IELTS SPEAKING

Actual Tests With Suggested Answers

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TARGET SERIES



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Preface

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

Beside Cambridge IELTS Practice Tests series published by Oxford University Press, IELTS Speaking Recent Actual Tests with Suggested Answers aims to develop speaking and test- taking skills along with language proficiency to help you achieve a high IELTS Speaking score. It contains IELTS Speaking questions that were asked and would be asked in IELTS Speaking tests in 2022. The questions are divided into part 1, part 2 and part 3. Each of the questions have answers provided by our certified IELTS trainer along with the vocabulary that is specifically used for that question/topic. When using this e-book, you can be aware of the kinds of questions that you would face in a real exam, and how the answers are framed accordingly. Moreover, these tests are extracted from an authentic IELTS bank source; therefore, you are in all probability to encounter these questions in your real examinations.

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

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

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Introduction

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

Part – 1

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

Part – 2 & 3

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

Vocabulary

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

IELTS Speaking – Part 1

1. Bicycles

Questions

1. **Do you have a bike?**
2. **How often do you use it?**
3. **How old were you when you learned to ride a bike?**
4. **Do many people in your country using bicycles?**
5. **Do you think using bicycles should be encouraged?**

Sample Answers

1 Do you have a bike?

At present, I do not own a bike, but I had one till the time I studied in school. Now, it has been given to my cousin for his use.

2 How often do you use it?

Currently, I do not use the bike I once had as I mostly shuttle by my motorbike, which I bought recently, or avail the office vehicle for work purposes. But, with the increasing pollution, traffic and oil prices, I am planning to buy a bike soon.

3 How old were you when you learned to ride a bike?

As far as I can remember, I was around four years old when my grandfather taught me how to ride a bicycle. Initially, my father did not acquiesce. But, when I learnt to ride very quickly, he was proud.

4 Do many people in your country using bicycles?

Yes, a large section of my country's population uses bicycles for daily commute. They live mostly in the countryside. But, in the cities, people are also veering to bikes as it is a more viable option for their health as well as the environment.

5 Do you think using bicycles should be encouraged?

In my opinion, bicycles are a healthier alternative than motorcycles or cars, at least for short distances. Earlier, people used to complain about bikes not being time efficient. But, with the development of engineering, companies have come up with much faster bikes. So, I think using bicycles should definitely be facilitated if we want to save the environment and keep ourselves fit.

Vocabulary

Shuttle
Meaning: travel regularly between two or more places.
E.g.: Due to the mismanagement, we had to shuttle from the office to the factory thrice today.

Acquiesce
Meaning: to accept, agree, or give consent by keeping silent or by not making objections
E.g.: John finally acquiesced to attend the seminar.

Commute
Meaning: to travel regularly a distance
E.g.: We get tired in the evening due to the daily commute of 2 hours.

Viable
Meaning: able to exist, perform as intended, or succeed
E.g.: Do you think it is a viable option to invite Mr. Valentine to this party after his behaviour at the last one?

Facilitated
Meaning: helped bring about
E.g.: The sunny yet cool weather facilitated the successful conclusion of the great event.

2. Dictionaries

Questions

1. **Do you often use a dictionary?**
2. **What do you use dictionaries for?**
3. **What kind of dictionaries do you think are most useful?**
4. **Do you think dictionaries are useful for learning a language?**
5. **What kind of information do you find in a dictionary?**

Sample Answers

1 Do you often use a dictionary?

Earlier, as I read a lot of books and magazines, I used to carry a dictionary with me and utilise it often. But now, due to my dynamic timetable, I get less time to read, so the use of a dictionary has also become finite.

2 What do you use dictionaries for?

My grandmother had advised me to note any obscure words and find their meaning in the dictionary as I read. I still heed her advice today, which has helped keep my lingo updated.

3 What kind of dictionaries do you think are most useful?

Different types of dictionaries have diverse purposes, and it depends on the intent. Earlier, I used to carry a pocket dictionary and now, I mostly use bilingual dictionaries as it helps me understand the word and usage better. Other than that, while researching, an encyclopaedic dictionary can also be beneficial.

4 Do you think dictionaries are useful for learning a language?

I do agree with the view that dictionaries, especially bilingual dictionaries or etymological dictionaries, are effectual for language learning. While the former helps the beginners as they comprehend the new word in their mother tongue or a language, they are efficient in, the latter helps in clarifying how the term has come into being and facilitating mastery of spelling and retaining the meaning.

5 What kind of information do you find in a dictionary?

The information in a dictionary mainly depends on its type. But, in the most common type of dictionaries, we will get words organized based on the spelling, their phonetic transcription and their meaning. Sometimes, we also get some example sentences to show the usage. Other than these, in bilingual dictionaries, we have words with similar meanings in the alternate language; in etymological ones, we get the evolution of the specific word, etc.

Vocabulary

Finite
Meaning: having a limit or end
E.g.: The tornado victims are dependent on the finite resources they can get.

Obscure
Meaning: not clear and difficult to understand or see
E.g.: Even after he gave an explanation, the reason was obscure to most of us.

Lingo
Meaning: a way of speaking that's shared by a particular group of people
E.g.: The interns were not familiar with the office lingo yet.

Bilingual
Meaning: involving or written in two languages
E.g.: Nowadays, being bilingual is a common quality.

Etymological
Meaning: relating to the study of the origin and history of words, or of one particular word
E.g.: The linguist was interested to know the etymological sources of these sets of phrases.

3. Evenings

Questions

1. What do you often do in the evenings?
2. Do you prefer to spend your evenings with your family or friends?
3. Do you ever work or study in the evening?
4. What is a popular activity for young people in your country in the evenings?
5. Do you do the same thing in the evenings as you did when you were a child?

Sample Answers

1 What do you do in the evenings?

Mostly, after logging out of work/ study, I take a coffee/tea break and chitchat with my mother about the day's work. Then, I get to assist her with her work or continue to read a book till dinner.

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2 Do you prefer to spend your evenings with your family or friends?

Usually, I spend most of my evenings with my family. Occasionally, I go out with my friends, or they visit me. Both have profound value in my life as I like to communicate with them on eclectic matters.

3 Do you ever work or study in the evening?

No, I try to take a hiatus from work or study in the evening as I go through a hectic schedule throughout the day and need some time to unwind. Although, on some occasions, I do research for my career and personal growth.

4 What is a popular activity for young people in your country in the evenings?

With the changing lifestyle and accessibility to diverse activities, different groups of young people participate in multifaceted tasks in the evening. Like on weekdays, office-going people either de-stress or organise themselves for the next day and students relish their hobby or go out for tuition in the evening. But, on the weekends, all young people mostly enjoy themselves with family or friends.

5 Do you do the same thing in the evenings as you did when you were a child?

It is not possible to continue with the exact activities I did in my childhood now, as there has been a monumental shift in the way of living as well as my responsibilities. As a child, I used to study with my cousin under the supervision of my grandfather and then play with them. But now, I take a break from work and spend quality time with my family or friends.

Vocabulary

Profound
Meaning: very great; felt or experienced very strongly
E.g.: The saint's words have a profound effect on the villagers.

Eclectic
Meaning: including many different styles or methods
E.g.: Due to the eclectic stock of food, the store became popular among the inhabitants of the town.

Hiatus
Meaning: temporary gap, pause, break, or absence
E.g.: My manager took a hiatus from work to enjoy fatherhood.

Unwind
Meaning: to relax and allow your mind to be free from worry after a period of work or some other activity that has made you worried
E.g.: Music helps me unwind when I am stressed after a day's work.

Multifaceted
Meaning: having many different aspects or sides
E.g.: The audience was surprised at the multifaceted nature of the performance of the troupe.

4. Going Overseas

Questions

1. Why are you planning to spend a period of time abroad?
2. How have your family and friends supported you in this?
3. How long do you plan to be abroad?
4. How exactly will you benefit from this experience?
5. What problems do you think you may have abroad?

Sample Answers

1 Why are you planning to spend a period of time abroad?

I envisage moving abroad for a short duration to complete the research I am conducting for my PhD studies. It will assist me in my studies and aid me in accumulating experience as well as satisfy my dromomania.

2 How have your family and friends supported you in this?

I feel blessed that both my family and friends have been extremely corroborating towards this venture. My parents have been upfront about providing me with financial aid if required. Likewise, my friends have suggested several places to visit and encounter local cuisine and forewarned me about certain hardships I might have to face.

3 How long do you plan to be abroad?

I intend to divide the first ten months between Coventry and Edinburgh and eventually move to London for the remaining eight months for the concluding part of the research. In case my supervisor feels it is necessary, I might need to extend my stay.

4 How exactly will you benefit from this experience?

Firstly, I will partake in how people live in these places, their culture and the past. Secondly, communicating with locals will help me attain acuity, which will help me in my analysis. Additionally, I will be able to explore a new place which will fulfil my wanderlust.

5 What problems do you think you may have abroad?

In accordance with the advice of one of my experienced friends, I might have difficulty adjusting to the climate as India is a tropical country and the UK has a temperate climate. She has also added that initially, I might feel homesick, but the welcoming people will make me a part of their community. Other than that, I don't think I will have any hurdles unless something unusual happens.

Vocabulary

Envisage
Meaning: to imagine or expect something in the future, especially something good
E.g.: Mario has envisaged that one day he will take her mother to Jerusalem.

Dromomania
Meaning: a drive to wander and a constant journey
E.g.: He left his family due to his dromomania.

Corroborating
Meaning: to support with evidence or authority
E.g.: The evidence the lawyer presented is corroborating what the victim said.

Upfront
Meaning: speaking or behaving in a way that makes your intentions and beliefs clear
E.g.: His mother was upfront about her support of LGBT rights.

Acuity
Meaning: the ability to hear, see, or think accurately and clearly
E.g.: When the Principal heard the whole incident, he gained acuity about the crime.

5. Phases/Stages of Life

Questions

1. **Do you enjoy your current stage of life?**
2. **In what stage of your life were you the happiest?**
3. **Which stage of your life do you think is the most important?**
4. **What's your plan for your next stage of life?**
5. What **is the attitude of older people in your country?**

Sample Answers

1 Do you enjoy your current stage of life?

Although every stage of life has its own trials and tribulations, they are also accompanied by certain benefits and uniqueness. So, even though my current stage of life is full of commitments and future endeavours, I also enjoy the camaraderie of my partner, the accolades of my colleagues and the eternal love of my parents.

2 In what stage of your life were you the happiest?

I used to miss my nonchalant childhood days. But now that I have attained maturity, I think I was happiest during adolescence as I had the best days of my school life, opportunities to learn unknown things, face untried challenges and also the freedom of being an adult without carrying the load of liabilities of adulthood or the infantile errors of childhood.

3 Which stage of your life do you think is the most important?

In my view, adolescence is the most critical stage of a person's life as it is the turning point and can make or break the blossoming of life. In other words, this is when we leave behind the insouciant days of childhood and are on the verge of being accountable adults. So, everyone needs appropriate direction and care, without which they can fall prey to peer and societal pressure and easily be led astray.

4 What's your plan for your next stage of life?

I intend to pursue better job opportunities and create a niche for myself. Apart from my career, I want to keep my parents happy as much as possible, explore new places and relish the comradery of my close friends and my partner.

5 What is the attitude of older people in your country?

In my country, elders hold a respectful position in society. However, due to recent lifestyle changes, older people are left to fend for themselves while the young ones build their own space or move to other countries for better opportunities. Consequently, while a group of elderly have matched up to their changing times, others die of depression and loneliness.

Vocabulary

Camaraderie
Meaning: a friendly feeling toward people with whom you share an experience
E.g.: I miss the camaraderie we shared with our friends during the school days.

Nonchalant
Meaning: relaxed and not worried about anything
E.g.: Mrs. Julio's nonchalant attitude after her husband s unnatural death created suspicion among the neighbours.

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Infantile
Meaning: immature or childish
E.g.: Nash's infantile demands angered his parents.

Insouciant
Meaning: relaxed and happy, with no feelings of worry or guilt
E.g.: Whenever Anne looks at the old house, she is reminded of the insouciant days she spent with her parents.

Fend for
Meaning: to take care of and provide for yourself without depending on anyone else
E.g.: The little puppy was left to fend for itself as its mother died in the accident.

6. SMS/Text Messaging

Questions

1. **Do you like texting?**
2. **Do you prefer sending or receiving messages?**
3. **Have you ever received a confusing text message?**
4. **In what circumstances is making a phone call better than sending an SMS?**
5. **Have you ever had difficulty replying?**
6. **Do you text someone if they don't answer the phone?**

Sample Answers

1 Do you like texting?

Yes, I do. Although talking to someone over a call is more facile, I don t despise texting someone either.

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2 Do you prefer sending or receiving messages?

Yes, I prefer receiving messages, especially when the case is urgent. In case I missed an important call or a piece of information, texts can prove themselves to be a saviour.

3 Have you ever received a confusing text message?

Yes, I have received a message that flummoxed me to the core. My friend and I planned to go out for a movie. However, the whole plan got trampled upon because of his message on my WhatsApp. We booked two seats in a nearby theatre. Yet, by mistake, he sent the location of another theatre in an absolute opposite direction and is 37 km apart from the one where we booked the seats at. Due to this obfuscation, we missed the movie and the amount we spent on the booking went to waste.

4 In what circumstances is making a phone call better than sending an SMS?

I believe making a phone call is sounder than an SMS for almost every urgent piece of information or call. Time and again, messages tend to get deciphered in the wrong way, which often creates pandemonium, especially if the matter is crucial. Therefore, the corporate communication or essential instructions should be rendered on a phone call rather than an SMS.

5 Have you ever had difficulty replying?

Yes, there was a time when I was in a meeting and a friend of mine texted me on WhatsApp about the party, he was throwing that night. However, since I was in a meeting, I couldn't reply.

6 Do you text someone if they don't answer the phone?

Yes, if someone doesn't pick up the phone call, I text them more often than not, depending upon the urgency and necessity of the context for which the phone call was made.

Vocabulary

Facile
Meaning: comfortable
Eg: The digital world has made life plain-sailing and facile for everyone today.

Despise
Meaning: hatred
Eg: I despised that episode due to the overt racism it presented.

Saviour
Meaning: one who saves
Eg: He always proved himself to be their saviour.

Flummoxed
Meaning: confused
Eg: When we were informed about the accident, we all were flummoxed at first.

Pandemonium
Meaning: a situation in which there is a lot of noise and confusion because people are excited, angry, or frightened
Eg: There was great pandemonium in the market when the bull started attacking people.

7. APPS

Questions

1. What apps have you recently used?
2. Which apps are you usually interested in?
3. What was the first app you used?
4. What kinds of apps would you like to use in the future?
5. Do old people in your country like to use apps?

Sample Answers

1 What apps have you recently used?

I am quite a techno-freak and use lots of mobile applications every day. The recent ones that I can remember are Spotify, Google Pay and WhatsApp.

2 Which apps are you usually interested in?

I am generally interested in social media apps and use them quite recurrently. I believe the world has really become a small space with the advent of social media.

3 What was the first app you used?

Although I don't have a very vivid memory of the first app I got my hands on, I believe it was Facebook after I earned my first cell phone in college.

4 What kinds of apps would you like to use in the future?

As technology is making strides and nearly everything that seemed unpragmatic and impractical almost a decade ago has blown the ground with a thud. Considering this, I would love to use an app that helps us know about one's emotions without them having to tell us. I believe this would be very beneficial for psychiatric patients and people with mental stress who do not prefer to express a lot.

5 Do old people in your country like to use apps?

Well, I don't think it's a matter of choice for the older people to use apps in my country as most of them are not even cognizant of the existence of technological advancements. However, there are very few people I know who love to use apps as they are dynamic, unlike most people of old age.

Vocabulary

Recurrent
Meaning: frequent
Eg: The recurrent occurrences of hooliganism made this place notorious for its negligence.

Advent
Meaning: emergence
Eg: The advent of Mr. Thomas had a significant impact on the city at that time.

Vivid
Meaning: clear
Eg: I vividly remember my first day at school.

Stride
Meaning: to walk with long steps.
Eg: He took long strides to reach home quickly.

Unpragmatic
Meaning: impractical
Eg: This idea was utterly unpragmatic for me to consent to.

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8. Jokes & Comedies

Questions

1. **Are you good at telling jokes?**
2. **Do your friends like to tell jokes?**
3. **Do you like to watch comedies?**
4. **Have you ever watched a live show?**
5. **What are some common subjects that people like to joke about?**
6. **How do you know what jokes are proper to say to your friends?**

Sample Answers

1 Are you good at telling jokes?

My friends say that I have a humorous personality and that my fun punches and jokes are something they can laugh about the whole day. Hence, I guess I am pretty good at telling jokes.

2 Do your friends like to tell jokes?

Yes, some of my friends are even better than me at telling jokes and could have been great standup comedians if they wanted to make a career out of it.

3 Do you like to watch comedies?

No, I don't particularly appreciate watching comedy movies or shows, for that matter. I am quite organic and random when it comes to laughing at jokes or telling jokes based on the situations I am currently in.

4 Have you ever watched a live show?

Yes, I had quite a couple of times when I was in university. Our university used to carry out various carnivals and fests. It used to organise a lot of live shows by prominent personalities and I used to get very zesty about that.

5 What are some common subjects that people like to joke about?

People's sense of humour could hugely differ in terms of context. However, some common topics that people like to joke about are one's dressing sense, unwanted rules, or their peers, who

they find quite esoteric.

6 How do you know what jokes are proper to say to your friends?

I am well aware of the personalities and intellect of most of my friends. Therefore, I try not to cross the boundary when it comes to making or telling jokes about them or someone else in front of them. I know the topics that are off-limits for them.

Vocabulary

Humorous
Meaning: funny
Eg: Devilia is quite humorous too.

Random
Meaning: spontaneous
Eg: We all were made to choose the chits randomly.

Carnival
Meaning: a massive celebration/function
Eg: That carnival was worth attending.

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Prominent
Meaning: famous
Eg: There were many prominent personalities associated with that organization.

Zesty
Meaning: animated
Eg: We all were zesty and happy all through the trip.

9. Singing

Questions

1. **Do you often sing/ Do you often like to sing?**
2. **When do you like to sing?**
3. **How much time do you spend singing every day?**
4. **What kinds of music do you like to sing?**
5. **Do you want to be a singer?**

Sample Answers

1 Do you often sing/ Do you often like to sing?

Yes, I am a passionate singer and have a great predilection for singing. I thoroughly enjoy it.

2 When do you like to sing?

I can sing almost anytime and love to sing as much as I can. However, I generally sing when I am not very engaged in something.

3 How much time do you spend singing every day?

Unfortunately, I do not get as much time as I would like to spend due to my busy schedule. So, I believe I spend roughly 3-4 hours singing every day on an average.

4 What kinds of music do you like to sing?

I enjoy a diverse range of music and am open to all genres as far as they sound pleasing to my ears. However, I love the regional music of Uttarakhand the most. It has a very soothing effect and is very mellifluous. Especially for someone sensitive, Uttarakhand music is perfect for them.

5 Do you want to be a singer?

Well, if given a chance and if the winds of fate were in the right direction, I would love to become a professional singer at a more consequential level. In order to make a name for yourself in such fields requires talent, passion and, to a great extent, the luck factor.

Vocabulary

Predilection
Meaning: tendency
Eg: The predilection toward reading made him a learned person.

Diverse
Meaning: varied
Eg: There is a diverse range of insects found in this sand.

Pleasing
Meaning: giving a feeling of satisfaction or enjoyment
Eg: It did not seem pleasing to watch and so we left early.

Soothing
Meaning: calming
Eg: This music has a soothing and pacifying effect.

Mellifluous
Meaning: melodious
Eg: The soulful and mellifluous voice of Oscar used to enchant everyone who listened to him.

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10. Being Tidy

Questions

1. **Are you a tidy person?**
2. **How do you keep things tidy around you?**
3. **Do you think people should be tidy all the time?**
4. **Are you tidier at school/work or home?**
5. **What are the benefits of being tidy?**
6. **Can you tell a person's character based on how tidy he or she is?**

Sample Answers

1. **Are you a tidy person?**

Yes, I believe I am a hygienic and tidy person as I like to keep my surroundings clean as much as I can. I believe hygiene is one of the most important aspects of my personality.

2. **How do you keep things tidy around you?**

As I live away from my parents due to my job, I try to dust off the fitments and the things around me. I try to keep things in order and make sure they are arranged and organised well. I just can't bear the haphazardness of my chattels.

3. **Do you think people should be tidy all the time?**

Well, as far as my personality and inclination towards personal cleanliness go, I do believe that people should try being neat all the time. It is needless to say that cleanliness and hygiene keep a lot of diseases at bay. Moreover, it also hints at one's personality.

4. **Are you tidier at school/work or home?**

I am tidy on all occasions, irrespective of where I go. The only difference that I can think of while being at work and at home is the choice of clothes I wear. Other than that, I don't differentiate in the degrees of tidiness regarding the places.

5. **What are the benefits of being tidy?**

Well, the first benefit of being tidy is from the health aspect. One who is tidy and hygienic keeps a lot of diseases at arm's length. Secondly, it casts a great impression on the people around and

doesn't make them feel appalled and disgusted with the lack of cleanliness.

6 Can you tell a person's character based on how tidy he or she is?

Yes, one can be judged on the basis of one's hygiene. A tidy and hygienic person is generally more active and presentable and has higher self-esteem as compared to one who is a bit lousy and messy.

Vocabulary

Hygiene
Meaning: cleanliness
Eg: Hygiene should not be a choice but a way to live.

Aspects
Meaning: areas/avenues
Eg: He excelled in all aspects of life.

Fitments
Meaning: furniture
Eg: I bought some expensive fitments for my apartment.

Hint at
Meaning: indicate
Eg: Surya hinted at the danger that was about to come.

Tidiness
Meaning: cleanliness
Eg: The tidiness of the room lured me to rent it immediately.

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11. Home/Accommodation

Questions

1. **Do you live in a house or an apartment? Please describe it a bit.**
2. **What is your favourite room in your home?**
3. **What have you done to your room to make it look nice?**
4. **How do you expect your future house to be and why?**
5. **Would you change anything about your home? Why/ why not?**

Sample Answers

1 Do you live in a house or an apartment? Please describe it a bit.

I live in a small town, and my house is situated in the heart of the town. It is a four-story pucca house. There are seven rooms, three kitchens, two living rooms, and a drawing-room. There is a small home garden in the backside of the house where the ladies of my house have planted vegetables and fruits.

2 What is your favourite room in your home?

Unequivocally, my favourite room is my own. I have decorated it in such a way that it gives me immense peace and tranquility from time to time.

3 What have you done to your room to make it look nice?

First of all, the walls of my room have been painted white and blue. Behind the bed is the focus wall that is painted in black. Since I am an art aficionado, I have accumulated a variety of souvenirs from varying places I have been to. They are showpieces and wall hangings that I have put into my room.

4 How do you expect your future house to be and why?

In a few coming years, we are planning to build our property according to unexcelled design specifications. It will have almost three bedrooms and 2 extra bathrooms. Alongside, there will be a large, open dining area. There will also be a garage and a patio.

5 Would you change anything about your home? Why/ why not?

I like my house quite too much to change it entirely. However, if I have to, I would like to have a porch and a sitting area on the front side of the house, for which I am preparing as well.

Vocabulary

Unequivocally
Meaning: in a way that doesn't leave a doubt
Eg: My college unequivocally condemns violence in the premises.

Tranquility
Meaning: the state or quality of being peaceful
Eg: I love the tranquility near lakes.

Aficionado
Meaning: a person who likes a specific thing or knows about it a lot
Eg: According to the aficionados, pizza is one of the best inventions.

Souvenirs
Meaning: something that constantly reminds you of a place you have been to
Eg: I bought back a wall hanging as a souvenir of my vacation in Rome.

Unexcelled
Meaning: matchless, better than other examples of the similar type
Eg: I like automotives with an unexcelled design.

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12. Window view

Questions

1. What scenery can you see from the window of your home?
2. Do you want to live in a house with beautiful window views?
3. Do you like looking at the scenery from your window?
4. How do you feel when you can't see any beautiful view from your window?

Sample Answers

1 What scenery can you see from the window of your home?

It's unfortunate to state that the windows of my home don't overlook a mesmerising view. I live in the city center; thus, all I see is bustling streets, high-sky buildings, and countless vehicles contributing to noise pollution. In my opinion, living in a concrete jungle is nothing less than stressful as there is no peace.

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2 Do you want to live in a house with beautiful window views?

Of course, I want to. In fact, one of my fantasies is to reside in such a place that is surrounded by a tranquil neighbourhood and has a scenic beauty to it. I believe being close to nature helps us emotionally and spiritually.

3 Do you like looking at the scenery from your window?

Not really! As I have already mentioned, my windows don't overlook any pleasing scenery. The view is nothing but an eyesore.

4 How do you feel when you can't see any beautiful view from your window?

As I constantly dream of a spectacular view, it disheartens me to wake up to something that doesn't excite me. However, I don't fret as I am very much present in reality and know what will greet me when I uncurtain my windows.

Vocabulary

Mesmerising
Meaning: something that holds the complete attention
Eg: The audience is mesmerised with the new web series.

Bustling
Meaning: to be full of noise, people or activity
Eg: The streets are always bustling during the festive season.

Concrete
Meaning: something that is definite or real
Eg: My thoughts on empowerment are concrete.

Tranquil
Meaning: peaceful and quiet
Eg: I love visiting tranquil places.

Eyesore
Meaning: something that is unpleasant or ugly
Eg: All the litter in the park is an eyesore.

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13. Stages of Life

Questions

1. **Do you enjoy your current stage of life?**
2. **In what stage of your life were you the happiest?**
3. **Which stage of your life do you think is the most important?**
4. **What's your plan for your next stage of life?**
5. **What is the attitude of older people in your country?**

Sample Answers

1 Do you enjoy your current stage of life?

Absolutely! Currently, I am having a whale of a time being a student. Right now, I am preparing for my higher studies and spend hours altogether researching some of the elite colleges and universities.

2 In what stage of your life were you the happiest?

In my opinion, childhood and early teens are the only two phases that almost every person cherishes. I was vivacious and got a lot of love from my parents and everybody else at home. My days were filled with carefree enjoyment. I miss that time a lot.

3 Which stage of your life do you think is the most important?

I believe all of the stages of life are important, but childhood is the paramount one. It is crucial for our physical, emotional, and mental development. A child's brain can be moulded, and whatever one learns during their childhood will determine the kind of a person they will become as adults.

4 What's your plan for your next stage of life?

I want to graduate from a good college and find a well-paying, satisfactory job. I would like to help my parents financially and also pay off some of their debts. At one point in time, I want to help my parents fulfill their dreams.

5 What is the attitude of older people in your country?

In India, the elderly have always been treated with great respect and occupied a prominent position in the family. In rural India, the joint family system is still prevalent. However, in this

competitive world, youngsters migrate to other cities to find well-paying jobs; thus, they have to leave their elders behind.

Vocabulary

Elite
Meaning: the most successful or powerful
Eg: My family is one of the elite families in the town.

Vivacious
Meaning: lively, fully of energy
Eg: My dog is a vivacious pet.

Paramount
Meaning: most important
Eg: Safety is paramount when travelling out of the city.

Prominent
Meaning: noticeable
Eg: He is a prominent figure in the town.

Prevalent
Meaning: most common in a specific place at a specific time
Eg: The prevalent weather conditions are worrisome.

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14. Being Happy

Questions

1. **Is there anything that makes you feel happy lately?**
2. **What do you do to stay happy?**
3. **Can you stay happy all the time?**
4. **Is it important to be happy?**

Sample Answers

1. **Is there anything that makes you feel happy lately?**

Yes, chasing my dreams is making me jovial lately. I believe we all have a driving force that compels us to wake up each morning and work hard. For now, the thing that is filling me up with sheer happiness is acquiring an admission to one of the putative universities to pursue a course of my choice.

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2. **What do you do to stay happy?**

For me, feeling happy is nothing less than a roller-coaster ride. There are days I feel down in the dumps, and there are others when I feel overjoyed. However, regardless of the situation, I don't suppress any of my feelings and don't force myself to be happy. I merely go with the flow.

3. **Can you stay happy all the time?**

No. In fact, that is a vague myth. Humans have been blessed with a myriad of emotions. There are times when we feel anxious, worn out, despondent. Also, there are times when we feel neutral, neither happy nor sad. So, it's obvious that nobody can stay happy all the time.

4. **Is it important to be happy?**

Definitely, it is. Life is too short to dwell on anything that doesn't give us utmost joy. In a way, happiness is directly related to our physical health. If we are optimistic and exuberant, we stay a tad healthier than others. Issues like heart diseases, anxiety, and depression, decrease to a great extent by being happy.

Vocabulary

Putative
Meaning: reputed
Eg: AIIMS is one of the putative hospitals in India.

Vague
Meaning: not definite or clear
Eg: He is vague about how much money his next trip will cost.

Worn out
Meaning: extremely tired
Eg: I am worn out after today's workout.

Despondent
Meaning: with no hope
Eg: I am becoming despondent about travelling next month.

Exuberant
Meaning: full of excitement or energy
Eg: She tries to stay exuberant despite going through so much in life.

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15. Trees

Questions

1. **What kind of trees do people usually plant in your country? How about your hometown?**
2. **Have you ever planted trees?**
3. **What kind of trees do you plant?**
4. **Do you like planting trees and why?**
5. **Did you ever climb a tree when you were a child?**

Sample Answers

1. **What kind of trees do people usually plant in your country? How about your hometown?**

Well, considering the land and population diversity in India, there are sundry plants here. Majorly, the plantation depends upon the type of land and weather conditions. However, some sought-after plants are Neem, Banyan, and Peepal trees.

2. **Have you ever planted trees?**

Yes, I have. I come from a small village in the state of Haryana. In my village, generally, houses are colossal, so we get a lot of space for plantations. Also, since my mother is an avid gardener, I have helped her in planting an array of trees in our backyard.

3. **What kind of trees do you plant?**

Out of all, I have a soft spot for flowering plants. Thus, I have planted roses, hibiscus, marigolds, and jasmine. Other than that, I have also planted lemon, banana, and mango trees in my backyard.

4. **Do you like planting trees and why?**

Yes, I am really fond of planting trees. Not only are they quintessential for the environment, but also make the place look alluring. Trees purify the air, offer us shade and food and allow us to calm down as well.

5. **Did you ever climb a tree when you were a child?**

Yes, I have climbed plenty of trees in my childhood. Out of all, I have climbed mango trees the most as they were planted in our own backyard. Other than that, I used to visit a nearby jungle with my friends and climb trees there.

Vocabulary

Sundry
Meaning: of various types and kinds
Eg: My mother has a sundry collection of jewellery.

Sought-after
Meaning: in great demand, popular
Eg: The complete set of Harry Potter series is a sought after collection.

Colossal
Meaning: extremely large
Eg: My great grandfather had a colossal mansion in Pakistan before partition.

Avid
Meaning: enthusiastic about something
Eg: I am an avid reader.

Quintessential
Meaning: being the perfect example of something
Eg: He is a quintessential example of chivalry.

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16. Wedding

Questions

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

Sample Answers

1 Have you ever been to a wedding?

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

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2 What clothes do people wear to weddings?

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

3 Describe a wedding ceremony.

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

17. Activity Near Water

Questions

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

Sample Answers

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

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

2 Why do some people like water sports?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

18. Lost

Questions

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

Sample Answers

1 Have you ever lost your way?

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

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

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

3 Can you read a map when you get lost?

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

4 Have you ever helped someone who got lost?

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

Vocabulary

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

Eg: His son has Dyslexia.

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

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

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

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

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19. Shoes

Questions

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

Sample Answers

1 How frequently do you buy shoes?

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

2 Where do you usually buy shoes?

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

3 What is your favourite type of shoes?

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

4 Why do some people have too many shoes?

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

5 Have you ever bought shoes online?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

20. Living

Questions

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

Sample Answers

1 Where are you living now?

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

2 What do you like most about where you live?

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

3 What is the neighbourhood like where you live?

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

4 Do you have any friends there?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

21. Decoration

Questions

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

Sample Answers

1 What is the decoration like in your home?

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

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2 What kind of decoration do you prefer?

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

3 Do Indian people like decorating their homes?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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22. Names

Questions

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

Sample Answers

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

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

2 How do you remember people's names?

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

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

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

4 Do you often forget people's names?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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23. Primary School

Questions

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

Sample Answers

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

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

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2 How did you go to your primary school?

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

3 How do you like your primary school?

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

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

During primary school, we used to have two recesses, a short recess for snacks and a longer recess for lunch. Most of the time, the shorter recess was exhausted due to washroom breaks as it only lasted for 10 minutes. It was during the long recess that we had the most fun. Every day as soon as the bell rang, almost the entire class would run out and meet up at the playground. We

would always argue on which game to play on that particular day and finally settle on something like catch, tag or statues.

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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24. Volunteer

Questions

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

Sample Answers

1 Why do you think people volunteer?

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

2 Would you like to work as a volunteer?

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

3 Have you ever done any voluntary work?

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

4 Is volunteering worth the time it takes?

In my opinion, volunteering is only suitable for individuals who do not have any urgency in their lives. Worrying about the welfare of others is a selfless activity. If a person's mind is preoccupied with something else, such endeavours are difficult to carry out. As the saying goes, 'charity begins at home', a person should only take on the responsibility of volunteering if their time is not accounted for and they are free from any kind of stress.

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

25. Housework

Questions

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

Sample Answers

1 Do you do housework at home?

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

2 What kinds of housework do you often do?

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

3 Did you do housework when you were a child?

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

4 Do you think that children should do housework?

I believe that children should be taught the importance of sharing the responsibility of housework. It is often seen that in a household, the onus of housework often falls on women. Such conventions are not at all progressive, even though they are very commonplace. That being said, children should be given household chores to carry out so that they can be responsible for themselves and their families in the future.

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

IELTS Speaking – Part 2 & 3

1. Describe a bike/motorcycle/car trip you would like to go on.

You should talk about:

- **Where you would like to go?**
- **Who you would like to go with?**
- **What you would like to go?**
- **Explain why would you like to go by bike/motorcycle/car.**

Sample Answer

Traversing across places is one of my favourite leisure activities. I generally prefer visiting places by car and the idea of going to exciting places imbues me with an exhilarating vibe. Moreover, being an orophile, I will never miss a chance to visit hill stations with ample trekking trails and good camping facilities.

The joy and thrill of visiting a place quadruple when you team up with people who match your vibe. As a result, I would like to go there with five of my closest friends as they are delightful travel buddies. Also, we share a plan to visit the hill station just before winter, when the place will have snow-clad mountains and chilly weather and the number of tourists will be scanty.

A car's safety is vital, especially in the post-pandemic situation when the situation can worsen at any time. Moreover, the advantage of travelling by own car is huge as we don't have to depend on others and relish the beauty of nature and each other's company at our own pace.

Vocabulary

Traversing
Meaning: travelling
E.g.: Karen likes traversing across new cities in search of inspiration for her novels.

Imbue
Meaning: to fill with
E.g.: The children were imbued with joy the moment they heard of hiking.

Exhilarating
Meaning: exciting and happy
E.g.: There was an exhilarating and deafening hoot in the crowd when the artist came.

Orophile
Meaning: one who loves mountains
E.g.: My friend is an orophile while I don't like mountains.

Scanty
Meaning: less/meager
E.g.: The scanty rainfall caused massive losses to farmers.

Part 3

1. **Which form of vehicle is most common in your country, bikes, car or motorcycle?**

India, being an enormous country, has access to diverse modes of conveyance. So, most people in the country own a two-wheeler. Moreover, with the availability of easy loans and an increase in income, buying a car has become a lot easier, which has resulted in an increase in ownership of vehicles.

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2. **Do you think air pollution comes mostly from mobile vehicles?**

I think mobile vehicles like cars, motorbikes and buses are one of the principal factors contributing to air pollution. However, the unbridled augmentation of industries and their inefficient administration is the primary contributor to the degradation in air quality.

3. **Do you think people need to change the way of transportation drastically to protect the environment?**

We can make numerous changes in transportation that will definitely affect the environment positively, for example, turning off the engine during traffic halts, practising carpooling, accepting electric automobiles, etc.

4. **How are transportation systems in rural and urban systems different?**

In rural areas, transportation is confined to buses, motorcycles and bikes as the roads are not well-constructed and accessible. But, in urban areas, due to better infrastructure, modes of transport are well-developed, well connected and have variety.

Vocabulary

Conveyance
Meaning: the process of carrying or transporting it from one place to another.
E.g.: The man who is in charge of the conveyance is absent today.

Unbridled
Meaning: not controlled or limited
E.g.: Due to his unbridled ambition, he has met his end in such a terrible way.

Augmentation
Meaning: the process of increasing the size, value, or quality of something by adding to it
E.g.: Better opportunities and living standard led to the augmentation of the population of the country.

Carpooling
Meaning: to travel together to work or school in a car, usually taking turns to drive
E.g.: The practice of carpooling is helping in reducing pollution.

Accessible
Meaning: able to be reached or easily got
E.g.: Our professors are easily accessible and so they are popular among students.

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2. Describe an exciting book you read or a book you read and found very interesting.

You should talk about:

- **When you read it?**
- **What type of book is it?**
- **What is it about?**
- **Why did you find it exciting?**

Sample Answer

Books are an eminent source of information, feelings, and inspiration. Being a voracious reader, I enjoy reading books. Even though I have read many exciting books in my life, one book has caught my attention. Last month, I was feeling low, and I talked to my elder brother about it, and he suggested the book "Atomic Habits". This book is so exciting and addictive that I remained involved in reading the masterpiece when I started reading it.

This book is a self-help book. The main focus is on the small habits of people that can bring change. It says that we can get a paradigm shift in our lives by the compound effect of hundreds of small decisions whether we have to improve our habits by working on this, by making minuscule changes so that it can grow into such life-altering outcomes.

This book has a transformative effect because, after reading it, you can handle all the discords in your life adroitly. There is no doubt in denying this conviction that most people work so hard to gain accomplishments in their lives. This book has elucidated the process of attaining success in a consummate manner. This book can add fun to your life by leading you towards an impressive growth trajectory by breaking bad routines and making good ones.

Vocabulary

Voracious
Meaning - engaging in an activity with great eagerness or enthusiasm.
E.g.- My friend Ritu is such a voracious reader that she doesn't keep her novel down even in the classroom.

Paradigm
Meaning - a typical example or pattern of something, a pattern or model.
E.g.- - Charlie's programming paradigm has taken the computer world by storm.

Adroitly
Meaning - in a clever or skillful way.
E.g.- - Alan adroitly slipped the diamond necklace into his pocket from the shop.

Minuscule
Meaning - extremely small or tiny
E.g.- Some people love to collect minuscule things.

Consummate
Meaning - showing great skill and flair.
E.g.- Anna dealt with her financial problem with consummate skill.

Part 3

1 Do you prefer books or movies?

I think movies may never be able to match the details of emotions and feelings that mere words can have, and I love the smell of old books But I never usually get time to read the book, so sometimes, I watch movies.

2 Do you think it is essential to read the book before watching the movie version of it?

No, not really, as it depends on the person's preference and availability of time. And a lot of movie adaptations have been very captivating.

3 Do boys and girls like the same kinds of books?

I have seen some differences in the magazines boys and girls read. For instance, I have seen most girls reading fashion magazines and very seldom in the case of boys. But it is not true in all cases as I have seen most of my friends read and share similar kinds of books.

4 Do you think reading is important?

In my opinion, the habit of reading is an essential quality that every individual should have. It not only enriches our knowledge and vocabulary but also opens our mind to a different world to widen our horizons.

5 What kind of books do Indian people like to read?

I don't think reading books depends on nationality. For example, the Harry Potter series is famed worldwide because it is an exciting book to read. Even though it was meant for children, every age group enjoys it.

Vocabulary

Mere
Meaning - used to emphasize how small or insignificant someone or something is.
E.g. - My sister gets hungry even at the mere thought of food.

Preference
Meaning - a greater liking for one alternative over another or others.
E.g. - Anna has a preference for fiction books over non-fiction ones.

Captivating
Meaning - charming
E.g. - When my family saw sharks for the first time, the view was very captivating.

Famed
Meaning - known about by many people
E.g. - New Delhi is famed for its markets and street food.

Seldom
Meaning - rarely
E.g. - My dog seldom bites on meeting strangers.

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3. Talk about a time when you felt bored.

You should talk about:

- **When it was?**
- **Who were you with?**
- **What were you doing?**
- **Why did you feel bored?**

Sample Answer

Life is not always interesting and at times, quite monotonous. There was a time when I felt extremely bored and to stay in that situation became quite arduous for me. It was back then when I went to a family gathering and all the members of my family including the extended family members got together. Contrary to what I thought it would feel like, it turned out to be a vapid and irrelevant meeting for me.

So, I along with my parents and brother went to the gathering together. I was quite a gaiety to meet my cousins whom I hadn't seen for a long time. However, my mirth and excitement went down the drain when my parents and brother went to a different room, and I went to another one. Actually, while walking up to the room, I got a call from my colleague and hence I asked my parents to move forth and I shall follow. After the call ended, I could find a trace of them and lead myself to a room full of strangers. Since the gathering was supposed to include my extended family as well, I sat there among them with an unnatural grin.

The conversation that followed afterward had no relevance to me. I couldn’t find a single strand to hold that could make me interested in that conversation. Moreover, none was bothered to include me in that conversation, and I sat like a twerp there. Later, I came to know that they were not even my family members and I had got into the wrong room.

Vocabulary

Monotonous
Meaning: Boring
E.g.: I had a monotonous schedule. Hence, I changed it.

Arduous
Meaning: Difficult
E.g.: The task at hand was quite arduous.

Contrary
Meaning: Opposite
E.g.: Contrary to your belief, he is a good boy.

Vapid
Meaning: Boring
E.g.: It was such a vapid task that I had to leave it.

Gaiety
Meaning: Happy
E.g.: We all were gaiety and excited to meet the new puppy.

Part 3

1. **Why do people feel bored?**

People feel bored when they are in a hackneyed situation, or in case they follow a recurrent schedule that is quite prosaic to follow.

2. **What can people do when they feel bored?**

People should find relevance in the situation if they have nothing to do. Apart from that, they can do something they are passionate about. For example, one can groove to the beats in case one loves to dance or can write if one is fond of writing.

3. **Do people get bored with daily routines?**

Yes, people get significantly bored with daily routines. Daily routines don't have much to offer to people and this becomes quite banal.

4. **Is it easier for younger people to feel bored than for the old?**

Well, yes. Younger people are quite buoyant and dynamic and hence, they look around for activities that include fun, frolic, and enthusiasm. When they don't find such activities to do, they get bored easily.

Vocabulary

Hackneyed
Meaning: Uninteresting
E.g.: The ways with which people were entertained have now become hackneyed.

Recurrent
Meaning: Frequent
E.g.: I heard a recurrent announcement at the station.

Prosaic
Meaning: Something that lacks enthusiasm and interest
E.g.: The film was too prosaic to watch.

Passionate
Meaning: Having a passion for something.
E.g.: She is a passionate writer.

Buoyant
Meaning: Active and energetic
E.g.: The kids were so buoyant that I started feeling their energy.

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4. Describe a puzzle that you solved (jigsaw, crossword, etc).

You should talk about:

- **What puzzle was it?**
- **How long does it take to complete it?**
- **Whether it was difficulty or easy?**
- **How you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

Puzzles are a part of almost everyone's childhood. These brainteasers are a riveting and refreshing way of diverting our minds. A similar experience of solving a puzzle that I would like to talk about is the Rubik's Cube. The Rubik's Cube is probably the most recognized puzzle around the world. It is difficult to find an individual who hasn't tried their hand at solving a Rubik's Cube. This particular puzzle comes in the form of a plastic cube that is overlaid with multicolored squares on every side. The objective is to twist and turn the cube and cumulate all the same-coloured squares on each side or face.

The most intriguing characteristic of this puzzle is that it can be solved in a matter of seconds if the player can figure out all the moves accurately. On the other hand, this exact feature has a tantalizing effect on players, because, in a rush to solve the puzzle as quickly as possible, players often twist and turn the cube in the wrong direction, making it even more perplexing.

I remember distinctly when my mother brought me a Rubik's Cube as a birthday present. Initially, I had no clue how to go about solving this puzzle on my own. I would spend hours twisting and turning the cube, making the colors even more jumbled than they were before. Eventually, I managed to solve the puzzle after several days and was ecstatic at the fact and showed my parents the solved Rubik's Cube.

The Rubik's Cube has always been a puzzling and entertaining experience for me ever since I was a child. Even to this day, I still have not figured out a definite pattern to solve this particular puzzle.

Vocabulary

Riveting
Meaning: completely engrossing; compelling.
E.g.: The new magic show had a riveting effect on everyone present in the auditorium.

Cumulate
Meaning: gather together and combine.
E.g.: The detective wanted to cumulate all the evidence before the trial.

Tantalizing
Meaning: tormenting or teasing with the sight or promise of something unattainable.
E.g.: Fame has a tantalizing effect on the minds of many people.

Perplexing
Meaning: completely baffling; very puzzling.
E.g.: The Bermuda Triangle is one of the most perplexing mysteries of the world.

Ecstatic
Meaning: feeling or expressing overwhelming happiness or joyful excitement.
E.g.: The college volleyball team was ecstatic about their tournament victory.

Part 3

1 What do people do online in their free time?

The current era is known for its technological advancements. Presently, the most common form of leisure is surfing the Internet. People nowadays tend to spend a majority of their free time on social media platforms. Online video-sharing platforms like Youtube are also extremely popular as a form of entertainment during spare time.

2 What impact does the internet have on schools?

Just like any other phenomenon, the Internet has both positive and negative effects on schools and schoolchildren. Today, a stupendous amount of study resources are available to both students and teachers through online platforms. Such a development can remarkably improve the quality of education dispensed at the school level. On the other hand, the convenience of the Internet can have a detrimental effect on both teachers and students. The easy availability of information can lead to a certain degree of complacency in the process of learning.

3 Do you think many people waste their time online?

Yes, I believe that spending too much time online has become a distressing issue over the last few years. Today, people tend to spend hours on the Internet browsing and scrolling through social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Such practices deteriorate the mental and physical health of the general masses. The average person has significantly less time on their hands because of the amount of time they waste online.

4 What can people do with the Internet in the future? And how?

The Internet can be a dynamic and powerful tool if used correctly. There are dedicated online platforms available for nearly every aspect of human life. One of the most striking characteristics of the Internet is the ability to make a livelihood online. I believe that people will be able to earn a living online. Such an endeavor can be undertaken when people showcase their skills and talents through online platforms like Youtube and Twitch.

5 In what ways can people get information nowadays?

The most prevalent approach to acquiring information in the present-day scenario is browsing the Internet. Since the Internet is accessible through personal computers and smartphones, any kind of information is available at a person's fingertips. Google, which is the most powerful web browser available, is commonly used for research and queries of all sorts. This particular browser can give an individual more than millions of results for the type of information they are looking for.

Vocabulary

Surfing
Meaning: move from page to page or site to site on (the World Wide Web).
E.g.: A better internet connection makes surfing much easier.

Stupendous
Meaning: extremely impressive.
E.g.: The company rewarded the employees with bonuses due to their stupendous performance.

Detrimental
Meaning: tending to cause harm.
E.g.: The Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster in Ukraine had a detrimental effect on all the neighboring countries.

Complacency
Meaning: a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.
E.g.: Kevin was fired from the team due to his complacency during work.

Dynamic
Meaning: characterized by constant change, activity, or progress
E.g.: The economy is a dynamic aspect of a nation that requires time and effort to understand.

5. Describe a time when your computer/laptop broke down.

You should talk about:

- **What it was?**
- **What you were doing?**
- **What you did about it?**
- **How you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

I am a tech-freak and work on my laptop for almost 8-9 hours a day. Therefore, not having a laptop to work on hampers my mindset as well as impedes my professional life. There was a time when my laptop went kaput because of a kid who came to my home and tried to mess around with the laptop and ended up getting it defunct.

So, I was working on my organisation's data and was about to start analysing the collected information to present it on the evening of that day when I got a call from my aunt that she would be visiting me along with her 5 year old. I was quite happy upon hearing that and went to receive her at the station. Upon reaching our home, we conversed for about an hour and then she said that she was feeling quite knackered after the journey and would like to doze off for a while. Meanwhile, I went out to the nearby market to shop for groceries and forgot about the laptop and that mischievous five-year-old kid. He splashed a jug of water over the screen and threw it on the floor as he thought it was a toy to play with.

After I learned about all that had happened, I took the laptop to the service centre in the vicinity. However, the agent said that the condition of that laptop was beyond any service or any recuperative measure. I felt dejected as all my data and hard work went down the drain.

Vocabulary

Hamper
Meaning: obstruct
E.g.: If your studies are hampered because of the trip, you will not be allowed to go.

Impede
Meaning: prevent; discourage
E.g.: Not taking medicine at the proper time will deter your health.

Kaput
Meaning: destroyed
E.g.: Their bond went kaput after this hellish incident.

Knackered
Meaning: exhausted
E.g.: He was knackered after the tour and took a few days off from work.

Dejected
Meaning: hopeless
E.g.: I felt dejected when my favourite team lost.

Part 3

1. **What do people use computers for?**

Computers have become an indispensable part of our lives today, and people use them for innumerable reasons, including data collection, marketing, researching, computing, chatting, etc.

2. **Should students be allowed to use computers at school?**

Well, of course, they should be allowed to use computers. But it should be permitted only if they are monitored vigilantly with proper proxy servers that don't allow them to access the sites they shouldn't be accessing. For study purposes, it is imperative that they use computers.

3. **What do you think of people who are addicted to computers?**

Being obsessed with anything can be detrimental to one's life. So, people who are addicted to using computers out of proportion and balance are prone to many diseases. So, they should be watchful of their usage.

4. **Do you think computers make our life simpler or more complex?**

I believe computers have made our lives easier and very relaxing compared to how it was almost 5-6 years ago. Technology has dislodged the significant conventional aspects of our lives and has made our multi-tasking lives relatively more manageable.

Vocabulary

Indispensable
Meaning: essential
E.g.: Water is an indispensable source of life.

Innumerable
Meaning: many
E.g.: There are innumerable cases against them, but due to lack of proof, they roam freely.

Vigilantly
Meaning: carefully.
E.g.: You need to carry out this process vigilantly.

Imperative
Meaning: important
E.g.: It is imperative to do your homework before coming to the class.

Detrimental
Meaning: harmful
E.g.: Not taking precautionary measures is detrimental to his health.

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6. Describe a time when you had some medicine.

You should say:

- **When it happened?**
- **Who gave it you?**
- **Why you had it?**
- **How you felt about it?**

Sample Answer:

I abhor taking medicines generally and taking them for paltry issues and mild health inconveniences is not what I usually practice. However, there was a time when I became quite lackadaisical with a fever that I got after taking my vaccination for Covid -19. The post-vaccine symptoms took a toll on my health not because of the vaccine but because of intestinal inflammation that I came to know later.

After bearing the pain for some days, I finally decided to get myself examined and the doctor confirmed that it was not due to the vaccine symptom. Instead, I had Colitis due to which there is an inflammation in my intestine wall, and hence the pain. So, I was recommended medicines and routine checkups every third day.

Actually, after getting my vaccination for Covid-19, I was told that I could expect mild symptoms post the vaccine as the immune system gets activated and charged up as a reaction to the constituents of the vaccine. However, little did I know that under the pretext of the symptoms, I would be brushing my intestinal inflammation aside. On the stipulated day, I got my dose and at night, I had a mild headache and a slight fever. The next day, I felt a severe headache and pain in my intestine, which I thought would be a cascade of symptoms I was going through, so I didn't take any medicine. However, my situation deteriorated with no fever or headache but an excruciating pain in my intestine due to Colitis. Thus, when the doctor prescribed the medicines for this, I had no option but to take them.

I felt quite relieved after two doses of the medicine and got treated well due to the prescription. Consequently, I realized that health is not something one can topple up with.

Vocabulary

Abhor
Meaning: hate
Eg: I abhor the fact that I am lactose intolerant and could not have ice cream.

Paltry
Meaning: trivial
Eg: Such paltry issues are a matter of complete indifference to me.

Lackadaisical
Meaning: lazy
Eg: You are an extremely lackadaisical and careless person.

Inflammation
Meaning: swelling
Eg: There was inflammation in his muscles due to a sprain.

Recommended
Meaning: suggested
Eg: The dentist recommended she properly brush her teeth.

Part 3

1 What do you think of buying medicine online?

Buying medicine online is very convenient, especially when one is not able to find the drug that is recommended for a disease. However, a proper prescription and consultation with a doctor are indispensable.

2 In your opinion, why do some people dislike taking medicine?

Generally, there is a mindset of people that medicines make one's immunity enervated and hence one gets more prone to diseases. Due to this reason, they avoid taking medicine.

3 Some people say medicine is harmful. Do you think so?

Everything taken in excess and without proper consultation or guidance is harmful, and so is the case herewith. Medicines can be harmful if one gets the hold of a pill and a capsule for every mild health hassle, as that enfeebles one's natural tendency to fight off the diseases. Apart from that, people generally consider a single medicine to be a panpharmacon for every disease without consulting a doctor and that, at times, can get severe.

4 What do you think of fake medicine?

Fake medicines are quite dangerous to one's health and are very deleterious to one's health in case the composition and the ratio of the ingredients are not checked for quality. Hence, it can have a pernicious effect on one's immune system and the associated hormonal and enzymatic actions.

Vocabulary

Convenient
Meaning: easy
Eg: It is very convenient to let go of things.

Consultation
Meaning: a conversational session with a medical professional
Eg: You should book a consultation with the ophthalmologist.

Enervate
Meaning: weaken
Eg: He kept on getting enervated after the disease.

Enfeeble
Meaning: to become feeble (weak)
Eg: Lack of proper and regular diet can enfeeble the boy.

Deleterious
Meaning: harmful
Eg: Pollution in the city is deleterious for everyone.

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7. Talk about a time when you changed your opinion.

You should say

- **When was it?**
- **What was the original opinion?**
- **Why you changed it?**
- **And explain how you felt about it?**

Sample Answer:

Opinions tend to get modified often and that keeps on altering every time a new perspective comes into the picture. One such incident where my preconceived notion was changed upside down was on my 16th birthday.

Until my 16th birth anniversary celebration, I believed that true ebullience and vitality come only when we celebrate an occasion in the grandest way possible and that throwing lavish parties was synonymous with real joy. I used to celebrate each of my birthdays in the best possible way as per what a typical teenager would think and want to celebrate as.

Then on my 16th birthday, due to certain circumstantial prevalence, I couldn't actualize my plans to celebrate the year of 'sweet 16' in the way I imagined it to be. I still remember how crumpled my emotions were and how disconcerted I was until my parents took me to an orphanage. That was when my definition of contentment was changed and a film of pseudo-happiness was denounced.

My parents bought lots of gifts and until we reached the orphanage, I didn't even have a shade of the idea for whom those gifts were being bought for. The next moment I vividly remember was the wide grin and the sounds of chuckling coming from the beautiful faces of those underprivileged children. I was so contented and overwhelmed with emotions that I couldn't hold myself to stay and play with those kids for the rest of the day and that indeed was a moment of epiphany for me. This incident not only made my 16th birthday the best one to date, but it also changed my opinion and brought me to the actual horizon of humanity and true happiness.

Vocabulary

Perspective
Meaning: an idea about something/someone.
Eg: My perspective of that movie is still floundering as it keeps on changing every time I see it.

Notion
Meaning: idea
Eg: His notion about the weather was severely falsified after it rained heavily.

Ebullience
Meaning: happiness
Eg: The occasion came with immense ebullience.

Lavish
Meaning: splendid
Eg: We had a false idea that being a billionaire, he would have a lavish mansion.

Circumstantial
Meaning: due to circumstances
Eg: Circumstantial evidence suggested that he was guilty.

Part 3

1 Do children like to change opinions?

Yes, children like to change their opinions and they are the most prone group of people who tend to adjust their views more frequently than the adults. Childhood is the phase that is the most susceptible to learning new things, and in this process, children make, change and remake different opinions.

2 Why do people change opinions?

People change opinions due to sundry reasons. Some might change it due to the inefficiency of the beliefs they held prior, while some might change it when they come face to face with the reality of their perception.

3 Who do young people turn to for advice?

Young people often turn to the elder ones for advice as we all have been conditioned in such a way that we run after the experience, which is understandable as knowledge triumphs over everything. I believe children approach their parents, elder siblings and teachers more often than not whenever they find themselves in a fix.

4 Do people like giving an opinion about politics?

Yes, they do. Politics, by its very name, implies something relevant to people, and hence, people do take an interest in such affairs. It is a very recurrent scenario when people are spotted gathering around and exchanging their school of thoughts with each other. People love to discuss the authority and functioning of the association/parties that are ruling them, which helps them understand and rectify their flaws.

Vocabulary

Prone
Meaning: vulnerable
Eg: The weakest group in the competition is prone to get attacked sooner.

Sundry
Meaning: various
Eg: There are sundry options available for you, so choose wisely.

Triumph
Meaning: victory
Eg: He threw a party on his triumph in the election.

Imply
Meaning: suggest
Eg: This is a very vague statement, so could you please elaborate on what it implies?

Recurrent
Meaning: repeated
Eg: Burglary and theft are recurrent in this area.

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8. Describe a conversation topic you were not interested in.

You should say

- **Who you talked with?**
- **When you had the conversation?**
- **What was the topic?**
- **And explain why you were not interested?**

Sample Answer:

I am the kind of a person who loves to chat and converse and I can talk over any given topic for a long duration of time. However, some conversations can become awkward and the topic may not keep you engrossed for a long time. There was a time when I had such an exchange with an eleven-year-old and it was the most coerced and banal conversation I ever had so far.

My friends and I planned a trip to a hill station 200 kilometres away from the city I lived in. However, that trip became very searing to my ears because of the younger brother of one of my friends. Five people went on that trip, and I took the car's back seat. The little boy urged me to sit with him, to which I happily agreed. However, little did I know that the boy would become a matter of irk for me.

The boy started talking about all the animated series and animes that he had seen so far and wanted me to talk about them with the same zeal. Unfortunately, I didn't even have an idea about the ABC of those series. He pointed out my indifference and lack of exhilaration for the toon series he was such a zealot of and started chivvying me to talk about the series that I might have watched in the past.

I have never been interested in animated series, even when I was a kid, let alone watching or talking about them. Hence, that discussion disconcerted me a lot as I wasn't supposed to miff that kid with my avoidance and turn my back on him.

Vocabulary

Converse
Meaning: to talk
Eg: Sheika and Shileka were conversing for over three hours.

Engrossed
Meaning: absorbed
Eg: I was enchanted and engrossed in the play we saw last week.

Coerced
Meaning: forced
Eg: He was coerced to get out of the room.

Banal
Meaning: uninteresting
Eg: It was such a banal and uninteresting story.

Irk
Meaning: irritation
Eg: Will you please stop irking me with your baseless questions?

Part 3

1 What topics do young people in India talk about?

Well, Indian people love to talk and converse over a range of topics and they can communicate about anything under the sun. However, some of the most frequent topics that one may listen to the Indians talking about are politics, any latest movie released at a given time, sports, family issues and so on.

2 What is the difference between topics that are popular now and topics that were popular in the past?

Topics in the past were more or less inclined towards mythology, religions and real-time discussions, even when the discussion was among the children of that time. Nonetheless, today the discussion is majorly about gadgets, technology, web series, politics, etc.

3 How do you know if others are not interested in the conversation?

People tend to elude the conversation by hopping over a different topic if they don't find themselves absorbed in the topic at hand. Apart from that, the lack of interest can be pointed out by the way one is emoting their responses or their facial expressions.

4 What's the influence of modern technology, such as the internet, emails, on our communication?

The modern world has changed every aspect of our life and the means of communication is one of those. Earlier, written communication used to take place through letters and applications.

While, today, emails and the internet have dislodged the conventional way of communication and the pen-paper era seems to be submerging down the sea.

Vocabulary

Frequent
Meaning: regular
Eg: Such frequent occurrences of violence are a matter of concern for society.

Gadget
Meaning: device
Eg: He had all the gadgets one can think of.

Elude
Meaning: evade
Eg: I wanted to elude the situation; hence I ran away from the place.

Hop over
Meaning: to switch
Eg: I kept on hopping over different counters in the mall yesterday to spend my time.

Submerge
Meaning: immerse
Eg: The plants were submerged in the river.

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9. Describe a person who has apologised to you.

You should say

- **Who this person is?**
- **When this happened?**
- **What this person said for apologizing?**
- **Explain how you felt about the apology.**

Sample Answer:

An apology can work wonders and it is one of the best ways to rectify one's mistakes or misdemeanours with someone. I remember I had a minor fallout with one of our school prefects back in the days, and we were at loggerheads for over a week. However, his apology was enough to call it a truce and to placate the hard feelings we shared.

In our school, there was a provision for making prefects for every house we had, i.e., red, yellow house, etc. I was the prefect of the Red House and the guy named Thomas was a prefect of the Blue House. Thomas and I shared a good bond and were very amenable to each other. One day he planned to go absent from the annual function of our school and wanted me to miss it as well so that both of us would be at the harsh receiving end of the slander and chide. However, I denied his plans, so he had to come to school as well. After that, we were at tiffs for almost a week until he realised how silly it was on his part to miss the function on such an important day and, above all, wanted me to strike a chord with him. He apologised for his conduct and I happily accepted that.

He came to me, smiled, and said sorry for all he did. As he accepted his mistake, I showed no sign of rigidity and accepted the apology. I felt good about the situation, which made our bond stronger than ever. We never turned back again to any resentment and enmity toward each other and our friendship emboldened so much so, that we still are friends.

Vocabulary

Rectify
Meaning: to make something better, especially mistakes.
Eg: Rectification of your mistakes is expected from good boys like you.

Fallout
Meaning: argument
Eg: I had a minor fallout with Christa yesterday.

Amenable
Meaning: cordial
Eg: You should be amenable to guests.

Chide
Meaning: scold
Eg: They chided her for her behaviour.

Emboldened
Meaning: to make bold (strong)
Eg: His concepts were emboldened by the revision classes.

Part 3

1 Is it important to say sorry?

Yes, it is imperative to say sorry and accept the misstep if you have committed a peccadillo or any mistake.

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2 In what situations do people say sorry?

People say sorry for many reasons. Some might have made derisive remarks about others, while others might have told a lie at a time, etc. Hence, there could be many such reasons to ask for an apology.

3 Why do some people hate to say sorry?

Some people think too highly of themselves. For them, saying sorry could be taken as something subpar to the standards that they might have decided for themselves.

4 In what situations should we apologise immediately?

At times, we might accidentally bump into someone or disrupt an action by yawning or making noise. In this case, it is always good to say sorry immediately as not only does this show one's courtesy, but it also circumvents a major brawl that might take place if not pacified immediately.

5 When was the last time you found it hard to accept an apology?

Well, I have never found it hard to accept an apology. In any case, I feel I am quite fortunate to

have not been wronged by someone to an extent where it would have been difficult to accept someone's apology.

Vocabulary

Imperative
Meaning: important
Eg: It is imperative that you do your homework.

Peccadillo
Meaning: minor mistake
Eg: It is sufficient that you accepted your peccadillo and understood your flaw.

Derisive
Meaning: scornful; mocking
Eg: Don't bother yourself with the derisive and sarcastic remarks of the opponents.

Subpar
Meaning: below standards
Eg: Your performance is subpar compared to how you performed in the last quarter.

Pacified
Meaning: calmed
Eg: I pacified the entire fracas.

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10. Describe a book that you would like to read again, or you have read.

You should say

- **Which book it is?**
- **What is it about?**
- **Why you read it?**
- **Explain why you want to read it again.**

Sample Answer:

I am an ardent reader and have read a significant number of books so far. I believe one gets to know and learn about a lot of things as meaningful and priceless insights are imparted through a well-written book. Talking about the book, which, apart from being an enriched source of knowledge, became my go-to partner is the book named 'Laws of the Spirit World'. I never thought of reading this book. However, while surfing the internet for some spiritual content, I came across this prodigious book as I have a propensity for spirituality.

I have always been spiritually inclined and philosophy and the way of living have been one of my favourite subjects. This book took that zeal and exuberance towards the art of living to an altogether higher level. It talks about the essence of living and that all of our actions are watched over. Humans are their own guides and they do not have to look for somebody else to guide or direct them if they pay attention to what their conscience and subconscious mind say.

I read this book as I found the reviews and ratings on a positive note. It is a critically-acclaimed book and I believe all those rave reviews and amazing ratings its readers gave were all worth it. At any time, whether good or bad, this book comes to the fore and boosts you up and revitalises your esteem.

At times, one might feel dejected or might go astray from a good path in life. In such a scenario, this book works as a leash to bring one to the optimistic trajectory again by blowing wisdom and enlightenment in one's soul. Hence, as many times I read the book, I never feel as though I have already read it quite a lot of times.

Vocabulary

Ardent
Meaning: passionate
Eg: He is an ardent traveller and has covered half of the nation already.

Impart
Meaning: to give or share
Eg: You should always be an example who imparts goodness and inspiration.

Propensity
Meaning: inclination
Eg: The propensity to get carried away is higher at a young age.

Prodigious
Meaning: genius
Eg: He was a prodigious student and was loved by all.

Dejected
Meaning: hopeless
Eg: I felt dejected at the thought of losing the game.

Part 3

1. **Do people read more nowadays?**

No, I believe people don't read much nowadays as the internet era has dominated almost every other thing. Owing to the plethora of multimedia available, including podcasts and videos, people are more invested in them.

2. **Do you read before going to bed?**

I generally try to read a good book before retiring to bed as it is believed that whatever we go through before sleeping gets percolated in our subconscious mind and hence has a profound impact on our sleep.

3. **How will eBooks affect paper books?**

Ebooks have already affected the offline medium of reading. As a result, paper books are facing a diminution in their usage as people prefer to stick to the internet and ebooks for reading a book or a discourse.

4 What's the difference between films and books?

The basic difference between books and films is that films are video sources of information where everything is presented before our eyes. In contrast, books are written accounts of information, so we need to use our imagination to get a clear idea of the details.

Vocabulary

Plethora
Meaning: high in number
Eg: There are a plethora of options available in the fair.

Percolated
Meaning: to get inside
Eg: The water percolated through the soil and the plant survived.

Profound
Meaning: deep
Eg: He had a profound and sound sleep.

Retiring to bed
Meaning: going to bed and falling asleep
Eg: I retired to bed at 9 PM yesterday as I had to wake up early today.

Diminution
Meaning: plummet
Eg: There is a diminution in the price of this item and it needs upgradation.

11. Describe something that was broken in your home and then repaired.

You should say

- **What was it?**
- **How was it broken?**
- **How did you get it repaired?**
- **And how did you feel about it?**

Sample Answer:

These days, there is a conventional idea to buy newer models instead of getting the obsolete, broken ones repaired.

However, just a few weeks back, our refrigerator broke down. Fortunately, it was still under warranty; thus, we didn't have to replace it. All of a sudden, it ceased to work. We tried plugging and unplugging it but to no avail. Initially, we considered getting the socket checked as there could have been an issue with it. But when I plugged my phone charger into the socket, it worked. That's when we knew the refrigerator was broken. Not sure, but it could have been because of the voltage fluctuation as it rained cats and dogs last week.

We had bought this machine only a couple of months back. Thus, we dialed the company and scheduled a technician's visit. Upon arriving, he evaluated the situation and declared that the main circuit was burnt, which caused the fridge to break down. The good thing was he came equipped with all of the necessary parts. So, without any further ado, he replaced it.

The feeling was definitely unpleasant. Whenever something breaks down in the house, it creates an unwanted ruckus. And, that's what happened that day. Most of the food got spoilt because of this breakdown. However, once it got repaired, we received an official apology email from the company, which was indeed a good gesture from their end.

We appreciated the quick and prompt services provided by the company.

Vocabulary

Conventional
Meaning: behaving in a normal way
Eg: My family has broken the conventional attitude to adopt a modern approach of living.

Obsolete

Meaning: not useful any longer as something more useful has been invented
Eg: Smartphones have made landlines obsolete.

Ceased
Meaning: to end or stop
Eg: Rain has finally ceased today.

Avail
Meaning: benefit or help
Eg: His good intentions were of no avail to his family.

Fluctuations
Meaning: a back-and-forth shift
Eg: There were several fluctuations in the weather today.

Part 3

1 Are IT-related jobs valued more by society?

I don't think that they are valued more or less in comparison to other jobs. However, the magnitude that IT jobs hold has increased lately with our increased dependence on technology.

2 Is the quality of products worse than before?

I agree with the fact that the quality of products has degraded in recent years. I can claim it from my personal experience. The equipment and machines that my parents bought, be it an air conditioner, refrigerator, or anything of the sort, lasted for years altogether. However, when I purchased the same equipment and machines, they didn't work for more than four years at a stretch. I think the technology is becoming intricate, but that has taken a toll on product durability.

3 What kinds of things do people like to repair by themselves?

I think DIY videos and articles available on YouTube and Google have made it possible to repair anything and everything ourselves. Recently, my mom fixed her sewing machine by watching a YouTube video. I have fixed my mobile phone and laptop many times by just searching about the issue and finding a quick fix.

4 Why do people like to get their mobile phones repaired in specialised stores?

I think the main reason is that they don't want to void the phone's warranty. Most of the companies clearly mention that if the phone is opened by a non-registered technician or store, the warranty would not be applicable. In my opinion, this is just another stratagem by companies to ensure that they can charge people heavily for parts, which could be repaired cheaply otherwise.

Vocabulary

Magnitude
Meaning: the greater size or impact of something
Eg: The magnitude of the earthquake is low.

Degraded
Meaning: decrease the standards
Eg: Unwanted thoughts have degraded the true meaning of equality.

Intricate
Meaning: complex
Eg: The concept of physics is intricate.

Stratagem
Meaning: a plan or trick used to gain advantage
Eg: We won the match because of our captain's stratagem.

Heavily
Meaning: extremely
Eg: I am heavily inclined towards healthy diet.

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12. Describe something you received for free.

You should say:

- **What was it?**
- **Whom did you receive it from?**
- **Where did you receive it?**
- **And how did you feel about it?**

Sample Answer:

In my lifespan, I have received a myriad of free things. However, one of them that I would like to share here is when I received a free cup of coffee in Starbucks. The occasion was my birthday.

Since I am a frequent visitor to Starbucks, one of the salespersons suggested that I get a card. With forbearance, she explained all of the perks and benefits I was to get with this free card.

At first, I was a bit sceptical about taking it up. However, after much persuasion by the salesgirl, I signed up for it. Out of all the advantages, one of them was a free coffee in my birthday month.

Completely clueless, I randomly visited Starbucks in September - my birthday month. When I reached the counter to pay for the coffee, the salesperson told me that I had a free coffee due as it was my birthday month. Thus, the order was completely free.

I was stumped but equally excited. Upon inquiring about the type of coffee and the customizations, they said I could order whatever I wanted. So, taking a different track than usual, I ordered a mocha with whipped cream.

I always wanted to try this one but was refraining as it was a bit expensive. Since it was the perfect opportunity, I went for it without any ado. I simply relished every sip of my coffee and felt satisfied.

Vocabulary

Forbearance
Meaning: a quality of patience
Eg: My manager thanked our team for forbearance during the times of covid-19.

Sceptical
Meaning: doubtful
Eg: I am sceptical about the benefits the government has promised to the poor class.

Persuasion
Meaning: the act of causing people to believe or do something
Eg: Her persuasion skills landed us the biggest possible project.

Stumped
Meaning: not being able to answer the questions instantly
Eg: The entire question paper left me stumped.

Refraining
Meaning: to stop yourself from doing something
Eg: I have been refraining myself from talking to my mother after our fight.

Part 3

1. **Do you think people should pay for higher education? Why?**

If people are interested in pursuing higher studies, I definitely think that they should pay for it. This will help us avert lamentable money wastage, and we will only pay for it if we want it desperately. At the same time, those who cannot afford it should be backed up by the government through loans and scholarships to accomplish this goal.

2. **Is it good or bad for people to have a free education in the future?**

In my opinion, primary education should be free. The reason is that it is highly indispensable for everybody. As far as higher education is concerned, it could cost a bit but should also be affordable.

3. **What free gifts do companies usually give to their customers?**

As far as I know, in India, companies distribute budgeted gifts, such as cups, pens, calendars, etc., to customers. Although given without charging any dime, in a way, they are meant to advertise the company. Usually, these products have brand elements printed on them, such as the company's name, logo, address, etc.

4. **Why do customers like to receive free gifts from companies?**

I think there is no better feeling than getting something for free. I believe this is just another human trait to get excited when receiving gifts. Unlike paying for something, a product that comes free of cost never fills us up with doubts or regrets.

Vocabulary

Pursuing
Meaning: to follow something or someone
Eg: When policemen started pursuing the robber, he ran off.

Avert
Meaning: to avoid or prevent something
Eg: You could avert the accident by driving slowly.

Lamentable
Meaning: bad or disappointing
Eg: His casual behavior towards personal hygiene is lamentable.

Indispensable
Meaning: very important
Eg: In today's world, a personal vehicle is indispensable.

Dime
Meaning: a small amount of money
Eg: I will not pay a dime for the useless piece of furniture.

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13. Describe a toy you liked in your childhood.

You should say:

- **What was the toy?**
- **Who gave it to you?**
- **How often did you play with it?**

Sample Answer:

Well, talking about anything pertaining to childhood makes me nostalgic. Just like others, it was the golden phase of my life, and memories related to it would always hold a special place in my heart. When talking about childhood, nothing could be more precious than a bewildering collection of toys I had.

Since I was the first child in my clan, both maternal and paternal, I was fortunate enough to have a gamut of toys, including dolls, stuffed animals, building blocks, puzzles, handmade toys, board games, small vehicles, and many more.

However, out of all, the one that was extremely close to my heart was a handmade stuffed caricature of Noddy, which my grandfather gifted me on my 10th birthday.

Back in the day, I was a cartoon fanatic. I used to watch varying animated shows for hours altogether. During the weekends, it was nothing but arduous to take away the remote control from me. Amongst others, I used to watch Noddy In Toyland for a long period of time. I was fascinated by all of the characters, especially Noddy, Tessie Bear, and Big Ears. I was awestruck by how Noddy managed to do everything on his own.

So, this one time, when my grandfather asked what I wanted to be, I said that I wanted to be Noddy in a jiffy. Just a few days later, on my birthday morning, I saw a large gift-wrapped box in my room. I wanted to open it that instant, but out of the blue, all my family members started to sing a birthday song.

Gauging my inquisitiveness, my grandpa asked me to unwrap it. I was over the moon to see my favourite toy. I was extremely ecstatic about this toy and used to play with it all the time.

Vocabulary

Bewildering
Meaning: deeply confused to say something
Eg: My last trip was a bewildering experience.

Arduous
Meaning: difficult
Eg: The question paper was extremely arduous.

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

Awestruck
Meaning: filled with awe
Eg: I was awestruck by the surprises I got on my birthday.

Inquisitiveness
Meaning: curiousness
Eg: I could sense my sister's inquisitiveness when she entered my room.

Part 3

1 What is the difference between girls' and boys' toys?

Traditionally, girls enjoy softer and mushy toys like dolls, kitchen sets, stuffed toys, etc. On the contrary, boys prefer mechanical toys, such as guns, automobiles, etc. Boys usually pick dark colours while girls go with the lighter ones.

2 Do you believe toys really assist in children's growth?

Yes, toys play a gigantic part in children's development. It helps develop their motor, sensory, and cognitive abilities. At the same time, toys also lead to improved social growth, particularly when they play with other kids.

3 Does modern technology have an impact on children's toys?

Definitely, modern technologies leave a massive impact on toys. Along with the types of toys available, the preferences of children have altered over time. Today mechanical and STEM-oriented toys are more prevalent, such as robots, app-controlled cars, etc.

4 What toys are popular with children in India now?

A myriad of toys is popular in India currently. Children love playing with electronic and mechanical toys more these days. Also, parents are inclined toward buying such toys that not just keep them entertained but also improve their cognitive abilities.

5 In general, do kids today have many toys?

Yes, they do. Children today have far more toys than my friends, and I had collectively back then. I believe working parents are substituting time that they have to spend with kids by giving them more and more toys.

Vocabulary

Mushy
Meaning: thick and soft
Eg: I love sleeping on a mushy pillow.

Gigantic
Meaning: something that is really big
Eg: The buildings in New York are gigantic.

Cognitive
Meaning: connected with the process of understanding
Eg: Reading books improve our cognitive abilities

A myriad of
Meaning: a great variety
Eg: A myriad of emotions flooded over as my father danced with my sister at her wedding.

Collectively
Meaning: together
Eg: In our family, we take major decisions collectively.

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14. Describe a person you only met once and want to know more

You should say:

- **Who is he/she?**
- **When did you meet him/her?**
- **Why do you want to know more about him/her?**
- **And explain how you feel about him/her?**

Sample Answer:

Well, talking from experience, I can claim that I have always been coming across new people at different places. Some were easy to forget, while others left a profound impression on me.

Here, I would like to talk about a person who touched my life enormously. His name is Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam. He was the 11th president of India and the first Indian aerospace scientist.

Back in 2013, he was invited to our school on the juncture of space day. The intent behind inviting him was to offer an unbiased career and life guidance to teenagers. The gathering was not exhaustive; hence, we got some time to talk to him individually.

If you are cognizant of his life, you would be enthralled enough to find out more and more about him. His backstory is extremely enrapturing to me. Being a son of a boat owner and imam of a local mosque, Dr. Kalam was an average student but turned out to be an astounding citizen of India. I want to know the zeal and the driving force behind his intentions that helped him carve a path to the presidency. Sadly, I will have to resort merely to internet resources to learn more about him.

I have nothing but extreme respect and high regard for him. Even if I put him on a pedestal in my life, I would not be exaggerating. I admire his audacity to take life as it comes and make the most out of it while staying humble and grounded throughout. That's how I wish to become one day.

Vocabulary

Profound
Meaning: something that you feel strongly
Eg: His motivating words left a profound influence on me.

Exhaustive
Meaning: including everything possible
Eg: This shopping list is exhaustive.

Enthralled
Meaning: to hold somebody's attention
Eg: I was enthralled by his story.

Astounding
Meaning: feeling extremely surprised
Eg: This video game has astounding graphics.

Zeal
Meaning: great enthusiasm or energy
Eg: His zeal to follow traditions is inspiring.

Part 3

1. **How do people make friends in India?**

Making friends in India is not strenuous at all, owing to their affable nature. Commencing a conversation on a topic of mutual interest is sometimes enough to spark a friendship. Also, making friends through social media is another prevalent technique that people are using these days.

2. **On what occasions do people like to make friends?**

There are plenty of occasions that allow people to make friends. One of the foremost is profuse events, such as birthday parties, weddings, hangout parties, and more. People also make friends during illustrious travelling experiences. And then, joining online groups or offline classes is another way to make friends with like-minded people.

3. **Is it important to have the same hobbies and interests when making friends?**

Not really! Common hobbies definitely act as a driving force to start a conversation and begin a friendship. However, those who are poles apart can become friends as well. In fact, it's extremely invigorating to be friends with somebody who has different interests as it helps us get exposed to more things.

4. **What qualities make true friends?**

A true friend is someone who backs us up through our thick and thin. They are non-judgmental, benevolent, and accept all of our flaws. They stay forthright and help us learn the difference between right and wrong. And then, they give an abundance of love and care.

Vocabulary

Strenuous
Meaning: difficult
Eg: I have a strenuous workout regime.

Affable
Meaning: friendly to talk to
Eg: My group of friends is affable to strangers as well.

Likeminded
Meaning: having similar opinions or tastes
Eg: I like spending time with likeminded people.

Invigorating
Meaning: refreshing
Eg: Taking vitamin D every morning is extremely invigorating.

Benevolent
Meaning: helpful to others
Eg: Her sister is extremely benevolent to others.

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15. Describe a resolution you made in the new year.

You should say:

- **What is the resolution?**
- **How will you complete it?**
- **How do you feel about it?**
- **Why did you make this resolution?**

Sample Answer:

Well, setting up new year resolutions with great vivacity and eagerness is quite customary. However, not all of them stick to it and generally host a flop show. This year, even I made a resolution. And, so far, it's going good. My new year resolution is to moderate the use of mobile.

I am trying miscellaneous ways to complete this resolution. Now, instead of wasting hours on my phone, I have started stepping out of the house more. To stay vigorous, I have started playing physical sports with friends. Also, I switch off my phone at sharp 10 pm and hit the bed.

To be honest, I am feeling much more undisturbed now than before. Earlier, I used to be on my phone until the wee hours of the night. But now, I meditate for half an hour to relax my mind before sleeping. Also, I take a deep slumber for 8 hours daily, which is helping my focus and performance.

The truth is that, just like many other people, I had a phone fixation. This addiction, at one point, reached such an extent that I began squandering my golden hours playing games, surfing social media, and watching movies. So finally, I decided to put a full stop to it and take control of my life.

Vocabulary

Vivacity
Meaning: the quality of being lively
Eg: Her vivacity attracts everybody.

Vigorous
Meaning: filled with enthusiasm
Eg: She is vigorous enough to win this competition.

Slumber

Meaning: to be deeply asleep
Eg: Meditation has helped me with slumber.

Fixation
Meaning: addiction
Eg: I have a shopping fixation.

Squandering
Meaning: to waste money, time, etc
Eg: Everybody should pay attention to their career rather than squandering around.

Part 3

1 What are the most common resolutions in your country?

The most common resolutions in my country are about self-improvement. At the start of a new year, people pledge to get up early, go for a walk, or start a new hobby. Most of them also join the gym to lead a healthier routine.

2 How difficult would it be for you to save money this year?

Saving money this year would be a daunting task, keeping in mind that inflation is rising rapidly. Moreover, I have to buy a few gadgets this year, such as an iPad, a car, and a new laptop. As there would be too many expenses, I would not save much.

3 How difficult would it be for you to get fit this year?

As I have started practising intermittent fasting, getting fit will not be a challenging task for me. However, it also depends upon my zeal to continue with it. If I stop being consistent, the tables might turn.

4 What do you think this year will be like for you?

I firmly believe that this year will bring a paradigm shift to my life. I will complete my studies this year. Moreover, I am also contemplating beginning a new business this year, something completely different from my family business. In totality, it will be a happening year.

5 What things would you like to stop doing this year?

This year I would like to stop procrastinating. And then, I would like to inculcate a habit of curating plans and work according to them so that I could be more productive and don't waste time.

Vocabulary

Daunting
Meaning: difficult
Eg: Getting up early in the morning is a daunting task for me.

Zeal
Meaning: great energy
Eg: I take up adventurous activities with zeal.

Contemplating
Meaning: to think carefully about something
Eg: I am still contemplating on the college where I wish to take admission.

Procrastinating
Meaning: to put off something till another time and day
Eg: Stop procrastinating, you have to complete a lot of tasks today.

Inculcate
Meaning: to learn or remember something by repeating it often
Eg: I would like to inculcate a sense of responsibility in my younger brother now.

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

You should say

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

Sample Answer:

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1 When would parents feel proud of their children?

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

2 Should parents reward children? Why and how?

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

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

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

4 On what occasions would adults be proud of themselves?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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17. Describe a businessman you admire.

You should say

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

Sample Answer:

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

18. Describe a creative person whose work you admire.

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1 Do you think you are a creative person?

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

2 Is it good for children to learn arts?

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

3 What kind of jobs require people to be creative?

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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19. Describe a difficult thing you did.

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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Part 3

1 What kinds of jobs require people to be confident?

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

2 On what occasions should children be encouraged? How?

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

3 How do you help children stay focused?

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

4 What challenges do young people face today?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Adolescence
Meaning: the period following the onset of puberty during which a young person develops from a child into an adult.
Eg: Adolescence is a difficult time for everyone.

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

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

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Dicey
Meaning: unpredictable and potentially dangerous.
Eg: They found themselves in a dicey situation.

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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2 How do children become smart at school?

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

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

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

4 Why does modern society need talent of all kinds?

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

5 How can we assist youngsters in realising their potential?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With changing times, the interests of the youth are also changing. The activities that engrossed our previous generations have become uneventful to the younger population in this era. Thus, to pique the interest of younger people in traditional art, such creative activities must be presented in a modern way. The activities popular among the youth must be amalgamated with fine arts.

Arts and crafts contests must be held in school and college festivals. Information and knowledge about different artworks must be integrated with popular culture to grab the attention of the younger generation.

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

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

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

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

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Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

22. Describe a law on environmental protection.

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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

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

3 What qualities should a police officer possess?

Due to the authority and the responsibility that police officers have to bear, they are required to possess an array of positive traits. The chief quality that must be present in a police officer is a zeal to serve the community. A police officer must also have an ethical moral compass and they should also be principled. Moreover, a calm disposition is essential to tackle problems without

making rash decisions as law enforcers. Finally, police officers should be just and always assess the situation thoroughly before penalizing anyone.

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

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

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

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

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Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

23. Describe a live sports match that you have watched.

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

2 Why do some people like to watch live sports?

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

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

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

4 Do you think competition is good for students?

In my opinion, competition among students is healthy and should be encouraged. It is a known fact that not every student in a class can perform exceptionally. A classroom consists of academically bright individuals and others who might have their talents in other disciplines. That being said, the urge to perform well and receive praise can be a motivating factor for students to give their best. However, students should also be taught to focus their efforts on improving themselves and not put too much thought into outdoing other students.

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

24. Describe your favourite movie.

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 How are movies and real-life different?

Everything about a movie is different from reality. The motive behind filmmaking is to give a form to an artist's imagination. In the realm of movies, anything is possible, which is not the case in real-life. Moreover, the events in a film are in the control of the director, whereas the life of a human being is not directed or controlled by someone else. Also, real life is filled with highs and lows, movies on the other hand, sometimes only depict the positive aspects of a subject.

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 Why do people like to watch talent shows?

There can be several reasons for watching a talent show. Talent shows are a great dais for people to show their skills and abilities to the world. I believe that the audience of talent shows are mostly present for entertainment purposes. However, there are cases where talent shows act as an encouragement for people to express their capabilities. In a few cases, people also watch talent shows to follow a person that they know or are familiar with and show their support.

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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28. Describe something that you have shared with others.

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1 Do you like to share?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Perfectionist
Meaning: a person who refuses to accept any standard short of perfection.
Eg: The older man is a perfectionist.
Humor
Meaning: the quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech.

Eg: Max has a good sense of humor.

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

Part 3

1 Do people like comedy?

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

2 Why do people of all ages like cartoons?

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

3 Why do some people like to make others laugh?

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

4 Should teachers tell jokes in class?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Break the ice

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

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

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

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

You should say

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 What kinds of personal plans should people make for themselves?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1 Do you like shopping online or going out shopping?

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

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

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

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

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

4 Why do people like to buy branded products?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1 Why do people like to use social media?

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

2 What kind of things are popular on social media?

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1 Where do Indians normally buy clothes?

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

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

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

3 Do clothes affect people's moods?

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

4 What do people consider when buying clothes?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1. What is your newspaper reading style?

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

2. Do you think reading international news is important?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should say

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1. What is the impact of the cell phone?

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

2. What is the smartphone used the most for?

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

3. What is your opinion about selfies?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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36. Describe an argument that two of your friends had.

You should talk about:

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

Sample Answer

It is an acknowledged fact that people argue when their ideas and thoughts are not considered. Everyone is unique, and sometimes their thoughts don't match, which results in an argument. However, from my personal experience, I'd say that arguing is a natural process of developing a strong bond with the other person. Here, I'd like to talk about a time when my friends had a disagreement, which later turned out to be a heated argument. We were a bunch of four friends who were always together, and our friendship was solid. During our holidays, we decided to visit a nearby amusement park. To our surprise, there was a small crafts exhibition at the entrance of the park. There were many artworks, paintings, graphics, clay models, books, handicrafts, handmade jewellery, etc., on display. Almost all the halls were packed with the displayed articles. As we moved forward, we saw different rides, some scary, some funny, and some water rides. So, four of us decided to go on the roller coaster ride and bought the entry ticket.
When we saw the giant roller coaster, we were surprised by its height, which entailed adventure. But suddenly, one of my friends, Jack, who was afraid of heights, didn't want to join us. Another friend, John, didn't let Jack go, as he wanted to make a vlog of us enjoying the ride. A minor issue began into a heated argument; everyone around was looking at them. So, at this point, my friend Elle and I intervened and requested them to stop the quarrel. After that, we dropped the idea of going on a roller coaster ride as it was the only solution that seemed right at that moment. Post the argument, we tried to calm both of them and moved ahead to the food stalls.
To sum up, I felt that John should've understood Jack's anxiety and avoided the argument. But he was adamant, and so was Jack. Later, they realized their mistakes and forgave each other.

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1 Do you think arguments are important?

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

2 What do family members generally argue about?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 Do you think you are stubborn?

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

8 Will you be willing to change?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should talk about:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

38. Describe a puzzle that you solved.

You should talk about:

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

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

1 Which age group plays Puzzles the most?

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

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

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

3 What kind of puzzles improve people's intelligence?

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

4 Why do parents let their children play puzzles?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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39. Describe Your Holidays.

You should talk about:

- **Where you go for the holidays?**
- **How long they last?**
- **Who you go with?**
- **And talk about anything interesting that happens during your holidays.**

Sample Answer

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3

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

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

2 What's the difference between holidays today and five years ago and the reasons for the change?

Earlier, the world was not developed, and people were not much concerned about their holidays or vacation. They simply liked staying indoors, or they'd visit nearby places during their vacations. But nowadays, with technological advancement, people give more importance to holidays as it gives them a break from their daily routine. So they plan to travel to different countries or enjoy their holidays in luxury resorts.

3 Do you think people will spend more time on leisure or working in the future?

Well, working hours in future would be reduced with the progress in the technology and leisure time would be increased. In other words, people will depend on technological devices, equipment or robots to complete their work in the future. As a result, their daily work will be completed at the earliest, leaving them a plentiful amount of leisure time.

Vocabulary

Plentiful - abundant
Eg: A plentiful amount of gold was stolen from the jewellery shop.

Progress - development towards an improved or more advanced condition.
Eg: The slow learners are making progress.

Adequate - satisfactory or acceptable in quality or quantity.
Eg: The institution offers an adequate number of scholarships to the students.

Concern - make (someone) anxious or worried.
Eg: Rose was concerned about her father's health.

Pastime - an activity that someone regularly does for enjoyment rather than work; a hobby.
Eg: John's pastime activities in childhood were bicycling and gardening.

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40. Describe a food item that you tried for the first time.

You should talk about:

- **When did you have it?**
- **Where did you eat it?**
- **What was it?**
- **And how did you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

Life is all about experimenting, and trying something for the first time is always exciting and fun. Being a food connoisseur myself, I love experimenting with new cuisines of various cultures and nations. I recently visited my hometown in India, where I exercised my taste buds by eating a flavorsome delicacy. On a rainy weekend, I went to a street food joint with my friends. The first thing they served as a starter was the Samosa. It was not the usual deep-fried potato samosa. Rather they had made it with ground lamb. Initially, I wasn't sure about trying it. But at my friends' insistence, I tasted a bit of it and found it delicious. The spices and flavors were perfectly blended, and the crispness of the dough was up to a point. Overall, it was finely cooked. The puffy samosa treat was accompanied by delectable sweet and tangy cilantro sauce. I enjoyed admiring how these fried, or baked patties were filled with well-spiced & grounded lamb, along with onions, wrapped up into a cone, triangle, or dome shape and then deep-fried in the cooking oil. I must say that the lamb samosa is a simplified version of the traditional lamb curry, and I loved every bit of it. Moreover, this crispy and crunchy starter meal was not only filling but also tasted heavenly. I was so impressed with its taste that I visited the food joint the next day as well.

Vocabulary

Experimenting - try out new ideas or methods
Eg: Mrs. Davis loves experimenting in the kitchen.

Starter - a small quantity of food that is served as the first course of a meal
Eg: The restaurant served only vegetarian dishes for starters.

Delectable - delicious
Eg: The baker bakes one of the most delectable chocolate puddings.

Insistence - the act or an instance of insisting
Eg: I went to visit my grandparents at my mother's insistence.

Accompanied - to go with someone or to be provided or exist at the same time as something.
Eg: My father accompanied me to the amusement park.

Part 3

1 Do you like to try new food?

Of course, who doesn't like to experiment with new food cuisines? Well, I'm an **epicure**, and I love trying out new flavours. One way to satisfy your hunger is to try something new. So, I give it a shot by trying new street foods, and I think it's one of the greatest pleasures of life to try new food items.

2 What kinds of foreign foods are popular in your country?

Well, there are several kinds of foreign foods that are extremely popular amongst the youth in my country, which include Japanese Sushi, Chinese Noodles, Thai curry, Italian Pasta, Mexican & Arabian Shawarma, Korean BBQ, Turkish Kunafa, and French foods. In contrast, the Middle-Eastern Baklava, American Hot Dogs, and North-African Shakshouka are not very popular.

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3 Do you like to cook at home?

Yes, whenever I'm home during weekends, I love to cook and whip up a meal for my family. Due to my work commitments, I don't get a chance to cook, but I try to cook a meal at least once a week. I'm not a fancy cook, but not a bad cook either. Moreover, a freshly cooked meal tastes much better than frozen foods, and also I prefer eating healthier foods than fast foods.

4 Is it expensive to eat out in your country?

Not really, though! There are plenty of expensive and economical restaurants in my country. But it depends on where an individual prefers to eat. For example, if he wants to eat in a local street food joint, it wouldn't cost him a lot of money, but if the same individual visits an expensive restaurant, it'd cost him a fortune. However, the tastes in each restaurant may vary.

5 What's the difference between Indian food and western food?

Indian food is entirely different from the rest of the world not only in taste but also in terms of the cooking methods, styles, flavours, and preparation. Indian food includes flavoursome spices, which are freshly and authentically prepared in homes. Further, Indian food in itself has more diversity; that is, the North Indian cuisine is poles apart from the South Indian cuisine.

Vocabulary

Whip up - prepare something to eat very quickly
Eg: I was too tired to whip up a meal, so I ordered the food.

Commitment - the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etc.
Eg: We couldn't go on a vacation due to my father's work commitments.

Flavoursome - having a pleasant distinct flavour, tasty.
Eg: My mother bakes the most flavoursome Apple Pie.

Food joint - very common and informal way to refer to a business, usually one that sells food or drink
Eg: Post his graduation, Jack decided to become an entrepreneur by opening a Food Joint.

Poles apart - have nothing in common.
Eg: Although the twin brothers were identical, their personalities are poles apart from each other.

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41. Describe Your First Day At School.

You should talk about:

- **Where was it?**
- **What happened?**
- **Explain how you felt on that day?**

Sample Answer

(Where was it?) I attended two different schools. Although I was just 4 years old when I was enrolled in primary school, the memory of my first day is still fresh in my mind. My primary school was smaller than my secondary school and was just about half an hour from my home. Here I'd like to talk about my first day at primary school.
(What happened?) While my mother was discussing the timings with the teacher, I was feeling very anxious and continuously sobbing as my mother, who accompanied me, was about to leave me alone with a few strangers whom I have not even met. As I turned around, I saw many kids like me who were jittery and weeping. The next moment, I was handed over to the teacher. She gently caressed and introduced me to the entire class. Later, we got to know each other, and the teacher made us do some ice-breakers.
(Explain how you felt on that day?) Post recess, the teacher distributed toffees and toys and made all the kids feel comfortable. After the last bell rang, everyone waved goodbye to the teacher and delightfully ran away to their parents waiting for them. Overall, my first day in school was emotional and nerve-wracking at the same time. I'd never forgotten that momentous period of my life.

Vocabulary

Jittery(adj): Feeling nervous or tense.
Eg: When I first sat on the roller-coaster, I felt jittery.

Caressed(verb): to kiss or touch fondly.
Eg: The mother caressed the little child.

Ice-breaker: An activity or a game designed to cheer up and reduce tensions.
Eg: We did some ice-breakers during the house-warming party.

Nerve-wracking (verb): distressing and irritating.
Eg: It was a nerve-wracking moment.

Momentous(adj): having a great impact or lasting importance.
Eg: My brother's wedding was one of the momentous occasions.

Part 3

1. **Do you think students should be taken to school by their parents or go by themselves?**

If a student is in primary school, then he/she can use the school bus. Parents may also drop them to school. But if students are mature enough to go to school by themselves, they can go on their own without being dependent on their parents.

2. **How can children become more independent?**

To become more independent, children must gain a sense of importance. They should target the priorities and manage their time efficiently. If parents stop comparing and criticizing their children, then they can automatically become responsible and independent.

3. **Should children rely on their parents or be independent?**

This has always been a conflicting subject. Most of the parents find it difficult to deal with such a dilemma. However, in my opinion, until children become self-sufficient and self-reliant, they can rely on their parents. Once they become mature and start earning, they should stand on their own legs. This will help them be independent, understand how the world works and be more confident.

4. **What is the effect if parents interfere with children's life too much?**

The interference of parents in children's life can cause domestic conflict between both of them. Parents who exert control and intrude into their children's personal lives are not letting their children be self-confident and decisive.

Vocabulary

Criticizing: to say what is wrong or bad with something/somebody
Eg: She was criticizing the teachers for not looking after her sick child.

Conflict: a difference between two or more notions or ideas
Eg: For a woman, there is always a conflict between her family and career.

Exert: to put efforts
Eg: You would have to exert yourself to accomplish your goals.

Intrude: to enter a situation or place without permission
Eg: They intrude into my house when I am not around.

Decisive: making something final or certain
Eg: Our trip to Jaipur is decisive.

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42. Describe a Time You Made a Promise to someone.

You should talk about:

- **Whom did you make the promise to?**
- **Why did you make the promise?**
- **What was the promise?**
- **Was the promise easy to achieve?**

Sample Answer

It is easy to make promises, but it is always hard to keep them as the saying goes, "Never make a promise in haste." So, if you don't intend to keep promises, then avoid making them.

(Whom did you make the promise to?): I had promised my best friend that I would visit her once she's back from the United States and spend an entire day with her and recollect our college memories. **(Why did you make the promise?)** My best friend moved with her family to the United States after graduation, while I became busy in my daily routine. Thus, we didn't get a chance to have a good time. It was very difficult, even to call or text her. **(What was the promise?)** One day, she called to tell me that she's coming to India for a week. On hearing the news, I was so excited that, impulsively, I promised to spend a day with her. **(Was the promise easy to achieve?)** I decided to take a day off and spend the day with her. But to my surprise, on the very same day, my manager asked me to come to the office as another colleague of mine was on sick leave and informed me that I had to work as a substitute. Irked, I reached the office and started my work, and tried to complete it at the earliest. Although it was difficult for me to manage work at the office, I did my best to finish it quickly and keep my promise of spending more time with her. Later, I called my best friend and convinced her to spend at least half a day with me. She gladly agreed, and we had a great time in the evening.

Vocabulary

Recollect (verb): To remember or recall (call to mind)
Eg: She recollected her childhood memories.

Routine: A sequence of action that is regularly repeated or followed.
Eg: My mother's daily routine includes cooking and cleaning.

Impulsively(adverb): Doing something suddenly or without forethought.
Eg: She impulsively jumped into the still water.

Irked (verb): irritated
Eg: She got irked when the manager chose her best friend.

Substitute: A person or a thing that serves in place of another.
Eg: She used the meat as a substitute for chicken while preparing the dish.

Part 3

1 Do Indian parents make a lot of promises to their children?

Yes, most Indian parents make promises to their children such as gifting their favourite toys or taking them on a vacation only to motivate them to achieve good academic results and maintain healthy competition amongst other children.

2 Do children also make a lot of promises to their parents?

Obviously Yes. Children make a lot of promises to their parents as parents have high hopes for them. Children make promises such as securing good grades, being obedient and disciplined, and not idling away their time but utilizing it in the right way, and many others.

3 Are most people able to fulfill their promises?

Most people try to fulfill their promises. Few of them don't. For example, some people promise to be on time, but they don't happen to be on time. So it is better to avoid making promises.

4 How do you feel when others break their promises?

I would feel terrible if someone makes a commitment and is unable to fulfill it. It will become hard for me to trust them again. Most people make promises frequently but are unable to keep them, which is very disappointing. Therefore, I believe that people should not befool others by making false promises and think twice before making one.

Vocabulary

Idling: to spend time doing nothing
Eg: After her exams, you can only find her idling.

Terrible: unpleasant
Eg: Coming back from the office, he met with a terrible accident.

Disappointing: feeling sad because of something bad
Eg: Her behaviour toward me was disappointing.

Befool: to make a fool of
Eg: I wanted to help him in the business but he tried to befool me.

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43. Describe an art exhibition that you visited.

You should talk about:

- **When did you see this exhibition?**
- **Where was the exhibition held?**
- **What was on display?**
- **Explain your impression of the exhibition?**

Sample Answer

(When did you see this exhibition?) Post lockdown, I wanted to break the monotony of my life. So my parents decided to take me to the art exhibition set up by one of the Non-profit organizations to raise funds for the needy. **(Where was the exhibition held?)** The art exhibition was spread over the rooftop of the ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. Art and culture are considered the pulse of Chennai, and a wide range of art galleries and exhibitions are open to all art aficionados. **(What was on the display?)** From art installations, photography to unique contemporary art forms, the art exhibition had works of both international and domestic artists, which would have drawn every visitors' attention. There was a lot of beautifully handcrafted art, which was mesmerizing to the visitor's eyes. **(Explain your impression of the exhibition?)** Although I am not an art connoisseur, I was totally impressed by the fact that the art exhibition was set up to raise funds for the needy people who are facing financial hardships. Moreover, the exhibition also conducts workshops. Overall, my visit to the art exhibition was worth it.

Vocabulary

Monotony (Noun): Lacking interests; tired of following the same routine.
Eg: Rose hated the monotony of her job.

Aficionados(Noun): Someone who is very passionate and knowledgeable about an activity or subject.
Eg: Keith is an art aficionado who loves spending time in art galleries.

Contemporary(adj): Living or occurring at the same time; can be a person or a thing.
Eg: The annual event was captured by a contemporary photographer.

Handcrafted(adj): Making something skilfully by the use of hands.
Eg: We have a handcrafted table in our house.

Mesmerizing(adj): Captivating to the human eye; gaining one's attention.
Eg: I was mesmerized by the beauty of the Taj Mahal.

Connoisseur(Noun): An expert who has great taste.
Eg: He's a food connoisseur.

Part 3

1. **How could art exhibitions attract more visitors?**

Art exhibitions can attract more visitors by improving accessibility for people from all walks of life. They can invest in social media management and interact with the people to know more about their penchant for arts and cultures and introduce workshops and events accordingly. This way, more visitors will be attracted to the art exhibition.

2. **Are art exhibitions popular in your country?**

Yes, India is a diverse country, and art exhibitions and galleries are very popular. These arts have cultural and religious influences that attract everyone. The rich culture of India is reflected in various art forms.

3. **Do you think people should have to pay to visit art exhibitions?**

This mainly depends upon who is organizing the art exhibitions. If such an event is organized by a multi-billion dollar organization or a billionaire artist, even if people don't pay to visit, it would be adequate. On the other hand, if the art exhibition is set up by non-profit organizations, it will be easier for them to generate and raise funds.

4. **How will art exhibitions change in the future?**

The future is uncertain, but there is a possibility for some changes in the art exhibitions. With the help of technology, the exhibitions will start adapting the computerized versions of the art forms. Through this, it will be easier to learn more about art and culture.

Vocabulary

Accessibility: to provide a way of entering or using something
Eg: Computers have given the accessibility to the internet.

Penchant: something that is liked a lot
Eg: I have a penchant for books.

Exhibitions: a collection of objects shown to the public
Eg: My city is organizing a movie exhibition.

Influence: a power to affect somebody
Eg: He is under the influence of medicines.

Uncertain: not sure
Eg: Whether I am joining my friends is uncertain.

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44. Describe a bag you want to own.

You should talk about:

- **What kind of bag it is?**
- **Where do you want to buy it?**
- **How much will it cost you?**
- **Why you want this kind of bag?**

Sample Answer

Bags play an important role in the life of modern women. A huge variety of stylish bags are available in the market. These bags are considered fashion statements that can either break or make your style.

(What kind of bag it is?): It is a tote bag that is stylish, durable, and convenient to use. They are not only fashionable but suitable for every occasion. It can hold a lot of stuff and is waterproofed which is a good advantage. **(Where do you want to buy it?)** Though the tote bag is available in many retail stores, I'd like to purchase it online when the amazon sale goes live. By this way, I can even get an additional discount for branded tote bags. **(How much will it cost you?)** Most branded tote bags are expensive ranging from INR 1600. But the usual cost of tote bags is INR 900. Therefore, it depends on the person whether they opt for branded or unbranded tote bags based on their budget. **(Why you want this kind of bag?)** I want a branded tote bag as it is a bag for every occasion be it for office purposes or any others. These bags complement our stylish looks. The best thing is tote bags can be reused and are environmentally friendly. Overall, I believe that Tote bags are all-rounder bags, the best option available for anyone.

Vocabulary

Durable(adj): able to withstand pressure and damage for a long time.
Eg: Larch is considered to be one of the most durable of coniferous woods.

Convenient(adj): fitting in well with one's needs, purposes, and activities.
Eg: It is very convenient for her to reach the station early as she lives in the same area.

Stuff(Noun): matter, articles, materials, etc of a specified kind that are being referred to.
Eg: Rose threw all his stuff out of the car.

Unbranded(adj): A product not having or bearing a brand name.
Eg: Sheela bought an unbranded camera from the local shop.

Complement(Noun): something that contributes extra features to something so as to improvise its quality.
Eg: She chose a dress that would compliment her personality.

All-rounder(Noun): a versatile thing or person who can do both activities at the same time.
Eg: John is an all-rounder, as he can do batting and bowling.

Part 3

1. **Why do you think women like to buy bags?**

Women love buying bags because they have so many accessories to carry, and these bags are convenient and make a fashion statement too. Some women match their outfits according to their bags.

2. **Is the backpack practical in life?**

In comparison with other bags, backpacks are better because they're easy and comfortable and occupy less space. But if they are too heavy to carry or used incorrectly, they can cause muscles or joint strains.

3. **Why are some people willing to buy expensive bags?**

Some people tend to buy expensive branded bags because they focus on quality, design, and material rather than the price. In contrast, others believe in buying unbranded bags and using them for a few days, and throwing them away.

4. **In the future, what changes will bags have?**

I believe that the bags in the future may be more practical and convertible from a handbag to shoulder bag to backpack. Also, people will start using bags made of jute, canvas etc. On top of that, it is possible that bags would be bigger than what they are currently. Spacious bags would attract more women, considering the amount of things they carry along.

5. **Why do children need to carry a uniform school bag?**

This is to avoid discrimination amongst the children. Every child must be treated the same, irrespective of their financial status. Therefore, it is mandatory and obligatory for children to conform to a uniform school bag.

Vocabulary

Strains: a pressure put on something
Eg: Working consistently has put strain on my shoulders.

Convertible: capable of changing into another shape.
Eg: Our neighbour has purchased a convertible car.

Discrimination: treating a person worse than the other
Eg: Our school does not have any discrimination.

Mandatory: something that should be done
Eg: Attending the office tomorrow is mandatory.

Conform: to obey the law or rule
Eg: All of the students must conform to this new rule.

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45. Describe an experience you had as a member of a team.

You should talk about:

- **Where was it?**
- **Who were the members of the team?**
- **What role did you play in this team?**
- **And explain how you achieved your goal?**

Sample Answer

Teamwork is an ability where you need to work towards a common goal. It can be considered as a fuel that allows ordinary people to achieve objectives that were once out of reach.

(Where was it?) I usually take part in many contests and competitions and have faced many positive and negative experiences. Then, it was the second year of my college. My tutor selected 5 other students and me from our department to participate in a play. **(Who were the members?)** They were my seniors and juniors. As we were in the same department, we got along with each other. Also, there was no partiality between seniors and juniors. **(What role did you play in the team?)** We were asked to select a topic and enact it. Everyone was very anxious and uptight. I went ahead and chose a topic which was Women Safety. We were given 5 minutes to prepare. So we decided to do a Mime Act, and My role was to ensure that I narrate the scenes clearly so that the spectators find them easier to understand. **(And explain how you achieved your goal?)** My team members acted well, and I synchronized the same by narrating it. Luckily, we finished our play on time with cooperation from each other. To our astonishment, everyone gave a standing ovation and appreciated our mime act. Overall, it was one of the best experiences I've ever had, and I believe that it all comes down to having people who understand each other and work well together.

Vocabulary

Tutor(Noun): Someone who helps a student understand the concepts, guides him with proper instructions.
Eg: Rose is a tutor at the Imperial Coaching Centre.

Partiality(Noun): Unfair bias in favour of one person or group or thing; Favouritism
Eg: The professor is partial towards toppers.

Uptight(adj): Angry or nervous in an overly controlled manner.
Eg: Tina was uptight at the wedding hall.

Mime Act: Acting a play or a skit through body language and gestures without the use of speech.
Eg: Rose's performance consisted of Mime and Music.

Synchronized(verb): Occur at the same time.
Eg: The sound and the picture has to synchronize properly.

Standing ovation: It is a form of applause where seated audiences stand up and applaud.
Eg: The Auditorium gave a standing ovation for her dance performance.

Part 3

1 Would you like to work alone or work with a partner?

Although I like to work individually, I also enjoy working with a partner to build strong relationships. It is a common belief that two or more people are always better than one for solving problems, finishing off tasks etc, effectively and efficiently.

2 What type of people are good to use?

People who are resourceful, responsible, and honest are good to use. But in my opinion, I'd want to work with a sincere and positive person who would take accountability for his/her actions and work.

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3 Do you enjoy team work or group studying?

Yes, I enjoy working with a team because I get along with people. Teamwork and group study enable sharing of ideas and information and help us to be productive. And when we work together, we learn faster and better.

4 What are the benefits of studying alone?

One of the benefits of studying alone is that we can concentrate better and pace ourselves. If there would be nobody around, we would not be spending more time chatting but studying. This will help us understand our strengths and weaknesses better. Therefore, studying alone is the best way to improve our focus.

5 What can children learn through teamwork?

Children can learn many social skills such as patience, communication, compromise, tolerance, etc., through teamwork. They can learn to build a good relationship with their team members, which will be valuable in future.

Vocabulary

Resourceful: to be good at finding something
Eg: My grandfather's experience makes him extremely resourceful.

Accountability: to take responsibility
Eg: I take the accountability for my mistakes.

Pace: a step
Eg: She has a faster pace than me.

Compromise: an agreement where both the parties get to fulfill their wishes
Eg: Unless both parties agree to compromise, there will be no resolution.

Tolerance: a capacity to endure hardship or pain
Eg: My risk tolerance is almost nil.

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46. Describe a time when you feel bored.

You should talk about:

- **When was it?**
- **where was it?**
- **Why did you get bored?**
- **How you felt about it?**

Sample Answer

(When was it?) I am an extrovert, and I don't get bored easily. But, two years ago, I was bored to death and got so annoyed by the situation. **(Where was it?)** It was during my sister's arrival at the airport. Everyone in the family was very eager and curious to meet her as she's returning to India after a long gap of five years. All the family members decided to pick her from the airport. I was reluctant, but my mother insisted that I come, so we finally gathered at the waiting area at 2 PM as her flight would reach around 12.30 PM. **(Why did you get bored?)** When everyone was busy talking, I was killing my time on my phone. Suddenly there was an announcement that the flight has been delayed and will reach only at 5 PM. We were all astounded as we had already been waiting for an hour. I was fed up with waiting, but there was no other alternative because it would take an hour to reach home due to the traffic. **(How you felt about it?)** I felt exhausted with boredom, while the other members of my family were also tired and fatigued. So we decided to have some refreshments and then waited impatiently for my sister's arrival. After a long haul, her flight finally reached the airport at 5.30 PM, and we met her at 6 PM. Despite being an extrovert, I found it challenging to spend time in the airport.

Vocabulary

Bored to death(idiom): Hit by boredom.
Eg: Despite being surrounded by her friends, she was bored to death.

Curious(adj): Eager to know or do something.
Eg: She was curious to know about his secrets.

Reluctant(adj): Hesitating and unwilling to do something.
Eg: Rose reluctantly told that she will come to the wedding.

Kill my time: to spend time by doing something
Eg: John and his friends killed time watching the haunted movie.

Astounded(verb): Shock or amusement
Eg: Keith was astounded when he was announced as a winner.

Fatigued(verb): causing someone to feel exhausted.
Eg: They were fatigued by their long journey.

Part 3

1 What kind of jobs are boring?

According to me, jobs where you have to do the same work for an extended period and follow the same routine will definitely make you get bored. So it is imperative to change the way we work and give more attention to it.

2 Do people get bored easily? Why?

Yes, Most people get bored quickly because of the monotony or repetition of the same thing. If people are not engaged in such activities that are interesting and would keep them hooked, boringness ought to happen. If we don't pay attention to what we're doing, we are likely to get bored.

3 What can people do to stop boredom?

Overcoming boredom is difficult. But we can consciously try certain things, like being productive and taking advantage of dull, lifeless situations. People can work on a task that they've been putting off or learn a new skill.

4 Do you think these boring jobs will be done by machines in the future?

Maybe, Yes! Machines may replace humans and start doing these boring jobs as they won't get tired. In fact, there are enough examples nowadays where machines have already replaced humans into everyday tasks. Machines will complete their jobs diligently and effectively.

5 Why people do boring jobs?

Most people keep on doing boring jobs because they don't want to lose their good pay scale. They chose money over satisfaction. It depends upon people and their personal traits. I believe that people mainly opt for boring jobs for financial benefits.

Vocabulary

Imperative: important
Eg: Sunlight is an imperative for the development of bones.

Monotony: the state of being the same
Eg: The monotony in my professional life makes me sick.

Diligently: persistently
Eg: I have achieved everything in life diligently.

Traits: a quality in a person
Eg: Hiding things from her parents has become one of her traits.

Effectively: in a way that generates desired results
Eg: He dealt with his divorce effectively.

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47. Describe a person who you think is very open.

You should talk about:

- **Who is this person?**
- **How you know this person?**
- **Why do you think this person is very open?**
- **Explain how you feel about this person?**

Sample Answer

(Who is this person) Being expressive and open is a rare virtue that only a few people possess. Nowadays, most people don't hesitate to convey their views. On the contrary, there are some who don't find it easy to express their views. Here I will talk about my next-door neighbour, John, a straightforward and opinionated person. **(How do you know this person?)** When I was just 8 years old, John had moved into our colony after making a lot of money as a public speaker in the US. During the colony meetings, he didn't rely upon others to discuss any issues. Instead, he kept his views open for everyone. Many people even shared their worries to him so that he would speak his mind and give a solution to it. **(Why do you think this person is open?)** Once, our colony was facing a significant issue of water shortage. Many of them wrote about it to the municipalities, but no steps were taken. When John came to know about this, he gathered everyone and asked them to go on a rally. The next day, everyone went on a protest demanding water. Later, the authorities assured that water would be supplied within the next 5 hours. Due to John's altruistic nature, he became everyone's favourite. **(Explain how you feel about this person?)** John is a decisive person who thinks for the betterment of people and doesn't hesitate to go beyond the conventional domains to solve people's issues. I idolize him for his straightforwardness.

Vocabulary

Virtue(noun): A trait or a quality that is deemed to be morally good.
Eg: Sheela instilled virtues in her child, by telling stories.

Hesitate(verb): being reluctant to do something.
Eg: She was hesitating to eat the pasta made by his brother.

Opinionated(adj): Expressing their ideas and views strongly without hesitation.
Eg: Rose was opinionated but undeniably smart.

Rely(verb): Dependent on someone.
Eg: Children rely upon their parents until the age of 15.

Rally: To come together for a common cause.
Eg: The farmers went on a rally.

Altruistic(adj): showing selfless concern for the well-being of others.
Eg: It was an altruistic act.

Part 3

1. **Is it difficult for Indian people to express their feelings?**

Yes, Many Indians hesitate to express their feelings in public because they are emotional, sensitive, and shy. Moreover, one of the major reasons behind this is that most of the Indians don't get the emotional support as required to open up. Thus, they feel that it is not worth sharing about the things going on in their minds.

2. **Who do you think will talk more? Children or grown ups?**

Of course, children will talk more as they tend to share every detail of what happened to them. Children don't have the strategy to calm themselves while talking. They also don't have a curtain. They cannot differentiate between what should be said and what should be avoided. In their tiny brains, they have millions of questions. So they are chatty.

3. **What do you think is the difference between boys and girls in expressing their feelings?**

Generally, girls become emotional when expressing their feelings, while boys express their feelings with anger and positive stimuli. Also, girls don't hide away from somebody they trust. On the other hand, boys keep everything inside. However, it varies on a case by case basis too.

4. **Do you think people are more open than in the past?**

Yes, People in the past were not allowed to express their views or opinions on anything. Only the men were allowed to make decisions. But nowadays, openness doesn't vary based on gender.

Vocabulary

Hesitate: to pause before doing something or pause before taking a decision because of uncertainty
Eg: I hesitate every time I talk to somebody I don't know.

Chatty: to talk in a friendly manner
Eg: Her extrovert personality has made her extremely chatty.

Stimuli: (plural of stimulus) something that causes interest or development
Eg: Books give me ideas and stimuli for my imagination.

Tend to: to usually do something
Eg: I tend to sleep early these days.

Varies: different
Eg: My personality varies from my sister.

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48. Describe an old friend you got in contact with again.

You should talk about:

- **Who he or she is?**
- **How did you get in contact?**
- **What is he or she like?**
- **And explain how you felt about it?**

Sample Answer

(who he or she is?) In today's fast-paced world, it is easy to lose contact with your friends. Over the years, as we grow older, it becomes normal to lose touch with friends due to hectic schedules. But it is always overwhelming to get in touch with them again. A couple of days ago, I experienced such a situation when one of my friends from school visited me. **(How did you get in contact?)** We studied in the same school until I decided to pursue my secondary education in a CBSE school in a different state. Soon, I had fallen out of contact with my classmates. But I was over the moon when she visited me that day. Seeing her again after the longest time gave me goosebumps. I warmly welcomed her, and she was cordial with my family members. **(What is he or she like?)** She was modest and courteous to everyone since the school days, and she's still the same. We had a gala time recalling our school memories. She was very good at singing, so she even sang one of my mother's favourite songs and everyone was mesmerized by her melodious voice. **(And explain how you felt about it?)** I felt like I had travelled back in time. Although it was a bitter-sweet feeling, I thanked her for visiting me again and promised to be in touch. I also realized that reconnecting with school friends will make you feel better.

Vocabulary

Fast-paced(adj): Moving or developing quickly.
Eg: This is a fast-paced thriller movie.

Overwhelming(adj): Very great in amount.
Eg: The opposition had an overwhelming support of the farmers.

Fallen out: To cut off relationships.
Eg: After John's divorce, he has fallen out with his wife's family.

Over the moon: very happy and pleased.
Eg: Keith was over the moon when he received his birthday gift.

Cordially(adverb): in a warm and friendly manner.
Eg: She cordially invited us to her wedding.

Bittersweet(adj): sweet with a bitter taste.
Eg: It was a bitter-sweet memory of his time in London.

Part 3

1 What is the influence of social media on friendship?

Social media has a great influence on friendship. We can easily communicate and connect with our friends who are just a click away. Apart from that, these connections strengthen the bond between friends.

2 Why do people lose contact with each other after graduation?

Losing contacts after graduation is a common thing, and this is because people start focusing on their career. They move to another city and inadvertently lose touch with their friends. Moreover, they make new friends and forget the old ones.

3 Do people in your country like to make new friends?

Of course, It doesn't matter where we live, friendships just happen. For example, if you have spent an hour talking to a new person while you're travelling, he/she is bound to become your friend.

4 Do you think old friends are more important to the old generation or young generation?

According to me, old friends are important to both generations. Talking to an old friend will make you realize how much your life has changed over the years. You may also want to reminisce.

Vocabulary

Influence: a power to control / change / effect something
Eg: Social media can have a negative influence on children.

Strengthen: to make something stronger or to become stronger
Eg: I workout 4 days a week to strengthen my muscles.

Inadvertently: unknowingly or without the intent
Eg: She inadvertently left the keys inside the car.

Bound to: be certain
Eg: Because of a new job offer, I am bound to leave my hometown.

Reminisce: to talk pleasantly about the things that happened in the past.
Eg: The last time I met my classmate, we reminisced about all the time spent in the school.

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49. Describe a line that you remember from a poem or song.

You should talk about:

- **What is it?**
- **What poem/song is it from?**
- **How did you know about it?**
- **How do you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

(What is it?) Whenever we get bored, we eventually listen to songs as it takes a person to some other world away from stress, eases and relaxes our mind. I'd like to talk about a peculiar song and one specific line from it which hits hard. The line is 'He said: 'One day you'll leave this world behind, So live a life you will remember'. **(What song is it from?)** This line is from the song 'The Nights' by Avicii, and it is one of my favourite songs. This line specifically conveys the message that one day we are all going to leave this world behind, and so we need to live a life that everyone will remember. This line was told by his father to Avicii when he was just a child. **(How did you know about it?)** I heard the song when I was with my cousins, and after hearing it for the first time, I was quite impressed as the song was super energizing, and the lyrics had a darker meaning. While I searched for the song on Google, I came to know that Avicii had committed suicide due to depression. **(How do you feel about it?)** Thereafter, I started listening to the song very often, whenever I felt low, as the song galvanized and motivated me. He has immortalized himself through meaningful lyrics. Although Avicii has left this world, people will always reminisce about him.

Vocabulary

Peculiar(verb): special or different.
Eg: Rose's peculiar behaviour worried her parents.

Convey(verb): transfer or transporting a message.
Eg: When her mother couldn't attend the wedding, she conveyed her regards.

Galvanized(adj): to stimulate or excite as if an electric shock.
Eg: The captain talked loudly and galvanized his team.

Depression: a mood disorder that affects a person's life.
Eg: When her wife expired, he went into depression.

Immortalized(verb): confer ensuring fame upon; commemorate.
Eg: The battle was immortalized in a famous poem.

Part 3

1. **Are you good at memorizing things?**

Honestly speaking, I don't have a photographic memory. I can memorize and remember things only to an extent. For this reason, I try to note down the vital details and information on my notepad, which I carry with me.

2. **Do you think children like the rhythm of songs & poems?**

Yes, Children like a poem or a song with a rhythm that makes them easy to grasp and learn. That is one of the reasons why we see toddlers thumping and moving to melodious tunes. They can understand these tunes much better with songs and poems. Moreover, they are receptive to new things and remember exactly how they're taught.

3. **Do you think it's easier for children to learn songs or poems than adults?**

Yes, Children tend to learn faster, be it a song or a poem, because of the unique characteristics in their brains. Their brains are not occupied with thousands of things at a time. Thus, they can concentrate better and learn more from the songs and poems that they hear. Adults are always preoccupied.

4. **What can people learn from poems or songs?**

There is so much to learn from poems or songs. To begin with, these artistic pieces define how imaginative somebody can be. Also, people can try to understand and learn the hidden meanings from songs and poems because they describe the author's experience in love, success, failure, betrayal, etc.

Vocabulary

Extent: the importance or length of something
Eg: I can handle ignorant behaviour only to an extent. After that, I cut off from the person.

Vital: important
Eg: Eating proper, nutritious food is vital for our immune system.

Grasp: to hold something firmly
Eg: My mother grasps my hand firmly before crossing the road.

Receptive: ready to hear new thoughts, ideas, etc.
Eg: When it comes to travelling, I am receptive to your thoughts.

Betrayal: breaking the trust
Eg: I cannot handle betrayal in a relationship.

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50. Describe a tradition in your country.

You should talk about:

- **What is it?**
- **Who takes part in it?**
- **What activities are there?**
- **And explain how you feel about it?**

Sample Answer

(What is it?) India is a country with rich culture and heritage, where people speak various languages. With several cultures, traditions, and religions, people in India live a peaceful life. There are many cultures and traditions followed in India. One among the traditions is touching the elder's feet which is considered a blessing. **(Who takes part in it?)** This is an age-old tradition, which is being practised all over India. The touching of the elder's feet originated in the Gurukul, where the students used to take the blessings of their gurus (teachers) by touching their feet. **(What activities are there ?)** On an occasion or during a festival, it is the duty of the younger people to seek blessings of the elderly people by touching their feets. This way, the elders are valued and respected. **(And Explain how you feel about it?)** This is a very common and well-practised tradition that helps us understand the importance of showing respect to elders. I feel very honoured to follow this tradition and keep it alive. Unfortunately, nowadays, most people don't practise and are getting detached from these habits.

Vocabulary

Heritage(noun): property that descends to an heir; legacy.
Eg: Rose tried to steal her grandmother's heritage.

Blessing(noun): God's protection and favour.
Eg: She went to the temple to seek God's blessings on her birthday.

Gurukul: A residential schooling system where a student and his teacher live in the same house.
Eg: Kapoor's Son studies in Gurukul.

Well-practised: having been habitually or frequently practised.
Eg: The tradition of Karva Chauth is well-practised in India.

Detached(adj): Separate or disconnected
Eg: She lives in a detached house.

Part 3

1 What is the importance of traditional festivals?

Traditional festivals play a significant role in our lives. They add structure to our social lives and connect us with our roots. Moreover, we get an opportunity of familiarizing ourselves with the culture.

2 What's the difference between festivals now and in the past?

Nowadays, people want to celebrate festivals for the sake of it. They don't care to understand its importance. They are self-centred and want to move away from the age-old traditions. Whereas in the past, festivals were celebrated by following all the customs and traditions.

3 Do you think western festivals like Christmas are replacing traditional festivals in your country?

Not at all. Although people are celebrating western festivals like Christmas, they are also keen on celebrating traditional festivals with the same energy and enthusiasm, as these bring everyone together.

4 Do you think it is wrong for children not to celebrate traditional festivals?

Yes. It is wrong to refrain from celebrating traditional festivals. They should start preserving traditional values. They should also follow their customs as it is one of the best ways to connect with their ancestors.

5 Do you think teenagers should learn about traditions?

Of course, teenagers should learn about traditions and keep them alive by practising. This is the only way to preserve what our ancestors have been following all these years. Slowly, these traditions will be shared with the next generation, and they will begin to follow them.

Vocabulary

Familiarizing: to learn something new or to teach somebody about something
Eg: I like familiarizing with different traditions and customs.

Self-centered: concerned only with the self's desires
Eg: There is no point in explaining him my thoughts as he is self-centered.

Keen: interested
Eg: I am keen on travelling to new places.

Refrain: to stop from not doing something
Eg: I refrain from letting you drink and drive.

Preserving: to keep something in a good condition
Eg: They have been preserving most of the wall paintings in the cave.

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