in 2010 because of the lovely, **candid (unplanned; I didn't know someone was taking a picture)** smile my friend captured for me. On that day, a warm mid-May afternoon after the graduation ceremony had finished, all of the students gathered outside to find their families to take photos **for the books (to document for memories)**. I had posed for many pictures all day, but I found them all unflattering. As I was transitioning to another photo, my friend snapped a picture of me laughing of me. This ended up being the best photo taken all day!

At that point in time, I had just colored my hair to a dark brown color and had my make-up done; I felt really beautiful. I was wearing my maroon-colored silky graduation cap and gown which was flattering on me. **Reds are my color (I look best in shades of red)!** I think this helps the fact that I like the picture. If I had recently woken up with no make-up, I'm sure I wouldn't have felt as nice. I



feel that many times people obsess over trying to get just the right photo. However, I think the best photos are **candid**. I love that this photo captured a real feeling- joy. Since this day, I don't bother trying to get the perfect pose because they never seem to turn out. I much prefer taking selfies or let my friends or family take unposed pictures!

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

**When technology is being used to morph photos, do you think people have lost the craze to take photos?**

I definitely disagree. People are still crazy about taking photos! Actually, they take advantage of this photo morphing. Since you can add a number of filters and effects to photos, such as saturation, contrast, sharpening, etc., the appearance of the original photo quality isn't so important anymore. I think our generation is **going nuts (going crazy)** with photos, nobody is holding back at all. We snap away and post on social media and even have live stories of our days on snapchat, instagram, and facebook.

**Is it necessary for one to be professionally qualified to take a good photo?**

I disagree because some people who have never taken professional courses **have an eye (have a talent for what a good photo is; an interesting perspective)** for photography. Actually, I do! I don't even have a real camera, just an iPhone 6s but I have some really impressive photos on my instagram account. Sure professional courses help you to know certain techniques, but I think it's more about your eye. However, for more professional types of photos, I believe that one should have some training when it comes to finding the right light.

**Can any layman take a photo to be printed in the newspapers? How is newspaper photography different?**

Absolutely not! Formal training is a requirement for this type of job position. For one, the person should have a professional camera because a cell phone quality photo wouldn't be **suffice (enough)**. Since a large audience will be viewing the photo, I think it's necessary to be clear so it isn't misconstruing. However, in certain circumstances, maybe a blurry cell phone photo from a **passerby (a person that walks by you that you don't know)** is all there is. In this case, it's certainly okay to use this.

### 33/ Describe an occasion when you wore traditional clothes.

*You should say*

- *When did you wear them?*
- *Where did you purchase them?*
- *How did you feel while wearing them?*

In my country, Spain, the traditional outfit for a woman is the Flamenco dress. First, let me describe it to you. It's a long dress that is **form-fitting (tight)** that **flares out (goes out)** at the bottom. They often have **tassels (string-like object)** hanging from the top of the dress. The sleeves and bottoms of the dress have ruffles, which gives the women an even better shape. The dresses can come in many different colors, but they are often a bright, vibrant red color with white or red details. They usually have **polka dots (circles)**. They are accessorized by flowers in your hair, a hand fan, and large bright colored **dangly (hanging down)**, circular earrings that match the colors of your dress. You can purchase them in many boutiques around town, or even have one tailored especially for your body. We wear the flamenco dress for the "Feria", or summer festival, of our town in the South. Since the Flamenco dance started here, it's an integral part of our cultural. It's a week long festival that involves drinking a sweet wine called Cartojal, going to different tents with dancing and traditional foods, and mostly seeing all of our friends and family from our town.

I wore this dress last August for my town's feria. I felt on top of the world when I wear this dress. When I put it on, I felt fierce and passionate. I also felt very confident because I have an hour-glass shape, so the dress **accentuates (highlights)** this. It **takes me back to my roots (takes me to my ancestors)** and reminds me of where I came from.

### **Part 3:**

#### **Do you always wear formal clothes?**

I am a fan of always **looking put together (clean/stylish)**. I once heard a saying that said "**When you look good, you feel good, when you feel good, you do good**" and it has really stayed in my mind. I notice that I feel a lot more confident when I look better. I don't necessarily wear formal clothes, but I like wearing a dress, skirt, or nice pants and shirt at all times. I always wear this except for when I run a simple errand to the supermarket or convenience store. In that case, I will **throw on (often used instead of put on)** some jeans or shorts and a presentable shirt.

#### **Is it mandatory to wear formal clothes? Why?**

I wouldn't say mandatory, but preferred to wear at least **business casual (not formal, but acceptable for work or business situations)** clothes in appropriate situations. I think it doesn't matter what you wear when you are out on the street, but people should look **well-groomed (clean)** for work, especially if they work with people. When someone gives off the impression that they care about their appearance, we naturally take them more seriously as employees. I think it's important to take pride in ourselves. When the employee looks better, it improves their confidence which may improve their work performance.

#### **Who should decide on a dress code of a company? Why?**

I think the company should hold a meeting with both sexes of employees to have a **democracy (when people make the rules)** on what can and cannot be

worn. I think it's unfair for only one person to decide. At the very least, one woman and one man should decide together. I think everyone should have a say in what they feel comfortable wearing and then come to an agreement from this.

### **What is the main purpose of a dress code?**

I think it enforces professionalism in the workplace. Furthermore, it prevents people from coming to work looking **unkept (messy)** and unprofessional. All in all, it maintains the appearance of what the workplace wants to achieve. In schools, I believe it to make sure the kids don't wear inappropriate clothing that may cause distractions. Moreover, it's to teach them what is acceptable to wear at their age especially. For example, they shouldn't be able to wear revealing clothing or T-shirts with **profanity (curse words)** on them that they may not even understand.

### **34/ Describe a time when you received your first cellphone**

*You should say:*

- *When it was*
- *Where you were*
- *Who gave you the cellphone*
- *What it was like*
- *How you felt about it*

I'm going to tell you about my very first cell phone. I was absolutely ecstatic! I remember this event quite **vividly (a lot of details)**. It was Christmas 3 months after I had turned 13, and my mother really wanted to surprise me with a cell phone. My mother also knew that I was **crazy about (really like)** the color pink at that point in time. So, it was Christmas morning at my house, and when the

presents came, I opened the first box at there it was! My very own pink **flip-phone (the cell phones that used to open and close)**! At that time, cell phones didn't have cameras, internet, keyboard, etc. Looking back, it was a very basic cell phone but it was then ahead of it's time. I felt on top of the world that morning, like I was joining adulthood. I remember texting my friends immediately but that was when there were 3 or so letters on each number and you had to click it to spell out your message. Now it seems like it took ages. Actually, I'll always remember this morning with great fondness, because it was my mother's last Christmas, and I know that she wanted to make it very special for me. That shiny, pink cell phone will always **resonate (stay with)** with me.

### **Part 3**

#### **How did the use of mobile phone change over the last decade? Why?**

Well, mobile phones are drastically changing every year. Ten years ago, cell phones served the purpose of calling and texting. Now, cell phones are like a mini computer, camera, and Skype. 10 years ago, I felt that cell phones were just an accessory in our lives when we went out, but now I feel that they are **taking over (controlling)** our lives. We used to check them maybe once or twice a day because we still used our **landline phones (the home phone)** at home, but now we are constantly connected, glued to our phones. I sometimes find myself checking the internet on the phone while I'm on the internet on my laptop. How crazy is that?

#### **What are the advantages and disadvantages of having mobile phones?**

Well, the advantages are that it's much easier to stay in touch (be in contact) with people, regardless of the distance. I'm living abroad, and it makes it so much easier to be able to FaceTime my family and friends. Secondly, it's easier to find work. Lastly, it cuts down on costs to be able to make calls, text, and do video chats through apps such as WhatsApp. The disadvantages are that people spend too much time on their phones. They are preoccupied by them; instead of **enjoying the moment (living in the present)**, they are too busy

documenting it for social media. Furthermore, perhaps people's social skills are getting worse since it's much easier to send a text rather than a call or face-to-face.

**What are the benefits for companies making applications for smart phones?**

I would say the number one benefit is the convenience. We are now able to everything with a few clicks and an app! I think it helps us to organize our thoughts and tasks more. Moreover, I'm sure that companies benefit financially from this. It's a **win win situation. (Both people benefit).**

**35/ Describe an unusual/ an unforgettable meal**

*You should say:*

*When was it*

*Where you had the meal*

*What happened during the meal*

*And explain why it was unforgettable*

Well, the meal I've decided to talk to you about was a farewell dinner of a good friend of mine, because he was about to go off to Canada for a few years to start university there, so he invited a few of his close friends for dinner before heading off.

And one of the reasons I've chosen to talk about this meal instead of some of the others I've been to is simply that it's still quite fresh in my memory. You know, it was only about a couple of weeks ago when it happened. And it was a really nice restaurant that we went to, definitely one of the best in the city. So I was kind of relieved that it wouldn't be me footing the bill!

Anyway regarding what we ate, well I couldn't tell you every single dish that we had, because there was just so much, you know, the whole table was covered with food. I mean, there was crab, chicken, duck, what else, um,.....oh yeah,

shrimps, and, uh.....oh and a whole load of different vegetables. So by the end of it, I was absolutely stuffed.

But anyway, finally, in terms of how I felt about the meal, well to put it simply, I really enjoyed it, because as well as the food, which was fantastic, I really enjoyed everyone's company. You know, it was great being together with so many good friends, many of which I hadn't seen in quite a while.

So yeah, all in all, it was a really special evening, and I'm extremely grateful to my friend for his generosity, as the bill must have come to quite a lot.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Describe what you think is a healthy diet?**

A good diet includes a variety of foods from the basic food groups. It should provide enough calories to ensure desirable weight and also it should contain all the necessary daily nutrients.

#### **Are there many vegetarians in your country? Why do you think some people choose to be vegetarians?**

Although I'm not a vegetarian, I still believe it's good to eat more vegetables and fruit. Some vegetarians eat veggies because they believe animals shouldn't be killed and some just for the sake of health. I think either reason is worth doing. If we think about how many animals are killed because of our need for meat, we might feel sad for our deeds. When we learn all the benefits that veggies can bring us, we'll also feel happier to eat them more.

#### **Is the food that people eat today different to the food that people used to eat in the past? If yes, in what ways has it changed?**

In the past, the choices of foods were limited but the foods were fresh and people could rest assured of its quality. So it's not surprising our ancestors enjoyed greater longevity than us. In the present time, we have chances to taste various foods of different cultures and nationalities, being unique and delicious

in their own ways. Even so, it's not all it's cracked up to be as there have been many reported cases of food poisoning, especially in developing countries, where food safety is a pressing concern.

### **Is 'fast food' popular in your country?**

Nowadays, workers have to work extra hours while students have to burn the midnight oil revising and reviewing for their exams. As a consequence of this, they can't manage time to have a decent meal rich in vitamins and minerals. Instead, they have no choice but go to buy some take-away at some fast food restaurant and then get back to their work and study. So fast foods are gaining in immense popularity because after all, the more developed a country becomes, the less nutritious the citizens' diet is.

### **More and more people are becoming overweight nowadays. What do you think might be the causes of this?**

Well to be honest, I would have to admit that the youths nowadays are leading a health-damaging lifestyle because of the fast-paced lifestyle and pressure. To be more precise, workers have to work extra hours while students have to burn the midnight oil revising and reviewing for their exams. As a consequence of this, they can't manage time to have a decent meal rich in vitamins and minerals. Instead, they have no choice but go to buy some take-away at some fast food restaurant and then get back to their work and study.

### **Do you or, do people in your country generally prefer to eat at home or eat out?**

If you ask me, I'd say that by and large, the folks in my nation would show a greater preference for home-cooked meals. The reason behind this is the fact that food safety is quite a pressing issue and people are becoming increasingly aware of their health conditions. As a result, the chances are that they would directly go to the market or supermarket, choose the raw materials and cook



the dishes on their own. Having said that, some people are quite up to their ears in work and would rather order a meal at a restaurant instead.

### **How important do you think it is for members of a family to eat together?**

I have to admit that it's extremely vital that family members spend their time together at the dinner table. The most obvious explanation for this is that this can strengthen family bonds and help the whole family get on well with one another. To be more specific, during a meal, they can share their stories and trouble in life, receive valuable advice to sort out their problems. At the end of the day, people can build a close-knit family and forget about all the difficulties in their life.

### **Why do some people not always eat with their family?**

I personally feel that a number of factors are responsible for why some people in modern society refuse to have a meal with other family members. One of the reasons is the lack of time caused by increasing pressure from work or study. A case in point is that my high-school friend often spends more than 8 hours a day studying that he can hardly manage any hour for eating with his parents.

### **36/ Describe a kind of weather that you like**

- *What kind of weather it is*
- *What you usually do during this weather*
- *How this weather affects your mood*
- *Why you like this type of weather*

### **Sample 1**

My favorite pattern of weather is a warm day full of sunlight, which is **typical of** the summer, and I can't wait till it starts. Yes, it sometimes gets **scorching hot**

**and sultry.** But I don't care. At least I don't have to fight with **bulky overcoats** or **down jackets**.

Summery days mean blue sky, gentle **breeze**, white beaches, and green trees. I love the warmth, the plenty of sunshine it brings and the sun tanned people. On those days, girls wear cute skirts and lovely **sun bonnets**. All the beautiful colors **go around**, **capturing our attention** and being so **eye-pleasing**. And you can **feel the longing** to go outdoors and experience an adventure.

It is the ice cream time as well as of a variety of fruits, such as peaches, strawberries and watermelons. I love those after going swimming or hiking. Plus, it is also a time of great relaxation. You'll always **marvel at** how much fun and entertainment can be **squeezed into** sunny days. There is the time of rest, swimming, surfing, picnics, fishing and boating. There is always something going on and there are always people enjoying nature. I love this type of weather because it is linked to most of my best memories and it never fails to **trigger my passion** in life.

**Typical of (phrase)** like most people or things of the same type

**Schorching hot (phrase)** extremely hot

**Sultry (adj)** sultry weather is unpleasant because the air is hot and slightly wet

**Bulky (adj)** big and thick

**Overcoat (noun)** a long warm coat that you wear in cold weather

**Down jacket (noun)** a warm jacket filled with the soft feathers of a duck or a goose

**Breeze (adj)** a light wind

**Sun bonnet (noun)** a cotton hat for babies that protects the baby's head and face from the sun

**Eye-pleasing (adj)** pleasing to the eye (visually)

**Longing (noun)** a strong feeling of wanting someone or something

**Marvel at (verb)** to show or feel surprise or admiration

**Squeeze in/into (phrasal verb)** to be able to do something, even though you do not have much time

**Trigger (verb)** to cause someone to have a particular feeling or memory

### Sample 2

Oh, this is also my favorite topic, too. Well, I enjoy cold weather which is always such a rare event in my city, you know since our city is near the **equator**, so it's hot and **humid** during a year. Therefore, I always **look forward to** December when the weather is cool and a little bit cold with wind. It's my time; then during this weather, I usually prefer lying on the bench in my garden, watching the sky and **sipping** my hot coffee with **joy** and pleasure. As I can do what I can't in the dry season, so I'm always like **on cloud nine** whenever this cold comes. I enjoy doing all the things under this kind of weather, especially with my mother, such as planting the trees, looking at the sky and going out without having to wear any jackets. I think I never **get bored with** the cold weather due to the fact that it's very comfortable to work and study. Besides, when this type of weather **turns up**, it means that an interesting **series** of holidays may **come around** soon like Christmas and New Year, which are the time for family and for you.

**Equator** [n] an imaginary line drawn around the middle of the Earth an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole

**Humid** [a] (of air and weather conditions) containing extremely small drops of water in the air

**Look forward to** [phrasal verb] to feel pleased and excited about something that is going to happen

**Sip** [v] to drink, taking only a very small amount at a time

**On cloud nine** [idiom] to be extremely happy and excited

**Be/get bored with** [phrase] feel tired and unhappy because something is not interesting or because you have nothing to do

**Turn up** (somewhere) [phrasal verb] to arrive or appear somewhere, usually unexpectedly or in a way that was not planned

**Series** [n] a number of similar or related events or things, one following another

**Come around** [phrasal verb] If an event that happens regularly comes round/around, it happens at its usual time

### QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

**What's the difference between 'season' and 'weather'?**

Well the difference is basically that seasons are a time of the year, whereas weather refers **to atmospheric conditions** such as wind, rain, snow and sun. So it's a pretty big difference.

**In general, do you think people prefer to live in very hot places or very cold places?**

That's a good question, and I'm not all that sure, but I suppose most people probably prefer to live in very hot places, because for example, if you compare the number of people living in the far north of the country, where it gets extremely cold, to the southernmost part of the country, where it gets **blazing hot**, a lot more people live down south, at least **as far as I know** anyway. So I think this **kind of** shows that most people would rather choose a very hot place to live in **as opposed to** a cold place.

**Blazing hot (phrase)** very hot

**Kind of (informal)** rather, to some extent (often expressing vagueness or used as a meaningless filter)

**As opposed to (phrase)** in comparison with; instead of

**In the future, what do you think will be some of the effects of global warming?**

Well, from what I've seen and read, I think one of the likely effects will be a rise in sea-levels, due to **the melting of the polar ice caps**. Although I have no idea of how much they will actually rise - hopefully not a lot! So that's one thing, and as well as this, I think what will also happen is that more rivers and lakes will dry up as a result of global warming, and this has already started happening in many parts of the world. So unfortunately, it looks like the effects will all be pretty adverse.

### **What do people do on rainy days and sunny days?**

Actually it depends greatly on people's interests. However, generally speaking, people would choose to stay at home and enjoy a good movie if it's **raining cats and dogs** outside. **On the contrary**, they tend to ask their friends and organize a small camping trip or go out and participate in some outdoor activities if there is plenty of sunshine out there.

**Rain cats and dogs (idiom)** rain heavily

**On the contrary (phrase)** used for emphasizing that something is true, even though it is the opposite of something that has been said

### **Has climate change affected your country?**

Yes, it has. Recently people have been going through **erratic weather patterns** over the last few decades. There are **infrequent heatwaves** and **unpredictable floods**, which have caused a great deal of damage to people in the central areas of the country. Besides, **global warming** is **having a detrimental influence on** my country as well. The temperature is getting higher thus decreasing the **quality of lives** of many people, especially those living in the South as it's sometimes **scorching hot** that all people want to do is to stay home and **turn on the air-conditioner**.

**Erratic (adj)** not even or regular, unpredictable

**Cause/Do damage to something (phrase)** have a detrimental effect on

**Scorching hot (phrase)** very hot

### **37/ Describe a special period of time in history in your country**

*You should say:*

- *When was this*
- *What happened during this period*
- *Who played an important role during this time of period*
- *And explain why it was special*

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **What is the importance of history? Do you think history is important?**

Definitely yes, history has a significant role to play in our daily lives. Through historical lessons, people are more aware of their ancestors achievements and therefore Appreciate the freedom and peace are enjoying.

#### **What is the importance of learning about history?**

Studying history enable us to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. History is illuminating find allows us to understand and conclude how past human actions impact on the present and the future, it teaches us many lessons of life, therefore it helps us be able to think more logically and make informed judgments about current and future events. History enlightens future generations

#### **Do you like history?**

Well, in general I would say that I'm not really fond of history. To be more specific, I really can't stand the historical lessons delivered by my teachers at school. I think this is due to the fact that I'm not good with figures and have a bad memory when it comes to learning by heart the names of war heroes and the dates that the events took place

#### **Do you think people should be able to see historical exhibitions for free?**

#### **Do you think museums should be free?**

To be honest, although charging a small amount of entrance fee will give the organizers funds to continue their operations and encourage the artists to

produce more decent works, in my country, people seem to show no appreciation of artistic value. Therefore, the local authorities had better let people enter for free to arouse the public's interests first and then, if people are interested, a small admission fee should be considered afterwards.

**Do you think going to museums and art galleries is beneficial for children?**

Yes, I believe going to museums can be very beneficial for children. They can learn more about history and culture. Art can broaden their minds and their outlooks on life. It can also inspire them to be more creative, to have original ideas, and to be inventive.

**Why do you think people go to museums?**

In my opinion, one museum is just like an open book or a treasure island where you may find all kinds of stuff which help you get better insight into history and different cultures.

**How will museums change in the future?**

I think that museums will become more modernized and more accurate, I think they will have better and more interesting exhibits. The way they are set up and advertised will also improve so that they are more appealing to the general public! they will also have more interesting themes exhibited.

**38/ Describe a piece of technology you like using not computer.**

*You should say:*

- *What is it*
- *How did you learn about it*
- *How often do you use it*
- *And explain why you like it.*

A hi-tech device I'd like to describe is the microwave oven. Being one of the main inventions in the 20th century, the microwave oven brings about great changes to our life. I think it is the most useful appliance in the kitchen.

Actually, I heard an advert on TV praising the multiple benefits brought by it, and some days later I made up my mind to buy one and up to now I am really

happy with it. We can boil porridge, steam rice and defrost meat in the microwave oven. And we can heat the leftover food in the dishes directly. It's really clean and timesaving.

Compared with traditional cooker, the microwave oven has many advantages. At first, it changes our cooking habit. We needn't suffer from the smell of smoke and oil any more. Besides, there is no unbearable heat in the kitchen if we cook with the microwave oven. We needn't worry about being burnt by the flame or steam, either.

Another advantage of microwave oven is that it offers us more healthy dishes. The food is heated by microwave rather than by heat. So, the nutrition in vegetables or meat can be maintained to the greatest extent. What's more, the appearance and color of dishes are not destroyed either. Since I got a microwave oven in the kitchen I do more cooking than before. It is convenient and enjoyable.

I think wonders of this hi-tech device as it saves me the hassle of preparing meals. When I come home late, all I need is heat up the left-over food or some canned food and after some minutes you call it up a good meal right in front of you. I love it for the benefits that I have mentioned earlier.

## **VERSION 2:**

There are **a whole lot of** technological devices that I love using, but if I were to take a pick, I would say that the Google Play Store on my smartphone, and especially the Cambridge dictionary app would be the most marvelous and useful.

It is a quite **widely-acclaimed** application among learners of English as a second language and is installed by millions of users across the globe. It is not **exaggerating** but I deem it as a must-have one for anyone struggling with the English language.

Users can benefit from **a wide array of** functions offered by Cambridge dictionary. The first thing about it is that you can obtain the meaning at no time. With a few operations, a word's meaning and its related phrases **pop up** on the



screen, and there are also illustrations of usages, which I particularly find unique compared to all other e-dictionaries I have made use of.

As a student, I am supposed to use it **on a frequent basis**, especially during my English lessons at school. It is wonderfully convenient and portable as it would be **cumbersome** if I have to carry a dictionary book with me every time I go to school. So, it saves me my energy really. Besides, thanks to the app I have developed more passion and enthusiasm in English. I often **take advantage of** the review section and learn well over 100 words a day, which would be **out of the question** if I learn it in a conventional way.

**widely-acclaimed:** very famous

**exaggerate:** to describe something in a way that makes it seem better, worse, larger, more important etc than it really is

**a wide array of:** a lot of

**pop up:** to appear very quickly or suddenly

**on a frequent basis:** frequently, often

**cumbersome:** large, heavy, and difficult to move or carry

**take advantage of:** to use a situation or opportunity to get what you want

**out of the question:** impossible

### QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

**What is the most common technology used by people in your country, and the second most?**

From my observations, computer technology prevails, as most work is done on computers these days. People use Microsoft Word to compose their documents to access Google for research purposes, to name but a few. **When it comes to** the second rank, I must admit that it's the smartphone. Millions of people, particularly the youths are **hooked on** their smartphones for social networking and communication. It can be said that the smartphone is just like a small computer.

**Are there any other places that need technology?**

Absolutely, it is the countryside. The introduction of **novel technological advances** can **improve citizens' life quality**. A prime example is that robots can finish a variety of tasks precisely without human's **maneuver**, thus they can assist in household tasks from mopping the floor to cooking. This reduces the burden of housework for mothers with childrearing responsibility or fathers who are snowed under with work. The increased amount of free time people more chances to **engage in other entertainment or educational activities**, which **does wonders** for their life.

### **Does it possible to live without technology?**

I doubt it, technology is **part and parcel** of modern life, and it's a must-have essential item, a thing one can't live without. I remember a time when there was a power cut in my house which means there was no internet connection, I had nothing to do that it looked like I was living in a prehistoric time.

### **What are the advantages and disadvantages of technology?**

It is commonly believed that our life becomes more colorful and convenient because of technology. Some appliances like the TV, video players and digital cameras enrich our leisure life; and the invention of trains and planes makes it possible to travel a long distance in a short time. On the other hand, the world is becoming more polluted and dangerous because of high technology. Vehicles create air and noise pollution nuclear and biochemical weapons make wars more cruel and disastrous.

### **What is the impact of technology on people's life?**

It is saddening to see that the development of technology is becoming faster and faster, and people are increasing their **pace of life** unconsciously. Because of the development, people become more and more impersonal in society. They have become one little part of the huge machine of society. So I think technology transforms the relationship between people and society to some degree.

### **How do you think modern technology will change the way people work in the future?**

It has already changed the way people work in every field and it will continue. For instance, my mom studied to be a graphic designer when she was in college. She did everything by hand 20 years ago. Now, her field grew with the use of Internet and new technology as she's drawing by computer, bidding work online, and submitting work online. In the future, more work can be done automatically, and all we need to do is just to press the button or to check the jobs if they are ready for collection.

### **How can technology make our life easier?**

Thank you for allowing me to answer this. Technology is a blessing for all and has made life easier. With the use of the technology, you can do the unimaginable things now. Earlier, people had to control their television set like increasing or decreasing the volume or changing channels manually. But in the current days, you do not need to get up to the television set, raise the volume or change the channel and get back to the sofa again. It is the time to change channels or increase/ decrease the volumes with the help of a remote controller. Once, people used papers and pens to write letters to meet their communication needs. The scenarios are altered and people have cellular phones, e-mails, and social networking sites etc. for communication which is the blessing of the modern technology. Moreover, people now can travel easily than the past and travelling hours has been reduced to a great extent.

### **39/ Describe an important river/lake in your country**

*You should say:*

- *What is this river called*
- *How do you know about it*
- *How long/big it is*
- *And explain why it is important*

I'm going to talk about a very beautiful lake, which is referred to as a symbol of our country. So it's a **world famous** lake. I'm talking about X lake, a very large

lake located in the center of [Y city], which is known for its historic beauty. There is even a legend related to the name that **went down in history**.

As a child, I really liked the story so I always wished to visit it someday. Yet due to the great distance, I had no chance to see it with **the naked eye** until I turned 18 and went to a university nearby. My first visit to X lake remains an unforgettable memory. Its elegant beauty is **out of this world**, with a big tower and a red bridge leading to an old temple located in the middle of the lake. To be frank, I'm strongly attracted by **historical monuments** and **relics of the past**- they always make me feel a pang of **nostalgia** upon seeing them, because they **provide a link to our roots**. That's why I really love this lake.

One of the various things I'd like to do there is to wander around with my friends, let out the negative feelings in my mind, and I'd take some tasty types of street food. Another thing I strongly wish to do but which is **out of the question** is to climb up the tower on the lake and observe the **aquatic life**. Maybe I could even watch the turtle of the legend sleeping like a baby. As far as I know, the authority won't allow that, so I really hope that in the future, it'll be approved so that my wish can be fulfilled.

### QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

**Would you like to live near water, for example, near a river or the ocean?**

**What advantages can you get if you live near the water? Why do some people like to live near water?**

Yes, I do. I think for people who live near water, there're many advantages to take. For example, they could go swimming or fishing much more often. Also, the scenery near water is usually nice and beautiful. If I live near the water. I can have a walk near the river or sea and even go there to enjoy the nature during my spare lime.

**Are there any disadvantages to live at the seaside?**

Yes, people can walk at the beach and swim in the sea if they live at the seaside. However, when natural disasters come, the people near the sea might be affected first. Just like the tsunami happened in Japan. Many people lost their lives, especially the ones who lived near the seaside.

**Is there much water transportation in your country? = Do you like traveling by ship? = Is water transportation today the same as it used to be in the past?**

Yes, there're. However, I've never taken a ship to go somewhere. I guess most of the ships nowadays are used for cargo transportation because tourists usually feel they're slower than trains or airplanes. In the past, a lot of people had to take ships or boats as transportation if they wanted to go somewhere near water. I read many novels talking about people visiting other countries by ship. I guess ship traveling was very popular in the past

**Why do so many people like going to places with water such as lakes, rivers or the ocean?**

As far as I'm concerned, there are often a lot of trees and the atmosphere is fresh and tranquil in some places like the river bank or some lakes. This gives them the opportunity to escape from the hustle and bustle of city life, breathe some fresh air and let their hair down a bit. On top of that, some places near water like the beaches is a source of great fun and folks can enjoy various outdoor activities with their friends or relatives like going for a swim or going sunbathing

**What kinds of leisure activities do people like to do in places such as on the ocean, at a beach, at a river, at a lake etc.?**

There is a great deal of stuff we can take part in when going to such places. Firstly, we can take advantage of some voyages to do the sights, look at the blue sea and skies and enjoy life. Secondly, we can go for a swim or soak in the sunshine on the beach, feel the cool breezes in our faces. Finally, at some riverbanks or lakes, we can have a good time recharging our batteries, and enjoying our temporary escape from the hustle and bustle of city life

**As a place to spend some leisure time, do you think the beach or the seaside is more suitable for children or for old people?**

If you ask me, I would have to say that the youths benefit more from going to the beaches or the seaside than the elderly. The first point worth mentioning is that young people are dynamic and adventurous, so they are pretty into taking part in a mixed diversity of outdoor activities. So obviously, they can take a full advantage of their trips. On the contrary, the older citizens are passive and wouldn't love to move their bodies around. This means that they merely consider such travel trips as an occasion to idle their time away.

**Do you think children and old people do the same types of things when they go to a beach?**

No. I don't really think so. The range of activities and their interests vary a lot. For the young, they show a fancy for strenuous physical activities like surfing, swimming or sand castle building, so they tend to be really engrossed in what they are doing. By contrast, old people would rather pick up a good book to read, prepare some snacks for their kids to graze or find time to have a chat with one of their relatives, whom they may not have been in touch for ages.

**What activities would you do if you were spending some leisure time at a beach or near the ocean?**

Well, if you ask me I would certainly say that I'm fond of strenuous outdoor activities. This is simply because, I am full of energy and would rather move my bodies around, burn some kilos and have a genuine blast with my buddies at the beach. You see, the mere thought of it makes me get itchy feet.

**Why do some people like water sports?**

Obviously, some like the youths are extremely into Aquatic sports. This can easily be understood because they are dynamic and adventurous so they are pretty drawn by water polo, surfing, snorkeling to name but a few. Some sports like those tend to be risky so it can be a time for the young guys to challenge themselves and test their own limit, which can give them more confidence in life.

## **Do you think that human activity is posing a threat to the oceans of the world?**

Yes, definitely. Although some argue that the ocean is vast and the pollution we cause is I would say that it does have negative effect on the marine ecosystem. For example, more trading activities mean more vessels being used to transport the goods across the oceans, and there have been many oil spills reported till now. This has claimed many lives of animal creatures and affected the local environment as well. Furthermore, sewage being directly dumped into the rivers means sometime in the future the ocean will probably suffer

## **How important is water in people's everyday lives?**

Well, water plays a crucial role in our routine lives. Imagine that if there were no water, human beings would be dirty and smelly is there would be nothing to wash our bodies cleanly except for water. The second one is that we need water to wash the raw foods and vegetables we eat on a daily basis: otherwise, humans could suffer from some health-related issues like food poisoning, cholera and diarrhea, to name but a few.

## **40/ Describe a photo of yourself that was taken by others**

*You should say:*

- *What's in it*
- *When it has taken*
- *Who took that photo for you*
- *And explain why you like it so well*

There was a time when photos where only taken by a camera, but now everything has changed. Computers and mobile phones have enabled people to take a lot of photos and I think people take billions of phots everyday in this world. I myself take so many photos that I sometimes forget which photograph have taken and when did I take it. There is one of my photographs which I like the most, taken by my aunt.

I happened to pay a visit to my aunt on the way to school, and I asked her to take a photo of me and her daughter. In this photographs which I am carrying my niece and she is smiling at me. My niece is quite small at that time and has a really cute face with pretty childlike expressions whereas I am grinning with the biggest smile on my face with one hand holding my niece. The photo was so loveable that I made it the wallpaper of my computer and whenever I open the computer the first thing I see on the computer is that photograph.

The photo was taken 4 years ago, and shows how time passed by and how the world changes. After looking at the photograph I remembered that my niece was crying a lot and my sister was giving her to the maid, but as I decided to hold her in my arms she got happy and smiled and that was the moment when the photograph was taken. The photograph shows a time when I was happy and a time when used to have an optimistic view of the world but now all optimism and love has just vanished from my life.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **How to become a professional photographer?**

Put it this way, to become an expert at a particular field, a person needs specialized training and being a professional photographer is no exception. To excel in this field, you are supposed to have a keen eye for beauty, which means you can get the hang of how to adjust the angles, zoom in or out so that everyone fits in the picture in the most appealing way. In a nutshell, everything can be learnt, and it is only a matter of time before a person becomes proficient at it.

#### **Do you need a professional photographer for important events?**

With the advent of smartphones with many built-in features for taking photo or video-taping, I doubt the necessity of hiring a professional photographer when it comes to certain events. I have seen many people use their iPhones to livestream the wedding or a birthday party with high-quality images with ease. Having said this, you won't regret with the assistance of a professional cameraman or photographer, simply because you can obtain better quality



images, or they can create an album or a video for you in a professional way. So, on grand occasions like a wedding ceremony at the church, a photographer seems to be a must

### **What kinds of devices do people like to use for taking photos these days?**

There are two most common devices when it comes to taking photographs recently. The most common one is smartphone. With the development of technology and the appearance of smartphones, taking a high-quality selfie or a landscape picture becomes a piece of cake. Actually some brands like Sony offer HD photos and the users can adjust the dimensions to their liking. The second type is DSLR camera, which is quite a status symbol among those who love taking pictures. This is quite an advanced and professional way of taking a photo, which means that you have to change the focus and choose the right angle to Wendell the most beautiful pictures.

### **Why do some people like to keep photos? = Are photos important?**

Well, the main reason why a number of people usually keep their photos is that photos Record sweet memories. No doubt when they grow up and become an old person, they can open their albums, see how they were some 30 years ago and spend a bit time on looking back at unforgettable memories of the bygone days! This gives them pleasure and more motivation to keep giving to the rest of their lives. People can also show these photos to their children or grandchildren and boast of their beauty somehow.

### **Has the way people take photos changed?**

Yes, definitely. As I have mentioned, today digital age means that people use advanced hi-tech devices to take pictures like a smartphone or DSLR camera. No longer do the youths have to take a bulky camera with them, a smartphone can do the job pretty well.

### **When do people smile?**

Some people smile all the time, and by their smiles, we can judge that they are being over the moon because of something happy. On other occasions, a smile is treated as symbol of friendliness! and it's commonly used as a part of our

daily greetings! When we meet some acquaintance or a stranger, giving a smile shows our hospitality towards others, and helps to break the ice among people.

#### **41/ Describe an occasion when you must be polite**

*You should say:*

- *What the occasion was*
- *Where it was*
- *Who was with you*
- *And explain why you had to be polite*

#### **(What it was)**

I'd like to tell a story of my first interview. It was for a **white-collar** job in an entertainment company. Since it was a formal interview, you know, I prepared carefully and tried to be as professional and polite as I could.

#### **(Why did you have to be polite?)**

Obviously, a job interview always **turns out** to be a serious event, despite the efforts of the interviewers to make it more comfortable. Hence, keeping a respectful attitude and behaving politely are important. Aside from that, the company I applied for was pretty **renowned** in the entertainment industry, so it just made more sense for me to be as courteous as possible. I mean, the chances of **being shortlisted** would definitely be higher if I could show my polite attitude, apart from my experience and all sorts of other stuff.

#### **(What did you do to be polite?)**

Because it was my first experience of having an interview, I felt so anxious that I couldn't actually sleep the previous night. I didn't want **to squander my chance**. I ended up oversleeping the next day, but thank God I still arrived on time for the interview. As it was a formal occasion, I put on a white blouse, a black miniskirt, and high heels, like a typical office woman. Despite my fears, the interview ran smoothly. The interviewers were so nice and friendly. They

showed no rudeness or arrogance and responded to my greetings in a gentle way. They even **made small talk** at first, probably to help relieve my nervousness. As a result, I got calmer and answered all the questions confidently. I couldn't **have a completely laid-back attitude**, and I had **to be wary of being** too familiar. Still, as the atmosphere got more pleasant, I managed to stop worrying about using formal words and expressions, all that stuff, and focused more on speaking my mind.

**(Explain how you felt about it afterwards)**

It was a relief when the interview ended. A week later, I received an acceptance email from the company and was placed on a **probation** period. I was extremely happy and I felt like I was **floating on air** for the rest of the day. That's my experience of being extremely polite on a particular occasion.

**Vocabulary**

**white-collar**

Meaning: working in an office, not a factory

Example: The insurance company is advertising some **white collar** jobs, if you want to apply.

**to squander a chance**

Meaning: to waste an opportunity, by not taking advantage of it

Example: He **squandered a chance** to go to university by failing to study for his entrance exam.

**to make small talk/to exchange pleasantries**

Meaning: to talk in a polite way about unimportant matters such as the weather

Example: I enjoy a serious discussion and I don't like **to make small talk** or exchange pleasantries with others simply in order to be polite.

**to have a laid-back attitude**

Meaning: relaxed, not worrying about anything

Example: Our teacher **had a laid-back attitude** in the classroom, but she was always well- prepared and committed to her students.

**to be wary of**

Meaning: not completely trusting or certain about something

Example: Consumers must always **be wary of** the claims made in advertisements, because such claims are often untrue.

**(to) turn out**

Meaning: to be discovered to be; to prove to be

Example: The job **turned out** to be harder than we thought.

**renowned**

Meaning: famous

Example: That restaurant is **renowned** for its Southwestern-style food.

**familiar**

Meaning: very informal, in a way that is not appropriate

Example: Our tutor is strict, and students are not allowed to talk to him in a **familiar** way.

**probation**

Meaning: a time of training and testing when you start a new job to see if you are suitable for the work

Example: I'm on a period of **probation** and just receive 80% of the regular wage.

**(to) float on air**

Meaning: to feel very happy

Example: On their wedding day, most couples feel like they **are floating on air**.

**QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

**Are people more polite with non-family members than they are with their parents?**

I cannot tell for sure but that's usually the case, especially with some of the youngsters nowadays, they even show more respect to others than their own

parents, which seems like an act of **hypocrisy** to me. Fortunately, those are just minority in the society full of **decent** people. Sometimes, you may have a feeling that people behave to strangers in more polite manners than their own people, which can be because they don't want to be **misunderstood** or **cast judgment on** easily if they act carelessly during their short interaction.

**Hypocrisy** (n): behaviour in which somebody pretends to have moral standards or opinions that they do not actually have

**Decent** (a): honest and fair; treating people with respect

**Misunderstand** (v): to fail to understand somebody/something correctly

**Cast judgment on**: to judge

### **Are people today as polite as people were in the past?**

**Compared to** the old times, I believe our **ancestors** were far more **considerate** in terms of social **etiquettes** and customs. Although we still have our set of rules and taboos about how to interact and behave in proper manners, the sophistication of such behaviors has been **drastically simplified**. For instance, in the past, when greeting someone, particularly the other gender, people used to bend their knees and bow their heads, which has been replaced by a friendly handshake or swift greeting kisses on both cheeks in modern culture.

**Ancestor** (n): a person related to you who lived a long time ago

**Considerate** (a): always thinking of other people's wishes and feelings; careful not to hurt or upset others

**Sophistication** (n): the quality of being sophisticated; complication

**Drastically** (adv): in an extreme way that has a sudden, serious or violent effect on something

**Simplify** (v): to make something easier to do or understand

### **Why is it important to show respect to others?**

Being acknowledged and respected is one of the most basic needs of **human nature**. People want to feel that they matter and so do their opinions, which is

why to build and maintain a healthy relationship, you have to show them respect. Respect can be understood simply as politeness. Acknowledge their presence by saying “hello”, express your **gratitude** by saying “thank you” are some of the smallest deeds anybody can do to **communicate** their **appreciation**.

**Human nature** (n): the general psychological characteristics, feelings, and behavioral traits of humankind, regarded as shared by all humans.

**Gratitude** (n): the feeling of being grateful and wanting to express your thanks

**Communicate** (v): to make your ideas, feelings, thoughts, etc. known to other people so that they understand them

**Appreciation** (n): the feeling of being grateful for something

### **How do people show politeness in your country?**

Just like other parts of the world, we practice some standard manners to show **courtesy**. When first **encounter** someone, we do proper introduction as well as handshake to catch each other's name and go on with our conversation. During our exchange, we try to maintain **eye-contact** and **pay undivided attention to** the other person to let them know they're being heard. And most importantly, we keep a genuine smile **lingering** on our faces to make people feel welcomed and relaxed, otherwise, things might get awkward.

**Courtesy** (n): polite behaviour that shows respect for other people

**Encounter** (v): to meet somebody, or discover or experience something, especially somebody/something new, unusual or unexpected

**Eye-contact** (n): the act of looking directly into one another's eyes

**Linger** (v): to continue to exist for longer than expected

### **How do you deal with impolite people?**

To my mind, when someone is acting impolitely, it's best that we should remind them of their misbehavior so that they have time to modify it in a timely manner. If they refuse to listen to our **constructive advice**, we can **raise our voice** to

show our disagreement or even teach them some moral lessons at that moment. Having said this, it would be a nightmare if adults misbehave, in which cases, I guess it would be most reasonable to stay away from them, or (ask the favor of the elderly so as to help them rectify their bad **code of conduct**).

### **What kinds of behavior are not polite?**

I'm of the opinion that it depends on the age groups. As for children or teenagers, disobeying their parents or not listening to **constructive advice** from surrounding people can be seen as a misbehavior. All I'm saying is that their ego is too big and so reluctant to correct their way of behaving in public places. One instance is that a teenager refuses to **refrain from** smoking in parks, even if told by adults or older people around. As for the adults, some tend to lack education, and this is hard to expect any polite acts from them. Such people can **resort to swearwords**, spit in the streets recklessly which often **causes a big nuisance** to others.

### **42/ Describe something you learned in a place or from someone**

*You should say:*

- *What it was that you learned*
- *When this happened*
- *Where it was/ Who taught you*
- *How difficult it was to learn*

I'm going to tell you about when I learned how to drive a car in the state of Maryland. I first got my learner's permit when I was 15 and 9 months years old, in 2008, so that's when the journey began. Since there was **virtually (almost)**

no public transportation, Uber, etc. at that time, it was necessary to get a driver's license as soon as possible.

With the learner's permit, you can begin to practice with a parent or other trusted, experienced driver. You must document 80 hours. During this period, I also had to take a 6 week driver's education course 3 hours per day then finally go out with an instructor for 3 sessions. After this step, you are allowed to get your license as soon as you are 16 and 3 months old and pass the written and in-person driver's exam. After this tedious process and after one failed time, I finally got my license in January of 2010 and I couldn't have been happier! Furthermore, I was lucky enough to have found a used, reliable Volvo for a reasonable price conveniently around this time, so I immediately **hit the road (started driving)**. As we were **cruising along (driving)** the highway with the wind in our hair, my 16 year old friends and I felt **on top of the world (really happy or cool)**; it was our **leap (jump)** into adulthood.

Although I was ecstatic one it was all said and done, I'm not going to say that it was an easy process. There was a lot of hard work involved in this. From the countless hours on the road as a 15 year old to the hours spent in the classroom, it was no **walk in the park (an expression meaning something easy)**. It was a stressful yet exciting time for my family and I. To be honest, the hardest part was arguing with my father in the car because he couldn't keep his patience with me **behind the wheel (when you are driving)**. Furthermore, I greatly struggled with **parallel parking (parking between two cars on the side of the road)**. Actually, to this day, I still can't do it. For this reason, I failed my driver's license test the first time and **fled (left) the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles)** in tears. Luckily, the second time I passed by the skin of my teeth. All in all, this is not a pleasant time, but it's very necessary to survive in the car-based society of the US. If you ask me, I'd much prefer **hopping on (getting on)** the subway or calling an Uber.



### **43/ Describe a place in your city that you would like to visit**

*You should say:*

- *Where it is*
- *What people do there*
- *How you know it*
- *And explain why you want to go there*

As a rule, I go to various spots in my neighborhood, but if I have to describe one that grabs my attention, the recently opened park within a stone's throw from my house is what I would like to pay a visit, maybe a couple of days later when I get my work done. The reason for putting off this is that recently I've been mowed under with working don't have a snowball's chance in hell of going there in person.

I hear through the grapevine that there are a bunch of things see in the park, as the hub of activities for the city-dwellers. There are said to be people selling lottery tickets, some hawkers idling their goods, or children playing about on the grass. I haven't gone there yet, but it seems that there can be more intriguing things

The park interests me for a couple of reasons. First, the atmosphere is fresh, and there are many species of plants and flowers to gaze at. Second, I love kids and seeing them having fun just blows my mind. It reminds me of my sweet childhood when I spent most of my free time playing in the park.

My plan is to organize a small picnic with some of my buddies at university to have a getaway front the Scorching heat this spring. Probably, we will simply c have a good time together n catching up on gossip in the shade of many trees there.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

**Do you think that landmarks will make a city more famous, why?**

Of course it is. Landmarks such as **picturesque landscapes** or **places of historical significance** often **draw huge numbers of tourists**, making a city **well-known to the rest of the world**. For example, people often visit Canada for its **breathtaking views in rural areas or mountainous regions**, as well as other coastal cities which offer **splendid sandy beaches**. Without such attractions, it would be hard to convince foreigners to **pay a visit** to my country.

**What interesting things can we do in big cities?**

We can have a lot of fun in big cities. If you like shopping, you could **go shopping for beautiful clothes** and see the **designs of famous brands**. We have to admit that major museums are usually located in big cities. In these places, we can **appreciate our culture and history**. There're also some **amusement parks and leisure centers** for people both young and old.

**What's the difference between living in the city and countryside?**

I think that many differences could be counted. Firstly, the infrastructure in city is significantly more modern, comprehensive and convenient for traveling than that of the countryside. Additionally, rural citizens' lifestyle is less competitive and hectic than urban counterparts. A reasonable explanation for this is that development of the economy and technology in vibrant cities is accelerating more than ever before

**44/ Describe a recent development in your city**

*You should say:*

- *What it is*
- *How could it help people*
- *What benefits it could bring*
- *And explain whether it changes your life*

Over the last few months, there have been significant changes in my city, particularly the improvement of the public amenities, but if I have to describe one, the local park within a stone's throw from my house is what I would say the most momentous development having taken place recently.

There is a lot to see in the park, as it is the hub of activities for the city-dwellers. There were people selling lottery tickets, some hawkers selling their goods, or children playing around on the lawn. While other groups of three or four simply have a good time together catching up on gossip in the shade cast by many gigantic trees.

The park offers city-dwellers a host of benefits. First, the atmosphere is fresh and there are many species of plants and flowers to gaze at. Second, the scene of kids running about in the park and seeing them having fun blows people's mind, you see, it reminds people of their meet childhood when they spent most of their free time playing in the park.

The park is quite influential to me. In the past, I used to be a couch potato, just sitting aimlessly at home watching TV and scarfing down burgers and fries. But since its construction, the park has turned me into live wire; I usually work out in the park every morning, and now I'm quite in good shape.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

**What measures should the government take to solve transportation problems in traveling?**

The government can do a lot to solve traffic problems. For example, better educations of the citizens to follow traffic rules, more provision of public transportation facilities, such as buses and underground railways, as well as broadening the roads or building skyways, can all contribute to the alleviation of traffic problems.

**What types public transport can be found in your country?**

Obviously, there's quite a mixed variety of public transport in my country. When we travel on the roads, it's easy to find a mass of buses, taxis, or even trains. If

someone wants to have an outbound trip, plane is crucial. However, the most commonly-used would potentially be buses, since they are so cheap and reliable.

### **Why types of public transport do you use most?**

As far as I'm concerned, I take buses more often than any other means of transport. That might be due to the fact that I am liable to carsickness buses aren't so stuffy. Moreover, bus wouldn't let me back because with only 200.000 done for a monthly commutation ticket. I could commute to work every day without any anxiety.

### **Are there any public transport problems in your country'?**

With an increase of private cars in my country, during the rush hour there are always jam-packed and people often go bananas due to this, the road quality, furthermore, is too run-down to meets the needs of the overwhelming vehicular traffics. This might leads to the increase in drastic crack-ups recently.

## **45/ Describe a public facility that you think need improvements**

*You should say:*

- *What it is*
- *Why you went there*
- *What parts you dislike it*
- *How you can improve it*

As a rule, I frequent various public places in my neighborhood, but if I have to describe one that needs improvement, the local park within a stone's throw from my house is what I would choose to give you an account.

The park offers city-dwellers a lot of benefits. First, the atmosphere is fresh, and there are many species of plant and flowers to gaze at. It is load off your mind temporarily. Second, the scene of kids running about in the park and seeing them having fun just blows people's mind, you see, it reminds people of their sweet childhood when they spent most of their free time playing in the park.

However, some improvements need to be in the pipeline is the park hits been around for quite long and lack of security is also a problem. As it is the hub of activities for the city-dwellers, there are people selling lottery tickets, some hawker felling their goods, or children playing about on the lawn. This is quite a pain in the neck for me. I think that as a public place, there should be no business going on, and if people use the facility, they should be mindful of the need to protect the communal asset.

When it comes to the crunch, I would strongly recommend that heavy fines should be placed on vendors and other businesses that spoil the natural landscapes of the park. Besides, there ought to be more signposts warning children and others not tread on the lawn or pick flowers.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Do you think there should be more free public places? Why?**

It should depend on the state budget. If the government is Running short of financial resources it'd be irrational to expect more public amenities!

However, the state must make sure that the basic facilities like parks, plazas, squares or marketplaces! should always be free of charge for everyone. This is how we can attract the attention of the citizens in the country.

#### **How should people behave in public places?**

They would be well-advised to watch their own code of conduct and behave in the most polite way as possible. To put it in another way, they should talk in a gentle manner, avoid conflict and Strictly conform to the rules and regulations of the place they are paying a visit to. Take the park as a prime example, visitors should really take heed to some signposts warning against kicking the flowers or keeping off the grass. Simply doing this can they show others they are well-mannered citizens.

#### **Where do people like to visit on weekends?**

Most people would opt for number of places to pay a visit to or have a blast with their friends at the weekend. The most popular place is the coffee shop as most tend to have a soft spot for catching up on gossip after a long week without

much seeing each other. In other words, the Romantic or peaceful setting will give them a chance to talk as much as they want, and enjoy a cup of coffee or milk tea at the same time. The second position belongs to the cinema. Teens in my country would gather their friends to watch a blockbuster every weekend, or simply have a dinner with some chicken and fried chips at the cinema complex.

### **What city facilities can be used for leisure and entertainment?**

Well, there are numerous accessible infrastructures for recreational purposes. The most popular among the youths are the cinema as it would be a perfect spot for them to go to on a weekly basis. They can eat some popcorn while enjoying a blockbuster with their intimate buddies. Another place worth mentioning is the theme parks that offer a great variety of activities for the citizens, especially the children. You can play the merry-go-round, roller-coaster or swinging, and this can help release sour minds and relieve your stress.

### **Do young people and old people go to different places for entertainment?**

It depends. First, the generation gap means that different age groups show different tastes when it comes to where they love paying a visit to for recreational purposes. As for the youngsters, they are fond of vibrant spots where there're lots of activities so that they can take part in and enjoy the atmosphere. On the contrary, the elderly are more into tranquil and serene places to stay away from the crowds and have a peace in their mind. However, on some occasions, we often see older people accompanying their children or grandchildren to the place they don't like simply because they want to see the kids having a good time.

### **46/ Describe a magazine you enjoy watching.**

*You should say:*

- *What it is*
- *How often you read it*

- *What you learn from it*
- *Why you like it*

I'm going to tell you about my interest in National Geographic magazine. I've loved it ever since I was a child, as I always had **wide eyes (to have a curiosity)** for the world around me. I used to collect them and even cut out the pictures and make collages and hang them on my walls. Even before I could really understand **the gravity of (what something really means; how important it is)** what I was reading, I could still feel excited by the feel pictures and have a sense of what was going on. Actually, the photographs in this magazine tell a story without using any words.

Through this magazine, I've undoubtedly learned about the world around me, including the people, animals, and environment all around me. Moreover, I've seen the heroic stories of people who **venture out (travel to)** into the unknown to discover the world to discover different worlds. Mostly, I've learned that the world is a wide planet with all different types of struggles, joys, and ways of being.

I really like this magazine because they tell **raw (painfully true; uncensored)** stories and share interesting photography. I enjoy that they cover a range of topics, from environment to history to travel. I like having the whole picture, as it's important to be educated about all of these things. Nowadays, I don't often pick up the paper copy of the magazine, but I follow their instagram **like a hawk (to watch closely)**. I always look forward to the next story I'll hear from them! They **never cease (never fail to)** to leave an impact on me.

### QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

**Do you think headlines are important?**

For sure, because they are what sell you. I think one must carefully choose a **catchy (attention attracting)** headline to capture the attention of the readers. If there is a boring headline, people are **bound to (likely to) cross out of (exit)**

the page or put the paper/book down. I think it's a shame that people tend to **judge a book by its cover (to judge something by its appearance)**, but it is something difficult to change. So, advertisers must try as hard as possible to choose just the right way to **draw in (captivate)** the audience.

### **Which is more important: fashionable or advertising news?**

In my opinion, advertising news is more important, as **fashion isn't for everyone (not everyone likes fashion)**. Advertisements are what generate the economy in the country, so it's important to emphasize that. I know that advertisements can be a bother, but they also influence people into buying things. Moreover, they are sometimes humorous and enjoyable to see. On the other hand, I think too many fashion ads are a waste of space, although they may inspire people to buy new clothes and fashion accessories, further helping the economy.

### **Do you think the government has the right to censor magazines?**

Definitely not. I think it's our right as human beings to have access to all information, whether it **looks good for (supports)** the government or not. I believe we are entitled to freedom, so the government should not **infringe upon (not follow or respect that)** that. Moreover, I don't believe that they know what's better for us. All in all, I am not a fan of government censorship at all. I cannot see any positives.

### **Do you think everything we read on the magazines is true?**

Definitely not. We must always be **skeptical (to question before believing)** of what we read in magazines or on the internet. Moreover, we have to consider the source to avoid **bias (having preference)**. For example, a vegan magazine may promote ideas that are against meat-eating, while magazines involving recipes for dishes with meat in them may have articles suggesting that eating meat is important for our health. The same goes for political magazines- first



you must think about the political ideas of the editor. All in all, I think we can never believe that something is true until we **have seen it for ourselves (to see first-hand)** or if there is extensive research on that particular topic.

#### **47/ Describe something interesting that your friend has done but you haven't done**

*You should say:*

- *What it is*
- *When your friend did it*
- *Explain why you want to do it*

I'm going to tell you about my friends who have gone to study abroad. I'll tell you about 2 of them- Martin and Melissa. Martin went abroad during his third year of university to Cologne, Germany for 2 semesters. My other best friend, Melissa, went to study abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina during the second half of her second year. Now we are in our fourth year, and I still have not studied abroad. I'd really be thrilled to do it, but now I feel that I've waited for too long.

I would love to study abroad because I dream of **immersing (completely being a part of)** myself in a completely different culture and language to personally grow. I feel envious of all the new experience and travels that my friends were able to have. I've noticed that they have become more **cosmopolitan (cultured; worldly)** and mature from these experiences. Before their study abroad, they relied too heavily on their parents. Now I see that they are much more independent and adaptable. I can see now that they are able to  **fend for themselves (support themselves)**. Now they are more open to **tackle a new city (to confidently go to a new city)** or prepare their own meals, versus before when they needed their parents for everything. Moreover, they now both have a second language, which I would like to have. I'm studying Russian

currently, but I feel like I would **come full-circle(to have a full experience)** if I had to opportunity to live there, even for a year. My mother is a Russian immigrant and has since passed, so I also feel that I could understand her better and come closer to our family roots if I could go there. Even though I cannot study abroad now, I'm contemplating going on a work visa there for year. Although I feel that I **missed the ball (missed a good opportunity)**, I know I can still accomplish this dream of mine if I **put my mind to it (focus on it)**.

### QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

#### **Are people influenced more by their friends or parents?**

I would say it's a mix of both, but more so by the family. The family is a closer unit and creates the environment in which you are **nurtured (raised; cared for)**. So, this undoubtedly influences you from childhood. When I think about it, I notice that children tend to share similar political or religious views with their parents since that is the information **drilled into (forcefully put into)** their heads at home. However, at a certain age, usually during teen years, children become rebellious towards their families and tend to become influenced by their friends at school more. At the end of the day, the family is still a much stronger force.

#### **Are people influenced by famous people?**

For sure! As a society, we idolize those who are in the spotlight. We **crave (to really want)** their seemingly perfect and glamorous lifestyle. Especially when it comes to style, we always follow the fashion trends of the celebs, as if they were the only people on earth. Whatever they do we assume is the best. Furthermore, people sometimes begin to think like celebrities, as they are models of perfect human beings to us.

#### **Why are some people self-centered?**

Well that's a tough question, but I have some ideas. I think that it could begin during childhood. If you are raised believing you are the **center of the universe (thinking you are the only person who matters)**, you will tend to carry this attitude into your adulthood. I notice that many spoiled children end up as very self-centered adults. Moreover, I think it depends on your experiences. For example, maybe a person who has always tried to do for others and never receives anything in return will **resort to (choose as a last option)** a self-centered attitude to avoid being hurt. Lastly, I think the society we're raised in affects us in this way. When you come from a wealthier, privileged country, some tend to lose sight of the suffering and needs of others and only focus on one's self.

### **Is it good for people to try new things?**

Without a question! People absolutely need to do this. Without it, life loses its color and becomes **monotonous (always the same; never changing)**. We must do things outside of our comfort zones to grow as people and keep life interesting. When I look back on my life, I've learned the most when I've ventured outside of my comfort zone to something new. By doing this, we open up new **windows of opportunities (new opportunities)**.

### **Why are some people are afraid to try new things?**

I think fear is the factor in this. Naturally, it's uncomfortable to try something that we've never tried before. We may not believe in ourselves and are afraid of the unknown outcome. For example, I know I'm not very athletic, so I feel shy to join exercise classes in my community. I felt scared that I would embarrass myself in front of everyone with my lack of coordination. But since I joined in a community soccer league, I've become much more confident playing sports and have since improved my physical health. It is never easy to **make the first step (to start something new)**.

#### 48/ Describe something you own that you want to replace

*You should say:*

- *What it is*
- *Where it is*
- *How you got it*
- *And explain why you want to replace it*

I'm going to talk about how desperately I want to replace my living room furniture. It includes a sofa, a **love seat (small sofa for 2 people)**, a coffee table, and two **end tables (small tables usually for lamps)**. It is horribly outdated, but I just haven't had the cash to update them yet. As my husband and I are factory workers, it's quite difficult to save enough money to make these sort of home improvements.

We were given this furniture when we got married in 1988 after my aunt had just passed. Moreover, she had used this furniture for about 10 years, so it already had some **wear and tear (some damage)**. However, we were **newlyweds (recently married)**, so we made it work. The sofas are an awful gold and dark red color with a floral pattern. The tables are a **speckled (black dots)** brown wood, with countless scratches, dashes, and stains from glasses left on it without a coaster, thanks to our children. There are also **no shortage of (plenty of)** spilled juice, spaghetti sauce, etc on the sofas. Actually, we have had it **reupholstered (re-covered)** two times already. Nevertheless, they always find a way to keep getting damaged now that we have 2 grandchildren. Mostly, I want to replace it as a way to celebrate how hard my husband and I have worked throughout our lives. Moreover, I would feel prouder to host events at house if my furniture were better. Actually, I feel embarrassed to have any **outsiders (people outside of family or close friends)** in my home now. I think it would create a fresher, newer feeling in our home and lead us to a

smooth transition into our retirement. We deserve to sit on a comfy, fresh sofa and read our books and have our morning coffee together.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PART 3**

#### **Do you prefer fixing things or replacing things?**

As I'm quite up to cars with work, I find it more time-saving and convenient to have stuff replaced brand-new. Although I'm willing to spend a bit more money, for repairmen or mechanics to mend the equipment if it doesn't cost an arm and a leg, if all the efforts of repair don't pay off it would be a better choice to buy a new one. I think an item in mint condition is less likely to have troublesome errors than an item that has been fixed. At the end of the day, if financial condition permits! buying new things is always better than getting old and broken things repaired.

#### **Which do you think are better, old things or new things?**

If I have to take a pick, I would go for antique objects. Originally, I have a taste for collecting old stuff as I'm really eager to learn about the history behind each object. Furthermore, as they're also of great monetary value so it's worth investing in rather than new ones. If I remember rightly, I sold my stamp collection for over \$200 to a cousin of mine.

#### **As well as family photographs, what are some other things that people keep in their family for a long time?**

There are quite a number of objects that family often likes to keep it until they die apart from their photo albums. The first object I can think of is the degrees or certificates they won from some competitions. This is because they can take pride in those achievements when they show to their kids in the future. The second thing is the clothes. Some still keep some outfits they used to wear when they were a kid, such a memento can remind them of their happy childhood they

had. After all, anything that carries a message is likely to be preserved for a long time.

**What are the benefits = what is the value/what is the importance of keeping some old things in the family?**

There're two benefits which I have mentioned earlier. The first one is that sometime in the future, the antique object can appreciate in value and brings a great fortune to the owner. A clock bought today can cost an arm and a leg a century later. Another benefit is the sentimental value it carries. A piano kept for some 30 years can remind the player wonderful times when he plays it when he gets older. After all, monetary and emotional values are the two main beauties of keeping something for a long time.

**Do you think it's good to recall the past?**

Yes, I certainly think so; it is always a thrilling experience when looking back at what we did. It would be nice to look back on the past such as how we looked like when they were small or the moment when we stood on the podium and received the university degree. Also, Recalling the bygone days is also a way to acknowledge our shortcomings and work on it to improve our characters.

**49/ Describe a time that you wore a type of clothes for a special occasion**

*You should say:*

- *Where you bought the clothes*
- *And what other people at the occasion thought of your clothes*

By nature, I prefer simplicity and always pick casual clothes no matter what the occasion is. Yet off the top of my head, there comes a time when I had to put

on a suit for a photo shoot for our yearbook, which I personally feel quite burdensome and formal.

Everyone was supposed to dress smartly and formally for the occasion, so boys were told to have their black suit on, and a pair of shining shoes or a brand-new pair of sneakers for footwear. I did also wear a necktie to look more elegant and sophisticated. The girls were simpler in their clothes; some colorful traditional clothes could do wonders to their outer appearance.

The suits were rented from a store that specializes in renting costumes for artists or students about to graduate, and fortunately our monitor made great preparations beforehand so we had our clothes rented dirt cheap.

I'd have to admit that it was the very first time I put on formal wear, so my friends made quite sarcastic comments about my look at saying that I looked quite serious and unnatural. But somehow I was quite satisfied with how the clothes fitted me perfectly, and afterwards I tried to be more at ease I would say I looked great. I mapped dozens of selfie pictures and stored in my phone and sometimes take them out and feel quite nostalgic, actually.

### **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 fashionistas 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

## 50/ 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*

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. Even if I don't win, I would still love to have this experience. It will be one **for the books (something memorable)**.

## QUESTIONS FOR 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.