

IELTS SPEAKING AND ACTUAL TESTS SUGGESTED ANSWERS

(MAY- AUGUST 2018)

AFARINESH.org

IELTS Speaking Actual Tests and Suggested Answers (May – August 2018)

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Preface

Most candidates like to read model answers as a very powerful way to get the best possible Band score when they are preparing for the IELTS speaking module. This ebook provides model answers for IELTS Speaking Actual Tests that appears in the IELTS speaking module. Even if your English is not perfect, you can transform your IELTS Band score by using this book.
The model answers are intended as a guide and candidates should modify the answers to suit their own circumstances and add to them wherever appropriate. In other words, candidates should consider using the vocabulary and grammatical structures in this book to help them to create their own answers.

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

1. Name

1.1. Who gave you your name ? / What's the origin of your name?

My name is named after a famous **figure** who my parents really admire and they really hope that I can **turn out** to be exactly like her in the future. So yeah, I guess both of them **agreed upon** the name.

1.2. Do you think your name is special?

Actually, the name [.....] is fairly common in my country. You would be pretty **surprised at** how many girls here are named [....]. But, in a sense, this name is special to me because my parents gave it to me and it will stay with me for my whole life.

1.3. Do you like your name?

Definitely yes! It's a simple, yet meaningful name to me. Say if you ask me whether I would like to change my name into another one, my answer would be **a big no.**

1.4. What do your friends call you?

It really depends. Most of my close friends prefer to call me by my nickname, "Pup". Meanwhile, others just use my first name.

1.5. Did your family have a certain (nick) name that they called you when you were a child?

When I was born, I had been crying for more than 2 hours. Therefore, my parents decided to call me Crocodile, which turned out to be my nickname afterwards. It is such a funny name which still makes me **embarrassed** when my parents call my nickname in front of my friends.

2. Dictionary

2.1. Do you use dictionary?

I've got to say yes. As a learner of English as a second language, a dictionary is something that you can't live without. It's a must-have item if people want to enhance their English proficiency.

2.2. Which kind of dictionaries do you prefer to use?

Personally speaking, I **make use of** both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries. Oxford dictionary is often my first choice as it **tops** others in its provision of a wealth of entries with accuracy. However, when I can't **get the hang** of a word's meaning, I'd go for an English - [your language] dictionary since everything would clear up if I grasp the meaning in my mother tongue.

2.3. Do you think the dictionary is useful?

I can't agree with you more. A dictionary is **part and parcel** of language acquisition process. With a dictionary, either in paper or online forms, it's possible to **look up** words that you're unfamiliar instantly, and there're loads of examples which are written in different contexts so that users can apply what they've learnt appropriately.

2.4. If someone gave you a dictionary as a gift, how would you feel?

I'm a real sucker for paper dictionary, so if someone gave me one, I would feel **elated** as it means a lot to me. Although e-dictionary is being **the in-thing** today, I can't resist the feeling of folding a paper dictionary and look up the words I don't know.

2.5. Do you think it would be interesting to be a part of a team that is writing a dictionary?

Composing is not my strong **forte**, and it seems a big responsibility when you are doing a big task like that. Instead of feeling **thrilled to bits**, I would feel **scared out of my mind** as I might give the wrong definitions.

3. Sleeping

3.1. When do you usually get up?

Well, I have to say that I kinda **an early bird**. I often **call it a day** early in the evening despite the redundant amount of workload and I would **get into full gear** and get stuff done the next day.

3.2. How long do you think it's healthy to sleep?

It kind of depends on which age you are. For elderly people, approximately 4-5 hours will suffice as they don't have to exert too much physically during the day. For younger people, 8 hours of sleep would **recharge their batteries** for the next working day.

3.3. How many hours do you spend on sleeping every day?

Usually I sleep for seven to eight hours every day in order to let my body relax. But if I have to learn for a big exam or prepare for some **imperative** tasks on the following day, I will **burn the midnight oil.**

3.4. Is it necessary to take a nap every day?

Yes, I believe having a **short siesta** after lunch, maybe for about half an hour, would be **beneficial to** our bodies to **concentrate fully on** learning and working in the afternoon. For example, when I suffer from inadequate sleep, I may feel too dizzy and exhausted to do anything but after **taking a short nap**, I feel much **more refreshed and full of energy**.

3.5. What time do you usually go to bed?

Well, I usually go to bed at around 1 .pm every night after I have done all of my homework. I set a regular bedtime and try my best to stick to it so as to feel most refreshed when getting up as well as avoid sleep disorders such as insomnia.

3.6. Do you always have a good sleep?

No, not really. I can't fall asleep when there is too much noise surrounding me from barking dogs, disturbing neighbors and city traffic and it makes me **toss**

and turn all night. So sometimes I envy with those who can sleep well in whatever place.

4. Transportation

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

4.2. How often do you take buses?

Almost every day. Since my house is so far away from my university, it's impossible for me to travel by motorbike. In addition, the air is heavily polluted by **exhaust fumes** and **traffic jams** always take place, especially during **peak hours**. Thus, I'd prefer to take the bus, to save time, save gasoline and causing less pollution.

Vocabulary

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

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

Peak hours/Rush hours (n) the busiest hours

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

Planes and trains regularly depart and arrive on time. Plus, there are many convenient facilities **catering** particularly to certain groups of passengers.

However, traveling by plane is clearly time-saving and enjoyable in terms of **on-board services** like meals or comfortable seats, while traveling by train offers you a chance **to see the world outside, admire the views** from their seats. It's totally a great experience for most train-travelers.

Vocabulary

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

Cater (v) provide with what is needed or required

4.4. Is driving to work popular in your country?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

4.10. Do you prefer public transport or private transport ?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

5. Magazines

5.1. What magazines are popular now?

Magazines on entertainment sell well, **for** many people are keen on reading reports about the pop singers and film stars. In addition, I **figure out** that magazines about dressing and makeup are popular, because more and more people beginning to **pay attention to** their appearance, and reading magazines is a convenient way to learn something on this.

Vocabulary

For (conjunction) because

Figure out (phrase) to be able to understand something

5.2. What are the differences between men and women in reading magazines?

Men and women are usually interested in different things. For most women, fashion is the most important thing, so they like reading fashion magazines. For **the vast majority of** men, magazines about automobiles, electronic products, and sports are very attractive.

Vocabulary

Vast majority (phrase) almost all or something like 90% or more

5.3. Do people in the countryside generally read the same kinds of magazines as people in the cities?

I don't know this well, but I think probably they read similar magazines. But maybe city people **pay more attention to** fashion, so they will tend to read more fashion magazines and people in the countryside read more magazines about farming and gardening because they have enough land for them to do these.

Vocabulary

Pay attention to (phrase) focus on something

6. Phone Apps

6.1. What kinds of apps do you often use?

I **gravitate towards** online apps and I have downloaded a bunch of apps from Google Play Store. Out of the many ones, the one that I often make use of very now and then is the Oxford Dictionary that I purchased years ago. On top of that, recently I have been playing the guitar, so I have also installed the app E-chord on my phone for chord reference.

6.2. What mobile app do you want to have?

Currently, I'm **longing for** the Collins Thesaurus Dictionary, but **it costs an arm and a leg** so for the time being I'm unable to make a purchase. I'm setting aside some money to make my little dream come true.

6.3. Do you want to make your own app?

I haven't thought of this, really. If I were to make an app, it should be educational. The likelihood is that I might create some apps that teach people

how to play the guitar step by step, and at the same time **make a killing** from that, too.

7. Outdoor Activities

7.1. How often do you go outside every week?

It's not a certain thing though. When I am free of worries about test or homework, I could go outside a lot, such as going shopping or hanging out with my friends. But when I am busy with my studying or test preparation, I could stay at school for weeks.

7.2. Do you spend enough time doing outdoor activities?

I should not say enough. You know, I'm a senior in college, so I have my papers to write, I have the IELTS exam to prepare for, and I love to stay with my classmates for the already-limited time on the campus. So I do not have many chances to take part in outdoor activities this term.

7.3. What's the amount of exercise that modern people do?

A lot of people care about their physical health and would go to fitness centers or do outdoor activities regularly. However, a lot of others also tend to stay at home more and might be too lazy to work out regularly. It's really bad for their health.

7.4. What kind of outdoor activity do you often do?

I usually go hiking and play badminton in the park during my spare time. I think hiking is good for my health and can help me get close to the nature. Playing badminton is good for me to stretch my arms after a whole day's work or study.

7.5. What're the advantages of outdoor activities?

Outdoor activities are good for children. They could help children develop their physical potential and can also teach children teamwork skills through some group activities. Nowadays, children usually need to study a lot. If they can get outside to breathe some fresh air, I believe they can work more effectively.

8. Physical Exercises

8.1. Do you often do exercises?

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

8.2. What kinds of exercises do you do?

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

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

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

9. Music & Pop stars

9.1 Who is your favorite singer?

My idol singer would have to be Adele. Her voice is so **pouching and melodious** that I **can't stand listening** to her tracks when I manage some free time. In fact, she is a **widely acclaimed** pop singer in the world.

9.2. Do you want to see her concert?

For certain, I have been to many of her concerts, and I'd have to say that her performances were **superb**. Although a ticket price was a bit unaffordable for me, I **made it** to her concert eventually.

9.3.What's your attitude towards pop singer?

They are celebrities and **bring great entertainment to** our lives. Their songs help **lift up our spirits or recharge our energies** when we're **stressed out** in our work or studies. So I'd have to say that without pop singers, lives would be **monotonous and stressful**, indeed.

9.4. Do you like concert or listen to album?

I would rather go to a concert rather than listen a list of recorded songs. The reason behind this is that you can see the singer in real life and **interact with** the crowd, **immerse yourselves in** the dynamic music at the concert. This I think is more enjoyable than staying at home **on your own.**

9.5. Do you want to be a pop singer?

I'm quite poor at singing, so the thought of becoming a singer has never **crossed my mind** yet. I'd better sing at a karaoke room instead. On top of this, the life of a celebrity is quite tough, you have to **sacrifice your privacy** to be **in the limelight.**

9.6. Do you like to go to the concert?

I love **socializing with** others and going to a concert is amongst the many ways I can **relish the lively atmosphere**. On top of that, if one of my favorite bands is going on a concert tour, I would definitely **go the extra mile** to **get hold of** a ticket, no matter how expensive it is.

9.7. Would you want to be a celebrity in the future?

I don't know actually, because obviously it would be nice to be **adored** everywhere you go, and have lots of VIP treatment travelling around the world. That would be quite nice! But I think there would be a lot of **downsides** as well, for example **lack of privacy, the paparazzi**. So I think all things considered, I probably wouldn't want to be a celebrity.

10. Flats/Houses/Accommodation

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Troublesome (adj) causing difficulty or annoyance

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

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

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

Chill out (phrasal verb) relax

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

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

10.4. Who do you live with?

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

10.5. How long have you lived there?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Torture (n) great physical or mental suffering

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

downs with me. So yeah, I would always miss my house, my room whenever I'm away.

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Harmonious (adj) friendly and peaceful

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ownership (n): the fact of owning something

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

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

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

It heavily depends on people's preference and **affordability** since each type of property has its own **perks**. If one enjoys the modern **amenities** that an apartment complex can provide such as gyms, swimming pools and convenience stores and, of course, he has money, an apartment would be a great choice. In contrast, houses are usually suitable those who prefer privacy and a quiet lifestyle.

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

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

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

11. Staying at home

11.1. Do you like to go out or stay at home?

If I were to take a pick, I'd opt for staying at home on my own because I loathe the hustle and bustle of city life. Going out is also time-consuming, meaning that I have to groom myself carefully beforehand. By contrast, I can idle my time away when being at home.

11.2. How much time do you spend at home?

I'm a full-time worker, so I'm only at home in the evening, it's quite a pity, you know. I wish I had more time to spare at home for my families.

11.3. What do you do at home?

After getting home from work, I'm just too dead beat to do something strenuous, So, I just hold my smartphone and log into Facebook to catch up on what has been going during the day.

11.4. **What did you do at home when you were a child?**

When I was **knee-high to a grasshopper**, I used to play with the toys that my mother gave me, nothing really special. I simply **love the company of myself**.

12. Computer and the Internet

12.1. How often do you use computer?

Almost every day, I have to admit. Computer is **part and parcel of** my daily routine. Not only is it used in my work and study, I can **let my hair down** a bit browsing for stuff on the social networks or listening to some music which suits my taste.

12.2. What kinds of computers are popular in your country?

There are 2 kinds that are being widely used in my country: the first one is desktop computer and the second is laptop. Out of these two, I would say laptop is much more convenient since it's portable and can be so useful for school projects or on business trips.

12.3. What do you usually use your computer for?

Frankly speaking, I often put the **top priority** on my study, so I am more likely to download all the materials and do my own self-study most of the time. After **tiring**

myself out with reading, I can log on some webs and listen to my favorite songs to chill out a bit.

12.4. Who taught you how to use a computer?

I learnt it **on my own** really. At first, I was pretty **absorbed in** computer games and through those, I acquired how to type and control the mouse. Since then, I have been more serious and **took a course in** computing skills.

12.5. Do you think computers have changed your life a lot?

Yes, definitely. It is part of my daily routines and I rely on it so much that I can't live without it you know. Imagine computer would disappear, imagine the social networking websites would somehow be nowhere to be seen, life on earth would be meaningless.

12.6. How do you get on the internet?

Well, there're actually two computers in my home. And I use a router so that two computers can get online at the same time. Recently, I have bought a smart phone, which can also enable me to get online even when I'm outside.

12.7. Is the internet very popular in your country?

The internet is **the in thing** in our country. Now, we use the internet in every aspect of our life. We use it to entertain and search for information. It's also a very important way for us to communicate with each other. To be honest, because of the internet, I haven't written a real letter for more than ten years.

12.8. How can people learn things on the internet?

A lot of people post their own experiences on the internet and sometimes, you could also find some video clips that teach you how to do things. For me, I love reading Wikipedia **to gain knowledge and solve my questions**. Also, a lot of people use online courses to get their degrees without going to the campus, which is really convenient for our life.

13. Swimming

13.1. Do you like swimming?

Swimming is definitely my favorite sport. It brings me such a great sense of freedom that no other activity can allow me. I've found that swimming is the most effective way to take my mind off things that are troubling me.

13.2. Is it difficult to learn how to swim?

I think it is not hard to learn how to swim, once you have become confident in submerging whilst still standing on the pool floor, then your fear of water or fear of swimming is well and truly on the way to being conquered. Learning to swim from there is **a piece of cake**.

14. Advertisements

14.1. Are there many advertisements in your country?

Definitely, there are. They appear **all over the place** from the streets to social media with **a high density**. For example, there is **a multitude of** colorful **flyers** sticked on the street walls in Sydney.

All over the place (expression) everywhere

Density (n) the quantity of people or things in a given area or space.

A multitude of (expression) a very large number of people or things

Flyers (n) a small handbill advertising an event or product.

14.2. Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?

I guess it's due to the benefits of the companies. First, advertisements are the easiest way to reach the customers to attract their attentions to a particular brand or product. From that attractive information, customers will **be able to** choose an appropriate one. Second, it also **plays a crucial role** in marketing strategy that the company apply to attract customers.

To be able to do Sth (v) having the power, skill, means, or opportunity to do something.

To play a (an) crucial/essential/key/main role in (v): of great importance

Campaign (n) an organized course of action to achieve a goal

14.3. What are the various places where we see advertisements?

Advertising is **here, there, and every where**. It gets to people through different types of communication such as flyers and banners on the streets or printed ones on newspaper, magazines or electronic ones on social media. It could be written, verbal or a short movie.

Here, there, and every where (expression) everywhere

14.4. How do you feel about advertisements?

Sometimes, I find it a little bit annoying because the quality of the advertised products are usually **overrated**. However, there are other beneficial advertisements in supermarkets which has **informative** contents for customers such as on which days there will be **promotions** or which new products will be **launched**.

Informative (adj) to provide useful or interesting information

Promotions (n) activity that supports or encourages a cause, venture, or aim.

Launch (v) to introduce (a new product or publication) to the public for the first time.

Overrated (adj) to have a higher opinion of (someone or something) than is deserved

15. Time Management & Punctuality

15.1. How do you organize you time?

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

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

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

15.3. Are you ever late for anything?

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

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

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

16. Meals

16.1. When do you often have meals?

As a rule, I have three basic meals a day. Although I'm quite **tied up at work**, I do manage to **grab a bite once in a while** like some snacks or fruits to **recharge my own batteries.**

16.2. Who do you often have meals with?

With my family, of course. We're currently living under the same roof, and share meals with one another every dinner. When I'm at work, my colleagues and I often sit together at the same table and have lunch while **exchanging casual pieces of gossip.**

16.3. Do you cook at home or eat outside?

In my circumstance, my mother's a housewife and she has plenty of time for **household chores** and meal preparation. **Having said this, once in a blue moon** when she's feeling a bit **under the weather**, our family would **dine out** at some classy restaurants for **a change of atmosphere.**

16.4. Do you still like the same food that you liked while being a child?

I'm afraid no. people's **taste changes** as **time goes by**. If I remember rightly, I used to be **a big fan of** beef since I was **knee high to a grasshopper**, but this is a different story now. I like chicken more and stay away from red meat as much as possible. After all, there's **no accounting for taste**.

17. Parks/ Public Gardens

17.1 Are public gardens very important in your country?

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

17.2. Are there many public gardens in your country?

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

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

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

18. School

18.1. How old are you when you started school?

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

18.2. Where did you go to school?

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

18.3. How did you get to school each day?

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

18.4. Did you enjoy it?

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

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

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

19. Work/Study

Study

19.1. Describe your education

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

Vocabulary

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

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

19.2. What is your area of specialization?

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

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

To be into something (phrase) really like something

19.3. Why did you choose to study that major?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19.6. What was your favourite subject as a child?

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

Plan B (n) back-up plan

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

Work

19.1. What do you do?

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

19.2. What are your responsibilities?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

19.5. Describe the company or organization you work for.

The Guardian is a National British daily newspaper which offers free access both to current news and an archive of three million stories. In April 2011, MediaWeek reported that *The Guardian* was the fifth most popular newspaper

site in the world. I personally believe that the guardian is the inspirational workplace for all people who dream of becoming a journalist.

19.6. Do you enjoy your work?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

20. Travel

20.1. Do you like travelling?

I'm **a real sucker for** travelling. Though I'm **up to ears in work** most of the time, I still spend time on travelling **here and there**. When I **get itchy feet**, I can't help being **on the move** to somewhere nice to **whet my desire for travel.**

20.2. Where have you travelled to before?

I have travelled to **a whole lot of** destinations, both domestically and internationally. I've been to nearly all renowned spots in my country, and all European countries so far, and I'm bent on visiting all 50 states in America next year if **financial condition permits**.

20.3. Do you like travelling by plane?

I didn't like it at first, because I often felt sick and vomited on the planes, especially during their **landing and taking-off**. However, thanks to the many trips that I have made by plane, now I've got used to this mode of transport.

20.4. **Do you want to travel to the space?**

Not in the least. I can imagine that I will be **dying of** the gravity condition, the loneliness and may other **imminent** diseases once I have been on the spaceship. Except when **doomsday** comes, and there's the need to be evacuated to the outer space, I don't see any interest in travelling there.

20.5. Do you like traveling over long distances?

I'd hate to say but I detest long-distance trips. This is because I often feel sick when sitting on the coach, the train or the plane for too long. On top of that, I can't seem to find anything to do to while away the time.

21. Boats

21.1. Do you like boating?

I don't **have any clue about** this. As a matter of fact, I haven't had any chance to experience the feeling of riding or being on a boat, so I'm quite unsure to **jump to the conclusion**. Apart from this, I'm **seasick** which might make me vomit on a boat.

21.2. What have you ever done by boat?

From my recollection, my father and I did hire a boat to go fishing in a river. It was an **out-of-this-world experience** since we **marveled at** the beautiful landscapes and caught lots of big fish and squids.

21.3. Do you want to own a boat?

No, it's the last thing I want to do. I'm not living near coastal areas. Here in the cities, there're hardly any lakes or rivers for me to go boating. Besides, a boat can **cost an arm and a leg** these days, so I think it's not **worth your while.**

22. Rain

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

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

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

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

22.3. Does it rain a lot in your hometown?

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

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

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

22.5. Does rain ever affect transportation in your hometown?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Intricate (adj) very complicated or detailed.

Dearth (noun) a scarcity or lack of something.

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

Rain cats and dogs (idiom) rain heavily

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

Deluge (noun) a great flood of water

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

23. Emails/ Letters

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

Due to **time constraint** and professionalism, emails are much more favorable than traditional **handwritten correspondence**. However, I still enjoy the **sophistication** and **artfulness** of handwritten letters since each one is

unique and **intensely** personal. Therefore, unless in business context, I usually send written notes or invitations for my friends and family for their **intimacy**.

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

Correspondence (n): the activity of writing letters

Sophistication (n): the quality of being sophisticated

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

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

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

23.2. Do you think emails are useful?

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

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

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

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

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

In my opinion, complaint letters are one of the toughest **pieces of writing** because of the **discomfort** they may cause. Since I'm an easy-going and **conflict-averse** person, I don't usually complain when I should, whether it's a **poor service experience** or product. Hence, writing a formal letter of

complaint is even more difficult, especially when I have to carefully choose my words and tones so it can be less critical and more **constructive**.

Discomfort (n): a feeling of worry or embarrassment

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

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

23.4. Do you think email might one day replace handwritten letters?

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

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

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

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

Recipient (n): a person who receives something

24. Daily Routine

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

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

Vocabulary

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

24.2. Please describe your typical daily routine

A typical day of mine starts at 8 am. After waking up, I would just go for some basic getting-ready steps just like other girls. On weekdays I usually have classes so I would leave home at around 8.45 am to be there on time. After classes, I have lunch and go straight back home for some rest as I find morning classes are quite **overwhelming**. Meanwhile, on weekends when I don't have classes, I would spend my morning on assignments. In the evening I would do some workout, take a shower and then cook dinner with my friends in order to supply oursleves some healthy foods and **save money on a budget**. I also **eat out** sometimes if we're both busy or we run out of food. After I finish my dinner, I check my planner and **get myself back to work**. Additionally, as I'm not a **night owl**, I try to manage my time as efficiently as possible until around 12 am. Before I brush my teeth and go to bed at around 1 am, I would scan through my planner for what to do on the following day and maybe listen to some relaxing music and **do some meditation**.

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

As usual I would still be working on my assignments. I always spend loads of time and efforts on researching for materials, organizing ideas and writing a number of drafts as I always aim to get good marks. Between duration of hard

work when I find myself quite **drained out**, I take a 15-minute break to go online, drink some water or listen to some music to **refresh my mind.**

Vocabulary

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

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

Well I guess I would say repeating similar things everyday is not my lifestyle. A meaningful life to me is when I can balance between my personal life and my social life. What I mean is, I always **seek for** opportunities to see, interact and maybe involve in other perople's lives to **open my mind** and learn great things from them. Thus, instead of studying, I would love to spend some evenings or nights, either outdoor or indoor, with my family and friends. Besides, I also participate in social activities held by my university. I believe that this is the right time for the young generation like me to discover the outside world.

Vocabulary

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

24.5. How do you organize your study time?

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

Vocabulary

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

24.6. Do you ever change your plans?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

25. Teenagers and Friends

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

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

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

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

25.3. What is fashion among teenagers?

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

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

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

Or:

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

Go through (phrasal verb) experience something bad

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

25.5. What does friendship mean to you?

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

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

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

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

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

Or:

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

Go astray (phrase) do something wrong

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

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

Besides being classmates and colleagues, I think the most common way to **make friends** is through other friends. It is especially true for people like me, because I am **introverted** and not used to introducing myself to strangers**.** In

addition, with the development of the Internet more and more young people enjoy **making friends online.**

Or:

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

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

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

Or:

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

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

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

25.11. Have you made any friends on the Internet?

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

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

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

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

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

25.14. Do you have many friends?

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

25.15. Do you like meeting new people?

Honestly, I am a kind of person who is very **reserved** and quite, so I prefer meeting my acquaintances rather than try to make new friends. I don't like meeting new people since I have to start all the things to **get to know** those and **balance** the new relationship, which takes a lot time and efforts.

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

In the future? Oh well, I prefer making friends who are better than me both in **general knowledge** and **soft skills**. Therefore, in the future, I would like to meet friends that may **set the same goals** as mine in their careers and in their

lives. Besides, those who **master** in English do catch my attention a lot since English is my favorite language.

26. Sunny days

26.1. Do you like sunny days?

I would say I am most productive and energetic on sunny days since there are full of brightness and positivity. For me, sunshine **represents** hope and **optimism**, thus, it gives me motivation to perform better at school or at work. On the contrary, I tend to be more **lethargic** and less enthusiastic during rainy season, mostly because of its **dull** and **gloomy** atmosphere.

Represent (v): to be a symbol of something

Optimism (n): a feeling that good things will happen and that something will be successful; the tendency to have this feeling

Lethargic (a): without any energy or enthusiasm for doing things

Dull (a): not bright, with a lot of clouds

Gloomy (a): nearly dark, or badly lit in a way that makes you feel sad

26.2. What do you like to do when it's a sunny day?

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

Vocabulary

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

Or:

I'm a **highly active** person who really enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking or cycling. Therefore, on a sunny day, if I have some time to spare, I will do some exercises in the local park or explore the surrounding neighborhood where I **have yet to visit**. It would be a shame if people stay indoor all day without bathing under the sun every once in a while.

Have yet to do something (phrase) used for saying that something has not happened or been done up to the present time

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

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

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

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

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

Or:

I think I would say it depends on my mood and my **workload**. I definitely cannot go out enjoy myself if my work is still a mess, even though it was such nice weather. And unless I feel super energetic and motivated, I think most of the time I'd prefer staying inside, no matter how the sun shines or how cool the weather is.

26.4. Are there many sunny days in your hometown?

I'm living in a tropical country so it's safe to say that there are more sunshine than rain, which is great news for people who enjoy being outside like me. However, the heat can be **extreme** in some specific months of the year, therefore, we have to apply sunscreen or cover ourselves carefully before leaving the house to avoid **sunburn** or **heatstroke**.

Extreme (a): very great in degree

Sunburn (n): the condition of having painful red skin because you have spent too much time in the sun

Heatstroke (n): an illness with fever and often loss of consciousness, caused by being in too great a heat for too long

Or:

It is a modern big city so unless it's our rainy season, otherwise the sun would shine most of the time, either during one day or the whole year. Sometimes the temperature rises so high that it feels like burning, that's when people prefer staying indoor enjoying the cool air produced by air conditioners.

27. Music

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

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

27.2. When do you listen to music?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Chill out (phrasal verb) to relax

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

My music taste varies widely from West to East and from the 90s to modern EDM. But if Korean pop is considered as a kind of music, then yeah, that's my favorite of all time. More than half of my playlists are Korean songs and I always **keep myself updated** with the news related to Korean showbiz.

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

Once in a blue moon (idiom) rarely

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

On one's own

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

Mind-blowing (adj) Sth overwhelmingly impressive

27.6. Do you like to listen to live music?

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

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

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

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

On and on (expression) continually; at tedious length

27.8. Where do you listen to it?

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

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

On their fingertips (phrase) easy to reach

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

To start out (v) to begin

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

Music is one of the **compulsory** subjects for primary and secondary students in my country. However, mainly singing is focused. We can also add some

movements to make the songs more lively. Only those who are selected for the big performances are allowed to use musical instruments.

Vocabulary

Compulsory (adj) to be required

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

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

Vocabulary

Bouyed up (adj) feel cheerful

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

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

Vocabulary

Sought-after (adj) in demand

27.14. Do you like traditional songs?

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

28. Gifts

28.1. What is your favourite gift?

I received lots of gifts from my relatives and friends, among which I show a great preference for the bicycle best. It's a birthday present from my parents when I

was ten, and it's rare to have a mountain bike at that time. I used to ride it to school and it makes my life more at ease.

28.2. Do you often give gifts to people?

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

28.3. What was the last gift you received?

A lovely watch, but the sentimental value counts even more. I was very pouched by her thoughtfulness. My girlfriend gave me a watch a few weeks ago because she thought I'd like it. It's The last gift I received was a birthday present of some kind. I don't recall exactly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29. Family Activities

29.1. How often do you meet with your family?

Well, because all of us are fully **occupied with** our schedule, we don't see each other during daytime. In the evening we'll have dinner and watch TV together and talk about our day. I think in the future if I'm ever able to move out, I'll try to **set aside** time to visit my parents at least twice a week.

Vocabulary

Occupied with (adj) busy

Set aside (phrasal verb) reserve for a special purpose

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

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

Vocabulary

Scrumptious (adj) delicious

Hectic whirlwind (expression) a busy schedule

Huddle together (phrase) gather together

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

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

Vocabulary

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

29.4. What activities do your family like doing together?

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

Vocabulary

To eat out (v) to have meal outside

Family trip (n) to travel with family members

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

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

29.5. Are you close to your family members?

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

Vocabulary

To take good care of (v)

29.6. How has your family influenced you?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Diligence (n) careful and persistent work or effort

30. Animals/Birds

Animals

30.1. Do you keep a pet?

If yes:

I have three dogs, and they are pretty adorable companies. I'm **a real sucker for** animals, in fact, my whole family love animals. Time flies when you are with your beloved pets, and I usually **have a whale of a time** playing with them.

If no:

No, I don't have a pet. You know, I liye in the dorm at university. It's forbidden to have a pet there. But I ever had a dog when I was in high school.

30.2. What is your favorite animal? = Did you have any pets when you were a child?

If I were to take the pick, it would be dogs. Dogs are so **loyal to** their owner, as well as this, they are great **companions**. Every time I'm **down in the dumps**, my dogs would wave its tail **to cheer me up**.

30.3. Do you like watching animals in the zoo?

It seems quite cruel to me to see many species of animals get locked up in the cages. So I hardly go to the zoos as they feel quite sorry for them, actually.

30.4. Is it important to let children know about animals

I would strongly recommend that kids be educated about **the animal kingdom**. They should be aware of the life of animals, the threats they are **coming up against** and the need for their protection.

30.5. What kinds of animals as a pet do people have in your country? = What kind of animals do people have in their home?

Usually pet animals are kept in house for different reasons, one of which is to keep the family members in company. But the range and preference differ from individual to individual. However, small four footed animals like dogs and cats are preferred and popular as pets for homes. Sometimes people also pick rabbits

or fancy rats as their pets. Besides, some of the people prefer birds as their pets too.

30.6. What do you think are the benefits of having a pet? = Why do people like to keep pets?

People mostly have pets to keep their company. Besides, they are useful for us too in some cases. When a dog sees a stranger, it barks and the home owner becomes aware of the existence of someone else outside the house. Besides, cats kill mice and protect the home from different mischief created by the tiny creatures.

30.7. Do you think it fun to keep a pet?

Yes, the pet brings pleasure to my life. I will not feel lonely if I stay at home alone with the company of the pet. My kitty, which is called Lily, always crouches at my feet when I am reading.

30.8. What's your favorite wild animal?

I have great fondness for pandas. They look so cute in their black and white fur that I just want to cuddle and caress. They are timid animals, which makes it even more intriguing to me

30.9. What are the advantages and disadvantages of wildlife parks?

At first, people get chances to see wild animals from other countries and regions,and watch them closely. Besides, there are no fences or cages in wildlife parks, which makes animals move freely and makes people feel like in nature. But on the other hand, wildlife parks are costly to run and maintain, which are quite a burden to the government. Sometimes the visitors may be hurt or attacked by animals if the management is poor.

Birds

30.1. How do you feel about birds?

Well, I'd have to say that I am quite fascinated with birds. I guess each person is attracted to a different species, and my favorite in the animal kingdom happens to be birds.

30.2. Why do you feel that way?

Well, it is primarily because I have developed a keen interest In flora and fauna, especially flying creatures. I also watch a lot of movies about birds. For example, Rio, an animated movie by Disney, about the journey of a blue bird into the great outdoors

30.3. How do people in your country feel about birds?

Overall, they are not very into birds. Only elderly people are fond of keeping birds. Most of people only like to eat them especially game birds. They are considered sort of delicacy.

30.4. Are there birds near your home?

You know, I haven't spotted any in my neighborhood. You're more likely to find them in zoos, national parks or in the countryside. Also, a lot of barbershops in my city have bird cages. Not sure why that is.

30.5. Have you seen many different kinds of birds?

I have only seen a few, I am not much of a bird watcher The ones I have seen are pretty common, like pigeons and sparrows. I haven't sighted any exotic breeds.

Vocabulary:

Animal kingdom (phrase) the world of animals

Develop a keen interest In (expression) to be very interested in something

Flora and fauna (phrase) plants and animals

Great outdoors (phrase) the woods, the wilderness, the wild

Game birds (noun) a bird that may be legally hunted according to the laws

Delicacy (noun) a choice or expensive food

Bird watcher (noun) a person who watches and identifies wild birds

Exotic (adj) originating in or characteristic of a distant foreign country

PART II & III

1. Describe a vacation you had in a faraway place.

You should say:
when and where you went
who you went with
what you did there;
and explain why you think it was enjoyable.

Today I'm going to share with you a short vacation to the countryside far from the city where I'm living which **left me a profound impression**. It was a trip to the hometown of one of my classmates at university.

At the end of the second semester, our group at the university was invited to **pay a 5-day visit** to the house of one of the group members, who lives in a quite remote area in the countryside, a 6-hour drive from the city center. We had 5 people in total and bought coach tickets to reach our destination. On arriving at my friend's hometown which is quite **secluded from the hustle and bustle of the city life,** we were greatly impressed by the **picturesque landscapes** there. The atmosphere was refreshing and the air is unpolluted unlike in the city where many of us were living in. My friend acted as a tour guide as he was well accustomed to the local lifestyles and tourist attractions there. We took the motorbikes to tour the city and stopped at some street vendors to **taste the local cuisine**, which I personally found tasty and **delicate**. After **doing the sights**, we gathered in the evening for some small games and gossip about our study and our future **career paths**.

All in all, such a short vacation still fills me with great delight each time I recall it. Hope that we could make another vacation soon. This time we think we're going abroad together.

Leave an impression: to provide a lasting memory for someone after one has left

Seclude from: to isolate/ keep apart

Hustle and bustle: confusion and business, busy and excited activity

Picturesque: strikingly expressive or vivid | visually pleasing

Delicate: Pleasing to the senses, especially in a subtle way

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Where do most of the people go in your country?

People in my country **show a great fancy for** domestic destinations for a couple of reasons. The main one I guess is that my country is **widely acclaimed** for its picturesque landscapes so it's unnecessary to go on an overseas trip. The second reason is people have **tight budgets** so travelling in their home country is more economical.

What are the differences between traveling to other countries and living there?

Well, obviously there are a number of clear differences between going on a tour abroad and actually living there. Perhaps the most significant difference is that travelling only **paints a rosy picture of life** in our destination country like we **can enjoy the delicacies, experience exotic cultures** and shop in big malls while the everyday life of the citizens seems to be ignored. In addition, with the company of a tour guide, there is no need to learn the language, search for directions since everything is properly prepared. Conversely, an immigrant is supposed to **experience culture shock**, food adaptability and other issues if they start living there.

Do you think we need to respect the region and culture when you go to other countries?

Yes, without doubt. In most of the cases, immigrants or tourists to another country tend to **suffer from culture shock**, food adaptability and **racial discrimination** and stuff like that. So, it's quite advisable that they **make**

real efforts to pay decent respect to the host country's culture when people come to a new land.

What are the effects of globalization?

Of course, globalization is **a sweeping trend** in the twenty-first century and has considerable influences on all nations worldwide. One of its impacts is that it brings countries closer together, making the world a global village. To be more precise, today we can travel to anywhere we like and have greater freedom to **explore the exotic cultures** and **broaden our horizons**. In addition, international cooperation is quite a common word, you see. Every country in the world is interdependent on one another for **economic growth** and cultural appreciation. However, some problems can arise like **racial discrimination, social prejudice** and so on, which are some of the downsides of this wholesome trend.

What are the advantages of travelling? Why do more and more people choose to travel abroad?

Clearly, there are a number of merits brought by travelling. But I would probably say that the thing that really **stands out** is that we can broaden our horizons of the world. To be more specific, when coming to a new region or a country, we have the chances to **sample the local life**, enjoy the cuisine and learn many interesting stuff. Besides, a second positive point could be that we can **let our hair down** after stressful periods of hard work or study. A short visit to somewhere can help us **recharge our batteries** and work more effectively afterwards.

What are the advantages for travelling alone?

If you ask me, I would say that travelling on our own can free us from the burden of others and so have more freedom and independence to explore **to our heart's content.** To be more precise, when you **travel on a package tour** with your family members, you have to plan your budget, can't **take your eyes off** the small kids or have to follow the instructions of the tour guide. However, when you are being on your own, you can head to anywhere you feel like, mix

with the local people, experience many different feelings, and become more independent

Will you choose to travel abroad or take a nationwide travel? = What are the advantages for a nationwide travel?

If I were to choose between the two, I would opt for domestic trips simply because I am not a wealthy person at all. Therefore, travelling to different parts of my country can be economical at first. Besides, there are no **language barriers** compared to when you make a tour to a **far-away land** where you **have no idea about** their culture or mother language. In a nutshell, such a nationwide journey can **satisfy my sense of adventure.**

2. Describe your favorite TV Series

You should say:

- *what the TV series are*
- *who act these series*
- *what is the plot*
- *and explain how you feel about it*

To be honest, I'm kinda **a couch potato**, so I watch **a multitude of** TV series. **Off the top of my head,** I'd say the most **captivating** TV series I have watched is "Friends" – an **all-time** favorite sitcom.

Friends is an American television sitcom originally aired on NBC from 1994 to 2004, lasting ten seasons. This sitcom **has a strong cast,** involving both experienced actors and **novices** in the field of entertainment. **By and large, it won't fail to live up to viewers' expectation** from the first episode.

The series are **centered on** six friends Ross, Chandler, Joey, Rachel, Monica, and Phoebe, who **are connected with** each other by being roommates, neighbors and old high school friends and they all find themselves living in the same apartment block. They all have their own story and **battle with**

tough jobs, complicated relationships and life in the big city. The TV series **center round** daily happenings when they live under the same roof. The characters are portrayed with different virtues and qualities, giving the audience a nice picture of the stuff **taking place** every day in their routine life. As the title suggests, each episode is **packed with hilarious jokes** and conversational exchanges between friends**,** which definitely gives you **hysterical laughter** and is something really effective to **let off steam** after a **backbreaking** day at school or work**.**

What strikes me most about **this series is** the **strong bond** between friends. Despite many **ups and downs** in life, they won't hesitate to **go the extra mile** to **get over** difficulties no matter what are **thrown at** them and forgive each other for their silly mistakes. It is a TV series **worth watching,** particularly for those who are fans of **comedy and reality TV.** Despite its age, it is still as fantastic as ever and very addictive and I bet it will be watched for many years.

Vocabulary

Couch potato: a person who spends little or no time exercising and a great deal of time watching television.

A multitude of: a very large number of people or things

Off the top of my head: immediately and without thinking very much

Captivating: very interesting or attractive in a way that takes all your attention

All time: exceptional, unprecedented, unsurpassed

Sitcom: situation comedy

By and large: generally, as a whole

Live up to one's expectation: meet one's expectation

Center on: if something centres around someone or something, or if you centre something around them, they are its main subject of attention or interest

Let off team:
to express your feelings of anger or excitement without harming anyone
Backbreaking: physically very hard and tiring
Ups and downs: a variety of situations and experiences that are sometimes good and sometimes bad
Go the extra mile: to make a special extra effort in order to achieve something

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

2.1. Do you think (watching) TV have (has) educational benefits?

Absolutely, I think. Take romantic films as an example, they can help educate people about the value of love, honesty, and faithfulness. They can make the audience **sympathize with** other people and respect what they have. Indeed, films can teach people **good virtues** to become better citizens through stories. Besides, in most high school and college courses, movies, whether documentary or narrative, are a creative approach in teaching, helping students have a brief idea about the history, social issues, or scientific experiments. History, for example, indeed becomes more approachable and interesting in movies.

Vocabulary

Good virtue (n) behavior showing high moral standards
Sympathise (v) to feel sorry for somebody, to show that you understand and feel sorry about somebody's problems

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

From my perspective, they are different in various aspects, especially their purposes. Documentaries are a reliable source of information and a powerful **means of conveying social message** to the world. It brings many benefits to the society. For instance, by watching documentaries together, many sensitive social issues, such as **homosexuality**, are discussed freely between parents and children instead of attempting to hide it. Films for entertainment,

in another way, are mostly for people who need to **chill out** after work or study. Those movies tend not to discuss nothing but relationships between people.

Vocabulary

Means of Sth (n) a tool or a way to do Sth (commonly used with unc. noun transportation, entertainment)

Homosexuality (n) sexual attraction to people of one's own sex

To chill out (v) to relax

2.3. Why do you think documentary films are not so popular?

Personally, I think the foremost reason which makes documentary films are not as popular as entertainment films is that documentaries require the audience to think critically about a current issues, b help them escape from the **harsh realities** of everyday life. For example, the series of "Prison life – love in prison", which describes the prison sex, is an educational and emotional documentary that brings a different view about prisoners. Another reason is this kind of movie **aims to** provide education and lack entertaining features compared to other kinds of movies, therefore, it's hard to reach a wide range of audience.

Vocabulary

Rather than (phrase) used with the infinitive form of a verb to indicate negation as a contrary choice or wish

Harsh reality (n) the difficulties

(The) naked truth (n) the complete, unembellished truth

To aim to do Sth (v) to have a purpose to do Sth

2.4 How are movies and real life different ?

Life in movies is so much different than real life. In real life, there is no script and you will write your own story day by day. Life is full of **ups and downs**, **twists and turns**. However, they both inspire each other since real life is a great material for **making movies**.

Vocabulary

Ups and downs (n) good and bad times

Twists and turns (n) challenges or turning points in life

To make a movie (n) to produce a move

2.5 Do men and women like to watch the same kinds of films?

It depends, I guess. It is thought that men like action movies with shocking and dangerous scenes like Fast and Furious or **sci-fi** movies with imaginative, futuristic plots like Avatar while most women prefer romantic movies or comedies with meaningful messages. It seems logical; however, there are still many converse cases. Therefore, I think there is no boundaries for preferences between men and women **when it comes to** films.

Vocabulary

Sci-fi movies (n) science-fiction movies

When it comes to (phrase) speaking about

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

Obviously. It's undeniable that different generations prefer different kinds of movies. Children, for example, are usually **fond of** cartoons or funny movies such as Frozen or Tangled. Adults, on the other hand, tend to watch various types of movies such as action films, romantic films, documentaries or romantic films depending on their tastes.

Vocabulary

To be fond of (adj) to be interested in

2.7 Do you like any particular film star? Why?

I like Emma Watson, a British actress, model and activist. She is **famous for** her first professional acting role as Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter film series. What I love about her is that not only is she an outstanding actress with **admirable** personalities but also she is the spiritual inspiration as the UN Women Goodwill Ambassador. My favorite quote is "I don't want the fear of failure to stop me from doing what I really **care about**", encouraging me to **chase my dream** despite many troubles ahead.

Vocabulary

To be famous for (adj) to be known about by many people

To care about (v) to feel concern or interest; attach importance to something.

3. Describe a piece of technology you like using (not computer)

You should say:
What is it
How did you learn about it
How often do you use it
And explain why you like it.

There are **a whole lot of** technological devices that I love using, but if I were to take a pick, I would say that the Google Play Store on my smartphone, and especially the Cambridge dictionary app would be the most marvelous and useful.

It is a quite **widely-acclaimed** application among learners of English as a second language and is installed by millions of users across the globe. It is not **exaggerating** but I deem it as a must-have one for anyone struggling with the English language.

Users can benefit from **a wide array of** functions offered by Cambridge dictionary. The first thing about it is that you can obtain the meaning at no time. With a few operations, a word's meaning and its related phrases **pop up** on the screen, and there are also illustrations of usages, which I particularly find unique compared to all other e-dictionaries I have made use of.

As a student, I am supposed to use it **on a frequent basis**, especially during my English lessons at school. It is wonderfully convenient and portable as it would be **cumbersome** if I have to carry a dictionary book with me every time I go to school. So, it saves me my energy really. Besides, thanks to the app I have developed more passion and enthusiasm in English. I often **take advantage**

of the review section and learn well over 100 words a day, which would be **out of the question** if I learn it in a conventional way.

widely-acclaimed: very famous

exaggerate: to describe something in a way that makes it seem better, worse, larger, more important etc than it really is

a wide array of: a lot of

pop up: to appear very quickly or suddenly

on a frequent basis: frequently, often

cumbersome: large, heavy, and difficult to move or carry

take advantage of: to use a situation or opportunity to get what you want

out of the question: impossible

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What is the most common technology used by people in your country, and the second most?

From my observations, computer technology prevails, as most work is done on computers these days. People use Microsoft Word to compose their documents to access Google for research purposes, to name but a few. **When it comes to** the second rank, I must admit that it' the smartphone. Millions of people, particularly the youths are **hooked on** their smartphones for social networking and communication. It can be said that the smartphone is just like a small computer.

Are there any other places that need technology?

Absolutely, it is the countryside. The introduction of **novel technological advances** can **improve citizens' life quality**. A prime example is that robots can finish a variety of tasks precisely without human's **maneuver**, thus they can assist in household tasks from mopping the floor to cooking. This reduces the burden of housework for mothers with childrearing responsibility or fathers who are snowed under with work. The increased amount of free time people

more chances to **engage in other entertainment or educational activities**, which **does wonders for** their life.

Does it possible to live without technology?

I doubt it, technology is **part and parcel** of modern life, and it's a must-have essential item, a thing one can't live without. I remember a time when there was a power cut in my house which means there was no internet connection, I had nothing to do that it looked like I was living m a prehistoric time.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of technology?

It is commonly believed that our life becomes more colorful and convenient because of technology. Some appliances like the TV, video players and digital cameras enrich our leisure life; and the invention of trains and planes makes it possible to travel a long distance in a short time. On the other hand, the world is becoming more polluted and dangerous because of high technology. Vehicles create air and noise pollution nuclear and biochemical weapons make wars more cruel and disastrous.

What is the impact of technology on people's life?

It is saddening to see that the development of technology is becoming faster and faster, and people are increasing their **pace of life** unconsciously. Because of the development, people become more and more impersonal in society. They have become one little part of the huge machine of society. So I think technology transforms the relationship between people and society to some degree.

How do you think modern technology will change the way people work in the future?

It has already changed the way people work in every field and it will continue. For instance, my mom studied to be a graphic designer when she was in college. She did everything by hand 20 years ago. Now, her field grew with the use of Internet and new technology as she's drawing by computer, bidding work online, and submitting work online. In the future, more work can be done automatically, and all we need to do is just to press the button or to check the jobs if they are ready for collection.

How can technology make our life easier?

Thank you for allowing me to answer this. Technology is a blessing for all and has made life easier. With the use of the technology, you can do the unimaginable things now. Earlier, people had to control their television set like increasing or decreasing the volume or changing channels manually. But in the current days, you do not need to get up to the television set, raise the volume or change the channel and get back to the sofa again. It is the time to change channels or increase/ decrease the volumes with the help of a remote controller. Once, people used papers and pens to write letters to meet their communication needs. The scenarios are altered and people have cellular phones, e-mails, and social networking sites etc. for communication which is the blessing of the modem technology. Moreover, people now can travel easily than the past and travelling hours has been reduced to a great extent.

4. Describe a skill which is important but not learned in school or at work.

You should say:
What is the skill
How to learn it
Is it hard to learn it
And explain why it is important

Realizing the importance of **getting the kids prepared for** their future life, many parents usually teach them many skills during their childhood. **Off the top of my head**, I was fortunate to be educated to be independent at an early age.

Of course, like others, my parents are constantly **on the go** so it means it would be better if I could know how to **take a proper care of** myself I was told to handle everything in the house such as **doing the laundry**, sweeping the floor

or do the cooking when my parents are away. At first, my parents acted as a **role model** and would show me how to **carry out a task** step by step so I **had no difficulty in mastering** it really.

Speaking of its importance, during the time I studied at university, away from **parental care and protection**, I was able to do almost anything in the apartment. If I remember rightly, it was always **spotlessly clean** and I never had **to eat out** much, so it not only saved me lots of money but also time for other activities because I could finish the tasks extremely effectively.

Off the top of my head: immediately and without thinking very much

On the go: very busy or active

Role model: someone whose behavior is considered to be a good example for other people to copy

Carry out: to do a particular piece of work, research etc

Master: to become skilled at something

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What age will make it difficult for a person to learn a skill?

From personal experience, when you finish university and step into society for work, it ‘s the most difficult time for a person as they **loses the thirst for knowledge.** What matters to them is how to **secure a decent job** and **make a proper earning** to support themselves and their family. Therefore, I would say that from 24 onwards, people feel like **settling down** without any more learning, and from 40 onwards, they would stop thinking about acquiring anything.

What's the difference between children learning what they like and learning what they have to learn?

Well, it is like chalk and cheese. When you are engrossed in a certain thing, you would devote your time and efforts to it, and have no difficulty in mastering it at lightning speed. What I’m trying to say is when you are passionate about

English, for instance, you will definitely go to speaking clubs, chat with foreigners and practice on a daily basis to hone your skills. Whereas, if you are forced to take a course in something, it's just your responsibility and the outcome is usually terrible as you only lazy around and take the tests for the sake of passing them.

Did you learn anything during your childhood when you were playing?

From my personal experience, when l was knee-high to a grasshopper, my friends and I used to hang out a lot, and we often crossed streams, climbed trees, or went fishing. So you see, I happened to acquire many life skills such as catching fish and keeping balance, which helped me learn to ride a bike pretty fast.

5. Describe a city or country you want to live/work in the future

You should say:
What is it
Where is it located
Why you like it

Well, it is such an interesting topic! **Off the top of my head**, if I were given a chance to go to a country to **settle down**, I would not hesitate to pick Japan because I'm a **real sucker for** the country itself and the Japanese's style of working **in particular**.

To start off, what would interest me most during my stay in Japan would be the **breathtaking scenery** there, as I have watched countless programmes on TV featuring the **magnificent landscapes** from South to North. If I were to pick what city, it would be Ottawa, since **good words about it are going around** a lot.

I wouldn't forget to mention the fact that the Japanese are hard-working people and **have a strong sense of responsibility and discipline**, and because of this, I reckon a period living and working in a native environment would **cultivate** that characteristic in me.

The final point is that I love the Japanese language, and actually I have been **making an all-out effort** to **master the language**, so that I can **stand a better chance** of settling down there. I **hold high hopes** that with my determination and stamina, someday my dream will come true.

Settle down: to begin to live a quieter life by staying permanently in a place

Be a real sucker for: to like a particular type of person or thing very much, so that you will do almost anything to please them or to have them

in particular: especially

breathtaking: extremely impressive or beautiful

Go around: if something such as an illness or a piece of news is going around, people are giving or telling it to each other

Cultivate: to develop something such as an attitude, ability, or skill

all-out effort: With all one's strength, ability, or resources; not holding back

stand a chance: to have a chance of doing something

stamina: the ability to work hard or to make a lot of effort over a long period of time without getting tired

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Is salary important to you? What is the impact of salary on doing work?

As far as I know, the more salary you receive, the more eager and enthusiastic you become at the workplace. What I'm trying to say is that high salary can give us immense motivation to carry out the tasks and accomplish them with the highest degree of accuracy and speediness, I distinctly remember a time when

my boss promised to give me a pay rise if I could carry through a project on time; I was simply too excited to turn down his offer and as a result, l made it in time. In a nutshell, the power of money is undeniable.

What kinds of jobs are easy to get in a foreign country?

Finding employment can be easier if you know how to do certain types of jobs. The first common occupation that many migrants do would be taking care of the nails of their customers, or the so-call manicure I guess. Such a job requires little or no knowledge but you have to Sacrifice your self-esteem as I see most foreigners often look down on that type of work. The second but nobler profession is the one related to the use of foreign language. I am one hundred percent certain that if you have an excellent command of the local language, for example, English, in all likelihood you can find a decent job with a handsome salary.

Should young adults work abroad?

I reckon it's a mixed blessing, On the bright side, a period of work in a foreign country can give people a wealth of knowledge and practical experience especially in advanced countries, so I guess they would learn pretty much. Besides, the companies in their home country usually give their red-carpet treatment to those working abroad when they come back. Then again, it's not all it's cracked up to be as there are also many drawbacks. They can miss their parents or have a hard time getting some used to the climate or culture in a strange land, without much support from others. All in all, it primarily depends on their preferences and determination, but I recommend they should give it a try as they are still young and energetic.

If they don't work abroad, would it be helpful for them to travel in a foreign country?

Well, travelling can be a good way to explore the country and gain some hands-on experience!, but I have to admit that mostly it just gives you a superficial experience. You get exposed to much stuff without a clear focus. For instance, you can get into contact with the locals, sample the local cuisine or marvel at the

breathtaking landscapes. So I guess, it doesn't have much thing to do with work or work experience. In a nutshell, travelling broadens your horizons of the world and the people, not giving you any insight into the work you are doing.

6. Describe the ideal home, flat or house that you would like to live in

You should say:

- *where it would be*
- *what type of house it would be*
- *how you would decorate it*
- *who you would like to live with*
- *explain why you would like to live in this kind of home.*

If I were a billionaire and had the money, I would love to rent or buy a mansion for my own **luxurious** lifestyle.

Ever since I was a kid, I've always dreamed to **dwell** in a place which resembles those in a fairy tale, or like Windsor Castle in England. So having a mansion of my own will enable me **to fulfill my wildest childhood dreams**.

Anyway, my dream house will have a pretty antique look from outside, but extremely graceful and **appealing** to the eyes, with a small lake with fish swimming in. The walls of the house should be best painted in my fancy color which is blue, and there will be many plants and flowers around. The house will sparkle in the sunlight with some spacious gardens and the **picturesque** countryside landscapes.

What **strikes** me most about the thought of living in a mansion is that I could experience a royal life and be served like a king. Wearing a gorgeous dress, enjoying a plenty of delicious and exotic foods, which are made by skilled chefs, walking in the marvelously beautiful gardens, I could **live my life to the**

fullest.

There are plenty of rooms that my family and friends could entertain in together. Also, collecting conventional arts is my hobbies. So you see, having an art gallery and marveling at the paintings in such a house would be an **out-of-this-world** experience.

Luxurious: very expensive and comfortable

Dwell: to live somewhere

Fulfil one's dream: to achieve something that you wanted to do

Appealing: attractive and interesting

Picturesque: a picturesque place or scene is attractive, especially because it is old and interesting

Strike: If something strikes you as being a particular thing, it gives you the impression of being that thing.

Live one's life to the fullest: o fully enjoy one's life

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What are the biggest problems that people living in cities are facing?

There are two underlying problems **stemming from** urban overdevelopment. First, the young are striving **to secure a job** due to the **fierce competition** from the **demanding labor market**. Some fresh graduates have no alternative but maintain the unemployment status for a few years or reluctantly opt for the jobs not related to their field of study to **make a living**. Secondly, the increasing number of rural immigrants often **poses a great burden to** youths' **financial resources** and the existing **urban infrastructure**, thus **decreasing the overall living standard**. For instance, young **city-dwellers** from **disadvantaged families** cannot even afford proper daily meals and basic accommodation.

For most people, what is an ideal house?

I think if most people could choose any house they wanted, they would choose a private individual house rather than a flat. They'd also want something with a garden where they could have flowers and trees and even grow some vegetables. They would also want something big enough that they could have members of their family live with them or at least a place they could stay if they came for a visit.

What kinds of home do most people in your country live in?

Actually most people live in a bungalow, I suppose. However, the trend now is that young people take out a mortgage for rented accommodation instead. I guess it is because more and more people want to **lead an independent life**, away from parental care and protection.

How are modern homes different from older homes?

I suppose there are a number of differences really. On the one hand, modern homes tend to be **equipped with all the mod cons,** ranging from **well-furnished interior to state-of-the-art household appliances**; you can come across many high-tech products in a modern house like vacuum cleaners and dishwashers. Meanwhile older homes are usually plain in their designs, with less furnishing and have gloomy interior design.

How has housing changed in your country?

Nowadays people live in flats and often these are in tall buildings if in big cities. In the past most people lived in houses even if they were small. Some cities had courtyard houses where many family members lived together, and there was a garden in the middle where they could enjoy the outdoors together. You've probably heard these. They are interesting to foreigners.

Do most people in your country live in an apartment or house?

Well, I guess it depends on the ages really. For young generation, there is a **sweeping trend** that they live more apart from their families and **take out a mortgage** for a rented apartment in the urban areas since they are dynamic and would love city life pretty much. For older citizens, living together with their children and grandchildren is usually the norm. As they're old and weak, a house offers them the care and affection from others, which can hardly be found in an apartment.

Do you think moving to a new home can bring problems to people?

For certain indeed, the decision to leave one's current accommodation and relocate to another location can be a challenging experience for people. To be precise, most people will have to sort out many problems like hiring a pick-up truck to carry their belongings or re-decorating their new residence to their liking. Not to mention that they are supposed to undergone some periods of stress and depression because they are not able to **blend in well with** the new living environment, or they happen to live next to annoying neighbors.

What are the differences between living in the countryside and living in a city?

Well, there is **an array of different aspects** between living in rural and urban areas. In terms of air quality, city-dwellers **run a higher risk** of **catching respiratory diseases** like asthma or lung cancer while their counterparts in the countryside can breathe fresh and quality air, which results in their better health condition. Another difference is the availability of developed facilities. In the major cities, the standard of living is way higher than that of the less developed rural regions. As a consequence, urban citizens seem to enjoy their life more because they can **recharge their batteries** at the cinema on the weekends or with their buddies **once in a while.**

Do young people in your country like to live with their parents or by?

From my perspective, the young generation today has a tendency **to lead an independent life** from quite early and would rather **live on their own** than with their parents near them. The reasons for this can be that small children are educated to do things by themselves and many students often migrate from rural areas to the urban ones to **pursue tertiary education**. This is a time they have to rely on themselves by going to the market to buy foods, wash their own clothes and so on. Gradually, this becomes a habit and the youths no longer want to see their parents regularly.

Do people in your country like to rent a place to live?

Yes, I do think so. The youths today would rather rent an apartment to live on their own or with a bunch of their friends than being together with their family members. I guess the reason behind this phenomenon is that young people **crave for** greater freedom and privacy than previously. They want to **stay away from the care and affection from** their parents and prove that they are mature and independent enough to lead a life of their choice.

How do people decide on the kind of housing they choose to live in?

In reality I don't think most people have a lot of choices, unless they are very rich, and these people are few in numbers compared to the general population. Most decide on flats because that is all they can afford. Usually people will try to choose something as close to their workplace as possible. Unfortunately, even in that there is not much choice and many people still have to spend a lot of time traveling to and from work.

How will housing change in the future?

I can imagine there will be more flats in the big cities that will be in taller buildings and with more modern facilities and equipment built into them. I hope though that some designers will do something to see that there are more park areas in between the buildings. I think city planners are **making a big**

mistake by cramming in so much concrete. More green areas would be an important change to make in the future.

7. Describe an important occasion when you were late

You should say:
What occasion you were late for
When it happened
Why you were late
And explain how you felt when you were late.

Well, the occasion I'd like to talk about was actually one of my first lectures I had at university about four or five months ago, at the beginning of the semester.

Regarding why I was late, well it was mainly due to the fact that I overslept. You know, I didn't hear my alarm **go off**, so I somehow just **slept through** it. And the reason for that was probably because I was up quite late the night before. I mean, it was the beginning of the university year, and so I'd been out with my new roommates. You know, we thought it would be good to go out for a few drinks and **get to know** each other a bit!

So I **ended up** going to bed at about two or three in the morning, that's why I overslept a little. And to make matters worse, I remember waking up with a **splitting headache** and feeling pretty **hung-over**, which is not the best way to start a new course at university I know, but anyway, that's the way it was.

And when I finally got to the lecture theatre, it was really embarrassing, because the door was right at the front of the room, so everyone saw me walking in late, including the lecturer, who actually stopped talking and turned round to look at me. So it was a horrible feeling, and the first thing I did was apologize to him

for being late and disturbing everyone, and then I went to find a seat at the back as soon as possible!

Thankfully though, the guy who was sitting next to me was nice enough to tell me everything that I'd missed, which I was extremely **grateful for**. But the only unfortunate consequence was that I hadn't really **left a very good first impression on** my lecturer, as you can imagine! So I decided to **make a big effort**, from then on, to always be **on time** for his lectures, which I'm happy to say I have been up to now!

Go off: to start making a noise as a signal or warning
Sleep through: to remain sleeping although there is a lot of noise around you
Get to know: to start to be familiar with someone or something
Splitting headache: a very bad pain in your head

Hung-over: feeling ill with a bad pain in the head and often wanting to vomit after having drunk too much alcohol

Grateful to somebody for doing something: feeling that
you want to thank someone because they have given you something or have done something for you
Leave/make a good/bad impression on:
to provide a lasting memory for someone after one has left
Make an effort to do something: To try hard to do or get something
On time: be punctual

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How often do you make appointments?

Once in a while, only it's absolutely essential. I would love to give a ring to my buddies to have some chit-chat, or inbox him or her directly via Facebook messenger, which is much quicker and more convenient to reach at somebody.

Do you think it is important to be on time? = Is it important to be punctual in your country?

I think it is extremely important to be on time as often as possible, especially when I've an agreement with others to meet at a certain time, I think it's one way to respect someone else and let people know that they are important and their time matters. On top of that, it is a way of helping people get things accomplished more smoothly. I also think some people are a little too inflexible about their time.

8. Describe a place you know where people go to listen to music such as theatre or a music hall.

You should say:

- *where it is*
- *what kind of music is performed there*
- *what type of people go there*
- *why people go there*
- *how you know this place*
- *and explain your impressions of this place*

I'm **by nature** a person who is quite keen on music, particularly acoustic guitar. **Off the top of my head** the spot I often **pay a visit to** when I'm **stressed out** by exams and assignments is an acoustic guitar cafe **in the vicinity of** my house. The coffee is quite cozy and spacious, and it can accommodate hundreds of people **who share the same taste for** acoustic music.

It is a hot spot for teenage boys and girls who want to sing their favorite songs, and the cafe gives them opportunities to sing, accompanied by young guitarists. So I would say it serves acoustic guitar with most of the ballad songs that are

tall the rage amongst teenagers.
Most people go there to **let their hair down** after **backbreaking** working days, and they really need a time **on their own** to appreciate the music and **immerse themselves in** the **melodious** songs performed by the dynamic young singers.
It has **been a while** since I first came here. As the cafe is near my house and I was attracted to this place when I accidentally overheard a favorite ballad song of mine brilliantly sung with a sweet voice of a certain singer. Ever since, I have **made a habit of frequenting** this cafe, simply for recreational purposes at weekends when I'm quite free from work.
by nature: essentially or innately
in the vicinity of: close to something
let one's hair down: relax
backbreaking (a): extremely arduous, exhausting
on one's own (phrase): unaccompanied by others; alone or unaided.
immerse themselves in something (phrase): involve oneself deeply in a particular activity or interest
melodious (a): having a pleasant tune; tuneful
a while (n): a period of time
make/have/form a habit of (phrase)
frequent (v): if you frequent a place, you go there regularly

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What kinds of music do children generally listen to?
When it comes to children, I guess there is quite a limited selection of music types they often listen to. The most common one is children's music with the lyrics **centering on** facts about the natural world or what is actually happening around them. I often **catch sight of** parents **butting on** some songs tike "Look the Yellow Butterfly", or "When I'm grade 3"; the contents of

such songs are about how colorful the butterfly is or the relationship between the children and teachers when a child gets to grade 3. There are of course other types of music, but they are far less popular and I think it's not worth mentioning.

Do you think it is good for children to listen to music? Do you think that government should require all students to learn music?
Definitely. Scientists think that being **exposed to** music early in life **increases a child's ability to think creatively and intelligently**. Even if that weren't the case, music is a **wonderfully expressive art form** that should be enjoyed by people of all ages. If children listen to music, they can learn a lot about the world and other people through lyrics, and begin to understand some of the issues people face in life. Listening to music is also really good fun and can be a way for children to **let off their steam**. In fact, I can't think of a single reason why someone would think children shouldn't listen to music.

Are you good at any kind of music?
People say that I've **had a knack for** music and that I have a musical **instinct.** I can often predict what's going to happen in a song because I know about musical theory. Despite this, I can't really play any instruments. I learnt the violin when I was ten years old but I felt it **was over my head**, and I was **going nowhere** so I quit after a short while. I sometimes think that if I'd **make a concerted effort** then I might be a skilled violinist by now.

Should music be free? = What's your opinion of the question about the piracy of music? = Do you agree that we should support music?
To a certain extent I guess. Music is by itself free as it is **not uncommon** to listen to songs broadcast free on TV or radio. However, if someone butts them into his or her personal IPod or Iphone, I reckon that she or he is supposed to pay a small fee for purchasing the music as a credit to the composer and the

singer. After all if everything is shared for free, there would be no more motivation for others to contribute.

Do you think it's important for schools to have music classes for young children?

Definitely. Music classes introduce music to children at an early age and to those who otherwise would have no access to music. By **fostering an interest in** music early in a child's life, they are **set for life**. They're more likely **to take up** a musical instrument or king in a choir. Music classes can educate us about the role music plays in our daily lives that we might otherwise **take for granted,** such as soundtracks to movies or TV shows. Without music classes many children would grow up **having very little knowledge of** music beyond what they experience through the media or on the radio and this would **waste a lot of potential.**

Do you like to visit movie theaters?

Yes, I am really into seeing a movie at the theater with my buddies when I'm free at the weekend. We would just have a snack of fried chips and chicken before taking the lift to the top floor and watch a **blockbuster** there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do you think children should learn how to sing?

No, I wouldn't actually say it is all that necessary, simply because it's something that we are all able to do **inherently**, **regardless of** whether or not we've been taught. So unless a child is really serious about becoming a singer, I'd say there's no real need for them to learn how to sing.

What are the differences in the music that young and old people listen to?

To be honest, I suppose there **are a handful of differences**, one of which would be that young people, **on the whole** mainly like listening to pop music, whereas the older generation tend to be more into listening to more traditional music, like folk music, and even old revolutionary songs.

9. Describe a holiday/trip you want to go on in the future

Frankly speaking, I'm not an **extrovert,** so I haven't been on many trips up to now. However, I would **crave for** having a pleasant experience on a **package tour/ motorbike trip** to [place] - only within a 50- kilometer drive from my house. I intend to travel **on my own** to **do the sightseeing**, which may **save me from the hassle and nuisance** from my friends, who usually complain **all the time** while being on a long holiday. If everything goes according to my plan, the tour should be **reasonably priced**, at 40 USD for at least 2 days 1 night and it should promise **luxurious accommodation** and **scrumptious** food. So you see, I tend to go for cheap holiday without **second thoughts** as it is exactly what I want to expect. The first part of the journey will probably be good enough for me because it will take me not too much time to **reach the destination.** Besides, l am **looking forward to** chances to **engage in** any gossip with other passengers so that the trip will go by with a lot of fun.

I imagine that the moment I **check in** at the hotel near the beach, I will be really glad that the quality of the room will definitely be **up to standard.** If I recall correctly, I **made it quite clear** to the travel agency that the bed must be cozy and comfortable and the air-conditioner has to work well. Regarding the swimming and the seafood, the weather on that day will be so sunny for sunbathing, which will make me feel like jumping my feet into the seawater**. To add to the fun,** because I am going to travel during **off season,** the seafood won't be too **pricey** and the **servings** will be therefore large for a person like me.

Vocabulary

Extrovert (noun) someone who is very confident, lively, and likes social situations

Crave for (verb) to want something very much

Package tour (noun) package vacation, or package holiday comprises transport and accommodation advertised and sold together by a vendor known as a tour operator

On my own (noun) unaccompanied by others; alone

Do the sightseeing (phrase) the activity of visiting the famous or interesting sights of a place

Hassle (noun) argument

Nuisance (noun) disturbance

Scrumptious (adj) delicious

Second thoughts (noun) a change of opinion after considering something again.

Engage in (verb) take part in a particular activity

Up to standard (phrase) good enough

Make it clear to somebody (phrase) If you make something clear, you say something in a way that makes it impossible for there to be any doubt about your meaning, wishes, or intentions

Off season (phrase) a period of the year when there is less activity in business

Serving (noun) a quantity of food suitable for or served to one person.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

9.1. What can people benefit from travelling?

Clearly, there are a number of **merits** brought by travelling. But I would probably say that the thing that really **stands out** is we can **broaden our horizons** of the world. To be more specific, when coming to a new region or a country, we have the chances to **sample the local life**, enjoy the cuisine and learn a great deal of interesting stuff. Besides, a second positive point could be

that we can **let our hair down** after **undergoing nerve-racking period of time** of hard work or study. **A flying visit to** somewhere can help us **recharge our batteries** and work more effectively afterwards.

Vocabulary

Merit (noun) the quality of being particularly good or worthy

Stand out (verb) to be easy to see or notice because of being different

Broaden one's horizon (phrase) to make you see a wider range of opportunities and choices

Let hair down (idiom) relax

Nerve-racking (adj) nervous

Flying visit to (phrase) short visit

Recharge one's batteries (phrase) to rest and relax for a period of time so that you feel energetic again

9.2. Do you like to travel on your own or with your family?

Personally, I like the former option. Travelling on my own can **free me from** the burden of others and so I can have more freedom and independence to **explore to my heart's content**. To be more precise, when you travel on a **package tour** with your family members, you have to plan your budget, must **keep an eye on** the small kids or have to follow the instructions of the tour guide. However, when you are **on your own**, you can head to anywhere you feel like, stay with the local people, experience many different feelings, and become more independent. You can also have **me time** to reflect on your life or **contemplate** the meaning of life.

To one's heart's content (phrase) as much as one wants

Keep an eye on (phrase) to watch someone or something; to monitor someone or something closely

On one's own (phrase) alone

Me time (phrase) time that you spend relaxing and doing things that you enjoy rather than time spent doing things for other people

Contemplate (verb) to think very carefully about something for a long time

9.3. Do you like to visit popular places or less-known places?

If you choose to visit touristy places:

If you ask me, I would say that I'd rather **pay a visit to** popular tourist destinations. The main reason for my choice is because I will feel more safe and secure in a place that I **know like the back of my hand**. To be more precise, I could know where to **get a good bargain for** a service or won't **fear the risk of** getting lost. On the contrary, if you venture to visit tourist places of no good reputation, you may risk your life or get **ripped off** in some cases. In addition, I am not a kind of extrovert and dynamic person, so I'd prefer to go to popular sites instead.

Know like the back of my hand (idiom) be entirely familiar with a place or route.

Get ripped off (verb) to be cheated, especially by charging them too much money for something

If you prefer less-known places:

To be honest, I **have proclivity for** travel to not touristy places where I can have more space **to capture the breathtaking landscapes** without disturbing other travelers**.** Besides, visiting a site which has not yet been well-known makes me enjoy to discover more about that place. This is because I want to become the **pioneer** who can help introduce the place to more visitors with my photos I snapped and travel guidance I wrote.

Have proclivity for (phrase) have a tendency or inclination to do something

Breathtaking (adj) causing awe or excitement

9.4. Where do people like to travel in your country?

It depends on different preferences and ages. For example, young American, who are adventurous and **curious about** new places, tend to choose **brand new** places where haven't exploited by tourist, whilst old people prefer to stay in a resort nearby a beach or in a village in order to bring back their memories and do meditation.

Curious about (adj) Eager to learn more about something

Brand new (adj) completely new

9.5. Is international travel popular with people in your country?

Recently, most of the people spend their time to travel abroad. Their common first destinations are South East Asia area such as Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore and other countries like China, Taiwan, Hongkong, etc. The reason might be because more and more cheap flight from a number of air lines either domestic or international one are available in my country. Tourist agencies also have various promotions for group people or family. Therefore, international travel seems like not a dream any more.

9.6. What is the relationship between travel and the environment?

Obviously, travel has an adverse impact on the surrounding environment. Air pollution is one concern. This is because people must get on a coach, a train to reach their travel destinations and these means of transport give off huge amounts of emissions into the surrounding air, making the air quality from bad to worse. Another thing is litter dropping issue. All the travelers do is enjoy the services, and throw away trash onto the ground, spit anywhere and these things really spoil the cityscape.

9.7. What are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling alone?

Well firstly I'd say the good thing about travelling alone is that you get to do what you want, without having to ask for anyone else's approval. So basically, you can be really flexible with your plans. But on the downside, if you're travelling on your own, you might feel lonely at times, especially if you've got no one to talk to.

9.8. What are the differences between young people and old people when they go travelling?

I guess there are **a handful of** differences, of which one would be that young people generally like doing quite exciting and energetic things, like **bungee jumping**; or, if they're going somewhere coastal, they might wanna do some watersports like jet skiing, whereas I would say the elderly, **on the whole**, tend to simply like relaxing when they go on holiday, so they'll probably take a few

books with them and spend most of the time on a deck chair next to a swimming pool **soaking up** the sun and enjoying the feeling of doing nothing.
A handful of (phrase) A small, undefined number or quantity
Bungee jumping (noun) a jump made by someone from a high bridge, building, etc, secured only by a rubber cord attached to the ankles
Soak up (verb) to absorb

10. Describe a thing you like to do with an elderly person (in your family)

You should say:
What it is
how often you do it
and explain why you like it

Well, the first person that came to mind when looking at this topic is actually one of my neighbours, who must be approaching her 80s now, and so I'd like to tell you a little bit about her and why I enjoy talking with her.

As for how I got to know her in the first place, well if I'm not mistaken, I met her when I was walking my two dogs in the garden of the apartment complex where I live, and one of my dogs just ran straight up to her, and literally jumped up and gave her a hug. I remember at the time, I was slightly worried because I wasn't sure if she liked dogs or not, but thankfully, it turned out that she was a big animal lover, so she had no problem with my dogs, and she now even looks forward to seeing them every time she comes out for a walk.

Anyway, with regard to what we talk about when we see each other, well, it's kind of hard to say, because there's not really anything in particular that we always talk about, you know, it could be the weather, my studies, something in

the news, but generally what normally happens is that she asks me how things are going, and after listening to me she will then offer some of her thoughts and advice, which I really appreciate, because she's obviously experienced a lot more than I have in life.

And just to give you a little example of some of the stuff we talk about, when I bumped into her a few days ago, I mentioned to her a problem I was having with an essay I had to write, because it was a two and a half thousand-word essay about something extremely dull, and, for the life of me, I couldn't think of anything to write. But she just said to me, "forget about how much you need to write, just imagine you can write it as long or as short as you want." And it was amazing, because when I changed my mindset to how she suggested, it suddenly became much easier to write the essay, and I even ended up writing over three thousand words.

So this is just one example, and I guess it partly explains why I like talking with her a lot, because she's always able to give me good advice, whether it is about my studies or any other aspect of my life, and I'm super grateful to her for this.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How do grandparents educate their grandchildren in your country?

I would say there is a variety of ways grandparents can raise their grandson or granddaughter in my country. The first common one is that they will narrate their past stories and the moral lessons. It can be drawn from those experiences. This can be pretty useful as those are what they have gone through in the age and might perfectly apply to their case of their grandchildren, for example, how to behave when you meet a stranger or how to keep your manners at a wedding. Another approach is that they will try to stay closer to the small children and

listen to their ups and downs in life. I personally find that older people are extremely outgoing and are a very good listener.

Why do people nowadays spend less time with family?

Generally speaking, several factors re to blame when it comes to why some responsible people allocate their time to their family. The first cause usually lies in the person himself. They tend to distance themselves from others and don't have frequent talks and time to spend together due to the generation gap. As a consequence, less mutual understanding is established and the relationship becomes weaker and weaker. Another culprit might be the fast-paced lifestyle people suffer from nowadays. After a stressful day at the workplace, it is not uncommon to see many lose their temper or just want to stay home to let their hair down. This makes people spend time on their own, which means less time is spent on others.

11. Describe a successful businessman you know/admire

You should say:

- *who is the person*
- *how you know this person*
- *how she/he became successful*
- *and explain why you consider him/her as a successful business person.*

The person I'm going to talk about one of my friends, Nicholas. Let me tell you more about him in detail. He is working for a multinational corporation which **has an enviable reputation for** banking and finance. We have been friends since we **were knee high to a grasshopper**. Honestly speaking, we happened to be in the same class in primary, secondary and high schools, and after that we enrolled for the same university and it **turned out** that we studied

the same major and the same class again. We **have a lot of things in common** since we have been **sticking with** each other for such a long time, you see. He is a **brainy** guy who has accomplished a great deal of his academic study, so it's not surprising that he turns out to be a successful man. His job involves offering consultation regarding financial matters to other companies, so I assume his **words carry a lot of weight**. I **heard it through the grapevine** that he has arranged to have his new house built next year. He must have **made a fortune** by now. Actually, he has been so **up to ears in work** and I haven't met him for a long time so maybe at his forthcoming **housewarming party** I can have the chance to talk to him.

Knee high to a grasshopper: very small, because you are very young
Turn out: o develop in a particular way, or to have a particular result
Have something in common: to have the same interests or opinions as someone else
Stick with someone: to stay close to someone and go with them wherever they go
Brainy: intelligent
Heard it through the grapevine: to **hear** news from someone who **heard** the news from someone else
Make a fortune: earn a lot of money
Up to ears in something: very busy doing something
Housewarming party: a **party** traditionally held soon after moving into a new residence.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do businessmen have to keep working hard even they are already successful?

I can't agree with you more. Success is the result of a **relentless** process of trying, which means that people should **persist in their efforts** even when they have **attained a certain degree of success**. It is not advisable to **rest on one's laurels** as this can make you **lose heart to make further headway** in your business. With a **forward looking mind**, it's possible to achieve greater successes than you can even imagine.

What kinds of businesses are popular in this city?

In my city, people prefer to open beauty salons or small coffee shops. I can **put it down to the fact** that most girls or women would try their best to look gorgeous in others' eyes, and spending money on **beautifying** themselves is considered as a must, for them. Or in a similar situation, the youths tend to hang out with their buddies for some casual idle **chit-chat** which means many cafes are doing well recently. Ah, not less popular are some small restaurants that can only accommodate no more than ten people. It can be understandable that many would call on these places for a snack or drink when they have time or feel hungry.

Why do businesspeople need creativity?

Truth be told, creativity is a must-have item on one's list of skills required for a successful career, especially in the business domain. With the ability to **come up with new plans** to **penetrate into** the market, as well as being capable of predicting the **potential risks** involved in the running a business, business people would have a higher chance of succeeding in the area they are doing business. For example, if you own a coffee shop, you're supposed to make and offer new types of drinks to cater for the individual needs of customers. If you don't have a creative mind and simply **stick to** your old menu, customers will feel dissatisfied and have no choice but look for other coffee shop for a better taste.

What qualities are needed to be successful in your business?

As far as I'm concerned, it is knowledge and soft skills. First, you will need to, learn business law, marketing and accounting since they influence the basic structures of a company. You need to understand whether it is **against the law** to run a certain business in your country or how to strategize your plans to popularize your products to more and more people. And finally, basic knowledge of accounting helps you estimate if your business **breaks even, makes a loss or profits.**

Do businessmen have to work for long hours?

As a matter of fact, most businessmen are **up to their ears in work** and can hardly manage any time to **let their hair down**. At the office, they have to write emails to their business partners, deal with customers, and receive phone calls most of the time. Even worse, in some corporate cultures, especially these of the Japanese, staff often leave work really late in the evening; they can work longer than the standard 8 hours to finish off the **outstanding workload**. So after all, a businessman's life is not so relaxing as most people would imagine.

How do businesspeople relax?

Just like others, when they are off from work, the first thing they would do is to lie down on the sofa for a short rest or take a warm shower to **relieve their stress**. If they are at the workplace, it is a standard practice that colleague workers will gather and **exchange some casual talks** to **kill the stress**, or some simply take some time off their computer screen to relax their eyes, and stretch their arms and legs to **ease their tense muscles.**

When do people in your country' retire?

To the best of my knowledge, the required age for retirement in my country is 65 for males, I have no clue what it is for females. I heard that recently the state has even **increased the minimum retirement age** for the

fundamental reason that citizens need **to contribute more to** the country. After all, it depends on the quality of the **labor force** of a country.

What are the differences between being a boss and working for others?

They are **worlds apart**. I personally feel so. What **sets working for others apart** is that, you don't have **to suffer from a lot of pressure**, but the motivation is not so strong. As many people contribute their effort to the well-being of the whole company, you usually receive help when facing some trouble with the work, but as I have said, many would leave their work at some point because they gradually become less interested in what they are doing. On the other hand, if you are a boss, you should have comprehensive abilities. To put it simply, you have to possess leadership, organizational skills **and so on** and are responsible for the success or failure of your own business.

12. Describe an important letter you've received

You should say:

- *Who wrote this letter.*
- *When did he/she write it.*
- *What this letter was about.*
- *And explain what this letter means to you.*

The letter I am going to talk about is the letter of invitation posted by London School of Economics, one of the top five universities in the UK. Several year ago when I was still in the last year of my senior high school, I **searched high and low for** a number of universities abroad. Then I **made up my mind** to send out a couple of applications to half a dozen of prestigious universities, hoping to be able to **make it** to one of them. A few weeks went by, and I got extremely anxious and upset as **a handful of** the universities I had applied for started to

send me **rejection letter**. When I decided to **give up my faint hope** of being admitted to one of those universities, miracle happened. I finally got an successful **admission letter** from London School of Economics written by the Dean of Faculty of Economics. He first appreciated me for the interest I showed to the university in the very first lines of the letter and then in the second paragraph of the letter, he congratulated me on my **distinguished record of academic excellence** and **personal achievement stood out**. Then, he wrote that he was happy to offer me admission to one of the top universities in the world. I was **over the moon** right after reading the letter and called my parents and close friends to share one of the happiest moments in my entire life with them.

The acceptance letter has **marked a milestone** in my future career. It gives me **golden opportunities** to **pone my skills** and prepare everything necessary for my future.

searched high and low: to search very thoroughly

make up my mind: to make a decision

make it: to succeed in a particular activity

a handful of: a small quantity or number

rejection letter: a **letter** informing a person of being turned down (as for a job, school enrollment, etc.)

faint hope: very small or slight hop

Stand out: to be much more impressive or important than other people or things

over the moon: very happy

milestone: an event or achievement that marks an important stage in a process

pone one's skills: working hard, perfecting or sharpening **skills**

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why do letters contain more emotions?

It seems quite obvious that when someone puts their pen down on the paper and starts to compose a hand-written letter they must be really patient and emotional. In a letter, the emotions of the writer can be expressed via the beauty of the words, or the tone of the language that the writer uses. It is quite hard to explain clearly but when reading a letter, we can imagine the writer is speaking to us with all their heart. Just see how delighted you are when you open a letter by your mom or dad. I'm sure that you would burst into tears the moment you read the first line.

Do you think emails are useful?

Sure. There are many uses for emails for businesses. They are a very cheap and efficient way to send formal or informal letters to one another. Personally I write several emails a day because I have many friends abroad and we keep in touch by writing emails.

Do you think it is a good thing that some companies send out spam emails for the purpose of advertising?

Well I don't really mind junk mail. After all they only take me a few seconds to delete if I think they are not really useful. Sometimes the spam might be about a product that's just what I'm looking for.

Do you think email might one day replace handwritten letters?

To some extent, letters are already being replaced by emails, however, I don't think letters would be replaced entirely. Emails are easily intercepted by hackers, so sometimes really sensitive information cannot be written on an email. Therefore, I personally think that handwritten letters would remain for a very long time.

Who do you usually write to and what do you write about?

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

What do you think is the most difficult kind of letter to write?
I usually have a hard time writing business or formal letters, because then I just feel at a loss for words, it's hard to formulate proper sentences. I find it very difficult to write a letter rejecting someone. It's hard to tell them you don't want to date for marry or whatever them and not hurt their feelings any more than you have to.

What are the differences between handwritten letters and emails?
Most people feel that handwritten letters are more personal and they feel as if the writer has taken more lime and thought in writing it. Emails are sometimes rather informal.

What kinds of letter email do you think is are the hardest to write?
I think emails to professors are the toughest to write, because I will be afraid and nervous if I don't make use of the proper honorific words or make him or her feel at ease. But as for friends, we can write to each other quite freely.

13. Describe a park or garden you visit and like/ Describe a leisure facility you liked/would want to have in your city / Describe a public park you went to in the past

You should say
Where it is;
What it look like;

What you do there;
And explain why you like it there.

As a citizen in a **metropolitan** city, I **am usually partial to** fresh outing spaces for relaxation after being **up to my neck in** work. The list of **ideal** places to visit is in fact pretty long but if I have to **single out** the most preferable one, I would probably pick the Botanical Park **on the outskirt of my city**. I really need to add that whenever I am **under pressure** of the **fast – paced** living, I will pay a visit to this **amazing** park, **stroll around** a bit to **decompress**. The fresh and peaceful atmosphere at this park totally enables me to **get away from** the **hustle and bustle** of the city. After **going for a stroll** in the park and get a **full lung of fresh air**, I feel like I've been **fully recharged** and ready for any challenges ahead. The factors **accounting for** my special love to this park are not only the fresh **ambiance** but also the meaning of this botanical garden **dedicated to** the collection, **cultivation** and display of **a multitude of** plants, especially **endangered plant species**. For years, this park has always given me lots of **precious opportunities** to enjoy the **stunning fauna and flora** with **a plenty of** gorgeous flowers and trees. There is no doubt to confirm that this garden has **made great contributions to preserving** local plant diversity as well as **diversifying** people's recreational activities. Almost every individual comes to this park **show their great appreciation for** the local authority's **attempt** in **conserving** nature lives.

Vocabulary

Metropolitan (adj) belonging to a big city, or typical of big cities
To be partial to (phrase) to like something very much
Up to one's neck in something (idiom) very busy doing something
On the outskirt of something (phrase) a part of the city far removed from the center
Under pressure (phrase) be stressed

Fast-paced (adj) including a lot of different things happening quickly
Stroll around (verb) to walk around casually
Decompress (verb) to relax
Hustle and bustle (phrase) busy and noisy activity (usually + of)
Go for a stroll (noun) a slow walk for pleasure
Account for (verb) explain
Ambiance (noun) atmosphere
Dedicate to (verb) to use space, time, or money for a particular thing
Cultivation (noun) the process of growing crops or plants
Fauna and flora (noun) animals and plants
Plenty of (noun) many
Make contribution to something (phrase) an amount of money or something else of value that you give in order to achieve something or to help make it successful

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

13.1. Are there many public gardens in your country?

To be honest, there are only a few public gardens due to the shortage of **residential areas** especially in large towns and cities. The authorities seem to pay **excessive** attention to economic growth and ignore the provision of green spaces for citizens' enjoyment and relaxation. For example, Madrid City has a small number of public gardens, but a lot of **high-rise** buildings.

13.2. Do you think there are enough public gardens in your hometown?

Personally, I think the number of public gardens in my hometown is **insufficient.** Due to the shortage of housing and the increasing number of citizens, people tend to make use of land for living or cultivation rather than giving priority to public areas such gardens or parks.

13.3. What do you think are the benefits of having gardens in the city?

Having sufficient **urban green spaces** will bring many ecological and health benefits for the city and its residents. Regarding the environmental benefit, public gardens help to **preserve** various species of wild plants, they have beautiful flowers and they keep the **ecological** balance of the area. City gardens also have a positive impact on the health of city dwellers and factory workers.

13.4. Very often, public gardens are not designed in a simple way but, instead, are laid out in a rather complex way. Why do you think this is the case?

In my opinion, a public garden built in a complex design pattern is very **eye–catching** and attractive for people to visit. A garden consisting of sculptures, various rare species of plants and special **landscaping** will be more **appealing** to visitors who wish to explore something **unique**. To make an **analogy**, I believe that public gardens are designed to capture public attention in the same way that architects design the structure of their buildings.

13.5. Do you think governments should provide more public gardens for people to visit?

Of course, I definitely agree with the idea that governments and authorities ought to provide more public gardens for their citizens for the following reasons.

Public gardens are collections of plants and flowers; they are used not only for enjoyment but also education so that people, especially children, can have the chance to understand and be close to nature. In this function as outdoor classrooms , they **raise an awareness of** environmental issues as well as the **conservation** of special species.

Also, urban green spaces play an important role in leisure and recreation – imagine the pleasure of sitting and reading a book or strolling and chatting with friends, surrounded by the sight and smells of beautiful flowers.

13.6. What do people do when they go to a public garden?

There are various reasons why citizens go to a public garden, but I think the main one is to find an **oasis** of peace and tranquility amid the **frenzy** and **chaos** of city life. Residents in general can go there to enjoy the fresh, tranquil atmosphere and relax themselves simply by **appreciating** the beauty of the flowers and the songs of the birds.

Moreover, it is very practical for children and students to visit public gardens in order to be **in touch with** nature and acquire knowledge about it. As a student, I would say that public gardens are also a great place to read a book and to reflect on the lectures or seminars of the day.

13.7. How do people of different age groups use public gardens?

Different age groups will have dissimilar preferences in using public gardens. For example, elderly people tend to go there to relax, go jogging or doing exercises like tai chi**.** Then again, when public gardens also **incorporate** play areas, these are very safe environments in which parents can **keep a watchful eye** on their children**.**

How should people behave in public places?

They would be well-advised to **watch their own code of conduct** and behave in the most polite way as possible. To put it in another way, they should talk in **a gentle manner,** avoid conflict and **strictly conform to the rules and regulations** of the place they are **paying a visit to.** Take the park as **a prime example**, visitors should really **take heed to** some **signposts** warning against **picking the flowers** or keeping off the grass. Simply doing this can they show others they are **well-mannered citizens.**

Where do people like to visit on weekends?

People would **opt for** a number of places to **pay a visit to** or **have a blast with** their friends at the weekend. The most popular place is the coffee shop as most tend **to have a soft spot for catching up on gossip** after a long week without much seeing each other. In other words, the **romantic or peaceful**

setting will give them a chance to talk as much as they want, and enjoy a **sip of coffee** or milk tea at the same time. The second position belongs to the cinema. Teens in my country would gather their friends to **watch a blockbuster** every weekend, or simply have a dinner with some chicken and **fried chips** it the cinema complex.

What city facilities can be used for leisure and entertainment?

Well, there are numerous accessible infrastructures for recreational purposes. The most popular among the youths are the cinema as it would be a **perfect spot** for them to go to on a weekly basis. They can eat some popcorn while enjoying a blockbuster with their **intimate buddies.** Another place worth mentioning is the theme parks that **offer a great variety of activities** for the citizens, especially the children. You can play the **roller coaster** or swinging, and this can help **ease your minds and relieve your stress.**

Do young people and old people go to different places for entertainment?

It depends. First, **the generation gap** means that different age groups show different tastes when it comes to where they love paying a visit to **for recreational purposes.** As for the youngsters, they are fond of **vibrant spots** where there're lots of activities so that they can take part in and enjoy the atmosphere. On the contrary, the elderly are more into **tranquil and serene places** to stay away from the crowds and **have a peace in their mind.** However, on some occasions, we often see older people **accompanying** their children or grandchildren to the place they don't like simply because they want to see the kids having a good time.

VOCABULARY

Residential areas [noun]: areas consisting of houses, not factories or offices

Example: She lives in a quiet **residential area,** but she has to travel a long way to work.

Excessive [adjective]: greater than what seems reasonable or appropriate

Example: They complained about the **excessive** noise made by their neighbours.

High-rise [adjective]: a building that is very tall, and has lots of floors

Example: She lives on the 10th floor of a **high-rise** apartment block.

Insufficient [adjective]: not large, strong or important enough for a specific purpose

Example: There was **insufficient** time in the exam to answer all the questions.

Urban green spaces [expression]: areas of open land within large towns or cities Example: In our city there are insufficient **urban green spaces** for residents to enjoy.

Preserve [verb]: to keep something in existence and in good condition

Example: The society was founded in order to **preserve** elephants from extinction.

Ecological [adjective]: the relationship between plants and animals to their environment and to each other

Example: When rats were introduced to the island, they destroyed the **ecological balance** between the animals already living there.

Eye-catching [adjective]: immediately noticeable, because it is very attractive

Example: The actors wore beautiful clothes in **eye-catching** colours.

Landscaping [noun]: the process of making a garden or other pieces of land more attractive by changing the design or planting trees and flowers

Example: The new campus at the university has beautiful **landscaping**, making it a very attractive place at which to study.

Appealing [adjective]: attractive and interesting

Example: The design of the doll is very **appealing** to young girls.

Unique [adjective]: very special or unusual

14. Describe a happy event from your childhood that you remember well.

You should say:

- *What the event was*
- *When and where it happened*
- *What you saw or did*
- *And explain why you remember this event so well*

Ok right then, after **a bit of thought**, the family event that I'd like to talk to you about was the wedding of one of my aunts. And I guess the reason I remember it so well is because it was the first wedding I'd ever been to, so it **left quite a lasting impression on me.** And I was **knee high to a grasshopper**, you know, only about 5 or 6, so I guess I must have been one of the youngest people there.

The wedding **took place** in some restaurant in our hometown. **I can't tell you the exact name of the place cos I honestly can't remember,** but what I can tell you is that it was a pretty big place, because there must have been at least a couple of hundred people there.

And **as for** what happened, well it was basically just a typical wedding party, you know, **with loads of food and drink**, although unfortunately I was too young to be able **to enjoy all the wine and champagne on offer**! But at least I got to enjoy all the food, which there **were absolutely masses of**! And another thing I remember quite clearly was **playing around with the microphone**, and saying a few words into it. You know, I'd never seen a microphone before, so it felt pretty cool when speaking into it and **hearing my voice come out through the speakers.**

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

14.1. Wasn't your impression of your childhood?

The memories of childhood are precious. I can't forget that **I clung to my mother**, asking her to sing **nursery rhymes** to me; I can't forget that I **burst into tears** the first time I went to school; I can't forget the big red flower my teacher gave me. **Childhood is a memory without pressure, competition and hypocrisy**. In my viewpoint, it is **the most innocent period of time** which we cannot experience twice, and the most wonderful part of my life.

14.2. What kinds of tips do you use to keep things in mind? What kinds of things people can do to prevent bad memory?

As I have mentioned, some tips like taking advantage of the **applications available on your smartphone** or **developing a habit of note-taking** can be a useful first step. Furthermore, you can rely on your buddies or family members to remind you of important dates like an upcoming exam or interview, which is the method I **make use of** quite frequently.

14.3. How would you define happiness?

"What is happiness" is a difficult question that remained unanswered for centuries. For me, happiness doesn't mean feeling good **all the time** or being rich. Happiness is a combination of how satisfied I am with my life and how good I feel on a **day-to-day** basis. Happiness can come from a very simple thing like waking up with a delicious breakfast prepared by my mom or receiving a **good morning message** from my beloved one.

Vocabulary

Day-to-day (adj) daily, everyday

14.4. What do you do when you feel unhappy?

I tend to be alone when I'm **in a bad mood** because I think it would be better for me and people around me. In those **chunks of bad time**, I read the Holy Bible and pray to help myself **calm down** and release all negative thoughts.

Sometimes, when I'm **in a chatty mode,** I find some friends to talk to. We could hang out or walk around. Taking a deep breath and **going sightseeing** also make me feel better.

Vocabulary

In a bad mood (expression) unhappy

In a chatty mood (phrase)

To go sightseeing (v) The activity of visiting places of interest in a particular location

Chunks (n) A significant amount of something

14.5. Why do children tend to be happier than adults?

I guess the **first and foremost** reason is because children tend to **let** their feelings **go** while adults tend to **hold** their feelings **back**. In fact, children's thoughts are simple and innocent. They also have the ability to simplify everything that they see, feel and encounter, which helps them to be more careless and not **over-analyze** things like most adults do. Besides, they don't have to **face up with** any troubles at work and they often forget what just happened. They have no worries, no doubts, no disappointment about anything. Thus, their life is much easier and happier.

Vocabulary

First and foremost (phrase) most importantly; more than anything else

To let Sth go (v) to allow someone or something to escape or go free

To hold Sth back (v) to hesitate to act or speak

To face with (v) to deal with

15. Describe a product you bought and felt happy

You should say:

- *What it was*

- *Where you bought it*
- *What it has for/ How it was used*
- *and explain why it made you happy*

Ok. well the first thing that **came to my mind** when I saw this topic was olive oil, because I bought a bottle of it not that long ago, and if I'm not mistaken, it was from either Italy or Spain, so that's what I've decided to talk about.
And as for where I got it, well, it was actually just from my local supermarket selling quite a few imported products, which I'm really happy about, as I always enjoy trying new things, especially stuff from other countries.
With regard to what I used the olive oil for, well. I'd say I used it for most of my cooking, because it **went well with** almost everything, especially bread and pasta, as you probably know.
But anyway, as for what made me decide to buy it, well firstly, it is really good for my health. So it's basically a lot healthier than most other kinds of cooking oil. And another thing to mention would be that I remember tasting some olive oil at a Western restaurant I went to a couple of weeks ago and I liked it so much that I **made a mental note** to get some when I went to the supermarket. I guess these would be the main reasons, and even though it's quite a bit more expensive than ordinary cooking oil, I reckon it's definitely worth it.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What are the differences between street market and supermarkets?
They are worlds apart, I'd say. At the markets, even thing doesn't **cost you an arm and a leg** and you have the freedom to bargain with the seller for the best deal while in the supermarkets, there is a price tag for every product. Another distinction is that when it comes to the degree of convenience. I must say that shopping in **air-conditioned and well-ventilated** supermarkets a more rewarding experience than making your purchases at the markets; since

it can be **scorching hot** or **bitterly cold** outside.

Why are many supermarkets built in the city center and some in the suburbs?

Personally, I feel the reason is that many **dwell in** urban areas, and the demand for purchasing **daily necessities** is greater. All I'm trying to say is that more supermarkets or shopping malls have to be built to accommodate the needs of a huge population living in the cities. As for suburban areas, the population is rather sparse and therefore just a handful of supermarkets are found in these places.

In your country, what is the most common thing people buy?

Well, the question is too broad to generalize, but if I have to take a pick I won't hesitate to say that people today are making more purchases of smartphones. The youths, for instance, are really eager and enthusiastic every time there's a new version of smartphone released. The upcoming arrival of the Iphone 8 will attract thousands of teenagers to buy it, I guess. This indicates that we are **showing a bigger preference for** giving in the **virtual world** which is a saddening fact to know.

How often do people in your country go shopping?

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

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

Usually, there are two types of places which are popular among shoppers. The

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

Do you think online shopping will replace shopping in reality?

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

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

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

How is online shopping so popular these days?

It is understandable that buying stuff online is gaining tremendous popularity

among people in modern society. You can see nowadays people don't have time to get to the store in person and therefore access the virtual stores instead. There is an increase in the number of online stores, selling diverse range of products with different rice ranges which **cater for the needs** of people of all ages. Furthermore, the customer service is being improved greatly and I see that many people are **placing their trust on** online shopping these days.

16. Describe a leisure activity near or on the sea

You should say:

- *What it is*
- *Who do you play with*
- *Why you have to prepare*
- *And explain how you feel about it*

Ok, well I'd say the activity I probably like most when I'm on the beach is beach volleyball.

Unfortunately, I don't have a lot of chances to play it because I live quite far from the coast. So I only get the chance to play it when I'm on holiday, which is probably only about once or twice a year. It would be nice to do it more often, but with my **hectic** life, it's just not possible.

With regard to who I play it with, well, what normally happens is that I start playing with a few of my friends who are with me on holiday, and then other people at the beach see us and ask if they can join.

The reason I enjoy it so much is that it's just so fun, especially jumping around in the sand, what makes it fun is that it's something that I normally don't get the chance to do. The other cool thing about it is that you can dive for the ball and land softly in the sand, whereas you tried doing that on a hard surface like concrete, it would be extremely painful, as you can imagine!

It's also really good exercise, and I am always **overwhelmed with** joy after playing it. It's also a good way to make friends, because as I mentioned just now, I often end up playing with other people on the beach and afterwards we might hang out for a bit.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

16.1. Why do so many people like going to places with water such as lakes, rivers or the ocean?

As far as I'm concerned, there are often a lot of trees and the atmosphere is **fresh and tranquil** in some places like the river bank or some lakes. This gives them the opportunity to **escape from the hustle and bustle of city life**, breathe some fresh air and **let their hair down** a bit. On top of that, some places near water like the beaches is a source of great fun and **folks** can **enjoy various outdoor activities** with their friends or relatives like going for a swim or going sunbathing

16.2. What kinds of leisure activities do people like to do in places such as on the ocean, at a beach, at a river, at a lake etc.?

There is a **great deal of stuff** we can take part in when going to such places. Firstly, we can take advantage of some **voyages** to **do the sights**, look at the blue sea and skies and enjoy life. Secondly, we can go for a swim or **soak in the sunshine** on the beach, **feel the cool breezes in our faces**. Finally, at some riverbanks or lakes, we can have a good time **recharging our batteries**, and **enjoying our temporary escape** from the **hustle and bustle of city life**

16.3. As a place to spend some leisure time, do you think the beach or the seaside is more suitable for children or for old people?

If you ask me, I would have to say that the youths benefit more from going to the beaches or the seaside than the elderly. The first point worth mentioning is that young people **are dynamic and adventurous**, so they are pretty into

taking part in a **mixed diversity of outdoor activities**. So obviously, they **can take a full advantage** of their trips. On the contrary, the older citizens are passive and wouldn't love to move their bodies around. This means that they **merely** consider such travel trips as an occasion **to** idle their time away

16.4. Do you think children and old people do the same types of things when they go to a beach?

No, I don't really think so. The range of activities and their interests vary a lot. For the young, they **show a fancy for strenuous physical activities** like surfing, swimming or **sand castle building**, so they tend to be really **engrossed in** what they are doing. By contrast, old people would rather **pick up a good book** to read, **prepare some snacks** for their kids to **graze** or find time to have a chat with one of their relatives, whom they **may not haven't been in touch for ages.**

17. Describe a positive change in your life

You should say:

- *What the change was*
- *When it happened*
- *How it happened*
- *How it happened*
- *and explain why it was a positive change*

Many things have changed since the last time I woke up just **in time** for lunch. That was when I realized I had been wasting hundreds of mornings in the last few years without **accomplishing** anything. It was a **wakeup call** which completely changed me. Now, I'm an **early riser** and have been for more than 2 years.

They say **old habits die hard**, which **made perfect sense** to me when I first started to **get rid of** my **unhealthy routine**. There were so many temptations during night time that kept me awake for hours. And it could be anything such as the latest episode of The Walking Dead, a music video that I had been **counting down** for weeks to be released or a **deadline I needed to meet** because I had been **procrastinating** for a month and so on. As a result, going to bed after 1 or 2 AM was **inevitable** to me. It took me long enough to **fully aware of** how **destructive** this sleeping habit could be for me, both physically and mentally, especially **in a long run**. Therefore, I **had no choice but** to give up that kind of toxic.

I have learnt a lot since starting waking up early in the morning. The key is starting small and taking one step at a time. It was so **tiresome** and **torturing** at the beginning that I tended to get irritated whenever anyone approached me about 10 minutes into my running session. However, everything has its own way of getting better and so is my temper. I now feel **fully energized** and extremely **refreshing** in the morning and even more **productive** at work.

Vocabulary

- **Accomplish:** to succeed in doing or completing something
- **early riser:** person who wakes up early in the morning
- **old habits die hard:** People find it difficult to change their accustomed behavior
- **make sense**: to be clear and easy to understand
- **get rid of:** to remove or throw away something unwanted
- **meet deadline:** finish something in time
- **procrastinate:** to delay doing something that you should do, usually because you do not want to do it
- **inevitable**: that you cannot avoid or prevent
- **tiresome**: making you feel annoyed

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Is your country changing rapidly?

Without a doubt, it has **experienced numerous transformations** compared to some decades ago. In the past, used to be an **agrarian country** with **backward** ways of life. However, with the fast development of technologies, many companies are **springing up all over the place** and we have been focusing more on **the industry and service sectors.** It's also worth pointing out that the standard of living has been dramatically raised, and people are **feeling way more satisfied than** they were in the past.

Why old people dislike changes?

It would be because as people grow old, their brain doesn't work as effectively as before and any abrupt change would cause them traumatic effects. Elderly people have already been used to the old ways of doing things and expecting them to cope with new changes seems counterproductive. For example it's difficult for an aged citizen to learn how to operate an air-conditioner as he might not know which button to adjust the fans' speed or increase the temperature in the room.

18. Describe a time when you moved to a new house or a new school.

You should say:

- *When it happened*
- *What kind of home did you moved into*
- *Why you moved:*
- *And explain how von felt about the moving*.

I'm a type of person who **detests instability** and quite **reluctant to change my accommodation** when I have got used to it. Yet, there was a time when I **had no choice but move to a new place**, which is during my second year at university.

My previous lodging place/house is quite far from the school so I **made up my mind to** move to somewhere **within a stone's throw** from the school **for ease of travelling**. Also as a student, I used to **have a hard time covering the daily expenses** so moving would be a nice way to **cut down my travel costs**. As well as this, I was **fed up with** the living condition in my former place of living as the air was polluted with **obnoxious smells** a small factory nearby and the **incessant noises** every night of some neighbours who **frequently threw a party** and sang karaoke loudly at night. Actually, **I didn't sleep a wink** for weeks, and **felt under e weather** for the whole semester.

The place I'm currently living is way better. **It's a small and cosy house**, **well-furnished with tables and chairs**. On top of this, the atmosphere is so fresh, **tranquil and serene** so that I can focus 100% on my study without feeling being **disturbed by troublemakers**. Although the rent is a bit higher, **it is definitely worth the extra cost**. Now I'm **feeling over the moon** in my flat.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why people move to a new house?

As I see it, people change their residence as they are **fed up with the living condition** or want to **have more prospects** with their work or study. All I'm saying is there can be some nasty neighbours making incessant noises that get you distracted or **cannot sleep a wink at night**, or the neighbours are **unfriendly and unhelpful** in daily life. On top of this, if your study or job requires that you have to **live closer to schools or offices, it seems to be a must** that you have to move so that it'll be more convenient when it comes to **daily commutes.**

Why do some people stay in one place forever?

Personally, I'd put it down to the fact that some people prefer stability and would refuse to **take up challenges** in life. They are willing to **give up precious opportunities** to **make further progress in** their work of study and just **stick to their own way of life**. Besides, it can be because the living condition they have been having is too perfect that make such people **reluctant to give it a change**. They might have **hostile neighbours** if they move to a new place, and such fears **often keep them at one place throughout their life**.

19. Describe a piece of furniture in your home

You should say

- *what it is*
- *where it is*
- *what it looks like what it is made of*
- *and explain how or why you use it*

Ok, well the piece of furniture I've decided to talk about is my shaped sofa, which I know is not the most interesting thing in the world to talk about, but neither is the rest of my furniture at home, and so seeing as I use it a lot, I thought it would be a suitable thing to describe for this topic.

Regarding what the sofa looks like, well firstly, it's an **L-shaped** one, which I might add, is by far my favourite kind of sofa as this style is definitely the most practical. So, for example, it's nice and big, and I'd say it probably seats around 8 or 9 people. So it's great for when we have friends over, because it means we can all sit together.

And as for the colour, well, I suppose the best way to describe it would be a kind of **brownish, chestnut colour**, and the reason I chose this particular colour was partly because it **goes well with** all the other furniture in the living room, and also because **chestnut** is quite a warm and natural colour. So it kind of

helps give the room a nice, cozy feel, I think.
Anyway, finally with regard to why I use my sofa, well, I would say the main thing to mention here is the fact that it's really nice and soft, and I mean, seriously comfortable. So whenever I feel like relaxing and **putting my feet up**, which is pretty much every evening. I'll head straight to the sofa.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Which do you think are better, old things or new things?
If I have to take a pick. I would go for antique objects. Originally, I have a taste for collecting old stuff as I'm really eager to learn about the history behind each object. Furthermore, as they're also of great monetary value, so it's worth investing in rather than new ones. If I remember rightly, I sold my stamp collection for over $150 to a cousin of mine.

Do people in your country prefer traditional or modem styles of furniture?
That also depends on the people and the families. I don't think there is any set preference. From my experience though, I would say many younger couples prefer modem furniture. I think it goes along with other trends in our country. What I mean is that modern or foreign fashions are often more popular and interesting, especially for young people. Maybe I'm different in this way though because I think many pieces of traditional furniture in our country are very beautiful. They are also often made better than the modem things.

Have there been any recent changes in the kinds of furniture that people in your country use?

Well, as I said a lot of foreign influence has come into our country and this is affecting what people buy, including furniture. I think that if people have

the money they may prefer the quality furniture. Over all, though, the predominant style of furniture that people use is modem.

What factors should a furniture designer consider when designing a piece of furniture?

The use of the particular piece would be the first consideration. A designer would also have to think of the market he is targeting. This would usually indicate the cost of the finished product. This in turn will influence what materials he can use within that price ranged

What are the qualities of a good furniture designer?

I'd say he needs to be artistic and imaginative. At the same time a designer also has to have quite a bit of practical sense, in any design field, there are people who design something more for art's sake: they don't really expect anyone to buy it or they hope to find a collector to buy it as a of art more than as something useful.

20. Describe a rule you agree or disagree with

You should say

- *what it was*
- *how others thought about this rule*
- *have you ever violated this rule*
- *and explain why you did not like this rule.*

I'm a quite **obedient** student and make my best effort to **conform to** the rules and regulations of the school. However, a recently introduced rule just **left me the creeps.** It's required that all students in my class need to focus on studies and say goodbye with dating. The rule was introduced by my form teacher as part of her effort to raise the class's study productivity by maximizing the

students' focus on their academic study.

I guess I have to say I don't see myself in complete agreement. It's true that as my classmates and I are at our last stage of high school and the need for **wholehearted focus on** our studies is never greater. If we get distracted, all our **efforts will go down the drain**. However, it seems a bit strict for all students, who are at **impressionable and inquisitive age** to abandon what should naturally be **part and parcel of** growing up.

From my observation, some of my classmates simply just disregard our teacher's words and **get their own way**s. Dating happens quite often, and unfortunately our teacher is **kept in the dark about** this. I think it's time I informed the teacher of the ineffectiveness of the rule **imposed on** the students, and reassured her that the class won't **let her down.** No one can deny that couples can **help each other out** with the assignments while **maintaining their relationship.**

Obedient: If you always do what you're told, you can be described as **obedient**.

Conform to something: to follow or adhere to a rule/regulation/norm

Leave somebody the creeps: to make one feel wary or uneasy due to eeriness or strange behavior

Go down the drain: to fail / to be ruined or squandered

Impressionable: readily or easily influenced

Inquisitive: eager for knowledge / unduly curious and inquiring

Part and parcel: A basic or essential part

Get one's own way: to get or have what one wants

Keep the dark about something: to keep someone uninformed (about something)

Let someone down: disappoint someone

QUESTION FOR PART 3

Are rules suitable for all students?

Of course not. Rules are blade to force individuals into adopting certain patterns of behaviors usually undesirable by the students. All I'm trying to say is that some students would definitely feel dissatisfied and outraged by the rule. As a consequence, they're willing to disobey the rule for the simple reason that it's considered applicable in their personal circumstance, or the rule may cause them certain troubles and inconveniences.

What rules are there in your school? / in your companies?

In my schools, students are required to wear uniform, and I guess this is quite universal in almost any school in the country. Besides this, students must attend classes on time, or otherwise they will be detained or not allowed to enter school. The last point to mention is that recently most schools, particularly universities, compel the students to wear their student card before coming to class for the fundamental reason that the school want to prevent strangers from infiltrating into the school to steal things. That's all I can say now.

In companies:

The staff are supposed to arrive on time to clock in and if they fail to do this, they can puffer from cuts in their salary. In the process of working, entertainment applications are forbidden as they effect work productivity. So. it's natural that you can't browse facebook notifications or text message your friends with your smartphone as work comes first.

Why is it important to obey law?

As far as I'm concerned, law has a **crucial role to play in** maintaining social order and stability. The reason why I feel this way is that if there are **penalties on wrongdoings**, people will be less willing to **commit crimes** or **offenses.** This cannot only help them become **law-abiding citizens**, but they can also

avoid causing harm to others. For example, a bill on litter dropping can make us more **environmentally conscious** because we're afraid to **get heavily fined** and consequently put garbage in certain trash cans.

What can parents and teachers do to help children follow rules?
I believe there are a couple of ways that parents and educators can do to encourage a child to **comply with the rules**, presumably the most effective solution is for parents and teachers to **set an exemplary role model**. Consequently, the children will **imitate the virtues** displayed by their father, mother and teacher and fee**l stimulated** to **stick to the rules**. In addition, if schools were to **adopt a less strict punitive system** and reward children with something for their good **code of conduct**, then I think many will be motivated to **obey the rules willingly.**

Should there is a law to limit the working hours?
This law is beneficial because, in this fast moving world of today, people have become **workaholics**. In order to **satisfy their material desires**, they are forgetting to **draw a line** between work and family. If working hours are fixed, then they have enough time for their family life and leisure. Secondly, overworking leads to stress and can lead to **nervous breakdown** in extreme eases. People also find time for their regular exercise if working hours are fixed.

21. Describe an important plant in your country.

You should say:

- *What the plant is*
- *How you know it*
- *Why it is important*
- *And explain how much you like the plant*

Ok then, well after a bit of thought, I have decided to talk to you about bamboo. However, I honestly don't know if I'm gonna be able to talk for two minutes about it, but I'll **give it a try**!

So first of all, as for how I know about bamboo, well I can't really remember exactly how I first got to know about it, you know, it could have been in a biology class at school, or when I was out somewhere with my parents, but my guess would be that I probably first knew about it at primary school, because that was about the time when we first started learning about things like that. Anyway, moving on to why bamboo is important, well I'd say it's pretty important for a number of reasons, the main one of which would be that it can be used to make so many different things, you know, such as chopsticks, chopping boards, flooring, what else, and musical instruments, like the bamboo flute for example. So it's extremely useful, and what's good about it is that it grows incredibly fast, you know, not like most other trees, and although a lot of it's cut down to make stuff, there will still always be an **abundant supply** of it here.

But anyway, finally then, as for how much I like bamboo, well I'd say it's actually probably one of my favourite plants! Because I mean, it kind of just **gives me a nice, pleasant feeling** whenever I see it. And it's also a plant which is often associated with our culture, because we grow so much of it here, so it's something that kind of reminds me of my own culture, if you know what I mean.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why do people grow these plants?

The simple explanation for this is that the tropical climate **creates favorable conditions for** those plants to grow healthily. For example, durians are exclusively found in some countries with a warm climate all year round and it's a good idea to **take advantage of** this to **have certain trees planted** for fruits. Some decide to plant some trees merely for their shade and cool breezes.

What are the benefits for having plants indoor?

Plants can be good indoor decoration. Some people put some flowers or **neatly strewn** small trees or hang some pot plants in their house. This practice helps fill the blanks in some rooms and gives people a fuller picture. On top of this, it can help **purify the air** in the room, making it more **well-ventilated** and airy. **Having said this**, it's important to take the plants out at night as they will **absorb oxygen and suffocate people.**

What's the difference between having plant indoor and outdoor? Benefits of plants?

I think it's simply **a matter of interest**. Some prefer to make their **porch** look gorgeous so they had better place the plants outdoors so that **passers-by** can **take a glance at** them. Some big trees outside the house can provide shade and cool breezes during summer days, which is a refreshing experience. By contrast, as I have mentioned, placing trees in the house can be **a good adornment** as some plants can **fill the gaps** in the room, and making the room appear less empty.

Do you think we need to protect trees?

Yeah, most definitely. You know, if all the news reports are **authentic**, trees are being **cut down at a alarming rate**! So, like, vast areas of rainforests are **being blown down** for commercial purposes. And I don't think anyone would argue the fact that if this goes on, it's gonna **lead to pretty dire consequences**. So yeah, I think it's vital that we protect trees, otherwise the state of our planet's gonna get even worse!

22. Describe a website you like to visit.

You should say:

- *What type of website it is*
- *How you found out about it*
- *What it allows you to do*
- *and explain why you like it*

Today, I am going to tell you about one website which I'm really interested in. It's name is **m.ebay.com.**

It is an **e-commerce website** used for online shopping purposes. This website advertises various items classified by categories such as fashion, electronics, and motors. It allows people to order products, and make **transactions** online.

I always **give priority to** shopping online whenever I have spare time instead of going to stores or supermarkets. So, this website is very **handy** for me as I can take advantage of my mobile phone or computer with an Internet connection to access it and purchase what I need.

I find this website very **appealing** due to its good **layout** and attractive images of products. There is a box for me to enter what items I'm looking for so I can avoid **browsing** items unnecessarily, as I'm able to find quickly the things I need. After that the items I have bought will be delivered right to my door so I can save a lot of time. Not only that, there is always the chance to **get a good deal** and discounts as there are various promotion programs.

This website has important advantages for me, such as convenience and the benefits of saving time and money. Now it plays a useful role in my daily life. In the future I will continue to visit the site and of course recommend it to my friends.

VOCABULARY

✓ **E-commerce:** the business of buying and selling goods and services on the internet

Example: Ebay is an **e-commerce** website used for online shopping purposes.

✓ **Transaction:** a piece of business that is done between people, especially an act of buying or selling

Example: You can call your bank and carry out a **transaction** using a TouchTone phone.

✓ **Give priority to**: something that you think is more important than other things and should be dealt with first

Example: The hospital **gives priority to** those patients who require urgent medical attention.

✓ **Handy:** convenient

Example: My flat is very handy for the shops and the park.

✓ **Appealing:** attractive or interesting

Example: Brightly colored packaging made the pens especially appealing to children.

✓ **Layout:** the structure of a website rather than its styling

Example: This page uses a 2 – column layout with one sidebar to the left of the main content area.

✓ **Browse:** the act of looking through a number of things in a book, a store or online

Example: I have only **browsed** through the new book on dinosaurs, but I intend to read it fully this weekend.

✓ **Get a good deal:** make a good agreement to buy or sell something

Example: I **got a good deal** on my new car – I bought it for half the price that the man was asking for it.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

22.1. What are some of the different reasons why people use the internet?

Speaking of the internet, obviously it has already surpassed newspapers and television to be the main source of information today. And that's the most common reason why people use the internet. Another reason is that people use the internet as a **superior** means of communication. We no longer require a place like cafes or offices to keep in touch with people. We can do it **literally** anywhere we happen to be with the availability of Internet access.

22.2. Some people say that different age groups have different tastes on internet content. What do you think?

I agree that how one uses the internet varies a lot by age. For example, young people rely almost entirely on search engines for information about entertainment, study materials and job opportunities, while older people prefer using the internet to get information about national and international news.

22.3. What influence can (or, does) the internet have on children? And what about teenagers?

Well, I guess most people immediately think of negative aspects when it comes to internet influence on our younger generation. For example, using the internet too much makes them socially isolated and teenagers in particular seem to spend hours on social network sites. But actually, there are plenty of positive ones as well. The internet's wealth of information can add to the child's store of knowledge, while online games enhance their creativity and imagination.

22.4. Do you think parents should control what internet sites their children visit on the internet?

I would say yes. Because the sources of internet information are not always reliable, it’s essential to judge the **suitability** of those materials. As a result, parents should **keep an eye on** their children’s internet usage that until the child has learned to **discriminate** between good and bad information sources.

22.5. What (kinds of) people don't use the internet and what are the disadvantages that these people suffer because they don't use the internet?

Well, right **off the top of my head**, I can only think of older people, who are not **accustomed** to using the internet, and people whose jobs are not **relevant** to the internet.

Personally, I think inability or unwillingness to use the internet will restrict their **circle of friends** and also make it harder to access information. In some cases, they have to spend countless hours looking for some news they need through printed materials, while they can do it in a matter of seconds with search engines which are available on the internet.

VOCABULARY

✓ ***Superior*** [adj] better than average or better than other people or things of the same type

Example: The weapons of the government troops were **superior** to those of the enemy.

✓ ***Literally*** [adv] used to emphasize the truth of something that may seem surprising

Example: They were responsible for **literally** millions of deaths.

✓ ***Suitability*** [noun] the quality of being right or appropriate for a particular purpose

Example: At the interview, he convinced them of his **suitability** for the job.

✓ ***Keep an eye on sth*** [idiom] to watch or give your attention to someone or something

Example: The mother sat by the side of the playground, **keeping an eye on** her sons as they played.

✓ ***Discriminate*** [verb] to treat a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people, because of their skin colour, sex, sexuality, etc.

Example: She felt she had been **discriminated** against because of her age.

✓ ***Off the top of my head [idiom]*** if you say something off the top of your head, you say it without thinking about it for very long or looking at something that has been written about it

Example: Off the top of my head I could probably only name about three women artists.

✓ ***Accustomed*** [adj] familiar with something

Example: She quickly became **accustomed** to his messy ways.

✓ ***Relevant*** [adji] connected with what is happening or being discussed

Example: Education should be **relevant** to the child's needs.

✓ ***Circle of friends*** [expression] a group of people who like each other because they have the same interests or hobbies
Example: She is very popular and she has a wide **circle of friends.**

23. Describe a city that you have visited.

You should say:
- *where the city is (and its name)*
- *when you went there*
- *what you liked / disliked about the city*
- *and explain why you visited this city.*

Ok right then, well after thinking for a little bit just now, um, the city that I'd like to talk to you about, **which left a really strong impression on me**, was X. I'm not sure if you have been there, but it's somewhere in Y, I think in the kind of north-eastern, no sorry, the north-western part of the province.

I went there about 10 years ago or something, so it was quite **a while ago**. And what I liked about it was the fact that first of all it just seemed like, um, I dunno, it's really hard to describe! But it was just, kind of like, not so crowded, and you know, the locals were **super-friendly**, the food was great there, it just seemed like such a nice, relaxing city. I mean, everyone in the streets looked cheerful, for example, and you know it wasn't like one of these huge cities with, like, **a fast-paced life** and everyone frantically getting to where they need to go. It wasn't like that at all. Everyone was just **chilled out**, the whole city had a really kind of **laid-back atmosphere** to it.

Um, and the other amazing thing about it that I shouldn't forget to mention was the scenery. You know, it was **just spectacular** and before I went there, I never imagined it would be such a beautiful place. I mean, it's not one of those places which everyone talks about, so **going on all the walks** around the nearby

mountains and tea fields was just, like, **incredible**! It was a really great experience!

I've been back there a few times since my first visit, and it always has the same effect on me, it's just a really nice place, and I always have a really cool time there! So yeah, that's about it then, thanks for listening!

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do you think that landmarks will make a city more famous, why?

Of course it is. Landmarks such as **picturesque landscapes** or **places of historical significance** often **draw huge numbers of tourists**, **making a city well-known to the rest of the world**. For example, people often visit Canada for its **breathtaking views in rural areas or mountainous regions**, as well as other coastal cities which offer **splendid sandy beaches**. Without such attractions, it would be hard to convince foreigners to **pay a visit** to my country.

What interesting things can we do in big cities?

We can have a lot of fun in big cities. If you like shopping, you could **go shopping for beautiful clothes** and see the **designs of famous brands**. We have to admit that major museums are usually located in big cities. In these places, we can **appreciate our culture and history**. There're also some **amusement parks and leisure centers** for people both young and old.

What's the difference between living in the city and countryside?

I think that many differences could be counted. Firstly, the infrastructure in city is significantly more modem, comprehensive and convenient for traveling than that of the countryside. Additionally, rural citizens' lifestyle is less competitive and hectic than urban counterparts. A reasonable explanation for

this is that development of the economy and technology in vibrant cities is accelerating more than ever before

24. Describe a piece of good news that you received from someone

You should say:
- *what this news was*
- *when and where you heard it*
- *how you heard it and explain*
- *why you think it was good news*

Today I'm going to share with you an **article of news** in the place I am living which **was particularly thrilling to** me. It was an **announcement** that X, the top celebrity in my country, was going to **show up** in my neighborhood.
It was when I **stepped out of my house** that I heard the piece of news from a **next-door neighbor**. He said that X was going to **film a comedy show** near my house. This **filled me with great delight** during the day. I was really **looking forward to** meeting him **in person**, enjoying his humorous comments **and** unique acting. I heard that there would be a couple of other famous guys accompanying him on stage **a**nd that he would have a **fan signing session** after the performances. This news is pretty of interest to me since comedy is what helps me **let my hair down** after a **hard-working day** and having a chance to meet my idol is an **out-of-this-world experience**.
Two days went by and he appeared in front of my **naked eyes**. I recall that I did **have a blast** on the day. After I went home **I couldn't help bursting into profuse laughter** several times.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How do people share good news?

There's a number of ways that people can use to inform others of a piece of **good snippet.** The most common way is notifying others via **social networking**

websites. It is not difficult to catch sight of many teens sharing their high IELTS results on Facebook to boast of their **academic achievement**. Besides, some may prefer it in a more personal way by texting their **beloved ones** or merely give a telephone call to break the news. It is worth mentioning that some would write a letter, maybe a **thank-you letter** to **express their gratitude towards** the one who helped them **sail through difficult period.**

When do people share good news?

There are many occasions when people feel it necessary to keep others posted about some news. The first and most popular one is when you **accomplish some exceptional deeds**, like when you pass your university entrance exam **with flying colours**, or your attempts to hunt a scholarship **paid off**. Another case is when the news is passed by a third party, usually the parents or colleagues. This can be understandable simply because others just feel more delighted when spreading the good news than you do. Maybe they do it for some **treat** from you, I guess so.

25. Describe a book that you would like to read again.

You should say:

- *What the book is*
- *Why you read it*
- *Why you want to read it again*

Sample 1:

Although I don't read a lot of books, I still have my favorite one. For this question, I would like to choose my English 12 **textbook** as the book I want to read again. I guess you'll be surprised at my choice **owing to** its **content** and **cover.** This English book is the course book of grade 12. There are a variety of topics related to our daily lives with the **combination** of 4 skills: reading,

listening, speaking and writing. I used to use it to study English when I was in grade 12. Interestingly, at the time, I just focused on grammar because it's the main part of the final tests, so I don't really **pay attention to** other parts, which is such a pity. Now when I have a look at it again, I realize that the reading text is quite cool and **academic** with a number of useful words and **structures**. Reading it again gives me a **chance** to **fulfill** my English knowledge more, especially reading skill and vocabulary. I guess I would spend more time re-reading and taking notes of important points in this book, which is very exciting.

- **Vocabulary**

- **textbook** [n] a book that contains detailed information about a subject for people who are studying that subject
- **owing to** [pre] because of
- **content** [n] the ideas that are contained in a piece of writing, a speech or a film
- **cover** [n] something which is put on or over something else, usually to protect it, to keep something in, etc.
- **combination** [n] the mixture you get when two or more things are combined
- **pay attention to** [phrase] to watch, listen to, or think about something or someone carefully or with interest
- **academic** [a] relating to schools, colleges and universities, or connected with studying and thinking, not with practical skills
- **structure** [n] the way in which the parts of a system or object are arranged or organized, or a system arranged in this way
- **chance** [n] an occasion which allows something to be done; an opportunity
- **fulfill** [v] to do something that is expected, hoped for or promised or to cause it to happen

Sample 2:

The book I am going to describe to you is titled Da Vinci Code authored by Dan Brown, one of the most **influential** and **remarkable** bestselling American

authors of all time. His numerous **bestsellers** include Digital Fortress, Angels & Demons and Deception Point. I have read them for like a hundred times but none of those could ever **top** Da Vinci Code and plus the movie starring Tom Hank was **a huge blockbuster worldwide**.

Of all the books I have ever read, Da Vinci Code was the only one that I managed to finish within two weeks and you know, the book is not just a few pages long. Anyway, the book deals **with the hunt for the truth**. Regarding the Holy Grail by **symbologist** Robert Langdon and the victim's granddaughter Sophie., they attempted to reveal the answers to mysteries like "Is Jesus God?" "Did he get married?". And if they succeed, it could possibly **shake the foundation of mankind**.

Well, my reading adventure wasn't **off to a good start, for** there were lots of Religious terms involved and **twists and turns** were so confusing that I could rarely **figure out** where the story was going. But I **kept up** reading, I was **totally into** the book and I could hardly **put it down**. **In a nutshell**, this was the best book I have ever read.

Vocabulary

Influential (adj) able to influence the way other people think or behave

Remarkable (adj) Making you feel surprised or amazed

Best-seller (noun) a book that many people buy

Top (verb) exceed something

Blockbuster (noun) something that is very successful, especially a film, show, or novel

Symbologist (noun) A person who studies or interpret symbols or symbolism.

Shake the foundation of (phrase) to cause a person or organization to question the truth of something it strongly believed

Off to a good start (phrase) to start a particular activity correctly or to have a successful beginning

For (preposition) because

Twists and turns (phrase) surprising changes

Put down (phrasal verb) to put someone or something onto a surface, especially the floor

In a nutshell (phrase) used for saying that you are going to express something in a simple direct way

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

25.1. Do people read more nowadays?

Reading can be seen a part of modern culture and has become easier than ever thanks to the advent of technology. If books and specialized documents were only available for **scholars** and those with high **social status** in the past, anyone with **curiosity** and burning desire to learn can now **get access to** such materials easily. People can read not only from printed materials such as newspaper or magazines but digital ones like eReaders or online.

Scholar (n): a person who knows a lot about a particular subject because they have studied it in detail

Social status (n): a person's standing or importance in relation to other people within a society

Curiosity (n): a strong desire to know about something

Get access to: to get the right to see

25.2. Do you read before going to bed?

I don't have a habit of reading before going to sleep but in the morning instead. I am an **early riser**, which **spares** me lots of time to **schedule** my day, starting with reading. Normally, I often exercise first, make myself breakfast before grabbing my unfinished book. I don't have a study room in my apartment so the balcony is my favorite place to read. There's nothing I rather do than sipping a cup of coffee and **immersing** myself in a good book for hours.

Early riser (n): a person who usually gets out of bed early in the morning

Spare (v): to make something such as time or money available to somebody or for something

Schedule (v): to arrange for something to happen at a particular time

Immerse (v): to become or make somebody completely involved in something

25.3. What's the difference between films and books?

I presume it's not only me but the vast majority of avid readers are left **unsatisfied**, or more honestly, disappointed when books are **adapted** into movies since its lack of **persuasion** and significant details. Original books are always more **in-depth** with **consecutive** plot line, which makes them more fulfilling and convincing. Movies, on the other hand, tend to focus more on visual and sound effects that they fail to deliver the true message of the story. Hence, most people who have read the story find its **film adaptation unappealing**.

Unsatisfied (a): not having got what you hoped; not having had enough of something

Adapt (v): to change a book or play so that it can be made into a play, film/movie, television programme, etc.

Persuasion (n): the act of persuading somebody to do something or to believe something

In-depth (a): very thorough and detailed

Consecutive (a): following one after another in a series, without interruption

Film adaptation (n): a movie based on a book

Unappealing (a): not attractive or pleasant

25.4. How will ebooks affect paper books?

Ebooks are the **advancements** of modern technology and have rapidly becoming popular among readers, especially those who constantly **commute**. You can store hundreds of ebooks in your cellphone or eReader and read anywhere you happen to be, which is probably one of the best advantages ebooks have over paper ones. However, with those who prefer the smell of printed papers and the weight of an actual book on their hands like me, nothing can replace printed materials, not even ebooks.

Advancement (n): the process of helping something to make progress or succeed; the progress that is made

Commute (v): to travel regularly by bus, train, car, etc. between your place of work and your home

Have an advantage over something: be in a superior position to something

25.4. How often do people in your country read novels?

Personally speaking, I'm not **a fan of** novel but from my observations, only the teenagers have time to read novels. I guess for others, they have to spend time on working and studying but as far as teenage girls are concerned, I have to say that they read a great deal.

25.5. What kinds of books that old people like to read?

Since I'm not an elderly person, what I'm going to say is **just guesswork** but old people are really into novels which tell about the daily lives of ordinary citizens or those books which give them the chance to **reflect on** their life. This is because, they are at an age where **spiritual well-being** is **of more importance**, and many old citizens would choose books containing some **philosophy or moral lessons** to read. The reason I feel this way is they can not only can while away the time, they can also improve their personality and pass the experience they read onto their grandchildren.

25.6. Does reading books become a less common activity because of ebooks?

I strongly disagree with this view. Although **the advent of the internet** gives us a wide array of options when it comes to reading, like we can read ebooks on our laptop or Ipad, nothing can compare to the experience of holding a book in your own hands, and **read it from cover to cover**. Another point is that you can jump to the page you want to read by turning your fingers and browsing for the desired contents with your eyes, which is much more convenient and user-friendly than having to use a computer screen or a mouse to do the job**.**

25.7. What benefits do young people get from reading?

As far as I can tell, reading brings people a wide range of benefits. Firstly, I'd put it down to the fact that you can **broaden your horizons** and **improve your outlook on** life. The thing is the more you read, the more knowledge you acquire regarding the world around, and this helps you learn to accept and tolerate differences in life. The second point worth mentioning is reading can be an entertaining activity as well. Comic books are a prime example, which gives you a good time through the witty comments and funny drawings as well as a suspenseful storyline.

26. Describe a helpful person in work or study

You should say:

- *Who it was*
- *What this person did*
- *How this person helped*
- *And explain how you felt after this person helped you:*

I'm often **poor at sorting out tricky problems** and often **ask a favor of others** when it comes to **a dilemma** I can't solve. Off the top of my head, one of the times, Adam - a close buddy of mine - is a very helpful person at school, and he recently **helped me out with my mathematic problem** that I had long been **struggling against for days**.

It was part of the assignment from my teacher who **has a tendency to challenge her students** in every aspect. She usually gives **tricky homework** and **expects her students to finish them off** when coming to class. **I'm not expert at** Maths and often **rely on others for help**. The Maths question is about **an equation**, a **lengthy** one that could **bewilder** anyone **at their first glance.**

I was so desperate for the answer to the question that I **burnt the midnight oil for two straight nights**, but fortunately **the answer was**

still out of my reach. Not knowing what to do, **I gave Adam a ring** and **asked him out for a coffee** to **muse over the question,** and he agreed. Eventually, **we had an encounter at a local coffee shop and** I **showed him the question**. Without much thought, he **kicked off offering detailed explanations** which reminded me of the fact that I had forgotten a very **important clue to** solve the mystery. **I was quickly on the ball**, and thanks to his **straightforward explanation**, it took me just minutes to **work out the correct answer** to that **seemingly tough maths question**.

I have to say that Adam **is a genius** and he grasps what it takes to **enlighten** others, especially with his **easy but effective approach** to any problems, not just in his studies but also real life.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do you like helping others?

Yes, definitely. I always **hold a belief** that every person has a **moral responsibility** to do others a favor; it is a kind of **give and take**. Only **by lending others a hand** can we **expect something in return**. For example, if you lend a pen to your classmate, when yours runs out of ink, the others will lend you back, for sure I believe

In your view, should children be taught to help others?

Yes, definitely. I always hold a belief that every person has a **moral responsibility** to **do others a favo**r; it is a kind of **give and tak**e. Only by **lending others a hand** can we expect something in return. Especially small children should be educated how to do others a favor so that they can **grow up** to be a helpful member of society. For example, if you lend a pen to your classmate, when yours runs out of ink, the others will lend you back, for sure.

Do you think people are less willing to help others these days, compared to the past? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, I have to admit the fact that modem people show an increasing willingness to **lend a helping hand to** their surrounding **needy people**. In the past, people helped others **out of good will** and intention and were often **considerate and thoughtful of** others. Yet, nowadays assistance is carefully calculated to extract certain benefits. It is saddening to say but people today tend to **alienate themselves from** there, **let alone** help them. However, it is good news to see many other are pretty eager and try to be helpful.

27. Describe a crowded place you visited

You should say:

- *Where it is:*
- *When do you usually go there:*
- *What you do there:*
- *And explain why it is crowded*

I **detest** public places as they're always **packed with** people and I feel like a **fish out of water** in such circumstances. **Off the top of my head**, the last crowed place I went to was the time I had a **medical check-up** at a general hospital near my house. It is a big hospital of international standard, divided into public and private service. The public service is for those of **meager incomes** and involves long hours of queuing. Because I was **in a hurry**, I **opted for** the speedy private service. However, the **choice** fell short of my expectations and it **turned out** that there were **hordes of** patients waiting for medical check-up and there were even no seats left, and I had to stand the whole time. What a frustrating experience, you know! My legs felt like **jelly** after one hour standing on the floor. It was so crowded that the staff had a hard time **dealing with** the paperwork and there were some mistakes with the order of the patients as well.

Luckily, it was finally my turn, I was so relieved to **get away from** the crowd in the waiting room, and then received quite a professional care from the

doctors. However, when going to the basement to get my motorbike, I was so shocked at the line of people queuing at the exit, and again it took me another 30 minutes simply to **inch a few meters**.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why do some people dislike going to crowded places?

Frankly speaking, I would put it down to the fact that you would waste a great deal of time in a place packed with people. This is particularly true when waiting to be served, like a meal in a restaurant or you have to queue for hours to receive something you have to pay. It's quite frustrating as the service might not be up to standard as a place is overloaded with customers. Another reason worth mentioning is that some people can't stand the deafening noises at public places, and it is the worst situation when there are small kids crying and nagging their parents.

Is it more dangerous to go to crowded places?

Yes, certainly the security issue is quite a headache currently, and people are worried about their own safety when being in a crowded area. There are several cases when children are kidnapped because their parents don't keep an eye on them, which creates favorable conditions for suspicious people to do unlawful acts. On top of this, in some democratic countries, terrorism is going out of hand, and there have been reported cases of bombs going off in public places packed with people. All in all, the world is becoming a dangerous place and avoiding places with many people is a safety measure that anyone should take into account.

28. Describe an occasion where everybody smiled/laughed.

You should say:

- *What happened:*

- *When it happened:*
- *Who were there:*
- *And explain why everyone smiled/laughed.*

Our family love children a lot. We usually find their innocence and cuteness **overwhelming.** A few days ago, as I was surfing the Internet, I **came across** this hilarious video of a little girl, which is definitely the funniest baby video that I've ever watched. Therefore, I showed the whole family the video and we did **have a whale of a time** together. In the video, there was a five-year-old girl holding a microphone and singing along one hit of Justin Bieber named "baby". The way she sang and danced around the room made me **burst out laughing** as her **choreography** was incredibly adorable. I remember that she was crawling, hip-hoping and waving her hands enthusiastically, trying to convey her feelings and emotions through the song she was singing. Besides, what made it so funny about her was the fact that she danced exactly the same way an adult would, with the deep feelings and perfect timing and rhythms and everything! You know, it was completely **out of the blue.** At the end of the video, she humbly said "thank you" to the viewers for watching her performance.

We broke into hysterical laughter for some times. My mother was chuckling, my sister was giggling and my grandparent was grinning, everyone showing a sign of happiness on their face. Since then, we often gathered together for some funny clips that I found on Youtube.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why do people smile?

Smiling is a way to express one's satisfaction and happiness for most of the cases. For example, when you finish off something challenging, it's typical to give a smile as **a sigh of relief** after you sail through a period of difficulty. On other occasions, a smile is treated as symbol of friendliness, and it's commonly

used as a part of our daily greetings. When we meet some acquaintance or a stranger, giving a smile shows our hospitality towards others, and help to **break the ice** amongst people.

What's the difference between fake smile and true smile?
You can **figure it out** by a distinct difference like this. A genuine smile often involves the movement of other body parts on your face like the eyes, nose, lips all in quite a harmonious way. **On a contrary,** for those who give a fake smile, it's a piece of cake to spot this, a fake one often doesn't last for 6 seconds, and that person tends to hide their face or turn to somewhere else for fear of being spotted by the opposite person.

29. Describe something you do to keep healthy/ Describe something healthy you enjoy doing

You should say:

- *What you do*
- *Where you do it*
- *Who you do it with*
- *and explain why you think doing this is healthy.*

I'm **by nature** a dynamic person, and love to **engage in various strenuous activities**. One of my favorite physical exercises that I have **taken up** recently is going for a jog every morning and doing other sporty stuff at the local park.

I'm an **early bird** so I often **set the alarm clock** for 6 o'clock in the morning, and as soon as I wake up, I put on my sneakers and sweat suits and **head out** to the park. Usually, I will try to maintain a normal speed as it really helps **build my strength and stamina**. Jogging alongside the street to the park often takes me approximately 20 minutes. Once at the park, I **have a habit of** joining

other people for some matches of badminton, which is my **forte.** Badminton helps my body more **flexible and agile**. Observing the movement patterns of the shuttlecock also **hones my concentration capacity**. I sweat a lot after each training session and this somewhat **burns some fat off my body** as well.

Morning exercises are an effective way to **keep yourself in the pink** with just a few minutes for physical activity, I feel more energetic and optimistic, and ready than ever for my work in the morning.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do you think health is important?

Without a shadow of a doubt, health is absolutely crucial to the normal functions of the human body. Without health, the high chances are that you will **feel lethargic** all day, without feeling like doing or eating anything. By contrast, with a good health condition, people often feel optimistic and their minds also function more properly as well. A good health **do wonders** to your life. I'd have to admit.

Do you think there are differences between men and women when they keep fit?

As far as I'm concerned, there are some distinctions. The first one is that types of sports or physical activities each gender prefers. As for men, they would love to take part in **physically demanding** sports activities such as lifting heavy weights at the gym. Some other males may love team sports like football or badminton, and the same ease is also quite true for the **opposite sex.** As for women, I probably think that they prefer more solo physical activities like yoga or taking gentle morning jogs at the park.

What do people do to keep fit?

There's quite a mixed variety of ways people can do to **keep myself in good shape.** The first and most common method is **maintaining daily physical activity** by jogging, **push-up** or **work out at the gyms.** On top of that, people can try to have **a balanced diet rich in vitamins and minerals,** and **reduce their intake of red meat.**

Do most young people have a healthy lifestyle?

Well to be honest, I would have to admit that the youths nowadays are **leading a health-damaging lifestyle** because of the **fast-paced lifestyle and pressure.** To be more precise, workers have to **work extra hours** while students have to **burn the midnight oil** revising and reviewing for their exams. As a consequence of this, they can't manage time to have a **decent meal rich in vitamins and minerals.** Instead, they **have no choice but** go to **buy some take-aways** at some **fast food restaurants** and then get back to their work and study.

How do people get information about health in your country?

Well you know, there's fairly a wide range of means by which people can **gain access to health-related information**. I think the most common one is through the Internet. The young nowadays can k**eep abreast of** health information via **social networking websites** like Faccbook or Instagram as they like many pages **dealing with** health issues. Not only that, newspaper and magazine are also **exceedingly popular.** Many people **are in the habit of** reading a paper in the morning before going to work, and they can usually **come across** some good tips on health really.

Do you think sports can help people improve their health?

I can't agree with you more. **Sporting activities** are a **highly recommended** way to **keep fit** and **get into a better shape.** Through sports like football or basketball, the body **sweat profusely,** which helps us

lose weight and **makes the blood circulate more properly.** Besides, people can **cultivate team spirit** and **enlarge their social circle** through participating in sports.

What kinds of food are unhealthy?

Well in general, I would say that any type of food that is not **homemade has certain health risks.** One common kind is fast food. You know, most of the **ready meals** like these contain **high levels of fat and sugar,** which can cause **high cholesterol, obesity and diabetes.** I wouldn't forget to mention restaurant foods. Although most dishes served at the restaurant are **appealing to the eyes** and **appetizing** the quality is **not one hundred percent good.** Many ingredients are **of unclear origin** and they can be **rotten meat** but are **well reasoned and decorated** so as to trick people's eyes. In a nutshell, **don't judge a book by its cover.**

What do schools and parents do to keep young people healthy?

There can be certain courses of **actions that schools can adopt** to **ameliorate the health conditions** of the students. Firstly, there should be more **extracurricular activities** involving the students in physical activities such as **training sessions**, helping plant the trees or move the chairs and tables. Through these, children would move their bodies more and as a result **do exercises** while helping others. Secondly, parents need to pay attention to the diet of their kids by not cooking too much fat food. Instead, they should have more meals **rich in nutrients and vitamins** via an **increased intake of fruits and vegetables.**

Should young people play dangerous sports?

Personally speaking, we should give them the freedom to **make up their own mind**. After all, extreme sports lean bring huge benefits as it **boosts their confidence** and **gives them unforgettable real-life experiences**. Through some sports like **bungee jumping** or **bull riding**, the young want to

test their own limit and try to **overcome their fears** in some areas. **Having said that**, the authorities should be **responsible for ensuring the minimum safety standards**, like they should not allow those having heart diseases to join the dangerous sports, as well as this, the equipment must be **up to the standard** to minimize the likelihood of an accident taking place.

30. Describe something that you are proud of

You should say:

- *what you achieved*
- *when you achieved it*
- *what was difficult about achieving it*
- *and explain why you are proud of this achievement.*

Ok, well what I'd like to talk to you about is the time when I got into the semifinal of *[name of a competition]*. And this is completely true, by the way - I'm not **making it up**. Although I have to admit, I was pretty **gobsmacked** when I first heard about it, because I mean, that's an incredible achievement, as I'm sure you'd agree, especially considering just how many people enter the competition, which must be **in the tens of thousands.**

Anyway, it must have been about three years ago, by now, when it happened, and I couldn't believe my eyes when I was accepted by the judges when performing old revolutionary song on the show. You know, it was almost like I had transformed into another person and what was amazing was that at that time I seemed so **at ease** up on stage. I mean, the fact that millions of people across the country were watching didn't seem to **faze me in the slightest.** And I have to say that my performance was **simply amazing.** You know, the audience **absolutely loved it,** and they even **gave me a standing ovation** at the end.

So yeah, as I mentioned earlier, I think it was **an unbelievable achievement,**

not only in terms of how well I did in the competition, but also considering the **tremendous amount of courage** it must have taken to do what I did.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Should parents set goals for children?

I think young children should **be given the freedom and autonomy** to **set their own targets.** This is because only when they love doing something can they actually become **proficient in** it. If their parents don't allow them to choose what they like to do in life but force them to follow something else instead, the chances are they won't be able to **father the confidence and enthusiasm to pursue their life interests**. What I mean here is that parents should only offer proper guidance and orientation, the final decision should be made by their kids themselves.

What kinds of goals are not realistic?

Personally almost any goal is **achievable** as long as **we put our time and effort into** it. However, there are some targets which can be **unrealistic** because there are other factors are involved besides determination or ability. For example, some people may wish to become the president of a country or a famous actor, but their family is religious or they don't have a good appearance. These things mean that **social and personal contexts** should be **given proper thought** before people **set a certain big goal.**

Why do people set goals?

There are a number of reasons why people **make a plan** and **set their target.** The first reason is that we can **feel more motivated on the path to** achieving it. For example, a student are **craving for** scoring Band 8.0 in the IELTS exam and he can **stay up all night revising and reviewing the lessons** to **make a proper preparation.** The chances are that he can further approach his goal and becomes less lazy, you see. The second reason can be we simply want to **test**

our limit, to see how far we can go. To illustrate, people often m**ake New Year resolutions** like giving up smoking the next year. Such a decision is to prove to others that they are being serious and **try their utmost** although it might be **challenging** for them to achieve.

31. Describe a foreigner you know well/ Describe an interesting person who comes from another country

You should say:

- *Who is he/she*
- *where you met him/her*
- *why you like him/her*
- *and explain what you learnt from him/her*

Well, I have **socialized with** lots of foreigners, and **off the top of my head**, I'd like to talk about X, who is my teacher at my Spanish class.

As typical of a foreigner, X is a sociable guy who is quite talkative, so there was no trouble for us to **hit it off** the first time we met. During the lessons, he often lectures about the traditions and customs of Spain where he comes from, and I feel very intrigued and curious during his lessons. Outside the class hours, we often hang out together for some drinks and we have been **on pretty good terms with** each other since the beginning of the first class. Each time we meet, I can practice my Spanish a lot, and he's also so kind that he **points out many pronunciation mistakes** that I make during our casual conversations, which I **feel quite grateful to him** since my pronunciation has **improved tremendously.**

What strikes me about him is that he has quite a **glamorous look**. He's so tall and **well-proportioned**, quite characteristic of a foreigner. I hope our **friendship can be maintained** for as long as we can since I really like his personality.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Are foreigners popular in your country?

Without a shadow of a doubt, streets in our country are **teeming with** foreigners of diverse nationalities. You can **catch sight of** them **strolling on** the streets, gathering at some street vendors to have a snack, or exercising in the parks. I guess the reason behind this is that in our country, we have quite a **mixed array of places of interest**, and foreigners often **flock to these places for sightseeing** purpose or **get to know** more about the culture of our country.

Why people go to foreign countries?

I'd have to say that there are plenty of reasons why people travel to foreign countries. The first obvious one is for sightseeing purpose. As the **domestic tourist spots** are too familiar to them, going on a trip overseas can be a change of atmosphere and gives them more unforgettable moments. They can discover the local culture, try the cuisine and mix with others, which I reckon is **an eye-opening experience** for them. The second motivator is for educational purpose. Many students today **pursue higher education** abroad in prestigious universities simply because they can **attain an internationally recognized degree** and have **promising career prospects** later on in their life.

When people travel to places that are different to where they come from, what effects does this have on these people?

Some countries are broadly similar to your home country. For example, Canada is very similar to America: they **share the same language, continent and general culture.** However, other countries can **differ wildly from** your life back home. The feeling of **discomfort and uneasiness** this provoked is often

called "**culture shock"** which can make people feel scared and want to go home, but after a while most people can get used to it.

What is the importance of experiencing different cultures?
It's **incredibly important** to **experience different cultures.** The world is **a huge melting pot** of different ideas and cultures and we all have something to leant from one another. **Gaining exposure to diverse cultures enriches your life, giving you new insights into** humanity and how people live. It can help us to be **less self-centered** and learn to focus not only on our own communities but people all over the world. If more people experienced different cultures, we'd understand each other a lot more. People may say that **blood is thicker than water and that our family home comes first,** but that's not how I see it.

Do many foreigners work in your nation?
As a matter of fact, besides the number one reason which is travelling, most foreigners come to work, it's normal to see lots of foreigners work in multinational companies as they are **transferred to** their office in another country. From my experience, I also see some foreign couples **settling in the city center** and open their own business selling souvenirs or some may **run their own coffee shops.**

32. Describe an experience you taught somebody something

You should say

- *When and where it happened*
- *Whom you taught*
- *W hat you taught him/ her*

- *And explain how you/ the person fell about it*

I'm quite hopeless when it comes to **offering guidance or instructions to** someone, but **off the top of my head**, there comes a time when I tried my best to help my brother learn some basic guitar tricks.

I have been an **amateur guitar player** since secondary' school and have accumulated quite a great deal of **musical theory and practical experience.** As I heard that my brother had **taken up** the guitar recently and had been having a hard time **figuring out** how to place his fingers on the right chords on the guitar neck. For me, it was **a piece of cake** to play such stuff, but actually it was like **pulling teeth** teaching someone how to do it the right way maybe because I'm quite bad at instructing others.

At first, it was quite challenging since what I explained didn't **make sense to** my brother, but I didn't give up and gave various demonstrations slowly and accurately so that he could **understand the gist of** the problem**.** After a while, **things started to clear up,** and my brother managed to **learn the art of** playing the chords on the guitar neck. I was **quite exhausted** after 2 hours explaining, but it was **really worth my whiles.**

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What other people have you ever taught?

From my personal experience, I'm more likely to teach those who are close friends rather than acquaintances or strangers. If I remember correctly, I have taught my father to use Facebook to **browse notifications** or Skype to chat with his friends. Another occasion is when I taught my mother **to operate a hi-tech camera.**

Can young people teach old people?

Absolutely yes, age barrier shouldn't be a concern as human beings need to

constantly learn to **perfect themselves.** There is **a great deal of stuff** that the youths can **lend a helping hand to** older citizens in **the acquisition of knowledge.** As technology is developing **at a staggering rate,** many elderly citizens seem quite unable to **make use of** electronic devices like smartphones or other household appliances. Given this, the young generation with their **hi-tech savvy** can easily teach the elderly about **the usage of hi-tech equipment** as well as encouraging them to **live with the help of technology,** which can make lives more **comfortable and convenient.**

Why is it difficult to teach old people?

The issue is that elderly people are **slow in their acquisition of knowledge** due to the **aging process that is taking place in their brains.** They've **got a memory like a sieve** which **makes it like pulling teeth** for them to **retain the knowledge learnt.** On top of this, older citizens are quite **inflexible in their thinking** and may refuse to be taught the way the youths do things. As a consequence of this, they can be **at times** some disagreements occurring simply because both the instructor and the learner **don't wish to** cooperate.

What things are difficult to learn?

It depends on an individual, really. For elderly people, stuff related to technology is often over their head simply because they're too old at an age to acquire something completely new and modern. For young people, academic studies seem to be giving them a lot of trouble as the youths today are so lazy and often don't **give a hoot about their future career path.** As a consequence, they often have poor performance and have a hard time **absorbing knowledge** at school.

Showing or telling, which is better?

I guess the answer to this question is showing. It's best to give them several

demonstrations of how something works first, so that they can **gain an overall picture of** the mechanism. Unlike explaining which is often **packed with theory stuff** showing is a better alternative as it **grasps the attention of** others better, and learners will have less of a hard time **understanding the gist of** the problem and fully comprehend.

Do you think most parents are capable of educating their children at home?

I'd be a **bit dubious about this.** To be honest, I think that teachers, as **professional educators** are by far the best people to teach children. **For all their best intentions,** many parents are **not qualified to** teach and may **do a very bad job.**

33. Describe an interesting place that few people know/ Describe an interesting place that few tourists get there

You should say:

- *Where the place is*
- *How you knew its*
- *Why few people know it:*
- *And explain why it is interesting*.

Sample 1

Off the top of my head, a place quite **off the beaten track** but really worth a is a small lake called X, on the outskirts of the city.

As I have mentioned, it's quite far to reach and is almost inaccessible by **coach** or other means of transport. The only way that you can **make it** to the lake is by motorbike, and you have to be prepared to overcome the rough terrain if you want to get there. This is simply because the rural part of the city quite lags

behind and road development might **take dozens of years to complete**, so the **paths are quite muddy and uneven**. After **strenuous rides**, **the prize will be yours to grab.** In front of your eyes appears **a picturesque lake unspoiled and virgin in its state** and I bet you won't stop staring at it in wonder.

The best part about the lake is the **crystal clear water** without being contaminated. You can even **catch sight of** fish swimming in the water or **dragonflies hovering around the lake surface.** There're also many ancient trees surrounding the lake, which **gives plenty of shade to** the travelers. It's the best spot to have a camping trip or picnic with your friends, or simply **throwing your fishing rod** while **contemplating things in life.** It's really **serene and tranquil.**

I hope more people would know this place, and **with that in mind,** the authorities should **make the road more accessible** by providing some constructions or offer some services to move people there in **a speedier manner.**

Sample 2

Waking up to a **daily nine to five job** and dealing with all kinds of **irksome** issues everyday will surely **drive you insane** someday unless having a healthy way to **relieve** stress and boredom. Fortunately, I have my own cure – a retreat to ABC, a mountainous area where I can't see any tourists there– which I have taken **every once in a while** whenever life is giving me a hard time.

ABC is located roughly 200 km to the northeast of my city and about 1,500 m above sea level, which is well-known for its year-round cool weather. Because it is not a popular tourist attraction, it's a favorite place for some locals looking for a **tranquil** place **to get away from** their **tight schedules**. Since it's not very far from the city center, only half an hour if traveling by plane, I go there quite often, around 4 times per year. And every trip holds its own **fascination** depending on what activities I participate in. Normally, I would go trekking

into the wild to **burn up my energy** and enjoy the feeling of sweat soaking my clothes and being physically **exhausted.** It makes me feel alive and **rejuvenated** again. Sometimes when I feel like **pushing myself to the limit**, **extreme sports** such as water sliding or cliff jumping are my favorites. Those kinds of entertainment require good health condition and **adventurous** spirit, hence, they're not for everyone. I usually spend 3 days in ABC everytime I visit it and although it's only a short time, I do feel some of the **burdens** I shoulder are **swept away** and am prepared to face whatever comes next.

Vocabulary

Nine to five job (phrase) a job with normal daytime hours

Irksome (a): annoying or irritating

Drive someone insane/ crazy: to make you upset; to annoy or irritate someone

Every once in a while: sometimes, but not regularly

Remote (a): far away from places where other people live

Tranquil (a): quiet and peaceful

Fascination (n): a very strong attraction, that makes something very interesting

Rejuvenate (v): make (someone or something) look or feel younger, fresher, or more lively

Exhausted (a): very tired

Extreme sports (n): sports that are extremely exciting to do and often dangerous, for example skydiving and bungee jumping

Adventurous (a): (of a person) willing to take risks and try new ideas; enjoying being in new, exciting situations

Burden (n): a duty, responsibility, etc. that causes worry, difficulty or hard work

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why some popular tourist places are free/ do not require tickets to enter?

If you ask me, I'd say that it's an effort of the authorities to popularize the place**.** If there is an entrance fee, not many travelers would **go the extra mile to** pay for that, and the tourist place will **be left on its own,** which can be **a waste of resource.** Also, many **spots** that offer free entrance are often **not equipped with entertainment facilities,** and they are mostly **for sightseeing purposes.**

Why does the government want tourists to visit ancient places?

In my experience, it seems that a**ncient tourist spots** often **symbolize the cultural heritage and national identity** of a nation. If tourists **pay a visit to** these places of interest, they will **gain a deeper insight into the host country 's culture,** helping **raise awareness of global citizens** about the country. From this, they can **appreciate the culture,** the hardship country has **gone through** and foreigners would be more tolerant or admire the country.

Do you think we need to respect the region and culture when you go to other countries?

Yes, I'd suppose. In most of the eases, immigrants or tourists to another country tend to suffer from **culture shock, food adaptability and racial discrimination** and stuff like that. So, it's quite advisable that they **make real efforts to pay decent respect to** the host country's culture when people come to a new land. For example, if you know that beef is banned in Muslim countries and try to avoid including it in your daily diet, you can **save yourself from religious prejudice** and **lead a life** like the natives.

What are the advantages of travelling?=Why do more and more people choose to travel abroad?

Clearly, there are a number of merits brought by travelling. But I would probably say that the thing that really **stands out** that we can **broaden our horizons** of the world. To be more specific, when coming to a new region or a country, we have the chances to **sample the local life**, **enjoy the cuisine** and learn many interesting stuff. Besides, a second positive point could be that we can **let our hair down** after stressful periods of hard work or study. A short visit to somewhere can help us **recharge our batteries** and work more effectively afterwards.

What are the advantages and disadvantages brought by travelling to a country?

To be honest, there are mixed **pros and eons** when it comes to travelling to a different nation. Let me get started from the **bright side**. Firstly, we can **broaden our horizons** of the world. To be more specific, when coming to a new region or a country, we have the chances to sample the local life, enjoy the cuisine and learn many interesting stuff. Besides, a second positive point could he that we can **let our hair down after stressful periods** of hard work or study. A short visit to somewhere can help us **recharge our batteries** and work more effectively afterwards. On the negative side, travelling can cause pollution to the host country. It is not common that many irresponsible tourists freely drop litter or spit on the streets which spoils the landscape and makes the air polluted somehow.

What advice would you give to the foreigners travelling to your country?

Well, for people who wants to make a trip to my country, there are a lot of necessary preparations. First of all, they must get prepared to deal with problems in daily life, which can be hard to be found in their own countries. For example, they are faced with **traffic jam,** particularly during **peak hours**; or **run the risk of** being stolen in public places like buses.

Are there many quiet places in your city?

I reckon there aren't many **tranquil** places in our city unless you wander around the **border** to the countryside. I suppose any **cosmopolitan** city is as crowed and active as mine so it's quite **tricky** to find a **peaceful** spot to escape just for a while. Nevertheless, if you don't mind an hour riding to the edge of the city, you will be **hypnotized** by many endless **paddy fields** and colorful flying kites.

Tranquil (a): peaceful

Border (n): the line that divides two countries or areas; the land near this line

Cosmopolitan (a): containing people of different types or from different countries, and influenced by their culture

Tricky (a): difficult to do or deal with

Hypnotize (v): to interest somebody so much that they can think of nothing else

Paddy field (n): a field planted with rice growing in water

Why do people sometimes prefer to be alone?

I don't think there is a simple explanation for why people sometimes **seek solitude** to enjoy life by themselves. It has happened to me a few times as well when I feel **suffocated** by a **bustle and hustle** of city life. You have to spend two-third of your day being surrounded by all kinds of people and work that you barely have time for yourself and things you love, which is physically and emotionally **detrimental**. Therefore, in order to **balance** their personal lives, people often try to **minimize** contacts with outside world to find their inner peace when possible.

Seek (v): to look for

Solitude (n): the state of being alone, especially when you find this pleasant

Suffocate (v): feel or cause to feel trapped and oppressed

Bustle and hustle: busy and noisy activity

Detrimental (a): harmful
Balance (v): keep or put (something) in a steady position so that it does not fall
Minimize (v): to reduce something, especially something bad, to the lowest possible level

What are some of the advantages of quiet places?
There are many advantages that being in a **tranquil** and **serene** place can give us. The first plus point is that it's easier to concentrate, to think logically and rationally. In a word, it's good for my mind work. Also, quiet places enable people to feel relaxed and **light-hearted** or whatever type of positive feeling human has.

What kinds of places do people want to go to when they want to be alone?
Honestly speaking, **city dwellers** often try to manage a trip to the countryside, where the atmosphere is **tranquil and serene**, away from the **hustle and bustle** of city life. Some others who are **preoccupied with** their work tend to **make an escape** to a **secluded** lake or park where they spend time reading a book or **pursuing other hobbies** like drawing. Also, some people would rather just stay at home, in their room listening to music or doing other trivial stuff.

34. Describe someone who is a good parent/ Describe a good parent you know

You should say:

- *Who the parent is*
- *How you know the parent*
- *What the parent looks like*

- *And explain why you think the parent is good.*

Ok right then, off the top of my head, well the parent I'd like to talk about is the mother of a good friend of mine, and the reason for choosing to talk about her is that my friend is always **going on about** how lucky he is to have such a nice mum. And from what I know about her, I'd say he's absolutely right.
Anyway, as for how I know her, well it's basically due to the fact that I went to the same middle school as her son. And because we became pretty good friends, we **ended up** seeing quite a lot of each other's parents, especially during the holidays when we often went over to each other's homes.
And regarding what his mother looks like, **well interestingly enough,** she actually looks pretty similar to my own mother, because they both have **quite round faces and long wavy hair. Having said that,** I've noticed that my friend's mother often **ties her hair up in a bun** whereas my mother usually always **keeps it down.** And another thing to mention would be that whenever I see her, she always seems to be wearing red clothes, which I guess is probably because red suits her quite well.
But anyway, finally then, with regard to why I think she's a good parent, well I'd say there are quite a few reasons, one of which would be that she's always been **very supportive to her son.** And just to give you an example, when he wondered what major to study at university, he ended up choosing music. And his mother **gave him her full support,** which is probably not what many other parents would have done, as music doesn't really leave open a lot of career choices.
And I think it's fair to say that nowadays, a lot of parents persuade their children to do things which they think are best for them, but my friend has said that his parents have never been like this with him, especially his mother. So I kind of **get the impression** that she's never forced him to do anything **against his will,** and has always **let him make his own decisions**, which I think's really great.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

In a typical family, who plays the leading role?

Well, the stereotype is that the father is the **breadwinne**r! Of the family, the person who makes the decisions and **takes responsibility for** the whole family. This can be understandable because the father tends to occupy high positions in society while the mother tends to be housewife or only gets involved in some [trivial work like cleaning or babysitting. However, this is not really the case in modern society where freedom and equality is being **put a higher emphasis on**. Women are as successful as men and are no longer in charge of the **monotonous household chores** like they were in the past

In your country, what kinds of family members usually live together?

Well, **to the best of my knowledge**, despite the increasing popularity of **nuclear families**, extended ones still exist in our society. Usually both parents and one, two or three kids would **live** together **under the same roof.** In other cases, a grandmother or grandmother joins them to take care of the small kids while the parents are away for work, for example. Other less common situations are many generations reside in the same house, usually a multi-story house. Families like these often consist of an uncle, aunt, and their families and so on. Typically, many problems occur when a great many members are in a similar place

Do young and middle-age people live with old people?

Frankly speaking, unlike in Western countries where it is common to send older grandparents to nursing homes, most people are bound by their duty, which means that they should or, in another sense, have to **pay back** what their parents have given them. As a consequence, the young generations and

middle- aged people tend to share the same house with older people. This can be beneficial since small children can receive special care from their grandparents, obtain invaluable hands-on experience and tend to develop a good code of conduct later on.

What would children do to make their parents proud?

I guess kids can have good performances at school and behave well to their teachers and the elders. Parents usually take a great pride in their kids if their children get a good score at school, or when others tell them that their kids are nice people. As well as this, I deem it a necessity if children help their parents out with mundane tasks ground the house like sweeping the floor, or washing the dishes.

Should teenagers have freedom?

To be honest, they should be **given freedom to a certain extent. At this impressionable age,** most teenagers can **undergo a tough time in their personality growth** and they're **particularly rebellious to** their parents. Given this, parents should allow them to do what really interests them rather than **forcing them to adopt certain behavioural patterns. Having said this**, the role of parents is to **monitor and advise** their children to **be on the right path, intervening** when possible if their child makes mistakes or does something unacceptable.

Do you like to spend time on your own or with your family/friends?

I would love to hang out with my families more. As my parents are always **pied up at work** we can hardly manage time for one another. So, we often try our best to spend time by having a dinner together at some restaurants at the weekend or see a movie together **if time permits.** For me, it's much better to **build a close-knit family and strengthen our bonds.**

What are parents' responsibilities for their children?

Primarily, they are responsible for the **safety and upbringing** of their children. Obviously, it includes a lot of things, such as feeding them, comforting them and looking after them **under any circumstances.** They need to make sure that their children have everything they need and are **well looked after,** have opportunities to learn about things, grow up and develop as **well-mannered** individuals.

What are children's responsibilities for parents when they reach old age?

Generally speaking, it's common for children when they're grown up to take care of their parents, and even grandparents, as best as they can. It's similar in some ways to looking after children, you know like you should make sure they are safe, that they have the important things they need, that they still feel safe and secure wherever they live, either with the family or in a special earing home maybe if they need some special medical care or something like that. In my family, both my grandparents came to live with us in our parents home when they were very old and we all helped look after them - sometimes I used to spend hours just talking to them when I was younger. And it's also important to make sure they still feel valuable and important within the family even though they might be **old and frail,** they need to know that they are still loved and important as people.

What's the influence of parents on their children?

At first, parents' behaviors **influence their children greatly.** If parents are polite, generous and kind, their children tend to be like this. Besides, parents have influence on their children in **making some great decisions**. I think good parents should help their children **make better decisions** and **offer them useful guidance.** What's more, **parents' attitudes to work,**

marriage and life can also influence their children. The children may **lose confidence in love and marriage** if their parents often quarrel.

35. Describe an advertisement you recently saw or heard/ Describe something you bought because you saw or heard an advertisement/ Describe an advertisement that made you want to buy the product.

You should say:

- *When and where you saw it*
- *What was advertised*
- *What the contents of the advertisements were*
- *And explain how you felt about it.*

I watched an interesting advertisement online a few months ago, and I think it was very unique compared to the advertisements I have seen before. It was an advertisement about coca cola.

It is about a small boy who comes to a vending machine where he wants to buy a cold drink. First, he **puts a few coins into the slot and presses the button.** The machine spits out a Pepsi. However, he doesn't take the drink and walk away. But instead, he puts the Pepsi on the ground, stands on it and **reaches out his chubby hand** for another button. It is then when the audiences realize that the boy is actually trying to buy Coca-cola.

This advertisement is so memorable to me because it not only **ridicules its rival** but also takes its audience totally different way without **fancy visual effect,** big celebrities, or anything of **the like**, but just **plain creative imagination.** In terms of its effectiveness, I can't say much about general audiences. But it was quite effective for most of my friends and, of course,

myself. Not only so, but also it is a **work of art.**

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do vou think advertisements on TV should be banned?

No, they shouldn't. Although it's true that many viewers are **fed up with the repeated appearance of some commercials** in the **interval** of their favorite programs, it is not to say we should **put a ban on advertisements.** This is simply because the advertising companies usually sponsor the fees of broadcasting a certain program, which gives people the chance to watch them **free of charge**. Moreover, advertising helps us to **take a short rest** before we continue to enjoy the show, which **eases eye strains** and gives us some time to go to the toilet or eat something to gain some energy.

W hat are the various places where we see advertisements?

We can see advertisements everywhere. They are **printed on newspapers and magazines, painted on the walls of various buildings** and on the buses running around the city, broadcast on TVs and radios. Moreover, they are sent to us through our cellphones and **we are exposed to advertisements** when we surf on the internet.

What kinds of advertisements you like the most?

I like advertisements of publicizing kinds of activities**,** such as concerts given by singers, promotion of a well-known brands with a celebrity coming to the opening ceremony, or charity programs. I appreciate the opportunities to see in person my favourite musicians and actors coming to take part in the activities.

Do advertisements ever influence your choice about what to buy?

Yes, they do, to some extent. There are times when I waste money on things I don't need on sales, which I know from advertisements. Advertisements,

however, offer me information of various brands of what I need. I tend to buy things advertised most, though I know I **am ripped off** at the expense of advertising is added to the cost of goods.

Do you like advertisements on TV?

No. I don't particularly like that. I am tired of wasting my time on advertisements broadcasted before or during the program I want to see. That's why I prefer to watch programs on the internet, where the amount of advertising is less.

What's the most frequently used method of advertising?

Well nowadays I'd say it's probably online advertising, because people are spending so much time on the Internet. And companies have basically latched on to this fact, because almost every website you go on now has advertising of some sort on it.

Which do you think is the most effective means of advertising?

Well I'm not a expert, but I suppose it kind of depends on the product you're trying to sell. So for example, if it's a **mass-market product** like shampoo, then I guess TV advertising would be the most effective, as it **reaches the widest audience** and also uses moving images and sounds, unlike newspaper ads, which just use **still images**. But if, on the other hand, it's a **niche product** which only has a very small target customer group, then I'd say you're better off using a more focused means of advertising, for example putting ads on websites which are related to that particular product or service. Because that way, the ad will only be viewed by people who might actually be interested in it, and it will also be a lot more **cost-effective** than using other ways to advertise.

What kinds of products do you think are most suitable to be advertised?

That’s a difficult question, and I’ve never really thought about it before, but I guess it would be those which are new on the market. Because if you think about it, those are the products which people don’t really know about, and if they don’t know about them, then chances are they're not gonna buy them. So yeah I think it's logical that these are the products which are most in need of advertising.

Do you think there should be some controls or restrictions placed on the advertising industry?

Yeah, I think it's fair to say that there should be, because otherwise, you know, there would be no limit to the amount of advertising we’re subject to. For example, if there were no **restrictions on** where adverts could be placed, then I think everywhere would just **get filled up with** them, which might not be so bad in a city, but in countryside areas it would really spoil the natural scenery.

What effects can advertisements have on young children?

Well, I guess they can have both positive and negative effects on children. For example, looking on the positive side, I think it's possible that some adverts can help give children a better understanding of the things they see and use in their daily life. But I would say it's more often the case that adverts can have a negative effect, firstly because a lot of the things which are advertised aren't suitable for young children, such as alcoholic drinks for example. And secondly, a lot of advertising which targets young children is for things like sweets and chocolate biscuits, which aren’t all that good for kids, but seeing such advertisements will make them pester their parents to buy these things for them, which I know because this is exactly what I did when I was younger.

36. Describe a good decision made recently by you or someone you know

You should say:

- *Who made the decision*
- *Why made the decision,*
- *What happened later*
- *And explain why it is a good decision.*

People need to make various decisions in their daily life, and off the top of my head, one of the wise decisions that one of my buddies made is to abandon university education and **pursue vocational training** instead.
He had been talking over this matter with his folks and asked for consultations from many friends before reaching his final decision. I'd put it down to the fact that nowadays thousands of fresh graduates from **prestigious universities** are ready to get into job market annually, and the **demand for labor force** in some areas such as business, banking or finance is quite **saturated.** This may have **triggered him to** follow his own path of becoming a mechanic.
This **turned out to be a wise choice** for a career. At first he did **have a hard time** finding customers for his business, but he **put out his best efforts** to work. After a while, he earned enough to open his own business **mending cars and other machines.** I'd have to say that his services **sell like hot cakes** recently after he has **attained a certain degree of trust** from his customers. It must have been **a tough and risky decision** to make, but he did make it. I reckon he **deserves the credit** and **sets an prime example** that it's not always wise to **follow others in their footsteps.**

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What skills are necessary when making decisions?
Well, there are quite a few skills we should master when making a decision. The first one is that we should h**ave a clear vision of** what the future is like once a decision is reached. To be precise, we must **weigh the pros and cons** as well as **the worst-case scenarios** of each option. Secondly, it is

recommended that **judging our own ability correctly** is another skill which is usually ignored. We should be aware of our **strengths and weaknesses** before deciding whether **to take risks**.

How do you think computers will change the way people make decisions?

It is undoubted that computers **have a big role to play in altering people's minds** in the **decision-making process.** In the past, people often rely on themselves or family members for advice when they are **faced with** some **predicaments** of life. However, with the **advancement of technology,** and the computer **in particular,** we can access a **huge source of online information,** hear different reviews or seek professional advice easily. This definitely gives us a clearer picture of the **pros and cons** to weigh before we reach our final decision.

Do you think that parents should make important decisions for their children?

It's true that parents have previous experience and they often impose their viewpoints on their kids and sometimes urge them to follow their advice. However, the final decision should lie in the children themselves. This is simply because they are the ones who will take responsibility for their actions. So, a father's or mother's role here is to inform the young of the consequences they have to bear if a certain decision is made.

37. Describe a time you were glad that you had your mobile phone/ Describe a pleasant experience with your mobile phone/ Describe a time you bring a cell phone to make you happy

You should say:

- *When and where it happened*
- *Why you needed to bring the cell phone*
- *What you did*
- *And explain how you felt about it.*

Smartphones are **all the rage** nowadays, and they won't let you down with all their functions and features. Off the top of my head, there comes a time my Iphone did give me an extremely pleasant experience. It was when I was **up to ears in** revising and reviewing for my finals, and I happened to receive a facetime call from my classmate, which was a great chance to **let my hair down** a bit.

With the modern functions of the smartphone, it was possible for me to see my friend's face while **exchanging casual gossip**. During our talk, the mobile phone allowed us to attach some funny and cute stickers like I can become a cat, a dog or a ghost by simply clicking on the icons provided by the **app pre-installed** on the phone. We did **burst into profuse laughter** every time we ourselves transformed into a different person with **diverse facial expressions.**

Previously it was unimaginable that people could meet one another on the phone **just exactly like** in real life. I **was thrilled** because I really **appreciated the many good things** that my mobile phone brought me. Although the Iphone **cost me an arm and a leg,** it is **really worth the price, it does wonders to me** and I have to admit that it is the thing that I can't live without.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

When do you need mobile phone most?

From my personal experience, when people **go to an unfamiliar place** and

can't navigate the way out of trouble, a mobile phone **often comes into use. l recall vividly as if it were yesterday** the time when I left my cell phone at home during my **backpacking trip.** Unfortunately I got lost and couldn't **get into contact with** my family back home. What I'm trying to say is that **your life can even be put in danger** without a phone in your pocket.

What are the differences between young and old people who use mobile phones?

There is **a world of differences** in the ways two generations **make use of** their phones. As for elderly people, they would rather go for phones with simple designs and use it to communicate with their peers most of the times. **By stark contrast**, the youths are **hooked on** the latest models of smarphones with various functions besides communication like surfing the net, playing games. All this means that you often catch sight of some teenagers **gluing their eyes on** the smartphone screen reading some witty comments on facebook or chatting with their buddies via messenger applications.

Do you prefer face-to-face conversations or conversations by phone?

I prefer face-to-face conversations because I think it's more personal when I talk in this way. Nowadays, the telephone is getting more and more popular. Sometimes, people would spend hours on their phones but neglect the people who live with them. I think it's not a good phenomenon. We should treasure face-to-face talking opportunities and spend more time with our family members.

Would you say that cell phones are important in today's society?

Yeah, definitely. Now a lot of people will feel that they can't live without cell phones. People use cell phones as the way of communication and entertainment. Many people give up wearing watches because their cell phones can tell them the time. I think it may not be good for people to be dependent on

cell phones too much because a lot of our time is killed by them without us being conscious of the fact.

Do you think cell phones ever cause problems for people?

Yes, of course. Some children bring cell phones to school and it really distracts them from studies. Now I know a lot of schools have strict rules to forbid students to bring cell phones to school. We also know the radiation problems of cell phone. Although we don't know exactly how serious it might be, it still makes us feel uncomfortable if we're on the phone for a long time.

What's the disadvantage of communicating through the phone?

There're some disadvantages of talking on the phone. When we use the phone, we usually can't see each other's facial expressions, so we might have misunderstandings in phone conversations. Also, cell phones have radiation problems and it's not good for our health if we talk on the phone for a very long time. One more thing is that when we talk on the phone, we're not actually facing other people, so if there are other distractions, we might be distracted easily compared to face to face conversations.

What're the advantages and disadvantages of the cell phone?

The cell phone is one of the biggest inventions in this modern world. Because of the cell phone, we can communicate with others when we don't have the opportunities to talk to them face to face. We can chat with friends and family members who live far away from us and when we have emergencies, we can always press the buttons to call for help. However, there're also some disadvantages. As we all know, radiation problem of the cell phone is serious. Also, when we use cell phones, we literally don't have any privacy because people can find us no matter where we are.

38. Describe an interesting talk or speech you heard recently

You should say

- *Where you heard it*
- *Who the speaker was*
- *What the talk or speech was about*
- *Why you think it was interesting*

Sample 1

Well, to be honest, there aren't really that many speeches I've heard which I can remember in much detail, you know, I tend to forget most talks pretty much as soon as I've finished listening to them! But one talk that did **leave a particularly deep impression on** me was by X, who I'm not sure if you've heard of before, but he's one of the most accomplished and respected people here in my country, which is why I **made the effort** to listen to what he had to say.

But anyway, **as for** what his speech was about, well it was **quite a while** ago when I listened to it, so I can only remember bits of it, but **in a nutshell**, it was basically about success and how we can **go about** achieving it. And so in his speech, he outlined a few things that we can do if we want to **lead a successful and fulfilling life**, which most of us do of course. So for example, one thing he **touched upon** was how we should all **follow our dreams**, instead of simply doing what other people expect of us. And listening to this from X himself really made me believe in the truth of that statement because he's speaking from experience. And he also went on to explain that many other successful people also attribute their success to the fact that they **pursued their dreams**.

But anyway, finally, **with regard to** what I thought of the talk, well to put it simply, I thought it was really informative and so I was able to learn a

tremendous amount from it, such as, you know, how to **succeed in** what we do, and also what values we should live our lives by.

Another thing that made his talk especially interesting was the fact that he used a lot of stories. So I mean, even though his talk went on for over an hour or so, I didn't feel bored at all listening to it, and in fact I even made a mental note that, if l ever have to do any public speaking myself in the future, I'll also try to include a few stories, like X did.

- **Vocabulary**

Leave/make/create an impression on somebody (collocation) to provide a lasting memory for someone after one has left.

As for (phrase) considering or speaking about

Quite a while (phrase) a long time

In a nutshell (phrase) very briefly

Go about (phrasal verb) to do something

Touch upon (phrasal verb) to mention something when you are talking or writing

Pursue (verb) to try to achieve something

With regard to (phrase) concerning a particular subject

Tremendous (adj) extremely great, important, or strong

Sample 2

Uhm, this is my favorite topic. When I was a student, I wasn't very interested in any speech or talks. However, since I started my job as a teacher, I have enjoyed these talks a lot. I did hear a talk from a **lecturer** who comes from ERC University. He is a TESOL teacher, so the way he gave the talk really **impressed** me. Sitting in a big hall and listening to a talk actually isn't a boring thing. The lecture **presented** different **methodology** in teaching English for high school students. Then, the talk visualized a variety of games to **motivate** students' interests, such as snakes, battleships or puzzles. I have to **admit** that they are very **creative** and funny. Moreover, I did learn a lot from this talk, especially the games since I've never thought that games are really **effective** in

class but they **proved** me wrong. The students like them a lot, which makes me believe in those new teaching methods. I think I will listen to these talks more when I have time.

Vocabulary

- **lecturer** [n] someone who teaches at a college or university
- **impress** [v] to cause someone to admire or respect you because of something that you have done or said
- **admit** [v] to agree that something is true, especially unwillingly
- **present** [v] to give, provide or make known
- **methodology** [n] a system of ways of doing, teaching or studying something
- **motivate** [v] to make someone want to do something well
- **creative** [a] producing or using original and unusual ideas
- **effective** [a] successful or achieving the results that you want
- **prove** [v] to show that something is true

QUESTION PART 3

38.1. Why do people feel nervous when they are giving a speech to others?

Public speaking has always been one of the **utmost** challenges for anyone, especially those lacking practices. Like any interpersonal skills, being able to deliver a thorough, yet **captivating** speech to a group of strangers requires certain factors. Reasons why most people fail, for me, fall into two main categories: the fear of audience's reaction and the topic itself. People are **judgmental** creatures and can **cast aspersions on** almost everything; therefore, presenters may suffer from the pressure of perfecting every detail. In addition, if someone is going to talk about topic that is unfamiliar to him or too **sophisticated** for listeners, it is possibly not as **well-received** as the one he knows more about.

Utmost (a): greatest; most extreme

Captivating (a): taking all your attention; very attractive and interesting

Judgmental (a): judging people and criticizing them too quickly

Cast aspersions on: to criticize someone or someone's character

Sophisticated (a): complicated

Well-received (a): getting a good reaction from people

38.2. How can people improve their public speaking skills?

Thanks to the Internet, information is now **disseminated** worldwide and easily **accessible** that you can get help from anyone about anything, including public speaking. There are several means to **acquire** and **harness** such skill as long as people are willing to such as enrolling in an online course or participating in forum where people with the same goal gather and share their experience. This is quite effective, flexible and most importantly, free of charge. If you want something more official and academic, talk to some experts in public speaking at some conferences or workshops. They will provide you more insights and tips to begin. Last but not least, **practice makes perfect**.

Disseminate (v): to spread information, knowledge, etc. so that it reaches many people

Accessible (a): that can be reached, entered, used, seen, etc.

Acquire (v): to gain something by your own efforts, ability or behaviour

Harness (v): to control and use the force or strength of something to produce power or to achieve something

Practice makes perfect: a way of encouraging people by telling them that if you do an activity regularly and try to improve your skill, you will become very good at it

38.3. Can you suggest any methods that would help reduce nervousness?

Each of us will surely experience at least once in our lifetime the feeling of anxiety. It can be before our job interview or big presentation, when meeting your family-in-law for the first time and so on. **Nervousness** could be a good sign since it shows that we care. However, to better perform at such **life-changing** events, you should control your feelings. Firstly, take a deep breath. You can't be at your best without breathing easily. Second, don't try convince

yourself that you're not anxious. Accept it just like any other feelings then you don't have to keep reminding yourself to ignore it. Lastly, use positive self-talk. Encourage yourself and remember that you are in this place for a reason.

Nervousness (n): the feeling of being anxious about something or afraid of something

Life-changing (a): having an effect that is strong enough to change someone's life

38.4. Is it good for people to visit schools and give a talk to children about different things?

As far as I'm concerned, it would be a **valuable** experience for children to hear real-life stories and personal insights from their **predecessors** who have been through **ups and downs** for useful lessons and advice. Nowadays, many schools have already invited some guests that could be their **alumni** or **influential** local figures to talk to students. A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark. Therefore, the sooner we sow a good seed and inspire them, the better they will grow.

Valuable (a): very useful or important

Predecessor (n): a person who did a job before somebody else

Ups and downs: the mixture of good and bad things in life or in a particular situation or relationship

Alumni (n): the former male and female students of a school, college or university

Influential (a) having a lot of influence on somebody/something

38.5. What type of person is best suited to give a talk to a group of students?

Well, I see no special talents are needed to be able to deliver a highly **motivating** and **inspiring** speech to students as long as their experiences and messages are **relevant** and meaningful. Hence, people who could **grab students' attention** and make them question their goals and purposes are those leading an eventful life. And by this, I mean someone who has related

experiences and been through ups and downs during his career to reach success. This is because I believe that if one has never tasted failures and disappointments, he can't realize his inner strength to overcome **setbacks** and truly appreciate his success, which is what students should think about when they're still in school.

Motivate (v): to be the reason why somebody does something or behaves in a particular way

Inspiring (a): exciting and encouraging you to do or feel something

Relevant (a): having ideas that are valuable and useful to people in their lives and work

Setback (n): a difficulty or problem that delays or prevents something, or makes a situation worse

Grab someone's attention: to draw or attract someone's attention

38.6. When you give your speech, you encounter any problems? Do you think some adults feel tension when they are giving a speech?

If you ask me, I would have to say that I often **come up against** some obstacles when preparing my speech as well as when the speech is in progress of being delivered to others. In the process of preparation, I often have a hard time picking the topic that is relevant and can capture the interest of the audience. If you don't, they might get fed up with the speech and you end up conveying no messages at all to others. As for while I'm giving a talk, I usually stammer and feel **at a loss** for words at times, which is a weakness that I'm trying to **get over**.

38.7. What are the benefits of public speaking?

When a person successfully **delivers a good speech**, it gives a **sense of self-worthiness**. A positive response from the audience an help a person feel more confident. Thus, it can bring about a lot of improvement in one's overall personality. Last but not least, the art of public speaking improves relationships. Once a person develops good public speaking skills, a marked improvement can be seen in his interpersonal skills **which in turn**, will help him **maintain a**

healthy relationship with his friends and family. Even in one's professional life, an effective interaction with one's [boss, clients or subordinates can help a person Enhance the possibility of advancement in his chosen profession.

38.8. Do you think college or high school should ask some celebrities to communicate with the students?

If you ask me, I would frankly say that there should be times when public figures are invited to speak in front of students in the schools. What I'm trying to say is that via their **inspirational speeches**, the youths can **change their frame of mind** for the simple reason that they are pretty impressionable by their idols. I recall a time when Mr.X, a celebrated top figure in my country, volunteered to **give a brief lecture** at my university. Hundreds of students **turned out** to see him and moved by the stories that he shared.

39. Describe a big company you are interested in

In the vicinity of where I'm living, there are **a whole lot of large-sized companies**, both **private-owned or state-owned** ones, buy the only one that **popped into my mind** now is the enterprise called X.

The company's premises are **within walking distance from** my house, so I pass it by pretty frequently when **I pay a visit to** my uncle every Sunday. **When it comes to** its activities, the company **manufactures garment for export** so it employs thousands of workers in the neighborhood. Anything **ranging from** cloth, underwear or jackets is the **main product lines** of the company.

What strikes me is when I was told that my uncle had been working there for some years before his retirement. So, he is quite knowledgeable about it and always **takes great pride in** his time working there. "The work environment is **second to none**, every month I do get some free underwear", he **said**

jokingly. And the final interesting point is I am planning to apply for some positions in that company next year.

QUESTION PART 3

39.1. What are the differences between big companies and small companies?

There are many noteworthy things to notice between large and small companies. First thing first, the scale and structure can be considerably distinct. While large corporates operate with various departments and hundreds of employees, small companies don't have that scale and **hierarchy**, which can be seen clearly in startups' structure. In startups and small companies, one person can take on various positions and their work arrangements can be fairly flexible. For instance, you can be a founder as well as finance director and sometimes when the company is running low on **manpower**, you can also jump in to help with designing.

Hierarchy (noun) a series of things arranged according to their importance

Manpower (noun) all the people who are available to do a particular job or to work in a particular place

39.2. Are there many big companies in your country?

Absolutely. Some of them are **state-owned**, some are incorporated between the state and foreign companies, and others are multinational companies. These corporates are doing business in various sectors including FMCG, real estates, and electronics **and so on**. Prominent brands that are widely known to customers and users are Unilever, P&G, Sam Sung and many more.

State-owned (adj) belonging to, funded by, and controlled by the government.

And so on (phrase) etc; continuing in the same way

39.3. What are the good things about working for a big company?

One of the biggest advantages when working for those **recognized brand names** is if you apply for another job at a different company, it will probably a

plus point when a big name is written on your employee record. Recruiters would regard you with certain interest and respect if you've already proven your ability at some **high-profile** corporate. Furthermore, high reputation comes with high demand in employees as well as **reputable** training processes. Therefore, once you are an employee, there will be so much things to learn and many opportunities to develop yourself, both professionally and personally.

High profile (noun) a position attracting much attention and publicity

Reputable (noun) generally considered to be honest and reliable

39.4. How can a small company grow big?

I guess it would have to go through various stages as any big corporate does before reaching that level. There are many ways to **scale up** a company and depending on what industries of the business, people prefer different **tactics**. Traditionally, it could be a **merger and acquisition** in which a company can expand their scale, and market shares. Today, a small company could **go public** on stock markets to sell it shares. Take many startups for instance. This digital era can be seen as a breeding ground for startups to **proliferate**, especially in technology and innovation. The usual road many startups take to grow bigger is to attract investors via many funding rounds or attending **pitch competition** to get money and reputation. Then, after they reach a certain level, they are ready to exit, which is where entrepreneurs become rich when startups going public or being **acquired** by some big company.

Scale up (phrasal verb) to make something larger in size, amount etc than it used to be

Tactic (noun) A plan or action for achieving a goal; a maneuver

Go public (phrase) the act or process of a company selling stock in itself when it moves from private ownership to public trade.

Proliferate (verb) to increase or spread at a rapid rate

Merger and acquisition (phrase) the buying, selling, dividing and combining of different companies and similar entities that can help an enterprise grow rapidly in its sector or location of origin

Pitch competition (phrase) seminars created for entrepreneurs with new business ideas who are in need of seed money

39.5. Should big companies donate more to charities?

Undoubtedly. As a part of **corporate social responsibilities**, **profitable** companies should be encouraged to **contribute** more to social development as well as human well-beings. Such activities not only greatly benefit the community but also **enhance** the company's image and values. Some common ways to join hands in **charitable** acts that big companies can consider are sponsoring for several events about social and environmental issues, raising awareness of gender equality or the importance of education and so on. Additionally, these **humanitarian aids** might also help bonding employees through meaningful charity trips.

Corporate social responsibilities (phrase) the belief that a company should consider the social and environmental effects of its activities on its employees and the community around it

39.6. Should big companies be punished more seriously if they break the law?

Since large corporates have larger budgets and a whole legal department, they should know better than **contravening** the law. As a result, should any **illegitimate** act be conducted, such companies need to receive strict punishments, either financially or with business-related fines. There might be possibilities that employees of these companies will be badly affected by the fines imposed, therefore, it's worth carrying out in-depth investigations to **hold the right people accountable for** the **misconducts.**

Contravene (verb) to do something that is not allowed by a rule, law, or agreement

Illegitimate (adj) not allowed by the rules or laws; illegal

40. Describe a kind of weather you like

- *What kind of weather it is*
- *What you usually do during this weather*
- *How this weather affects your mood*
- *Why you like this type of weather*

Sample 1

My favorite pattern of weather is a warm day full of sunlight, which is **typical of** the summer, and I can't wait till it starts. Yes, it sometimes gets **scorching hot and sultry**. But I don't care. At least I don't have to fight with **bulky overcoats** or **down jackets**.

Summery days mean blue sky, gentle **breeze**, white beaches, and green trees. I love the warmth, the plenty of sunshine it brings and the sun tanned people. On those days, girls wear cute skirts and lovely **sun bonnets.** All the beautiful colors **go around**, **capturing our attention** and being so **eye-pleasing**. And you can **feel the longing** to go outdoors and experience an adventure.

It is the ice cream time as well as of a variety of fruits, such as peaches, strawberries and watermelons. I love those after going swimming or hiking. Plus, it is also a time of great relaxation. You'll always **marvel at** how much fun and entertainment can be **squeezed into** sunny days. There is the time of rest, swimming, surfing, picnics, fishing and boating. There is always something going on and there are always people enjoying nature. I love this type of weather because it is linked to most of my best memories and it never fails to **trigger my passion** in life.

Vocabulary

Typical of (phrase) like most people or things of the same type

Schorching hot (phrase) extremely hot

Sultry (adj) sultry weather is unpleasant because the air is hot and slightly wet

Bulky (adj) big and thick

Overcoat (noun) a long warm coat that you wear in cold weather

Down jacket (noun) a warm jacket filled with the soft feathers of a duck or a goose

Breeze (adj) a light wind

Sun bonnet (noun) a cotton hat for babies that protects the baby's head and face from the sun

Eye-pleasing (adj) pleasing to the eye (visually)

Longing (noun) a strong feeling of wanting someone or something

Marvel at (verb) to show or feel surprise or admiration

Squeeze in/into (phrasal verb) to be able to do something, even though you do not have much time

Trigger (verb) to cause someone to have a particular feeling or memory

Sample 2

Oh, this is also my favorite topic, too. Well, I enjoy cold weather which is always such a rare event in my city, you know since our city is near the **equator**, so it's hot and **humid** during a year. Therefore, I always **look forward to** December when the weather is cool and a little bit cold with wind. It's my time; then during this weather, I usually prefer lying on the bench in my garden, watching the sky and **sipping** my hot coffee with **joy** and pleasure. As I can do what I can't in the dry season, so I'm always like **on cloud nine** whenever this cold comes. I enjoy doing all the things under this kind of weather, especially with my mother, such as planting the trees, looking at the sky and going out without having to wear any jackets. I think I never **get bored with** the cold weather due to the fact that it's very comfortable to work and study. Besides, when this type of weather **turns up**, it means that an interesting **series** of holidays may **come around** soon like Christmas and New Year, which are the time for family and for you.

Vocabulary

- **equator** [n] an imaginary line drawn around the middle of the Earth an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole

- **humid** [a] (of air and weather conditions) containing extremely small drops of water in the air
- look forward to [phrasal verb] to feel pleased and excited about something that is going to happen
- **sip** [v] to drink, taking only a very small amount at a time
- **on cloud nine** [idiom] to be extremely happy and excited
- **be/get bored with** [phrase] feel tired and unhappy because something is not interesting or because you have nothing to do
- **turn up** (somewhere) [phrasal verb] to arrive or appear somewhere, usually unexpectedly or in a way that was not planned
- **series** [n] a number of similar or related events or things, one following another
- **come around** [phrasal verb] If an event that happens regularly comes round/around, it happens at its usual time

SPEAKING PART 3

40.1. What's the difference between 'season' and 'weather'?

Well the difference is basically that seasons are a time of the year, whereas weather refers **to atmospheric conditions** such as wind, rain, snow and sun. So it's a pretty big difference.

40.2. In general, do you think people prefer to live in very hot places or very cold places?

That's a good question, and I'm not all that sure, but I suppose most people probably prefer to live in very hot places, because for example, if you compare the number of people living in the far north of the country, where it gets extremely cold, to the southernmost part of the country, where it gets **blazing hot**, a lot more people live down south, at least **as far as I know** anyway. So I think this **kind of** shows that most people would rather choose a very hot place to live in **as opposed to** a cold place.

Blazing hot (phrase) very hot

Kind of (informal) rather, to some extent (often expressing vagueness or used as a meaningless filter)

As opposed to (phrase) in comparison with; instead of

40.3. In the future, what do you think will be some of the effects of global warming?

Well, from what I've seen and read, I think one of the likely effects will be a rise in sea-levels, due to **the melting of the polar ice caps**. Although I have no idea of how much they will actually rise - hopefully not a lot! So that's one thing, and as well as this, I think what will also happen is that more rivers and lakes will dry up as a result of global warming, and this has already started happening in many parts of the world. So unfortunately, it looks like the effects will all be pretty adverse.

40.4. What do people do on rainy days and sunny days?

Actually it depends greatly on people's interests. However, generally speaking, people would choose to stay at home and enjoy a good movie if it's **raining cats and dogs** outside. **On the contrary**, they tend to ask their friends and organize a small camping trip or go out and participate in some outdoor activities if there is plenty of sunshine out there.

Rain cats and dogs (idiom) rain heavily

On the contrary (phrase) used for emphasizing that something is true, even though it is the opposite of something that has been said

40.5. Has climate change affected your country?

Yes, it has. Recently people have been going though **erratic weather patterns** over the last few decades. There are **infrequent heatwaves** and **unpredictable floods,** which have caused a great deal of damage to people in the central areas of the country. Besides, **global warming** is **having a detrimental influence on** my country as well. The temperature is getting higher thus decreasing the **quality of lives** of many people, especially those living in the South as it's sometimes **scorching hot** that all people want to do is to stay home and **turn on the air- conditioner.**

Erratic (adj) not even or regular, unpredictable
Cause/Do damage to something (phrase) have a detrimental effect on
Scorching hot (phrase) very hot

41. Describe a situation when you had to be polite

You should say:
What it was
What did you do to be polite?
Why did you have to be polite?
And explain how you felt about it afterwards

(What it was)
I'd like to tell a story of my first interview. It was for a **white-collar** job in an entertainment company. Since it was a formal interview, you know, I prepared carefully and tried to be as professional and polite as I could.
(Why did you have to be polite?)
Obviously, a job interview always **turns out** to be a serious event, despite the efforts of the interviewers to make it more comfortable. Hence, keeping a respectful attitude and behaving politely are important. Aside from that, the company I applied for was pretty **renowned** in the entertainment industry, so it just made more sense for me to be as courteous as possible. I mean, the chances of **being shortlisted** would definitely be higher if I could show my polite attitude, apart from my experience and all sorts of other stuff.
(What did you do to be polite?)
Because it was my first experience of having an interview, I felt so anxious that I couldn't actually sleep the previous night. I didn't want **to squander my chance.** I ended up oversleeping the next day, but thank God I still arrived on time for the interview. As it was a formal occasion, I put on a white blouse, a black miniskirt, and high heels, like a typical office woman. Despite my fears,

the interview ran smoothly. The interviewers were so nice and friendly. They showed no rudeness or arrogance and responded to my greetings in a gentle way. They even **made small talk** at first, probably to help relieve my nervousness. As a result, I got calmer and answered all the questions confidently. I couldn't **have a completely laid-back attitude,** and I had **to be wary of being** too **familiar.** Still, as the atmosphere got more pleasant, I managed to stop worrying about using formal words and expressions, all that stuff, and focused more on speaking my mind.

(Explain how you felt about it afterwards)

It was a relief when the interview ended. A week later, I received an acceptance email from the company and was placed on a **probation** period. I was extremely happy and I felt like **I** was **floating on air** for the rest of the day. That's my experience of being extremely polite on a particular occasion.

Vocabulary

white-collar

Meaning: working in an office, not a factory

Example: The insurance company is advertising some **white collar** jobs, if you want to apply.

to squander a chance

Meaning: to waste an opportunity, by not taking advantage of it

Example: He **squandered a chance** to go to university by failing to study for his entrance exam.

to make small talk/to exchange pleasantries

Meaning: to talk in a polite way about unimportant matters such as the weather

Example: I enjoy a serious discussion and I don't like **to make small talk** or exchange pleasantries with others simply in order to be polite.

to have a laid-back attitude

Meaning: relaxed, not worrying about anything

Example: Our teacher **had a laid-back attitude** in the classroom, but she was always well- prepared and committed to her students.

to be wary of

Meaning: not completely trusting or certain about something

Example: Consumers must always **be wary of** the claims made in advertisements, because such claims are often untrue.

(to) turn out

Meaning: to be discovered to be; to prove to be

Example: The job **turned out** to be harder than we thought.

renowned

Meaning: famous

Example: That restaurant is **renowned** for its Southwestern-style food.

familiar

Meaning: very informal, in a way that is not appropriate

Example: Our tutor is strict, and students are not allowed to talk to him in a **familiar** way.

probation

Meaning: a time of training and testing when you start a new job to see if you are suitable for the work

Example: I'm on a period of **probation** and just receive 80% of the regular wage.

(to) float on air

Meaning: to feel very happy

Example: On their wedding day, most couples feel like they **are floating on air.**

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

41.1. Are people more polite with non-family members than they are with their parents?

I cannot tell for sure but that's usually the case, especially with some of the youngsters nowadays, they even show more respect to others than their own parents, which seems like an act of **hypocrisy** to me. Fortunately, those are just minority in the society full of **decent** people. Sometimes, you may have a feeling that people behave to strangers in more polite manners than their own people, which can be because they don't want to be **misunderstood** or **cast judgment on** easily if they act carelessly during their short interaction.

Hypocrisy (n): behaviour in which somebody pretends to have moral standards or opinions that they do not actually have

Decent (a): honest and fair; treating people with respect

Misunderstand (v): to fail to understand somebody/something correctly

Cast judgment on: to judge

41.2. Are people today as polite as people were in the past?

Compared to the old times, I believe our **ancestors** were far more **considerate** in terms of social **etiquettes** and customs. Although we still have our set of rules and taboos about how to interact and behave in proper manners, the sophistication of such behaviors has been **drastically simplified**. For instance, in the past, when greeting someone, particularly the other gender, people used to bend their knees and bow their heads, which has been replaced by a friendly handshake or swift greeting kisses on both cheeks in modern culture.

Ancestor (n): a person related to you who lived a long time ago

Considerate (a): always thinking of other people's wishes and feelings; careful not to hurt or upset others

Sophistication (n): the quality of being sophisticated; complication

Drastically (adv): in an extreme way that has a sudden, serious or violent effect on something

Simplify (v): to make something easier to do or understand

41.3. Why is it important to show respect to others?

Being acknowledged and respected is one of the most basic needs of **human nature**. People want to feel that they matter and so do their opinions, which is why to build and maintain a healthy relationship, you have to show them respect. Respect can be understood simply as politeness. Acknowledge their presence by saying “hello”, express your **gratitude** by saying “thank you” are some of the smallest deeds anybody can do to **communicate** their **appreciation**.

Human nature (n): the general psychological characteristics, feelings, and behavioral traits of humankind, regarded as shared by all humans.

Gratitude (n): the feeling of being grateful and wanting to express your thanks

Communicate (v): to make your ideas, feelings, thoughts, etc. known to other people so that they understand them

Appreciation (n): the feeling of being grateful for something

41.4. How do people show politeness in your country?

Just like other parts of the world, we practice some standard manners to show **courtesy.** When first **encounter** someone, we do proper introduction as well as handshake to catch each other’s name and go on with our conversation. During our exchange, we try to maintain **eye-contact** and **pay undivided attention to** the other person to let them now they’re being heard. And most importantly, we keep a genuine smile **lingering** on our faces to make people feel welcomed and relaxed, otherwise, things might get awkward.

Courtesy (n): polite behaviour that shows respect for other people

Encounter (v): to meet somebody, or discover or experience something, especially somebody/something new, unusual or unexpected

Eye-contact (n): the act of looking directly into one another's eyes

Linger (v): to continue to exist for longer than expected

41.5. Are there any differences between urban and rural people concerning politeness?

People living in different parts of the country usually act **accordingly** to their local customs and their concept of politeness, as a result, varies, too. Those who

live in rural areas tend to be more friendly, **outspoken** and **straightforward**, which is why they often find themselves in awkward situations when **conversing** with city people. If anyone who isn't familiar with their relatively **explicit** style of talking, he will probably think they're impolite but they just do it **out of good will**. In contrast, urban residents always weight their words before speaking to avoid **conflicts** and misunderstandings.

Accordingly (adv): in a way that is appropriate to what has been done or said in a particular situation

Outspoken (a): saying exactly what you think, even if this shocks or offends people

Straightforward (a): honest and open; not trying to trick somebody or hide something

Converse (v): to have a conversation with somebody

Explicit (a): saying something clearly, exactly and openly

Goodwill (n): friendly, helpful, or cooperative feelings or attitude

Conflict (n): a situation in which people, groups or countries are involved in a serious disagreement or argument

41.5. How do you deal with impolite people?

To my mind, when someone is acting impolitely, it's best that we should remind them of their misbehavior so that they have time to modify it in a timely manner. If they refuse to listen to our **constructive advice**, we can **raise our voice** to show our disagreement or even teach them some moral lessons at that moment. Having said this, it would be a nightmare if adults misbehave, in which cases, I guess it would be most reasonable to stay away from them, or (ask the favor of the elderly so as to help them rectify their bad **code of conduct.**

41.6. What kinds of behavior are not polite?

I'm of the opinion that it depends on the age groups. As for children or teenagers, disobeying their parents or not listening to **constructive advice** from surrounding people can be seen as a misbehavior. All I'm saying is that their ego is too big and so reluctant to correct their way of behaving in public

places. One instance is that a teenager refuses to **refrain from** smoking in parks, even if told by adults or older people around. As for the adults, some tend to lack education, and this is hard to expect any polite acts from them. Such people can **resort to swearwords**, spit in the streets recklessly which often **causes a big nuisance** to others.

41.7. Do you think politeness is different in different countries and parts of the world?

I suppose there's little doubt about that. Every part of the world has its own culture and unique way to **express** their respect and politeness towards others. I've recently run through an article about how people in Japan treat their **senior citizens**. The picture of an old lady standing in a subway while other young men sitting nearby **caught me by surprise**. It was only after reading the article did I understand that Japanese elders would get **offended** if the youngsters give them their seats because it makes them feel older and useless. However, if any **adolescence** in my country do the same, he will be considered **disrespectful** or **uneducated**.

Express (v): to show or make known a feeling, an opinion, etc. by words, looks or actions

Senior citizen (n) an elderly person, especially one who is retired and living on a pension

Catch someone by surprise: to surprise someone with something unexpected

Offend (v): to make somebody feel upset because of something you say or do that is rude or embarrassing

Adolescence (n): the period following the onset of puberty during which a young person develops from a child into an adult

Disrespectful (a): showing a lack of respect for somebody/something

Uneducated (a): having had little or no formal education at a school; showing a lack of education

42. Describe a piece of advice on your work

I'm quite a disorganized person it work, and one piece of **constructive advice** that I have received from my co-worker was how to arrange my timetable better. Since I've **had a memory like a sieve,** his advice did **help me out.**
It was when I was **scolded by my boss for** not **fixing up an important meeting** with his client. At that time I was **quite ashamed of** myself for not **fulfilling my work responsibilities** but my colleague **gave me consolation** and suggested that I use the notepad app to **jot down** important stuff so that I wouldn't forget next time. I listened to him right away and downloaded and installed the app to see if it worked or not.
I was really surprised at how it has **boosted my work productivity.** Every time I forget something important, I open the app to **figure out** what it is, and so it helps me to **instantly recall** what I'm supposed to do. Thanks to my friend, I have been **less reproached by** my boss, but even **praised for my work efficiency.** His advice worked really nice to me. Later I **treated him a nice drink** to show how I felt **grateful for** his useful recommendation.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What does encouragement help people?
Without a shadow of a doubt, **encouraging words** can **act as a great source of motivation and inspiration** making others to be more **hardworking and diligent.** For example, if a student with **poor academic performance** is given some **incentives,** he will definitely **hit the books** and **burn the midnight oil** to get the mark so that he can **receive the reward promised** by his parents. This form of encouragement really works for children.

Is giving a lot of encouragement negative?

If you ask me, I'd have to agree with this. When someone is **pampered with encouragement** they will be stressed and it's like **being pressurized into doing stuff** that's **not their cup of tea.** As a result, rather than **feeling stimulated to achieve their goal,** people would be afraid to **carry out their plans** for the reason that they **are scared of failure,** of **letting others down** of failing to **live up to others' expectations**. Therefore, a moderate amount of encouragement is more advisable than too much.

43. Describe a family member who you are proud of/ Describe an influential family member

Well the family member that first **comes to my mind** is my mom. I'm not sure about others' but for me, I become closer to my mom as I grow up.

The first thing of my mom that I'm proud of is her beautiful appearance. I was quite surprised when I took a look at the photos when she was at her 20s. Her beauty is traditional and Asian with **straight-edged** nose, round brown eyes, thin lips and **straight long black** hair. She's not very tall yet she is slim and white. In addition, she has a soft-but-firm voice, which reminds me of the news reporters on TV. Although she's getting older and **aging** can be seen clearly, I must say her beauty remains the first thing that not only me but the whole family can be proud of.

The next thing I must highlight is her personalities. My mom is a strict and thoughtful person when it comes to educating her children. She tries her best to become a good role model that me and my younger brother could **look up to**. We learned cooking, doing household chores and **taking care of** ourselves, which not only would us be able to live independently in the future, but we also can help her after her long day at work. What makes me **adore** my mom more is that she is also a knowledgeable person. Her general knowledge amazes us all

the time. Besides, how she manages her work and her daily life is such a value of maturation that I desire.

During the time I studied abroad, the one I shared a lot of ups and downs with is her. I hope that as I grow up, I could become as mature as her.

Vocabulary

To adore SO (*v*): to give SO a lot of love and respect

To admire/look up to SO (*v*): to respect and approve SO's behaviors

To take care of [SO/Sth]/look after SO (*v*): to protect someone or something and provide the things that that person or thing needs

Aging (n): visual signs of getting older

Grammar

****Order of adjectives***

Adjectives usually come in this order:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
General opinion (describing all kinds of nouns) ***Ex***: good, bad, lovely, beautiful, awful,...)	Specific opinion (describing a particular kind of noun) ***Ex***: Food-tasty/delicious Furniture, buildings-comfortable/ uncomfortable	Size	Shape	Age	Colour	Nationality	Material

(Source: British Coucil [online]

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

43.1. In a typical family, who plays the leading role?

Well, the stereotype is that the father is the **breadwinne**r! Of the family, the person who makes the decisions and **takes responsibility for** the whole family. This can be understandable because the father tends to occupy high positions in society while the mother tends to be housewife or only gets involved in some [trivial work like cleaning or babysitting. However, this is not really the case in modern society where freedom and equality is being **put a higher emphasis on**. Women are as successful as men and are no longer in charge of the **monotonous household chores** like they were in the past

43.2. In your country, what kinds of family members usually live together?

Well, **to the best of my knowledge**, despite the increasing popularity of **nuclear families**, extended ones still exist in our society. Usually both parents and one, two or three kids would **live** together **under the same roof.** In other cases, a grandmother or grandmother joins them to take care of the small kids while the parents are away for work, for example. Other less common situations are many generations reside in the same house, usually a multi-story house. Families like these often consist of an uncle, aunt, and their families and so on. Typically, many problems occur when a great many members are in a similar place

43.3. Do young and middle-age people live with old people?

Frankly speaking, unlike in Western countries where it is common to send older grandparents to nursing homes, most people are bound by their duty, which means that they should or, in another sense, have to **pay back** what their parents have given them. As a consequence, the young generations and **middle- aged** people tend to share the same house with older people. This can be beneficial since small children can receive special care from their grandparents, obtain invaluable hands-on experience and tend to develop a good code of conduct later on.

43.4. What would children do to make their parents proud?

I guess kids can have good performances at school and behave well to their teachers and the elders. Parents usually take a great pride in their kids if their children get a good score at school, or when others tell them that their kids are nice people. As well as this, I deem it a necessity if children help their parents out with mundane tasks ground the house like sweeping the floor, or washing the dishes.

44. Describe a favorite sports you watched/ a sport you like to watch.

You should say:

- *What it is*
- *When you watched it*
- *How you watch it*
- *And explain why you like watching it*

I'm a **live wire** and fond of various sporting activities, and **off the top of** my head, tennis would be amongst my most favorite ones, and it is also the sports I love watching most.

When I am **up to ears in** study, revising and reviewing for the exams, I often turn on the TV, **flick through** some channels and look for some tennis matches. They help me **let my hair down** a bit after a **nerve-racking** period of time at school. Usually, I am keen on watching how skillful the movements of the players are as this sport requires **agility** and **hand-eye coordination**. I often **hold my breath** watching the players exchanging the tennis ball and predict who the winner is.

I often watch with my **intimate** buddies, who have the same interest as me, and we often bet on the winner. I simply like watching this game for its entertaining value. And as well as this, in real life, I often practice this sport, so watching it **hones my skills** in matches with my friends at school.

What are the most popular outdoor sports in your country?

There are a number of popular sporting activities which are held outside the house in my country, like volleyball, tennis and basketball. However, the kind of sports that attracts people of almost all ages is football. People from the young to the old not only watch football matches on TV, but also participate in this game actively and enthusiastically. It is no exaggerating but people will gather at a football field and enjoy a good match together whenever they find time.

Do people like to play indoor sports or outdoor sports?

It depends greatly on how old a person is really. To support my claim, small kids are likely to be into indoor games like indoor football or swimming whereas adults tend to derive more pleasure from outdoor sports activities such as football or volleyball. This is due to the fact that today parents are more protective of their children so they encourage them to take part in indoor sports to protect their children from bad injuries or serious accidents. On the other hand, adults would love the social interaction and team spirit from sports matches played outside the house, particularly after a stressful week of hard work.

What are the benefits for children to play outdoor games?

There's a number of benefits a child can obtain from taking part in games played outside the house. The first one is that playing games outdoors is a form of exercise that helps children to increase their physical fitness. By running around and kicking a ball in a match of football, for instance, the small kids can develop their muscle strength and flexibility. The second plus point is that small players can hone many skills and qualities through their participation in outdoor games. By interacting and socializing with their teammates, they can be more active and have a chance to get to know not only their peers but also the surrounding environment. As a result, they have more coordination and

cooperation skills. wanting to protect someone from criticism, hurt, danger, etc. because you like them very much:

45. Describe a special day out when you went out but didn't spend much money

You should say:
when and where this happened
what did you do
who were there with you
And explain why it was special

Although I'm not from a rich family, I'm absolutely willing to splurge on stuff on special occasions. Off the top of my head, there was a time when I and four of my closest friends went out for dining on my birthday, but I didn't spend much money as I had expected.

We made up our mind to go for a newly opened restaurant within a stone's throw from my house. As it's their opening day, there were special offers and discounts for us to claim, and it really hit the spot as most of us were running short of cash for the time being. Without much hesitation, we entered and started ordering food. I was trying to be less stingy and asked my friends to order as much as they could because I would be the person to foot the bill on my birthday.

We ordered a total of 7 dishes, ranging from beef and pork to seafood and beer. We ate to our heart's content as the foods were absolutely out of this world, much more delicious than other diners I had been to. After having relished the meal, I asked for the bill, and the sum gave me a surprise really. It was just 50 dollars, too inexpensive for a 7-course meal, but anyway I settled the bill without even asking the waitress why it was so cheap.

The occasion was quite meaningful to me because I had the chance to meet up my friends after such a long time as they are living and working quite far from me. We had a whale of a time without having to shell out too much cash on the dinner.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Young people go out more or old people, why?

Without a shadow of a doubt, the youths are likely to hang out more than the older citizens for the fundamental reason that they are physically robust to be on the move. Young people are dynamic and love going about in the town, while the weak old people are often confined to their beds or wheelchairs, which greatly decreases their mobility though they may wish to go out really much.

People prefer go out or stay indoor today? Do you prefer to relax with your friends in a park or an indoor place?

I'd say I generally prefer to relax with my friends somewhere indoors, because I mean, if I'm meeting up with them in a park, then everything could be ruined by the weather. So it's a bit easier arranging to meet somewhere indoors. Having said that though, if it's a really nice day out, then I suppose I would prefer to be outside with them somewhere, like a park.

How often do you like to hang out with friends?

Hanging out with intimate friends helps me to relieve tense moments pt work as well as keep indelible memories with them, which gives me a necessary balance in life. Therefore, I usually hang out with my buddies once or twice a week despite my busy schedule at work.

Who do you usually like to hang out with?

I love going out with my intimate friends simply because while being with them, I know that I'm accepted by who I am so I can share with them all my feelings and emotions without any fear of being judged or looked down on.

46. Describe an intelligent person you know/ Describe a knowledgeable person/ Describe a person who knows a lot.

You should say:

- *who this person is*
- *when and where you first met them*
- *what kind of person they are*
- *and explain why you think this person is intelligent.*

Ok right then, well the person that I'd like to talk about is one of my university friends called Nick, because he's honestly one of the smartest people I know. And we've been friends ever since I started university, because I found myself sitting next to him in our first lecture, and we kind of just got talking.

As for what kind of person he is, well um, I guess the best way to describe him would be sociable and likeable. Although he's a super smart guy, he's not **arrogant in the slightest** and he **gets on well with** everyone.

Anyway, moving onto why I think he's intelligent, well first of all, he always does really well in all our exams, you know, like **coming top or second in most of them.** And what's amazing is that he doesn't seem to **study all that hard,** but **still manages to do so well.** For example, as well as studying, he's also got a part-time job, which I'm sure must **take up quite a bit of his time.** So it's really impressive how he's able to do this without affecting his studies **whatsoever.** And another thing is that whenever the lecturer asks a question, he always knows the answer, and sometimes he'll just **whisper it to** me because he **feels a bit embarrassed to answer every time.**

So yeah. I'd say he's a really clever guy, and I feel very lucky to have such a good friend.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do you think learning materials on the internet are reliable?

I guess it is not **one hundred percent dependable** really. Since the Internet is a huge source of information, there are always **potential risks of fake or unreliable contents.** For example, some leading IELTS teaching websites do **present some misleading information or tips.** Therefore, a user is **advised to use his discretion in** choosing the most **trustworthy material sources** by consulting their friends or experts in the field.

Do you think we can learn practical and artistic skills from hooks or do we really need teachers?

Frankly speaking, both of these are needed. On the one hand, students need books to **gain more** knowledge or insight, while on the other hand, students need teachers to teach them by hand.

How can people learn things on the internet?

A lot of people post their own **experiences** on the internet and sometimes, you could also find some video clips that teach you how to do things. For me, I love reading Wikipedia to **gain knowledge** and solve my questions. Also, a lot of people use online courses to get their degrees without going to the campus, which is really convenient for our life.

How does modern technology affect the delivery of information?

No one can deny the convenience of **hi-tech** when it comes to news delivery. In the past, it would take one day or even a month to inform others a piece of news, via letter or pigeon. However, the **emergence of the internet** and **social networks** just turn the world into a global village where news is **transmitted at lightning speed.** You can just stay at home and let your friends who live in another continent know something with only **a few clicks**

of the mouse.

What do the Internet help people in their studies/materials?

It is true that computers and Internet play a pivotal role in **raising students' intellectual standard** in this **digital age**. **With their comprehensiveness,** online networks could supply students with a **large pool of savvy spanning** from natural subjects such as math, physics to art, music. For instance, children can know how many countries involved in World War 2, or the details of **the human genome.** Furthermore, gaining ready access to the **social networks** can **offer rural students golden opportunities** to **participate in online educational groups or courses.** This is where they can **exchange information** about **complex problems** and their solutions as well as **adjust their pace of self-study** according to **their current level of knowledge.**

Do you think books will disappear in the future?

I'd have to agree with this statement for the reason that many **publishing companies** began to sell ebooks instead of printed ones. Moreover, especially young people prefer **reading e-books** instead of reading printed books. They think it is **easier and more entertaining** compared to reading printed books. Furthermore, many people believe that news on the website is more **Reliable and speedily updated** than newspaper because news can change in a minute but newspaper could not update news every second.

47. Describe a time when you receive congratulations from others/ Describe a time when someone praised

you/Describe an occasion when people gave you a positive feedback

You should say:

- *what the situation was*
- *who congratulated you*
- *why you were congratulated*
- *and explain how you felt.*

Ok, well I think a good time to talk about would be the day when I got the results of my university entrance exam, which was about three years ago.
I remember feeling **super nervous** that day. If I got the grades I needed, I would be able to go to the university of my choice, whereas if I did badly, then not only would I not get into a **prestigious** university, I also wouldn't even be able to study the major I wanted. So when the letter with the results came through the post, my hands shook so much I could barely open it. And when I did finally get it open, I had to ask my dad to read it for me.
When I saw my dad's reaction, I knew I must have done quite well, because his **eyes really lit up** when he looked at the letter, and he had a huge, great big smile on his face, which **stretched, literally, from ear to ear.** And after my parents both congratulated me, they made me call up all my relatives and tell them the good news.
And finally, regarding how I felt that day, well, it was actually a huge relief more than anything. You know, my parents had been so supportive to me throughout my studies, so I really didn't want to **let them down**. My parent rarely complimented on most achievements I made, but that time they told me how proud they were, which made me feel **over the moon** and more determined to do well at my university, as I saw how much it meant to them.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What does encouragement help people?

Without a shadow of a doubt, **encouraging words** can **act as a great source of motivation and inspiration** making others to be more **hardworking and diligent.** For example, if a student with **poor academic performance** is given some **incentives,** he will definitely **hit the books** and **burn the midnight oil** to get the mark so that he can **receive the reward promised** by his parents. This form of encouragement really works for children.

Is giving a lot of encouragement negative?

If you ask me, I'd have to agree with this. When someone is **pampered with encouragement** they will be stressed and it's like **being pressurized into doing stuff** that's **not their cup of tea.** As a result, rather than **feeling stimulated to achieve their goal,** people would be afraid to **carry out their plans** for the reason that they **are scared of failure,** of **letting others down** of failing to **live up to others' expectations**. Therefore, a moderate amount of encouragement is more advisable than too much.

48. Describe an interesting place that few people know/ few tourists get there

You should say:
Where the place is
How you knew it
Why few people know it
And explain why it is interesting.

Off the top of my head, a place quite off the beaten track but really worth a try is a small lake called X, on the outskirts of the city.

As I have mentioned, it's quite far to reach and is almost inaccessible by coach or other means of transport. The only way that you can make it to the lake is by motorbike, and you have to be prepared to overcome the rough terrain if you want to get there. This is simply because the rural part of the city quite lags behind and road development might take dozens of years to complete, so the paths are quite muddy and uneven. After strenuous ride, the prize will be yours to grab. In front of your eyes appears a picturesque lake Unspoiled and virgin in its state and I bet you won't stop staring at it in wonder.

The best part about the lake is the crystal clear water, no contamination or the like. You can even catch sight of fish swimming in the water or dragonflies hovering around the lake surface. There're also many ancient trees surrounding the lake, which gives plenty of shade to the travelers. It's the best spot to have a camping trip or picnic with your friends, or simply throwing your fishing rod while contemplating things in life. It's really serene and tranquil.
I hope more people would know this place, and with that in mind, the authorities should make the road more accessible by providing some constructions or offer some services to move people there in a speedier manner.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why some popular tourist places are free/ do not require tickets to enter?

If you ask me, I'd say that it's an effort of the authorities to popularize the place of interest. If there is an entrance fee, not many travelers would go the extra mile to pay for that, and the tourist place will be left on its own, which can be a waste of resource. Also, many spots that offer free entrance are often not equipped with entertainment facilities, and they are mostly for sightseeing purposes.

Why does the government want tourists to visit ancient places?

In my experience, it seems that ancient tourist spots often symbolize the cultural heritage and national identity of a nation. If tourists pay a visit to these places of interest, they will gain a deeper insight into the host country's culture, helping raise awareness of global citizens about the country. From this, they can appreciate the culture, the glorious wars the country has gone through and foreigners would be more tolerant or admire the country.

What are the differences between tourists and locals?

The basic distinction is that tourists are those who bay a flying visit to a certain locality while the locals are native to that area and play the role in receiving guests. The difference can be seen in tourists touring the area to gain a deeper insight into the daily lives of the locals: what their meals consist of, what they earn for a living or if there are difficulties affecting their lives. The locals also lend a helping hand to the tourists by offering their services like selling souvenirs, food delicacies or simply help them get to know more about the place.

What is the relationship between travel and the environment?

Obviously, travel has an adverse impact on the surrounding environment. Air pollution is one concern. This is because people must get on a coach, a train to reach their travel destinations and these means of transport give off huge amounts of emissions into the surrounding air, making the air quality from bad to worse. Another thing is fitter dropping issue. All the travelers do is enjoy the services, and throw away trash onto the ground, spit anywhere and these things really spoil the cityscape.

Do you think we need to respect the region and culture when you go to other countries?

Yes, I'd suppose. In most of the cases, immigrants or tourists to another country tend to suffer from culture shock, food adaptability and racial discrimination and stuff like that. So, it's quite advisable that they make real efforts to pay decent respect to the host country's culture when people come to a new land. For example, if you know that beef is banned in Muslim countries and try to

avoid including it in your daily diet, you can save yourself from religious prejudice and lead a life like the natives.

49. Describe a toy that you received when you were a child

You should say:
What the toy was
Who gave it to you?
How you used this
And explain how you felt when you got this toy

Let me tell you about my favorite toy I owned when I was ten years old. It was a superman, actually. I liked it because of the cartoons produced by the Japanese. But since I was extremely absorbed in model toys at the time so I pestered my parents constantly and, finally they agreed and were willing to shell out big bucks to afford it for me. I was so revved up when I got it in the toys store. It was very delicate and finely painted and modelled perfectly, just like my favorite character in the cartoon, so I almost played with it after class on the daily basis.

This toy carries great significance to me because I have ponged for it and it was hardly affordable at that time. So I always held it in my hand while watching the cartoon series. As a kid that was a fascinating and exciting moment for me. Superman was the replaceable hero in my mind, and I hope I could become a strong man in the future like him to protect others around me.

I still keep the toy in mint condition, and each time I happen to catch a glimpse of it, memories of my happy childhood just flash back and sometimes tears trickle down my face just imagining how the toy really means to me.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do you think it is good for children to play many computer games?

Personally I don't approve that children play many computer games. Keeping the same posture in front of the computer for a long time takes a toll on children's physical health. Besides, children tend to be addicted to computer games and neglect their study. There is another downside that children may become isolated and less sociable. It is harmful to their mental health.

Do you think playing with electronic toys has a good influence on kids?

I can hardly doubt the benefits of electronic toys, but it seems to befit boys than girls. Some car models run when a child pushes certain buttons, or gives out funny sounds. All these can trigger a sense of curiosity and thrill for the players, which later will hone their creativity and imagination abilities.

How do you think a child can benefit from playing a child's game?

At first, the joy of playing games is universal because it constitutes a source of entertainment. Children derive great satisfaction in the game by making themselves and others happy. Besides, some games train their intellect and improve their mental and physical health. By playing games, some children develop their special interest, skills, and hobbies. And more importantly, I think children learn group skills by playing games, including cooperation and conflict solution. In games, they follow rules designed by others as well as create their own rules.

Which do you think is better, for children to play with toys alone or with other kids?

Each option has its own merits. Playing toys on their own can be a golden chance for kids to explore their potential. lf they are furious about and enthralled by the

toy, they are likely to dig deeper into it to see the mechanism behind it. On the other hand, if they have others in company while playing, teamwork can be built as everyone tries to figure out the solution. Also, they can have a blast together with more laughter.

50. Describe an unusual/ an unforgettable meal

You should say:
When was it
Where you had the meal
What happened during the meal
And explain why it was unforgettable

Well, the meal I've decided to talk to you about was a farewell dinner of a good friend of mine, because he was about to go off to Canada for a few years to start university there, so he invited a few of his close friends for dinner before heading off.
And one of the reasons I've chosen to talk about this meal instead of some of the others I've been to is simply that it's still quite fresh in my memory. You know, it was only about a couple of weeks ago when it happened. And it was a really nice restaurant that we went to, definitely one of the best in the city. So I was kind of relieved that it wouldn't be me footing the bill!
Anyway regarding what we ate, well I couldn't tell you every single dish that we had, because there was just so much, you know, the whole table was covered with food. I mean, there was crab, chicken, duck, what else, um,.....oh yeah, shrimps, and, uh.....oh and a whole load of different vegetables. So by the end of it, I was absolutely stuffed.
But anyway, finally, in terms of how I felt about the meal, well to put it simply, I really enjoyed it, because as well as the food, which was fantastic, I really

enjoyed everyone's company. You know, it was great being together with so many good friends, many of which I hadn't seen in quite a while.
So yeah, all in all, it was a really special evening, and I'm extremely grateful to my friend for his generosity, as the bill must have come to quite a lot.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Describe what you think is a healthy diet?

A good diet includes a variety of foods from the basic food groups. It should provide enough calories to ensure desirable weight and also it should contain all the necessary daily nutrients.

Are there many vegetarians in your country? Why do you think some people choose to be vegetarians?

Although I'm not a vegetarian, I still believe it's good to eat more vegetables and fruit. Some vegetarians eat veggies because they believe animals shouldn't be killed and some just for the sake of health. I think either reason is worth doing. If we think about how many animals are killed because of our need for meat, we might feel sad for our deeds. When we learn all the benefits that veggies can bring us, we'll also feel happier to eat them more.

Is the food that people eat today different to the food that people used to eat in the past? If yes, in what ways has it changed?

In the past, the choices of foods were limited but the foods were fresh and people could rest assured of its quality. So it's not surprising our ancestors enjoyed greater longevity than us. In the present time, we have chances to taste various foods of different cultures and nationalities, being unique and delicious in their own ways. Even so, it's not all it's cracked up to be as there have been many reported cases of food poisoning, especially in developing countries, where food safety is a pressing concern.

Is 'fast food' popular in your country?

Nowadays, workers have to work extra hours while students have to burn the midnight oil revising and reviewing for their exams. As a consequence of this, they can't manage time to have a decent meal rich in vitamins and minerals. Instead, they have no choice but go to buy some take-away at some fast food restaurant and then get back to their work and study. So fast foods are gaining in immense popularity because after all, the more developed a country becomes, the less nutritious the citizens' diet is.

More and more people are becoming overweight nowadays. What do you think might be the causes of this?

Well to be honest, I would have to admit that the youths nowadays are leading a health-damaging lifestyle because of the fast-paced lifestyle and pressure. To be more precise, workers have to work extra hours while students have to burn the midnight oil revising and reviewing for their exams. As a consequence of this, they can't manage time to have a decent meal rich in vitamins and minerals. Instead, they have no choice but go to buy some take-away at some fast food restaurant and then get back to their work and study.

Do you or, do people in your country generally prefer to eat at home or eat out?

If you ask me, I'd say that by and large, the folks in my nation would show a greater preference for home-cooked meals. The reason behind this is the fact that food safety is quite a pressing issue and people are becoming increasingly aware of their health conditions. As a result, the chances are that they would directly go to the market or supermarket, choose the raw materials and cook the dishes on their own. Having said that, some people are quite up to their ears in work and would rather order a meal at a restaurant instead.

How important do you think it is for members of a family to eat together?

I have to admit that it's extremely vital that family members spend their time together at the dinner table. The most obvious explanation for this is that this can strengthen family bonds and help the whole family get on well with one another. To be more specific, during a meal, they can share their stories and trouble in life, receive valuable advice to sort out their problems. At the end of the day, people can build a close-knit family and forget about all the difficulties in their life.

Why do some people not always eat with their family?

I personally feel that a number of factors are responsible for why some people in modern society refuse to have a meal with other family members. One of the reasons is the lack of time caused by increasing pressure from work or study. A case in point is that my high-school friend often spends more than 8 hours a day studying that he can hardly manage any hour for eating with his parents.