IELTS SPEAKING

Actual Tests With Suggested Answers

JANUARY - APRIL 2022

TARGET SERIES



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Preface

As far as you know, IELTS candidates will have only 11-14 minutes for IELTS Speaking and it comprises of Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you invest time in practicing the real IELTS Speaking questions.

Beside Cambridge IELTS Practice Tests series published by Oxford University Press, IELTS Speaking Recent Actual Tests with Suggested Answers aims to develop speaking and test-taking skills along with language proficiency to help you achieve a high IELTS Speaking score. It contains IELTS Speaking questions that were asked and would be asked in IELTS Speaking tests in 2021. The questions are divided into part 1, part 2 and part 3. Each of the questions have answers provided by our certified IELTS trainer along with the vocabulary that is specifically used for that question/topic. When using this e-book, you can be aware of the kinds of questions that you would face in a real exam, and how the answers are framed accordingly. Moreover, these tests are extracted from an authentic IELTS bank source; therefore, you are in all probability to encounter these questions in your real examinations.

The authors are convinced that you will find IELTS Speaking Recent Actual Tests with Suggested Answers extremely helpful on your path to success with the International English Language Testing System.

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

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Introduction

The Speaking test comprises of 3 parts and is conducted by an examiner for 11-14 minutes. This test is similar to an interview and thus the emotions attached to the test is also similar – jitters, scary, anxiety. This is where IELTS Speaking e-book comes in.
This e-book helps you to know the unfamiliar.

Part – 1

Most of the part one questions are personal questions that the examiner will ask you to bring you into a comfort zone. These questions are sorted in terms of different topics.

Part – 2 & 3

Part – 2 consists of a cue card for which you will be given 1 minute to prepare and 2 minutes to talk. The questions in the cue card are addressed and a sample answer is given for the cue-card. Following the cue-card are part 3 questions. Part 3 of the speaking e-book consists of questions related to the cue card you will receive. And so, these questions are found with sample answers below the related cue-cards.

Vocabulary

Lexical resources is a factor of assessment during the speaking tests. So, below each of these topics, you will find a vocabulary section that contains words related to that particular topic along with examples.
Happy practising!

IELTS Speaking – Part 1

1. Wedding

Questions

1. Have you ever been to a wedding?
2. What clothes do people wear to weddings?
3. Describe a wedding ceremony.
4. What sort of gifts do people buy for the bridal couple?
5. What kind of clothes did the bride and groom wear at the wedding?

Sample Answers

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1 Have you ever been to a wedding?

Yes, being a social butterfly and an extrovert by nature, I love attending functions. Thus, I have been to plenty of weddings of my close friends and relatives.

2 What clothes do people wear to weddings?

I believe wedding functions are not just euphoric but also give an opportunity to dress up according to the latest fashion. Right from formal suits to pure traditional clothing, dressing up for a wedding is all about ethnicity.

3 Describe a wedding ceremony.

A couple of days ago, I attended a wedding with my parents. It was an austere wedding held in my hometown. There were 100 people from each side - both bride's and groom's. A special lunch was organized, consisting of a variety of starters and dishes. Post lunch, everybody gathered in a hall for the final ritual - Pheras. The bride and groom looked mesmerizing. Once the bride was sent off with the groom, we came back to our house.

4 What sort of gifts do people buy for the bridal couple?

I have seen people buying a variety of gifts as a token of endearment for the bridal couple. This seemingly is the best possible method to congratulate them. Some people buy clothes, while others buy jewellery items. Some also buy paintings. And then, there are some people who even sponsor honeymoon tickets for the newly-wed couple.

5 What kind of clothes did the bride and groom wear at the wedding?

The groom's garb was a traditional Sherwani that was in cream colour. It had red embroidery. He was also covered in a red pashmina shawl, engraved with pearls. On the other hand, the bride was dressed in a red lehenga. Both of them were looking jaw-droppingly gorgeous.

Vocabulary

Extrovert
Meaning: a person who likes being with other people
Eg: I have always been an extrovert.

Euphoric
Meaning: a feeling of great excitement or happiness
Eg: I try to maintain my euphoric mood for as long as possible.

Austere
Meaning: very simple
Eg: The 90s era was quite austere, unaware of the world's luxuries.

Endearment
Meaning: to show affection or love for somebody
Eg: She often uses terms of endearment when talking to other people.

Garb
Meaning: clothing
Eg: I like wearing traditional garbs on a daily basis.

2. Activity Near Water

Questions

1. What activities would you do if you were spending some leisure time at a beach or near the ocean?
2. Why do some people like water sports?
3. Do you think the government should invest money in developing facilities for water sports?
4. Do you think that human activity is posing a threat to the oceans of the world?
5. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling on the ocean?

Sample Answers

1 What activities would you do if you were spending some leisure time at a beach or near the ocean?

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If I were spending leisure time at a beach, I would try my hands on some water sports, be it surfing or skiing. I would also play volleyball on the beach. Along with that, I would probably relish reading at the beach or making castles in the sand.

2 Why do some people like water sports?

Some people prefer water sports over others because they are quite refreshing. Getting in and out of the water rejuvenates our senses. In fact, some people have even pursued this as a profession or a career. Also, it's a good form of exercise as well.

3 Do you think the government should invest money in developing facilities for water sports?

Yes, I think the government should invest money in developing facilities for water sports. This is one of the best ways to stimulate people so as to pursue it as a career and earn fame and name for the nation. It is also a good form of exercise that promotes physical and mental fitness.

4 Do you think that human activity is posing a threat to the oceans of the world?

Yes, I do think that human activity is posing a serious threat to the oceans. The alarmingly rising levels of pollution caused by boats, ships, and oil drilling machinery are harming marine life to a

great extent. The impact is so severe that a lot of aquatic animals and plants are on the verge of extinction.

5 What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling on the ocean?

To begin with, one of the major advantages of travelling on the ocean is that it helps us learn a bountiful amount of facts pertaining to marine life. It's a stress buster and a good way to spend quality time with family and friends. As far as the disadvantages are concerned, the survival chances are less during a natural calamity, like a tsunami or a storm, and the rescue work is extremely tedious.

Vocabulary

Relish
Meaning: to enjoy something
Eg: I relish reading the crime genre.

Rejuvenate
Meaning: to make somebody feel better and younger.
Eg: Drinking healthy smoothies rejuvenates our digestive system.

Stimulate
Meaning: to make somebody feel interested in something
Eg: The lessons don't stimulate him.

Verge of
Meaning: a point when something is about to happen
Eg: I am on the verge of breaking down.

Bountiful
Meaning: in a large quantity.
Eg: This year, we managed to get a bountiful harvest.

3. Lost

Questions

1. Have you ever lost your way?
2. How do you find your way when you are lost?
3. Can you read a map when you get lost?
4. Have you ever helped someone who got lost?

Sample Answers

1 Have you ever lost your way?

Well, yes, a couple of times. Actually, I have direction-dyslexia, owing to which I tend to lose hold on my ways to an address more often than not. Thankfully, I have always been aided by someone or the other.

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2 How do you find your way when you are lost?

I generally ask people. Thanks to my interactive nature, I never shy away from taking help from strangers when it comes to asking for the destinations I have to reach. In fact, I don't get bothered by losing the way as I have this habit of asking people wherever I get bewildered.

3 Can you read a map when you get lost?

Yes, maps are indeed my second most preferred option in case I am not able to find someone to direct me to the right destination. I am pretty adept at using google maps per se.

4 Have you ever helped someone who got lost?

Yes, a lot of times. I remember there was a kid who came to our colony and was wailing incessantly. I approached the little kid to console him, and it was then when I realized that he had lost the way to his uncle's home, who he had come to visit along with his family. So, I took him to his uncle's house.

Vocabulary

Dyslexia

Meaning: A general term for disorders that involve difficulty in learning to read or interpret words, letters, directions, and other symbols.
Eg: His son has Dyslexia.

Aided
Meaning: Helped
Eg: He has always been aided by his teachers and his friends.

Bewildered
Meaning: Confused
Eg: I got really bewildered when I saw this question.

Wailing
Meaning: Crying
Eg: She has been wailing a lot since yesterday.

Incessantly
Meaning: Continuously
Eg: I was incessantly working on this progress report.

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4. Shoes

Questions

1. How frequently do you buy shoes?
2. Where do you usually buy shoes?
3. What is your favourite type of shoes?
4. Why do some people have too many shoes?
5. Have you ever bought shoes online?

Sample Answers

1 How frequently do you buy shoes?

I have never been much of a shoe enthusiast. Since I like to stay indoors, the pairs of shoes I own are not used regularly. I feel the need to buy a new pair of shoes once a year or sometimes even two years.

2 Where do you usually buy shoes?

Ever since I was a kid, I have always preferred buying shoes from this store called Sreeleathers. During my childhood, my mother used to take me to this store for shoe shopping. Sreeleathers are known for their high-quality leather shoes and other footwear. Recently, I have started browsing and purchasing shoes from online stores too.

3 What is your favourite type of shoes?

The kind of shoes that I prefer depends on the occasion. For events like parties or wedding ceremonies, I prefer a pair of leather shoes. If I am just going out to buy groceries or for a stroll, I prefer T-bar sandals. In general, I like to wear comfortable shoes, so I prefer sandals or loose-fitting sneakers.

4 Why do some people have too many shoes?

Shoes, like any other form of apparel, are a fashion statement. Some people tend to wear different styles of shoes for different occasions. For some people, shoes tend to be a type of collectable that brings them joy. Some people prefer wearing fresh pairs of shoes even if the old pairs are not worn out, leading them to buy more shoes than they need.

5 Have you ever bought shoes online?

No, I have never bought a pair of shoes online. I prefer to try out a pair of shoes before making a purchase decision. Since online shopping platforms do not have the trial option, it is perplexing to make a decision based on mere images. I have heard instances where friends of mine had purchased a pair of shoes that looked attractive on the online shopping website, but when they received the product, it didn't match their expectations.

Vocabulary

Enthusiast
Meaning: a person who is very interested in a particular activity or subject.
Eg: She was known to be a poetry enthusiast.

Browsing
Meaning: survey goods for sale in a leisurely and casual way.
Eg: She was browsing through the collection of new footwear.

Stroll
Meaning: walk in a leisurely way.
Eg: They went for an evening stroll.

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Collectable
Meaning: (of an item) worth collecting; of interest to a collector.
Eg: Old coins were his favourite collectable.

Perplexing
Meaning: completely baffling; very puzzling.
Eg: This mathematics problem is quite perplexing.

5. Living

Questions

1. Where are you living now?
2. What do you like most about where you live?
3. What is the neighbourhood like where you live?
4. Do you have any friends there?
5. What can be improved in the area where you live?

Sample Answers

1 Where are you living now?

Currently, I am living in a housing society that is situated in Newtown. I have recently moved from a place called Garden Reach to Newtown. Newtown is located on the outskirts of Kolkata, whereas Garden Reach is closer to central Kolkata. Kolkata is one of the biggest metropolitan cities in India.

2 What do you like most about where you live?

The most wonderful part about my society is that the environment is very clean and well maintained. The roads are lined with trees and small bushes, which create a peaceful and pleasing ambience. The roadways within the society are also well planned and kept in good condition. During the monsoon season, there are no issues related to waterlogging or drainage.

3 What is the neighbourhood like where you live?

Since I live in a housing society, most residents are not acquainted with one another. Although some individuals have friends or even other family members and relatives staying in the society, they don't meet frequently. Mostly young working individuals with rented apartments stay in my society. Since Newtown is the new business hub of Kolkata, a majority of the residents are employees in various organizations located in this area.

4 Do you have any friends there?

No, I do not have any friends in my society. I am not a very outgoing person; thus, I rarely meet new people. Since I have only been living in this society for almost a year, I haven't had the chance to make new friends.

5 What can be improved in the area where you live?

Although there are very few complications with the housing society that I live in, some improvements can be made. Firstly, there is an issue of stray dogs loitering on the premises, and there have also been cases of occupants getting bitten by these dogs. I think the authorities should take the necessary action to solve this problem. Secondly, the water in this society has too much iron content in it, and I believe proper steps should be taken to improve the quality of water.

Vocabulary

Outskirts
Meaning: the outer parts of a town or city.
Eg: Their office was located on the outskirts of the city.

Waterlogging
Meaning: saturate with water; make (something) waterlogged.
Eg: The issue of waterlogging was common in this neighbourhood.

Acquainted
Meaning: make someone aware of or familiar with.
Eg: The contestants were yet to be acquainted with the judges.

Outgoing
Meaning: friendly and socially confident.
Eg: She was known to be an extrovert and an outgoing person.

Loitering
Meaning: stand or wait around without apparent purpose.
Eg: Those two were loitering around for quite a long time.

6. Decoration

Questions

1. What is the decoration like in your home?
2. What kind of decoration do you prefer?
3. Do Indian people like decorating their homes?
4. What's your favourite colour when decorating your home?

Sample Answers

1 What is the decoration like in your home?

The most embellished parts of my home are the living room and the balcony. The walls of my living room are covered with beautiful wallpapers of my mother's choice. One of the walls is adorned with multiple photo frames of my family members. There are a few paintings and night lamps on the other walls of my living room. My balcony has a nice swing chair which is perfect for reading a novel.

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2 What kind of decoration do you prefer?

I have always preferred a simple style of decoration. The idea of having multiple posters on the walls and having different types of lights all at the same time is something that I never fancied. I also like rooms that are less congested and have a spacious feel to them.

3 Do Indian people like decorating their homes?

Indian's love furnishing their homes with the most attractive ornaments. The practice of always adding something new to the living room shelves is common in every Indian household. It is difficult to come across an Indian house that is not adorned with traditional decoratives, accessories and souvenirs from different vacation destinations.

4 What's your favourite colour when decorating your home?

The colour that I prefer the most when it comes to decorating my home is orange. Since orange is a bright colour, it brings about a certain glimmer wherever it is used as a colour scheme. Also, I prefer this colour over other bright colours like red, yellow and green as it puts less stress on the eyes during the daytime.

Vocabulary

Embellished
Meaning: make (something) more attractive by the addition of decorative details or features.
Eg: The cathedrals were embellished with marvellous murals and paintings.

Fancied
Meaning: feel a desire or liking for.
Eg: Spending time with his family was something he always fancied.

Ornaments
Meaning: decoration added to embellish something.
Eg: The cafe was filled with beautiful ornaments.

Glimmer
Meaning: shine faintly with a wavering light.
Eg: The glimmer of the moonlight was beautiful to witness.

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7. Names

Questions

1. Is it easy for you to remember people's names?
2. How do you remember people's names?
3. How do you feel when people can't remember your name?
4. Do you often forget people's names?

Sample Answers

1 Is it easy for you to remember people's names?

Yes, I have always been capable of remembering the names of acquaintances. There have been two instances in my life where I remembered the names of my old friends, whereas they had forgotten mine. In my opinion, one should always try to remember the names of friends and colleagues as it helps avoid embarrassing social situations.

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2 How do you remember people's names?

I do not have a definite scheme or technique to remember the names of everyone I meet. After more than a few conversations with an individual, their name remains in my mind naturally. I believe that once we interact with a person more than a certain degree, it is difficult to forget their name.

3 How do you feel when people can't remember your name?

I have been in social situations where the person I was in conversation with couldn't recall my name. At the moment I felt a bit taken aback and I also felt cumbersome continuing the conversation henceforth. Subsequently, I did not put much thought into it as the person concerned was not part of my immediate social circle.

4 Do you often forget people's names?

A social situation or interaction where I couldn't recall a person's name has seldom happened in my life. I have always been quite good at remembering names and even the background of acquaintances. The only time when I have trouble remembering someone's name is when the person in concern is an acquaintance of my parents or a distant relative.

Vocabulary

Acquaintances
Meaning: a person one knows slightly, but who is not a close friend
Eg: John has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

Scheme
Meaning: A systematic plan for attaining a particular object putting an idea into effect.
Eg: There is a predefined scheme for accomplishing this task.

Cumbersome
Meaning: Awkward, Hard to do or deal with
Eg: Since I could not pronounce my doctor's cumbersome name, I simply spelt it out for the receptionist.

Seldom
Meaning: not often; rarely
Eg: He seldom spoke out of turn.

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8. Primary School

Questions

1. What did you like the most when you were in primary school?
2. How did you go to your primary school?
3. How do you like your primary school?
4. What did you do in your leisure time in your primary school?

Sample Answers

1 What did you like the most when you were in primary school?

The memories of my primary school are one of the most cherished memories I have with me. Everything about primary school was fun. The classes never felt boring, my teachers were always kind and helpful and everyone in the class was friendly. The most memorable parts of primary school were the recesses where all of my friends would run out to the playground and enjoy the rides and swings.

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2 How did you go to your primary school?

My primary school was just a few kilometres away from my residence, so reaching there was never a hassle. My parents had arranged a carpool service which helped me and other students from my locality reach school every morning. I had to walk to a certain place where the carpool would pick me up, and I was accompanied by my father every day. However, there were instances where I would ask my father to drop me off at school personally, as I liked the journey to school on a motorbike.

3 How do you like your primary school?

There are many features of my primary school that have etched my childhood years in my memory. The most significant of those was the games classes that we had every Friday. During games classes, our physical education teacher would divide us into groups and make us play team sports. The most popular team sports that we played were football and Kho kho.

4 What did you do in your leisure time in your primary school?

During primary school, we used to have two recesses, a short recess for snacks and a longer recess for lunch. Most of the time, the shorter recess was exhausted due to washroom breaks

as it only lasted for 10 minutes. It was during the long recess that we had the most fun. Every day as soon as the bell rang, almost the entire class would run out and meet up at the playground. We would always argue on which game to play on that particular day and finally settle on something like catch, tag or statues.

Vocabulary

Cherished
Meaning: hold (something) dear.
Eg: “These are cherished memories.”

Hassle
Meaning: irritating inconvenience.
Eg: Going back and forth between two reasonable alternatives is quite a hassle.

Etched
Meaning: be permanently fixed in someone's memory.
Eg: The events of the super cyclone remain etched in our minds.

Recess
Meaning: a break between school classes.
Eg: Everyone waited for the afternoon recess eagerly.

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9. Volunteer

Questions

1. Why do you think people volunteer?
2. Would you like to work as a volunteer?
3. Have you ever done any voluntary work?
4. Is volunteering worth the time it takes?
5. What could you do to help if you had no money?

Sample Answers

1 Why do you think people volunteer?

The motive behind volunteering is different for every individual. Typically, when a person signs up for voluntary work, it is to help the poor. Such endeavours are also undertaken by people who have a lot of spare time and want to do something productive and impactful. There are also instances where volunteering is only an addition to a person's resume. This is more common among college students who lack work experience.

2 Would you like to work as a volunteer?

Yes, I would like to work as a volunteer sometime in the future. I believe that such humanitarian activities are only possible when a person does not have an immediate need or goal to achieve. Since I am in my early twenties, there are various aspects of my life that need more attention. Thus, at this stage of my life, volunteering is not feasible.

3 Have you ever done any voluntary work?

Yes, I have participated in voluntary work during the first semester of my college. I was part of the Green Club which often organized welfare activities and events. Owing to the after-effects of a super cyclone, we were given the responsibility to provide food and clothing to the affected. It was a team effort, and I had a wonderful experience during this activity.

4 Is volunteering worth the time it takes?

In my opinion, volunteering is only suitable for individuals who do not have any urgency in their lives. Worrying about the welfare of others is a selfless activity. If a person's mind is preoccupied with something else, such endeavours are difficult to carry out. As the saying goes,

‘charity begins at home’, a person should only take on the responsibility of volunteering if their time is not accounted for and they are free from any kind of stress.

5 What could you do to help if you had no money?

There are several ways to be charitable that do not involve the exchange of money. Moreover, it is always more prudent to provide the destitute with essentials like food and clothing. Also, appealing to the local authorities and the government to take measures for providing the homeless with decent shelter, especially during natural calamities, is an endeavour that requires more effort and persistence from the entire community than monetary aid.

Vocabulary

Resume
Meaning: a brief account of a person's education, qualifications, and previous occupations, typically sent with a job application
Eg: He managed to create an impressive resume within 5 years of graduating from college.

Humanitarian
Meaning: concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare.
Eg: The humanitarian efforts of the local club were admirable.

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After-effects
Meaning: an effect that follows after the primary action of something.
Eg: He felt groggy as an after-effect of the pain medication.

Preoccupied
Meaning: engrossed in thought; distracted
Eg: She was preoccupied with the test results all day.

Endeavour
Meaning: an attempt to achieve a goal
Eg: The quest for immortality is a foolish endeavour.

10. Housework

Questions

1. Do you do housework at home?
2. What kinds of housework do you often do?
3. Did you do housework when you were a child?
4. Do you think that children should do housework?
5. Do you think that men and women should share housework?

Sample Answers

1 Do you do housework at home?

Yes, I help my mother with housework whenever I can, especially on weekends. I like things done a certain way, which is why I prefer to clean and systemize my room. I like to do the laundry as it does not require a lot of effort. I also help with grocery shopping as it acts as a kind of physical exercise.

2 What kinds of housework do you often do?

The kind of housework that I do depends on the day of the week. During weekdays, I help with the cleaning of dishes and utensils after lunch and dinner, as it is a simple chore. However, on the weekends, my family and I clean the entire house as a weekly ritual. I also help with other household chores like dusting the electrical appliances, scrubbing the bathrooms, etc.

3 Did you do housework when you were a child?

No, as a child, I seldom took responsibility for household chores. Since we used to live in a house, unlike an apartment, cleaning the entire house was a laborious task. So, my mother had hired a maid to help her with all the housework. Nevertheless, on special occasions, my mother would tell me to help her with cleaning, and it was an exciting experience as we would often find lost toys and items while going through all the nooks and crannies.

4 Do you think that children should do housework?

I believe that children should be taught the importance of sharing the responsibility of housework. It is often seen that in a household, the onus of housework often falls on women. Such conventions are not at all progressive, even though they are very commonplace. That

being said, children should be given household chores to carry out so that they can be responsible for themselves and their families in the future.

5 Do you think that men and women should share housework?

I am a strong supporter of the notion that housework should be shared between all members of the household, regardless of their gender. It is unreasonable to ask a single person or gender group to carry out all the household chores. Since the comfort and facilities of home are enjoyed by all, it is only fair that every member of the family should work towards maintaining the house.

Vocabulary

Systemize
Meaning: arrange according to an organized system
Eg: She systemized her things before the exam commenced.

Ritual
Meaning: arising from convention or habit.
Eg: They always followed a ritual of having sweets before auspicious occasions.

Laborious
Meaning: requiring considerable time and effort.
Eg: The journey from my residence to the restaurant is a laborious one.

Conventions
Meaning: behaviour that is considered acceptable or polite to most members of society.
Eg: They disregarded all family conventions when they took such drastic measures.

Chores
Meaning: a routine task, especially a household one.
Eg: He did his chores before going to work.

11. TV Programs

Questions

1. What kind of TV programs do you like?
2. Do you often watch programs on TV or your smartphone?
3. Do you like watching the same kind of TV programs all the time?
4. Do you talk with your friends about the TV programs that you watch?

Sample Answers

1 What kind of TV programs do you like?

Although I am not a big fan of television shows, I prefer watching comedies or thriller movies to kill time and keep myself entertained. I believe that comedy shows help relieve stress, reduce the intensity of strong emotions, and keep one's distance from adversity and hardships. On the other hand, a thriller keeps you glued to the television until the climax is reached. As a result, both types of tv programs are exciting to watch.

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2 Do you often watch programs on TV or your smartphone?

As a photographer, I spend a lot of time out of town, travelling, so I watch crime thrillers on my smartphone because it's portable and convenient. But sometimes, when I'm at home, I keep my smartphone aside and watch TV programs with my family.

3 Do you like watching the same kind of TV programs all the time?

Of course! I like watching the same kind of thriller shows because nothing can beat the excitement of watching a fantastic thriller movie. The unexpected twists and turns keep me glued to the television or my smartphone. Furthermore, it is fascinating to see how mysteries unfold in a thriller movie.

4 Do you talk with your friends about the TV programs that you watch?

Well, as for my friends, all of them have different interests. Some enjoy watching daily soaps, while others are hooked on crime thrillers or horror films. However, their opinions vary about these TV shows. Therefore, we do not discuss what we watch. Whenever the cricket premier league is on, we debate over which team will win the match.

Vocabulary

Kill time
Meaning: to make time seem to pass more quickly by doing something instead of just waiting.
Eg: I do gardening to kill time.

Glued
Meaning: be paying very close attention to (something, especially a television).
Eg: The spectators were glued to the screen as the final climax of the film approached.

Portable
Meaning: able to be easily carried or moved, especially because of being of a lighter and smaller version than usual.
Eg: My grandmother demanded a portable mobile phone.

Mystery
Meaning: something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain.
Eg: The mysteries of the old town are hard to understand.

Twist and turns
Meaning: complicated dealings or circumstances.
Eg: Life is full of twists and turns.

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12. Farming

Questions

1. Have you visited a farm?
2. What kind of farm do you like?
3. Do you think farming is important?
4. Did you do farm work when you were young?

Sample Answers

1 Have you visited a farm?

Yes, during my visit to my native place in Lucknow, I went to a farm owned by my great grandfather. I was at a loss for words when I saw the apple orchard for the first time. The scenery was extremely captivating, and the 10-acre land of orchards smelled so refreshing. It was entirely devoted to the cultivation of apples and oranges. Also, my uncle, who looks after the apple orchard, offered me a basket full of fresh fruits.

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2 What kind of farm do you like?

As I said earlier, I've visited the apple & orange orchards, and I loved it. The fragrance of the fresh and organic apples & oranges were sweet and refreshing that made me wonder if I could own an apple orchard. I'm not aware of the other farms.

3 Do you think farming is important?

Ofcourse! I believe that farming plays an indispensable role in our existence on earth. They are an important part of the food industry and the only sources of food production from where we get rice, fruits, grains, vegetables, to name a few. Further, farming refines the country's economy by creating employment opportunities for the youth.

4 Did you do farm work when you were young?

I don't exactly remember if I worked on a farm as my family moved to the city when I was a child. So, I don't have any experience of working on a farm. But during my schooling, there was an experiment where we had to grow some vegetables. I planted the tomato seeds, and within a week or two, the plant started growing. It was an exciting activity.

Vocabulary

Loss for words
Meaning: unable to think of anything to say
Eg: I was at a loss for words when I was announced as the competition's winner.

Captivating
Meaning: capable of attracting and holding interest; charming.
Eg: The snowy mountains looked captivating during the winters.

Fragrance
Meaning: a pleasant, sweet smell.
Eg: Everybody loves the fragrance of roses and jasmine.

Indispensable
Meaning: absolutely necessary
Eg: Social media plays an indispensable role in our lives.

Existence
Meaning: the fact or state of living or having objective reality.
Eg: The company came into existence in 1972

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13. Rest

Questions

1. How often do you take a rest?
2. What do you usually do when you are resting?
3. Do you take a nap when you're resting?
4. How do you feel after taking a nap?

Sample Answers

1 How often do you take a rest?

Being a teacher is so challenging; my schedule is jam-packed. There's no time for a break or a nap. But whenever I'm free during recess or lunch, I prefer to rest for at least 40 minutes to give my body a break and some relaxation to my mind.

2 What do you usually do when you are resting?

As I said earlier, I'm a teacher, so I don't usually get a lot of time to rest, but I make sure to take a nap when I'm free. But whenever I'm at home, I manage to practise yoga and meditation with my siblings. Yoga really helps me to feel relaxed, rejuvenated and refreshed. At the same time, meditation reduces my stress and anxiety.

3 Do you take a nap when you're resting?

Well, not really, because I spend the weekdays in school and taking a nap in school is not as peaceful as resting at home. As a matter of fact, I don't take a nap during the weekdays. But on the weekends, I make sure to take a quick afternoon nap, which boosts and energizes me and keeps me going all day.

4 How do you feel after taking a nap?

To be honest, the post-lunch struggle is real, and sluggishness doesn't go away easily, so I take a 20-minute nap, after which I feel super energetic and refreshed. In addition, my body is recharged and boosted up, which helps me take the afternoon classes efficiently.

Vocabulary

Jam-packed
Meaning: extremely crowded or full to capacity.
Eg: The famous actor couldn't sign the film as his call sheet was jam-packed.

Recess
Meaning: a break from doing something, like work or school
Eg: Students went to the canteen during recess.

Meditation
Meaning: a practice where an individual uses a technique – such as mindfulness or focusing the mind on a particular object, thought, or activity – to train attention and awareness and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state
Eg: Meditation helps an individual to stay calm and composed.

Energize
Meaning: give vitality and enthusiasm to.
Eg: The boxer took a supplement that energized him.

Sluggishness
Meaning: averse to activity or exertion
Eg: John's sluggishness affected his work-life balance.

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14. Foreign Food

Questions

1. Have you ever tried foreign food?
2. Do you like to try new food?
3. What kind of new food have you tried recently?
4. What kind of foreign foods is popular in your country?
5. Do you like any food from the countries near your country?

Sample Answers

1 Have you ever tried foreign food?

As a travel photographer, I spend most of my time wandering around cities across the world, which gives me an opportunity to try new dishes. In fact, foreign foods in themselves are a delight to eat. For example, when I visited Toronto, I had the irresistible Butter Tart and Croissant, which I relished eating. Besides, some of my favorite foreign food items are the American Chopsuey, Chinese Hakka Noodles, Arabian Shawarma and Baklava, which are mouthwatering and heavenly delectable.

2 Do you like to try new food?

Ofcourse! I'm a foodie, and one of the perks of being a travel photographer is that I get to try a lot of new food varieties. Whenever I visit any new environment, I refresh myself and seek out new food items as each city across the world has so many unique flavours and dishes worth trying. Further, tasting new dishes widens my horizon about the place, introduces me to a deeper understanding of food culture and the people's lifestyles in a better way.

3 What kind of new food have you tried recently?

As I said earlier, I had recently traveled to the multicultural city, Toronto, which opened my eyes and taste buds to a whole new range of authentic flavours. I went to a restaurant, where they served me hot croissants, crispy chocolate-filled churros, and butter tarts. It was luscious and delicious. The deep-fried and decadent chocolate-filled churros were so splendid that I ordered it twice and not to mention the Canadian buttery tarts, which was a perfect balance of sweet indulgence.

4 What kind of foreign foods is popular in your country?

India's cuisine culture has Chinese, Iranian, Arabian, Japanese, American, Mughal, Persian, and Mediterranean influences. Increasing demand for foreign foods such as Kabab, Shawarma, Tower burgers, Margherita Pizza, Waffles, Momos, Manchurian, Kunafa, and Sushi proves this. Although these dishes may be foreign, they're much loved by Indians that these dishes can be found in every corner of the city.

5 Do you like any food from the countries near your country?

Well, foreign foods are increasingly becoming more accessible and gaining massive popularity in India. I love eating Lebanese Shawarma, Tibetan Momos, Japanese sushi, and Arabian Kebab. These lip-smacking dishes are super popular and absolute favourites of every Indian.

Vocabulary

Irresistible
Meaning: too attractive and tempting to be resisted
Eg: The Apple Pie looked irresistible.

Widen my Horizon
Meaning: To have or seek out new experiences
Eg: The cookery show widened my horizons to different culinary and cooking techniques.

Tarts
Meaning: an open pastry case containing a sweet or savoury filling.
Eg: Caramel filled tarts is the signature dish of the bakery.

Luscious
Meaning: (of food or drink) having a pleasingly rich, sweet taste.
Eg: The chocolaty caramelized pudding at the wedding was luscious.

Authentic
Meaning: genuine
Eg: The restaurant uses authentic homemade spices to prepare the flavorsome Biryani.

15. Celebrity

Questions

1. Who is your favorite celebrity in India?
2. Do you like any foreign celebrities?
3. Would you want to be a celebrity in the future?
4. Do you think we should respect famous people's privacy?
5. How do celebrities influence their fans in India?

Sample Answers

1 Who is your favorite celebrity in India?

There are many celebrities I like, but Ayushman Khurrana tops my favorite celebrity list as he's a notable celebrity whose films are different from others. His way of acting is remarkable, and his film choices are simply significant. He's also considered a youth icon as all his movies emphasize a relatable message to every youth in the country.

2 Do you like any foreign celebrities?

Yes, of course! Many foreign celebrities are among my favourites. Will Smith, Taylor Swift, Tom Cruise, Dwayne Johnson, Zayn Malik, Tom Ellis, Justin Bieber, Jennifer Lopez, and others are among those I like for their renowned work in movies and music. Their incredible acting and singing abilities have left a lasting impression and a significant impact on me.

3 Would you want to be a celebrity in the future?

To be honest, I'd love to be treated like a celebrity. But, I'm equally scared because a celebrity's life is entirely open to the world and complicated. They should update their fans on all aspects of their personal and professional lives, which I believe is inappropriate in specific ways. In addition, celebrities are frequently accompanied by cameras and media members who wish to depict their lifestyle to the public. Overall, I believe that the life of a star is not as simple as it appears.

4 Do you think we should respect famous people's privacy?

We must respect the privacy of everyone, whether a renowned celebrity or an ordinary citizen. In my opinion, everyone is entitled to the same level of privacy. Celebrities should be allowed some privacy in their personal lives, even though they are always in the limelight. Celebrities,

too, have the freedom to keep their secrets to themselves rather than revealing them to the world. A private existence, in my opinion, should remain private regardless of who you are.

5 How do celebrities influence their fans in India?

Well, celebrities in India have a considerable influence on the youth. As a result, they can encourage healthy attitudes and behaviors in children and assist them in making appropriate decisions. Some celebrities have even endorsed commercials for life lessons that are incredibly valuable. To put it another way, stars serve as excellent role models for the youth of a country.

Vocabulary

Icon
Meaning: a person or thing regarded as a representative symbol or as worthy of adoration.
Eg: Messi is famous as a football icon.

Endorse
Meaning: to make a public statement of your approval or support for something or someone.
Eg: The football player endorses his own line of clothing.

Privacy
Meaning: a state in which one is not observed or disturbed by other people.
Eg: The doctor requested the media to allow some privacy in the hospital.

Inappropriate
Meaning: not suitable or proper in the circumstances.
Eg: It's inappropriate to wear formal clothes to a themed party.

Impact
Meaning: a marked effect or influence.
Eg: Daniel's generous act of charity has made a great impact on the local community.

16. Environmental Protection

Questions

1. Would you like to work in a company related to environmental protection?
2. How can we protect the environment?
3. Do you think you have done enough to protect the environment?
4. Is there education about environmental protection at school in your country?

Sample Answers

1 Would you like to work in a company related to environmental protection?

Of course. If given the opportunity, I'd definitely love to work in an eco-friendly company that promotes environmental protection. As I'm a passionate environmentalist, I'd like to contribute as much as possible to the environment. During my schooling, I worked as a volunteer for several environmental organizations that encourage environmental awareness among the public.

2 How can we protect the environment?

There are several ways to protect the environment. We need to take proactive steps towards cleaner living habits such as using the 3Rs, i.e, reduce, reuse, and recycle. Using recyclable materials and reusable bags, using eco-friendly products and chemical-free fertilizers for agricultural land, consuming less water and electricity, and using local transportation services are some ways by which we can save the environment. These are some of the steps that can be taken to conserve the environment.

3 Do you think you have done enough to protect the environment?

Well, I don't think I've done enough to protect the environment, but as of now, I've done my bit, and there's so much more that I should have to start practising in the future to save the environment. At present, I have started making small changes in my life, such as reducing the use of plastics, using reusable and recyclable materials, using cycles or walking to cover short distances, and saving water and electricity.

4 Is there education about environmental protection at school in your country?

Yes, students are educated about the conservation and protection of the environment in high school as a skill subject. With the help of this subject, the students are aware of the importance of environmental protection. However, I believe that the education institution should make environmental protection as a compulsory subject so that the students will gain a comprehensive knowledge on protecting the environment that would enable them to live a sustainable life.

Vocabulary

Comprehensive -
Meaning: including or dealing with all or nearly all elements or aspects of something.
Eg: Science is a comprehensive subject.

Awareness
Meaning: knowledge or perception of a situation or fact.
Eg: An awareness program for Aids was started by the institution.

Passionate
Meaning: having, showing, or caused by strong feelings or beliefs.
Eg: Pablo was passionate about automobiles.

Volunteer
Meaning: a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.
Eg: Michael worked as a volunteer for the NGO.

Compulsory
Meaning: required by law or a rule; obligatory.
Eg: The school made it compulsory for all the students to wear uniforms.

17. Barbecue

Questions

1. Do Vietnamese people like barbecue?
2. What kind of food do you like to eat for barbecue?
3. Would you like to have a barbecue with your family or your friends?
4. Did you have barbecue when you were a child?

Sample Answers

1 Do Vietnamese people like barbecue?

Of course, as a Vietnamese myself, I love barbecues. It is one of the most sought-after foods during our family get-togethers and occasional gatherings like birthday parties, receptions, or wedding anniversaries. Moreover, some people love eating barbecues when they go out on a picnic with family and friends. Barbecues are most popular during summers.

2 What kind of food do you like to eat for barbecue?

In our community, we love barbecuing beef, meat, chicken, grilled ribs, fish with some herbs, and veggies like capsicum, potatoes, corn, and eggplants. I usually prefer eating these types of barbecues along with a bowl of salad filled with juicy tomatoes, crunchy cucumbers, salty cheese, and cream on the top. The combination is scrumptious.

3 Would you like to have a barbecue with your family or your friends?

Definitely Yes! Barbecuing is one way to bond with family and friends, and I often BBQ with family. I hardly get a chance to meet my friends considering everyone's busy schedules. So, whenever we catch up, we make sure to enjoy dinner parties. We divide tasks among us and enjoy eating BBQ while watching a movie.

4 Did you have barbecue when you were a child?

Well, yes, I've some lovely memories of barbecue dinners as a child. My dad is a foodie, and he also loves to cook. So, it was quite often to host a barbecue dinner in our backyard regardless of any occasion or celebrations. Everyone in our family would join us, and we'd enjoy eating barbecues while watching an old movie.

Vocabulary

Excellent
Meaning: extremely good; outstanding.
Eg: He was appreciated for playing an excellent role in the movie.

Scrumptious
Meaning: (of food) extremely tasty; delicious.
Eg: My mother bakes scrumptious lasagna.

Sought-after
Meaning: wanted by many people
Eg: Michelle is one of the most sought-after dentists in the town.

Barbecuing
Meaning: cook (food) on a barbecue.
Eg: Mona enjoyed barbecuing

Schedule
Meaning: a plan for carrying out a process or procedure, giving lists of intended events and times
Eg: The University released the exam schedule.

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18. Advertisements

Questions

1. Do you like advertisements?
2. How do you feel about advertisements?
3. Is there much advertising in your country?
4. Where can we see advertisements?
5. Do you like advertisements on TV or radio?

Sample Answers

1 Do you like advertisements?

Well, I'm not very fond of advertisements, but I enjoy watching them if the advertising concepts are interesting or entertaining. However, nowadays, a lot of advertisements are really insidious, manipulating people to spend on products that they don't actually need. Thus, when an advertisement comes, I immediately skip it.

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2 How do you feel about advertisements?

I feel that advertisements are a great way to promote a company's products and services that are newly launched in the market. With the help of ads, we understand the usage of the product. The advertisements were very meaningful in the past few decades. But nowadays, they are devious, and I get irked seeing such commercials.

3 Is there much advertising in your country?

Of course, there are too many advertisements in my country. There are countless ads and commercials everywhere, either in the form of electronics or in the form of posters and banners. Even when we open any application on our smartphone, the first thing we see is an advertisement. We can't escape it, and there's just no way out to skip these advertisements.

4 Where can we see advertisements?

Well, advertisements are almost everywhere, whether we give it a look or not. We are bombarded by advertisements in our day-to-day lives. We see ads on the internet, social media applications, websites, you tube, game applications, TV commercials, radio, newspapers, and magazines. Besides, there are ads displayed on big hoardings and billboards at the corner of

the roads and on buildings. Some ads related to any events or a new brand, or the release of new films are displayed in large banners and posters.

5 Do you like advertisements on TV or radio?

Advertisements have become an integral part of our lives. They are everywhere. As I mentioned earlier, I'm not fond of advertisements but yes I prefer watching advertisements on TV rather than just listening to those advertisements on the radio. Some TV commercials are indeed meaningful and interesting to watch.

Vocabulary

Insidious
Meaning: proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with very harmful effects.
Eg: In recent days, a few TV commercials are extremely insidious.

Irk
Meaning: irritate
Eg: The boy's mischief irked the old man.

Bombarded
Meaning: attack (a place or person) continuously with bombs, shells, or other missiles.
Eg: The tower was bombarded with a grenade.

Manipulate
Meaning: handle or control (a tool, mechanism, information, etc.) in a skilful manner.
Eg: The politician manipulated the public.

Devious
Meaning: showing a skilful use of underhand tactics to achieve goals.
Eg: The producers are devious in manipulating the people

19. Special Costumes

Questions

1. Do you like to wear special costumes?
2. Did you try any special costumes when you were young?
3. When was the last time you wore special costumes?
4. Do you ever buy special costumes?

Sample Answers

1 Do you like to wear special costumes?

Yes, I like wearing special costumes. They are worn by people either during an event or a themed occasion such as Halloween parties. I put on such special attires only during the Halloween season, and I must say that it's one of the best times to see people showing off their extraordinary creativity by wearing such costumes.

2 Did you try any special costumes when you were young?

Oh, yes, I remember that my school organised fancy dress competitions where everyone had to dress differently. So, my ingenious mother dressed me as a Chocolate bar using aluminium foil covers and colour papers. It was an amazing costume that all my friends loved. The reason behind me dressing as a chocolate bar was because I was extremely fond of them.

3 When was the last time you wore special costumes?

Well, I recently attended one of my closest friend's birthday party, which was themed on the Marvel movie, Avengers. So, I decided to become Captain America, and wore a costume with a long-sleeved blue & red t-shirt and blue pants, sewed with duct tape. However, I bought the fake vibranium shield online. I got a superhero feeling once I put on the costume.

4 Do you ever buy special costumes?

No. I don't spend money buying special costumes, as they are worn occasionally. Rather, I create my own costumes, by purchasing the materials from the local shop that is required and then sew them together. This way, I'm able to exhibit my creativity.

Vocabulary

Ingenious
Meaning: (of a person) clever, original, and inventive.
Eg: The ingenious detective solved the case effectively.

Fake
Meaning: not genuine; imitation or counterfeit.
Eg: John was fined for submitting a fake document.

Occasionally
Meaning: at infrequent or irregular intervals; now and then.
Eg: The older man's son visits him occasionally.

Show off
Meaning: display someone or something that is a source of pride.
Eg: The little boy showed off his new PlayStation to his friends.

Sew
Meaning: join, fasten, or repair (something) by making stitches with a needle and thread or a sewing machine.
Eg: The tailor sewed my dress within a couple of days.

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20. Wild Animals

Questions

1. Do you like to watch TV programs about wild animals?
2. Did you learn something about wild animals at school?
3. Where can you see wild animals?
4. In which country do you think you can see a lot of wild animals?
5. Have you ever seen any wild animals before?
6. What wild animal do you like the most?

Sample Answers

1 Do you like to watch TV programs about wild animals?

Undoubtedly, yes. As an animal enthusiast, I love watching TV programs and documentaries that feature wild animals, their behaviour, habitats, species, the food they consume, and so on. As a viewer, we get to learn so much about the wild animals. It's fascinating and thought-provoking to watch the surprisingly super intelligent and complex wild animals.

2 Did you learn something about wild animals at school?

Of course. I learnt a lot of information about wild animals, their species, and habitats in my Zoology class. The lessons gave an insight into the habits of wild animals. However, these lessons were not in-depth, so I'd say my horizons about wild animals broadened after watching the wild animal documentaries on television.

3 Where can you see wild animals?

Wild animals in my country are usually found in Zoological parks, sanctuaries, or national parks. Animals like elephants and horses can be found in circuses as they perform various tasks. But in other countries, wild animals live in their habitats, which are their natural homes, like mountains, pine tree forests, rainforests, or beaches.

4 In which country do you think you can see a lot of wild animals?

Well, fauna can be found anywhere across the world. All developed countries conserve wild animals either in a national Park or in a zoo. However, as per the records, wild animals like

jaguars, ocelots, foxes, anteaters, otters, and others can be seen in the Amazon rainforests in Brazil, which is one of the most renowned countries for animals. Besides, there's a lot of wildlife preserves in South Africa, where an individual can witness endangered species that can't be seen anywhere else.

5 Have you ever seen any wild animals before?

Yes. I saw some when I visited Khao Yai National Park in Thailand. It is one of the most valued spots for environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts. I saw some wild beasts like Polar Bears, Tigers, Binturong, Pangolin, Asian water monitor lizards, King Cobra, and so on. It is a memory that will stay with me for a lifetime.

6 What wild animal do you like the most?

Well, of all the wild animals, I like the majestic Bengal Tigers, also known as the Royal Tiger. The striped beasts are the most prominent members of the cat family. I like them because they are a perfect combination of courage, power, and rage.

Vocabulary

Enthusiast
Meaning: a person who is very interested in a particular activity or subject.
Eg: Since Mona was a nature enthusiast, her friends planned a nature themed birthday party.

Stripe
Meaning: a long, narrow band or strip differing in colour or texture from the surface on either side of it
Eg: John wore a striped shirt to the event.

Thought-provoking
Meaning: challenging or causing someone to think,
Eg: Although Winton's ideas were thought-provoking, the teacher selected Bill's silly idea.

Insight
Meaning: an accurate and deep understanding.
Eg: The presentation gave me an insight into the real estate market.

Documentary
Meaning: a film or television or radio programme that provides a factual report on a particular subject.
Eg: The short documentary features the famous politician, Mr. Paul.

21. Wallet

Questions

1. Do you use a wallet?
2. Have you ever lost a wallet?
3. Have you ever sent a wallet to someone as a gift?
4. Do most of your friends use a wallet?

Sample Answers

1 Do you use a wallet?

Yes, I use a wallet to keep my cash, card, slips or documents, etc., safely. It is very convenient for me to carry it anywhere. Also, a wallet is very useful in protecting our highly valued things.

2 Have you ever lost a wallet?

Yes, I vividly remember the moment when I lost a wallet. It was a rainy day when my friend and I went to a nearby departmental store to purchase snacks. Usually, I used to keep my wallet inside my bag for safety purposes. After purchasing, we had to stand in the queue for a long time, and when it was my turn to pay, I discovered that my wallet was nowhere to be found in my bag. I panicked and searched for it everywhere, but I couldn't find it anywhere, to my dismay. Later, my friend decided to pay for the snacks we bought.

3 Have you ever sent a wallet to someone as a gift?

Yes, I gifted a wallet to my brother on the occasion of his 14th birthday. Since I wanted him to save money and become responsible, I preferred to give him a wallet as a gift.

4 Do most of your friends use a wallet?

Yes, Most of my friends use a wallet as they find it very convenient to store cash/card and carry it anywhere. Moreover, we can keep many other things in the wallet depending upon its size and quality.

Vocabulary

Convenient - fitting in well with a person's needs, activities, and plans.

Eg: It was very convenient for me to work from home.

Vividly - in a way that produces powerful feelings or strong, clear images in mind.
Eg: I vividly remember my convocation day.

Queue- a line or sequence of people awaiting their turn to be attended to or to proceed.
Eg: Jack waited in the queue for almost 40 minutes to get entry to the exhibition.

Panic - feel or cause to feel panic.
Eg: When the aeroplane didn't take off, all the passengers panicked.

Occasion - reason; cause.
Eg: On the occasion of Independence Day, the school hoisted the national flag.

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22. Car Trip

Questions

1. Do you like to travel by car?
2. When do you travel by car?
3. Where is the farthest place you've traveled by car?
4. Do you like to sit in the back or front when traveling by car?

Sample Answers

1 Do you like to travel by car?

Of course, I love to commute by car because of its convenience and flexibility. I can go anywhere I want without any difficulty and take shortcuts during traffic congestion. Moreover, it's a lot better than public transportation and time-saving.

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2 When do you travel by car?

I usually don't use the car to travel short distances. But whenever I want to visit far-off places or go out of town, I use my car so that I can reach my destination within a short period.

3 Where is the farthest place you've traveled by car?

Well, the farthest place I've traveled by car is from Bangalore to Pondicherry, which was almost 317 KM, and it was around 7 hours 6 minutes. The roads were in very good condition, and I witnessed different kinds of plantations and beautiful scenic views. Overall, it was a phenomenal drive and a memorable experience.

4 Do you like to sit in the back or front when traveling by car?

I prefer to drive the car or sit in the front row rather than sitting at the back. I like sitting in the front row as I can keep a check on the traffic. Moreover, I get to see a spectacular view of the never-ending roads.

Vocabulary

Commute - travel some distance between one's home and place of work on a regular basis.

Eg: John commuted from his home to Park Tower via a cab.

Time-saving - reducing the amount of time needed to do something.
Eg: My mother bought a new time-saving vacuum cleaner, which was a great help to her.

Destination - the place to which someone or something is going or being sent
Eg: He said that he'd reach the destination within an hour.

Memorable - worth remembering or easily remembered, especially because of being special or unusual
Eg: I had a memorable experience with my cousins in Kashmir.

Never-ending - having or seeming to have no end.
Eg: I was mesmerized by the never-ending blue sea.

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23. Sky and Stars

Questions

1. Do you like to watch the sky?
2. What is the sky like at night in your hometown?
3. Can you see the moon and stars where you live?
4. Have you ever taken a course about stars?
5. What's your favourite star?

Sample Answer

1 Do you like to watch the sky?

Well, who doesn't love to look at the beautiful blue sky in the morning and twinkling stars at night? I personally enjoy watching the magnificent beauty of the sky in the day and stargazing at night. It gives me a feeling of peace and tranquillity.

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2 What is the sky like at night in your hometown?

My hometown is situated in the country's rural area, and whenever I visit the place during the daytime, I get to see the clear sky with no pollution and smoke. Further, the stars lighting up the sky at night and the moon being reflected on the bank of a river is one of the most magical sights, where we even get a chance to spot different constellations and stars.

3 Can you see the moon and stars where you live?

Sadly, I live in a metropolitan area, where air pollution is more prevalent, and the sky is always hazy during the day and at night, due to which it's impossible to see the moon and stars.

4 Have you ever taken a course about stars?

No, I have not enrolled in any course about stars. But I had a brief introduction to astrophysics and astronomy during my Bachelor's when I studied physics as an elective subject. But other than that, I have not studied the concept of stars intensely. If given a chance to study astronomy, I'd love to know about the evolution of stars, constellations, the milky way, and many more.

5 What's your favourite star?

Well, I don't know much about all of the stars present in the galaxy, but as a matter of fact, the Sun is also a star, and so I'd count the Sun as my favourite. It radiates light, heat, and energy, which keeps us alive. So overall, it is responsible for the existence of all life on Earth. Besides, I love watching the sunset and sunrise, as it gives me a feeling of warmth, appreciation and immense gratitude towards Mother Earth.

Vocabulary

Stargazing - observe the stars
Eg: I used to stargaze when I was a kid.

Magnificent - extremely beautiful, elaborate, or impressive
Eg: Rose was mesmerized by the idol's beauty.

Magical - relating to, using, or resembling magic.
Eg: It was a magical sight to see the Palace lit up so beautifully.

Enroll - officially register as a member of an institution or a student on a course.
Eg: Jack enrolled in an MBA program at a renowned university.

Existence - the fact or state of living or having objective reality.
Eg: The Museum has been in existence for a decade.

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24. Relax

Questions

1. What do you do to relax?
2. Do you think doing sports is a good way to relax?
3. Do you think vacation is a good time for you to relax?
4. Do you think students need more relaxing time?

Sample Answer

1 What do you do to relax?

Well, there are ample things which I do for relaxation. Some of my stress-busters are meditation, yoga, listening to music, dancing, gardening, talking to a friend or admiring nature to replenish and rejuvenate myself.

2 Do you think doing sports is a good way to relax?

Maybe! Some people prefer to do exercise or work out to relax; it helps them stay calm and composed. Also, it's an acknowledged fact that sports is one of the effective ways of relaxation. In contrast, some people lie down, surf the internet and relax. Thus, it varies based on the individual.

3 Do you think vacation is a good time for you to relax?

Without a doubt, yes. Everyone loves vacationing as it gives them an opportunity to relax, refresh, and rejuvenate. In addition, it gives them a break from their busy schedules and monotonous lifestyle. Also, some people plan and go on holiday to a different city whilst some people stay indoors and enjoy vacationing at home.

4 Do you think students need more relaxing time?

Certainly, Yes! Students have tremendous academic pressure and emotional stress. Therefore, they need to relax to focus on their studies. Therefore, they should be given additional time to relax as it may positively impact their learning ability.

Vocabulary

Ample - enough or more than enough; plentiful.
Eg: Students got ample time to complete the exam.

Rejuvenate - give new energy or vigour to; revitalize.
Eg: Rose visits the SPA to rejuvenate her skin.

Acknowledge - accept or admit the existence or truth of.
Eg: Meera's mother acknowledged her daughter's interest in music and enrolled her in the music classes.

Monotonous - dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest.
Eg: Jack was tired of his monotonous work-life, so he decided to quit.

Tremendous - very great in amount, scale, or intensity.
Eg: The city was hit by a tremendous earthquake.

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25. Holidays

Questions

1. What public holidays do you have in your country?
2. Which public holidays do you like the most?
3. What was the best holiday of your life?
4. Do you like to spend the holidays with your family or friends?

Sample Answers

1 What public holidays do you have in your country?

Well, Public holidays in Canada are also known as Statutory Holidays or stats holidays. There are several public holidays, to name a few are the New Year, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday, Labour Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day.

2 Which public holidays do you like the most?

The obvious answer is Christmas as I get a chance to reunite with everyone in my family. Usually, my father invites a few friends and relatives to celebrate and enjoy each other's company on Christmas day. Moreover, we give each other extravagant gifts and forget our differences. Thus, without a doubt, Christmas is a wonderful time of the year.

3 What was the best holiday of your life?

One of the best holidays of my life was when I visited the most exotic place, Maldives. I had a very exhilarating experience at the island, where I witnessed the spectacular sandy beaches, turquoise waters, and amazing views. In addition, I enjoyed snorkelling, surfing, and various other activities. Moreover, everyone I met on the island was very welcoming and hospitable. Overall, I had a very good time, and I made some amazing memories.

4 Do you like to spend the holidays with your family or friends?

Of course, I like to spend the holidays with my family and friends, but it depends on the type of holiday. That being said, if it's a Christmas holiday, I'd spend it with my family, but if it's a New Year party, I'd definitely spend and enjoy my time with my friends.

Vocabulary

Obvious - easily perceived or understood; clear, self-evident, or apparent.
Eg: It was obvious that the interview will be conducted online.

Extravagant - lacking restraint in spending money or using resources.
Eg: The event manager planned an extravagant outing for his clients.

Differences - a point or way in which people or things are dissimilar.
Eg: The couple couldn't solve their differences, so they consulted a therapist.

Exotic - very different, strange, or unusual.
Eg: Bali is an exotic place for a vacation.

Hospitable - friendly and welcoming to visitors or guests.
Eg: The Vietnamese people were extremely humble and hospitable.

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IELTS Speaking – Part 2 & 3

1. Describe a time when you felt proud of a family member

You should say

- **When did it happen?**
- **Who is this person?**
- **What did the person do?**
- **And explain why you felt proud of him/her.**

Sample Answer:

Being an integral part of this materialistic world, often people leave no stone unturned to rake in massive amounts of money. However, in contrast to these people, there are some who still go beyond the conventional limits to offer unabated support to those in need.

I am grateful to have such an individual in my own family. And, he is none other than my father, Mr. Rakesh Sinha. Lately, he helped up to 10 people with their medical care.

Since the world does not cease to surprise us with turbulent times, a lot of businesses shut down with each passing day. Worse, some even come on the verge of extinction. So, during the second wave of Covid-19 in India, while most hospitals and privately functioning doctors were minting money, they had the least interest in providing medical facilities without their own benefits. During this time, there was an acute shortage of beds in the hospitals. Moreover, the medical system was completely disarrayed. Seeing the plight of those people and feeling blessed with the privileges, my father decided to arrange free medical treatments for needy people. He worked with dedication and determination for an entire month and managed to save several lives.

I feel extremely proud to be his daughter. Unlike other people, my father did not care about losing his money for innocent people. Rather, he was instrumental in spending from his own pocket to save others.

Vocabulary

Integral
Meaning: necessary
Eg: Completing graduation is an integral step to enrolling in the master's course.

Conventional
Meaning: behaving in a normal or traditional way
Eg: We need to break the conventional chains and change our attitude with time.

Unabated
Meaning: without becoming weaker
Eg: If global warming continues unabated, the world will burn itself down.

Turbulent
Meaning: a state of agitation
Eg: Business losses have created a turbulent life for me.

Minting
Meaning: to earn a large amount of money
Eg: After the success of his startup, my cousin is minting money like never before.

Part 3

1 When would parents feel proud of their children?

Parents feel proud of their children when they are consummate in something or accomplish their objectives, be it getting good grades in school or getting into an athletic team in college. For younger children, parents do feel when they achieve tiny milestones, such as taking the first step, saying the first word, and more.

2 Should parents reward children? Why and how?

Yes, parents should take into consideration rewarding their children from time to time for every achievement. It invigorates them to consistently work hard and do good deeds in life. However, rather than offering materialistic rewards, parents can try praising their children in front of relatives, spend time with them outside, or take them for their favourite activity.

3 Is it good to reward children too often? Why?

From my perspective, I don't think parents should reward their children too often as it may integrate a sense of entitlement into their brains. Buying them gadgets or toys as rewards can push them towards the materialistic world. By doing so, youngsters may get more inclined towards rewards and do nothing out of passion.

4 On what occasions would adults be proud of themselves?

Adults come across a gamut of such occasions when they feel proud of themselves, such as grabbing the promotion they were eying for long or buying their first home or buying their dream car, and more.

Vocabulary

Consummate
Meaning: extremely skilled
Eg: My sister is a consummate singer.

Invigorate
Meaning: to make something feel full of energy
Eg: Yoga invigorates me like nothing else.

Entitlement
Meaning: the official right to receive or have something
Eg: Taking this decision may affect your entitlement to pension.

Inclined
Meaning: wanting to behave in a specific way
Eg: I am inclined towards the idea of working from home.

Gamut
Meaning: a complete range of something
Eg: On an online ecommerce site, you can find a gamut of products to buy from one place.

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2. Describe a businessman you admire

You should say

- **Who is this person?**
- **How do you know this person?**
- **What kind of business does this person do?**
- **Why do you admire this person?**

Sample Answer:

Often, I find myself inclined toward biographies of successful business personalities from across the world as they, I believe, could be the best teachers. They allow us to learn a lot from their real experiences.

Lately, I came across an article about how a barber turned into a businessman and now has a worth of billions altogether. Post reading the article, I was extremely fascinated by his sheer hard work and destiny. And now, I admire him the most. Commencing his journey with a humble beginning, Ramesh ended up losing both of his parents at a young age, resulting in the inability to attend school.
To survive in this cut-throat world, he began working as a barber and gave haircuts at Rs. 2. However, nothing could overshadow his intelligence and wittiness. Thus, after saving from his barber's work, he bought a second-hand car and began a car rental business. Despite upgrading his venture, he didn't cease to give haircuts. Gradually and steadily, his car rental business grew profoundly, making him the billionaire that he is today. In his fleet, he owns hundreds of cars, including Rolls-Royce and Maserati.

I admire Ramesh Babu because despite living a king-sized life, he contributes heavily to society. His benefaction has made him a true legend. I am following him religiously on social media channels, especially Twitter, where he consistently shares innovative ideas and motivates the younger generation to follow their dreams.

Just like many in the queue, I wish to become as successful as Mr. Ramesh Babu someday.

Vocabulary

Inclined
Meaning: wanting to behave in a specific manner
Eg: I am familiar with the benefits of Ayurveda, so I am inclined towards it.

Fascinated
Meaning: to interest or attract somebody
Eg: Indian culture has always fascinated me.

Sheer
Meaning: used to emphasize
Eg: To drink and drive is sheer stupidity.

Commencing
Meaning: Beginning
Eg: I am commencing my new business next month.

Benefaction
Meaning: a donation
Eg: Mr. Ratan Tata is highly praised for his benefaction.

Part 3

1 What do you think should be the retirement age for men and women?

As per my opinion, the retirement age should be more according to the profession than gender. In such professions that require physical fitness as a pivotal part, the retirement age should be lower, while for office jobs, the age could be higher. In general, an ideal retirement age should be 60 - 65 years.

2 What qualities do people need to run their own business?

I believe that the prime quality everybody should be adept at is financial management. Ultimately, the success of any business is based on the amount of profit it is making and how excess money is being used. Besides, people must also have leadership skills ingrained in them as they would have to delegate responsibilities.

3 What do you think are the key factors that contribute to the success of a business?

I believe there are many factors that ascertain the success of a business. Also, the importance of these factors varies as per the business type. For instance, to run a successful restaurant, good location, quality service, and delicious food are more vital than anything else. Overall, I'd say that providing quality products and fulfilling the demand can make any business successful.

4 If you had the opportunity to open your own business, what would it be and why?

Just like everybody else, I am somehow fascinated by the idea of running my own business as well. So, if I get a chance, I would love to start a clothing store. I love fashion, and I stay

updated with everything in vogue. So, it would be more of a passion than just a mere business for me.

5 Is it better to start a business alone or as a team?

Well, it would be beneficial to begin the business as a team. This way, you can brainstorm better and develop plenty of ideas to double the financial capital. If you start alone, seeking advice from others becomes a tough task. Hence, you may find it strenuous to make decisions and take risks. Having a partner always helps divide the workload; thus, preventing burnout.

Vocabulary

Pivotal
Meaning: important
Eg: It is pivotal to express yourself to save relationships.

Prime
Meaning: main
Eg: I am a prime candidate for the captain's position.

Ascertain
Meaning: to determine something
Eg: I am ascertaining my option from the given list.

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Fascinated
Meaning: attracted
Eg: I am fascinated by the idea of becoming my own boss.

Strenuous
Meaning: something that uses a lot of energy
Eg: I find completing my to-do list quite strenuous.

3. Describe a creative person whose work you admire

You should say:

- **Who is he/she?**
- **How do you know him/her?**
- **What creative things has he/she done?**
- **And explain why you think he or she is creative?**

Sample Answer

I have a flair and an eye for creativity and I always get enchanted by a piece of creative work. One such person who has never failed to lure me by his tangent of creativity is Hemant. He is a great pal of mine and we met in the sophomore year of my college. He ensures to add a tinge of art in almost everything, be it his room decor, craftwork, designing of his vehicles, and so on and so forth. He never fails to attract attention for his novel piece of innovation. One such incident where he completely swept the ground with his talent was in the calligraphy competition that occurred during the Annual Fest of our college, in which he participated in the eleventh hour. Understandably, we didn't have very high hopes for him, and all of us were discussing that he wouldn't be able to make it this time as he wasn't prepared. We were about to leave when the bell rang as the time was up and all the participants were called to the centre of the stage to show their art piece. The next moment I vividly remember was when the whole of the auditorium was filled with applause and whistles, and this legendary boy was able to continue his streak of winning the contest again. He is absolutely a master of creativity who doesn't really need time to prepare himself. He seems to have this running in his blood. I am his absolute admirer.

Vocabulary

Flair
Meaning: Inclination
Eg: I have a flair for writing and so I took this job.

Enchanted
Meaning: Attracted
Eg: I was enchanted by the movie.

Lure
Meaning: Fascinated
Eg: This town and its weather always lure me.

Tinge
Meaning: Shade
Eg: This tinge of green color in this pastry makes it even more appealing.

Vividly
Meaning: Clearly
Eg: I vividly remember the first day of my school till today.

Part 3

1 Do you think you are a creative person?

Well, I guess I am. I always like having my creativity come to the forefront whenever there is an opportunity, like while writing something or singing a combination of songs together, and so on. Though I won't rate myself too high on creativity, yes, I have a penchant for it. I like writing and music and never miss a chance to experiment with it.

2 Is it good for children to learn arts?

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Yes absolutely. I believe it is immensely useful for the children to learn arts as it gives them the feathers to fly and explore their creative selves. I think humans are innately creative and making children learn art would provide them ample opportunities to dig deeper into their creative selves. At times, people never realize that they were excellent at a particular task as they never got exposed to it. Hence, I believe teaching art for kids should rather be a priority, thereby making them cognizant of a colourful world of creativity.

3 What kind of jobs require people to be creative?

I believe almost all the jobs command creativity and novelty as otherwise even the best of the jobs with the widest scope of creativity could be rendered drab and lustreless. However, some of the jobs that obligatorily need people to be creative are painters, designers, writers, public speakers, Event planners, and Marketers. That being said, I still feel there is no job that could work efficiently without creativity and creative approaches.

4 Do you think leaders need to have the creative ability?

Most certainly! Leaders have to be mandatorily creative and innovative in all aspects without fail. People look up to someone who has got new and unprecedented things to offer. Nobody would follow or willingly listen to an individual who serves similar hackneyed and mundane

stuff to the people who follow him/her. People like freshness and newness. A common and usual person is too normal to be a leader.

Vocabulary

Immensely
Meaning: Greatly
Eg: This town is immensely populated.

Render
Meaning: Give
Eg: He rendered me his pair of new shoes for the party.

Drab
Meaning: Boring
Eg: This job is too drab to be applied for.

Lustreless
Meaning: Uninteresting
Eg: He said his daily life has become a lustreless routine.

Mandatorily
Meaning: Necessarily
Eg: This project is to be submitted mandatorily. Please make sure you complete it ahead of time.

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4. Describe a difficult thing you did

You should say:

- **What was it?**
- **How did you complete it?**
- **Why was it difficult?**
- **And how did you feel about doing it?**

Sample Answer

Since my childhood, I have never liked any complexities in life. At almost every step of my life, I tried keeping things short and simple. However, in a few situations, the circumstances prompt me to go with arduous tasks just to get a different taste of life. Lately, I had one such experience when I finished a daunting task after a lot of effort and hard work.

With India being hit by the second wave of Covid-19, the country was experiencing a tough time. Keeping the havoc in mind, the higher authorities imposed stringent restrictions, and the nation was under lockdown. Since all educational institutions were shut down, I was forced to give exams online. However, unfortunately, just a few days before my final exam, my phone stopped working. On top of that, to my dismay, all of the shops were closed at that time. I did not have any other option than to repair the phone on my own.

Definitely, it was taxing for me as I didn't have any know-how about the repair. While I was pretty good at operating the phone, I was a rookie at repair.

Here, my wits and quick learning skills came to the rescue. To begin with, I resorted to the internet to get help. I watched plenty of videos and read an array of articles. It took me almost 7 hours to figure out a minor issue that could have been corrected in 10 minutes, given I was a professional. With the unabated support of the internet and my zeal to get my phone running, I managed to repair it after hours altogether. However, it didn't end there as the challenging part was to reassemble the phone post repairing it.

Once done, I sighed in relief and felt proud of myself. After all, I had learned how to repair a phone - all by myself.

All in all, I believe that tackling challenging tasks is a must-have attribute that everybody should follow to gain success in life.

Vocabulary

Prompt
Meaning: act without delay
Eg: I am always prompt in paying my bills.

Arduous
Meaning: difficult
Eg: Completing minor tasks when you are ill is arduous.

Stringent
Meaning: strict
Eg: I was happy to move out of my family and escape the stringent rules.

Dismay
Meaning: a feeling of disappointment or sadness
Eg: To my dismay, I realized I had missed the flight.

Zeal
Meaning: great enthusiasm or energy
Eg: My zeal helped me stand out from other candidates in the interview.

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Part 3

1 What kinds of jobs require people to be confident?

Nearly all kinds of job roles require the incumbent to have some degree of confidence. If individuals do not believe in themselves, no matter how competent they are, they will fail. Sometimes, even if a person does not possess the required skill set to perform a task, they can get the job done if they have confidence. In my opinion, jobs that fall in the category of sales and public relations require the job holders to be extremely confident. Since people who work in such job roles mainly perform the task of handling customers and the general public, having a confident personality is a must for such positions.

2 On what occasions should children be encouraged? How?

Children should always be supported in their endeavours. One of the finest ways of facilitating the growth of a child is to encourage them to pursue their interests. Children should be encouraged when they are unsure of their abilities. There are numerous occasions when children doubt themselves and often give up due to the fear of failure. Youngsters, especially young children, should be encouraged by their parents. Encouragement can be given by providing assistance and reassurance to children regardless of their capabilities.

3 How do you help children stay focused?

First of all, it is important to understand that the needs of every child are different. There are several ways to help children remain focused. Some children can easily concentrate on a task if the activity they are doing is engaging. Some children tend to be more focused if their ambience is calm and free from distractions. It is important to recognise the individual needs of a child before attempting to help them concentrate on their daily activities.

4 What challenges do young people face today?

There are several problems that young people have to deal with regularly. Adolescence, late teenage and early adulthood are some of the most difficult times in a person's life. Youth is a period of time when an individual is confused, frustrated and in some cases unhappy with the state of their life. One of the biggest challenges faced by young people is in determining their goals and aspirations. Young people are often perplexed when it comes to choosing a definite path that provides them with opportunities and certainty.

5 What are the most difficult things for youngsters to do?

There are several aspects of a youngster's life that are difficult to deal with. Young people often face problems that may seem insurmountable and even discouraging. Since youth is a time when a person is about to begin their journey as a self-sufficient individual, there are various tough decisions that need to be taken. One of the most difficult things for youngsters to do is make prudent decisions. Since young people lack sufficient life experience, they are often faced with the consequences of uninformed decisions and hasty choices.

Vocabulary

Incumbent
Meaning: the holder of an office or post.
Eg: The incumbent of the current Junior Lecturer of Media Studies position was quite competent.

Endeavours
Meaning: an attempt to achieve a goal.
Eg: They wished him good luck for all his future endeavours.

Ambience
Meaning: the character and atmosphere of a place.
Eg: The ambience of this restaurant is quite welcoming.

Adolescence
Meaning: the period following the onset of puberty during which a young person develops from a child into an adult.

Eg: Adolescence is a difficult time for everyone.

Insurmountable
Meaning: too great to be overcome.
Eg: The pain he suffered from was insurmountable.

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5. Describe a person who solved a problem in a smart way

You should say:

- **Who is this person?**
- **What was the problem?**
- **How did he/she solve it?**
- **And explain why you think he/ she did it in a smart way?**

Sample Answer

I have always considered myself to be a clever person, but there are times when a situation is so unnerving that it is difficult to come up with a solution. During such times, I feel blessed to have sensible and resourceful friends. Although I am rarely in a dicey situation that I cannot find my way out of, there have been times when it was the quick-wit of a friend which saved me. I would like to talk about one instance where Ishaan, a very close friend of mine, was able to get me out of a tough situation. It was during the first semester of college, and I had just gotten my driver's license, so I had been taking my father's motorcycle to the institute. One day, we had plans to visit another friend who stayed close to me. Ishaan and I were going to meet him on my father's motorbike. Unfortunately, the vehicle ran into problems and stopped suddenly on the road. Since we were in the middle of a busy road, I steered the bike towards the side, and both of us began to look for the cause of such a snag. Since this was the first time I had faced such a problem with the bike, I started panicking about the situation. Nevertheless, Ishaan quickly figured out that there was a connection problem with the vehicle's battery, and he was right. I was relieved and impressed with how quickly he figured out and even solved the problem by making a few tweaks to the battery, and we were able to carry on without any hassle.

Vocabulary

Unnerving
Meaning: causing one to lose courage or confidence; disconcerting.
Eg: The days before the final results were unnerving

Resourceful
Meaning: having the ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties.
Eg: He was known to be a resourceful person.

Dicey
Meaning: unpredictable and potentially dangerous.

Eg: They found themselves in a dicey situation.

Snag
Meaning: an unexpected or hidden obstacle or drawback.
Eg: There was a snag when we operated the new machinery.

Tweaks
Meaning: a fine adjustment to a mechanism or system.
Eg: The engineer made a few tweaks to the machine and it worked better than before.

Part 3

1 Do you think children are born smart or do they learn to become smart?

In my opinion, smartness is an attribute that one acquires with experience. An individual can indeed have hereditary abilities that make them brighter than the average person. For example, when examined, Albert Einstein's brain was said to be younger than the average person's brain at the age of his death. Nevertheless, a person can be extremely intelligent and lack common sense at the same time. Thus, even if a person is born with a sharp mind, prudent decisions can only be made with experience and wisdom.

2 How do children become smart at school?

Children are known to be easily influenced by their surroundings. They adopt habits that they find to be intriguing and follow in the footsteps of their idols and peers alike. If a child is surrounded by friends and teachers who are brainy and sharp-witted, the cognitive development of that student is imminent. Similarly, it is an observable fact that being in the company of dull and incompetent peers makes a person ignorant as well. Thus, it can be assumed that if a child is blessed with skilful teachers and a bright group of friends, they tend to become smart themselves.

3 Why are some people well-rounded and others only good at one thing?

A person can have an array of abilities, and it is entirely dependent on the individual on which of these abilities is more apparent. Many individuals are good at a multitude of activities. However, some individuals are competent in only a certain discipline. Such a phenomenon can have several causes behind it, but such traits are quite common. Usually, all-rounders are known to be sociable as they learn new things from peers, friends or even strangers. On the other hand, individuals who are good at one thing are usually more introverted than others. Thus, they find joy in only a few activities.

4 Why does modern society need talent of all kinds?

Competition is one of the hallmarks of present-day society. If an individual is not proficient in a range of activities, they are often looked down upon by peers. At the same time, employers of the present generation are known to be demanding and expect candidates to multitask regularly. Also, a person needs to be capable of handling multiple responsibilities, especially during their youth, to cope with the challenging environment of modern society. Thus, it is natural for people to develop a knack for all kinds of tasks to be able to survive and thrive in this present day and age.

5 How can we assist youngsters in realising their potential?

There is a common issue with children being forced to follow whatever the majority is doing. There are many cases of students who choose a discipline or even a profession due to its universality and later regret their decision. Parents and teachers need to encourage youngsters to develop interests and hobbies that are stimulating to them. When an individual is exposed to a range of activities, it becomes easier for them to recognize their passion. Thus, to facilitate the growth of the youth into realizing their potential, we must support them in their endeavours.

Vocabulary

Hereditary
Meaning: (of a characteristic or disease) determined by genetic factors and therefore able to be passed on from parents to their offspring or descendants.
Eg: Her love for apples was hereditary.

Intriguing
Meaning: arousing one's curiosity or interest; fascinating.
Eg: The artistry of Dali is intriguing.

Multitude
Meaning: a large number of people or things.
Eg: There is a multitude of reasons why this plan will not work.

Hallmarks
Meaning: a distinctive feature.
Eg: Courage and sensibility are the hallmarks of a wise person.

Universality
Meaning: the quality of involving or being shared by all people or things in the world or in a particular group.
Eg: The universality of social media in this era is concerning.

6. Describe an art or craft activity that you had in school

You should say:

- **What did you make?**
- **How did you make it?**
- **What did it look like?**
- **And how did you feel about the activity?**

Sample Answer

Arts and crafts did not fall under the most popular activity among my friends and other schoolmates, yet I was always inclined towards such creative escapades. The form of art that stimulated me the most was painting, and here I would like to talk about this art form and my experience with different painting styles and themes that I came across and learnt during school. Initially, the artworks that I came across in school textbooks never really struck a chord with me, and neither did I put much thought into them or what they were trying to portray. However, my perspective dramatically changed after our art teacher showed us a replica of a brilliant painting by M. F. Husain. Although the painting was a mere imitation, the eccentric imagery, which was oddly captivating, fascinated me like no other piece of art had done until that point in my life. Subsequently, my curiosity about this art form increased with time as I came across more stunning artworks through different sources. The first painting I made was in the 9th grade when we were asked to create something about our country, and the best artworks were to be published in our school newspaper on Independence Day. I was thrilled by this opportunity and put my heart and soul into creating a canvas painting with watercolours that would impress my teachers and classmates. Happily, I was able to convey my patriotism through my work, which depicted the Indian Army as they hoisted our national flag at our borders. My art teacher was delighted to see my painting and recommended it to the editing team of my school newspaper. The entire experience of painting my first piece of art was enriching, and I have considered painting and sketching my passion ever since.

Vocabulary

Escapades
Meaning: An action that involves excitement and adventure
Eg: The travellers had several stories regarding their thrilling escapades.

Portray
Meaning: depict (someone or something) in a work of art or literature
Eg: The work of this artist portrays his vulnerability.

Fascinate
Meaning: attract the strong attention and interest of (someone)
Eg: The on-lookers were fascinated by the magician's jaw-dropping tricks.

Captivating
Meaning: capable of attracting and holding interest
Eg: The paintings of Salvador Dali are captivating.

Enriching
Meaning: improve or enhance the quality or value of
Eg: The meditation classes were an enriching experience.

Part 3

1 What kinds of traditional handicrafts are there in your country?

India, the country that I hail from, is one of the richest countries in regards to handicrafts. The countless indigenous handiworks and textiles are a significant part of Indian culture. Some of the well-known traditional handiworks include the Pashmina shawls from Kashmir, the exquisite woodworks of the northern regions including Punjab, painted pottery from the state of Rajasthan and the jute handicrafts from Bengal. The popularity of Indian handicrafts is so widespread that such products have a huge demand across the world.

2 Should children learn more about art? / What are the benefits of making handcrafts?

Art should be an essential part of a child's learning phase. It originates from the creative space in our minds and is the only discipline that cannot be taught using a defined system. Proficiency in a particular work of art can only be achieved through self-interest and one's creative skills. Therefore, encouraging children to learn and develop an interest in any kind of art or craft is bound to enhance their creativity.

3 Why do some people think it is difficult to understand art?

It is a common belief that art is not everyone's cup of tea. Although the rationale behind this idea is simple and understandable to a certain extent, such notions are one-sided in nature. It is a well-known fact that art is entirely subjective. A piece of art can remarkably impact an individual, whereas the same can end up making no sense to another individual. Thus, when people are unable to decipher an artist's creation, they deem their work as incomprehensible and even illogical.

4 What can we do to make young people pay more attention to traditional art?

With changing times, the interests of the youth are also changing. The activities that engrossed our previous generations have become uneventful to the younger population in this era. Thus,

to pique the interest of younger people in traditional art, such creative activities must be presented in a modern way. The activities popular among the youth must be amalgamated with fine arts. Arts and crafts contests must be held in school and college festivals. Information and knowledge about different artworks must be integrated with popular culture to grab the attention of the younger generation.

5 Do you think it's important to cultivate an appreciation of art in children?

In my opinion, introducing children to art and educating them to admire the creative mastery in great works of art is crucial in the development of their personalities. If a child is always engaged in school work and theoretical disciplines, their knowledge is bound to remain limited. Developing a keen interest in any art form is a gateway to discovering further areas of interest. At the same time, being devoid of any artistic awareness can also lead to a person lagging in social interactions. Thus, children should be encouraged to follow their preferred works of art from an early age.

6 Do you think art should be included in school curriculums? Why?

I believe that arts and crafts should be made a compulsory subject in the school curriculum. Although many schools include such disciplines in their curriculum, proper schooling is not provided to students in regards to art. There are several reasons why arts and crafts should be given more emphasis during a child's education. Firstly, they promote creativity and help children artistically express themselves. Secondly, they also help children discover their passion and even their preferred vocation. Furthermore, such activities help children balance their time between schoolwork and creative pursuits.

Vocabulary

Indigenous
Meaning: originating or occurring naturally in a particular place
Eg: This form of art is indigenous to India

Decipher
Meaning: succeed in understanding, interpreting, or identifying
Eg: The detective was unable to decipher the criminal's intentions.

Incomprehensible
Meaning: not able to be understood
Eg: The handwriting on this particular answer script was incomprehensible.

Amalgamated
Meaning: combine or unite to form one organization or structure.
Eg: This movie perfectly amalgamated the current political scenario and the director's opinions.

Vocation
Meaning: a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation.
Eg: The vocation of being a singer is not suitable for everyone.

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7. Describe a law on environmental protection.

You should say:

- **What is it?**
- **How did you first learn about it?**
- **Who benefits from it?**
- **And explain how you feel about this law?**

Sample Answer

Looking at the appalling conditions of the natural surroundings in this present day and age, laws and regulations for the protection of the environment are being implemented by the governments of several countries across the world. The law in particular that I am going to talk about is crucial for the preservation of our environment and the prevention of its further degradation. One of the chief causes of environmental degradation is the widespread increase of non-biodegradable waste, especially plastic. Since plastic and similar substances cannot decompose and become a part of the environment, they have a detrimental effect on the area where they are discarded. The prevalence of plastic is a consequence of its cost-effective nature. The production of plastic and other non-biodegradable materials has surged to such an extent that some believe that the damage caused by such harmful substances is irreversible. Nonetheless, measures are being taken to ameliorate the situation as governments are becoming aware of the dire consequences of plastic. Many states across our country have completely banned the use of plastic, especially in convenience stores. Special laws have been passed in various states that penalize the use of plastic, and anyone caught using plastic bags is bound to pay a hefty fine to the authorities. I first noticed this phenomenon when many convenience stores in my locality completely shifted to jute bags or paper bags to provide their customers with during purchases. This regulation has led to a significant reduction in the production of plastic waste in the regions where similar laws have been introduced. The positive impact of this measure is felt by the general public, as it has led to cleaner living conditions. I feel that such laws need to be implemented on a national level and immediate steps should be taken by the central government to address the situation.

Vocabulary

Appalling
Meaning: very bad, awful
Eg: The performance of the entire class was appalling in the Maths quiz.

Crucial

Meaning: decisive or critical, especially in the success or failure of something
Eg: The victory of team India in yesterday's match was crucial to their qualification in the finals.

Detrimental
Meaning: tending to cause harm.
Eg: The habit of smoking is detrimental to a person's health.

Ameliorate
Meaning: make (something bad or unsatisfactory) better
Eg: The steps taken to ameliorate the quality of life by the government were unsatisfactory.

Hefty
Meaning: impressively large.
Eg: His poker luck earned him a hefty bankroll of 10 million dollars.

Part 3

1 Do you think this law is acceptable to the people?

Yes, I believe that such a law is widely accepted by the general public. These laws were an outcome of the efforts of several NGOs and welfare organizations, along with the increased awareness of the people regarding the decline of our natural habitat. Even before any laws were passed, there were instances where a sizeable number of people adopted the use of biodegradable materials. Also, in areas where environmental laws are not that stringent, people are known to follow an environment-friendly lifestyle on their own accord. Thus, it can be safely assumed that similar environmental laws are welcomed by the public.

2 Is there any situation wherein people may disobey the law?

Firstly, it is important to understand that obeying the law is the personal responsibility of an individual. There are several cases where people intentionally break the rules and cause harm to society. People of such a nature cannot be reasoned with to become better citizens. There are instances where people still use and ask for polythene bags even after knowing the consequences. In some cases, customers are known to squabble with shopkeepers when refused a plastic bag to carry their groceries.

3 What qualities should a police officer possess?

Due to the authority and the responsibility that police officers have to bear, they are required to possess an array of positive traits. The chief quality that must be present in a police officer is a zeal to serve the community. A police officer must also have an ethical moral compass and they should also be principled. Moreover, a calm disposition is essential to tackle problems without making rash decisions as law enforcers. Finally, police officers should be just and always assess the situation thoroughly before penalizing anyone.

4 Is kindness the most important quality of a police officer?

In my opinion, kindness is not the most important quality that a police officer should possess, although it should be a part of a law enforcer's personality. The role of a police officer is tough, and sometimes they are required to put aside their feelings and be stringent with lawbreakers. Thus, qualities like shrewdness, agility and honesty should hold more importance over kindness when enforcing the law. We should remember that criminals may not play fair and take advantage of an officer in the course of their duty. However, there are situations where a police officer must deal with a problem with kindness and avoid being too harsh on civilians.

5 Should people be penalized when they use mobile phones while driving?

In this day and age, when digital technology has enabled us to access information, receive and make calls hands-free, using mobile phones while driving is irrational. Even today, a majority of road accidents are caused due to the irresponsibility of drivers who are glued to their phone screens while driving. Although there are already hefty fines imposed on drivers who resort to such unlawful actions, there are people who remain unbothered and repeat such activities. I believe that more stringent measures must be taken to set an example. The licenses of drivers who use their phones either for making calls or texting while driving should be revoked on multiple counts of such illegal actions.

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Vocabulary

Stringent
Meaning: strict, precise, and exacting
Eg: The company imposed stringent policies on sexual harassment.

Squabble
Meaning: a noisy quarrel about something trivial
Eg: Squabbles between siblings are common in this house.

Zeal
Meaning: great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective
Eg: The zeal of our football team was admirable.

Shrewdness
Meaning: the quality of having or showing good powers of judgement.
Eg: The only way we stand a chance against them is through tactical shrewdness.

Revoked
Meaning: officially cancel
Eg: His membership was revoked due to disciplinary actions.

8. Describe a live sports match that you have watched

You should say:

- **What was it?**
- **When did you watch it?**
- **What was it like?**
- **And how did you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

I have never been much of a sports person. After high school, my inclination towards playing outdoor sports gradually declined. Nevertheless, I have always followed sports events as my friends and family are ardent about watching sports. The most followed sports among my friends and family members are cricket and sometimes football. Like any other Indian, my friends and I are passionate about cricket, and we never miss any major cricket tournament or series. The opportunity of watching live cricket matches rarely presents itself, as we have to depend on the organizers of these events to schedule a game in our city. However, we had the good fortune of witnessing a live cricket match from the Indian Premier League, a cricket league between ten Indian cities based on the T-20 format. The match I am going to talk about here was held in 2016 during September, and it was between the teams of Kolkata and Chennai. The entire experience was exhilarating from the beginning till the end. My friends, and I, had adjacent seats. Since our seats were almost at the bottom of the stadium, we could see every player and the entire field. During the match, one of the batsmen hit a sixer, and the ball flew into the crowd behind us and created a huge ruckus which was also fun to watch. The match lasted for the entire evening and continued well into the night. Every moment of the match was nail-biting and both the teams performed marvellously. In the end, the home team of Kolkata, which was the team we supported, won, and the entire stadium erupted as the winning boundary was scored. I will never forget this experience as I had never felt more passionate about cricket than I did on that day.

Vocabulary

Inclination
Meaning: an interest in or liking for (something).
Eg: His inclination towards creating music was admirable.

Ardent
Meaning: very enthusiastic or passionate.
Eg: Their entire group were ardent football fans.

Exhilarating
Meaning: making one feel very happy or elated; thrilling.
Eg: The rollercoaster ride was exhilarating.

Adjacent
Meaning: next to or adjoining something else.
Eg: The entire family got adjacent rooms in the hotel.

Ruckus
Meaning: a row or commotion.
Eg: The teacher was furious when the students created a ruckus in the classroom.

Part 3

1 Do you prefer to watch live sports or watch it on TV?

I have always preferred watching sports on television. Given a choice, any individual would choose to watch sports on television over live events. Watching sports in the comfort of one's home can never be surpassed. Although, watching a live cricket or football match with thousands of people has its moments, overall, it is a weary experience. Also, live sports events are only fun to watch when your favourite teams are playing, which is a rare occurrence.

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2 Why do some people like to watch live sports?

The very essence of sports is to enjoy the thrill with a group of people. Sports enthusiasts will always enjoy every moment during a match. The hustle and bustle of the crowds, the collective roars of fans when their favourite player scores and the general ambience is what attracts people to watch live sports. The idea of enjoying two major sports teams competing against each other is something that attracts sports lovers all over the world. Watching a live sports event propagates a feeling of exhilaration that cannot be experienced anywhere else.

3 What kind of sports do Indian people like to watch?

Indians are in-born sports lovers. With a population of more than one billion people, nearly every sport has fans all over the country. The most popular sports that Indians enjoy playing and following are team sports. Sports like cricket, football, hockey, kabaddi are some of the sports that have an enormous fan following in India. I believe that the passion Indians have for cricket cannot be matched by any other nation or community.

4 Do you think competition is good for students?

In my opinion, competition among students is healthy and should be encouraged. It is a known fact that not every student in a class can perform exceptionally. A classroom consists of academically bright individuals and others who might have their talents in other disciplines.

That being said, the urge to perform well and receive praise can be a motivating factor for students to give their best. However, students should also be taught to focus their efforts on improving themselves and not put too much thought into outdoing other students.

5 Do you think children should be involved in sports competitions?

Yes, I agree with the notion that children should be encouraged to take part in sports contests. The habit of engaging in physical activities and sports should be adopted at an early age. As it is easier to form healthy habits at a young age, being athletic can have several benefits for individuals throughout their lives. Additionally, competing in sports events, especially team sports, helps children develop good interpersonal skills. Such practices can help youngsters be team players and exhibit sportsmanship traits throughout their lives.

Vocabulary

Weary
Meaning: tiring and tedious.
Eg: The two-hour drive was weary, to say the least.

Essence
Meaning: the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something
Eg: The essence of this painting was hopeful.

Inborn
Meaning: natural to a person
Eg: Every Bengali is an inborn food lover.

Outdoing
Meaning: be superior in action or performance.
Eg: Those two are constantly outdoing each other.

Sportsmanship
Meaning: fair and generous behaviour or treatment of others
Eg: His great sportsmanship even in defeat was commendable.

9. Describe your favourite movie

You should say:

- **When and where did you see it?**
- **What type of film was it?**
- **What was the film about?**
- **And explain why it is your favourite film?**

Sample Answer

Watching films and movies has always been a great passion of mine. Ever since I discovered the artistry of cinema, I've always been fascinated by the works of great directors. Filmmakers like Stanley Kubrick, Alfred Hitchcock, Martin Scorsese, Satyajit Ray are some of my favourite directors. The movie that I would like to talk about here is Pulp Fiction by Quentin Tarantino, another great movie director whose work is deemed one of the best in filmmaking history. The first time I saw Pulp Fiction was in 2018 when I first started watching movies as a diurnal ritual. It was a Saturday, and since I had no prior plans for the evening, I was browsing on Google for good crime dramas at home when I came across this particular movie. Since Pulp Fiction is considered as one of the greatest works of not only Quentin Tarantino but in the crime genre as a whole, it was ranked among the top ten search results on Google. The mastery of Tarantino is evident in this film, which doesn't have a philosophical or poetic message but is simply a montage of different stories and instances of crime and drama among a set of characters, which are somehow interlinked. Nevertheless, even without a deeper meaning, the film engages the viewer with witty dialogue, an unconventional narrative and aesthetic cinematography. The most brilliant aspect of this film, and what makes it my favourite is the non-linear storytelling which makes the audience think that the events in the movie are unrelated, until the final scene where the narration ends where it began, connecting the whole story.

Vocabulary

Artistry
Meaning: creative skill or ability.
Eg: The artistry of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan is unmatched.

Deemed
Meaning: regard or consider in a specified way.
Eg: The event was deemed a commercial success.

Diurnal

Meaning: daily; of each day.
Eg: His diurnal requests were frustrating.

Genre
Meaning: a style or category of art, music, or literature.
Eg: I am not fond of the classical music genre.

Witty
Meaning: showing or characterized by quick and inventive verbal humour.
Eg: He was known for his witty humour.

Part 3

1 Do you think (watching) films have (has) any educational benefits?

The value that a person can derive from a film is dependent on the viewer. There is always a deeper meaning or a message that a film tries to convey to the audience. There are also numerous films that are based on true events and historical occurrences. Moreover, films are not always made for entertainment purposes. Some are made with an educational agenda in mind. Thus, I believe that there are several educational benefits to watching films.

2 In what ways are documentary films and films only for entertainment different?

While documentaries are a sub-genre of movies, the range of movies made for entertainment can span across hundreds of categories. The major difference between a documentary and a regular movie is that documentaries are always non-fictional, whereas a majority of recreational movies are fictional. Furthermore, there is little to no use of skilful cinematography, engaging dialogue and music in documentary films which is entirely different from the format followed by other motion pictures. The artistic expression in documentaries is very limited due to the factual nature of the subjects covered in these films. Movies belonging to other genres, however, often have a deeper meaning or a message.

3 Why do you think documentary films are not so popular?

Documentary films have a limited audience due to several reasons. Documentaries intend to educate the viewers on a particular topic. The audience of documentaries is mainly researchers and scholars. The reason behind documentaries being an overlooked genre is the technique in which they are made. Since a majority of movie enthusiasts want to be entertained by a movie, the lack of any aesthetic appeal makes documentaries a neglected category.

4 How are movies and real-life different?

Everything about a movie is different from reality. The motive behind filmmaking is to give a form to an artist's imagination. In the realm of movies, anything is possible, which is not the

case in real-life. Moreover, the events in a film are in the control of the director, whereas the life of a human being is not directed or controlled by someone else. Also, real life is filled with highs and lows, movies on the other hand, sometimes only depict the positive aspects of a subject.

5 Do different age groups like the same kinds of films?

The taste in movies may vastly differ between people belonging to different age groups. Our parents and grandparents are from an era where motion pictures were not technologically advanced and augmented. Cinema has evolved tremendously over the years and the kinds of movies made today are poles apart from films from previous generations. Thus, the choice of films also varies among different age groups. However, there are exceptions to this notion, and there are a few films that are liked by people of all age groups.

Vocabulary

Convey
Meaning: make (an idea, impression, or feeling) known or understandable.
Eg: He tried to convey his problems to the counsellor.

Cinematography
Meaning: the art of photography and camerawork in film-making.
Eg: The cinematography in the film Dune was amazing.

Aesthetic
Meaning: giving or designed to give pleasure through beauty.
Eg: This aesthetic floor design was expensive.

Motive
Meaning: a reason for doing something.
Eg: The motive behind this housebreak was simply robbery.

Augmented
Meaning: make (something) greater by adding to it
Eg: He aimed to augment his income by doing multiple jobs.

10. Describe a natural talent you want to improve like sports,

You should say:

- **What is it?**
- **When did you discover it?**
- **How do you want to improve it?**
- **And how do you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

Every individual has some inborn capabilities. Some of us discover these skills early on, whereas others realize their talents later on in life. We often tend to neglect these abilities due to various reasons. However, I am going to talk about my talent for poetry that I am proud of and which I have always wanted to improve and utilize more in my spare time. As a school student, I was always fascinated by literature, but poetry intrigued me. Initially, during school, my fondness for poetry was limited to reading the works of great poets like Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath. The first time I discovered my knack for poetry was in the 8th grade when during a free period, our English teacher asked us to write something creative. While most of my classmates were busy writing short stories and other types of fiction, I was among the very few who attempted to write a poem. The fact which impressed my teacher the most was that before a majority of the class was done writing, I was able to come up with a terse but charming poem on friendship in a matter of minutes. Subsequently, I have always considered poetry and writing as my passion. I wish to improve my creative writing skills by exploring new themes and writing styles. Writing has always been a very satisfying activity for me as it acts as a healthy forum to convey my thoughts and feelings. In the future, I hope I can invest more time in writing and publishing my creative works.

Vocabulary

Inborn
Meaning: natural to a person or animal.
Eg: He had an inborn sense of danger.

Intrigued
Meaning: arouse the curiosity or interest of; fascinate.
Eg: Everyone was intrigued by the unexpected visitor.

Fondness
Meaning: affection or liking for someone or something
Eg: The infant had an acute fondness for ice cream.

Knack
Meaning: an acquired or natural skill at doing something.
Eg: Her knack for singing was remarkable.

Terse
Meaning: sparing in the use of words
Eg: She was able to shut everyone up with a terse statement.

Part 3

1 Do you think artists with talents should focus on their talents?

Yes, in my opinion, artists should always focus on their talents. A person might be a very skilled painter, but if they neglect their work, no amount of talent will produce a satisfying result. There are many instances when a person with a certain talent loses touch with that ability. In such situations, a person might lose their skill and subsequently their passion for that discipline as well. Therefore, it is always important to focus on improving your skills and strive to give your best.

2 Is it possible for us to know the children who are 3 or 4 years old will become musicians or painters when they grow up?

I don't think it is possible to recognize and undeniably conclude what an infant of 3 to 4 years will turn out to be later on in life. A person experiences countless ups and downs in the course of their life. These experiences are crucial in developing the personality of an individual. A person might be fond of painting during childhood, but they might find a keen interest in adventure sports later in life. Thus, it is practically impossible to assume the vocation of a person at such a young age.

3 Do you think parents feel guilty for putting too much pressure on their children?

I believe that the feeling of guilt is dependent on the nature of the parents. Most parents have an innate sense of affection for their children. However, there are a few cases where parents do not recognize the mental stress that they put on their kids. Sometimes, parents feel compelled to pressurize their children due to their lack of academic competence. Nevertheless, I also believe that parents do regret putting too much stress on their children in some way or another.

4 Why do people like to watch talent shows?

There can be several reasons for watching a talent show. Talent shows are a great dais for people to show their skills and abilities to the world. I believe that the audience of talent shows are mostly present for entertainment purposes. However, there are cases where talent shows

act as an encouragement for people to express their capabilities. In a few cases, people also watch talent shows to follow a person that they know or are familiar with and show their support.

5 Do you think it is more interesting to watch famous people or ordinary people's shows?

In my opinion, some people are more entertained by viewing famous people while others prefer to watch regular people on television. This predilection is entirely dependent on a person's taste and personality. For example, numerous shows merely broadcast the lavish lifestyle of celebrities, and such shows are extremely popular with a certain segment of people. On the other hand, shows like "Who wants to be a millionaire", which is a show consisting of ordinary people, is also one of the most-watched shows on television. Thus, a person's disposition is a determining factor when it comes to the choice of television shows.

Vocabulary

Discipline
Meaning: a branch of knowledge
Eg: Leonardo Da Vinci was an expert in several disciplines.

Undeniably
Meaning: used to emphasize that something cannot be denied or disputed.
Eg: This chef's salad is undeniably the best I've ever had.

Innate
Meaning: inborn; natural.
Eg: The sense of morality was innate to him.

Dais
Meaning: a platform or a stage
Eg: The dais was set for the evening performance.

Predilection
Meaning: a preference or special liking for something; a bias in favour of something.
Eg: Her predilection for spicy food was surprising.

11. Describe a time when you suffered from disease/ sickness

You should say:

- **What it was**
- **What problems it caused you**
- **What you did to control it**
- **And explain how you felt about this health problem**

Sample Answer

It is undeniable that human beings are prone to diseases and ailments at different phases in their lives, and staying healthy is not an option but a necessity to live a stress-free life. Here, I'd like to talk about a time when I suffered from sickness. I would feel under the weather very rarely, and this happened a couple of years ago when we were heading back from a wedding in Pune to our home in Kolkata. I was fatigued after a 5-hour flight, so I skipped my dinner and slept right away. But at around 3 am, I had a severe cramp and could not bear the pain. My body was completely chilled. I complained about it to my parents, who immediately rushed me to the hospital. After a thorough examination, the doctor opined that I had developed acute appendicitis, which could be removed by minor surgery. Before being diagnosed with appendicitis, I felt a severe stomach ache now and then, followed by pain in the belly button, nausea and vomiting. But since I had no idea about appendicitis, I approached my pharmacist friend, who suggested some pain killers and injections. Although I didn't develop the same symptoms again, I wasn't able to control the pain after reaching my home from Pune. So, I did some home remedies to relieve the pain. But it only got worse. Consequently, I decided to consult the doctor and opt for surgery. Overall, it was a very tough time, and the unbearable pain and suffering made me change my food habits; I realized that health is wealth and that a balanced work-life can surely make a big difference to our mind and body.

Vocabulary

Undeniable
Meaning: unable to be denied or disputed.
Eg: It is undeniable that the government is making efforts to ensure people's safety.

Stress-free
Meaning: Not causing or feeling any stress
Eg: Everyone aspires for a stress-free life.

Cramp

Meaning: painful involuntary contraction of a muscle or muscles, typically caused by fatigue or strain.
Eg: Rose had a severe cramp, so she didn't attend the class.

Relieve
Meaning: cause (pain, distress, or difficulty) to become less severe or serious.
Eg: My grandmother gave me a herbal drink to relieve the pain.

Surgery
Meaning: medical or dental specialty that uses operative manual and instrumental techniques on a person to investigate or treat a pathological condition.
Eg: Meera had an open heart surgery.

Part 3

1 What is the role of the government in promoting healthcare?

I am certain that the government has a vital role to play in the promotion of healthcare. It is, in reality, their obligation to educate people about health and encourage them to live a healthy lifestyle. More initiatives and actions aimed at disseminating relevant and accurate health information should be implemented by the government. Furthermore, the government should make all required treatments and facilities more readily available to the public.

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2 What more do you think could be done to promote healthy living in your country?

The government should put up more efforts to improve people's habits in order to encourage healthy living in a country. The government has the power to implement required rules and regulations on activities that have an impact on people's health. For example, the government should prohibit smoking in public places and educate citizens on the benefits and drawbacks of leading a healthy lifestyle.

3 How can individuals take more responsibility for their own health?

The main motive in an individual's life should be living a healthy lifestyle. To put it in other words, we need to take charge of our own health. Yoga, meditation, working out, and other activities can help a person stay fit and healthy. Furthermore, in order to maintain one's health, one should always endeavour to avoid unhealthy snacking between meals.

Vocabulary

Motive

Meaning: a reason for doing something.
Eg: John's motive behind killing his brother was jealousy.

Implement
Meaning: put (a decision, plan, agreement, etc) into effect.
Eg: The company decided to implement a new strategy to reach high TRPs.

Initiative
Meaning: the ability to assess and initiate things independently.
Eg: The university set up an initiative to provide financial assistance.

Appropriate
Meaning: suitable or proper in the circumstances.
Eg: It's not appropriate for children to play in the rain.

Accurate
Meaning: (especially of information, measurements, or predictions) correct in all details; exact.
Eg: The police demanded accurate information.

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12. Describe a tall building in your city you like or dislike

You should say

- **Where is it**
- **What is it used for**
- **What it does it look like**
- **And explain why you like or dislike it**

Sample Answer

In recent times, several sky-high buildings with unique designs have emerged in my city, Dubai. It is irrefutable that there's no shortage of tall buildings and dazzling skyscrapers in Dubai. Many contemporary buildings, massive malls and gigantic towers either reach above the clouds or touch the skyline of the city. But above all, I love the iconic Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. It is one of the famous places in Dubai. The 160-storey iconic tower rises 2,716.5 ft. above ground level. Located in downtown Dubai, the Burj Khalifa is the city's hottest tourist hub. Many VIP guests and renowned celebrities visit and stay at the multi-purpose building. People living in the luxurious apartments of Burj Khalifa have access to a plethora of amenities like a swimming pool, valet services, jacuzzi, 24x7 maintenance, gym facilities, sauna and steam rooms. Besides, there's a lounge area, corporate suites, apartments, hotels, etc., inside the building. The building looks ethereal at night, and during the day, it looks spectacular. The amazing Burj Khalifa left me in awe because of its cloud-piercing height, and visiting the spectacular structure is a fantasy in and of itself. When I initially saw the location, it was a dream come true for me. Furthermore, the elevator boasts the world's longest journey distance, and the breathtaking views of the city from the top of the majestic structure left me speechless.

Vocabulary

Sky-high
Meaning: so as to reach or extend very high.
Eg: I was stunned to see the sky-high building.

Awe
Meaning: a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder.
Eg: I was in awe of the views of the hills.

Gigantic
Meaning: of very great size or extent; huge or enormous.
Eg: The gigantic concrete building was demolished.

Iconic
Meaning: widely recognized and well-established an iconic brand name.
Eg: Rosie is an iconic musician.

Irrefutable
Meaning: impossible to deny or disapprove.
Eg: It is irrefutable that smartphones are increasingly becoming more popular among children.

Part 3

1 What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in tall buildings?

The major advantage of living in a high-rise structure, in my opinion, is better sunlight, spectacular views, ventilation, and peace. Furthermore, in a tall building, the top floors are free of crowds and noise pollution. The disadvantages of living in tall buildings, on the other hand, include buildings collapse during disasters, poor escape mechanisms in the event of a fire, and the difficulty of repairs and maintenance.

2 Do you think there will be more tall buildings in the future?

Ofcourse! There are high chances that there will be many sky-high buildings in the future. In today's fast-paced world, everyone is interested in living in single-storey or double-storey buildings, and the government is making considerable efforts to improve people's living standards by developing such massive storey structures.

3 Why aren't there many tall buildings in the countryside?

Well, this is because of the availability of land. It is believed that tall buildings don't make sense in the vacant land areas available in the countryside as they're usually built concentrating the business hubs. People residing in the countryside are accustomed to living in open spaces and not in a congested environment. As a result, tall buildings are not seen in the countryside.

4 Why do some people like to live in tall buildings nowadays?

I think the main reason is that they can perceive amazing views, less noise, and good quality of air. In other words, when people live on the top floor of a building, they feel refreshed and peaceful. In addition, tall buildings provide some relief from the noise and congestion on the streets below.

Vocabulary

Ventilation
Meaning: the provision of fresh air to a room, building, etc.
Eg: Due to poor ventilation, John started hunting for a new house.

Disaster
Meaning: serious problem occurring over a short or long period of time that causes widespread human, material, economic or environmental loss.
Eg: Tsunami is one of the dangerous disasters.

Vacant
Meaning: (of a place) not occupied; empty.
Eg: The university had some vacant seats.

Accustom
Meaning: make someone or something accept (something) as normal or usual.
Eg: Rich people are accustomed to spending a lot of money on luxurious holiday destinations.

Perceive
Meaning: become aware or conscious of (something); come to realize or understand.
Eg: I perceived that smoking not only causes cancer but also increases the chance of dying.

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13. Describe something that you have shared with others

You should say:

- **What did you share**
- **When was it**
- **Who you shared it with**
- **and explain why you shared it and how you felt about it**

Sample Answer

It is a saying that sharing is one way which helps in strengthening the bonds between two people. Also, it is true that sharing things brings a sense of self-satisfaction and happiness. But I am an introvert, and I'm not fond of sharing my things or feelings with anyone. It makes me uncomfortable. But I'd like to talk about a time when I shared a room with my colleague and how I felt about it. I recently got a job offer in Delhi, so I had to move there. Although it took a while to adjust to the new city, I got used to the place very quickly. I lived in a 1BHK apartment, and the rent was minimal. One of my colleagues, Joey, asked me If I could share my room with him. It was an awkward moment for me as I was not habituated to sharing my things. But then I heard his struggle of hunting for a rental house and not getting any. It made me think about my disappointing situation as I, too, had gone through the same. Consequently, I decided to give it a shot and asked him to shift to my house. As days went by, I felt extremely comfortable with him, and we became very close to each other. From sharing a room to sharing life secrets, Joey and I became best friends for life. I realized the significance of sharing as it helped me connect with a perfect friend.

Vocabulary

Strengthen
Meaning: make or become stronger
Eg: Max drinks energy tonics to strengthen his muscles.

Minimal
Meaning: of a minimum amount, quantity, or degree; negligible.
Eg: The fee structure for the Bachelor's courses was minimal.

Introvert
Meaning: a shy or reticent person.
Eg: It takes a lot of time for an introvert to adjust to people.

Fond
Meaning: having affection or liking for.
Eg: Rose is fond of cakes.

Hunt
Meaning: search determinedly for someone or something
Eg: Josh hunted the search engine and found a suitable solution for the problem.

Part 3

1 Do you like to share?

As I already stated, I am an introvert who is very possessive. However, after sharing my room with Joey, I understood the importance of sharing and realized that it helps strengthen bonds among people. As a result, now I've started sharing my things and thoughts with him.

2 What are the consequences if children don't like to share?

It is a well-known fact that if someone shares something with others, they will almost certainly receive something greater in return. As a result, children should develop these habits because they may come in handy and be highly beneficial in the future. Children who do not develop the practice of sharing, on the other hand, may experience difficulties as they grow up and work in a team because collaboration entails sharing and managing knowledge with everyone.

3 How do you feel about sharing accommodations with others on campus?

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Well, I've realized that sharing accommodation with others on campus allows us to meet new people and make friendships. However, I believe that privacy is also essential. If the other person has the same mindset and vibes like me, I'm open to sharing anything and everything.

4 How could parents and teachers teach young children to share?

It is irrefutable that children try to follow in the footsteps of their elders. As a result, parents and teachers should jointly teach children how to share, help, and forgive each other. Further, they should also guide children to make amends and accept each other's mistakes.

Vocabulary

Possessive
Meaning: demanding someone's total attention and love.
Eg: Rose is so possessive about her child that she doesn't let him go anywhere.

Bond
Meaning: a relationship between people or groups based on shared feelings, interests, or experiences.
Eg: John and David share a good bond.

Beneficial
Meaning: resulting in good; favourable or advantageous
Eg: The online course is extremely beneficial.

Accommodation
Meaning: a room, group of rooms, or building in which someone may live or stay.
Eg: The hostel offers accommodation for both genders.

Acquaintances
Meaning: knowledge or experience of something
Eg: One of Mary's acquaintances met with an accident.

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14. Describe a film or movie that made you laugh.

You should say:

- **What is the name of this movie?**
- **When did you watch it?**
- **Who did you watch it with?**
- **And why did it make you laugh?**

Sample Answer

Nothing beats the stress like an excellent guffaw, and comedies are one such genre that would make us forget our worries for a while. Comedy films are my all-time favourites as they're the best entertainers and a great time pass. Here, I'd like to talk about a film that made me laugh out loud, which was the Andaz Apna Apna, a Bollywood movie that made me laugh hysterically. Well, I watched this movie for the first time with my family members, and it made us shriek with laughter. After that, I continued watching this movie whenever I felt nervous or stressed. I loved the film so much that I even recommended it to my colleagues. The movie features the most wanted Khans, the perfectionist, Aamir Khan, and the hero of masses, Salman Khan, in the lead roles. They aim to get rich and live a luxurious lifestyle by trying to win the heart of an heiress and, in turn, end up protecting her from crimes. The film portrays a balanced level of humour and thrill at the same time. Although the film was considered a flop when it was first released, it is now considered one of the cult classic movies. Some of the comic scenes in the movie are hilarious, and some of the dialogues are extremely popular, which has been re-edited and used in many films. It's one of the most comical and incredible films in cinema history, and I believe that Andaz Apna Apna is a unique movie that assures the viewers a ticklish laughter and giggles throughout the movie.

Vocabulary

Guffaw
Meaning: a loud and hearty laugh
Eg: We had a great guffaw watching the stand-up comedy.

Shriek
Meaning: utter a high-pitched, piercing sound or words, especially as an expression of terror, pain, or excitement.
Eg: The baby shrieked when the doctor injected him.

Perfectionist
Meaning: a person who refuses to accept any standard short of perfection.
Eg: The older man is a perfectionist.

Humor
Meaning: the quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech.
Eg: Max has a good sense of humor.

Ticklish
Meaning: (of a person) sensitive to being tickled.
Eg: I felt ticklish when the waves passed.

Part 3

1 Do people like comedy?

Yes, of course! People enjoy humour/ comedy because it is one of the main sources of entertainment. Comedy films improve our lives by providing us with a reason to laugh. They're also an excellent stress reliever. They engulf us in their own world of joy and happiness, making us forget about our concerns. As a result, I believe that life without a little bit of comedy will be miserable.

2 Why do people of all ages like cartoons?

Cartoons and animated films appeal to people from all walks of life because they are amusing and entertaining. Cartoons appeal to children because they are vivid and entertaining. Cartoons can assist children in comprehending the world around them. Furthermore, viewing cartoons as an adult can make you feel good and ease tension, even if only for a short time.

3 Why do some people like to make others laugh?

Some people enjoy making others laugh as it gives them happiness. It also aids them in breaking the ice or releasing tension in a tense environment. For instance, Stand-up comedians make people laugh by telling jokes sarcastically. Furthermore, having a good sense of humour is something that everyone desires. It enhances a person's attractiveness.

4 Should teachers tell jokes in class?

Yes, teachers should crack jokes in class to reinforce and develop strong bonds with their students. It would also make it easier for them to communicate with the students. Using comedy in the classroom will also help teachers connect with their students emotionally.

Vocabulary

Stress buster
Meaning: Something which relieves, or is designed to relieve, stress; a relaxant.
Eg: Yoga acts as a stress buster for me.

Engulf
Meaning: (of a natural force) sweep over (something) so as to surround or cover it completely.
Eg: John was engulfed with fear when he saw the snake.

Break the ice
Meaning: do or say something to relieve tension or get the conversation going in a strained situation or when strangers meet.
Eg: In order to break the ice, I started watching stand up comedy.

Crack
Meaning: a line on the surface of something along which it has split without breaking apart.
Eg: Josh cracked a lame joke

Relieve
Meaning: cause (pain, distress, or difficulty) to become less severe or serious.
Eg: Raoul applied a herbal balm to relieve the pain.

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15. Describe a plan in your life that is not related to work or study.

You should say

- **What is it about?**
- **Why did you make this plan?**
- **What do you need to do first?**
- **And explain how you would feel if it is successful?**

Sample Answer

Planning is an integral part of our life. Planning, in whatever form, aids an individual in achieving their goals, purpose and dreams. Here, I'd like to talk about a plan that is not related to study or work. Recently, my brother and I made a plan to buy a 3BHK apartment for my parents, who are currently residing abroad. It's almost been a decade since they left their native place in Bangalore and moved to Canada. Now that they're returning to the country as their permanent residency status expired, I, along with my brother, planned to surprise them by gifting them an apartment in Electronic City. Our family had been living in a rental house from my childhood days, and when my father got a job opportunity in Canada, he migrated to the country with my mother. But now that my brother and I are doing well in our business, we planned to surprise our parents by presenting them with an apartment of their own. Buying a 3BHK apartment in the Silicon Valley of India is highly complicated as the city is overcrowded with dazzling skyscrapers and multi-storey buildings. We need to do extensive research on the availability of apartments in the city, its location, the society, availability of civic amenities, transportation, safety, etc. Besides these factors, we also need to figure out the budget accordingly, and if required, we should apply for a loan to buy the new house. Meanwhile, we'll feel accomplished if we gift a house to our parents as it is our childhood dream to present our parents something that they'll cherish forever in their life.

Vocabulary

Amenities
Meaning: a desirable or valuable feature or facility of a building or place.
Eg: The University hostel is well-equipped with all the amenities required for a student living.

Assist
Meaning: help (someone), typically by doing a share of the work.
Eg: The trainer assisted me in improving my language skills.

Accomplish
Meaning: achieve or complete successfully.
Eg: The author felt accomplished when readers praised his book.

Reside
Meaning: have one's permanent home in a particular place.
Eg: John's parents resided in the United States.

Extensive
Meaning: covering or affecting a large area.
Eg: After extensive research, I found the perfect highlighter.

Part 3

1 Do you think it is important for a person to have a career plan?

Yes, having a career plan is necessary for an individual to remain cool and composed while navigating the twists and turns of their professional lives. When a person creates a career plan, it becomes easier to manage situations that would otherwise appear unattainable. Furthermore, a career plan will serve as a blueprint for a person's future.

2 How do most people plan their future education and their future career?

Nowadays, many plan their future education and career by either talking to their parents or elders or getting counselling from career counsellors. Moreover, many educational firms have emerged wherein a professional counsellor counsels students and advises young job seekers to plan their higher education and future career accordingly. They aim to help the students choose the right course, tackle different challenges and assist them reach heights in their careers.

3 Do you think it's important to include the factor of one's salary in a career plan?

Yes, I think salary plays a crucial role in an individual's career plan. Because the vast majority of people wouldn't do their jobs if they were not paid, moreover, an individual wouldn't prefer a job that doesn't pay him well during the early stages of his career. In contrast, an individual will be much more invested in their work if they pay him well.

4 Do you think planning is important or a waste of time?

Well, in my opinion, I believe that planning is an important aspect of our life and it's not a waste of time. Planning helps us to remain focused and organised in our work. It helps us understand our goal and follow the footsteps required to achieve the desired goal. To put it in other words, planning is crucial for success in life.

What kinds of personal plans should people make for themselves?

There are various types of personal plans that a person might develop for himself. However, they must establish plans that are tailored to their specific circumstances. They should first identify their goals, prioritise them, then work to achieve them as soon as possible.

Vocabulary

Twists and turns
Meaning: complicated dealings or circumstances
Eg: Life is full of twists and turns.

Tackle
Meaning: make determined efforts to deal with (a problem or difficult task).
Eg: It was very difficult for the old man to tackle the hardships.

Opinion
Meaning: a view or judgement formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge
Eg: The boss asked everyone's opinion before concluding.

Desire
Meaning: a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen.
Eg: Rose improved her language proficiency and scored a desired band of 8 in the IELTS.

Crucial
Meaning: of great importance
Eg: It is crucial for a diabetic patient to take medication accordingly.

16. Describe a time when you did shopping in a street market

You should say:

- **Where is it?**
- **What can you buy there?**
- **What is it famous for?**
- **How do you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

I'm a passionate shopaholic, and I believe that shopping is a great pastime. Usually, I shop at different places like shopping malls, roadside stores, and street markets. But I'm fond of street shopping as I'm amazed by the so many things available at one place at an affordable price. Also, I can easily bargain for a good price, which in the malls or stores may seem impossible. This street market, also known as an open-air market, is situated 2 km away from my house near the North East Beach in my city, where one can witness an array of stores and stalls of all sorts of items, including electronics, convenience stores, food joints, clothing & grocery store, home decor & handicraft items, furniture showroom, etc. In other words, the open-air market is a hub of almost everything. The vibrant lanes of the open-air market are divided into separate markets selling different goods for wholesalers and retailers so that people may not get confused. This street market is famous for its discounts and deals for imported electronic gadgets, home appliances, and mobile phone accessories. Many dealers from across the state visit the open-air market to purchase the electronic products in bulk, and this is the reason the place is always crowded. If someone is really good at negotiating, then they're lucky to crack unbelievable deals. I feel extremely fortunate to have such an amazing, full-fledged market in my city where I can easily purchase anything and everything at attractive prices. Also, roadside shopping is definitely a treat for an individual, and this street market in my city is a paradise for shopaholics.

Vocabulary

Bargain
Meaning: an agreement between two or more people or groups as to what each will do for the other.
Eg: Bargaining at the department store is a waste of time.

Negotiate

Meaning: obtain or bring about by discussions.
Eg: My mother is extremely talented in negotiating with the shopkeepers.

Vibrant
Meaning: full of energy and life.
Eg: The interviewer was impressed with John's vibrant personality.

Mob
Meaning: a large crowd of people especially one that is disorderly and intent on causing trouble or violence
Eg: The mob gathered outside the Parliament.

Fortunate
Meaning: favoured by or involving good luck
Eg: Michelle was fortunate enough to get promoted as a Senior Manager within 5 months of joining the company.

Part 3

1 Do you like shopping online or going out shopping?

To be honest, I like shopping online more than going out shopping because of its convenience that can be done anywhere at any time and with wider options. Moreover, online shopping saves a lot of time, where one can browse on the internet, search the product on ecommerce websites and purchase them efficiently. Also, sometimes the product we buy online is pocket-friendly compared to the same products in the offline market.

2 What is the difference between shopping with friends and shopping alone?

The main difference between shopping with friends and shopping alone is confusion. For instance, when purchasing a product, I sometimes get confused, and at that time, my friends come to my rescue. They save me from making wrong decisions and give me good ideas. However, whenever I shop alone, I get the freedom of time and movement.

3 What are the disadvantages of shopping in a big mall?

One of the main drawbacks of shopping in a big mall is that we are not able to bargain for a good price or negotiate with the seller. We have to buy the product at a fixed rate. Sometimes, the salesperson is too irritating, and we need to stand in a queue to make the payment which consumes a lot of time.

4 Why do people like to buy branded products?

Some people like purchasing branded products because they want to fit in their social circles. Such people believe that using branded products will help them maintain their social status and make them socially acceptable. In short, they want to maintain their prestigious image in front of other people. However, we can't deny the good quality of these branded products.

5 In your opinion, are big discounts real or just an advertisement?

Well, in my perspective, I believe that big discounts are just an advertisement because most of the time, discounts are offered to attract customers, wherein the retailers hike up the prices of some products to manipulate the consumers to believe that they'll miss out on a great deal. Sometimes, outdated or defective products are sold in the name of big discounts.

Vocabulary

Perspective
Meaning: a particular attitude towards or way of regarding something
Eg: Everyone's perspective is different.

Social circle
Meaning: groups of socially interconnected people
Eg: Desperate John wanted to fit in in his social circle.

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Irritate
Meaning: showing or feeling slight anger
Eg: The teacher gets irritated when the students make huge mistakes.

Pocket-friendly
Meaning: cheap
Eg: I went to a pocket-friendly restaurant in the city.

Freedom
Meaning: the power or right to act or speak or think as one wants
Eg: In the olden days, women didn't have the freedom to make their own decisions.

17. Describe a time you saw something interesting on social media

You should say:

- **When was it?**
- **Where did you see it?**
- **What did you see?**
- **And explain why you think it was interesting?**

Sample Answer

Today, social media plays an indispensable part in our lives, and every person has become addicted to it at a glaring speed. Although there are a plethora of them, I like surfing the LinkedIn application because the application has widened my horizon to find jobs. To put it in another way, LinkedIn allows job seekers a prospect to connect with industry professionals and gain better employment opportunities. It also makes it easier for the employer to hire eligible candidates. A couple of months ago, during the Covid-19 pandemic, I had graduated, and as a new job seeker, I found it intimidating to get a job. I waited in vain for the recruiters to reply to my job application. But one fine day, when I was scrolling, I found an interesting advertisement of a startup company recruiting freshers for the post of UX Designer. I found the job requirements suitable, so I immediately applied and reached out to the employer by mailing my resume, and in no time, I got their response. My joy knew bounds when they selected me for the role right after the completion of the interview. I found it interesting because the vacancy advertisement was designed in such a way that it would have definitely grabbed every job seeker's attention, and hats off to the designer of the startup who had created the post. Overall, I'm obliged to social media as it helped me get a secured job.

Vocabulary

Indispensable
Meaning: absolutely necessary
Eg: Language proficiency plays an indispensable role in the immigration process.

Broaden my horizon
Meaning: to increase the range of one's knowledge, understanding, or experience
Eg: The wild life documentary broadened my horizons about wildlife habitats.

Knew no bounds
Meaning: have no limits
Eg: My happiness knew no bounds when my visa was accepted.

Vacancy
Meaning: a vacant post
Eg: The company issued a vacancy notification on their website.

Obliged
Meaning: be indebted or grateful
Eg: I'm obliged to my parents for providing me with the best education.

Part 3

1 Why do people like to use social media?

Well, in my opinion, people use social media applications because everything is available at their fingertips. They can easily keep in touch with their near and dear ones. They're updated with all the news and events happening around the world. In other words, these social networking sites have made the lives of people much simpler, easier and faster.

2 What kind of things are popular on social media?

Social media is a tool of immense help to the people, and nowadays, there are a myriad of things popular on social media such as sharing and posting pictures, videos, and memes, the latest news and current happenings. Moreover, many business entities have started promoting and advertising their products and services on social media to improve brand awareness.

3 What are the advantages and disadvantages of using social media?

Social media has advanced so much that it has made inroads in our life. On the one hand, it helps us to connect with people, educates, updates, and gives us all the relevant information about a product or service, creates awareness and helps to build communities. On the other hand, lack of emotional connection, compromise of privacy, and falling prey to fraudulent and online scams are some of the grave consequences of using social networking platforms. However, we as users shouldn't allow ourselves to be controlled by social media, instead we should learn to balance it.

4 What do you think about making friends on social networking sites?

Well, I don't think it's good to make friends online on social networking sites. Although it may seem valuable at first to open up, people may pretend to be someone else as well. As a result, the chances of them being fake are high. So, we should be careful while making friends online.

Vocabulary

Valuable
Meaning: worth a great deal of money.
Eg: The case was closed as Michelle lost some valuable information.

Scam
Meaning: a deceptive scheme or trick used to cheat someone out of something,
Eg: A new movie has been released based on the online scams people face.

Fingertips
Meaning: using or operated by the fingers.
Eg: He had information at his fingertips.

Awareness
Meaning: concern about and well-informed interest in a particular situation or development.
Eg: An aid awareness campaign was started by the government.

Trend
Meaning: change or develop in a general direction.
Eg: Due to the pandemic, Digital Marketing is on the trend.

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18. Describe a person who wears clothes that you think are

You should say

- **Who is he/she?**
- **How do you know him/her?**
- **What kind of clothes does he/she wear?**
- **Why do you consider that his/her clothing choices are weird?**

Sample Answer

It is a well-known fact that clothes make a man, which means that people are judged based on their clothing. However, some people don't understand this fact and dress oddly. Nowadays, most people prefer wearing trendy clothes because they want to fit in their social circles. Also, such fashionable clothes reveal a lot about their personality. Family get-togethers and dinner parties are quite often in my family; it's more like a tradition. However, this one paternal aunt of mine, Lisa, usually attends dinner parties wearing bizarre clothes. She's an attention seeker who doesn't follow the usual dressing patterns as she believes that wearing such offbeat clothes would grab everyone's eyeballs towards her. Her weird dressing sense made everyone laugh at her. But on one such occasion, Aunt Lisa wore a fluorescent green top attached with a linen jacket and a tiara with lights. Initially, we felt it was unusual as it wasn't a themed party. But her unique attire caught everyone's attention, and when the lights went off, her attire shone so radiantly in the dark. Although her costume seemed awkward at first, it was eye-catching in the pitch dark. Some of my other aunts even got inspired by this outfit and asked her about it. Well, I think she wants to be unique from others, so she tries wearing different clothes, in that way she's habitual to wearing unusual yet elegant clothes.

Vocabulary

Eye-catching
Meaning: immediately appealing or noticeable
Eg: It was an eye-catching performance by the dance master.

Attire
Meaning: clothes, especially fine or formal ones
Eg: Everyone in the event praised her ethnic attire.

Paternal aunt
Meaning: the sister or sister in law of one's father
Eg: My paternal aunt lives in Canada.

Tiara
Meaning: a jewelled ornamental band worn on the front of a woman's hair.
Eg: Rose demanded a tiara for her wedding.

Themed
Meaning: of a leisure venue, event, etc, given a particular theme or setting.
Eg: Bill attended a marvel themed birthday party.

Part 3

1 Where do Indians normally buy clothes?

Well, most Indians usually purchase their clothes from online or offline stores. There are a wide range of clothing stores and street shops around the country where one can see mobs gathered around the shop, either discussing the clothing rate or bargaining with the shopkeeper. However, some people do not like crowds or waiting in the queue and purchase their clothes online.

2 What's the difference between men's and women's choices of clothes?

The main difference between their choices is that both have different body structures and senses of style that vary from each other. Usually, men wear the same sombre shaded and blunt printed clothes. In contrast, women prefer wearing bright and glittering ethnic attires. In addition, men's informal and formal wear are often sober compared to their female counterparts. However, nowadays, many individuals prioritize comfort over fashion.

3 Do clothes affect people's moods?

Yes, Of course! I believe that what we wear has a significant impact on our emotions. When people wear good clothes, they feel more confident about themselves. Many researchers emphasize that our mood is influenced by what we wear, and even the attire has the ability to evoke good and bad memories related to it. Thus, clothes affect not only our mood but also our emotions, attitude, personality, and faith in ourselves.

4 What do people consider when buying clothes?

Apparel shopping can be challenging as people contemplate many factors while buying their clothes, such as colour, quality, cost, brand, comfort, size, the texture of the fabric, discounts, and design. However, some people even check the cashback and refund policy because they can return the clothes and receive a refund if they do not fit in.

Vocabulary

Challenging
Meaning: testing one's abilities; demanding
Eg: Preparing for the competitive exams is a challenging task.

Fit in
Meaning: be socially compatible with other members of a group
Eg: It was difficult for the adopted child to fit in the joint family.

Evoke
Meaning: bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image to the conscious mind.
Eg: This route evokes memories of my college life.

Mob
Meaning: a large crowd of people, especially one that is disorderly and intent on causing trouble or violence
Eg: It was difficult for the shopkeepers to keep the mob under control.

Prioritize
Meaning: designate or treat (something) as being very or most important.
Eg: Michelle found it difficult to prioritize tasks.

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19. Describe a piece of international news you have recently heard

You should say

- **What is the news about?**
- **When and where did you hear it?**
- **What were you doing when you heard the news?**
- **Explain how you felt about this piece of international news?**

Sample Answer

In today's fast-paced world, it is essential for an individual to be updated with the latest international news and be aware of the affairs taking place around the world. I believe that reading newspapers gives us a better understanding of what is happening around us. A couple of months ago, one of the greatest footballers of all time, Lionel Messi, left the Barcelona club and joined Paris Saint-Germain, a French club, which brought everyone to tears and joy at the same time. It was approximately 8 p.m after a long day at work. When I returned home, I was surprised to see my friends at my place, who were glued to the TV screen with a teary eye. As soon as I walked in, I saw the news on the TV, which came as a shock to me. Since childhood, all my friends were ardent football fanatics, and we used to play football every evening. We were all great fans of Barcelona's best footballer, Lionel Messi. Of course, we were all disheartened to see Messi leaving FC Barcelona after spending almost 18 glorious years of his life in the club. Even Messi was tearful when he broke the news to his fans. Above all, his farewell speech was very emotional that would have definitely made every Messi fan cry. This piece of international news was the most heartbreaking news in the history of football. Although I feel devastated about Messi leaving Barcelona, I partially feel excited for his new journey at PSG. I'm eagerly waiting for the upcoming football match to watch Messi play in a new jersey.

Vocabulary

Fast-paced
Meaning: (of a narrative or series of events) moving or developing very quickly.
Eg: “Fast & furious” is a fast-paced thriller movie.

Dishearten
Meaning: cause (someone) to lose determination or confidence.
Eg: Everyone was disheartened when the principal announced his retirement.

Glued
Meaning: be paying very close attention to (something, especially a television).
Eg: Nowadays, children are glued to their smartphones.

Teary eye
Meaning: having eyes that are wet with tears
Eg: Michael was teary-eyed when he saw his injured pet.

Fanatic
Meaning: a person filled with excessive and single-minded zeal, especially for an extreme religious or political cause.
Eg: Johnson is a food fanatic. He loves eating almost everything.

Part 3

1. What is your newspaper reading style?

Well, the first thing I do after I wake up is read the newspaper headlines with a cup of coffee. With the help of the newspaper, I'm updated about the current affairs & events happening worldwide, while the coffee relaxes and soothes my mind. I also carry them to the office.

2. Do you think reading international news is important?

Of course! I believe that everyone should be educated and updated about the affairs happening across the globe in today's increasingly globalized world. Only by reading international news, we are aware of world events. Further, reading international news facilitates a better insight and understanding about the other countries in the world.

3. News that you have described do you think will impact the world? If yes then how?

Well, I don't know whether the above-mentioned news will have an impact on the world. But Lionel Messi, the greatest player of all time, leaving his 21-year old FC Barcelona to a new PSG club was definitely the most devastating news for all the Messi fans, and this piece of international news gained mixed reactions from fans across the world.

Vocabulary

Devastating
Meaning: causing severe shock, distress, or grief.
Eg: Michelle fainted after hearing the devastating news.

Impact
Meaning: a marked effect or influence.
Eg: Vaccines will definitely have a great impact on people's immune system.

Insight
Meaning: an accurate and deep understanding.
Eg: "Wings of Fire" by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam gave an insight into his lifestyle.

Soothe
Meaning: reduce pain or discomfort in (a part of the body).
Eg: Doctor gave painkillers to soothe the pain.

Cultivates
Meaning: try to acquire or develop (a quality or skill).
Eg: It takes a lot of time for an individual to cultivate good habits.

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20. Describe an occasion when you were not allowed to use your mobile phone

You should say

- **When was it?**
- **Where was it?**
- **Why were you not allowed to use your mobile phone?**
- **How did you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

In today's technologically sophisticated society, smartphones have become indispensable. For various reasons, people are hooked on their smartphones. It's unimaginable to think about our life without a smartphone. The incident occurred around a year ago during my semester exams when I unintentionally happened to take my mobile phone to the exam hall and had to deal with its consequences. It was a Monday morning, and I reached the exam hall earlier than usual. So, I decided to revise the questions. As some of my notes were saved on my mobile phone, I opened the PDFs and prepared for the exam. A few moments later, the bell rang, so all the students, including me, stood in the queue to verify documents and check other items. When it was my turn, the examiner discovered a mobile phone in my pocket, which stunned me. I realized that I had unknowingly put the mobile phone in my pocket, just like I used to put other times. Everyone in the hall looked at me as if I'd committed an offense. Later, I apologized and explained the reason to the examiner. Although he believed my justification, he punished me by giving me just an hour to complete the exam while others got 2 hours to complete the exam. According to the university instructions, it is not permissible to carry any electronic devices to the exam hall. Even the exam invigilators would have to turn off their mobile phones. Despite the fact that I did not take the cell phone to the exam hall on purpose, I felt extremely embarrassed and guilty about it.

Vocabulary

Embarrassed
Meaning: feeling or showing embarrassment
Eg: I felt pretty embarrassed when my grandfather found out that I broke his specs.

Permissible
Meaning: permitted; allowed
Eg: It is not permissible to eat non-veg on Tuesday.

Verification
Meaning: make sure or demonstrate that (something) is true, accurate, or justified.
Eg: The students must verify the details correctly.

Hooked
Meaning: addicted
Eg: Children were hooked on television.

Apologize
Meaning: express regret for something that one has done wrong
Eg: Students apologized to the teachers for their bad behavior.

Part 3

1. What is the impact of the cell phone?

People are affected by cell phones in both positive and negative ways. Some of the positive effects are that we get instant access to a plethora of information, ease of use, comfort and quick connectivity to friends and family. In a nutshell, everything is available at our fingertips. However, there are drawbacks, as well. Prolonged use may cause great levels of stress in our daily lives. I believe that every technology or electronic gadget comes with a set of negative impacts. So, we should be doubly cautious when using cell phones.

2. What is the smartphone used the most for?

Before the pandemic, smartphones were usually used to access social media applications and browse important information. But when the pandemic covid-19 hit the world, everyone was glued to their smartphones. The adults were relying on it for remote working purposes and clinical consultations. At the same time, children were dependent on mobile phones to access digital education. As a result, the use of mobile phones drastically increased during the pandemic.

3. What is your opinion about selfies?

In my opinion, I believe that selfies have become an unavoidable aspect of modern life. It has transformed the traditional self-portrait into something more. Selfies have overall become an integral way of our lives, from snapping to posting it on social media.

Vocabulary

Indispensable
Meaning: absolutely necessary.
Eg: Food is an indispensable part of human life.

Pandemic
Meaning: (of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world.
Eg: Many lives have been lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rely
Meaning: depend on with full trust or confidence
Eg: Michelle relied upon the comprehensive website and prepared for the competitive exam.

Drastically
Meaning: in a way that is likely to have a strong or far-reaching effect.
Eg: The gold rate has drastically reduced.

Dependent
Meaning: requiring someone or something for financial or other support.
Eg: Every living thing on Earth is dependent on oxygen.

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21. Describe an argument that two of your friends had

You should talk about:

- **When it happened**
- **What it was about**
- **How it was solved**
- **And how did you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

It is an acknowledged fact that people argue when their ideas and thoughts are not considered. Everyone is unique, and sometimes their thoughts don't match, which results in an argument. However, from my personal experience, I'd say that arguing is a natural process of developing a strong bond with the other person. Here, I'd like to talk about a time when my friends had a disagreement, which later turned out to be a heated argument. We were a bunch of four friends who were always together, and our friendship was solid. During our holidays, we decided to visit a nearby amusement park. To our surprise, there was a small crafts exhibition at the entrance of the park. There were many artworks, paintings, graphics, clay models, books, handicrafts, handmade jewellery, etc., on display. Almost all the halls were packed with the displayed articles. As we moved forward, we saw different rides, some scary, some funny, and some water rides. So, four of us decided to go on the roller coaster ride and bought the entry ticket.

When we saw the giant roller coaster, we were surprised by its height, which entailed adventure. But suddenly, one of my friends, Jack, who was afraid of heights, didn't want to join us. Another friend, John, didn't let Jack go, as he wanted to make a vlog of us enjoying the ride. A minor issue began into a heated argument; everyone around was looking at them. So, at this point, my friend Elle and I intervened and requested them to stop the quarrel. After that, we dropped the idea of going on a roller coaster ride as it was the only solution that seemed right at that moment. Post the argument, we tried to calm both of them and moved ahead to the food stalls.

To sum up, I felt that John should've understood Jack's anxiety and avoided the argument. But he was adamant, and so was Jack. Later, they realized their mistakes and forgave each other.

Vocabulary

Unique - being the only one of its kind, unlike anything else.
Eg: She was lauded by everyone for her unique painting.

Entail - involve (something) as a necessary or inevitable part or consequence.
Eg: The decision taken by the government can entail substantial economic risks.

Adventure - an unusual and exciting or daring experience
Eg: Climbing the mountain seemed like an adventure

Giant - a person or thing of unusually great size, power, importance
Eg: There was a giant size statue at the exhibition.

Anxiety - a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome
Eg: He lost the marks in viva due to his anxiety.

Part 3

1 Do you think arguments are important?

I personally don't think arguments are necessary as it leads to severe misunderstandings. But in some cases, arguments are extremely important as they help us understand the other person's perspective and make us aware of their opinions. Therefore, it's always essential to listen to other people's views and then decide on a conclusion.

2 What do family members generally argue about?

Generally, family members argue on various topics, but the most common argument occurs when it's time to prepare the food for dinner, breakfast or lunch, as tastes vary. Moreover, arguments occur while making decisions related to studies, marriage, etc. Arguments occur even when deciding a place to visit.

3 Is it easier for you to have arguments with your friends or your family members?

Yes, it's easier to argue with friends as they're also clueless about a few things like us. But it's totally different when arguing with our parents as their thinking/ mindset is entirely different from ours. They're experienced, and their arguments tend to be correct as they talk with maturity and better understanding.

4 Do you think people should change the way they think when they have arguments?

Of course! From my personal experience, I'd suggest that people set aside their ego and listen to the other person's point of view patiently instead of increasing the intensity of the argument. Moreover, they should control the tone of their voice and maintain dignity. They should ensure that they don't cross the limits while attempting to reach a conclusion.

5 If two people argue, do you think a third person should be involved in the settlement?

Well, I think the third person should not interfere and stay away from the conversation until the situation goes out of hand. When it goes out of control, the third person must speak or get involved in the conversation and settle the issue by suggesting solutions.

6 Why do you think people are stubborn and unwilling to change?

Well, in my opinion, some people are stubborn and unwilling to change because deep down, they know that their stubbornness will help them get what they want. They're unwilling to change because if they do, they will lose the things which they desire.

7 Do you think you are stubborn?

Yes, I'd consider stubbornness as one of my weak spots. But I'm stubborn about certain things, which I don't want to lose, and I think every individual has a right to be headstrong.

8 Will you be willing to change?

Of course, I'd be definitely willing to change myself if I have made a wrong decision or made a wrong assumption about something. Moreover, change is good, and it's best to keep yourself updated.

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Vocabulary

Perspective - a particular attitude towards or way of regarding something; a point of view.

Eg: My perspective about women empowerment is entirely different from my mother's perspective.

Silly - having or showing a lack of common sense or judgement; absurd and foolish.
Eg: Although the idea seemed silly at first, it became a success when it was implemented.

Clueless - having no knowledge, understanding or ability.
Eg: Rose was clueless about her birthday surprise.

Headstrong - energetically wilful and determined
Eg: Jack is famous all over the college because he is headstrong.

Assumption - something that is believed to be true or probably true but that is not known to be true
Eg: The doctor's assumption proved to be wrong when the surgery was successful.

22. Describe a piece of equipment that is important in your home

You should talk about:

- **What is it?**
- **How do you use it?**
- **How often do you use it?**
- **Why is it important?**

Sample Answer

Cooking is an art, and what has made cooking easier over time is the kitchen equipment. It is of great help and assistance in maintaining the cleanliness or orderliness in the kitchen. Here, let me describe a piece of equipment that is important in my home, the Air Fryer. As everyone in my home loves eating fried food items every week, I decided to purchase an air fryer as the air-fried foods have a lower fat content than deep-fried foods, which can help in weight loss and are completely safer and healthier when compared to deep-fried food items, which contain a lot more fat than foods cooked in other ways. Air fryers are user-friendly kitchen appliances that circulate heat at high temperatures to fry, bake, or grill the food with minimal use of oil. All we need to do is add the respective veggies or non-vegetarian food item, and we need to add one tablespoon of the negligible amount of cooking oil and set the time and temperature gauge. However, the meal gets ready within 15 to 20 minutes when the timer goes off. I use the air fryer thrice a week whenever my family desires to eat the fried food items. It requires less oil and produces a similar taste to what we can expect in deep frying methods. Also, it eases up and fastens my cooking time. From my personal point of view, the Air Fryer is essential as it enables me to cook fried food items easily with less oil. It ultimately produces healthier foods than most deep-fried foods. In addition, they're mess-free and very convenient to use. Besides, the air fryer is a healthier option because it has fewer calories, promoting weight loss.

Vocabulary

Assistance - the provision of money, resources, or information to help someone.
Eg: The financial assistance by the government was helpful.

Deep-fried - (of food) fried in an amount of fat or oil sufficient to cover it completely.
Eg: The doctor advised the patient to avoid deep-fried food items.

Circulate - move continuously or freely through a closed system or area.
Eg: The teacher circulated the exam papers to the students.

Negligible - so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering; insignificant.
Eg: The loss seemed negligible for the company.

Ease - absence of difficulty or effort.
Eg: The doctors performed the surgery with ease.

Part 3

1 How do you think modern technology has changed the way we work (compared to the past)?

Modern technology has transformed the way people used to communicate or work in the past. With the advent of technology and the arrival of the internet, the working style of businesses across the world has completely revolutionized. Moreover, technology has helped us to connect with people anywhere and at any time. Computers have replaced manual work; automated machines have replaced the work done by the employees. To summarize, the impact in the workplace is incredible.

2 Do you think that operating equipment at work can ever have some bad effect on the body?

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Well, I don't agree completely. Operating equipment at work can have fewer negative effects if the employees are trained and taught to use and operate the machines. They should also be made to understand the risks and possibility of dangers such as accidents, death, or occasional injuries that can occur if these operating equipment are mishandled or improperly used.

3 Do you think it's important for employees (in-industry) to be trained to use the equipment at work?

Of course, the in-industry employees need to be trained to use the operating equipment at work to understand the functioning and nature of that specific equipment. It can be dangerous for the employees' lives if they are not taught about the working process of the equipment.

4 Do you agree that older people have difficulties in using (advanced) modern equipment? How can we help elderly people to use these modern devices?

Yes, I totally agree that older people have difficulties using modern technological devices as they're less inclined to use them and are intimidated by electronic gadgets. However, we can overcome this problem by assisting and guiding older people to use these modern devices more efficiently and help understand the value/ usage of the internet/ search engines, digital payments, online shopping, etc.

5 Are there any disadvantages of using modern equipment too much in the home?

Yes, there are. Children and youngsters in the family are so engrossed in modern devices like mobile phones that they completely forget about their studies, while the older people are so engaged in television that they forget about their work. Similarly, mothers are extremely dependent on their kitchen equipment like dishwashers and microwaves, that work comes to a standstill when the equipment doesn't work.

Vocabulary

Engrossed - absorb all the attention or interest of.
Eg: She was engrossed in the climax of the movie

Engaged - busy and occupied
Eg: Jack was so engaged in his work that he forgot to visit the doctor.

Standstill - a situation or condition in which there is no movement or activity at all.
Eg: Machines come to a standstill when the power goes off.

Intimidate - frighten or overawe (someone), especially in order to make them do what one wants.
Eg: I was intimidated by the heights of roller coasters.

Mishandle - manage or deal with (something) wrongly or ineffectively
Eg: The labourers mishandled the heavy machinery, which led to injuries.

23. Describe a puzzle that you solved

You should talk about:

- **What is the name of the puzzle?**
- **How did you come to know about it?**
- **How is this puzzle solved?**
- **Why do you like this puzzle so much?**

Sample Answer

It is an acknowledged fact that solving puzzles is considered one of the best mental exercises. It is also an entertaining activity and is a perfect way to test the cognitive skills of an individual. In other words, puzzles are fun challenges that let us think creatively. Thus, people of all ages should involve themselves in solving puzzles. Here, I'd like to talk about a puzzle I love solving, the Jigsaw puzzle. It is a tiling puzzle where we need to assemble the pieces to complete a picture. I received the Jigsaw puzzle as a gift from my sister on the occasion of my 15th birthday. Initially, I didn't know how to play, but my sister helped me. Then, we needed to match the correct piece in the correct position and complete the pictures. As there are several types of pieces in the puzzle, such as regular, irregular, double ears, and edge, it wasn't easy to assemble the puzzle. But the more you play, the more you understand where to place the pieces and complete the puzzle. I must admit that there's nothing more satisfying than putting the last piece of the puzzle in its place and assembling the desired picture. It provides a sense of excitement and accomplishment. I love the Jigsaw puzzle as it encourages me to think out of the box and learn from my mistakes, resulting in the desired outcome. Also, the puzzles enhance creativity, help in reducing stress and improving memory.

Vocabulary

Creatively - in an original or imaginative way.
Eg: Jack solved the coding problem creatively.

Assemble - gather together in one place for a common purpose.
Eg: The students assembled in the dormitory.

Accomplishments- something that has been achieved successfully.
Eg: Everyone lauded Rose for her accomplishments in the research project.

Satisfy - meet the expectations, needs, or desires of (someone).
Eg: The judges were satisfied with her performance.

Desired - strongly wished for or intended.
Eg: The course helped me achieve my desired band score in the IELTS exam.

Part 3

1 Which age group plays Puzzles the most?

Playing or solving puzzles requires a lot of time and effort. Once you start playing the puzzle, your complete focus should be on the game. In my view, youngsters and adults are engaged in their studies or work-related activities, and they don't consider playing puzzles. But children and older people tend to play/solve puzzles during their leisure time.

2 Which do you think is better? A detective movie or its original novel?

Being a movie buff, I really love watching movies in various genres, including crime thrillers, horror movies, detective movies, etc. Although I'm aware of the fact that these movies are fictional and exaggerated, I like the way they conclude it with a climax that engrosses the audience's interest. Also, I agree that reading novels improves our brain activity. But according to me, detective movies are best as we learn how to solve crime and murder mysteries.

3 What kind of puzzles improve people's intelligence?

There are several puzzles available in the market and online gaming platforms, which are extremely helpful in increasing memory power, concentration, reasoning, and logical thinking. According to me, Jigsaw Puzzles, Rubik's cube, Sudoku, Anagram, crossword puzzle, etc are the kinds of puzzles that improve people's intelligence.

4 Why do parents let their children play puzzles?

Parents let their children play with puzzles as they are a great way to improve the functioning of our brains and increase our concentration. They help us understand the problem-solving process and various other skills, including hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, critical thinking, and visual perceptual skills.

Vocabulary

Movie buff - a person with a passionate interest in cinema
Eg: Jack is a movie buff who doesn't miss any movies.

Point of view - a particular attitude or way of considering a matter
Eg: I'm trying to change my father's point of view on women empowerment.

Exaggerated - regarded or represented as larger, better, or worse than in reality.
Eg: The facts shown in the movie are exaggerated.

Mystery - something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain.
Eg: Everyone appreciated the Police officer as he solved the murder mystery.

Functioning - work or operate in a proper or particular way.
Eg: Schools have stopped functioning due to the pandemic situation across the country.

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24. Describe Your Holidays

You should talk about:

- **where you go for the holidays**
- **how long they last**
- **who you go with**
- **And talk about anything interesting that happens during your holidays.**

Sample Answer

People go on vacation or holidays to take a break from their monotonous life, enjoy the place, feel relaxed, and get back refreshed. Everyone loves travelling to different parts of the world to enjoy the wonderful holidays they dream about. Moreover, holidays are natural stress relievers. Here, I'd like to talk about my holiday experience. Usually, I used to spend my holidays in my hometown in Pondicherry. Owing to my studies and my father's business, we stay in a metropolitan city. So, whenever my summer holidays are declared, my sister and I pack our bags and rush to visit our grandparents. The journey takes about 4-5 hours by road. Although the journey is extremely long, the excitement of meeting my loved ones after a long time washes away the tiresome feeling of the journey. As our vacation period was limited, our family decided to stay at my grandparent's house for only a week. But we made sure to make as many memories as possible. Pondicherry is a great place that offers serenity in a true sense. My sister and I do many interesting and adventurous activities such as scuba diving, surfing, exploring the city on a bike, visiting the sacred Auroville, etc. One of the most exciting experiences during my holiday was during the nights when we used to sneak out of the house to stroll at the nearby beach. It was an awesome experience to admire the slow-moving waves and enjoy the gaze of the glimmering stars. I must say that the eclectic vibe of the beach re-energizes and rejuvenates our souls. To summarize, I cherish each and every moment spent during my holidays.

Vocabulary

Monotonous - dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest.
Eg: Joshua decided to quit the marketing sector as he was tired of his monotonous job.

Reliever - Something or someone that relieves pain, distress, or difficulty.
Eg: The patient demanded a pain reliever.

Tiresome - causing one to feel bored or annoyed.
Eg: Jack felt fatigued after a tiresome journey of 5 hours.

Serenity - the state or quality of being serene, calm, or tranquil;
Eg: I was mesmerized by the serenity of mountains in Shimla.

Vibe - the mood or character of a place, situation.
Eg: Since Jack was an introvert, he didn't enjoy the vibe of the party.

Part 3

1 What do the Indian people mostly do in their leisure time?

There are several activities that Indian people do in their leisure time, such as dancing, singing, playing outdoor & indoor games, baking, painting, cooking, programming, chatting with friends, surfing the internet, learning foreign languages, etc. Some adventurous people prefer to go trekking, scuba diving, kayaking, rafting, paragliding, etc.

2 What's the difference between holidays today and five years ago and the reasons for the change?

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Earlier, the world was not developed, and people were not much concerned about their holidays or vacation. They simply liked staying indoors, or they'd visit nearby places during their vacations. But nowadays, with technological advancement, people give more importance to holidays as it gives them a break from their daily routine. So they plan to travel to different countries or enjoy their holidays in luxury resorts.

3 Do you think people will spend more time on leisure or working in the future?

Well, working hours in future would be reduced with the progress in the technology and leisure time would be increased. In other words, people will depend on technological devices, equipment or robots to complete their work in the future. As a result, their daily work will be completed at the earliest, leaving them a plentiful amount of leisure time.

Vocabulary

Plentiful - abundant
Eg: A plentiful amount of gold was stolen from the jewellery shop.

Progress - development towards an improved or more advanced condition.
Eg: The slow learners are making progress.

Adequate - satisfactory or acceptable in quality or quantity.
Eg: The institution offers an adequate number of scholarships to the students.

Concern - make (someone) anxious or worried.
Eg: Rose was concerned about her father's health.

Pastime - an activity that someone regularly does for enjoyment rather than work; a hobby.
Eg: John's pastime activities in childhood were bicycling and gardening.

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25. Describe a food item that you tried for the first time

You should talk about:

- **When did you have it?**
- **Where did you eat it?**
- **What was it?**
- **And how did you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

Life is all about experimenting, and trying something for the first time is always exciting and fun. Being a food connoisseur myself, I love experimenting with new cuisines of various cultures and nations. I recently visited my hometown in India, where I exercised my taste buds by eating a flavorsome delicacy. On a rainy weekend, I went to a street food joint with my friends. The first thing they served as a starter was the Samosa. It was not the usual deep-fried potato samosa. Rather they had made it with ground lamb. Initially, I wasn't sure about trying it. But at my friends' insistence, I tasted a bit of it and found it delicious. The spices and flavors were perfectly blended, and the crispness of the dough was up to a point. Overall, it was finely cooked. The puffy samosa treat was accompanied by delectable sweet and tangy cilantro sauce. I enjoyed admiring how these fried, or baked patties were filled with well-spiced & grounded lamb, along with onions, wrapped up into a cone, triangle, or dome shape and then deep-fried in the cooking oil. I must say that the lamb samosa is a simplified version of the traditional lamb curry, and I loved every bit of it. Moreover, this crispy and crunchy starter meal was not only filling but also tasted heavenly. I was so impressed with its taste that I visited the food joint the next day as well.

Vocabulary

Experimenting - try out new ideas or methods
Eg: Mrs. Davis loves experimenting in the kitchen.

Starter - a small quantity of food that is served as the first course of a meal
Eg: The restaurant served only vegetarian dishes for starters.

Delectable - delicious
Eg: The baker bakes one of the most delectable chocolate puddings.

Insistence - the act or an instance of insisting
Eg: I went to visit my grandparents at my mother's insistence.

Accompanied - to go with someone or to be provided or exist at the same time as something.
Eg: My father accompanied me to the amusement park.

Part 3

1 Do you like to try new food?

Of course, who doesn't like to experiment with new food cuisines? Well, I'm an **epicure**, and I love trying out new flavours. One way to satisfy your hunger is to try something new. So, I give it a shot by trying new street foods, and I think it's one of the greatest pleasures of life to try new food items.

2 What kinds of foreign foods are popular in your country?

Well, there are several kinds of foreign foods that are extremely popular amongst the youth in my country, which include Japanese Sushi, Chinese Noodles, Thai curry, Italian Pasta, Mexican & Arabian Shawarma, Korean BBQ, Turkish Kunafa, and French foods. In contrast, the Middle-Eastern Baklava, American Hot Dogs, and North-African Shakshouka are not very popular.

3 Do you like to cook at home?

Yes, whenever I'm home during weekends, I love to cook and whip up a meal for my family. Due to my work commitments, I don't get a chance to cook, but I try to cook a meal at least once a week. I'm not a fancy cook, but not a bad cook either. Moreover, a freshly cooked meal tastes much better than frozen foods, and also I prefer eating healthier foods than fast foods.

4 Is it expensive to eat out in your country?

Not really, though! There are plenty of expensive and economical restaurants in my country. But it depends on where an individual prefers to eat. For example, if he wants to eat in a local street food joint, it wouldn't cost him a lot of money, but if the same individual visits an expensive restaurant, it'd cost him a fortune. However, the tastes in each restaurant may vary.

5 What's the difference between Indian food and western food?

Indian food is entirely different from the rest of the world not only in taste but also in terms of the cooking methods, styles, flavours, and preparation. Indian food includes flavoursome spices, which are freshly and authentically prepared in homes. Further, Indian food in itself has more diversity; that is, the North Indian cuisine is poles apart from the South Indian cuisine.

Vocabulary

Whip up - prepare something to eat very quickly
Eg: I was too tired to whip up a meal, so I ordered the food.

Commitment - the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etc.
Eg: We couldn't go on a vacation due to my father's work commitments.

Flavoursome - having a pleasant distinct flavour, tasty.
Eg: My mother bakes the most flavoursome Apple Pie.

Food joint - very common and informal way to refer to a business, usually one that sells food or drink
Eg: Post his graduation, Jack decided to become an entrepreneur by opening a Food Joint.

Poles apart - have nothing in common.
Eg: Although the twin brothers were identical, their personalities are poles apart from each other.

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26. Describe Your First Day At School

You should talk about:

- **Where was it?**
- **What happened?**
- **Explain how you felt on that day?**

Sample Answer

(Where was it?) I attended two different schools. Although I was just 4 years old when I was enrolled in primary school, the memory of my first day is still fresh in my mind. My primary school was smaller than my secondary school and was just about half an hour from my home. Here I'd like to talk about my first day at primary school.
(What happened?) While my mother was discussing the timings with the teacher, I was feeling very anxious and continuously sobbing as my mother, who accompanied me, was about to leave me alone with a few strangers whom I have not even met. As I turned around, I saw many kids like me who were jittery and weeping. The next moment, I was handed over to the teacher. She gently caressed and introduced me to the entire class. Later, we got to know each other, and the teacher made us do some ice-breakers.
(Explain how you felt on that day?) Post recess, the teacher distributed toffees and toys and made all the kids feel comfortable. After the last bell rang, everyone waved goodbye to the teacher and delightfully ran away to their parents waiting for them. Overall, my first day in school was emotional and nerve-wracking at the same time. I'd never forgotten that momentous period of my life.

Vocabulary

Jittery(adj): Feeling nervous or tense.
Eg: When I first sat on the roller-coaster, I felt jittery.

Caressed(verb): to kiss or touch fondly.
Eg: The mother caressed the little child.

Ice-breaker: An activity or a game designed to cheer up and reduce tensions.
Eg: We did some ice-breakers during the house-warming party.

Nerve-wracking (verb): distressing and irritating.
Eg: It was a nerve-wracking moment.

Momentous(adj): having a great impact or lasting importance.
Eg: My brother's wedding was one of the momentous occasions.

Part 3

1 Do you think students should be taken to school by their parents or go by themselves?

If a student is in primary school, then he/she can use the school bus. Parents may also drop them to school. But if students are mature enough to go to school by themselves, they can go on their own without being dependent on their parents.

2 How can children become more independent?

To become more independent, children must gain a sense of importance. They should target the priorities and manage their time efficiently. If parents stop comparing and criticizing their children, then they can automatically become responsible and independent.

3 Should children rely on their parents or be independent?

This has always been a conflicting subject. Most of the parents find it difficult to deal with such a dilemma. However, in my opinion, until children become self-sufficient and self-reliant, they can rely on their parents. Once they become mature and start earning, they should stand on their own legs. This will help them be independent, understand how the world works and be more confident.

4 What is the effect if parents interfere with children's life too much?

The interference of parents in children's life can cause domestic conflict between both of them. Parents who exert control and intrude into their children's personal lives are not letting their children be self-confident and decisive.

Vocabulary

Criticizing: to say what is wrong or bad with something/somebody
Eg: She was criticizing the teachers for not looking after her sick child.

Conflict: a difference between two or more notions or ideas
Eg: For a woman, there is always a conflict between her family and career.

Exert: to put efforts
Eg: You would have to exert yourself to accomplish your goals.

Intrude: to enter a situation or place without permission
Eg: They intrude into my house when I am not around.

Decisive: making something final or certain
Eg: Our trip to Jaipur is decisive.

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27. Describe a Time You Made a Promise to someone

You should talk about:

- **Whom did you make the promise to?**
- **Why did you make the promise?**
- **What was the promise?**
- **Was the promise easy to achieve?**

Sample Answer

It is easy to make promises, but it is always hard to keep them as the saying goes, "Never make a promise in haste." So, if you don't intend to keep promises, then avoid making them.

(Whom did you make the promise to?): I had promised my best friend that I would visit her once she's back from the United States and spend an entire day with her and recollect our college memories. **(Why did you make the promise?)** My best friend moved with her family to the United States after graduation, while I became busy in my daily routine. Thus, we didn't get a chance to have a good time. It was very difficult, even to call or text her. **(What was the promise?)** One day, she called to tell me that she's coming to India for a week. On hearing the news, I was so excited that, impulsively, I promised to spend a day with her. **(Was the promise easy to achieve?)** I decided to take a day off and spend the day with her. But to my surprise, on the very same day, my manager asked me to come to the office as another colleague of mine was on sick leave and informed me that I had to work as a substitute. Irked, I reached the office and started my work, and tried to complete it at the earliest. Although it was difficult for me to manage work at the office, I did my best to finish it quickly and keep my promise of spending more time with her. Later, I called my best friend and convinced her to spend at least half a day with me. She gladly agreed, and we had a great time in the evening.

Vocabulary

Recollect (verb): To remember or recall (call to mind)
Eg: She recollected her childhood memories.

Routine: A sequence of action that is regularly repeated or followed.
Eg: My mother's daily routine includes cooking and cleaning.

Impulsively(adverb): Doing something suddenly or without forethought.
Eg: She impulsively jumped into the still water.

Irked (verb): irritated

Eg: She got irked when the manager chose her best friend.

Substitute: A person or a thing that serves in place of another.
Eg: She used the meat as a substitute for chicken while preparing the dish.

Part 3

1 Do Indian parents make a lot of promises to their children?

Yes, most Indian parents make promises to their children such as gifting their favourite toys or taking them on a vacation only to motivate them to achieve good academic results and maintain healthy competition amongst other children.

2 Do children also make a lot of promises to their parents?

Obviously Yes. Children make a lot of promises to their parents as parents have high hopes for them. Children make promises such as securing good grades, being obedient and disciplined, and not idling away their time but utilizing it in the right way, and many others.

3 Are most people able to fulfill their promises?

Most people try to fulfill their promises. Few of them don't. For example, some people promise to be on time, but they don't happen to be on time. So it is better to avoid making promises.

4 How do you feel when others break their promises?

I would feel terrible if someone makes a commitment and is unable to fulfill it. It will become hard for me to trust them again. Most people make promises frequently but are unable to keep them, which is very disappointing. Therefore, I believe that people should not befool others by making false promises and think twice before making one.

Vocabulary

Idling: to spend time doing nothing
Eg: After her exams, you can only find her idling.

Terrible: unpleasant
Eg: Coming back from the office, he met with a terrible accident.

Disappointing: feeling sad because of something bad
Eg: Her behaviour toward me was disappointing.

Befool: to make a fool of
Eg: I wanted to help him in the business but he tried to befool me.

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28. Describe an art exhibition that you visited

You should talk about:

- **When did you see this exhibition?**
- **Where was the exhibition held?**
- **What was on display?**
- **Explain your impression of the exhibition?**

Sample Answer

(When did you see this exhibition?) Post lockdown, I wanted to break the monotony of my life. So my parents decided to take me to the art exhibition set up by one of the Non-profit organizations to raise funds for the needy. **(Where was the exhibition held?)** The art exhibition was spread over the rooftop of the ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. Art and culture are considered the pulse of Chennai, and a wide range of art galleries and exhibitions are open to all art aficionados. **(What was on the display?)** From art installations, photography to unique contemporary art forms, the art exhibition had works of both international and domestic artists, which would have drawn every visitors' attention. There was a lot of beautifully handcrafted art, which was mesmerizing to the visitor's eyes. **(Explain your impression of the exhibition?)** Although I am not an art connoisseur, I was totally impressed by the fact that the art exhibition was set up to raise funds for the needy people who are facing financial hardships. Moreover, the exhibition also conducts workshops. Overall, my visit to the art exhibition was worth it.

Vocabulary

Monotony (Noun): Lacking interests; tired of following the same routine.
Eg: Rose hated the monotony of her job.

Aficionados(Noun): Someone who is very passionate and knowledgeable about an activity or subject.
Eg: Keith is an art aficionado who loves spending time in art galleries.

Contemporary(adj): Living or occurring at the same time; can be a person or a thing.
Eg: The annual event was captured by a contemporary photographer.

Handcrafted(adj): Making something skilfully by the use of hands.
Eg: We have a handcrafted table in our house.

Mesmerizing(adj): Captivating to the human eye; gaining one's attention.

Eg: I was mesmerized by the beauty of the Taj Mahal.

Connoisseur(Noun): An expert who has great taste.
Eg: He's a food connoisseur.

Part 3

1. **How could art exhibitions attract more visitors?**

Art exhibitions can attract more visitors by improving accessibility for people from all walks of life. They can invest in social media management and interact with the people to know more about their penchant for arts and cultures and introduce workshops and events accordingly. This way, more visitors will be attracted to the art exhibition.

2. **Are art exhibitions popular in your country?**

Yes, India is a diverse country, and art exhibitions and galleries are very popular. These arts have cultural and religious influences that attract everyone. The rich culture of India is reflected in various art forms.

3. **Do you think people should have to pay to visit art exhibitions?**

This mainly depends upon who is organizing the art exhibitions. If such an event is organized by a multi-billion dollar organization or a billionaire artist, even if people don't pay to visit, it would be adequate. On the other hand, if the art exhibition is set up by non-profit organizations, it will be easier for them to generate and raise funds.

4. **How will art exhibitions change in the future?**

The future is uncertain, but there is a possibility for some changes in the art exhibitions. With the help of technology, the exhibitions will start adapting the computerized versions of the art forms. Through this, it will be easier to learn more about art and culture.

Vocabulary

Accessibility: to provide a way of entering or using something
Eg: Computers have given the accessibility to the internet.

Penchant: something that is liked a lot
Eg: I have a penchant for books.

Exhibitions: a collection of objects shown to the public

Eg: My city is organizing a movie exhibition.

Influence: a power to affect somebody
Eg: He is under the influence of medicines.

Uncertain: not sure
Eg: Whether I am joining my friends is uncertain.

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29. Describe a bag you want to own

You should talk about:

- **What kind of bag it is?**
- **Where do you want to buy it?**
- **How much will it cost you?**
- **Why you want this kind of bag?**

Sample Answer

Bags play an important role in the life of modern women. A huge variety of stylish bags are available in the market. These bags are considered fashion statements that can either break or make your style.

(What kind of bag it is?): It is a tote bag that is stylish, durable, and convenient to use. They are not only fashionable but suitable for every occasion. It can hold a lot of stuff and is waterproofed which is a good advantage. **(Where do you want to buy it?)** Though the tote bag is available in many retail stores, I'd like to purchase it online when the amazon sale goes live. By this way, I can even get an additional discount for branded tote bags. **(How much will it cost you?)** Most branded tote bags are expensive ranging from INR 1600. But the usual cost of tote bags is INR 900. Therefore, it depends on the person whether they opt for branded or unbranded tote bags based on their budget. **(Why you want this kind of bag?)** I want a branded tote bag as it is a bag for every occasion be it for office purposes or any others. These bags complement our stylish looks. The best thing is tote bags can be reused and are environmentally friendly. Overall, I believe that Tote bags are all-rounder bags, the best option available for anyone.

Vocabulary

Durable(adj): able to withstand pressure and damage for a long time.
Eg: Larch is considered to be one of the most durable of coniferous woods.

Convenient(adj): fitting in well with one's needs, purposes, and activities.
Eg: It is very convenient for her to reach the station early as she lives in the same area.

Stuff(Noun): matter, articles, materials, etc of a specified kind that are being referred to.
Eg: Rose threw all his stuff out of the car.

Unbranded(adj): A product not having or bearing a brand name.
Eg: Sheela bought an unbranded camera from the local shop.

Complement(Noun): something that contributes extra features to something so as to improvise its quality.
Eg: She chose a dress that would compliment her personality.

All-rounder(Noun): a versatile thing or person who can do both activities at the same time.
Eg: John is an all-rounder, as he can do batting and bowling.

Part 3

1. **Why do you think women like to buy bags?**

Women love buying bags because they have so many accessories to carry, and these bags are convenient and make a fashion statement too. Some women match their outfits according to their bags.

2. **Is the backpack practical in life?**

In comparison with other bags, backpacks are better because they're easy and comfortable and occupy less space. But if they are too heavy to carry or used incorrectly, they can cause muscles or joint strains.

3. **Why are some people willing to buy expensive bags?**

Some people tend to buy expensive branded bags because they focus on quality, design, and material rather than the price. In contrast, others believe in buying unbranded bags and using them for a few days, and throwing them away.

4. **In the future, what changes will bags have?**

I believe that the bags in the future may be more practical and convertible from a handbag to shoulder bag to backpack. Also, people will start using bags made of jute, canvas etc. On top of that, it is possible that bags would be bigger than what they are currently. Spacious bags would attract more women, considering the amount of things they carry along.

5. **Why do children need to carry a uniform school bag?**

This is to avoid discrimination amongst the children. Every child must be treated the same, irrespective of their financial status. Therefore, it is mandatory and obligatory for children to conform to a uniform school bag.

Vocabulary

Strains: a pressure put on something
Eg: Working consistently has put strain on my shoulders.

Convertible: capable of changing into another shape.
Eg: Our neighbour has purchased a convertible car.

Discrimination: treating a person worse than the other
Eg: Our school does not have any discrimination.

Mandatory: something that should be done
Eg: Attending the office tomorrow is mandatory.

Conform: to obey the law or rule
Eg: All of the students must conform to this new rule.

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30. Describe an experience you had as a member of a team

You should talk about:

- **Where was it?**
- **Who were the members of the team?**
- **What role did you play in this team?**
- **And explain how you achieved your goal?**

Sample Answer

Teamwork is an ability where you need to work towards a common goal. It can be considered as a fuel that allows ordinary people to achieve objectives that were once out of reach.

(Where was it?) I usually take part in many contests and competitions and have faced many positive and negative experiences. Then, it was the second year of my college. My tutor selected 5 other students and me from our department to participate in a play. **(Who were the members?)** They were my seniors and juniors. As we were in the same department, we got along with each other. Also, there was no partiality between seniors and juniors. **(What role did you play in the team?)** We were asked to select a topic and enact it. Everyone was very anxious and uptight. I went ahead and chose a topic which was Women Safety. We were given 5 minutes to prepare. So we decided to do a Mime Act, and My role was to ensure that I narrate the scenes clearly so that the spectators find them easier to understand. **(And explain how you achieved your goal?)** My team members acted well, and I synchronized the same by narrating it. Luckily, we finished our play on time with cooperation from each other. To our astonishment, everyone gave a standing ovation and appreciated our mime act. Overall, it was one of the best experiences I've ever had, and I believe that it all comes down to having people who understand each other and work well together.

Vocabulary

Tutor(Noun): Someone who helps a student understand the concepts, guides him with proper instructions.
Eg: Rose is a tutor at the Imperial Coaching Centre.

Partiality(Noun): Unfair bias in favour of one person or group or thing; Favouritism
Eg: The professor is partial towards toppers.

Uptight(adj): Angry or nervous in an overly controlled manner.
Eg: Tina was uptight at the wedding hall.

Mime Act: Acting a play or a skit through body language and gestures without the use of speech.

Eg: Rose's performance consisted of Mime and Music.

Synchronized(verb): Occur at the same time.
Eg: The sound and the picture has to synchronize properly.

Standing ovation: It is a form of applause where seated audiences stand up and applaud.
Eg: The Auditorium gave a standing ovation for her dance performance.

Part 3

1. **Would you like to work alone or work with a partner?**

Although I like to work individually, I also enjoy working with a partner to build strong relationships. It is a common belief that two or more people are always better than one for solving problems, finishing off tasks etc, effectively and efficiently.

2. **What type of people are good to use?**

People who are resourceful, responsible, and honest are good to use. But in my opinion, I'd want to work with a sincere and positive person who would take accountability for his/her actions and work.

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3. **Do you enjoy team work or group studying?**

Yes, I enjoy working with a team because I get along with people. Teamwork and group study enable sharing of ideas and information and help us to be productive. And when we work together, we learn faster and better.

4. **What are the benefits of studying alone?**

One of the benefits of studying alone is that we can concentrate better and pace ourselves. If there would be nobody around, we would not be spending more time chatting but studying. This will help us understand our strengths and weaknesses better. Therefore, studying alone is the best way to improve our focus.

5. **What can children learn through teamwork?**

Children can learn many social skills such as patience, communication, compromise, tolerance, etc., through teamwork. They can learn to build a good relationship with their team members, which will be valuable in future.

Vocabulary

Resourceful: to be good at finding something
Eg: My grandfather's experience makes him extremely resourceful.

Accountability: to take responsibility
Eg: I take the accountability for my mistakes.

Pace: a step
Eg: She has a faster pace than me.

Compromise: an agreement where both the parties get to fulfill their wishes
Eg: Unless both parties agree to compromise, there will be no resolution.

Tolerance: a capacity to endure hardship or pain
Eg: My risk tolerance is almost nil.

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31. Describe a time when you feel bored

You should talk about:

- **When was it?**
- **where was it?**
- **Why did you get bored?**
- **How you felt about it?**

Sample Answer

(When was it?) I am an extrovert, and I don't get bored easily. But, two years ago, I was bored to death and got so annoyed by the situation. **(Where was it?)** It was during my sister's arrival at the airport. Everyone in the family was very eager and curious to meet her as she's returning to India after a long gap of five years. All the family members decided to pick her from the airport. I was reluctant, but my mother insisted that I come, so we finally gathered at the waiting area at 2 PM as her flight would reach around 12.30 PM. **(Why did you get bored?)** When everyone was busy talking, I was killing my time on my phone. Suddenly there was an announcement that the flight has been delayed and will reach only at 5 PM. We were all astounded as we had already been waiting for an hour. I was fed up with waiting, but there was no other alternative because it would take an hour to reach home due to the traffic. **(How you felt about it?)** I felt exhausted with boredom, while the other members of my family were also tired and fatigued. So we decided to have some refreshments and then waited impatiently for my sister's arrival. After a long haul, her flight finally reached the airport at 5.30 PM, and we met her at 6 PM. Despite being an extrovert, I found it challenging to spend time in the airport.

Vocabulary

Bored to death(idiom): Hit by boredom.
Eg: Despite being surrounded by her friends, she was bored to death.

Curious(adj): Eager to know or do something.
Eg: She was curious to know about his secrets.

Reluctant(adj): Hesitating and unwilling to do something.
Eg: Rose reluctantly told that she will come to the wedding.

Kill my time: to spend time by doing something
Eg: John and his friends killed time watching the haunted movie.

Astounded(verb): Shock or amusement
Eg: Keith was astounded when he was announced as a winner.

Fatigued(verb): causing someone to feel exhausted.
Eg: They were fatigued by their long journey.

Part 3

1 What kind of jobs are boring?

According to me, jobs where you have to do the same work for an extended period and follow the same routine will definitely make you get bored. So it is imperative to change the way we work and give more attention to it.

2 Do people get bored easily? Why?

Yes, Most people get bored quickly because of the monotony or repetition of the same thing. If people are not engaged in such activities that are interesting and would keep them hooked, boringness ought to happen. If we don't pay attention to what we're doing, we are likely to get bored.

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3 What can people do to stop boredom?

Overcoming boredom is difficult. But we can consciously try certain things, like being productive and taking advantage of dull, lifeless situations. People can work on a task that they've been putting off or learn a new skill.

4 Do you think these boring jobs will be done by machines in the future?

Maybe, Yes! Machines may replace humans and start doing these boring jobs as they won't get tired. In fact, there are enough examples nowadays where machines have already replaced humans into everyday tasks. Machines will complete their jobs diligently and effectively.

5 Why people do boring jobs?

Most people keep on doing boring jobs because they don't want to lose their good pay scale. They chose money over satisfaction. It depends upon people and their personal traits. I believe that people mainly opt for boring jobs for financial benefits.

Vocabulary

Imperative: important

Eg: Sunlight is an imperative for the development of bones.

Monotony: the state of being the same
Eg: The monotony in my professional life makes me sick.

Diligently: persistently
Eg: I have achieved everything in life diligently.

Traits: a quality in a person
Eg: Hiding things from her parents has become one of her traits.

Effectively: in a way that generates desired results
Eg: He dealt with his divorce effectively.

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32. Describe a person who you think is very open

You should talk about:

- **Who is this person?**
- **How you know this person?**
- **Why do you think this person is very open?**
- **Explain how you feel about this person?**

Sample Answer

(Who is this person) Being expressive and open is a rare virtue that only a few people possess. Nowadays, most people don't hesitate to convey their views. On the contrary, there are some who don't find it easy to express their views. Here I will talk about my next-door neighbour, John, a straightforward and opinionated person. **(How do you know this person?)** When I was just 8 years old, John had moved into our colony after making a lot of money as a public speaker in the US. During the colony meetings, he didn't rely upon others to discuss any issues. Instead, he kept his views open for everyone. Many people even shared their worries to him so that he would speak his mind and give a solution to it. **(Why do you think this person is open?)** Once, our colony was facing a significant issue of water shortage. Many of them wrote about it to the municipalities, but no steps were taken. When John came to know about this, he gathered everyone and asked them to go on a rally. The next day, everyone went on a protest demanding water. Later, the authorities assured that water would be supplied within the next 5 hours. Due to John's altruistic nature, he became everyone's favourite. **(Explain how you feel about this person?)** John is a decisive person who thinks for the betterment of people and doesn't hesitate to go beyond the conventional domains to solve people's issues. I idolize him for his straightforwardness.

Vocabulary

Virtue(noun): A trait or a quality that is deemed to be morally good.
Eg: Sheela instilled virtues in her child, by telling stories.

Hesitate(verb): being reluctant to do something.
Eg: She was hesitating to eat the pasta made by his brother.

Opinionated(adj): Expressing their ideas and views strongly without hesitation.
Eg: Rose was opinionated but undeniably smart.

Rely(verb): Dependent on someone.
Eg: Children rely upon their parents until the age of 15.

Rally: To come together for a common cause.
Eg: The farmers went on a rally.

Altruistic(adj): showing selfless concern for the well-being of others.
Eg: It was an altruistic act.

Part 3

1 Is it difficult for Indian people to express their feelings?

Yes, Many Indians hesitate to express their feelings in public because they are emotional, sensitive, and shy. Moreover, one of the major reasons behind this is that most of the Indians don't get the emotional support as required to open up. Thus, they feel that it is not worth sharing about the things going on in their minds.

2 Who do you think will talk more? Children or grown ups?

Of course, children will talk more as they tend to share every detail of what happened to them. Children don't have the strategy to calm themselves while talking. They also don't have a curtain. They cannot differentiate between what should be said and what should be avoided. In their tiny brains, they have millions of questions. So they are chatty.

3 What do you think is the difference between boys and girls in expressing their feelings?

Generally, girls become emotional when expressing their feelings, while boys express their feelings with anger and positive stimuli. Also, girls don't hide away from somebody they trust. On the other hand, boys keep everything inside. However, it varies on a case by case basis too.

4 Do you think people are more open than in the past?

Yes, People in the past were not allowed to express their views or opinions on anything. Only the men were allowed to make decisions. But nowadays, openness doesn't vary based on gender.

Vocabulary

Hesitate: to pause before doing something or pause before taking a decision because of uncertainty
Eg: I hesitate every time I talk to somebody I don't know.

Chatty: to talk in a friendly manner

Eg: Her extrovert personality has made her extremely chatty.

Stimuli: (plural of stimulus) something that causes interest or development
Eg: Books give me ideas and stimuli for my imagination.

Tend to: to usually do something
Eg: I tend to sleep early these days.

Varies: different
Eg: My personality varies from my sister.

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33. Describe an old friend you got in contact with again

You should talk about:

- **Who he or she is?**
- **How did you get in contact?**
- **What is he or she like?**
- **And explain how you felt about it?**

Sample Answer

(who he or she is?) In today's fast-paced world, it is easy to lose contact with your friends. Over the years, as we grow older, it becomes normal to lose touch with friends due to hectic schedules. But it is always overwhelming to get in touch with them again. A couple of days ago, I experienced such a situation when one of my friends from school visited me. **(How did you get in contact?)** We studied in the same school until I decided to pursue my secondary education in a CBSE school in a different state. Soon, I had fallen out of contact with my classmates. But I was over the moon when she visited me that day. Seeing her again after the longest time gave me goosebumps. I warmly welcomed her, and she was cordial with my family members. **(What is he or she like?)** She was modest and courteous to everyone since the school days, and she's still the same. We had a gala time recalling our school memories. She was very good at singing, so she even sang one of my mother's favourite songs and everyone was mesmerized by her melodious voice. **(And explain how you felt about it?)** I felt like I had travelled back in time. Although it was a bitter-sweet feeling, I thanked her for visiting me again and promised to be in touch. I also realized that reconnecting with school friends will make you feel better.

Vocabulary

Fast-paced(adj): Moving or developing quickly.
Eg: This is a fast-paced thriller movie.

Overwhelming(adj): Very great in amount.
Eg: The opposition had an overwhelming support of the farmers.

Fallen out: To cut off relationships.
Eg: After John's divorce, he has fallen out with his wife's family.

Over the moon: very happy and pleased.

Eg: Keith was over the moon when he received his birthday gift.

Cordially(adverb): in a warm and friendly manner.
Eg: She cordially invited us to her wedding.

Bittersweet(adj): sweet with a bitter taste.
Eg: It was a bitter-sweet memory of his time in London.

Part 3

1. **What is the influence of social media on friendship?**

Social media has a great influence on friendship. We can easily communicate and connect with our friends who are just a click away. Apart from that, these connections strengthen the bond between friends.

2. **Why do people lose contact with each other after graduation?**

Losing contacts after graduation is a common thing, and this is because people start focusing on their career. They move to another city and inadvertently lose touch with their friends. Moreover, they make new friends and forget the old ones.

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3. **Do people in your country like to make new friends?**

Of course, It doesn't matter where we live, friendships just happen. For example, if you have spent an hour talking to a new person while you're travelling, he/she is bound to become your friend.

4. **Do you think old friends are more important to the old generation or young generation?**

According to me, old friends are important to both generations. Talking to an old friend will make you realize how much your life has changed over the years. You may also want to reminisce.

Vocabulary

Influence: a power to control / change / effect something
Eg: Social media can have a negative influence on children.

Strengthen: to make something stronger or to become stronger
Eg: I workout 4 days a week to strengthen my muscles.

Inadvertently: unknowingly or without the intent
Eg: She inadvertently left the keys inside the car.

Bound to: be certain
Eg: Because of a new job offer, I am bound to leave my hometown.

Reminisce: to talk pleasantly about the things that happened in the past.
Eg: The last time I met my classmate, we reminisced about all the time spent in the school.

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34. Describe a line that you remember from a poem or song

You should talk about:

- **What is it?**
- **What poem/song is it from?**
- **How did you know about it?**
- **How do you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

(What is it?) Whenever we get bored, we eventually listen to songs as it takes a person to some other world away from stress, eases and relaxes our mind. I'd like to talk about a peculiar song and one specific line from it which hits hard. The line is 'He said: 'One day you'll leave this world behind, So live a life you will remember'. **(What song is it from?)** This line is from the song 'The Nights' by Avicii, and it is one of my favourite songs. This line specifically conveys the message that one day we are all going to leave this world behind, and so we need to live a life that everyone will remember. This line was told by his father to Avicii when he was just a child. **(How did you know about it?)** I heard the song when I was with my cousins, and after hearing it for the first time, I was quite impressed as the song was super energizing, and the lyrics had a darker meaning. While I searched for the song on Google, I came to know that Avicii had committed suicide due to depression. **(How do you feel about it?)** Thereafter, I started listening to the song very often, whenever I felt low, as the song galvanized and motivated me. He has immortalized himself through meaningful lyrics. Although Avicii has left this world, people will always reminisce about him.

Vocabulary

Peculiar(verb): special or different.
Eg: Rose's peculiar behaviour worried her parents.

Convey(verb): transfer or transporting a message.
Eg: When her mother couldn't attend the wedding, she conveyed her regards.

Galvanized(adj): to stimulate or excite as if an electric shock.
Eg: The captain talked loudly and galvanized his team.

Depression: a mood disorder that affects a person's life.
Eg: When her wife expired, he went into depression.

Immortalized(verb): confer ensuring fame upon; commemorate.
Eg: The battle was immortalized in a famous poem.

Part 3

1. **Are you good at memorizing things?**

Honestly speaking, I don't have a photographic memory. I can memorize and remember things only to an extent. For this reason, I try to note down the vital details and information on my notepad, which I carry with me.

2. **Do you think children like the rhythm of songs & poems?**

Yes, Children like a poem or a song with a rhythm that makes them easy to grasp and learn. That is one of the reasons why we see toddlers thumping and moving to melodious tunes. They can understand these tunes much better with songs and poems. Moreover, they are receptive to new things and remember exactly how they're taught.

3. **Do you think it's easier for children to learn songs or poems than adults?**

Yes, Children tend to learn faster, be it a song or a poem, because of the unique characteristics in their brains. Their brains are not occupied with thousands of things at a time. Thus, they can concentrate better and learn more from the songs and poems that they hear. Adults are always preoccupied.

4. **What can people learn from poems or songs?**

There is so much to learn from poems or songs. To begin with, these artistic pieces define how imaginative somebody can be. Also, people can try to understand and learn the hidden meanings from songs and poems because they describe the author's experience in love, success, failure, betrayal, etc.

Vocabulary

Extent: the importance or length of something
Eg: I can handle ignorant behaviour only to an extent. After that, I cut off from the person.

Vital: important
Eg: Eating proper, nutritious food is vital for our immune system.

Grasp: to hold something firmly
Eg: My mother grasps my hand firmly before crossing the road.

Receptive: ready to hear new thoughts, ideas, etc.
Eg: When it comes to travelling, I am receptive to your thoughts.

Betrayal: breaking the trust
Eg: I cannot handle betrayal in a relationship.

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35. Describe a tradition in your country

You should talk about:

- **What is it?**
- **Who takes part in it?**
- **What activities are there?**
- **And explain how you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

(What is it?) India is a country with rich culture and heritage, where people speak various languages. With several cultures, traditions, and religions, people in India live a peaceful life. There are many cultures and traditions followed in India. One among the traditions is touching the elder's feet which is considered a blessing. **(Who takes part in it?)** This is an age-old tradition, which is being practised all over India. The touching of the elder's feet originated in the Gurukul, where the students used to take the blessings of their gurus (teachers) by touching their feet. **(What activities are there ?)** On an occasion or during a festival, it is the duty of the younger people to seek blessings of the elderly people by touching their feets. This way, the elders are valued and respected. **(And Explain how you feel about it?)** This is a very common and well-practised tradition that helps us understand the importance of showing respect to elders. I feel very honoured to follow this tradition and keep it alive. Unfortunately, nowadays, most people don't practise and are getting detached from these habits.

Vocabulary

Heritage(noun): property that descends to an heir; legacy.
Eg: Rose tried to steal her grandmother's heritage.

Blessing(noun): God's protection and favour.
Eg: She went to the temple to seek God's blessings on her birthday.

Gurukul: A residential schooling system where a student and his teacher live in the same house.
Eg: Kapoor's Son studies in Gurukul.

Well-practised: having been habitually or frequently practised.
Eg: The tradition of Karva Chauth is well-practised in India.

Detached(adj): Separate or disconnected
Eg: She lives in a detached house.

Part 3

1 What is the importance of traditional festivals?

Traditional festivals play a significant role in our lives. They add structure to our social lives and connect us with our roots. Moreover, we get an opportunity of familiarizing ourselves with the culture.

2 What's the difference between festivals now and in the past?

Nowadays, people want to celebrate festivals for the sake of it. They don't care to understand its importance. They are self-centred and want to move away from the age-old traditions. Whereas in the past, festivals were celebrated by following all the customs and traditions.

3 Do you think western festivals like Christmas are replacing traditional festivals in your country?

Not at all. Although people are celebrating western festivals like Christmas, they are also keen on celebrating traditional festivals with the same energy and enthusiasm, as these bring everyone together.

4 Do you think it is wrong for children not to celebrate traditional festivals?

Yes. It is wrong to refrain from celebrating traditional festivals. They should start preserving traditional values. They should also follow their customs as it is one of the best ways to connect with their ancestors.

5 Do you think teenagers should learn about traditions?

Of course, teenagers should learn about traditions and keep them alive by practising. This is the only way to preserve what our ancestors have been following all these years. Slowly, these traditions will be shared with the next generation, and they will begin to follow them.

Vocabulary

Familiarizing: to learn something new or to teach somebody about something
Eg: I like familiarizing with different traditions and customs.

Self-centered: concerned only with the self's desires
Eg: There is no point in explaining him my thoughts as he is self-centered.

Keen: interested

Eg: I am keen on travelling to new places.

Refrain: to stop from not doing something
Eg: I refrain from letting you drink and drive.

Preserving: to keep something in a good condition
Eg: They have been preserving most of the wall paintings in the cave.

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36. Describe a family that you like, but it's not your own

You should talk about:

- **Where does this family live?**
- **Who are the family members?**
- **What does each person in the family do?**
- **Explain how you felt about it?**

Sample Answer

(Where does this family live?) We come across a few people whom we consider an extended part of our families. Because of immense and unconditional love, they come closer to our hearts. One such family is Mr. John's, who are our next-door neighbours. **(Who are the family members?)** There are four members in the family, Mr. John, his wife Mrs. Rose, their daughter Emma, and their dog, Phoebe. They moved into the house about 2 years back and invited everyone to the housewarming party, through which we came to know about Mr. John's family. **(What does each person in the family do?)** Mr. John was HR manager in an MNC, Mrs. Rose was a teacher, and Emma was of the same age as me, and we both studied in the same school, and their dog Phoebe stayed in the house playing with other dogs. As the days passed, we became best friends, and we often spent our time together by taking Phoebe to the park, shopping, going to movies, and so many other things. **(And Explain how you feel about it?)** I am very comfortable with Emma's family, as they are generous, amicable, and don't differentiate between Emma and me when I am in their house. Emma has a very dynamic relationship with her parents. Even if she does something wrong, they tell her why it is wrong and motivate her to make right decisions. Despite being very influential, they don't show off, which is an exceptional quality I admire. I am very fortunate to know Emma and her family.

Vocabulary

Immense (adj): extremely large/huge in scale or degree.
Eg: Rose's house is immensely decorated with marbles and ceiling lights that shine through the lofty windows.

Next-door: those who live right next to our house in the neighborhood.
Eg: Keith and Alex are next-door neighbors.

Housewarming(noun): A party celebrated when shifting to a new house.
Eg: Rose invited the old man to her housewarming party.

MNC: Multinational Corporation; International organizations.
Eg: Capgemini is an MNC, where Rose works.

Amicable: friendly or peaceable.
Eg: Rose has an amicable relationship with everyone.

Dynamic(adj): Positive in attitude and full of energy.
Eg: John is a dynamic young advertising executive.

Show off: Displaying something with pride.
Eg: She was showing off her beautiful diamond necklace.

Fortunate(adj): Lucky or favoured by good luck.
Eg: John has been very fortunate to escape serious injury.

Part 3

1. **Who is usually the leader in an Indian family?**

Since India is a patriarchal society, the eldest male is considered the head of an Indian family. In a joint family, the grandfather rules the house, whereas, in the nuclear family, the father is the head of the house.

2. **How do grandparents take care of their children?**

When children have working parents, they are looked after by grandparents, who raise them with core and moral values. They tend to provide a safe, stable, fun-loving environment to the children by motivating them to follow the right path. In some ways, they even spoil the children by giving in to all their demands.

3. **What's the most important quality of a good parent?**

According to me, the most important quality of a good parent is providing support, showing love & respect, teaching responsibility, and flexibility. Parents need to be open-minded and easy-going to avoid conflicts.

4. **How can new parents learn about parenting?**

There are so many ways new parents can learn parenting, such as watching parenting videos, reading books, and getting guidance from their parents. Moreover, the internet is also filled with numerous tips and tricks that can further help them learn the latest things that have not been implemented yet.

Vocabulary

Patriarchal: passing power from one generation of men to the other in a family; controlled by men than women
Eg: The patriarchal nature of our society has killed dreams of numerous women.

Core: the important part of something
Eg: Treating guests with respect is the core value of our tradition.

Moral: linked to what is wrong or right
Eg: We must pass down moral values to our children.

Flexibility: an ability to bend or change
Eg: Regular exercises have improved my flexibility.

Conflicts: an argument
Eg: The newer and older generations have to always deal with conflicts of perception.

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37. Describe a time you saw children behave badly in public

You should talk about:

- **What was it**
- **What were the children doing?**
- **How did the others react to it?**
- **And explain how you felt about it?**

Sample Answer

(What was it?) Children are known for their mischief and innocence, which are understandable only if they are a toddler or a preschooler. But if the child is 5 or 6 years old, it's the parents' responsibility to inculcate basic manners. Pranks are acceptable at home and not in public places which embarrasses their parents. I'd like to talk about an incident when I saw a few children misbehaving at the theatre. **(What were the children doing?)** My friends and I were eagerly waiting for the movie to begin when a family with two children sat beside us. They were equally excited as we were. But within an hour, the children started screaming and fighting with each other. **(How did the others react to it?)** Everyone was disturbed and requested earnestly to control them. But the children were least interested and paid no heed to their parents' words and behaved obdurately, which embarrassed the parents. **(And explain how you felt about it?)** I felt horrible for the parents as they found it difficult to control the children. Due to their misbehaviour, people criticized the upbringing.

Vocabulary

Mischievous(adj): Causing or intend to cause trouble in a playful way.
Eg: John's children are mischievous.

Inculcate(verb): Instil or teach (can be an idea or manner or a habit).
Eg: Parents should inculcate good manners.

Notorious: Well-known for something bad.
Eg: Rose was notorious for playing pranks on teachers.

Embarrassed(verb): to cause shame or confusion.
Eg: John was embarrassed by his boss's actions

Rage(noun): Violent or uncontrollable anger.
Eg: Looking at the children's mischievous actions, John shouted in rage.

Earnestly(adverb): not lightly or casually.
Eg: I earnestly requested my parents for a night out with my friends.

Paid no heed: to ignore or disregard something.
Eg: When the teacher was taking the lesson, Rose paid no heed to her.

Obdurately: Not changing in response to an argument.
Eg: Even after getting criticized by his teacher, he copied obdurately in the exams.

Upbringing(noun): Parenting or raising.
Eg: Rose had a royal upbringing.

Part 3

1. **What bad behaviour do children usually have?**

Children usually break things, disregard and disrespect the elders, bully others, scribble on the walls, cheat in the exam, etc. These are some of the bad behaviour which children usually have.

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2. **How should parents stop their children from behaving badly in public?**

Parents should be strict and stop their mischievousness at home itself so that the same can be followed in public. They should make children differentiate between right and wrong. Also, they should encourage children by giving gifts for their good habits.

3. **Are parents these days stricter than in the past?**

In my opinion, parents today are lenient towards their children because they have to face legal consequences if children are punished physically. Thus, many parents allow their children to do whatever they want.

4. **Whose influence on children is more? Parents or friends?**

At an early age, the parents' influence is more on their children. But as they grow older, there's no denying that children are more influenced by their friends as they spend more time with their friends.

Vocabulary

Disregard: to treat something or someone unimportant
Eg: Not every time students disregard their teachers' instructions.

Scribble: to write
Eg: I carry a notepad everywhere to scribble my thoughts.

Mischievousness: the quality to behave in a bad manner
Eg: The child's mischievousness irritates me.

Lenient: not strict
Eg: My parents have always been lenient towards me and my sister.

Denying: to say that something is untrue
Eg: I am denying the way you treat your parents.

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38. Describe an area of science that you are interested in

You should talk about:

- **What is it?**
- **What do you learn from it?**
- **When did you get interested in it?**
- **And explain why you enjoy it so much?**

Sample Answer

(What is it?) Science has hidden mysteries, and when they unfold, they fascinate human beings and widens their knowledge about everything that surrounds them. It is through science subjects that we start to think logically and find answers to the questions. Every branch of science has made an immense impact on our lives. My favourite branch was Biology. **(What do you learn from it?)** I was very keen on learning about living organisms, their structure, and vital processes. Through biology, I discovered many astonishing facts about the human body, plants, and animals. Darwin's Evolution Theory was an eye-opener, and our human body functioning seemed to be quite interesting. **(When did you get interested in it?)** It was during class 8th, when I found myself interested in Biology. My exceptionally knowledgeable teacher introduced me to Biology, and it's fascinating facts. I came across some of the incredible facts about human anatomy. **(And explain why you enjoy it so much?)** I learned that the most wonderful yet most complicated structure on Earth was the Human Body. I understood how life on Earth is balanced, and with the help of biology, many scientists have determined the leading cause of the diseases. Overall, learning biology always enthralled me and still does.

Vocabulary

Unfolds(verb): To spread or open an information.
Eg: She unfolded the Ghost house mystery.

Mysteries: Something that is difficult or impossible to explain.
Eg: Rose tried very hard to solve the mystery.

Fascinates(verb): To attract someone strongly.
Eg: The beauty of Burj Khalifa fascinated me.

Eye-opener(Noun): An event or situation that proves to be unexpectedly enlightening.
Eg: It was an eye-opening moment for me when I discovered the animal kingdom in the ocean.

Enthralled(verb): capturing the attention.
Eg: John was enthralled by the beauty of Niagara falls.

Part 3

1 What's the best invention in the past hundred years?

Many inventions have transformed the way we live, but computers and Internet services can be considered the best. Without these inventions, there would be no computer chips, game consoles, laptops, or digital lifestyle, and no fingertip information. Perhaps these are the most influential inventions of the last 100 years.

2 What's the influence of science on human life?

Science has a significant influence on human life as it creates logical thinking and reasoning. It reduces the impact of superstition and illogical beliefs by making humans open-minded. Science has increased the quality of our lives by making us think from a different perspective.

3 What can individuals do for scientific research?

To do scientific research, Individuals must develop an idea, observe it, think logically, test the hypothesis, collect data accordingly, analyse the results, draw conclusions, and report the results. Otherwise, they can simply donate to the scientific community and fund the research.

4 What influence can international cooperation in science bring about?

If international cooperation is achieved, then it promotes mutual respect and trust around the world. Thus, International collaboration can help gather funds and give access to more information and aid scientific research.

Vocabulary

Influential: having influence or power
Eg: He is considered an influential personality in his community.

Logical: something that is sensible or reasonable
Eg: I need a logical reasoning to this problem.

Beliefs: a feeling of something being true
Eg: My belief is that everybody should be treated equally.

Hypothesis: an idea that might be possible for something that is not declared true

Eg: The scientists have been working on several hypotheses.

Collaboration: working together
Eg: Our collaboration shall reap fruitful results.

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39. Describe an ambition you have for a long time

You should talk about:

- **What is it?**
- **What did you do for it?**
- **When can you achieve it?**
- **Explain why you have this ambition?**

Sample Answer

(What is it?) Everyone needs to have a desire or aim in their life. It pushes them to work hard and pursue their dreams. Without ambition, life becomes meaningless, and our growth as a person may come to a standstill. Some people keep working hard to achieve, while others fail and lose their motivation. Even though I have achieved a few of my aims, I am still working on the rest of them. One such is to become a translator. **(What did you do for it?)** I have always been keen on learning new languages. Though I knew 9 languages, I wished to learn French. So, I enrolled myself on a French course in an Academy, a stone's throw away from my house. Everyday after college, I attended the classes without skipping them. **(When can you achieve it?)** It has just been two months since I have started learning. The French course is for 4 months, and I am trying to translate a few English words into French. I hope I'll be able to communicate in French when this course completes smoothly. **(Explain why you have this ambition?)** There are two reasons for me to learn French. The first reason is that I have always desired to go to Paris, where I can easily communicate with people. And the second reason is I aspire to become a Translator and work for the foreign ministry of India. Therefore, I believe that everyone must identify their passion, set goals, and diligently work towards attaining them.

Vocabulary

Desire(noun): A strong feeling of wanting to do something.
Eg: She had a burning desire to win the competition.

Meaningless(adj): have no meaning or significance at all.
Eg: After her husband's demise, Rose led a meaningless life.

Academy(noun): A place of study or training in a specific field.
Eg: John had enrolled in a sports academy to win the championship.

Stone's throw: A short distance
Eg: My school is just a stone's throw from Rose's house.

Aspire: to seek to attain something or accomplish a specific goal.
Eg: She aspired to become a Doctor and serve the needy people.

Part 3

1 What kinds of ambitions do people have?

There are many kinds of ambitions that people have, and they often vary with age. Each person is unique, and their aspirations differ. During schools, we have a different aim, and it continually keeps changing. In the office, we work hard to achieve name and fame. Many people dream of being doctors, teachers, engineers, programmers, actors, etc.

2 Why should parents encourage children to have ambition?

Parents should encourage their children to be ambitious. Infact, they should help their children in achieving those ambitions. Parents should guide and motivate their children to set goals at an early age, take the risk, work hard, and feel the satisfaction that comes from achieving the goal.

3 Should parents interfere with their children's ambitions?

In my opinion, parents should not interfere and become a hurdle to their children's ambition. If parents keep on interfering with their children's ambitions, then the child will not live his dreams. If a child wants to be an artist, he must follow his passion, and parents shouldn't object to it.

4 Is there any difference in the ambition of grown-ups and children?

There's a huge difference between the ambitions of grown-ups and children. While children usually dream for grade-based goals, adults aim for the goals depending on their personalities, lifestyle, and beliefs. And there are few people who just aim to live life to the fullest instead of worrying about the future.

Vocabulary

Ambition: something that you want to do or have
Eg: My ambition is to become a popular writer.

Aspiration: a desire
Eg: She has an aspiration to become a successful model.

Continually: often / regular
Eg: For the past one week, she has been continually visiting me.

Hurdle: complication
Eg: She has to face a lot of hurdles to achieve success.

Object: to be against something
Eg: Her parents object to the sleepovers.

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40. Describe an event you attended in which you didn't like the music played

You should talk about:

- **What was the event?**
- **Where were you?**
- **What was the music like?**
- **Explain why you didn't like the music?**

Sample Answer

(What was the event?) People from all walks of life, listen to music as it gives peace and rejuvenates a fatigued mind. In fact, I love listening to fusion and pop songs even when I am cooking or cleaning. I'd like to talk about an event where I was not too fond of the music as it wasn't apt for that situation. It was one of my bosom friend's reception. **(Where were you?)** Since the reception was at 7 PM, I reached a little earlier to check on my friend. I was really impressed seeing the glittery decorations. Being a dance enthusiast, I went up to the DJ and asked him to play the song which I had recommended so that I can dance my heart out at my friend's reception. **(What was the music like?)** To my surprise, the DJ was hesitant to play the song and told me that my friend's family had given strict instructions to play only those songs recommended by my friend's grandparents. All my excitement went down as I was not acquainted with the song that was being played. **(Explain why you didn't like the music?)** I thought of dancing in a party song, but only cultural songs were played, for which I was not prepared. I felt disheartened as I couldn't dance at my friend's reception due to the song. That was the very first time I didn't enjoy the song.

Vocabulary

People from all walks of life: people having jobs in various fields.
Eg: This movie is suitable for people from all walks of life.

Rejuvenate(verb): give new energy or vigour to; revitalize.
Eg: She went to the spa to rejuvenate herself.

Bosom(noun): very close.
Eg: Rita wanted to meet her bosom friend in the town.

Enthusiasts(noun): a person who is very interested in specific activity.

Eg: John is a sports car enthusiast.

Disheartened(adj): Having lost determination and confidence.
Eg: Rose was disheartened when she heard about the accident.

Part 3

1. **Why do so many young people spend a lot of money on concerts?**

The main reason is that most young people are huge fans of National and International music artists. They'd go to any heights to watch them perform live. Therefore, young people spend a lot of money to enjoy these one-time events.

2. **Do you think older people like the same music as younger people?**

No. Be it music or any other domain, the tastes and choices of people vary. Older people usually prefer listening to soft, slow melodious music with meaningful lyrics, while younger people listen to pop and rock music.

3. **Do you think music concerts are suitable for old people to attend?**

I was of the opinion that music concerts are not for older people as they wouldn't be able to stand for long hours, but nowadays most of the concerts also offer chairs to sit and enjoy the show. So older people can also enjoy them.

4. **Why do shopping malls have background music?**

Shopping malls have background music to enhance the experience of shopping. Instead of listening to the chaos, we can enjoy the soft tunes. This practice also helps those people who feel suffocated in the crowd to feel calm and make decisive purchases. The entertainment factor also counts.

Vocabulary

Prefer: to choose one thing than the other
Eg: Would you prefer tea or juice?

Melodious: pleasant to listen
Eg: Her voice is melodious.

Suitable: appropriate or right
Eg: This content is not suitable for children.

Chaos: utter disorder or confusion
Eg: After losing the job, I have to face a lot of chaos.

Enhance: improve
Eg: Good lighting can enhance the appearance of my living room.

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41. Describe a clever decision someone made

You should talk about:

- **What was the decision?**
- **How did it work?**
- **Explain how you felt about it?**

Sample Answer

(What was the decision?) In life, we confront many situations where we feel helpless. Some people lose hope and give up, while others try to understand and solve the problems. I'd like to talk about my younger brother who made a smart decision. In the evening, my brother and I were on our way back home on our bicycles. As usual, the lane was congested with traffic, and people were hustling. And suddenly, two young men in a two-wheeler snatched the chain from the woman's neck who was passing by. She started yelling in the middle of the road. **(How did it work?)** My brother had a clear-cut vision, and as the two-wheeler passed beside him, he noted it down very quickly. Later, along with the woman, my brother and I went to the police station and complained about the incident and gave the number-plate of the two-wheeler. Within an hour, they were able to track the rider and pillion rider. **(Explain how you felt about it?)** Everyone in the station, including the woman, appreciated my brother for his cleverness, wisdom, and presence of mind. They also promised him a memento on the upcoming Independence Day on August 15. I was pleased and felt proud of him.

Vocabulary

Confront(verb): Come face to face.
Eg: John confronted his ex-fiance.

Congested: too full or crowded with something.
Eg: Big Bazaar was congested with too many people.

Hustle(verb): Push roughly or jostle.
Eg: There's always hustle and bustle in metro cities.

Clear cut: Sharply outlined.
Eg: While you reach the top of the mountain, you can see the clear cut picture of this city.

Pillion rider: The one who's seated behind the rider.
Eg: The pillion rider was wearing a mask.

Memento: an object kept as a reminder of a person.
Eg: You can purchase a memento of your visit at the jewellery store.

Part 3

1 How to become a smart person?

We can become smart by being conscious of our surroundings, managing our time perfectly, talking to others, and conveying information effectively. Also, to become smart, we will first have to learn. We must acquire as much knowledge as possible. This can be done through the internet, books or by talking to experienced people.

2 What can schools do for students' intellectual development?

Schools play an essential role in the development of a student's personality. Schools help a student to identify his/her hidden talents, skills, and abilities. Therefore, schools should motivate and guide students for self-grooming.

3 What suggestions will you give schools to develop their potential?

Schools can develop children's potential by identifying the student's strengths and weaknesses. They should mainly focus on academic performance. Schools should also assess the growth of students after every learning activity.

4 What do you think is more important – Nature or Nurture?

Nature is something that we inherit from our parents, while nurture is what parents do. According to me, nature is more important than nurture as the former determines who we are. Though our environment influences us, our nature determines the way we react.

5 Do you think smart students are happy?

This depends upon the student. Even under the constant pressure of learning more and scoring well, they are happy. They can solve problems quickly and manage any amount of pressure. These abilities make them successful, which in turn keeps them happy.

6 Why do you think some people are really good at something?

According to me, some people are experts in certain areas because they are hardworking and have used their presence of mind from an early age. But it can also be due to genetic factors. Another reason could be that they must have learnt a lot to be an expert in the field. In the end, experience also matters.

Vocabulary

Conscious: noticing the existence of something
Eg: You don't seem conscious of the fact that you may lose.

Conveying: to communicate ideas, thoughts and feelings to somebody
Eg: These films are produced to convey information.

Assess: to judge something
Eg: I would like to assess the quality of the product before buying it.

Inherit: to receive something from somebody
Eg: She belongs to a rich family and will obviously inherit a lot.

Nurture: to look after
Eg: If we don't want another pandemic, we must nurture our environment.

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42. Describe an intelligent person you know

You should talk about:

- **Who is the person?**
- **What does he/she do?**
- **How do you think he/she is smart?**
- **How do you feel about him/her?**

Sample Answer

(Who is the person?) Everyone is born with intelligence, but only a few of them choose to use it. Out of all the intelligent persons I admire, the first place goes to my father. **(What does he/she do?)** My father is an Entrepreneur, and he has vast knowledge in his field. At a very young age, he set-up his start-up and worked really hard. Though it took some years to build his company, he stood on his feet and proved his capabilities. **(Why did you consider him an intelligent person?)** In my opinion, he's an intelligent person because he knows well about his profession, has excelled in his life, and has become a role model for other people. Whenever I feel low, he motivates me and boosts my self-confidence. He always remains up-to-date with current affairs. Recently, he was also awarded the title, 'Best Entrepreneur across India.' **(How do you feel about him?)** I am proud to be his daughter because he has vast general knowledge and is a great human being. I will try my best to follow his principles and make him proud one day.

Vocabulary

Admire(verb): look at something impressive or attractive with pleasure.
Eg: I admire soldier's courage.

Entrepreneur(noun): An individual who creates a new business.
Eg: Rose got an award for being the best entrepreneur.

Start-up: A company founded by a group of entrepreneurs.
Eg: At a very young age, he started a start-up.

Stood on his feet: To be strong and independent.
Eg: He proved his father wrong and stood on his feet.

Opinion: a view or a judgment about something.
Eg: When she asked for help, I gave her an opinion.

Excelled: be exceptionally good at something.
Eg: John excelled in his life.

Part 3

1. **Are most intelligent people happy? Why?**

Not necessarily. Intelligent people have high hopes and expectations, and if they don't fulfill those expectations, they may feel unhappy. But intelligent people also know that happiness is a state of mind, and so they may try their best to be consciously happy at all times.

2. **Do you think intelligent people are selfish?**

According to me, not all intelligent people are selfish because selfishness and intelligence are unrelated. It varies based on the individual too. An intelligent person who is successful may seem selfish because he looks after his interests and tries to achieve them. But a person cannot be branded "selfish" just because he concentrates more on his success.

3. **Do you think intelligent people are helpful?**

Well, helping tendency has nothing to do with intelligence. Character differs, and it does not depend on intelligence. I have seen intelligent people being selfish while I have also seen illiterate and dumb people being extremely helpful in certain situations. So, it mainly depends upon the person and their values.

Vocabulary

Necessarily: to explain that something cannot be avoided
Eg: The number of seats in the MBA class are necessarily limited.

Consciously: awareness of existence
Eg: After meeting with an accident, he was talking to the police consciously.

Selfish: only thinking about own needs
Eg: He is a person of selfish behaviour.

Intellectual: an ability to think in a logical way
Eg: Years of experience has made her an intellectual person.

Branded: to say somebody having a bad character
Eg: She has been branded as a troublemaker after she stood for her rights.

43. Describe a photo that you remember well

You should talk about:

- **Which photo was it?**
- **Why do you remember it?**
- **Why is it special?**

Sample Answer

(Which photo was it?) Everything is digital, from smartphones to cameras in the modern technological world, so taking a photograph has become more common than it did ten years back. I vividly remember a photograph that was taken ten years back when I was just five years old. The picture captured a rare moment of my grandparents and me, who are no longer alive. **(Why do you remember it?)** The photograph is very close to my heart, as it has been captured with all those people who were very special in my life. We are all standing under a maple tree in my grandparent's house in a village. Those olden days were the golden days of my life. **(Why is it special?)** It is very special because I was in my natural self without any artificial expressions. I also consider this photograph as a blessing from my grandparents. It is a memory that I will cherish. Whenever I look at it, my mind alters between happiness and sadness.

Vocabulary

Captured: to record
Eg: She tried to capture the moment.

Rare: not occurring very often.
Eg: This is one of the rare species found in the museum.

Maple tree: A tree or a shrub of genus Acer.
Eg: This is an old maple tree.

Regards: consider or think in a specified way.
Eg: She regarded London as her base.

Cherish: holding something very dearly.
Eg: John cherished the moments spent with his mother.

Part 3

1 Do Indian people like to take photos of themselves?

Yes, Not only Indian people but everyone across the world love taking photographs and selfies. Since smartphones have become economical, most people own one, due to which selfies have become an everyday affair.

2 What kinds of devices do people like to use for taking photos these days?

Nowadays, most people use smartphones to take photos and selfies. They also use high-end digital cameras. I have also seen people using the latest tablets, such as iPads to capture pictures.

3 Why do some people like to keep photos?

Some people like preserving photographs because they are memories of the past that will always bring a smile. As they say, people change but pictures don't. Even if the person doesn't exist anymore, photos always help keep him/her alive.

4 Has the way people take photos changed?

Well, Yes, the way people take photographs has changed a lot, and with the digital cameras being handy, most people use these to capture moments. Even a four-year-old child clicks photographs using a smartphone.

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Vocabulary

Economical: something that costs less
Eg: I am looking forward to going on an economical trip.

High-end: expensive or advanced products
Eg: Apple is known for its high-end products.

Preserving: to keep something in a good condition or safe
Eg: I like preserving old memories as they signify good times.

Handy: easy to use
Eg: An electric toothbrush is extremely handy for me.

Capture: to take something
Eg: You can capture these beautiful animals in the camera and sell their pictures at a high cost.

44. Describe a time when you received good news

You should say:

- **What was the good news?**
- **How did you receive the news?**
- **Who was the news about?**
- **Explain your reaction on hearing the news?**

Sample Answer

(What was the good news?) Life is not always a bed of roses. Sometimes we meet with hardships, and at other times it seems like everything is perfectly fine. I'd like to talk about a time when I heard the good news that my sister is getting married to her best friend. **(How did you receive the news?)** In today's fast-paced technological world, everything is updated on social media, and that's how I received the news. She had updated it on her Instagram page. My joy knew no bounds when I saw the post. Immediately, I called and congratulated her. **(Who was the news about?)** Although her parents are strict, they are open-minded as well. My sister and her fiance were childhood friends, and it was her childhood dream to get married to him, and the wish was being fulfilled. **(Explain your reaction to hearing the news?)** I was pleased that she had found her soulmate, and only a few fortunate ones get to marry their best friends. And they will enjoy the rest of their lives.

Vocabulary

Life is not a bed of roses: Not as pleasant as it seems.
Eg: She knew that life would not be a bed of roses in London.

Turmoils: a state of disturbance or confusion.
Eg: John was in a deep turmoil.

Broke the news: to tell something very important to someone.
Eg: She broke the news through WhatsApp.

Knew no bounds: feeling strong or intense
Eg: The passion of cricket fans knew no bounds.

Roller-coaster: having ups and downs**.**

Eg: Life is like a roller-coaster ride.

Part 3

1 Is it important to read the news?

Yes, It is imperative to read news and keep ourselves updated about day-to-day affairs so that we come to know what is happening around us and the entire world. With newspapers, we figure out how bad or good our society is. Thus, we can protect our loved ones accordingly.

2 What kind of news do people in your country like to read?

There are plenty of sections that newspapers in my country cover. There will be a dedicated section for every category of news. Generally, people like to read the news on sports, weather updates, politics, employment, recruitment, entertainment, etc.

3 Why do some people like to share news on social media?

Some people like sharing news on social media as it has a very great impact on the younger generation. Sharing news helps people know what is happening around them even if they're least interested in reading newspapers.

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4 Is it important to keep reading up to date news?

Yes, We must update ourselves with daily news to be prepared for any unforeseen event in the future. E.g., Evacuation plans in case of a flood. Not just that, but it also helps us come out of the bubble of imagination and meet the reality.

5 How do people in your country get news?

It depends on the age-group. These days, in my country, youngsters get news directly on their mobile phones with notifications telling them what is happening. On the other hand, older people get their news from TV, Radio, Newspapers, etc.

Vocabulary

Imperative: important
Eg: It is imperative to finish this task by end of the day.

Affairs: a situation or event
Eg: The current affairs show how bad the situation of our country is.

Recruitment: to hire
Eg: A lot of global companies are going to start their recruitment process this month.

Impact: effect
Eg: The impact of this earthquake was so severe that most of the buildings got shattered.

Unforeseen: unexpected
Eg: The flood in the coastal area was unexpected.

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45. Describe an exciting book that you recently read

You should talk about:

- **When did you read it?**
- **What type of book is it?**
- **What is it about?**
- **Why did you find it useful?**

Sample Answer

(When did you read it?) It is a well-known fact that books are best friends. Some people get motivated while reading books, and others read to drain the stress and anxiety. I am an avid reader, and out of all the books I've read, the one which I loved was 'The Wings of Fire' by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. **(What type of book is it?)** My sister gifted me the book on my birthday as she knew that I was fond of reading autobiographies. And this book by Dr. Kalam had a great influence on me and still inspires me, and I began devouring it on the same day. The book explains how Kalam started his career and became the best rocket Engineer. **(What is it about?)** The book is about his journey, accomplishments, and about he managed to overcome his obstacles. He describes his presidential post as a piece of luck, and his achievement as a rocket Engineer was because of sheer hard work. Throughout the book, one thing that stands out is Kalam's positive thinking and his secret to success hidden in his ability to ignore negative things. That is why he had contributed and accomplished a lot in his life. **(Why did you find it useful?)** Kalam's journey in the book inspires us to achieve our dreams by beating all the odds. A fable in the book emphasizes the importance of family, relatives, and friends in helping accomplish each other's goals and turning dreams into realities.

Vocabulary

Anxiety(noun): a feeling of worry or nervousness.
Eg: John’s anxiety reduced on coming out of the hospital.

Avid reader: a reader who is eager to get hold of the latest books.
Eg: John is an avid reader. He has read almost every novel.

Autobiography: an account of a person's life written by that person.
Eg: Rose gives a vivid description of her childhood in her autobiography.

Influence: the capacity to have an effect on the character of someone.
Eg: Her mother’s influence on her is very obvious.

Accomplishments: something that has been achieved successfully.
Eg: Her accomplishments were praised by her family.

Piece of luck: something that happens by chance that helps to achieve success.
Eg: He considers his HR post as a piece of luck.

Beating all the odds: to succeed despite struggling a lot.
Eg: She beat all the odds to win the league.

Fable: a short story conveying a moral.
Eg: She reads fables to her daughter.

Part 3

1 Do people in your country like to read books?

Yes, a majority of people in my country love reading but not all of them have the same interests. Some of them opt for novels, while others read magazines to idle away their leisure time. And then there are students who don't get enough time out of their textbooks to read anything else.

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2 What kinds of books are most popular in your country?

Well, everyone has different tastes and preferences. But romantic novels, autobiographies, fashion and lifestyle magazines are very popular in my country. Textbooks are much in demand as well, considering the huge population that my country has.

3 Do you think reading is important?

Reading is essential as it develops our imagination and builds vocabulary and language skills. With reading, we can also dive into other people's imagination and think of ideas that might not be true. This activity also improves our brain functioning and allows us to think logically and intellectually.

4 Do you think children should be encouraged to read?

Definitely, Yes. Children should start reading books and newspapers to enhance their knowledge and develop their reading skills, creativity, and all-round personality. More than gifting them gadgets or other things, parents should stock up books for them.

5 Do you think gifting a book is a great option?

Books are great options for gifts as they can be preserved and read in leisure. But if the books are hand-written, it's even better as it has an emotional value. Gifting somebody a book from their favourite author can bring a wide smile on their face instantly.

Vocabulary

Opt for: to choose
Eg: I am going to opt for humanities in my 11th standard.

Idle away: to spend time doing nothing
Eg: On weekends, I prefer to idle away than spend my time working on anything.

Leisure: free time
Eg: I like playing online games during my leisure time.

Preferences: choices
Eg: My preferences are different from my siblings.

Enhance: improve
Eg: Practising daily can enhance your reading and writing skills.

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46. Describe a volunteering experience you have had

You should talk about:

- **What was it?**
- **Where was it?**
- **Why did you volunteer?**
- **How did you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

(What was it?) Humanity is one of the traits that is required in modern society. Many people help and support the needy. There are umpteen non-governmental organizations that work for the welfare of society. I have also volunteered for many causes. One such work was converting a garbage dumping zone into a playground. **(Where was it?)** The garbage dumping zone was in our locality, which spread foul odours and people feared mosquitos and infections. So, my uncle, who's also a member of the council, directed everyone to come forward and extend helping hands. **(Why did you volunteer?)** I decided to contribute and volunteer for a good cause. Around 30 volunteers were allocated different activities. Everyone donated funds, through which plant saplings, small trees were planted. A basketball court was built, and swings were placed. The dumping zone was completely transformed into a mini playground. **(How did you feel about it ?)** It took around two weeks to complete, and my uncle inaugurated the playground. I was extremely satisfied as this was the first time everyone united for a common cause.

Vocabulary

Umpteen: indefinitely or many.
Eg: She has been to Kerala umpteen times.

Odours: a distinctive smell.
Eg: John loves smoking but hates the odour of cigarettes.

Volunteered: freely offered to do something.
Eg: She volunteered during the pandemic covid-19.

Contribute: to give something (especially money)
Eg: Rose contributed for a good cause.

Allocated: distribute (resources or duties) for a particular purpose.
Eg: The teacher allocated some responsibilities to the student leader.

Part 3

1 What qualities are required for being a volunteer?

Ideally, special qualities are not needed for being a volunteer. It is upto the individual to do the work (mostly for a good cause) selflessly and willingly without any hesitation and expectation. However, if signing up for being a volunteer, then the person should be ready to take up every type of work whenever assigned.

2 What type of personality does a volunteer have?

A volunteer must be friendly and wear a smile on his face. He must also be easy-going and approachable. If the volunteer has logical and rational thinking, it would be a cherry on the cake. He should also be helpful in nature.

3 How can companies engaging in volunteering help our society?

Companies engaged in volunteering can help society in many ways, such as providing free food to poor people, donating funds to local schools and hospitals etc. They can also take up the responsibilities of underprivileged people and provide a better lifestyle to those who are not in a position to improve their standards of living.

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4 Do you think people nowadays should participate more in volunteering?

Yes, It's high time that people should volunteer as they are living a self-centred lifestyle. By volunteering, people can get in touch with the local community and help them develop their potential.

5 How do modern technologies assist volunteers and volunteering experiences?

Modern technologies can improve the volunteering experience through social media marketing strategies. This way, everyone will know about the cause of volunteering and come forward to help them.

Vocabulary

Volunteer: a person who does something without being forced or paid
Eg: "Is there any volunteer who would like to serve our NGO?"

Ideally: perfectly
Eg: Ideally, there should not be more than 20 students in a class.

Selflessly: a way that takes care of others' needs

Eg: He selflessly gave away everything he earned to his brother.

Willingly: to do something without force
Eg: She willingly accepted to teach my child.

Approachable: somebody who is easy to talk to
Eg: Despite dealing with so much in life, she is approachable and friendly.

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47. Describe a time when you invited someone for a dinner at home or restaurant

You should talk about:

- **When did you invite them?**
- **Where did you have dinner?**
- **Why did you invite them?**
- **How did you feel about this dinner?**

Sample Answer

(When did you invite them?) I am a very sociable person and love to connect with people. Either I invite people to my place for dinners, or we go to restaurants. Recently, one of my cousins from Australia had returned to India. So, I decided to take her out for dinner. **(Where did you have dinner?)** She insisted on trying all the new dishes, so I took her to 'Absolute Barbeque, ' located a million miles away from my home. We took a cab and reached the place, and to our astonishment, there were many people. With zero options, we also waited. **(Why did you invite them?)** She visited India rarely and deeply missed Indian food. So I decided to take her to this place where one can enjoy many delicacies, and also have unlimited food.
Soon, we grabbed a table, and she was startled to witness the restaurant's contemporary theme and the unique concept of the flag on the table. I explained to her about it and the unlimited food concept.
(How you felt about this dinner?) Later, we enjoyed the Indian, Arabian, and Chinese delicacies alongside the Live Cricket Match from IPL Tournament. She thanked me for taking her to such a fantastic restaurant as she missed these dishes in Australia. Overall, It was a wonderful evening that we enjoyed. I believe that everyone should often go out for dinners as it's an excellent way to build healthy relationships.

Vocabulary

Sociable: Willing to talk friendly and engage in activities with other people.
Eg: Rose is a very sociable woman.

Supper: an evening meal.
Eg: John eats his supper at 6 PM.

Millions miles away: Very far; distant.

Eg: The department store is millions miles away from my house.

Zero options: No other choice or options.
Eg: With zero options, She chose the blue outfit.

Contemporary: conforming to modern or current ideas in style.
Eg: Her new house had a contemporary theme.

Delicacies: an expensive food item that is pleasing to eat.
Eg: This hotel serves one of the best delicacies in town.

Part 3

1. **Where do people in your country usually eat? At restaurants or at home?**

Most people in my country usually eat food prepared at home. One in a hundred may eat in the restaurant. This is because food prepared at home is highly nutritious and healthy. In contrast, the food served in restaurants is high in fat and contains bad cholesterol and calories.

2. **Why do more and more people like to eat at restaurants rather than at home?**

Any people like to eat at restaurants because of two reasons. They might not know how to cook or maybe are too lazy to buy groceries and cook the food at home. In the case of restaurants, you're just an order away, and the food is on your table.

3. **What are the advantages and disadvantages of eating at home?**

Advantages of eating at home are you get nutritious food which is fewer in calories and fats. It is less expensive, and properly spiced. But there are disadvantages too. Cooking takes a lot of time and will not be immediately ready when you are hungry. Also, you need to buy groceries, prepare the dish, and wash the utensils. Therefore, some people might think it's convenient to eat outside.

4. **Do you think it is possible that everyone will eat at restaurants instead of at home in the future?**

Not necessarily! Nowadays, many people are becoming health conscious, so they prefer eating home-cooked food that is nutritious and healthy. Restaurant foods are high in calories, cholesterol, and sugar. When consumed in large quantities, they can spoil our health.

Vocabulary

calories: unit of energy

Eg: Rita bought some low calorie food products.

Nutritious: good for you
Eg: Fruits are nutritious and should be consumed everyday.

Convenient: something that does not cause difficulties
Eg: Travelling by car is more convenient for me than travelling by the bus.

Conscious: having knowledge of something.
Eg: Tina was fashion conscious

Spiced: flavoured with spice.
Eg: The spiced bacon was delicious.

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48. Describe a programme or an app that you think is useful

You should say,

- **what it is**
- **how you know it**
- **how to use it**
- **And explain why it is useful**

Sample Answer

(what it is) (how you know it) I always had a tough time buying groceries. After a hard day's work, it was tiring to stand in a long queue at the supermarket and purchase them. I was vigorously looking for alternatives when a friend of mine told me about this prepaid app called "Fresh to Home". I installed it from the playstore.
(how to use it) After the initial registration, there was an option called "Wallet". You have to fill your wallet and then place orders. I filled the wallet with a sum of Rs. 500. Then I proceeded to the store to select vegetables. They sell a variety of items ranging from diced banana stem to grated coconut, from bakery products and confectionaries to cosmetics. Also, you can decide the frequency of delivery with the "subscribe" button which will list options like 'daily', 'alternate days', 'weekends' or 'custom schedule' where you can custom your own schedule. The only thing to remember is to ensure that your wallet is not empty. You have to place orders before 8:00 PM the previous day to get it delivered at your doorstep the next morning at 6:00 AM.
(And explain why it is useful) It has saved a great deal of time. I'm relieved of the nightmare of waiting in the long queues. Also, their service is excellent. They deliver it on time every day. It is an easy-to-use and friendly app, and I'm thankful to my friend who told me about this.

Vocabulary

Prepaid (verb) - pay for in advance
Eg: She gifted the couple with a prepaid gift card.

Playstore (noun) - Google's official pre-installed app store on Android-certified devices. It provides access to content on the Google Play Store, including apps, books, magazines, music, movies, and television programs.
Eg: I installed the English learning app from google playstore.

Wallet (noun) - a pocket-sized flat folding case for holding money and plastic cards.

Eg: Her Wallet was full of money.

Nightmare (noun) - a very unpleasant or frightening experience or prospect. **Eg:** It was a great nightmare for her to find her way through the crowd.

Part 3

1. **What is the importance of apps in a person's life?**

(Give a direct answer to the question) (Explain your reason or reasons) Apps can easily be installed from the play store. They serve various purposes**. (Give an example)** For example, an app called Urban Company offers household doorstep services like haircuts, repair of electrical appliances, plumbing, etc. There are apps for learning English, paying electricity bills, delivering food items, grocery, etc. They can be used from anywhere, anytime. So, they have become indispensable to human life.

2. **Are there any drawbacks to apps?**

(Give a direct answer to the question) (Explain your reason or reasons) Some apps consume a lot of storage. So, it becomes a problem when installing new ones. So, you have to clear your cache constantly. Apart from this, there are no drawbacks.

3. **Are these apps helpful in making honest relations?**

(Give a direct answer to the question) (Explain your reason or reasons) Some apps promote friendship. But there is no credibility to the information provided. It is up to the user to be smart when establishing relationships through apps.

4. **How can technology make our life easier?**

(Give a direct answer to the question) Technology, if used wisely, is a boon. **(Explain your reason or reasons)** They help us a great deal in our daily lives. **(Give an example)** For example, air-conditioners and refrigerators are very helpful in hot countries. The former transforms your atmosphere by making it cool while the latter helps to keep the food safe. They help us to improve our lifestyle.

5. **Why are mobile phones gaining popularity?**

(Give a direct answer to the question) (Explain your reason or reasons) They are easy to carry and can be used from anywhere in the world. Besides, their costs are affordable. They have a lot of built-in features that make life easier. People use it not only for communication but also to

listen to music, watch movies, and play games. So, it is quite natural that they are gaining popularity.

Vocabulary

Indispensable (adj) - absolutely necessary.
Eg: Water is indispensable to human life.

Constantly (adv) - continuously over a period of time; always.
Eg: Sheela was constantly battling with her fears.

Promote (verb) - support or actively encourage (a cause, venture, etc.); further the progress of.
Eg: Kevin was advised to promote his product by making campaigns.

Boon (noun) - a thing that is helpful or beneficial.
Eg: The newly constructed lane will be a boon to the pedestrians.

Popularity (noun) - the state or condition of being liked, admired, or supported by many people.
Eg: In the 1960s, the actor was at the peak of popularity.

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49. Describe a recent goal you set yourself

You should say,

- **what it was**
- **why you wanted it**
- **what you did to get your goal**
- **And explain how you felt about it**

Sample Answer

(what it was) (why you wanted it) I seldom make new year resolutions because I don't have the determination to make them come true. So I'm usually very far from setting goals. But I did get a demanding situation in my life, where I had to take serious steps. It was my weight gain. Due to lack of physical activity, I gained 5 kgs which I noticed when my clothes did not fit properly. I was not able to put on my favourite dresses, and I became worried. So I decided to work out a plan to get rid of the 5 kgs.
(what you did to get your goal) As a first step, I decided to fight against my sugar cravings. I searched the internet, left, right and centre and found some useful tips from a nutritionist. I learnt that it is because of protein deficiency that a person craves for sweets. So I decided to cut my breakfast and replaced it with a protein smoothie. Then I consulted a physician, who advised me to do yoga. He warned that I could see results, only gradually. I joined a yoga class and stuck to the schedule religiously. Every morning, I got up at 5:00 AM in the morning, because the class was at 5:30 AM. Previously, I used to sleep at ungodly hours when I had to meet my deadlines at work. I focused more on my work and tried to complete the work within office hours. Since I had my yoga classes in the morning, I made it a habit to wake up early. I spent about an hour at the yoga class. The yoga teacher enlightened me on the importance of sleep and also advised me to cut down on my caffeine intake. She advised me to go to bed on time because it was needed for the repair of the muscles. **(explain how you felt about it)** Surprisingly, I began to get results within a month. The first that improved was the fat on my cheeks. I was not chubby cheeks anymore! I noticed that my body became flexible as a result of yoga. I was confident that I would shed my 5kgs soon, and it did happen after six months. At last, I achieved something, and I was on cloud nine when I got out of the weighing machine at the hospital. I thanked my doctor for his guidance.

Vocabulary

Resolutions (noun) - a firm decision to do or not to do something.
Eg: She made a resolution to stop eating chocolates.

Determination (noun) - the quality of being determined; firmness of purpose.
Eg: She succeeded in becoming a Singer because of her determination.

Gradually (adverb) - in a gradual way; slowly; by degrees.
Eg: The saint assured him that his situation would improve gradually.

Religiously (adverb) - with consistent and conscientious regularity. **Eg:** He works out religiously for five hours everyday.

Being on Cloud nine (noun phrase) - Blissfully happy
Eg: Ever since the marriage was fixed, she was on cloud nine.

Part 3

1. **Do people need to write down goals or simply memorize them?**

(Give a direct answer to the question) Writing helps. **(Explain your reason or reasons)** When a person puts down his thoughts in writing, he gains more insight into it. As you write, you get more ideas, and later they serve as a reference. At moments of exhaustion, when we feel like giving up, these notes help. They serve as a driving factor.

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2. **Do Indian people usually set goals?**

(Give a direct answer to the question) Yes, a lot of them set goals. **(Explain your reason or reasons)** Most Indians are very resolute when it comes to achieving what they want. Mostly, goals will be related to the creation of wealth. Indians not only set goals but also work hard until it is materialized. **(Give an example)** A clear example of this would be the number of Indian students studying abroad. They have set goals for themselves during their period of study here, pursued them seriously, and also were successful in making them come true.

3. **What are the kinds of goals that are unrealistic?**

(Give a direct answer to the question) (Explain your reason or reasons) Goals that are beyond the person's capability and passion are unrealistic. **(Give an example)** For example, an average student hailing from a middle-class family cannot dream about getting into a top university without a scholarship. Scholarships are reserved for high performers, and fees would be unaffordable. It will be an unrealistic goal.

4. **What is more fulfilling working towards a goal or achieving it?**

(Give a direct answer to the question) (Explain your reason or reasons) Both of them equally fulfilling. When working towards a goal, one may encounter a lot of hurdles, and overcoming them builds confidence. The person gets one step closer to the goal. After achieving the goal, it

is a sense of accomplishment. The person will become more confident and will be ready to face more challenges.

5 Should parents set goals for their children?

(Give a direct answer to the question) No. **(Explain your reason or reasons**) Parents should help children achieve their goals. But the goals should be set by their children. (Give an example) For example, if the child has a passion for life Sciences, then his goal would be to become a doctor as a teenager. The parent can help the child by paying the fees. But if the parent has already set a goal that his child should become a marine Engineer and forces the kid to pursue it, then the outcome may not be positive.

Vocabulary

Reference (noun) - the use of a source of information to ascertain something.
Eg: He used the poetries of Wordsworth for reference.

Give up (phrasal verb) - cease making an effort; admit defeat.
Eg: Due to political pressure, he gave up his efforts of establishing a school in the area

Encounter (verb) - unexpectedly be faced with or experience (something hostile or difficult).
Eg: The computer scientists encountered a strange problem called Y2K.

Unrealistic (adj) - not realistic [realistic(adj) - having or showing a sensible and practical idea of what can be achieved or expected]
Eg: It is unrealistic to expect an overnight change in Tom's behavior.

Outcome (noun) - the way a thing turns out; a consequence.
Eg: It is easy to predict the outcome of the meeting.

50. Describe a large company that you are interested in

You should say,

- **what it is**
- **what it business it does**
- **how you know about it**
- **And explain how you feel about it**

Sample Answer

(what it is) (what business it does) There are many large companies in the world today. One that I'm interested in is "AT&T". "AT&T" stands for "American Telephone and Telegraph Company". It is a pioneer in the field of telecommunications. They have carved a niche for themselves in offering broadband and fixed-line telephone services across the world.
(how you know about it) I got to know about it from my cousin who served in the company for nearly five years. He was always my inspiration, and I want to follow his footsteps.
(Explain how you feel about it) We had discussed many things about the company, which increased my desire to work for it. They have a fantastic work culture and ensure work-life balance. I have witnessed it because my cousin took part in the county tennis matches, while he worked there. I had never seen him complaining about work. Also, I have my own plans for settling abroad and amassing wealth. Since my cousin was able to work for five years, it is obvious that the attrition rate is less. I have a fairly good amount of experience with an Indian division of a Korean telecommunications company. So, I'm sure I will be able to crack the interview with "AT&T". Currently, I'm working on an important assignment upon completion of which, I will apply for "AT&T".

Vocabulary

Telephone (noun) - a system for transmitting voices over a distance using wire or radio, by converting acoustic vibrations to electrical signals.
Eg: She made a telephone call to her aunt.

Telegraph (noun) - a system for transmitting messages from a distance along a wire, especially one creating signals by making and breaking an electrical connection
Eg: Initially the use of Telegraph was confined to the Railways.

Work life balance (noun) - the division of one's time and focus between working and family or leisure activities
Eg: Tim quit the company due to poor work life balance.

Telecommunications (noun) - The branch of technology concerned with telecommunication (communication over a distance by cable, telegraph, telephone, or broadcasting.)
Eg: She graduated from Cambridge in Telecommunications

Part 3

1 Are there many big companies in your country?

(Give a direct answer to the question) Yes, there are a lot of them. **(Explain your reason or reasons)** India is home to several IT Giants like Infosys, Wipro, TCS, and Tech Mahindra. There are also many foreign investment banks like Société Generale, Goldman Sachs, and Wells Fargo.

2 What are the good things about working for a big company?

(Give a direct answer to the question) (Explain your reason or reasons) The pay package would be very high. Attrition rates would be low. There would be a lot of opportunities for international travel. There would be many additional benefits like insurance, perks, and bonuses.

3 Should big companies donate more to charities?

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(Give a direct answer to the question) They should. **(Explain your reason or reasons)** Now CSR or Corporate social responsibility is made law in India. The aim is to pressurize society's wealthier sections to help the poor and help eradicate social inequalities in the nation. There are many trusts set up by the wealthy industrialists to build schools and Universities.

4 Is it difficult to get a promotion in a large company?

(Give a direct answer to the question) Not at all. **(Explain your reason or reasons)** Be it a large company or small company, it is up to the person to get himself noticed. Large companies have many divisions within them. So, if one project does not offer the required growth, there is no need to quit the company. You can switch to another project with ease, which is not possible in a small company.

5 Should big companies be punished more seriously if they break the law?

(Give a direct answer to the question) Undoubtedly, yes. **(Explain your reason or reasons)** Big companies generate more revenue and are symbols of national pride. So, they should be more responsible in ensuring that they abide by the law. They should be punished harder because they bring down the nation's image in the international arena.

Vocabulary

Giant (adj) - of very great size or force, gigantic.
Eg: Mittal is a giant in the steel manufacturing business.

Pressurize (verb) - attempt to persuade or coerce (someone) into doing something.
Eg: Her father pressurized her to study maths.

Eradicate (verb) - destroy completely; put an end to.
Eg: The political party came to power with the promise that it will eradicate poverty.

Abide (verb) - accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision, or recommendation)
Eg: John agreed to abide by the rules of the organisation.

Image (noun) - the general impression that a person, organization, or product presents to the public.
Eg: The actor had a good image.

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