



IELTS SPEAKING AND ACTUAL TESTS SUGGESTED ANSWERS

(OCTOBER 2016 - JANUARY 2017)

IELTSMATERIAL.COM

IELTS Speaking Actual Tests and Suggested Answers

(October - January 2017)

Published by IELTSMaterial.com

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Preface

Most candidates like to read model answers as a very powerful way to get the best possible Band score when they are preparing for the IELTS speaking module. This ebook provides model answers for 50 IELTS Speaking Actual Tests that appears in the IELTS speaking module. Even if your English is not perfect, you can transform your IELTS Band score by using this book.

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

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

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Part I

1. Celebrity

1.1. Who is your favorite celebrity in your country?

I guess not only me, a number of young people have been highly impressed by her for the past months- Deshauna Barber. She is our 2016 Miss USA and the **representative** of USA in Miss Universe taken place in Las Vegas in the same year. After the beauty contests, she became well-known for her **outstanding** beauty, her amazing characteristics and also her **professionalism**.

Vocabulary

Representative (n) A person chosen or appointed to act or speak for another or others, in particular.

Professionalism (n) The competence or skill expected of a professional (in terms of personalities, lifestyle, social relationships)

Outstanding (adj) exceptionally good

1.2. Do you like any foreign celebrities?

Absolutely. The person I'm gonna talk about is my bias ever since I was a teenage girl-Miley Cyrus. I guess most people at the same age as me grew up with Disney Channel and among its successful series, Hannah Montanah starring Miley Cyrus would always be **on top of my list**. Although now she's grown up, I'm still **a big fan of** her amazing voice and highly inspiring songs.

Vocabulary

Bias (n) A concentration on or interest in one particular area or subject.

To be on top of the list (expression) to be the highest priority

To be a (big/huge/avid) fan of (expression) to admire SO

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

Well though I've never thought about it, I'm pretty sure that **rising to stardom** would never be one of my life goals. I appreciate all the efforts that the celebrities, no matter which field they're working on, are making every single day. However, I find myself not belong to that world, I mean, you never know **what's going on when the curtains close**, right? So yeah, I don't think I want to become a **public figure**, to be honest.

Vocabulary

No matter (adv): without much worries

To appreciate (v): Recognize the full worth of/To be grateful of Sth

What's going on when the curtains close (phrase): the secrets lie behind showbiz

To rise to stardom (expression): to become famous

Public figure (np): a well-known and notable person

1.4. Do you think we should protect famous people's privacy?

Indeed. As you probably can tell, these days fans, anti-fans and even non-fans are so curious about what their **bias** are doing. Some are aggressive that they mentally attack their bias by leaving bad comments online. Some even approach them in person on the street, especially the **so-called paparazzi**. Thus I strongly agree that there should be some regulations to protect the celebrities' privacy.

Vocabulary

Bias (n): prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another

So-called (adj) used to introduce a new word or phrase that is not yet known by many people

Paparazzi (n) a freelance photographer, especially one who takes candid pictures of celebrities for publication.

1.5. How do celebrities influence their fans in your country?

I think the influence of celebrities on fans is extensive. It's somehow natural to follow our bias and try to be like them. At the first place it could probably be just **physical changes** like clothing, hairstyle or makeup. However thanks to social network, fans and idols are much

closer now, sometimes it's just a status away. However this mental connection is a **two-edged sword**, meaning the idols actually need to be more careful about their lifestyle or their manners.

Vocabulary

physical changes (n) changes in appearance

two-edged sword (idiom) pros and cons

2. Advertisements

2.1. Are there many advertisements in your country?

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

Vocabulary

All over the place (expression) everywhere

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

Here, there, and every where (expression) everywhere

2.4. How do you feel about advertisements?

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

Vocabulary

Informative (adj) to provide useful or interesting information

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

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

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

3. Gifts

3.1. How often do you buy others gifts?

Since I'm one of those **idealists** when it comes to buying presents, not often do I buy others gifts, but it doesn't have to be a special **occasion** that I send them presents. Especially to my friends, just a small gift like a **handmade** bracelet or a simple drawing could **make their day**.

Vocabulary

Idealist (n) a person who is guided more by ideals than by practical considerations

Make someone's day (idiom) make an otherwise ordinary or dull day pleasingly memorable for someone.

3.2. Do you like to send expensive gifts?

Well sending pricey presents is a **no-no** for me. First of all, expensive gifts may **cost me an arm and a leg**. And second of all I don't think my friends, who are my most frequent receivers of my presents, would be actually happy if they know the price. And they also don't need expensive stuff either. So I would say for me sending expensive gifts is unpreferable and unnecessary.

Vocabulary

To be a no- no for somebody (expression) to be impossible or inadvisable for someone

To cost SO an arm and a leg (phrase) to be very expensive

3.3. What kinds of gifts are popular in your country?

I think gifts are becoming more **diverse** these days. **Stuffed animals**, accessories, jewelries and flowers are too traditional for the young. Probably handmade stuff is currently on top of the list because of their **spiritual value**. And sometimes it doesn't have to be a physical gift. Probably a delicious homemade meal is enough to **make their day**.

Vocabulary

Diverse (adj) many and different

Stuffed animals (expression) a toy animal made from cloth and filled with a soft material so that it is pleasant to hold

Spiritual value (n) Sth that is especially meaningful and memorable

Make one's day (phrase) to make an otherwise ordinary or dull day pleasingly memorable for someone

3.4. Why do people send gifts?

For so many reasons I suppose. The first reason I could think of is to celebrate a big day in the receiver's life. It could be his or her birthday, graduation or wedding. Another possible reason is to cheer the receiver up, especially when they are overcoming life obstacles.

Vocabulary

SO's big day (idiom) a very important or significant day.

To cheer SO up (idiom) to make or become less miserable

To overcome an obstacle (phrase) to succeed in dealing with (a problem or difficulty)

4. Transportation

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

4.2. How often do you take buses?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Peak hours/Rush hours (n) the busiest hours

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Cater (v) provide with what is needed or required

4.4. Is driving to work popular in your country?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

4.10. Do you prefer public transport or private transport ?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

5. Colors

5.1. What colors do you like?

Since my **taste** always changes, my favorite color at the moment is black. Although I have just bought some black items recently, black surprisingly suits me. It feels like I become more mature and more mysterious when wearing **a black dress**. And because it's one of the basic colors, it's easy to **mix and match** with other items of different colors and styles.

Vocabulary

taste (n) a preference or liking for something; inclination

To mix and match (v) select and combine different but complementary items, such as clothing or pieces of equipment, to form a coordinated set

5.2. What's the most popular color in your country?

To be honest, it's hard to tell, as it totally depends on people's taste. But I guess it's my favorite color-black. Black fashion items can be found at clothing shops, since it's said to be simple yet classy. Moreover, **electronic devices** and **household supplies** are mostly in black-colored, probably because the trace of dirt and dust are more visible in black, thus it's easier for cleaning.

5.3. Do you like to wear dark or bright colors?

I'm actually flexible between dark and bright colors. But colors somehow do **reflect** my mood. Bright colors gives me a younger, positive and cheerful look. They also match my skin tone better than dark colors. So I guess I prefer wearing bright colors.

Vocabulary

To reflect (v) to show an image of

5.4. What's the different between men and women's preference on colors?

The difference in color taste can be seen so clearly that most menswear is more basic-colored while women clothes are varied vastly from **monotone** to color-mixed. In terms of fashion, the color theme for women is absolutely overweight.

Vocabulary

Monotone (n) without colour or variety, dull

5.5. Do colors affect your mood?

Actually, the converse effect is more suitable for me, especially when it comes to shopping. I don't think I'd feel happier when I look at a pink-colored shirt or feel pulled-down when I wear a gray cardigan. So no, I don't think color is related to my feelings inside.

6. Flowers

6.1. Do you like flowers? (Why?)

Yes, I do like flowers. As an **introvert**, sometimes, I find myself feeling peaceful and relaxed while enjoying nice flowers in my garden. I have a habit of taking pictures of flowers after the rain. I feel most at peace spending **chunks of good-time** on my own, in relative silence, **contemplating** the beauty of flowers with raindrops through my camera lens.

Vocabulary

Introvert (n) a shy, reticent person.

(a) chunk of (n) a significant amount of something

Good-time (n) (of a person) having the pursuit of pleasure as one's chief aim

To contemplate (v) to look thoughtfully for a long time at

6.2. Which/What is your favorite flower?

White roses are truly my favorite flower. They are traditionally associated with marriages and new beginnings. However, their beauty has also made them a **gesture** of remembrance. Therefore, a **bouquet of** white rose is a perfect way to say "I'm thinking of you".

Vocabulary

Gesture (n) a movement of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express an idea or meaning

(a) Bouquet of (flowers) (phrase) an attractively arranged bunch of flowers, especially one presented as a gift or carried at a ceremony

6.3. Do you think flowers are important?

For an introvert like me, enjoying the **harmonization** of various types of flowers with different **gorgeous** colors in the garden or in florist shops could **brighten up** my days and **lift my spirits**.

Vocabulary

Harmonization (n) a good combination

Gorgeous (adj) beautiful, very attractive

Brighten up (phrasal verb) make something more pleasant and happy

Lift our spirits (expression) make us feel happier

6.4. Are flowers important in your culture? (Give examples)

Definitely. With beautiful meanings, some flowers are chosen to show people's **key virtues**. Lotus flowers, for example, have been **regarded as the** national flower. The lotus plants grow from the marsh but their leaves and flowers grow toward the direction of the sunlight, which **symbolizes** the purity and faithfulness of people's spirits.

Vocabulary

Virtue (n) good qualities or characteristics

To regard as (v) to consider or think of in a specified way

To symbolize (v) to be a symbol of

6.5. Do people in your country ever use flowers for special occasions?

Flowers are widely used in many occasions and festivals in our country to represent for a blessing, happiness and good luck. Most families have **at least** one kind of plants or flowers at home.

6.6. What are the occasions when people give or receive flowers?

A bunch of flowers is considered as a gift for a wide range of occasions for both people to send and receive flowers. For example, in a birthday party, Women's day, or Valentine's day, colorful flowers are arranged nicely in a small vase and given to each other.

Vocabulary

A bunch of flowers (phrase) a number of things, typically of the same kind, growing or fastened together.

6.7. In your country, do people (ever) give flowers as a gift?

Yes, they do. As mention above, flowers **play an essential role** in different occasions as a special gift for people to show love to one another. People, especially girls, are happy and pleased when they receive their favorite flowers from beloved ones on their birthday.

7. Bus and taxi

7.1. How often do you take the bus?

Even though I don't really like public transport, I have to take bus to go to my university **on a daily basis** because it is quite far to bike from home to my university and it is the safest choice for me.

On a daily basis (adv) everyday

7.2. When was the first time you took a taxi?

My very first time taking a taxi was around 10 or 11 years ago. It was raining heavily after my class finished. The streets **were** seriously **flooded** so my dad could not come to **pick me up**. He asked me to take a taxi to go home. It was one of my very first experience travelling alone without my parents.

Vocabulary

To be flooded (v) to become covered or submerged by a flood

To pick SO up (n) to go somewhere to collect someone, typically in one's car

7.3. What are the advantages of taking a taxi compared with buses?

Their 24/7 **tailored** service has been improved and become better recently which is much more flexible and save us a great deal of time and energy, especially when we **rush for any appointment**. Moreover, by taking a taxi, we don't need to walk to the station or destination.

Vocabulary

Tailored (adj) to design or alter (something) to suit specific needs

To rush for Sth/doing Sth (v) to deal with (something) hurriedly

7.4. Is it convenient to take the bus/taxi in your city?

I would say, it's easy to book or take a taxi in my city. Nowadays, there are Uber and Grab besides other taxi companies which allow us to use an app on our smartphone to book a taxi. They also estimate the price and inform the route which make us feel safe and trustable.

8. Computers

8.1. How often do you use computer ?

Nowadays, computers are very essential in one's life, and I'm no exception. I would say I use computer quite often to deal with my **hectic** assignments and works. It would be a big problem for me if I had to live without computers.

Vocabulary

Hectic (adj) full of incessant or frantic activity

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

There are a wide range of brands of computer in India. Personally, Dell is **ahead of the game** in the domestic computer market because of its high quality and well-built products. Besides, the high-rated brands such as Apple, Lenovo, HP, Acer have been common to customers recently.

Vocabulary

Ahead of the game (expression) ahead of one's competitors or peers in the same sphere of activity

8.3. What do you usually use your computer for?

My computer is very useful for my study, especially in my civil engineering major. With some software on computer, I can do my design assignments. Besides, the Internet which I can get access to when using computers is a modern and convenient **means of communication** for me to connect with my friends from all over the world.

Vocabulary

Means of communication/transportation (phrase) tools/ways to do Sth

8.4. Who taught you how to use a computer?

I learnt how to use computer back in 1995 when I was in my elementary school. At first, my teachers taught me to use computer. However, most of the time, I learned by myself. With a

curious and adventurous mind, I learnt how to use Word, Excel or Photoshop by reading books and watching some online tutorials.

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

Personally, most of my daily work depends on computers. Sometimes, I think I am addicted to computer. According to some studies, it is believed that over-exposure to computers will **post some dire threats to** health such as bad **eyesight**, obesity or diabetes. Thus, I think I need to **cut down on** the amount of time that I **spend on using** computers and focusing on more outdoor activities.

Vocabulary

Eyesight (n) a person's ability to see

To cut down on Sth (v) to reduce the frequency of doing Sth

To spend time on doing Sth (v) to pass (time) in a specified way or in a particular place.

To be addicted to (adj) enthusiastically devoted to a particular thing or activity

9. Noises

9.1. Do you mind noises?

It's really hard for me to say no. I mean, I really **can't bear** noisy people, noisy places or even noisy things. For me noise is the number-one **distractor** when it comes to studying or working. You know, they actually just go ahead and interrupt my **flow of thoughts**.

Can't bear Ving (expression) can't tolerate something

9.2. What types of noise you come across in your daily life?

Well, I have to say that I **face up to** a rich variety of noises on a daily basis. The first type of noise is from traffic, especially during the rush hours. The second is noise from factories, construction sites which never fail to **distract me from** working, thereby **reducing my productivity**.

Face up to (phrasal verb) to confront an unpleasant situation

Productivity (n) The quality of being productive

9.3. Are there any sounds that you like?

I think there is one sound that can always **lull me to sleep**, the rain sound. There are nights I was so **stressed out** that I can hardly sleep no matter how much I tried, and then I went online searching for some sound for deep sleep or relaxation, and rain sound is always one of the **top choices**. And since then rain sound has become my **go-to** on sleepless nights.

Vocabulary

To lull SO to sleep (v) to calm or send to sleep, typically with soothing sounds or movements

To be stressed out (adj) a state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or demanding circumstances.

Top recommendations (n) to be highly recommended

Go-to (adj) ideal, first choice

9.4. Where can you hear loud noise?

From a number of sources. It can come from the crazy drivers **down there on the streets**. It can come from a building being built. It can come from a music festivals or a DJ party where the crowd totally **go wild**. It can even come from a crying baby or a fight nextdoor.

9.5. Do you think there's too much noise in modern society?

Indeed. I do think the level of noise is increasing overtime mainly due to human activities. The situation gets even worse if you live in a big modern city at a young age. Your **auditory** must be trained so hard to tolerate such noise everyday. It is really alarming now to raise people's awareness towards this "invisible" killer.

Vocabulary

Auditory (n) relating to the sense of hearing

Tolerate (v) to accept or endure (someone or something unpleasant or disliked) with forbearance

9.6. Are cities becoming noisier?

Most cities in our country are suffering serious noise pollution due to rapidly increasing population and a massive amount of daily transportation. The consistently intense presence of noise does serious harm to the public health.

Vocabulary

To do (serious) harm to (v) to damage the health of

10. Houses/Accommodation

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Troublesome (adj) causing difficulty or annoyance

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

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

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

Chill out (phrasal verb) relax

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

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

10.3. Who do you live with?

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

10.4. How long have you lived there?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Torture (n) great physical or mental suffering

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

Family reunions

Harmonious

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

11. Visitors

11.1. Do you often invite friends to visit your home

I do but only when we have known each other well **for quite a long time**. As most of my friends also enjoy staying inside like me, normally I just invite one friend then we buy some snacks home and exchange some **chitchat** for hours. I sometimes invite 3 to 4 friends so we can have a **girl-night-in** with movies or a small **pyjama party**.

Vocabulary

Chitchat (noun) gossip, casual conversation

pyjama party (n) a social occasion when a group of friends, usually children or young people, stay for the night at one person's house

girl-night-in (n) an evening spent outside of the home by a group of women

11.2. Do you like visitors coming to your home?

Only if I'm informed about the visit. I typically don't like sudden visits that they pay when I have to open the door in my pyjamas. That kind of visitors to me is so impolite. Oh, and I also don't like a big crowd visiting my place. They're too noisy and most of the time I'm afraid of my property secretly being stolen.

11.3. When do visitors come to your home?

Most of my parents' guests or our relatives would pay a visit during daytime, whereas my friends' visits usually end at night like 9 or 10 pm since we may have classes during the day. However I know them well enough so my parents have never complained about it.

11.4. Do you prefer to have friends visit you, or relatives?

Both friends' and relatives' visits are meaningful to me. Since our relatives live miles away, we really appreciate their efforts and time to visit us. My friends actually only come when they're invited, so we don't have much problem with time.

11.5. When someone visits you, how do you usually show hospitality (or, entertain them)?

Well first I would offer them some drinks like cool water or coke. If it's my parents' guest, I may politely answer some questions if they ask, otherwise I'll just **head back to my room** as my presence actually would make them feel more inconvenient to start the talk.

Vocabulary

To head back SwH (v) to return to the place from which you recently came

12. Newspaper and magazine

12.1. Do you often read newspapers?

Newspaper is actually not interesting to me. Although the information provided is updated and official, the boring **black-and-white** theme and **small-sized font** of daily newspaper appeared to be uncomfortable for me to read.

12.2. What do you like to read?

Well, I'm **a fan of** magazines. I'd like to keep myself updated on a wide variety of information that is offered by magazines. A colorful magazine specialized for young adults is definitely a good choice for me after work, or even when I'm **on the go**.

Vocabulary

On the go (phrase) busy; while moving/travelling from one place to another

12.3. Do you prefer to read local news or international news?

I think local news is more preferable for me. I'm the type of person who cannot digest **too much information** that is **brought about** by international news. And the topics are often far from my concern. So I guess I like to narrow my area of concern down to something local.

Vocabulary

To bring about (v) to introduce

To narrow Sth down to (v) to focus more on a specific area

12.4. Which is more popular in the place where you live, newspapers or magazines?

In terms of popularity I think newspaper is the winner. The content of magazines is more specific to a group of people while that of newspapers is more general for everyone **regardless of** age, gender and **occupations**. Newspaper also wins thanks to its price. The paper material and **printing quality** of magazine make it two to three times as expensive as newspaper, thus newspaper is way more **affordable**.

Vocabulary

Regardless of (adv): Without regard or consideration for

Occupation (n) a job or a profession

Printing quality (n) quality of a hard copy or printout produced by a printer

Affordable (adj) inexpensive; reasonably priced

12.5. Do many people today read newspapers?

As I've mentioned before, newspaper is more **approachable** in terms of content and more affordable regarding price. Hence, nowadays, people of all age, gender or occupations love reading newspaper.

Vocabulary

Approachable (adj) easy to be uptaken

12.6. In the future, do you think more people than today will read magazines, or fewer people?

Personally I think fewer people will read magazines, as the material and printing are becoming more and more expensive. In addition, because the content is becoming highly specific for only a small group of the community, meaning that the information provided is not widely useful, thus I think not many people will **continue reading** magazines down the road.

Vocabulary

Continue doing Sth (v) keep on doing Sth

Down the road (idiom) in the future

12.7. Do you think newspapers will be very important to you in the future?

Although it's not my taste, I must say that newspaper is now important to me. The information is highly **official** and reliable at a reasonable price. I think I should spend more time on reading newspaper from now on.

13. Outdoor activity

13.1. What do you do in your spare time?

Because I'd prefer staying at home, I spend a lot of my spare time on my hobbies. Usually I'll start by turning on some music. If I have **plenty of** time, I'll **get straight to** dancing or drawing. Otherwise, if it's just a **quick break**, social network would definitely a good choice.

Vocabulary

To get straight to (v) to immediately proceed Sth

Plenty of something (expression) lots of something, enough of something

13.2. Do you like outdoor activities?

Sadly I must say no. Since getting outdoor involves choosing clothes, meeting people and sometimes standing the weather, so most of the time I'd prefer staying inside. If I'm free I can invite some friends to **come over**. We can still have fun without **going out**.

Vocabulary

To come over (phrasal verb) to pay a visit

To go out ((phrasal verb) to have fun outside

13.3. What outdoor activities do you (most) like to do?

The outdoor activity I like to do best is my photography tour, especially when the weather is perfectly fine. I would walk around campus to find inspiration. It could be a flower, the sunshine or the road I walk everyday.

13.4. How often do you do that?

For the past few weeks I'm so busy that I hardly have time to go on my photography tours. Previously I get outside three times a week and depending on the **weather condition**, I could go out more or less often than that.

13.5. What outdoor sports do you like? (Why?)

To be honest, I'm really into swimming, especially during the summer. Not only is swimming good for my health, but it also helps me get **in shape**. Besides, I sometimes **go jogging** to enjoy fresh air.

Vocabulary

In shape (idiom) in good health, fit, strong

13.6. How much time do you spend outdoors every week?

As I've already mentioned, I'm a little bit too busy these days for any physical exercises. If going to the supermarket or **go window-shopping** are also considered as 'getting outdoors' then yeah, I guess I get outdoor once a week.

Vocabulary

To go window-shopping (v) to just have a look around the shops

13.7. How often do you do outdoor activities?

I'm afraid not too often. I mean **it's not in my favor** now. These days I'm so busy that most of the time I get outdoor is to go to school. Although I still hang out with friends, basically we prefer having a drink and a little chit chat instead of **doing some sports**.

Vocabulary

In someone's favor (expression) liked by someone

To do some sports (v) to play sports

13.8. What (types of) outdoor activities are popular in your country?

I think sports is particularly popular nowadays, as keeping fit is becoming more demanding. The street activities such as skateboarding, street-performing are also growing more and more popular among the younger generation.

13.7. How and where do people in your country usually socialize?

It can be seen that while a number of adults prefer quite places such as coffee shops to have a little chat with people they know, the young generation loves to get outdoor or steps out of their **comfort zone**, spending their fresh energy on social activities to expand their social network.

Vocabulary

Comfort zone (n) a place, a situation or a level where SO feels confident and comfortable

14. Photos

14.1. Do you like to take photographs? Why?

If it were 3 to 4 years ago the answer would be a big no. But now it has become one of my hobbies and I'm actually thinking of learning more about it. I had no idea what I can do with my iPhone until I learned **to make use of** its wonderful camera as well as some miracle apps. Unlike some people, I indeed want my photos to look unique, lively and a little bit professional.

Vocabulary

To make use of (v) to use someone or something for a particular purpose, especially one that brings a benefit to you

14.2. Do you prefer to take photos yourself or to have other people take your photos? Why?

It would be way more comfortable taking photos myself, as I can **see crystal-clear** how ridiculous my face expression looks like or if there's something on my hair or stuck between my teeth. And in case it's a scenery photo, I can apply the techniques I've learned to produce stunning photos.

Vocabulary

Crystal-clear (adj) absolutely clear

14.3. How long have you liked taking photographs?

Just recently. As a final year student, I no longer can spend hours on drawing, reading or singing. Only photography which is way more instant suits me now to **document my life**. And as I enjoy my life on this campus, for example the road I walk to school everyday, the sunset, the rainbow, the trees, photography is the best way to **store my memories**.

Vocabulary

Document one's life (expression) record the detail of one's life

14.4. In what situations do you take photographs?

As I've mentioned, I snap a photo of anything that catches my eyes when I'm **in a good mood**. So I take photos when my friends and I **hang out** or when I participate in social activities of the university and meet amazing people. However, **when it comes to** practicing for professional photography, I prefer taking photos of scenery and foods.

Vocabulary

In a good mood (idiom) a cheerful, well-disposed state of mind

When it comes to Sth/V-ing (adv) as for something; speaking about something

14.5. What kind of photos do you like to take? Why?

Food and scenery are definitely my inspiration. I just can't **sit still** when beautiful breakfasts and stunning landscape keep appearing on my Instagram everyday. **What is more**, it is my **natural instinct** that helps me to go find the simple uniqueness of my university, namely the sunset, the lake, the trees and flowers and show people how beautiful my university is. However, I'm not good at taking photos of people so activities or street-life is not my style.

Vocabulary

Sit still (idiom) to remain seated

Natural instinct (collocation) the way people or animals naturally react or behave, without having to think or learn

14.6. How (why) did you become interested in photography?

The situation was quite **all of a sudden**. I posted some scenery photos I took **on the spur of the moment** on Instagram and received lots of compliments, even from those whom I'm not following. Then I realized I should develop this skill, you know, should take it seriously and **keep up the good work**. And the more I learn about it, the more passionate I become.

Vocabulary

On the spur of the moment (idiom) do without planning, suddenly

All of a sudden (idiom) suddenly

To keep up the good work (phrase) used to encourage SO for continuing what they are doing well

14.7. How often do you take photographs?

Not too often I must say. Since I really don't like posting boring photos with the same object all the time, so timing is everything. I believe my **guts** will know exactly when and how I should flick to produce high-quality photos.

Vocabulary

Guts (n) to be used in reference to a feeling or reaction based on an instinctive emotional response rather than considered thought.

14.8. Do you prefer to take pictures of people or of scenery?

I think I'm gonna go for taking scenery photos. As a beginner, the knowledge of human facial expression, the part that needs focus, the harmonization between them and their surroundings are a bit too advanced for me. I can't really make the person in my photo become lively as I do with the scenery. Besides, looking at the **beauty of nature** and capturing it is kind of **mind-purifying** to me and is a good way to escape from the **artificial** world. So yeah, scenery is safer and more enjoyable.

Vocabulary

Mind-purifying (adj) make your mind naturally pure, free from negative thoughts

14.9. Who do you take photos of?

Although I'm not good at taking photos of people, I do **take selfies** with new friends whom I meet when I participate in social activities. To me it's more like a reminder or something **to look back**, reminding me that yeah, this time last year I went out, I met amazing people and had lots of fun.

Vocabulary

To look back (v) to think about a time or event in the past

14.10. How do you keep your photos?

Printing the photos out, making an album or sticking them on the wall for decoration sound so common and also interesting. But I don't think photos are worth that much time and budget, unless what I captured is apparently important to me, otherwise I only keep them in my iPhone.

14.11. Do you keep your photographs on your computer?

I don't think I need to do so. Firstly, because my memory is somewhat similar to **goldfish memory**, storing in different devices would drive me crazy. Plus, my iPhone has large memory storage so I think I won't need computer for storage.

Vocabulary

Goldfish memory (n) SO who quickly forgets things

14.12. Are there any photos on the walls of your house?

Since my parents love decorating our house, putting photos nicely on the walls of my house is an essential part of their decoration style. Some photos go with frame or plastic cover, some are stucked directly onto the wall in heart-shaped. However, it's quite ridiculous for me to see myself grinning everywhere in the house so I told them to let me decorate my room on my own.

Vocabulary

To see one's-self doing Sth (n) to have an eye on SO doing Sth

On my own (adv) do Sth alone

14.13. Do you frame (or have you framed) any of your photos? yes, which?& why?

Although I don't usually print my photos out, I think I would store some photos of me with my high school friends or me with my family. And framing helps preventing scratching and is good for long-term storage, so this is probably a good alternative beside albums.

14.14. Do you prefer to send postcards to people or to send photos that you took yourself? (Why?)

Firstly, the postcards are made of thicker paper, which makes it way more convenient for long-term storage as well as decoration. Secondly, the process of sending and receiving postcards appeared to be simpler and faster compared to photos. For those reasons I think I probably go with sending postcards.

15. Teachers**15.1. What kinds of teachers do you like best?**

My favorite kind of teacher is someone who is helpful, quite firm and **has high expectations for** students, especially if he/she teaches the subject I love. That kind of teachers always have admirable passion for their job which motivates me to work harder in order to impress them.

Vocabulary

To have high expectations for SO (v) to strongly believe that someone will or should achieve something

15.2. Who was your favorite teacher when you were young?

Definitely my Literature teachers in my high school. The first reason is because Literature is my favorite subject that I believed my knowledge and efforts could impress the teachers. Secondly, my Literature teachers tended to have a soft voice and inspiring teaching style that got me excited whenever the class began.

15.3. Would you want to be a teacher in the future?

I think I would, but I want to become a lecturer instead. Although teaching has always been my dream job since I was a kid, my **specialization** is not **pedagogy**, which makes it difficult for me to teach at schools.

Vocabulary

Specialization (n) The process of concentrating on and becoming expert in a particular subject or skill

Pedagogy (n) The method and practice of teaching, especially as an academic subject or theoretical concept

15.4. Have you ever had bad teachers before?

Luckily I haven't met such an evil teacher. I think as long as you're hard-working and you do all the homework, learn the lessons well enough and don't break any school's regulations, your name shall not appear on the teachers' **blacklist**.

Vocabulary

Blacklist (n) A list of people or groups regarded as unacceptable or untrustworthy and often marked down for punishment or exclusion

16. Walking

16.1. Do you like to walk?

Walking is unavoidable especially when you live **on campus**. You go to school on foot, you go to buy food **on foot**, you walk **here and there** everyday. There are days that my legs actually killed me. Therefore, I have to say that walking is **not my cup of tea**, although I have to walk on a daily basis.

Vocabulary

On campus (n) the grounds and buildings of a university or college

Here and there (idiom) in various places

Not one's cup of tea (idiom) not what one likes or is interested in

16.2. Do you like to walk on your own or with others?

Say if I'm **in a hurry**, I just walk or run as fast as I can, no time for **chit-chat** right? But even when there's a plenty of time, walking is ideal to **calm down**, breath in some fresh air and enjoy the world outside in silence. So I think I'm more **into** walking **on my own**.

Vocabulary

In a hurry (idiom) going somewhere very quickly, usually because you are late

Chit-chat (noun) informal conversation about unimportant matters

To calm down (n) to feel more relaxed

To be into something (idiom) to be interested in something

16.3. Would you say that your city is a good place for walking?

Walking is not as popular as it used to be in my city, as more and more people prefer riding a motorbike. So currently there are fewer parks and walking areas for **residents**. Moreover, walking under such hot weather and heavily polluted air is definitely not a good idea. So I would not recommend my city as a good place for walking.

Vocabulary

Resident (noun) a person who lives in a place permanently

16.4. Do people in your country walk a lot?

Nowadays they don't walk as much as they used to in the past. Private transportation is becoming more affordable and **diverse** in terms of price, design and quality. You may easily **catch sign of** the **middle-aged** and the elderly walking in the park or on the street, and they all look like they are enjoying themselves.

Vocabulary

Diverse (adj) of various kinds or forms

Middle-aged (adj) being in the time in a person's life between youth and old age

16.5. Do you think that we need to walk more?

Absolutely. Walking is the most convenient and simple exercise. Not only do people of all age can do it, but it also encourages us to get outdoor to change a bit of our surroundings, thereby helping us relax and **stay balanced**.

17. Books

17.1. How often do you read?

As a final year student I spend most of my time on reading, especially textbooks and other reference books that my lecturers recommend in the reading list. I'm also **a huge fan of** novels and fictions, but only during summer break that I have time to **concentrate on** reading them without any **disturbance**.

Vocabulary

A huge fan of (expression) an enthusiastic admirer of a sport, hobby or well-known person

Concentrate on (phrasal verb) focus on doing something

Disturbance (noun) action that makes you stop or interrupt what you are doing

17.2. Do you have many books at home?

Totally. I'm a bookaholic to be honest. I enjoy going to annual book fairs where they usually run big sales to get lots of books without much worries 'bout the price. Since my parents are also **book-nerds**, I think the number of books we have is even enough to open a bookstore.

Vocabulary

Bookaholic (n) people who love book

Book-nerd (n) people who like books

17.3. Do people do enough reading?

If you mean reading something meaningful and realistic, I must say it's not enough. The young generation **are** too **into** technology that I don't think they have time for reading. Plus, publishing nowadays is not as strictly selective as it used to be, thus the young mostly read a

number of books which indeed have no value at all, compared to Les Miserable, Gone with the wind, Jane Eyre, etc.

Vocabulary

To be into doing Sth (adj) to be very interested in/keen on doing something

Selective (adj) tending to select; characterized by careful choice

17.4. What kind of people like reading and what kind of people don't like reading very much?

From my point of view, I think **book-nerds** are those who prefer **putting themselves in the character's shoes**, you know, they wanna interact with the story, the characters on their own way. Some of them love to imagine how the story is supposed to continue while some keep wondering what they would do if the drama suddenly happened in their real life. Those who do not like to read are either too busy with their life that they even can't remember the characters' names, or they prefer listening, I mean, they prefer knowing the endings only.

Vocabulary

Book-nerd (n) people who like books

To put one's self in SO's shoes (v) to understand SO's feelings by putting yourself in their situation

18. Music

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

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

18.2. When do you listen to music?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Chill out (phrasal verb) to relax

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Once in a blue moon I attend a concert, since the ticket price for foreign artists' concerts is so **out of my reach** that I can only stay home and watch online. It was 2014 that I finally did

go to a concert **on my own**, obviously it was an international music concert. It was absolutely **mind-blowing** and unforgettable for me.

Vocabulary

Once in a blue moon (idiom) rarely

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

On one's own (idiom) Responsible for oneself, independent of outside help or control

Mind-blowing (adj) Sth overwhelmingly impressive

18.6. Do you like to listen to live music?

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

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

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

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

On and on (expression) continually; at tedious length

18.8. Where do you listen to it?

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

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

On their fingertips (phrase) easy to reach

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

To start out (v) to begin

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

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

Vocabulary

Compulsory (adj) to be required

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

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

Vocabulary

Bouyed up (adj) feel cheerful

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

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

Vocabulary

Sought-after (adj) in demand

18.14. Do you like traditional songs?

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

19. Study

19.1. Describe your education

I graduated from High School for the Gifted and headed to the International University because I think 2-year studying at this university would prepare me well, especially my English before I finish another 2 years abroad at the University of Nottingham.

19.2. What is your area of specialization?

I'm currently taking Plant Biotechnology. I've committed to Biology since I was in high school and I think a **shift** to a field where Biology and advanced technology are associated would be interesting and promising for my future career.

19.3. Why did you choose to study that major?

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

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

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

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

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

19.6. What was your favourite subject as a child?

To tell you the truth, I was quite good at Literature back then. Thus I always tried my best to get high score and impressed my teacher.

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

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

Vocabulary

Plan B (n) back-up plan

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

20. Work

20.1. What do you do?

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

20.2. What are your responsibilities?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

20.5. Describe the company or organization you work for.

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

20.6. Do you enjoy your work?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

21. Activity near water

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

Obviously I'd first take some picture. The ocean looks stunning at any time to me. Then I'll go swimming. There's no such thing more relaxing than surfing and chasing big waves. Then probably I'll build some sandcastle or just lie down and enjoy the fresh air.

21.2. Why do some people like water sports?

The first reason that pops up in my mind is because people want to be immersed in water which is ideal for the hot summer days. Water is also believed to have the capability of **easing**

our mind, which might explain why people love swimming. Besides, **when it comes to** diving, surfing or canoeing, the story is totally different. Extreme sports under the water bring about unforgettable experiences with nature.

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

Since I'm not a fan of **aquatic** sports, what I know about the current problem of facilities is actually limited. But personally, I think it depends on whether that type of water sports worths investing in. If it serves for national or international competitions, definitely upgrading should be allowed.

21.4. Do you think that human activity is posing a threat to the oceans of the world? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling on the ocean?

There are indeed a large number of human activities that have serious impacts on the oceans, namely fishing, shipping, **oil spillage** and tourism. Some of the consequences remain unsolved for many years. Along with other activities taking place on land, human beings are continuously destroying the nature. There is such a wonderful world under the sea that almost every human desires to discover. Travelling is a good mean to kick-start. However, a multitude of accidents have occurred. Therefore, travelers' safety is one of the top concerns.

Vocabulary

Oil spillage (n) a quantity of liquid that has spilled or been spilled

21.5. Do you think it's important for children to learn how to swim?

It is extremely important for children to learn swimming. A number of accidents have taken place over the past few years due to parents' unawareness. Thus, children need to be taught to swim so they can protect themselves.

21.6. Do you think it's best for a child to be taught to swim by a parent or by someone else?

Of course, because a child should be taught how to swim to avoid being vulnerable by

drowning. However, their parents should also be there with their children to encourage him/her or protect him/her.

22. Birthday

22.1. How do children celebrate birthdays in your country?

To most people, birthday could be a very special day. They look forward to having a birthday cake and share the big day with family and friends. Children are no exception. On this occasion, they have birthday parties to invite their beloved friends and relatives to join. The parties can take place at home or in restaurants.

22.2. How did you celebrate your last birthday?

Well since I was **in the middle** of my final exam week, I had no time to think about my birthday. I celebrated it **shortly after** the exam was over. My friends cooked me a dinner and bought me some cakes. And friends from my hometown also sent me lots of wishes. I think that **humble** party was fairly enough for me.

Vocabulary

Shortly after (phrase) soon after

22.3. What kinds of birthday gifts do you like to receive?

I think I'm fine with any kind of casual birthday presents like handmade gifts, stuffed animals, flowers, accessories and cosmetics. It's much appreciated as long as they can remember my birthday and give me wishes.

22.4. Is there a difference between the way you celebrate your birthday in the past and the present?

There lies a big difference. When I was a child, I celebrated every year by a big party with my family and lots of friends. As I grow up, I tend to separate the celebration with my family from that with my friends.

23. Chocolate

23.1. How often do you eat chocolate?

Well mostly I don't buy myself chocolate, since it's quite pricey and not my favorite snack. Only when someone gives me chocolate will I eat some.

23.2. What's your favorite flavor?

Though **I'm not addicted** to chocolate, I do have my **all-time favorite** flavor, which is the white chocolate. Since I **have a sweet tooth**, dark chocolate would be too bitter for me. Meanwhile, milk chocolate just isn't sweet enough. So white chocolate is just a perfect fit.

Vocabulary

All---time favorite (noun) favorite of all choices, during all times

To have a sweet tooth (n) to like sweet foods

23.3. When was the first time you ate chocolate?

I think most of the children at that time were a fan of M&M chocolate and I was no exception. Now that my taste changed though, still I enjoy having some M&M snacks.

23.4. Is chocolate popular in your country?

There are a variety of chocolate brands with different price range and quality available in the market nowadays. Thanks to the **health benefits** that it offers for human, consuming chocolate at a suitable level is encouraged. The sweetness of chocolate also makes it a common present that men choose to give their beloved women in special days, especially Valentine's Day or International Women's Day.

23.5. Is chocolate good for our health?

Scientifically, chocolate provides human a number of **health benefits**. Firstly, eating chocolate helps improve our mood, even when we're **under pressure**. Secondly, consuming chocolate at a reasonable amount is good for **cardiovascular system**. Interestingly, chocolate has been proved to contain **antioxidants**, which benefits for women as well.

Vocabulary

Cardiovascular system (n) The system that circulates blood and lymph through the body, consisting of the heart, blood vessels, blood, lymph, and the lymphatic vessels and glands

To benefit for (v) to provide advantages to SO

Antioxidant (n) a substance such as vitamin C or E that removes potentially damaging oxidizing agents in a living organism.

24. Hometown**24.1. What's (the name of) your hometown?**

Victoria is my hometown which's a province located in the west of my country.

24.2. Is that a big city or a small place?

Actually, it is a small province with slightly more than 1 billion people. It has beautiful landscapes with mountains and lakes. However, due to the increasing economy, a number of business, especially in sugarcane, are invested in my hometown that turns it into a promising area.

24.3. Please describe your hometown a little?

My hometown is traditional and modern. On the one hand, tradition is preserved by a number of festivals celebrated by local people. On the other hand, we preserve the **historical sites** for tourism and education.

Vocabulary

Historical sites (n) a building that was built in the past

24.4. How long have you been living there?

I had lived there around 15 years before my family left for Santa City. It's more than ten years since the day I left my hometown but in my mind, it is indeed a good memory of my childhood.

24.5. What do you like (most) about your hometown?

I like the **hospitality** and the love of people there which I hardly find them in my current place. Everyone is living close together and willing to **give others a hand** when they need help.

Vocabulary

Hospitality (n) The friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers

Give someone a hand (idiom) to help someone do something

24.6. Is there anything you dislike about it?

Personally, it's a bit boring for me because as a small town, there is not much shopping mall or any other means of entertainment. The streets are not very crowded as well. However, I believe that it has been improving **day by day** and becoming a potential **hotspot** due to the increasing number of annual visitors.

24.7. Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?

To be honest, I hope I could come back there one day to visit my relatives and friends, but to **settle down** my life there is not my plan. I am **getting familiar with** city life and there are more job opportunities for my **future career**.

Vocabulary

To settle down (v) adopt a more steady or secure style of life, especially in a permanent job and home

25. Singing

25.1. Do you often sing?

I absolutely love singing, although I just **figured out** my singing ability like 3 or 4 years ago and of course it's not perfect. When **I'm into** a song, I can't help myself singing it day and night.

25.2. When do you like to sing?

I sing whenever I feel like to, you know, when I'm bored or when I'm **in a good mood**. And since I'm not that type of a **so-called** performer, most of the time I sing for myself.

25.3. How much time do you spend in singing every day?

Well as I already mentioned, singing is all about enjoying myself. Unless the song is so amazing, or my voice is so surprisingly incredible on that day, I can keep singing for hours.

25.4. What kinds of music do you like to sing?

I must say it depends on my mood. If I'm so down, singing some songs which **bring back** some good memories could make me feel somehow **buoyed up**, and on the days when I'm so motivated, so energetic, I would sing the songs that are full of hope and the sunshine and dreams. Yeah, so you can tell that I don't stick with a certain kind of music.

25.5. Is it difficult to sing well?

Indeed. Unless you have a beautiful voice, or you at least have **gained** yourself **some** basic **knowledge about** notes, **vocal ranges** and beat, etc., then it's easier for you to go further in your singing career. Otherwise yes, singing well would be a huge challenge.

25.6. Do you want to be a singer?

Well, from what I've known, being a singer is **not easy at all**. It's not just about performing, but it's also involved in interaction with fans and other colleagues. Based on what I've known about showbiz, and even the **music industry** in general, I think that I don't belong to that world.

Vocabulary

Not at all (phrase) certainly not

26. Sunny days

26.1. Do you like sunny days?

I definitely love sunny days, on which I can **hang out** with friends or do some sports. It is even better with the winds blowing. Sunny days are somehow helpful for laundry as well as cleaning both inside and outside the house.

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

26.4. Are there many sunny days in your hometown?

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

27. Weekends

27.1. What do you do in your spare time?

Because I'd **prefer staying** at home, I spend my spare time for my hobbies. Usually I'll start by turning on some music. If I have plenty of time, I'll **get straight to** dancing or drawing. Otherwise, if it's just a **quick break, social network** such as Facebook or Instagram will definitely be a good choice.

27.2. When do you spend time with your family?

Since my parents go to work for a whole day, my younger brother and I has classes every day, so we only meet to have dinner in the evening. Although we're busy with own schedule, we tried to maintain the family-dinner habit as regularly as possible, so having dinner with my family has apparently become a habit.

27.3. What do you usually do on weekends? What did you do last weekend?

Weekends are my **pamper days**, if I don't have to go to the supermarket to fill the fridge or meet my friends. Of course the first thing I'll do every weekend is to **oversleep** as long as I could. I spend most time on **chilling out** at the weekend. I'd like to cook myself a big yummy meal and watch some TV while eating. Besides, I'd probably practice dancing **for a while** or go online chatting with my friends a bit longer. And when the night comes, after planning what to do next week, I'll give myself some treatment and go to bed early.

Vocabulary

Pamper day (n) a day to stay at home and enjoy one's self

To chill out (v) to relax, to have some rest

For a while (expression) for a short time

27.4. What do other people in your hometown (or in your country) usually do on the weekend?

As far as I'm concerned, people have a plethora of things to do on the weekends. The elder can go shopping. They can play sports or they can go for a drink with their friends at some

nice coffee shops. Meanwhile, the young usually **plunge themselves into** beautiful landscapes on a short road trip to **escape from the hustle and bustle of the city**.

Vocabulary

Plunge oneself into (phrasal verb) suddenly experience something

The hustle and bustle (expression) busy and noisy activity

27.5. What are you going to do next weekend?

I don't have any actual plan for weekends, to be honest. If I'm free and the weather is nice, probably I'd have a drink and **chit chat** with my friends, since we don't see each other often during weekdays. Otherwise I'll just stay home, continue with my work and enjoy **me time**.

Me time (n) one's own personal time to be alone

27.6. Do you think it is important to make the most of your weekend?

I absolutely agree with this idea. The weekend is a perfect time for **recharging my batteries** after an exhausting working week, staying connected to family and friends, and **planning ahead** for the incoming week. A relaxing weekend will also help me avoid **getting sucked into** a routine that feels a lot like a **daily grind**.

Vocabulary

Had better do Sth (adv) Sth that should be done rather than Sth else

Daily grind (phrase) everyday routine

Get sucked into (phrase verb) become involved in an unpleasant situation

27.6. Do you feel that weekends now are more important to you than when you were a child?

Yes, weekends or **day offs** are becoming more important to me. Since working time accounts for higher proportion of my schedule, I barely have time for family or friends, not to mention taking care of ourselves. Back then I was of course more relaxed. There were no pressure, no deadlines and I have my parents take care of me.

Vocabulary

Day-off (n) a day that is free from work/classes

To take away (v) to carry Sth on the go

28. Art

28.1. Do you like art?

I have a **lifelong passion for** art since I was a child. Beside official art class in school, I also joined a drawing class in The Children' House and my teachers were very pleased with my drawings. I also **participated in** some drawing competitions back then. Until now I still draw in my free time, although not as often as I used to do.

Vocabulary

To have a passion for (v) to be enthusiastic about Sth

To participate in (v) to join in

28.2. Do you think art classes are necessary? (Why?)/ 28.3. How do you think art classes affect children's development?

Learning arts, especially at a young age, can help stimulate children's **cognitive development** and encourage them to **think outside the box**. Because they're still little, their ideas are very fresh and lovely, which worths appreciating.

Vocabulary

Cognitive development (noun) the construction of thought processes, including remembering, problem solving, and decision-making, etc

Think outside the box (idiom) think creatively

28.4. What kind of paintings do people like?

In my opinion, people love hanging **landscape** paintings at home. Bringing in the beauty of **Mother Nature** somehow **ease people's mind** after a long day at work. Another style of drawing that most people also like is portrait. It could be **portraits** of someone important to them or even their lovely pets.

Vocabulary

Landscape (n) scenery, a large area of land

Portrait: A painting, drawing, photograph, or engraving of a person, especially one depicting only the face or head and shoulders

28.5. What benefits can you get from painting as a hobby?

I think the **mediation efficiency** worths mentioning first. Colors in some ways reflect our thoughts and emotions very well and somehow stimulate our body to **defense against** our negativity inside. For me, in particular, I think what's so interesting about painting is that you have no idea how **harmonized** colors can become until you actually try.

Vocabulary

Mediation (n) psychological treatment to stay calm

To be harmonized (n) to be well combined

28.6. How often do you visit art galleries?

To tell you the truth, I have never visited art galleries before. Unless I have a guide to acknowledge me, art galleries would be quite boring for me.

28.7. What kinds of things do you like to draw?

My main inspiration is Japanese manga. The drawing topic is extremely varied, however only manga seems to show great potency for my level. I have a big collection at home and as I sometimes **go through** it again, I can see how much I've improved.

Vocabulary

To go through Sth (v) to check Sth again

28.8. Is it easy to learn how to draw?

I think I must say it's even challenging for a lot of people. I absolutely failed when it comes to drawing **still life** paintings like fruit and flowers. I think for those who succeed in drawing or arts in general, they first must have **God-gifted talent**, then comes to the long-term commitment to arts that requires extreme practice and high patience.

Vocabulary

Still life (n) a painting or drawing of an arrangement of objects, typically

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

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

Vocabulary

Occupied with (adj) busy

Set aside (phrasal verb) reserve for a special purpose

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

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

Vocabulary

Scrumptious (adj) delicious

Hectic whirlwind (expression) a busy schedule

Huddle together (phrase) gather together

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

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

Vocabulary

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

29.4. What activities do your family like doing together?

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

Vocabulary

To eat out (v) to have meal outside

Family trip (n) to travel with family members

29.5. Are you close to of your family members?

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

Vocabulary

To take good care of (v)

29.6. How has your family influenced you?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Deligence (n) careful and persistent work or effort

30. Handcrafts

30.1. Do you like collect things made by hand?

Collecting things are one of my hobbies, especially something old and memorable like stamps, photos, that sort of things.

30.2. Did you ever take handcrafts lessons at school?

Handcraft actually is a compulsory subject in primary schools in my country. I think it's aimed to teach the students about patience and creativity.

30.3. Are handcrafts popular in your country?

Handcraft is extremely popular here, to tell you the truth. People are just **crazy about** making on their own accessories, key chains, jewelry, even beauty products. Some makers believe that their receivers will be so happy because they **put their heart in** their stuff.

Vocabulary

To be crazy about Sth/doing Sth (v) Sth that cause affection among a group of people

To put a one's heart in Sth/doing Sth (v) to do Sth with passion

30.4. Do you think children should learn more about handcrafts?

I definitely think that children should be encouraged to learn more about handcraft. Although they're not so good at it, they could learn to be more patient, **dexterous**, and creative. Moreover, handcraft can help develop their skillful hands.

Vocabulary

Dexterous (adj) demonstrating neat skill, especially with the hands.

30.5. Do you think handcrafts are meaningful activities?

Yes. They support **intellectual** development not only in children but also in a wide range of age. You know, some people may suppose that making handcrafts is **a piece of cake**. I'm of the opinion that it require more sophisticated skills than people expect like **meticulousness**, creativity and patience.

Vocabulary

To be intellectual (adj) The capability of reasoning and understanding objectively, especially with regard to abstract matters.

A piece of cake (idiom) easy

Meticulousness (n) taking or showing extreme care about minute details

31. Hats and bags

31.1. Do you like to wear hats?

Although hats help **shield** your hair and face from direct sunlight, to be honest I don't really like wearing hats daily. My hair **is** always **a mess** after I **take them out**. Instead of wearing hats, I think I prefer bringing an umbrella with me.

31.2. What kinds of hats do you have?/ 31.3. Where do you like to buy hats?

Well as I've mentioned, wearing hats is definitely not my daily style, so generally I don't have any hats at home. There is the only type of hat I'm particularly fond of, which is baseball caps. This kind of hat can give me a sporty and strong look, you know.

31.4. Is wearing hats popular in your country?

It's not much **sought after** in my country where motorbike is the most common means of transportation, and it is **a must** to wear a helmet whenever you ride a motorbike for safety. I think you can imagine how much uncomfortable it is to wear a hat under the helmet. Thus in most of the case, hats are for **pedestrians** and **fashionista**.

Vocabulary

Sought after (adj) in demand; generally desired

Pedestrian (n) a person walking rather than travelling in a vehicle

Fashionista (n) a person who dresses in fashion

31.5. Do you like bags?

Bag is not really must-have item to me. I just use a backpack due to its convenience. Probably I'll spend some time **getting to know** more about bags **later on**.

Vocabulary

Get to know (phrase) to start to be familiar with someone or something

Later on (phrase) in the future, or after the time already mentioned

31.6. What types of bags do you like?

I'm not a big fan of this item so the only bag I use **from time to time** is the backpack. I love backpack because I tend to put a lot of heavy stuff inside such as my laptop, my water bottles, etc. whenever I get outdoors. It's the long-term convenience that makes high-quality backpacks worth my money.

31.7. Do you usually carry a bag (when you go out)?

As aforementioned I carry my backpack all the time, when I go to school or hang out with friends. Although it may not **give me a fashionable look**, I think comfort and convenience is the top priority to me.

Vocabulary

To give a fashionable look (v) to look fashionable with Sth

31.8. Do you have different bags for different occasions (or, different purposes)?

Well I must say that at present I have no idea about different types of bags or that sort of things. And it also **costs me an arm and a leg** if I ever want to become a bag collector with, say, twenty different bags for different occasions. However, I do have one fashionable small **satchel** for special occasions. I'm also kind of afraid that wearing heavy bags **all the time** will somehow affect my **spine** and my shoulders.

Vocabulary

All the time (idiom) repeatedly; habitually

Spine (n) a series of vertebrae extending from the skull to the small of the back, enclosing the spinal cord and providing support for the thorax and abdomen; the backbone

31.9. What do you put in these bags?

Well, when I go out or go to work, I usually put my laptop, cellphone, charger, basic beauty products like lipsticks, lotions , water bottle and probably a pair of earphones. When I use the smaller backpack, I tend to leave everything at home but my makeup kit and water bottles.

31.10.What sorts of bags do women like to buy?

I think every women regardless of age, occupation, tastes, needs, etc has at least one backpack with them. As I've already explained about its convenience, backpack is ideal for everyday life. However, the top favorite bag would be the well-designed handbag.

PART 2 & 3

1. Describe a person/something that made you laugh

Children, with their **innocent** mind, could make people around laugh by their witty words and funny actions. I'm going to talk about my niece, a four-year-old energetic girl who did something that really made me **laugh my head off**.

As usual, after finishing dinner, she played toys by herself. There was a night when I was doing my assignment. Suddenly, she knocked the door and told me **tenderly** that she wanted me to **come over** to her room. I thought she needed to take any toys on the shelf so I came there immediately. Surprisingly, she asked me sit down and started to sing a Korean song named "Three little bears". She sang and did funny actions that I **couldn't help** laughing. Her parents and my mom heard the noise, they came to her room. She was **aware of** many people around. Interestingly, she opened the wardrobe, chose a pink dress like a princess, took a lipstick from my bag and acted like a true singer that everyone **couldn't take their eyes off** her. Whenever she finished, she always questioned whether we like to listen to more songs. We had a nice night together. Our life is so busy and it's hard to find a true happiness that makes us laugh and enjoy. That was probably the best part of our family memories that I will never forget.

Vocabulary

Innocent (adj) morally good and with no wish to harm anyone

Laugh your head off (idiom) laugh loud and long

Tenderly (adv) softly and gently

Come over (phrasal verb) visit someone

To be aware of (v) Having knowledge or perception of a situation or fact

Can't help something (v) used for saying that someone cannot stop themselves doing something

Can't take your eyes off somebody

(phrase) unable to stop looking at them because they are so attractive or interesting

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

1.1. How would you define happiness?

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

Vocabulary

Day-to-day (adj) daily, everyday

1.2. Do people like to watch comedy?

Similarly to people around the globe, **getting engrossed** in a comedy show is the best way to forget about tomorrow's worries. Studies have shown that when you watch a comedy show that **evokes hearty laugh**, you **encounter** situations with a positive frame of mind. Shows that can make you laugh have proven to ease and **soothe stress**. Thus, as life's **getting tough**, comedy shows appears to be the best choice.

Vocabulary

To get engrossed (v) To absorb all the attention or interest of

To evoke (v) Bring or recall (a feeling, memory, or image) to the conscious mind.

Hearty laugh (phrase) laugh with true delight at something

To encounter (v) Unexpectedly be faced with or experience (something hostile or difficult)

A positive frame of mind (phrase) positive mindset

To soothe stress (v) to release stress, to relax

To get tough (adj) difficulties that cause one to struggle

1.3. Who is the most popular comedian in your country?

Rubin Williams is the most popular comedian not only in my country but also in other countries. With his great talents in comedy, he also received two Emmy Awards, and five Grammy Awards throughout his career. Up to now, he is still very **well-loved** by the public and continues to be one of the most **sought-after** comedians.

Vocabulary

Host (n) A person, place, or organization that holds an event to which others are invited

Step by step (adv) slowly, with carefulness

To be well-known(adj) to be famous or popular

Well-loved (adj) popular

1.4. What do you do when you feel unhappy?

I tend to be alone when I'm **in a bad mood** because I think it would be. In those **chunks of bad time**, I read the Holy Bible and pray to help myself **calm down** and release all negative thoughts. Sometimes, when I'm **in a chatty mode**, I find some friends to talk to. We could hang out or walk around. Taking a deep breath and **going sightseeing** also make me feel better.

Vocabulary

In a bad mood (expression) unhappy

In a chatty mood (phrase)

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

Chunks (n) A significant amount of something

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

I guess the **first and foremost** reason is because children tend to **let** their feelings **go** while adults tend to **hold** their feelings **back**. In fact, children's thoughts are simple and innocent.

They also have the ability to simplify everything that they see, feel and encounter, which helps them to be more careless and not **over-analyze** things like most adults do. Besides, they don't have to **face up with** any troubles at work and they often forget what just happened. They have no worries, no doubts, no disappointment about anything. Thus, their life is much easier and happier.

Vocabulary

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

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

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

To face with (v) to deal with

2. Describe your favorite movie

You should say:

When and where you saw it

What type of film it was

What the film was about

And explain why it is your favorite film

As a frequent **moviegoer**, I watch a multitude of films. One of the movies I'm much into is "One day", an American romantic drama movie. It is directed by Lone Scherfig based on a novel of the same name. I watched this movie at least three times yet still love to watch **again and again**.

The movie opens with a short scene of the day after their graduation on 14 July 1988 of two main characters, Dexter Mayhew (Jim Surgess) and Emma Morley (Anne Hathaway). They **spent the night** together but **came up with** an agreement to be just friends, and spent the

following day together, the 15th, St. Swithin's day. However, they couldn't **keep the promise**. They **went through** different **circumstances**, troubles, got marriage and lived apart from each other until 2004, Emma and Dexter finally realized they were **a perfect match** and got engaged and married. Unfortunately, despite many efforts, they have not yet had kids. On 15th July 2006, Emma had a car accident when she was crossing the street. Dexter became **inconsolable** and was particularly **desolated** each year on that day. The movie ends up with the scene back to 1988 when they first met and promised to always be best friends.

This movie usually get me **burst into tears** no matter how many times I've watched it. Not only was the story itself so miserable but also the actor and actress **outperformed the ordinary**. This movie also aimed to encourage people to appreciate the happiness and true love from the ones who have **always been there for** them.

Vocabulary

Moviegoer (noun) a person who goes to the cinema

To do Sth again and again (v) to love constantly repeating Sth

To spend the night (v) to sleep over

To come up with (v) to think of Sth

To keep the promise (v) to do what you said you would do

A perfect match (n) to perfectly fit with another

Inconsolable (adj) so unhappy or disappointed that no one can make you feel better

To always be there for SO (v) to strongly and consistently support SO anyhow

To outperform the ordinary (v) to perform significantly well

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

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

Absolutely, I think. Take romantic films as an example, they can help educate people about the value of love, honesty, and faithfulness. They can make the audience **sympathize with**

other people and respect what they have. Indeed, films can teach people **good virtues** to become better citizens through stories. Besides, in most high school and college courses, movies, whether documentary or narrative, are a creative approach in teaching, helping students have a brief idea about the history, social issues, or scientific experiments. History, for example, indeed becomes more approachable and interesting in movies.

Vocabulary

Good virtue (n) behavior showing high moral standards

Sympathise (v) to feel sorry for somebody, to show that you understand and feel sorry about somebody's problems

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

From my perspective, they are different in various aspects, especially their purposes. Documentaries are a reliable source of information and a powerful **means of conveying social message** to the world. It brings many benefits to the society. For instance, by watching documentaries together, many sensitive social issues, such as **homosexuality**, are discussed freely between parents and children instead of attempting to hide it. Films for entertainment, in another way, are mostly for people who need to **chill out** after work or study. Those movies tend not to discuss nothing but relationships between people.

Vocabulary

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

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

To chill out (v) to relax

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

Personally, I think the foremost reason which makes documentary films are not as popular as entertainment films is that documentaries require the audience to think critically about a current issues, b help them escape from the **harsh realities** of everyday life. For example, the

series of “Prison life – love in prison”, which describes the prison sex, is an educational and emotional documentary that brings a different view about prisoners. Another reason is this kind of movie **aims to** provide education and lack entertaining features compared to other kinds of movies, therefore, it’s hard to reach a wide range of audience.

Vocabulary

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

Harsh reality (n) the difficulties

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

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

2.4 How are movies and real life different ?

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

Vocabulary

Ups and downs (n) good and bad times

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

To make a movie (n) to produce a move

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

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

Vocabulary

Sci-fi movies (n) science-fiction movies

When it comes to (phrase) speaking about

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

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

Vocabulary

To be fond of (adj) to be interested in

2.7 Do you like any particular film star? Why?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

3. Describe a piece of equipment in your home

You should say:

What it is

How often you use it

Who you usually use it with

And explain why this item is important to you

The past few years is the golden era of advanced technology, and I suppose **household appliances** is no exception. I'm going to describe the refrigerator as a household equipment that I find most useful for my family.

My mom loves cooking and she's actually a good cook. She's mainly **responsible for** shopping for healthy food and cooking **scrumptious** meal for all of us. And **as a matter of fact**, our refrigerator is essential **when it comes to** food storage. Its size is **perfect for** the corner area in our kitchen, yet big enough to store a large amount of food for the whole family. We keep the vegetables and certain kinds of fruits **at the bottom**, whereas the **leftovers** are kept on top. And some cakes that are made by my mom are kept cold **in the middle**. **As regards** my family meals, fresh meat and seafood **is a must**. In particular I **cannot go a day without** a single piece of pork or beef. Thus, the fridge has always **done a great job** of keeping the meat and seafood fresh all the times. Besides, ice cream bought by my dad every two to three weeks is also stored in the same freezer.

Refrigerator is a wonderful technological invention I must say. It is an **indispensable** appliance for almost every household. Since the country possesses **tropical weather** and particularly quite high **outside temperature** these days, it is difficult to keep the vegetables or meat fresh even for a few days. I think **down the line** if I ever move away, fridge is definitely on top of my **must-have** list.

Vocabulary

Household appliance (n) a machine that is designed to do a particular thing in the home, such as preparing food, heating or cleaning

To be responsible for (adj)/To take the responsibility to Having an obligation to do something, or having control over or care for someone, as part of one's job or role

Scrumptious (adj) very delicious

As a matter of fact (phrase) in reality

When it comes to Sth/V-ing (phrase) speaking about

At the bottom/in the middle/on top (adv)

As regards (expression) in regard to

To be a must (adj) to be highly required

To go a day without (v) Sth that is not necessary to do on a certain day

To do a great job (v) to do Sth well

Indispensable (adj) absolutely necessary

Tropical weather (n) Very hot and humid

Down the line (idiom) in the future

Must-have (n/adj) Essential or highly desirable

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

3.1. Has (the item you choose to talk about) changed much over the years?

As far as I'm concerned, innovations of refrigerators have taken place extensively in terms of size, price ranges and quality **in accordance with** different usages. For instance, while families prefer fridges that are large-sized and have high electric capacity, fridges which are specifically used for laboratories are more advanced for chemicals storage.

Vocabulary

In accordance with (phrase) in agreement with something

3.2. Do you think everyone needs to know how to use [the item you choose to talk about]?

Unlike other electrical **household appliances**, refrigerators are **way** easier to use, even for children, unless they are too short that they cannot reach for their favorite ice cream stored in the freezer. However I suppose when purchasing a fridge, people should at least **bear in mind** what they're going to use the fridge for as well as how to **make the most of**. Besides, due to frequent functioning, fridges sometimes have electrical problems that had better be fixed by specialists.

Vocabulary

Way (adv) at or to a considerable extent; far (used before an adverb or preposition for emphasis).

To bear in mind (v) to consider

To make the most of (phrase)

to exploit something; to get as much out of something as is possible.

3.3. What kinds of electrical appliance are most used in the home, besides the telephone and computer?

A number of electrical appliances are being used nowadays in order to enhance the efficiency of doing household chores within less time. Due to varied demand and preference of the family, it is difficult to rank which appliance is mostly used, so I'll just **make a guess**. I think the most useful piece of household equipment ever is the refrigerator, for its wonderful **capacity of** storing almost all essential daily foods for a long time.

Vocabulary

A number of Sth (plural) (phrase) a large number of Sth

Household chores (n) a routine task at home

Demand (n) need

3.4. What are some examples of electronic or electrical equipment that are used commonly for communication?

Two common means of communication from home are telephone and desktop. Despite the fact that smartphones are more popular among young family members, our parents or grandparents are way more familiar with using conventional dial telephones. Although the phone bill have risen significantly, telephones are still **in need** for some families to b with each other. Desktop with high-speed Internet connection is another good tool for communication, especially for video calls with relatives living miles away. Physical distance no longer matters.

Vocabulary

To outweigh (v) to provide greater benefits compared to many other things

To be in need (adj) to be required

Physical distance (n) distance that can be measured

4. Describe an interesting song

Unlike my friends, I love folk music because every song is a story that is told by music. The Marvelous Toy of Peter, Paul and Marry band is an interesting song for children that I've ever listened to.

Peter, Paul and Mary is an American folk group formed in 1961. Actually, "The Marvelous Toy" is not the hit of this band. However, for me, its lyrics is very innocent that **brings me back to my childhood**, a beautiful period in my life. The story begins when a little boy received a toy, which became his "heart's delight". The sound from the toy made him curious. When it moved, it went "zip". When it stopped, its sound was "bop" while "whirr" was the sound when it stood still. He was **excited about** exploring that toy.

Peter, Paul and Marry performed that song in a very funny way. They made the sound "zip, bop, and whirr" by their mouths so the song is very lively and brings a very relaxing feelings for audiences.

Vocabulary

To bring SO back to my childhood (v) to remind SO of their childhood memories

To be excited about Sth (v) to be interested in Sth, to be into Sth

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

4.1. What do old people like to listen to ?

I think elderly people love to listen to classical music. The lyrics of those songs are deeply emotional that is hard for young generations to understand completely. Other than that, the

rhythm is pretty slow. Listening to those songs will **recall** their memories about a period of time when they were young.

Vocabulary

To recall (v) to remember Sth happened in the past, usually memories

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

It would be quite shocking to him, I think. My father is a professor; thus, he is pretty strict and told us to listen to instrumental music or at least the lyrics that **make sense**. Therefore, I guess he would not be pleased with my hip hop taste because they contain inappropriate messages related to sex, drugs or discrimination which are not suitable for **youngster**.

Vocabulary

To make sense (v) to have certain meaning

Youngster (n) the young

4.3. Why do you think old people like old songs?

Obviously, old songs were composed in their generations. When elderly people listen to those songs, they will serve as a **memento** of the memories about their first love or a period of life, for example.

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

First, the older we get, the more different our mindset will change. Therefore, the taste of music also change **in accordance to** age. For example, children love to listen to simple songs with repeated lyrics and fun melody while adults have **a wide range of** choices such as rock, R&B, country, pop, etc. Second, for adults, music is not only a **means of entertainment** but it also **help ease** stress and emotions. Thus, they need songs with meaningful and touching lyrics.

Vocabulary

In accordance to (phrase) along with

A wide range of (phrase) many choices are available

Means of Sth (uncountable nouns: transportation, entertainment, etc.) (phrase) to be used as a tool of Sth

To help do Sth (v) to assist

4.5. What kinds of music do (small) children in your country like to listen to ?

In the past decade, most children were taught traditional folk songs in nurseries and kindergartens. Those are simple songs composed specifically for them. However, **thanks to** the **popularity of** technology, particularly internet and Ipad, children could easily **access to** different websites to enjoy music. Significantly, they tend to listen to English songs. Therefore, children's taste in music has been slowly changing.

Vocabulary

Thanks to Sth (phrase) Positivity results from Sth

To (get/gain) access to Sth (v) to connect with Sth, to approach Sth

4.6. What are the differences between popular music and the music that (young) children like to listen to ?

Popular music are songs mostly for adults because the contents are mostly inappropriate for children such as love or relationships. On the other hand, music for children is more innocent **in terms of** simple topics like family, friends or daily activities which have educated meaning. Moreover, the lyrics are short, **catchy** and easy for children to memorise.

Vocabulary

In terms of (phrase) speaking about

To be catchy (adj) easy to remember

4.7. Why do you think some people like to play instruments in the open?

There are many reasons for someone to perform instruments in front of the crowd. I've seen many people who play instruments in train stations or on the street. Money is what they expect, obviously. However, how can they play without their passion and motivation? For example, I met a man, who played guitar in a station. He shared with me that he and his

friends have passion to create an organization for homeless children where they could learn to play musical instruments. Therefore, performing in the open can attract people and this helps to boost the program effectively.

Vocabulary

To boost (v) to increase, to enhance

5. Describe a gift that you recently gave to others

Jenny is my best friend since we were together in kindergarten. Thus, on her 20th birthday, I decided to give her a special gift.

Choosing a gift for someone is usually a very difficult task because you should make sure that the receiver will like it. Jenny is not a typical girl, she's a sporty girl. I remembered she had told me that she wanted a ball with Manchester United symbol, her favorite football team and that ball is **limited stock**. I spent around a month before the date, went to some shopping malls and tried to find that gift for her. Unfortunately, it was **out of stock**.

I was so disappointed. My brother knew it and suggested me to **search online**. Before the birthday three days, I received a call from a boy who wanted to sell the ball for me with a half price compared to the original one. I **was on cloud nine**. I came to his house immediately and brought that ball back home. I also chose a nice paper with Manchester United symbol and wrapped it carefully.

Jenny **jumped for joy** when she received my gift. It is true that our friendship is valuable and what we did for each other build up our friendship more and more.

Vocabulary

Limited stock (n) Sth that are produced at a limited amount

Out of stock (phrase) a product that is no longer available

To search online (v) to look for Sth on the Internet

To be on cloud nine (adj) to be extremely happy

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

5.1. In your country, when (on what occasions) do people give gifts to others?

People usually give presents to others on **a wide range of occasions** such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries or opening ceremonies. Especially, after travelling to a new place or a new country, they always give souvenirs or foods from that place to their friends and relatives.

Vocabulary

A wide range of Sth (n) many choices are available

5.2. What sorts of things do they give?

Depending on different occasions and the receivers that we have a suitable gift to give. It could be clothes, jewelry, souvenirs or even some DIY stuffs. For example, flowers are the common gifts for opening ceremony which are always in a beautiful bouquet of flowers that represents **prosperity**.

Vocabulary

Prosperity (n) The state of being prosperous

5.3. Do people today still give the same kinds of gifts that people used to give, many years ago?

I think people today tend to **go for** conventional gift choices, thus they could choose a present easily. Online business **allows** customers **to choose** gifts without directly going to the shop. Personally, I usually put more thoughts and efforts into looking for a meaningful and useful gift for my family, relatives or close friends.

Vocabulary

To allow SO to do Sth (v) to let SO do Sth

To put thoughts into Sth/doing Sth (v) to carefully think about Sth

5.4. Why do people like to receive gifts?

Gifts could bring happiness to one's special day. The receivers would be full of the joys of springs when they feel the caring and love from the givers because the givers remember the special days and send them gifts as the best wishes.

5.5. Do you think it's suitable to give money as a gift?

I find it's no problem with gifting people with money. It is much more popular nowadays, especially on wedding days or birthdays because it is considered as a practical gift. It's hard to find a suitable present so the receiver could use that budget to freely buy what they need.

5.6. Do you think it's a good idea for people who are doing business with each other to exchange gifts?

I think it's quite popular in business nowadays. In some ways, it is a good idea if the gifts are given in a thankful way after a successful project. It is an important part of business protocol nowadays in some Asian countries like Japan or China. However, I think it's not good if the meaning of gift-giving turns into achieving a purpose.

5.7. Why do some people not give gifts to others very often?

Choosing perfect gifts is stress people out. It could create the hassle of picking the right gift. The presents could cause disappointments to receivers because it might not be what they expect. Therefore, giving money or going out for a meal is always the best and convenient way to avoid those problems. It could not overburden to the givers as well.

6. Describe a creative inventor or musician

I am going to talk about a brilliant inventor whom I have admired since I was a kid-Thomas Edison. His inventors have greatly influence on life around the world.

I learnt the stories about Edison when I was a little girl in primary school. I **came across** a biography about him on the internet and there was a lot of interesting information. Edison

was a **prolific** inventor holding more than 1,000 US **patents** under his name, as well as many patents in the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. Significantly, the number of Edison's patents as the widespread impact of his inventions: light bulbs and power utilities, recorder, and motion pictures all established major new industries worldwide.

One of his statements which really inspired and encouraged me is "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration". Working in science as my career, I always remember this quotation whenever I meet failure so that I have strength to **keep moving forward**.

Vocabulary

Come across (phrasal verb) find something by chance

Prolific (adj) a prolific writer, band etc produces a lot of books

Patents (n) inventions

To keep moving forward (v) to keep trying hard

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

6.1. What creative activities did you like to do when you were young?

I love to **DIY** clothes for dolls and stuff animals. My mom is a tailor so I can use the waste materials for my imagination. I followed the catalogue books and used a tiny needle to sew dresses, skirts and blouses. This activity nurtured my dream of being a fashion designer when I grew up.

Vocabulary

DIY (n/v) (phrase) "Do-It-Yourself", Sth made by hand

6.2. Why do people like to copy others' ideas these days?

Personally, I think it's a bit judgemental when it comes to copying others' ideas because a lot of people may **come up with** similar ideas or someone wants to improve **based on** the things that were already created. However, there are people who steal others' ideas **on purpose**

because they are lazy but want to live in fame without working. The situation is even worse in developing countries since the government does not **pay enough attention to** intellectual property.

Vocabulary

To come up with (v) to think of, to create

To be based on (v) to use particular ideas or facts to make a decision, do a calculation, or develop a theory

On purpose (Phrase) to aim to do Sth

To pay attention to (v) to have an eye on Sth, to notice

6.3. What's the best way to cultivate children's creativity?

First of all, I think parents should encourage children to ask questions. Children have a creative mind so asking questions in a way for them to discover environment surrounding them. Another way is making open-ended questions such as “Tell me why you think so?” or “What do you think about this?”. You might be impressed by their answers. It is also necessary not to stop them make mistakes. Lessons and experience will be gained through mistakes. Letting them solve problems by themselves will teach them to think critically.

6.4. Do you think creativity can be learned?

Many people assume that creativity is a mysterious trait like **charisma** — you either have it or you don't. Scientifically, creativity is a renewable resource that we can **tap into** at any time and actually, it is a process that can be learnt. It's not easy, of course. Generating fresh ideas is actually quite challenging because most people find it difficult to **go beyond** obvious and concrete solutions. True creativity requires the ability to break new ground, which requires significant effort.

Vocabulary

Charisma (noun) a strong personal quality that makes other people like you and be attracted to you

To tap into (v) to use frequently

To go beyond (v) to extend the limit, to push the boundary

6.5. Why does art help to nurture creativity?

Human beings are not machines. Our brains are not computer hard drives which you can just upload information. I believe humans are creative by nature and art education can help to nurture the creativity that lies within all of us. Art education offers us a break from the traditional way of rote memorization and also cultivates creativity and critical thinking.

7. Describe a special meal you have had

The most special meal I've ever had in my life was on my Dad's birthday last year, which was prepared by all of my family members.

The idea was **put forward** by my sister. We planned to surprise him and prepare his favorite foods. On that day, my Mom cooked Pho, a Vietnamese beef noodles, while I baked a birthday cake for him. My siblings were **in charge of** decoration and music. Everything had been done properly a little bit earlier before he came home. When he opened the door, he was **astonished** because of seeing a colorful "Happy birthday Daddy" banner stuck on the wall in the living room. Standing in front, my mom gave him a bouquet of red roses, his favorite flowers. We enjoyed the food and shared our best memories with my Dad.

After washing dishes, we gathered together in the living room. My Dad made a wish and blew candles. He said in tears that he was **over the moon** and he was proud of us, his home and his family. We gave each other great hugs before going to sleep.

Vocabulary

Put forward (phrasal verb) to offer an idea, opinion, reason etc

To be in charge of (adj) to take responsibility for Sth

To astonish (v) to fill with sudden and overpowering surprise or wonder; amaze

Over the moon (idiom) very happy

QUESTION FOR PART 3

7.1. Describe what you think is a healthy diet.

Developing healthy eating habit isn't as confusing or as restrictive as many people imagine. Personally, a healthy diet is the one which combines enough nutrients for one's life. Therefore, consuming a variety of foods is very important because eating a wide **assortment** of foods helps ensure that you get all of the nutrients, especially the disease-fighting potential that foods offer.

Assortment (noun) a group or set of things of various types

7.2. Are there many vegetarians in your country?

Yes, they are. The number of people following vegetarianism has been increasing recently. It is thought that old people or those following a religious, like Buddhism, will be vegetarians; however, youngsters also join to vegetarian community because of many reasons.

7.3. Why do you think some people choose to be vegetarians?

People become vegetarians for many reasons, including health, religious convictions, concerns about animal welfare or the use of **antibiotics** and hormones in **livestock**, or a desire to eat in a way that avoids excessive use of environmental resources. Some people follow a largely vegetarian diet because they can't afford to eat meat. Vegetarianism has become more appealing and accessible, thanks to the **year-round** availability of fresh produce, more vegetarian dining options, and the growing **culinary** influence of cultures with largely plant-based diets.

Antibiotics (noun) a drug that cures illnesses and infections caused by bacteria.

Livestock (noun) animals such as cows, sheep, and pigs that are kept on farms

Year-round (adj) happening, continuing, or available through the whole year

Culinary (adj) relating to food and how to cook it

7.4. Is the food that people eat today in your country different to the food that people used to eat in the past? (if yes, in what ways has it changed?)

Personally, eating style of most people has been changed recently. Significantly, food **hygiene** is mentioned everyday in news. Therefore, people are very cautious when they choose ingredients in reliable market/supermarket and cook properly. Those **fat-free or low-fat** food and **veggies** are more preferred in daily meal compared to in the past, choosing food were mostly based on interests.

Hygiene (noun) the practice of keeping yourself and the things around you clean, in order to prevent illness and disease

Veggie (n) a vegetable

7.5. How do you think the way we eat will change in the future?

Yes, I do. I think people nowadays pay more attention to healthy foods because the awareness of health has been raised among young and old people. Therefore, it will be a remarkable innovation in food consuming in the future.

7.6. Is American-style 'fast food' popular in your country? (Why? Popular with whom?)

Due to the trend of globalization, fast foods have become more and more popular such as KFC, Lotteria, Burger King or Domino. Why are those brands popular in our country? The first cause is needs of modern community which have intensive activities. In a family, both husband and wife have a tendency to have a job. Consequently, they do not have enough time to cook and the frequency of eating out increases. Secondly, efforts of fast food restaurant companies to enhance the **nutritional quality** of their products and services are also the cause of their popularity.

7.7. What do you think of this popularity- is it as good thing?

The popularity of fast food restaurants has certainly influenced some of the changes in the community. It brings benefits to this busy life with its quick service and convenience place. Other than that, the increasing number of customers that come to restaurants became the

reason for greater number of restaurant staff to be needed and the demand for restaurant personnel made it possible for more people to consider work in a restaurant as an attractive option. With this said, there are many more entry level job opportunities for people.

7.8. More and more people are becoming overweight nowadays. What do you think might be the causes of this?

One major consequence of eating fast food every day is excess calorie consumption. Most fast food contains calories from refined sugar and fats. It is also high in sodium from salt and other additives which can lead to some one to eat it more and more. Consuming more calories than human needs lead to obesity which causes some health problems such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and even cancer.

**8. Describe a favorite part of your city or home that you often visit/
Describe a place where you relaxed**

In this hectic life, it is undeniable to get stress from different situations. Therefore, we all need a place of rest and relaxation where we can temporarily get away from all problems. Everyone needs a place to hide away. For me, that is the kitchen.

I love baking. When I cook, I find myself in another world where I am able to mix all ingredients together and create new dishes. Therefore, there are many baking stuff and machines arranged nicely in my kitchen. I choose blue and white for the wall because those colors help me to unwind. I am pleased to see the happiness on my family members when I enjoy my foods. It also becomes a very social place where everyone in the house gather together in kitchen to have a small conversation and joke around.

Kitchen, for me, represents a place of spiritual meaning. My mom always encourages me to cook because it is believed that the warm from kitchen will warm up the house and everyone feel happy.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

8.1. How often do you visit parks?

My area is filled with parks and there's a park very close to where I live, so I probably go there once or twice a week if the weather's nice. I love to go jogging with my father in the early morning where we can enjoy fresh air and spectacular scenery.

8.2. Do we need big parks or small parks in the city?

Personally, small parks in the city are much convenient than big parks. Firstly, it would serve better quality for citizens in an area. Parks are places for people to not only get exercise, but **wind down** and relax. It would also create a friendly environment for everyone. Second, a big park takes up too much available space in the city.

Wind down (phrasal verb) to relax after a period of excitement or worry

8.3. Why is it important to have parks in a city?

Parks play an important role in a city. The foremost reason is that parks contribute to reduction of the urban heat effect. Another reason is Parks provide space for neighbourhood residents to interact with each other and meet new people. They're also great spaces for events and for people to engage in recreational activities. This allows people to develop **a sense of community**. A park is perfect for a picnic, a concert, or a farmer's market - whatever your community feels it needs.

Vocabulary

A sense of community a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members' needs will be met through their commitment to be together

8.4. Do you like to visit movie theatres?

I love to spend time watching movie in cinema with my friends. That is a moment that we can **chill out** after working and **build up** our friendship by sharing our common hobby.

Chill out (phrasal verb) relax

Build up (phrasal verb) to create and develop something over a long period of time

8.5. Where do people like to go on weekends?

In the past, most people usually stayed at home and spent time with family. However, this habit has changed currently. Shopping malls and restaurants have been increasingly opened and become the entertaining place for everyone, especially families with children. Moreover, officers participate in yoga classes or sport centres to exercise.

8.6. What do old people do to relax?

Stress in the elderly has many sources, including the loss of a partner, money worries, health problems and a lack of independence. They tend to **isolate** themselves at home with negative thoughts. Therefore, the elder people should be encouraged to find and maintain **social contact** as interaction with other old friends. Joining to a club or community service is another way to make them feel happier.

Vocabulary

A sense of community (n) a feeling of belonging

To chill out (v) to relax and stop being angry or nervous, or to spend time relaxing

To be spectacular (adj): extremely impressive

Wind down (v): to relax after a period of excitement or worry

9. Describe a bicycle/motorbike/car trip that is interesting

It was two years ago when I had my very first motorbike trip with my friends to George town, an ancient town located in the Southern Malaysia. It is an unforgettable trip that I've ever had. Our group had 3 people, Jack, Jenny and me. We chose to travel there during Mid-Autumn Festival because George Town, particularly, is one of the great place to experience this festival. George Town still keeps a firmly rooted in tradition for thousands of years and these invaluable traditions have been formed the heart of the community.

We hired two motorbikes: one for Jack, one for Jenny and me. The owner was a nice and kind person. He suggested us to choose scooters, a kind of automatic motorbikes, which were much easier for beginners to ride. He also reminded us about the traffic laws and direction to Geogre town. We left George Town around 3 pm and aimed to be there by 6pm to enjoy night view there when all of the activities were exhibited. It was a sunny day and the streets were not a little bit crowded as many people travelled to George that time. That was our first motorbike tour so we were every excited. Jenny was like a dog with two tails while Jack and I were also on cloud nine. We enjoyed the fresh air and beautiful landscape such as small houses or paddy fields. However, we always reminded ourselves to ride safely.

A long line of children rehearsed dragon dance and drumming in the street welcomed us to the main gate of George Town. Entering into the town when the lights are all up, the streets became more and more crowded. We parked the motorbikes along the street and **relished** the space filled with the laughter of children and the season of autumn.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

9.1. Do people prefer to travel by car or by train?

Well, nowadays, people can easily have their own cars. Therefore, they tend to have a long trip by travelling by car. Travelling by car, especially private car, could help travellers intensively stop at anywhere they want. However, although the train is considered as the fastest means of transportation, it has specific stations where people could hop off or hop into. After that, travellers, sometimes, have to take another transportation, such as cabs or buses, to reach their destinations. I find it more **time consuming** and inconvenient.

9.2. What are the advantages of travelling with a group of people?

First, the budget could be cheaper. It is because more people, the spending money, for example accommodation, transportations, or even foods, could be shared equally. Other than that, it is much safer. A group of people shared common interests could explore new places

together and can protect each other when needed. Last point, personally, is the more the merrier and more heads more ideas. Consequently, the trip will be more enjoyable.

9.3. Should young people travel abroad?

My brother always encourages me to travel to other countries to not only explore a new place but also be more independent. When travelling abroad, we, the youngsters have opportunities to explore new things about other cultures and landscapes. Travelling is the best way to build up one's confidence and social skills, as we could interact with local people to understand more about their lifestyles and mindset. Therefore, they could collect more life experience and avoid resist to adapt to globalization which is very beneficial in their future careers.

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

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

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

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

10. Describe a person that you admire

There is no doubt that life would be **chaos** without leaders. Steven is one of my class monitor in high school that his leadership is what I really admire.

Back then, our school organized a singing contest and every class must have at least one performance. After voting, our class decided that we would all sing the song called “Heal the world”. The class committee planned to have three-week practice and asked if all of the classmates could stay a bit late after school. However, as usual, each person was busy with their own schedule. There was an intense argument between classmates and the class committee, especially with Steven, our current class monitor. Some of my friends claimed that the contest was just **for fun** that it was not necessary to spend lots of time for practice. Steven, with his calm face, stood in front of the crowd and explained that because our class was **divided into** three groups: orchestra, choir and dancers, it was difficult to practice together. He admitted that he was a perfectionist and wanted everything going well without planning carefully. However, he asked us to practice properly to set a tone for a whole class. It was true that we did not need to get the highest prize but **“hard work always pays off”**. He executed a survey among classmates and together with the class committee, he planned again. Finally, the first two weeks, different groups practiced separately with a co-leader and the last week, we **combined** all three groups together for rehearsal. In the end, our class got the first prize in the singing contest and received good compliments from the judges. Now he is a successful businessman. His leading skill indeed does not **put people under pressure** but **lift them up** from the pressure. He understands every situation and has a vision for every project. Therefore, I am so grateful that i have a chance to work with him.

Vocabulary

Back then (phrase) refer to a specific period of time in the past

Chaos (n) troublesome

To divide Sth into (v) to separate or be separated into parts

Hard work always pays off (phrase) the amount of effort expended to reach a goal determines what is achieved

To put SO under pressure (v) to face or enduring something such as pressure or a deadline

To lift SO up (v) to fill with high spirits or optimism

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

10.1. What kinds of people can become role models?

Personally, a role model is a person who shows passion in their work and has the capacity to affect others by their passion. Through their perceived personal qualities, behaviors, or achievements, they influence others by serving as examples and inspire others to strive and develop.

10.2. What should schools teach to help students become better citizens?

Besides knowledge, I think behaviors towards people should be the first lesson for every student **regardless of** age, meaning to say they should respect older people and love friends through practical lessons as **volunteer activities** in orphanages, for example. Besides, as the young generation, students should **raise awareness of** environmental sustainability in order to protect the Mother Nature.

Vocabulary

Regardless of (adv) without mentioning

To raise awareness of (v) to be concerned about an issue

10.3. What can we learn from old people?

The elderly have great life-long experiences, both rewards and mistakes. Common issue with most of the young is that even they are more dynamic and adaptable, the amount of **experience** they **gained** from the past 15 or 20 years is much less than old people who have lived for more 50 years. Therefore, it is necessary for them to **ask for advice** from older people to improve themselves and avoid failures. If they follow those pieces of advice, they can be more successful.

Vocabulary

The elderly (n) old people

To gain experience (v) to learn the lesson from mistakes

10.4. What can parents do to give children correct guidance?

To give correct guidance, parents should be role models by **setting a good example** through actions and words. Not only are children watching parents carefully, they also learn it quickly. Unfortunately, **“do as I say, not as I do”** is a common issue in most families nowadays, causing confusion to children between what they are taught and what they observe in real life. Therefore, it is very important for parents to review their own behavior and attitudes to have the best image in children’s eyes.

Vocabulary

“Do as I say, not as I do” (phrase) to only obey what others say, not to watch their actions

To set a good example for (v) to be a good person so others can look up to

10.5. In your culture, what kinds of people can be leaders?

In my culture, particularly, there are two qualities required as a leader. Firstly, they must **be a pro** in their major. It means those people must have good knowledge and practical experience in the field they are working on. They could **troubleshoot** and solve problems together with their teammates. Secondly, their passion inspires people in the team. Most of the leaders in well-known companies, whose age over 40 and long-term contribution, are usually responsible for leading positions so employees **look up to** them and are willing to follow their directions.

Vocabulary

To be a pro (adj) to be especially skillful in doing Sth

To troubleshoot (v) analyse and solve serious problems for a company or other organization

To look up to (v) to admire SO

10.6. Has there been a change in the characteristics that leaders should have?

It can be seen clearly that the qualities of leaders have been changing to **adapt to** the dynamic world today. For example, in the past, leaders were usually men, who were said to be able to

command others while just sitting in his rooms. He could criticize anyone based on his own criteria. However, a leader in our modern world should be a person who can work effectively with everyone by good communication and inspire people in order to boost the best performance of the whole team. Besides, they should have the ability to unite everyone. If in the past, leaders were equal to bosses, today, leaders are supervisors.

10.7. Many women are earning more money now, does it mean that they can be leaders?

Earning money and the ability to become a leader are two different stories. Women can be good leaders because they have better soft skills in negotiation and communication than men so that they could give more flexible solutions to deal with conflicts and problems among teammates.

11. Describe an interesting photo that you have taken

- What are the occasions when people take photograph?
- Why do people like to take photo when they are travelling?
- Do you think photographs really make people remember past events in their lives?
- What is the value of photographs

Honestly speaking, I have taken like thousands of photos for **various** occasions, which allows me to **treasure** every moment with my **extended family** and friends. However, if I have to **opt for** one photo that is really impressive and interesting, I suppose I would name the one of my **siblings** and me. Despite being not that **photogenic**, this is in fact one of the few photos that I really **adore** the way I look. Now moving to the part of when it was taken, I have to say that I am not quite sure about the exact date, but it was quite some time ago. As far as I remember, we were in the campus yard, **striking a pose** to celebrate my sister's graduation. **Regarding** the part of who took this photo, I guess that my brother was the one who was

behind the camera. This is chiefly because he is a **brilliant** photographer and **got great eyes for it.** Most importantly my brother has all the right gears needed for a fabulous picture. To say the truth, this photo does have great meaning for me since it **provokes** the beautiful and funny moment with my **flesh and blood.** It also reminds me not to **take anything for granted,** especially when it comes to the matter of spending time with your family.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

11.1. What are the occasions when people take photographs?

I think people take photographs to remember important occasions. Examples can be a ceremony or an anniversary, like graduation day or wedding anniversary. Other people may want to take photos of the places they have visited. Or, you know, just simply a birthday party. Basically I believe there are a lot of occasions for taking photographs.

11.2. Why do people like to take many photos when they are travelling? To keep the memories, I guess. Like when I had my first chance to visit Korea, I took tons of photos because I really loved it there and I wanted to have something reminding me of that time. Also because I didn't know when I would be able to return to Korea, I took photos so that I wouldn't regret having nothing as a memory of Korea.

11.3. Do you think photographs can really help people remember past events in their lives?

Most of the time, yes. A photograph carries a memory in itself, but people can be reminded of their past through photographs only when the event represented in the photo carries some meaning to those people. For example, you would be able to remember the day you bought your first car forever by looking at a photo of it, but you would be unlikely to remember it just by looking at a random photo of a car on the internet.

11.4. What is the value/importance of photographs?

Photographs are used to mark the **milestones** of one's life or to keep memories. Most people will take pictures of life-changing events, like when you have a new job or when you marry someone you love. These photos later stay as a **token** of those events, which you can take out and look at when you have time, or show to your friends and family members which makes me believe that photographs can also connect people too, as when one looks at a photo, one also remembers the people standing next to them, not just the event.

11.5. Do you think it's good to take photos?

I think it depends on the situation when the photos are taken. I remember seeing a photo of a girl **taking a selfie** while sitting on a tomb, which in this case only shows her **ignorance** and disrespect to whoever had **passed away**. But taking photos at weddings, at birthday parties, though, is completely normal and is to be encouraged. So to sum up, photos should only be taken on the right occasion.

11.6. Do you think photographs are more important for adults or for children?

The importance of photographs doesn't depend on a person's age, I believe. It's as important to a kid to keep a memory through photos as to an adult, and I haven't seen any cases of people **prioritizing** adults or kids **when it comes to** taking pictures.

11.7. Why do you think it is important to take photos (or videos) of one's family?

Because it shows the family's bond. Isn't it nice looking at a photograph of all the family members smiling happily? You may feel **content** and connected to **your flesh and blood** when you look at the family photo. Also, you know, to some families, taking photos is a tradition established over time and one just needs to take part / participate. I guess family photos are that important.

VOCABULARY

✓ ***Come up in one's mind*** [expression] appear in one's mind

e.g. That person **came up in my mind** after I looked at this picture.

- ✓ **Milestone** [noun] a significant stage or event in the development of something
e.g. Here are important **milestones** on the road leading up to the current situation.
- ✓ **Token** [noun] a thing serving as a visible or tangible representation of a fact, quality, feeling, etc.
e.g. I wanted to offer you a small **token** of my appreciation.
- ✓ **Take a selfie** [expression] take a photograph of oneself
e.g. I saw her **taking a selfie** in the restroom.
- ✓ **Ignorance** [noun] lack of knowledge or information
e.g. There are vast tracts of **ignorance** in my knowledge and really there are lots of other people who know more than me.
- ✓ **Pass away** [phrasal verb] die (used in formal circumstances)
e.g. My grandfather just **passed away** yesterday.
- ✓ **Prioritize** [verb] determine the order for dealing with (a series of items or tasks) according to their relative importance
e.g. These different roles must be **prioritized** in their order of importance in your life.
- ✓ **When it comes to** (khi nhắc đến) [expression] regarding
e.g. I always hate it **when it comes to** dealing with selfish people.
- ✓ **Content** [adjective] in a state of peaceful happiness; satisfied
e.g. She thought of how **content** and peaceful she felt being with Yu Min.
- ✓ **One's (own) flesh and blood** [idiom] A near relative or one's close family
e.g. He felt as much for that girl as if she had been **his own flesh and blood**.

12. Describe a sport that you prefer to do and is a little expensive.

You should say

- What is it

- Why do you like it
- Is it expensive

When it comes to sports, I have to admit that I am not very **sporty** and do not usually **devote** my time to exercise. However, there is one sport that I really want to give a go whenever I have chance, which is curling, a **prevalent** sport in Canada. I guess I can start sharing about curling by pointing out some fact about its rules. Curling is a group sport and is played on ice. Each team has four members, each member has two tries, to **slide** the stone close on the circle on the ice. The circle is about fifteen meters away from the start line. The stones are found with a flat base and have a handle on top. The team uses a **brush** to **swift** the ice when the stone is sliding to the circle. They do this to make the ice smooth so that the stone will not stop and go straight. The team tries to slide the stone to hit the other team's stone and push them away. The winner is the team with the stone that is closest to the circle. In fact the reason why I am **desired** to try curling has something to do with the fact that I am a huge fan of ice skating and the idea of combining ice skating and competing with other team in curling is truly **amazing**. On top of that, curling is not **exorbitant** at all, therefore, playing this sport certainly will not **cost me an arm and a leg**. I have to say that paying Canada a visit and try playing Curling is one of my intentions in the near future.

QUESTION FOR PART 3

12.1. What sports are popular in your country?

Well, football tops the list of famous sports without a doubt. But what's amazing is, I suppose something called 'dancesport' comes close behind. In the early mornings, dancesport enthusiasts gather in parks or public places to practice. Dancesport has been spreading rapidly because it allows dancers to improve physical fitness and **mental** well-being and it is suitable

for people of all ages, shapes, and sizes. Apart from them, volleyball, tennis, badminton are also **fashionable** in our country.

12.2. What are the benefits of playing a sport?

I believe engaging in sporting activities helps the players to improve their physical and spiritual health. For example, dancing helps older people improve their physical health and memory. The dancers have to count their steps and remember the moves. In addition to that, playing sports brings us a **reasonable** chance of **enhancing** our relationships with other people when playing together.

12.3. Do you think the types of sport that are popular will change in the future?

Personally, I think there will be a considerable change in the types of popular sports. People will opt for virtual games and sports rather than sports outdoors such as football, cycling, etc. Thanks to high tech development, virtual sports will be able to bring excitement like you're playing with real life opponents while you are actually in front of your computer and doing nothing. I suppose this popularity will encourage a **sedentary** lifestyle, especially among young people.

12.4. How can sports bring people from different countries closer together?

Sports can play a role in bringing communities together in countless ways. For example, sports break barriers and boundaries between cultures. No matter who you are, what the colour of your skin is, as long as we enjoy the same sport, we can understand fulfillment, hopes, or even disappointment that sport brings us. Second, team sports encourage us to be willing to take responsibility and value diversity. As a result, it can help establish more cohesive, tolerant and **inclusive** communities.

12.5. What are the major differences between extreme sports and ordinary sports?

Well, the distinction between an extreme sport and a conventional one is the level of danger involved. Extreme sports refer to certain activities having a high level of **inherent** danger.

Another one is the difference in judgement. In traditional sports, performance is judged on the basis of some quantitative approaches such as distance, time and speed, whereas in extreme sports the performance is evaluated on the basis of qualitative criteria such as innovative methods to complete the task.

12.6. What do you think of expensive sports?

Actually, I can think of nothing special about those kinds of sports. I find them ordinary like other sports – they're also joyful, exciting, they keep the players healthy and they are good for the mind as well. If you're capable of playing them, then there's nothing more to say. If I had a chance, I would like to try doing equestrian events, or a sport involving, riding and running with horses.

12.7. Why do you think some people strongly dislike playing sports?

Well, there are a wide array of reasons why certain people are anti-sports. Maybe they are far more attracted to inactive activities such as reading books or drawing or something like that. Maybe they don't want to communicate with other people. Another reason is maybe sports can remind people of childhood trauma such as being ridiculed or **bullied** while playing sports. If you have had a bad experience with them, then it's natural to hate them.

12.8. Would you like to do a rather dangerous sporting activity?

No. Definitely no. Some people may find it fantastic but I'm the inactive type and am a **bookworm**, I just try to do sport like cycling or basketball once in a while to improve my health. Nothing more, nothing less. I will opt for my favorite books to find fulfillment rather than doing that kind of stuff.

12.9. Why do you think some people like to do these dangerous activities?

I don't know for sure because I'm not really into those kinds of activities. But I guess the motivation behind practicing extreme sports is the satisfaction they get out of challenging themselves and being victorious in the end. Besides being physically challenging, extreme

sports are also very mentally demanding, because one needs to fight their fear to be able to do these dangerous activities. You know, nothing can compare with the feelings when you are able to **surpass** yourself.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ **Mental** [adj] relating to the mind, or involving the process of thinking

Example: A doctor was asked about the mental state of the prisoner.

- Fashionable** [adj] popular at a particular time

Example: She spends the summer jet-setting around the fashionable European resorts.

- ✓ **Reasonable** [adj] based on or using good judgment and therefore fair and practical

Example: He went free because the jury decided there was a reasonable doubt about his guilt.

- ✓ **Enhance** [verb] to improve the quality, amount, or strength of something

Example: These scandals will not enhance the organization's reputation.

- ✓ **Sedentary** [adj] involving little exercise or physical activity

Example: My doctor says I should start playing sport because my lifestyle is too sedentary.

- ✓ **Inclusive** [adj] An inclusive price or amount includes everything

Example: My doctor says I should start playing sport because my lifestyle is too sedentary

- ✓ **Inherent** [adj] existing as a natural or basic part of something

Example: I have an inherent distrust of lawyers.

- ✓ **Bully** [noun] someone who hurts or frightens someone who is smaller or less powerful, often forcing them to do something that they do not want to do

Example: It takes courage to stand up to a bully.

- ✓ **Bookworm** [noun] a person who reads a lot

Example: Although Mohammed was a charismatic and influential leader, he was not much of a bookworm.

✓ **Surpass** [verb] to do or be better than

Example: The book's success has surpassed everyone's expectations.

13. Describe a garden you visited and like. You should say

- Where the garden is
- How do you feel about it
- Why do you like it

As a citizen in a **metropolitan** city, I am usually **partial** to choosing fresh outing spaces for relaxation after being **up to my neck** in work. The list of **ideal** places to visit is in fact pretty long but if I have to choose one strongly **recommended** spot, I would probably pick the Queen Botanical Garden in the outskirts of my city. I really need to add that whenever I am under pressure of the **fast – paced** living, I will pay this **amazing** park a visit, take a walk and **refresh** my mind. The fresh and quiet atmosphere at this Garden totally enables me to get away from the **hustle and bustle** of the city. After going for a stroll in the park and get a **full lung of fresh air**, I feel like I've been fully recharged and ready for any challenges ahead. The factors accounting for my special love to this park not only stops at the fresh air part but also because it is in fact a botanical garden devoted to grow **various** plants. For years, this park has always given me lots of precious opportunities to enjoy the stunning fauna with a plenty of gorgeous flowers and trees. There is no doubt to confirm that this garden has made great contributions to **preserving** local plants diversity as well as **enhance** people's recreation lives. Almost every individual comes to this park show their great appreciation for the local authority's **attempt** in **conserving** nature lives.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

13.1. Are there many public gardens in your country?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VOCABULARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Example: There was **insufficient** time in the exam to answer all the questions. □ **Urban green spaces** [expression]: areas of open land within large towns or cities Example: In our city there are insufficient **urban green spaces** for residents to enjoy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

✓ **Appealing** [adjective]: attractive and interesting

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

✓ **Unique** [adjective]: very special or unusual

14. Describe an area of subject that you are interested in.

You should say

- What is it
- When you started become interested in it
- What you have learned from it
- Why do you like it

Well, the first thing I should mention is that my school life was pretty easy for me as I had the chance to choose and **concentrate on** my favorite subjects. Among them, English is the one that I really **devoted my effort and time in** learning and practicing. It was not my case to say that I **fell in love** with English at first sight, actually, I had been **struggling** a lot on the path of figuring out the right method to pick up this language. In the early years of secondary school, English for me was just the matter of reading and learning by heart all the grammar rules. Therefore, it was extremely **intricate** and thorny for me to listen and speak in this language. However, when I was in grade 10, I had the chance to meet Mr. Son, who is one of my greatest teachers, ever. His unique way of teaching in fact **provoked my passion for** this language. To be more specific, he **altered my perspective** of learning English. He showed me the vital role of sounds, intonation and how **to block out** your first language on the way of **conquering** the second one. Since then, under his guidance, I concentrated more on the way native speakers create their sounds and exerted myself to imitate that. Over a few months, my speaking and listening were upgraded a lot and I became **addicted to immersing myself in** English. It is my teacher that **lighted up** my study journey and inspired me to continuously practice for a better me.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

14.1. What is your opinion of modern education (in school)?

What I think about modern education... I guess people are incorporating a lot of technology in the classroom. Like at a university right now, you can see that teachers,

or should I say lecturers, deliver their lessons using computers and projectors, and students study with the slides given by their **educators**. Students may also **submit** their work online instead of **handing it in** directly like before, and some of them study with e-books and mobile applications instead of carrying around textbooks all day long. This approach to teaching will certainly **filter down** to secondary school education, too.

14.2. What school subjects do you think are most important (in primary school or high school)? (Why are they important?)

I would say **Literacy** and Math, for primary school children. They help youngsters form their basic skills and ability like calculating, **analyzing** or the ability to express their thoughts. Without these two, children may have trouble communicating and thinking logically. Literacy and Math are like the **foundation** of everything, I think.

14.3. What school subject do you think will be the most useful in adult life (or, most useful for society)?

Literacy, as in teaching people how to think critically, how to write a proper piece of writing and how to express their thoughts. Subjects like Mathematics, well its advanced version only, or Physics or Chemistry will rarely be applied in life unless you really understand them and you do some kind of job related to them. Literacy, however, assists people in both their normal life and their professional one, particularly in the way they speak, write, and think. That's why I believe literacy is the subject that will be of **prime** importance to people throughout their lives.

14.4. Which subjects do you think should be optional and which should be compulsory?

I believe subjects requiring a bit of natural ability should be optional, as not everyone can show **aptitude** for things like music and art. Compulsory subjects should be natural sciences and some part of literature which teaches writing or expressing ideas, as these can help students form skills like **critical thinking**, calculating, or analyzing. In some countries, languages should be compulsory too, for example some minorities will need to learn a second language to be able to communicate with the world.

14.5. What are the advantages of studying computing in high school?

Studying computing in high school is really advantageous to students. Technology, or - well in this case - the computer, is used almost everywhere nowadays you know, you can see it being a part of almost everything. This is why learning computing means giving students a chance to catch up with what's **going on** in the world. Computing would also assist them in their future careers as more and more jobs nowadays require the use of computers.

14.6. In the west, (upper) high school students are allowed to choose many of the subjects they study. Do you think that would be a good idea?

It depends. This would be a good idea for those who already know what they want to do in the future, as they could easily choose the subjects that are necessary to **realize** their dreams. Also, leaving students to choose the subjects they study means letting them **have a say in** deciding their future from an early age, which can **boost** their independence and determination. However, this would cause problems to those who don't know yet what they want to do in the future, thus stopping them from studying their **potential** favorite or important subjects.

14.7. How are educational priorities today different from those in the past?

In modern society, a higher priority is placed on the education of children than in the past. This is simply, in my opinion, a recognition that we now live in a world of work in which **specialist** knowledge and skills are essential for many jobs. So, education now gives more priority to the ability to use technology. Students today must be both literate and **computer-literate**.

14.8. What is your opinion on the way languages are taught in schools?

Too passive, I think. Most schools in our country focus too much on teaching grammar and vocabulary, thus **neglecting** speaking, listening and writing. Except for those from **specialized** schools, most students often speak with no **intonation**, their pronunciation of each sound is rarely fully correct, and it's hard for them to **strike up** a conversation with a foreigner in English due to their poor speaking and listening skills. Most of them can hardly **come up with** a **decent** piece of writing either.

14.9. What changes do you think will happen in the classroom in the near future?

Studying in the future may include a lot of technology. Right now education technology is already on the rise, and I think it's going to be everywhere in years **to come**. The role of the teacher may be minimized, and in some places the physical classroom may also be **eliminated** and replaced by the **virtual** one.

VOCABULARY

✓ **Incorporate** [verb] to include as part of something

Example: The textbook **incorporates** all the latest information on climate change.

✓ **Educator** [noun] (formal) a person whose job is to teach or educate people (formal)

Example: Modern **educators** prefer a different approach to the teaching of reading.

✓ **Submit** [verb] to give a document, proposal, etc. to somebody in authority so that they can study or consider it

Example: Completed projects must be **submitted** by 10 March.

✓ **Hand something** [phrasal verb] = submit

Example: You must all **hand in** your projects by the end of next week.

✓ **Filter down** [phrasal verb] to move slowly down to lower levels of an organisation or system

Example: During the day, the news that the company was going to close **filtered down** to the employees.

✓ **Literacy** [noun] the ability to read and write

Example: Now that most children go to school, the rate of **literacy** in the country is improving.

✓ **Analyze** [verb] to examine the nature or structure of something, especially by separating it into its parts, in order to understand or explain it

Example: He tried to **analyze** her feelings and finally managed to get what she wanted.

✓ **Foundation** [noun] a principle, an idea or a fact that something is based on and that it grows from

Example: Respect and friendship provide a solid **foundation** for marriage.

- ✓ **Prime** [adjective] main; most important; basic Example: The care of the environment is of **prime** importance.
 - ✓ **Aptitude** [noun] natural ability or skill at doing something
e.g. After working for several months, she got promoted as she showed an **aptitude** for the work.
 - ✓ **Critical thinking** [noun] the process of analyzing information in an objective way, in order to make a judgement about it
e.g. The school encourages **critical thinking** and problem solving skills.
 - ✓ **Go on** [phrasal verb] happen/take place
Example: I often check the news on the internet to know what's **going on** in the world.
 - ✓ **Realize** [verb] to achieve something important that you want to do
Example: She never **realized** her ambition of becoming a singer.
 - ✓ **Say (in something)** [noun] the right to influence something by giving your opinion before a decision is made
Example: We had no **say in** the decision to sell the company.
 - ✓ **Boost** [verb] to make something increase, or become better or more successful
Example: The movie helped **boost** her screen career. She received several prizes and was asked to do some TV commercials.
 - ✓ **Potential** [adjective] that can develop into something or be developed in the future
Example: First we need to identify actual and **potential** problems, then we may come up with some solutions.
 - ✓ **Computer-literate** [adjective] able to use computers well
Example: She is highly **computer-literate** and she now teaches other people to use computers.
 - ✓ **Apparent** [adjective] obvious
Example: It was **apparent** from her face that she was really upset.
 - ✓ **Pay attention to smt/smb** [expression] listen to, look at or think about something/somebody carefully
Example: The teacher asked her students to **pay their full attention to** what she was saying, as that part was really important.
-

- ✓ **Neglect** [verb] not give enough attention to something

Example: She has **neglected** her studies – all she's done is playing.

- ✓ **Specialized** (*chuyên*) [adjective] designed or developed for a particular purpose or area of knowledge

Example: The course is very **specialized**; only psychologists are allowed to attend it.

- ✓ **Intonation** (*ngữ điệu*) [noun] the rise and fall of the voice in speaking, especially as this affects the meaning of what is being said

Example: In English, some questions have a rising **intonation**.

- ✓ **Strike up sth (with sb)** [phrasal verb] to begin a friendship, a relationship, a conversation, etc.

Example: He would often **strike up** conversations with complete strangers.

Come up with [phrasal verb] to find or produce an answer, a sum of money

Example: She **came up with** a new idea for increasing sales.

Decent [adjective] of a good enough standard or quality; acceptable to people in a particular situation

Example: I need a **decent** night's sleep; I have been staying up late recently.

- ✓ **To come** [idiom] in the future

Example: They may well regret the decision in years **to come**.

- ✓ **Eliminate** [verb] to remove or get rid of something/somebody

Example: The police have **eliminated** two suspects from their investigation.

- ✓ **Virtual** [adjective] made to appear to exist by the use of computer software, for example on the Internet

Example: New technology has enabled development of an online "**virtual** library".

15. Describe a person who has influence on you.

You should say:

- Who this person is
 - How/ When you met him/her
 - How he/she has made impact on you/ your life/ your study...
-

So far, I always consider myself lucky to meet lots of wonderful teachers throughout the academic years, one of them is my English teacher, Mr. Bill. Indeed, meeting him is an essential **turning point** on my path of conquering English. I had the opportunity to work with him when I was a freshman at university. **At first sight**, I was truly impressed by his **well-mannered eloquence** and behavior. His unique way of teaching in fact **provoked my passion for** this language. To be more specific, Mr. Bill altered my perspective of learning English. Before I met him, for me, English is just the matter of reading, grammars or writing and I barely **paid any attention** to the other factors. However, he showed me the vital role of sounds and intonation. Since then, under his guidance, I **concentrated more on** the way native speakers create their sounds and exerted myself to imitate that. Over a few months, my speaking and listening were upgraded a lot and I became addicted to **immerging myself in** English. It is my teacher that **lighted up** my study journey and inspired me to continuously practice for a better me.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

15.1. How do people make friends?

Well, I guess not much different from other countries. Usually we meet new friends at either school, in classes or at the workplace. Sometimes, we can also **befriend** our friends' friends. I think that's how people make friends most of the time.

15.2. Who is more important to you, friends or family?

Ah this is such a difficult question to answer. I have always thought of my close friends as family too so they are just as important to me as my family members. But then I guess my family is still everything to me. Friends can **turn their back on you** but family would never do that, you know. At least in my case, I can always trust my family members to support and be there for me in difficult times, but I cannot say the same thing about all of my friends, except for those whom I'm close with.

15.3. Do you like to be friends with someone who is different from you?

I think it wouldn't be a bad idea to be friends with someone who is different from me. Of course, there will be some disadvantages; for example, since it is more likely that

we will have opposing opinions about a situation, we might get into **altercations** more often. Especially if one of us is the **stubborn** type, then it would be hard for us to **get along** and our relationship might not end too well. Yet, I believe there are still people with contrasting personalities, who are **compatible** with and **complement** each other. Plus, I find it very interesting to get to know people whose personalities are different from mine, as I feel like it would help me **open my eyes** to new ways of thinking as well as change my **perspective** about many things.

15.4. Do you have any foreign friends?

Yes, I do. While living in Australia for the last two years, I have been able to make many new foreign friends, some of whom I am very close to and still **stay in touch with**.

15.5. Why is it easier to make friends on the Internet than in reality?

I think it's mainly because it's always much easier for people to hide behind a computer screen and express themselves than having to do so face-to-face or in front of a lot of people. On the Internet, people don't really know who you are. They might know you through your profile pictures and the self-description that you put up on your personal page but they can't know everything about you. They know neither your past nor your face unless you choose to show them and I think that's what gives most people the courage to be their real selves without the fear of others' judgment. Also, making friends on the Internet usually requires less time and money, as usually people would only talk or chat online without having to physically meet each other.

15.6. What social values should parents teach children?

I think if one day I have children, I would love to teach them about honesty, respect for other people, responsibility for their family and also about giving back to the community they are growing up in. It would be great if I could **instill** a **mind-set** of **gratitude** in them, as I personally believe that only those who know how to appreciate what they have, even the little things, will have the **potential** to **go far in life**.

15.7. Many children misbehave at school what are the reasons?

There can be many causes behind such misbehaviors. One reason could be that kids can be influenced by the friends they hang out with, so if your kids are befriended by some

delinquents, there's a higher chance that they will **get up to no good**. Also, this might have something to do with children's low **self-esteem**. You know when kids are young, they tend to be more insecure and **reckless** so they might **act up** and **disobey** rules on purpose while trying to cover up their **vulnerability** and self-doubt.

15.8. Do you think mass media have a great impact on the young generation?

Yes definitely. Especially with television-and the Internet becoming readily accessible at both school and home nowadays, the impact that the media is having on the youth is greater than ever before. Such influence can be both positive and negative. For example, watching / viewing violent media content often enough can make it more likely that children will behave in an **aggressive** way and be less understanding of other people's needs and feelings. On the other hand, teenagers who are exposed to and take an interest in the news are more likely to be interested in major social and political issues. This can help educate them and encourage them to become more involved as citizens in their communities.

15.9. Why is it hard for adults to change?

There can be numerous reasons why some grownups resist change. I think the primary reason lies with people's fear of excessive uncertainty that is usually associated with change. Imagine yourself walking off a cliff **blindfolded**. Scary, isn't it? Doing things for the first time or stepping into the unknown can be pretty **frightening** too. Most of the time, people only seek change when they get frustrated with their current situation and the only way out is to look for a positive way forward. It would be a lot harder for people to change if they couldn't find such motivation or courage to take those first steps to move out of their **comfort zone**.

15.10. How to help young people to develop good habits?

In my opinion, adults, first and foremost, must lead by setting a good example for children. As children grow and learn mostly from watching the people around them, the way adults handle the ups and downs of life can teach the young a lot about how to behave and get along with others. It's also important to show respect for children and refrain from using the word "don't" whenever possible. Furthermore, encouraging the

kids with **praise** and giving them positive attention for good behaviors can motivate them to build and maintain more good habits.

VOCABULARY

✓ **Befriend (verb):** to be friendly towards someone

It is not advisable to befriend your boss, or your teacher.

✓ **To turn one's back on sb:** deny, reject; also abandon, forsake

I can't turn my back on my own daughter, no matter what she's done.

✓ **Altercation (noun):** verbal fight

According to witnesses, the altercation between the two men started inside the restaurant.

✓ **Stubborn (adj):** having or showing dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something

They have huge arguments because they're both so stubborn.

✓ **To get along:** have a harmonious or friendly relationship

Those two just don't get along.

✓ **Compatible (adj):** able to have a harmonious relationship

It was when we started living together that we found we just weren't compatible.

✓ **Complement (verb):** add to (something) in a way that enhances or improves it

The music complements her voice perfectly.

✓ **To open one's eyes:** become or make someone aware of the truth of a situation

The trip to Zimbabwe opened her eyes to the difficulties faced by developing nations.

✓ **Perspective (noun):** a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view

You're approaching the problem from a completely different perspective.

✓ **To stay/keep in touch:** to maintain communications with someone

After my neighbor moved, we still kept in touch.

✓ **Instill (verb):** gradually but firmly establish (an idea or attitude, especially a desirable one) in a person's mind

It is part of a teacher's job to instil confidence in/into his or her students.

- ✓ **Mind-set (noun):** the established set of attitudes held by someone

It's extraordinary how hard it is to change the mindset of the public and the press.

- ✓ **Gratitude (noun):** the quality of being thankful

She sent them a present to show/express her gratitude.

- ✓ **Potential (noun):** the possibility of something happening or of someone doing something in the future

I don't feel I'm achieving my full potential in my present job.

- ✓ **To go far in life:** be successful

Children should be encouraged to go far in life and to set their goals high and reach for them.

- ✓ **Delinquent (noun):** a person, usually young, who behaves in a way that is illegal or not acceptable to most people

There are many ways that parents can do to help juvenile delinquents change.

- ✓ **To be/get up to no good:** doing something bad

I could tell from the look on Tom's face that he was up to no good.

- ✓ **Self-esteem (noun):** confidence in one's own worth or abilities

She suffers from low self-esteem and it prevents her from pursuing her goals.

- ✓ **Reckless (adj):** without thinking or caring about the consequences of an action

These punks have a reckless disregard for the law.

- ✓ **To act up:** misbehave

Sometimes kids act up because they just want attention.

- ✓ **Disobey (verb):** fail to obey

He was punished for disobeying orders.

- ✓ **Vulnerability (noun):** the quality of being weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally

He was intensely aware of his own vulnerability.

- ✓ **Aggressive (adj):** ready or likely to attack or confront

He gets aggressive when he's drunk.

- ✓ **Blindfolded (adj):** to cover someone's eyes with a blindfold

She is challenged to solve the Rubik's Cube blindfolded.

- ✓ **Frightening (adj):** making someone afraid or anxious; terrifying

It is frightening to think what might happen if she left him.

- ✓ **Comfort zone (noun):** a situation in which you feel comfortable and in which your ability and determination are not being tested

Sometimes you have to step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself.

- ✓ **Praise (noun):** the expression of approval or admiration for someone or something

They deserve praise for all their hard work.

16. Describe a tall building you like or dislike

You should say:

- What is the name of the building
- Where is it located
- Why do you like/ dislike it

I guess I could begin by saying something about what this building is and I suppose I would have to choose one of the tallest buildings in the world, which is located in Taiwan. The building is called Taipei 101 because it has 101 floors. Now going on to my next point, which is how it looks like. I really need to add that Taipei 101 was originally constructed way back in 1999 and finished 5 year later in 2004. The height of the building is 509 meters. It is shaped like a pagoda and the building is saved from many earthquakes in Taiwan. Now with reference to what this building is used for. Well the point I like to make here is that Taipei 101 is a **multi-level** shopping mall, adjoining to tower house with hundreds of stores, restaurants and clubs. In fact, it chiefly caused as an economic and financial center of Taiwan. And then finally if I have time, in answer to the question of how often I visit this place. Well, really I should mention that I've had just one opportunity to visit it in 2009, it was on my 17th birthday to be exact. At

the very first sight, I **was blown away** by the **unparalleled architecture** of Taipei 101 and I'm sure it will be on my top list of must – go places in the future.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

16.1. How do people in your country feel about old buildings?

Indian culture is tradition-oriented, which obviously means Indian people have a respectful attitude toward architecture built to last **for ages**. This can be seen through not only many famous old structures that are still preserved today, but also in interesting folktales about their construction.

16.2. Do old people and young people in your country have the same attitudes towards old buildings?

In my opinion, there is certainly a difference between the **perspective** of elderly people and that of young people on old buildings due to the generation gap. Elders are more respectful of old architecture compared with youngsters. They enjoy the atmosphere created by old places where they recall the old times / their own history while the young generation finds it uninteresting.

16.3. Is it important to preserve old buildings?

Yes, I strongly support the idea of preserving old buildings. One reason for this is that the buildings represent both cultural and historical values, which could be viewed as precious **artifacts** worth retaining. The second reason is to create a sense of nostalgia which helps people **meditate** (away from their city lives).

16.4. What aspect of culture do old buildings reflect?

In terms of the cultural aspect of old buildings, they represent the religion and lifestyle of the time. The majority of the old buildings are associated with Buddhist architecture such as the pagoda, temple and shrine. Apart from religious design, old structures also reflect the lifestyle of people relating to the tradition of agricultural **work**. This can be commonly seen in the countryside where there are spacious old houses with private fields and gardens.

16.5. How do old buildings affect the appearance of a place? (Hint: Well designed and well maintained old buildings are visually attractive and add a touch of elegance to a location.)

There are two cases. If there are **dilapidated** buildings in the area, it will not only make for a gloomy sight but also is a waste of land. In contrast, well designed and well maintained old buildings are visually attractive and add a touch of elegance to a location, which results in it becoming a tourist attraction.

16.6. What benefits can people get from old buildings?

There are several advantages brought by old buildings. Beside the peaceful atmosphere they provide, old / traditional architecture plays an essential role as both cultural and historical artifacts for us to study about our **ancestors**. Therefore, when they attract a considerable number of visitors, local people can benefit from tourism.

16.7. Would you say buildings in the past were better than those of today, or those of today are better than those in the past?

In general, today's construction techniques have developed hugely, which makes modern towers more solid than those built a long time ago. However, there are magnificently extraordinary ancient structures that not only get admiration from people today but also remain mysterious-such as the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

16.8. Do you think it's worth the money to preserve old buildings?

Although I appreciate the value of old buildings, I think that the government should allocate a sensible budget to preserve them in good condition. As the population is sharply increasing and the polar ice is melting, the problem of insufficient living land has become more serious than ever. Therefore, **antiquated** buildings which are less valuable should be **demolished** to facilitate urbanization.

16.9. How have buildings changed in the past few years?

During recent years, there has been a tendency to construct tower blocks and **skyscrapers** as engineering techniques have considerably developed. Compared with finicky designs of old architecture, modern buildings are simpler and more uniform due to the construction materials changing from stone, wood and bamboo to concrete, steel and glass.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ **for ages** [collocation] for a very long time

Example: We have so many things in common that it is like we have known each other for ages.

- ✓ **Perspective** [noun] a particular way of considering something

Example: You're approaching the problem from a completely different perspective.

- ✓ **Artifact** [noun] an object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest.

Example: The museum's collection includes artifacts dating back to prehistoric times.

- ✓ **meditate** [verb] to think calm thoughts in order to relax or as a religious activity

Example: My aunt goes to the local pagoda to meditate for 20 minutes every day.

- ✓ **In terms of** [collocation] used to describe which particular area of a subject you are discussing

Example: In terms of money, I was better off in my last job.

- ✓ **Dilapidated** [adjective] old and in poor condition

Example: The hotel we stayed in was really dilapidated

- ✓ **Ancestor** [noun] a person related to you who lived a long time ago

Example: Apparently his ancestors came over from France in the 11th century.

- ✓ **Antiquated** [adjective] old-fashioned or unsuitable for modern society

Example: It will take many years to modernize antiquated agricultural industries.

- ✓ **demolish** [verb] to completely destroy a building, especially in order to use the land for other purposes.

Example: A number of houses in my neighborhood were demolished so that the supermarket could be built.

- ✓ **skyscraper** [noun] a very tall modern building, usually in a city
-

Example: New York is one of the biggest cities in the world in which there are thousands of towers and skyscrapers.

17. Describe a wild animal

You should say:

- What is the animal
- What are the special characteristics of that animals
- What is its habitat

To be quite honest, in general I would say that I **am** actually quite **keen on** wild animals, especially the enormous ones that survive well in the **savage** life. Talking of large animals, elephants are usually the one that **come across many people's mind**, but in actual fact, they are small when compared to the largest animal in the world, the Blue Whale. Baby Blue whales are big, even in the early days of their life cycle. At birth, they are about 7 meters long and weigh 2 tons. In order to nurture that huge body, they assume up to 200 liters of milk every day and averagely they grow 80 kilograms more every passing day. In fact, they grow so quickly that I feel as if I could hear them grow. The young whales stay with their mother until they are a year old. During that time, the young whales learn to survive in the ocean. The mother whales teach their calves how to hunt and **fight off** enemies. When young whales become adults, they are about 35 meters long and weigh approximately up to 130 tons. Adult blue whales can absorb an **incredibly enormous** amount of food which is about 4000 kilograms per day. Nowadays, blue whales are currently considered as an endangered species and I always think that it's time for the world to **raise its responsibility** towards **wildlife conservation**.

QUESTION FOR PART 3

17.1. Do you think animals have feelings and rights? (Why?/Why not?)

I think animals can think and feel too. I'm sure you have heard of the story of a dog named Hachiko that waited for his owner's return every day for more than nine years

after his owner's death. Such remarkable loyalty shown by a dog made me realize that animals can have emotions too. I also believe animals should be **granted** rights so that there's a clear legal limit to human behaviors in relation to animals.

17.2. Some people breed animals such as dogs for money. How do you feel about that?

I'm fine with people breeding animals for money as long as they don't hurt the animals in the process. I know some people who breed dogs for a living but I know that they love the dogs and truly care for them; they would never want to see the dogs in pain, so I don't see anything wrong with such a practice.

17.3. Do you think there should be laws to protect the welfare of pets and farm animals? (For example, laws against cruel treatment.) Why?/Why not?

Absolutely. If you think about it, animals are vulnerable, defenseless and completely under a man's control / in a man's charge. Nevertheless, I strongly believe that animals deserve to live their lives free from suffering and **exploitation**. People who disregard the wellbeing of animals should be brought to court and **held accountable for violating** animal rights.

17.4. Are there any wild animals in your country that are not found in any other country?

I'm aware of only a few **endangered** species, such as the pheasant, Tonkin snub-nosed monkey, Crested argus and the Annam black muntjac.

17.5. Are there any animal reserves in your country where wild animals can live in protection?

As far as I know, there are several national parks and nature reserves across the country to protecting wild plant and animal species and their habitats.

17.6. How do people feel about the protection of wild animals?

For the most part, I'm sure people are well aware of the importance of protecting wild animals and endangered species. Particularly many youngsters nowadays are actively playing their part in wildlife conservation by participating in animal **conservation**

volunteer programs in remote areas of the country and sharing stories of illegal wildlife trade on their social medias in hope of raising overall animal welfare standards.

17.7. What do you think are some of the benefits to humans from protecting wild animals?

In my opinion, there are two main reasons to protect wild animals. One of them has to do with the protection of our **ecosystem**. Everything in the wild has evolved to work together to have a **biosphere** that sustains life. Yet, it is hard to know exactly what might happen to an ecosystem when even the smallest contributor to that ecosystem vanishes. Hence, wild animals, as a part of the ecosystem of the world need to be conserved and protected. Plus, a lot of medicines used to help cure various health conditions, such as heart diseases, **disorders** and other illnesses have been **derived** from the chemicals produced by animals. If wild animals are gone, it will be impossible for humans to study and learn from them.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ **Grant (verb):** to give or allow someone something
They granted her an entry visa.
 - ✓ **Exploitation (noun):** the use of something in order to get an advantage from it
The protection of the Antarctic from commercial exploitation is an important goal of environmentalists.
 - ✓ **To hold accountable for sth:** to consider someone responsible for something
I must hold you responsible for the missing money.
 - ✓ **Violate (verb):** to break or act against something, especially a law
They were charged with violating federal law.
 - ✓ **Endangered species (adj):** animals or plants that may soon not exist because there are very few now alive
 - ✓ **Conservation (noun):** the protection of plants and animals, natural areas, and interesting and important structures and buildings, especially from the damaging effects of human activity
-

This fundraising program was established for the purpose of funding research and education initiatives that aid in the conservation of endangered species.

- ✓ **Ecosystem (noun):** all the living things in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment

Pollution can have disastrous effects on the delicately balanced ecosystem.

- ✓ **Biosphere (noun):** the part of the earth's environment where life exists

The biosphere extends from the deepest root systems of trees, to the dark environment of ocean trenches, to lush rain forests and high mountaintops.

- ✓ **Disorder (noun):** an illness of the mind or body

She suffers from an eating disorder.

- ✓ **Derive sth from sth (verb):** to get something from something else

The institute derives all its money from foreign investments.

18. Describe a time when you were busy.

You should say:

- When was that time
- Why was you busy
- How did you handle it

Nowadays, with the **incredibly fast – paced living**, it's not unusual to see how busy people are in their lives. Honestly speaking, I have found myself like thousands of time **up to my neck** in work, however the time that is most memorable for me is the one of **chasing the deadline** to submit my final thesis paper for graduation. The allowed time for me to fulfil this task is 2 months, nevertheless I spent almost three weeks struggling to figure out the topic. In addition, I was almost knock down by the job pressure at the company where I was performing as an intern. Between working at the corporates, attending classes and completing the assigned thesis, I was in fact a busy little beaver for almost 2 months. I barely had time remaining for my personal stuff and I was really stressed out that I was **falling behind my schedule** for my thesis paper submission. It was in deed a complicated one that required me to do tons of research, both from

libraries and the Internet. In addition, I had to visit some local companies to collect data for my thesis. Those days were so tough and I had been so busy that sometimes I slept for 3 hours only at night. However, at the end of the day, I completed the thesis with flying color and had it submitted in due time. Although it was extremely challenging for me at that time, I felt that all of my time and effort were **truly rewarding**. It also gave me some precious experience in time managing and dealing with stress in life.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

18.1. Do you like the fast pace of modern life?

Not really. Living life in the fast lane surely can be both mentally and physically **draining**. I can see people nowadays often struggle to **juggle** work **commitments** with the demands of the family and keeping up with friends. Besides, a **hectic** lifestyle can very easily **take a toll on** our overall well-being if we fail to take better care of ourselves.

18.2. How do you feel when you are really busy?

Sometimes, it does **wear me out** to be so busy with work and study but I don't necessarily dislike it. When I'm busy, I actually feel a sense of satisfaction, knowing that I'm doing something productive. I used to be unemployed for a short period of time and it was seriously so **frustrating** to stay at home all the time, doing nothing while earning no money. I think that's the reason why I now prefer being busy and I often try to occupy my time with as much work and activities as possible, provided that I'm given a holiday break or time off to look forward to.

18.3. What's the best way to deal with stress?

As I am the type of people that cannot get anything done if I'm under too much stress, if I'm too busy to the point of getting stressed out, I would always try to **squeeze in** some quality relaxing time to do things that I love, like watching my favorite TV shows, going shopping or hanging out with friends. I found out that the best way for me to fight away stress often is to slow down, enjoy life more and fill my mind with only positive thoughts. Only then can I find peace within myself and **gather** more strength to fulfill my responsibilities at work and towards my family.

18.4. What kind of lifestyle is suitable to people in modern society?

I believe people of modern times should definitely **strive for** a more balanced lifestyle by making more **mindful** and healthier choices **for the sake of** their physical well-being. People can start taking charge of their life by being more active, enjoying hobbies and sharing time with friends and family. This, in my opinion, is the most important investment anyone can make in his or her life.

18.5. What relaxation techniques do you usually use?

As I mentioned earlier, some of the relaxation techniques for stress relief that work for me include getting a good belly laugh with some variety shows that I like or simply by surrounding myself with funny and cheerful friends; listening to slow and **soothing** music to calm my mind; **savoring** only the good experiences and trying to focus on the present and things that really matter in life, which are good health and having my loving family and friends by my side.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ **Juggle (verb):** to try to do two or more jobs or activities at the same time, because you do not have a lot of time
Flexible working hours help staff juggle work and family life.
 - ✓ **Commitment (noun):** the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etc.
He thanked them for their work on the book and their commitment to delivering a quality product.
 - ✓ **Hectic (adj):** full of activity, or very busy and fast
The area has become a haven for people tired of the hectic pace of city life.
 - ✓ **To take a toll on:** to cause damage or wear by using something or by hard living
Drug abuse takes quite a toll on the lives of people.
 - ✓ **To wear sb out:** to make someone extremely tired
Walking around a museum all day really wears you out.
 - ✓ **Frustrating (adj):** cause (someone) to feel upset or annoyed as a result of being unable to change or achieve something
-

It can be very frustrating to find that the size you want isn't there.

- ✓ **To squeeze sb/sth in:** to manage to do something or see someone in a short period of time or when you are very busy

While we're in Australia, we're hoping to squeeze in a trip to the Barrier Reef.

- ✓ **To gather (up) strength/courage:** to prepare to make a great effort to be strong or brave *I spent a week gathering the courage to say no.*

- ✓ **Mindful (adj):** conscious or aware of something

It is also good to be mindful of those who have less than we do.

- ✓ **To strive for sth:** to try very hard to do something or to make something happen
We strive to ensure that all children are treated equally.

- ✓ **For the sake of sb:** in order to help or bring advantage to someone

Their parents only stayed together for the sake of the children.

- ✓ **Soothing (adj):** making you feel calm

I put on some nice soothing music.

- ✓ **Savor (verb):** enjoy or appreciate (something pleasant) to the full

As for herself, she is going to make sure she savors every moment.

19. Describe a famous person that you admire

You should say:

- Who is this person
- What is their specialty
- Why do you admire him

In my to-meet list, there are so many **well – respected** celebrities whom I am desired to meet and spend time with. However, I would like to share about Pele, who is nicknamed as the greatest soccer player around the Globe. Initially, I really need to kick off with the point that Pele was just seventeen when he first played in World Cup in Sweden of 1958 for Brazil. Despite his very young age, he was selected as to the national team participating one of the biggest sport competition on the planet. Back then, he was not the star player but when his teammate was hurt, Pele went into the game. He

immediately scored goal and Brazil won the World Cup. By his amazing **aptitudes** and skills, Pele was feared by other teams. The Brazilian government even named him as a **national treasure**. It is not doubtful to say that Pele is one of the biggest factors making Brazil's soccer so well – known. His last World Cup was in Mexico in 1970. Brazil scored 4 goals against Italy to win the World Cup for the third time. Another point that I would like to share is that Pele owns an admirable career that every soccer players crave for. Pele **holds many soccer records** such as having over 1000 goals in his career. He was nominated athlete of the Century in 1980 and became a member of a soccer Hall of Fame in 1993. Although he's now retired from professional competition, Pele is still considered as a great inspiration for soccer players and lovers.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

19.1. In general, how do people become famous?

In the era of technology, being famous has never been easier. People who have **extraordinary** skills or abilities /talents in any field would be able to become famous **with the assistance of** the media.

19.2. What kinds of people become famous?

In my opinion, there are two kinds of fame that are consistent with two types of people. The first type is well-reputed people with admirable skills or dedication to the civilization. They are usually scientists, researchers, athletes, or soldiers spending their lifetime working toward success without the desire to become well-known. The other type is attention/publicity-seeking people, who often are celebrities in the entertainment industry, politicians or those **becoming famous overnight**.

19.3. Do you think, to be famous, a person needs to have some special talent (or ability)?

No, I don't think so. Besides incredible **aptitudes**, people can also be famous for other qualities such as beauty or charity work.

19.4. What are some general qualities of famous people? Do they have any qualities that are different from ordinary people?

The basic benchmark of famous people is special talent or ability, which not so many people can possess. However, there are other qualities which are common that anyone can have such as beauty or kindness because these are not difficult to achieve, for example, **undergoing cosmetic surgery** or doing charity work.

19.5. Compare how people become celebrities today with how people became celebrities years ago, for example, 30 or 50 years ago.

Nowadays, thanks to the modernization of technology, it takes only a few seconds to change a person's life. The invention of smart devices as well as social networking has made a person famous **at one fell swoop** whereas in the past, the only way to be celebrities was appearing on the television or radio.

19.6. Can you give me some examples of celebrities in your grandfather's time (i.e., about 50 years ago)?

Hmm...50 years represent a **considerable** generation gap, therefore, I only know a few celebrities in that time. They are actress Marilyn Monroe, rock star Elvis Presley and the pop music band The Beatles.

19.7. Compare what kinds of people were famous in China in the past (e.g., when your grandfather was young) to the kinds of people who are famous today.

In the my grandfather's era, only people who dedicated their talents and knowledge to achieve great feats were respected by the public in China. However, the young Chinese generation today is **familiar with social networking where they can easily gain either good or bad** public attention. For instance, videos about a group of bullying girls were so popular on the Internet that school violence became **phenomenal** in the country.

19.8. In your opinion, were the standards for judging who is famous before better than they are now?

From my personal point of view, the qualities of being famous in the past were **by far** more appropriate than they are at the present. Today, the invention of smart devices as well as social networks has made it easier to be famous. People can gain public attention just by sharing controversial photos or videos **regardless of** common sense.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ **extraordinary** [adjective] very unusual, special, unexpected, or strange.
Example: She has an extraordinary memory that is able to remember small details in a novel after the first time reading it.
 - ✓ **with the assistance of** [phrase] helped by something
Example: With the assistance of her private tutor, she passed the final exams with flying colors.
 - ✓ **prominent** [adjective] very well known and important
Example: The shop occupies a very prominent position on the main street.
 - ✓ **reputation** [noun] the positive beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone or something
Example: Harvard University has a worldwide reputation for quality of higher education.
 - ✓ **notorious** [adjective] famous for something bad
Example: Although its dishes are delicious, the restaurant is notorious for poor customer service.
 - ✓ **becoming famous overnight** [phrase]
Example: There are various ways to become famous overnight on the Internet since many people are using social networks.
 - ✓ **aptitudes** [noun] a natural ability or skill
Example: Apart from her passion for swimming, this youngest swimming athlete also possesses an aptitude for this sport.
 - ✓ **undergoing cosmetic surgery** [phrase]
Example: Being ashamed of her round face, Mary decided to undergo cosmetic surgery to obtain a V-line jawline.
 - ✓ **at one fell swoop** [idiom] all at once.
Example: I got all my Christmas shopping done at one fell swoop.
 - ✓ **Considerable** [adjective] large amount or of noticeable importance
Example: You wouldn't have failed the exam if you had put considerable effort and time into revision.
-

✓ **Familiar with** [phrase] Having a good knowledge of something. Example: Our English teacher tries not to use too much local idioms or slangs during lectures as other students may not be familiar with the language.

✓ **phenomenal** [adjective] extremely popular or special, especially in a surprising way.

Example: His first movie was quite phenomenal which brought him two nominations for the Oscar.

✓ **by far** by a great amount

Example: She is by far the best student in the class.

✓ **Regardless of** [phrase] without being influenced by any other events or conditions.

Example: She deserved to know the truth, regardless of how desperate it was.

20. Describe an outdoor activity you like to do.

You should say:

- What is this activity
- Who do you usually do the activity with
- Why do you like it

Actually, living in a sprawling city, I used to have little chance of enjoying fresh air and get close to the nature but almost blocking myself in the office. However, recently, I have managed to **adopt several healthy habits** including some outdoor activities with a view to maintain my health condition. And now, I would like to share something about the activity of walking in a botanical Garden located in the outskirts of my city. Now with reference to how it helps me to stay healthy. I really need to clarify that whenever I am **under pressure** of the fast – paced living, I pay this park a visit, take a walk and try to refresh my mind. The fresh and quiet atmosphere at this Garden totally enables me to get away from **the hustle and bustle** of the city. I guess the reason why I like going for stroll in this park has something to do with the fact that this garden not only offer free fresh air but also serves a place for plant conservation. With the diversity of

trees and flowers there, my family and I can easily enjoy the stunning **fauna** at a reasonable price. It is not doubtful to confirm that this garden has **made great contributions to** preserving local plants diversity as well as enhance people's recreation lives. Almost every individual comes to this park **show their great appreciation for** the local authority's attempt in conserving nature lives.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

20.1. Would you say people spend more time outdoors today than they did, say, 20 years ago?

Actually, I don't think so. Nowadays, people tend to stay indoors more because they are surrounded by so many kinds of **technology gadgets** such as televisions, smartphones, computers, etc. It is extremely easy to get **addicted** to these things, and we don't need to meet others **face-to-face** to talk. It's common to see a family where parents are busy working on computers and answering phone calls while the kids are concentrating on playing games, and they are all **unwilling** to go outside. In contrast, in my parents' generation, life was much simpler and people usually went out more to enjoy the fresh air and **meet up** with friends.

20.2. What are the benefits of doing things outdoors?

I suppose that there are a number of obvious **merits** of spending time outside. The most obvious one is that doing outdoor exercise is the best way to keep healthy and stay fit. For instance, if I walk, jog or cycle outdoors, I'll have to **expend** a lot of energy and burn more calories, and the fresh air outside also helps to improve the blood pressure and heart rate. Otherwise, when I stay indoors, especially when working on the computer for several hours, it's easy to get dizzy and feel **aches and pains** in my back. Another plus point is that being outdoors can greatly **boost** my mood and creativity, so everytime I feel bad or try to **come up with** a new idea, **wandering** around outside always helps.

20.3. Are there any outdoor activities that many people used to do (but which most people don't do now)?

Well, I'm not so sure about this, but I guess it may be cycling. In the past, especially when modern means of transport were not popular, there was less traffic on the roads and the air was also fresher. People usually used bicycles to go to work and exercise, which was good for their health and also **environmentally-friendly**. However, today, when traffic congestion and air pollution have become serious problems **threatening** our lives, citizens tend to cycle less because they don't want to be **stuck** in traffic and **inhale** a large amount of harmful **emissions**.

20.4. What are the most popular outdoor activities in your country?

I think that many people enjoy walking and playing sports. Everyday, early in the morning and during the evening, there are a lot of people walking in the parks or around large lakes, where trees, flowers, water and the fresh air help them unwind and refresh their minds. It's like a kind of **therapy**. Walking doesn't require so much physical fitness, so it has become the first choice for many. In addition, some sports such as football, tennis and badminton are also very common, especially badminton, because people of any age and gender can play.

20.5. What sorts of activities do children like to do outdoors?

Well, I think it depends on their personalities. Many active and energetic kids are really **into** playing sports, particularly football, and they spend the whole day running and playing with the ball without worrying about getting their clothes dirty. However, other kids who don't like taking part in those activities might be keen on outdoor games such as playing in a **sandbox** or on the merry-go-round with their friends. Some children are also pretty fond of gardening work like planting or watering trees, which is a great activity because at the same time they can learn a lot about the nature.

20.6. Do boys and girls like to do the same kinds of things outdoors?

Obviously, there exist some differences here. Boys tend to take part in activities that require physical strength, such as playing football, tennis, or going **backpacking**. Actually, some girls also like to do these kinds of things too, but the majority might be more interested in less **strenuous** activities, for example, walking, jogging or cycling.

20.7. Do old people and young people like doing the same kinds of things outdoors?

Well, I think although the old and young generation might share some similar outdoor activities, for instance, walking, cycling or playing badminton, there are still many kinds of things that are beyond the physical and mental **endurance** of elderly people. For example, they cannot play a full game of football or basketball, or climb a mountain, which younger ones are able to do. Instead, the elderly may prefer to do things that require thinking and patience, such as playing chess or sitting outside with a book.

20.8. What sorts of outdoor activities will people like to do in the future?

It's hard to foresee the future, but I think it's possible that adventure activities, such as mountain climbing, paragliding, or skateboarding, will become more popular in the near future. Today, many young people are willing to take risks and **conquer** challenges to step outside their **comfort zone** and discover the new limits. The range of equipment available in the shops for **extreme sports enthusiasts** will also encourage wider participation in these activities. With all the right protective and safety gear, adventure sports are now less risky and more people will therefore want to try them.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ **Technology gadget (noun)** A small object of technology (such as a device or an appliance) that has a particular function.

Example: His room is full of the latest **technology gadgets** – he spends hours using them to keep in touch with his friends.

- ✓ **Addicted (adjective)** Spending all your free time doing something because you are so interested in it.

Example: He spends all day in his room – he's **addicted** to playing computer games.

- ✓ **Face-to-face (adverb)** In a way that involves people who are close together and looking at each other.

Example: I would prefer to discuss this with you **face-to-face** rather than over the phone.

- ✓ **Unwilling (adjective)** Not wanting to do something and refusing to do it.

Example: They don't like the project and they are **unwilling** to invest money in it.

- ✓ **To meet up (phrasal verb)** To meet somebody, especially by arrangement.
-

Example: We agreed to **meet up** later for a drink.

- ✓ **Merit (noun)** A good feature that deserves praise, reward or admiration.

Example: The new format of the exam has many **merits** – most teachers like it.

- ✓ **Expend (verb)** To use or spend a lot of time, money or energy.

Example: We **expended** a lot of energy decorating the house.

- ✓ **Aches and pains (expression)** Bad feelings when your body hurts.

Example: A relaxing massage will help to ease your **aches and pains** any you will soon feel better.

- ✓ **Boost (verb)** To make something increase, or become better or more successful.

Example: All this extra revision will **boost** my chances of passing the exam.

- ✓ **To come up with (phrasal verb)** To find or produce an answer, a sum of money, etc.

Example: She **came up with** a new idea for increasing sales.

- ✓ **Wander (verb)** To walk slowly around or to a place, often without any particular sense of purpose or direction.

Example: She **wandered** around the streets without any particular idea of where she wanted to go.

- ✓ **Environmentally-friendly (adjective)** Not harming the environment.

Example: Wind and solar power are **environmentally-friendly**.

- ✓ **Threaten (verb)** To say that you will cause trouble, hurt somebody, etc. if you do not get what you want.

Example: The robber **threatened** the shop assistant with a gun.

- ✓ **Stuck (adjective)** In an unpleasant situation or place that you cannot escape from.

Example: We were **stuck** in traffic without moving for almost an hour.

- ✓ **Inhale (verb)** To breathe in

Example: She closed her eyes and **inhaled** deeply before diving into the swimming pool.

- ✓ **Emission (noun)** Gas or chemicals that are sent out into the air.

Example: The government has promised to protect the environment by reducing car and factory **emissions**.

- ✓ **Therapy (noun)** The treatment of a physical problem or an illness.

Example: Many cancer patients undergo some sort of drug **therapy**

- ✓ **Be into something (expression)** To be interested in something in an active way.

Example: He's **into** surfing in a big way, he's always down at the beach.

- ✓ **Sandbox (noun)** An area in the ground or a shallow container, filled with sand for children to play in.

Example: The children played happily in the **sandbox** until it started to rain.

- ✓ **Backpack (verb)** To travel on holiday/vacation carrying your equipment and clothes in a backpack.

Example: Young people enjoy **backpacking**, because it's cheap and they don't mind carrying all their things around on their backs.

- ✓ **Strenuous (adjective)** Needing great effort and energy.

Example: After a big meal, avoid **strenuous** activity, just rest or go for a short walk.

- ✓ **Endurance (noun)** The ability to continue doing something painful or difficult for a long period of time without complaining.

Example: Cycling across India was a test of **endurance**, but after a month she managed to complete the journey.

- ✓ **Conquer (verb)** To succeed in dealing with or controlling something.

Example: She **conquered** her fear of flying and now she is an airline pilot.

- ✓ **Comfort zone (noun)** A place or situation in which you feel safe or comfortable, especially when you choose to stay in this situation instead of trying to work harder or achieve more.

Example: I had no experience of mountain climbing, but I decided to step out of my **comfort zone** and go on a climbing course.

- ✓ **Extreme sports (noun)** Sports that are extremely exciting to do and often dangerous.

Example: He likes **extreme sports**, but he wisely uses the best safety equipment.

- ✓ **Enthusiast (noun)** A person who is very interested in something and spends a lot of time doing it.

Example: She is a real chess **enthusiast** – she plays for hours on her computer.

21. Describe an advertisement you have seen

You should say:

- What is the advertisement
- When did you see it
- Why did you love it

I guess I could begin by highlighting the fact about what type of advertisement it is. Actually, nowadays, there is so many advertisements on mass media like TV, internet or radio that people just take them for granted in some ways. However, there are some commercials that are truly interesting, creative and meaningful. One such ads that creates a strong impression on me is the one regarding the great **contribution** of mothers to their children and it is broadcasted on the local channel on Mother's Day. Now going on to my next point which is what its content is. The point I like to make here is that unlike other commercials that are utilized to promote products and services, this one is not about any products but dedicated to appreciate the **huge sacrifice of** mothers. Honestly, I am not pretty sure about when I first saw it, but as far as I remember, I came to this ad about two years ago and I was **totally blown away** by its creative way of telling story. And last but not least, I also want to talk about the reason why I love this piece of ads. I suppose it's really a combination of reasons, one of which is its meaningful story that **provokes so many emotions** about our mom. So, that's one thing, the other would be its unique way of catching audience's entire attention by touched life stories. I hope that in the future, the advertisement would be invested more in terms of contents, not just about exaggerating products.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

21.1. What are the different kinds of advertising?

I think that there are several ways of promoting a product, of which the most **dominant** type is broadcast advertising, where the products are **publicized** through TV commercials, radio or the Internet. Another common type of advertising is print

advertising, which relies on **distributed** posters and **flyers** or advertisement columns in newspapers or magazines to boost a product's popularity. There is also outdoor advertising - advertising at outdoor events like concerts or trade shows.

Unfortunately, **surrogate** advertising exists as well, which markets banned products like alcohol or tobacco in the disguise of another product.

21.2. What kind of advertising is most common in your country?

I'm not too sure about this, but I think it's fair to say broadcast advertising and print advertising are the two most popular means of promoting products in my country. Commercials are **aired** at a high frequency, especially in the evening, when the number of viewers is considerably higher compared to that in the morning. It's also common to see flyers being given away and banners hung **on almost every corner of the street**.

21.3. What are the ways in which advertisements catch the attention of viewers?

Well, I guess it depends on the types of advertisement. With TV commercials, it's essential to have a **catchy theme tune** or a **slogan** used to identify the product, so that viewers can easily recognize it. McDonald's, for example, use 'I'm Lovin' It'. It also helps to have a celebrity who features in the commercial or **endorses** the product, this would make the product appealing to a larger number of viewers. Print advertisements, however, usually draw people's attention with their **vibrant** colors and unique graphic designs. The better the posters are, the more interest the product might attract.

21.4. Do big companies prefer to advertise on TV or in some other ways? (Why?)

In my opinion, broadcast advertising is still the most popular way for big organizations to promote their goods and services. TV has long been the most **prevalent** means of media communication, so getting a product advertised on TV equals making it known to a larger number of people. It would be even better to **secure a slot** during **prime time**, from about 8pm to 10pm, when **virtually** everyone is sitting in front of their television. Still, it's worth mentioning that online advertisements such as pop-ups are on the rise, as more and more people are spending time surfing the web.

21.5. What are the good and bad points of advertisements?

I suppose advertisements play an important role in introducing consumers to a wider variety of goods. With commercials, buyers are exposed to more options, including models, functions and prices before choosing the one product that is to their taste. On the other hand, a **well-produced** advertisement might not ensure a product of the same quality. It's not unusual to witness cases where people complain about the huge difference between what was advertised and what the product is really like. Besides, commercials can **trigger** the desire to purchase new goods, regardless of their impracticability, resulting in the waste of both time and money.

21.6. Is advertising on the internet very influential?

To be honest, I doubt the effectiveness of internet advertising. Although pop-ups are growing in popularity, most people find them rather **bothersome** and close them the moment they appear on the screen, instead of spending time reading them. Besides, **under the impression** that everything on the internet should not be trusted, people usually dismiss online advertisements as unreliable.

21.7. Are any kinds advertising in your country considered illegal?

I'm not too knowledgeable about the issue, but I guess anything that fails to **obey** the terms of advertisement laws is considered illegal. One of the most commonly seen outdoor advertisements are billboards, which are basically huge posters that are erected on main streets or on top of buildings. This is a completely legal way of advertising, if the owners are granted a valid permit and take the boards down according to the contract. However, many owners **violate** the law by missing the deadline to remove them or erect them without permission.

21.8. Do you trust advertisements? (Why?/Why not?)

Quite frankly, I rarely place my trust in advertisements. They seem untruthful to me since almost everything is exaggerated and most of the time, the products themselves don't **live up to consumers' expectations**. They claim to be the best but very often there are some kind of faults. However, I do refer to advertisements when I'm looking for a product or a service, in order to broaden my range of choices. Still, only after a long time studying the product and reading reviews will I make up my mind to purchase one.

21.9. How do you feel about false advertising?

Like most people, I feel **outraged** by **misleading** advertisements. Untruthful commercials can lead to many problems, and some can be disastrous. Cosmetics advertisements, for example, if they do not cover all necessary aspects like origin, components and potential allergic reactions on some types of skins, may cause **complexion** diseases. The same goes for medicinal products. False advertising betrays the trust of consumers and diminishes the reputation of the company itself. By creating widespread **distrust**, the advertising industry as a whole is damaged by false advertising.

VOCABULARY

✓ *Dominant* [adj]: most common

Example: TV has remained the most **dominant** means of media communication throughout the years.

✓ *Publicize* [v]: to make something known to the public

Example: He is in London to **publicize** his new book.

✓ *Distribute* (phân phối, phân phát) [v]: to give or deliver (something) to people

Example: We need to **distribute** electricity equally over the country so that everyone can enjoy the benefits.

✓ *Flyer* [n]: a small sheet of paper advertising an event or product, given to a large number of people in the street

Example: I spent the morning handing out **flyers** for the new supermarket which has just opened.

✓ *Surrogate* [n]: to put in the place of another

Example: He could not attend the meeting, so he sent his **surrogate**.

✓ *To be aired* [expression]: to be shown on the media, to be broadcasted

Example: The news program **is aired** at 7pm every day.

✓ *On almost every corner of the street* [expression]: almost everywhere

Example: Food stalls can be found **on almost every corner of the street**, so don't worry if you need to find somewhere to eat.

- ✓ *Catchy* [adj] pleasing and easily remembered

Example: Most popular TV series have a **catchy** theme tune to introduce the show.

- ✓ *Theme tune/theme song* [n]: a song that is played at the beginning and end of a television show, movie, etc or in a commercial

Example: The **theme song** of the James Bond movie 'Live and Let Die' became a hit.

- ✓ *Slogan* [n]: a word or phrase that is easy to remember and is used by a group or business to attract attention

Example: Within days, virtually everyone was familiar with the newest advertising **slogan** for that brand of soda.

- ✓ *Endorse* [v]: to publicly or officially say that you support or approve of (someone or something) OR to publicly say - in exchange for money - that you like or use (a product or service)

Example: That brand of sneaker is **endorsed** by several basketball stars.

- ✓ *Vibrant* [adj]: very bright and strong

Example: We painted the poster a **vibrant** blue so that it stands out.

- ✓ *Prevalent* [adj]: common or widespread

Example: Ripped jeans is a fashion trend that is **prevalent** among teenagers.

- ✓ *Secure a slot* [expression] get a position or time in a list of events

Example: She was very happy when she **secured a slot** in the big concert just before the star was due to perform.

- ✓ *Prime time* [expression]: a time in the evening when the largest number of people are watching television

Example: The program is popular because it is shown during **prime time**.

- ✓ *Virtually* [adv]: almost entirely

Example: We spent **virtually** all day shopping.

Well-produced [adj]: well-made

Example: The movie was so **well-produced** that there was nothing I could complain about.

- ✓ *Trigger* [v]: cause something else to happen
-

Example: Smoke **triggered** the fire alarm.

✓ *Bothersome* [adj]: causing trouble or difficulty

Example: I find my brother's habit of playing music really loudly is bothersome.

✓ *Under the impression* [expression]: believing – usually wrongly - that something is true

Example: I waited at the station for you, **under the impression** that you were going to travel with me.

✓ *Obey* [v]: to do what someone tells you to do or what a rule, law, etc., says you must do

Example: He is a good boy, he always **obeys** his parents.

✓ *Violate* [v]: to do something that is not allowed by (a law, rule, etc.)

Example: The company **violated** its customers' privacy.

✓ *Live up to one's expectation* [expression]: to be as good as good as someone thought something would be

Example: I thought the movie was going to be better than that. It totally failed to live up to my expectations.

✓ *Outraged* [adj]: very bad or wrong in a way that causes anger

Example: I felt outraged by her attitude! I will not put up with such treatment.

✓ *Misleading* [adj]: giving the wrong idea that something is true

22. Describe a website you like to visit.

Today, I am going to tell you about one website which I'm really interested in. It's name is **m.ebay.com**.

It is an **e-commerce website** used for online shopping purposes. This website advertises various items classified by categories such as fashion, electronics, and motors. It allows people to order products, and make **transactions** online.

I always **give priority to** shopping online whenever I have spare time instead of going to stores or supermarkets. So, this website is very **handy** for me as I can take advantage of my mobile phone or computer with an Internet connection to access it and purchase what I need.

I find this website very **appealing** due to its good **layout** and attractive images of products. There is a box for me to enter what items I'm looking for so I can avoid **browsing** items unnecessarily, as I'm able to find quickly the things I need. After that the items I have bought will be delivered right to my door so I can save a lot of time. Not only that, there is always the chance to **get a good deal** and discounts as there are various promotion programs.

This website has important advantages for me, such as convenience and the benefits of saving time and money. Now it plays a useful role in my daily life. In the future I will continue to visit the site and of course recommend it to my friends.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ **E-commerce:** the business of buying and selling goods and services on the internet

Example: Ebay is an **e-commerce** website used for online shopping purposes.

- ✓ **Transaction:** a piece of business that is done between people, especially an act of buying or selling

Example: You can call your bank and carry out a **transaction** using a TouchTone phone.

- ✓ **Give priority to:** something that you think is more important than other things and should be dealt with first

Example: The hospital **gives priority to** those patients who require urgent medical attention.

- ✓ **Handy:** convenient

Example: My flat is very handy for the shops and the park.

- ✓ **Appealing:** attractive or interesting

Example: Brightly colored packaging made the pens especially appealing to children.

- ✓ **Layout:** the structure of a website rather than its styling

Example: This page uses a 2 – column layout with one sidebar to the left of the main content area.

- ✓ **Browse:** the act of looking through a number of things in a book, a store or online

Example: I have only **browsed** through the new book on dinosaurs, but I intend to read it fully this weekend.

- ✓ **Get a good deal:** make a good agreement to buy or sell something

Example: I **got a good deal** on my new car – I bought it for half the price that the man was asking for it.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

22.1. What are some of the different reasons why people use the internet?

Speaking of the internet, obviously it has already surpassed newspapers and television to be the main source of information today. And that's the most common reason why people use the internet. Another reason is that people use the internet as a **superior** means of communication. We no longer require a place like cafes or offices to keep in touch with people. We can do it **literally** anywhere we happen to be with the availability of Internet access.

22.2. Some people say that different age groups have different tastes on internet content. What do you think?

I agree that how one uses the internet varies a lot by age. For example, young people rely almost entirely on search engines for information about entertainment, study materials and job opportunities, while older people prefer using the internet to get information about national and international news.

22.3. What influence can (or, does) the internet have on children? And what about teenagers?

Well, I guess most people immediately think of negative aspects when it comes to internet influence on our younger generation. For example, using the internet too much makes them socially isolated and teenagers in particular seem to spend hours on social network sites. But actually, there are plenty of positive ones as well. The internet's wealth of information can add to the child's store of knowledge, while online games enhance their creativity and imagination.

22.4. Do you think parents should control what internet sites their children visit on the internet?

I would say yes. Because the sources of internet information are not always reliable, it's essential to judge the **suitability** of those materials. As a result, parents should **keep an eye on** their children's internet usage that until the child has learned to **discriminate** between good and bad information sources.

22.5. What (kinds of) people don't use the internet and what are the disadvantages that these people suffer because they don't use the internet?

Well, right **off the top of my head**, I can only think of older people, who are not **accustomed** to using the internet, and people whose jobs are not **relevant** to the internet.

Personally, I think inability or unwillingness to use the internet will restrict their **circle of friends** and also make it harder to access information. In some cases, they have to spend countless hours looking for some news they need through printed materials, while they can do it in a matter of seconds with search engines which are available on the internet.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ **Superior** [adj] better than average or better than other people or things of the same type

Example: The weapons of the government troops were **superior** to those of the enemy.

- ✓ **Literally** [adv] used to emphasize the truth of something that may seem surprising

Example: They were responsible for **literally** millions of deaths.

- ✓ **Suitability** [noun] the quality of being right or appropriate for a particular purpose

Example: At the interview, he convinced them of his **suitability** for the job.

- ✓ **Keep an eye on sth** [idiom] to watch or give your attention to someone or something

Example: The mother sat by the side of the playground, **keeping an eye on** her sons as they played.

- ✓ ***Discriminate*** [verb] to treat a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people, because of their skin colour, sex, sexuality, etc.

Example: She felt she had been **discriminated** against because of her age.

- ✓ ***Off the top of my head [idiom]*** if you say something off the top of your head, you say it without thinking about it for very long or looking at something that has been written about it

Example: Off the top of my head I could probably only name about three women artists.

- ✓ ***Accustomed*** [adj] familiar with something

Example: She quickly became **accustomed** to his messy ways.

- ✓ ***Relevant*** [adj] connected with what is happening or being discussed

Example: Education should be **relevant** to the child's needs.

- ✓ ***Circle of friends*** [expression] a group of people who like each other because they have the same interests or hobbies

Example: She is very popular and she has a wide **circle of friends**.

23. Describe a small business that you would like to open

You should say:

- What this business would be
- Where it would be located
- What people you would hire as employees

And explain why you'd like to have this small business.

It goes without saying that future is quite uncertain and almost no one can predict exactly what is waiting for them ahead, however, to some extent I always believe that our future **depends on** our plans and actions at present. As a fresh - graduates, I want to become an entrepreneur and run a chain of boutique shops selling stylish clothing,

dressess and jewelry. This is probably because ever since I was a kid, I have **had a great passion for** designing and sewing pieces of garments, firstly for my doll and then for real people around me. Gradually, I constantly get more insights into fashion industry and keep me posted with clothes that are in the thing. Although I am currently majoring in economics instead of fashion designing, I **hold a strong belief** that my **acute business sense** and a sincere interest in the clothing business will help me to succeed in the future. Nevertheless, I always have to remind me that opening and running an apparel store is serious business and that I have to **put one hundred percent effort in** leading it to success as well as get ready to face up failures. I guess that's why some people around me wonder why I want to give up the safety of my corporate job with its steady income, paid holidays, vacations and the opportunity for **advancement** just to become a small business owner. The answer is indeed quite simple for me, which is I want to walk out of my comfort zone, challenge me in a new business and last but not least, give myself a chance to **fulfil my childhood dream**.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

23.1. What challenges and difficulties do people face when they try to have a successful small business?

I think some of the hardships that small business owners might have to face include increasing profits and growing revenues while still paying close attention to details like client relationships. On the other hand, for many small businesses, client dependence is a huge issue. If a business depends on a single customer for more than half its income, that should raise a huge **red flag**, a situation which can threaten the businesses' growth and stability.

23.2. What should be the government's role in how small businesses are run?

I personally believe the government should create specific programs to help small businesses start and continue to grow by offering **start-up** incentives, providing loan guarantees and encouraging local banks to work with start-ups or regional

businesses that wish to expand. Lowering corporate taxes and making the regulatory process simpler can also foster even more small-business growth.

23.3. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of small businesses compared to large companies?

One of the advantages of a small business is obviously the relatively low startup capital needed. Also a small establishment is easier to manage compared to a large operation since the dealings are usually local and small scale. Keeping track of **inventory, cash flow** and transactions is easily manageable as well.

On the other hand, small businesses often lose in the competition for market share with the already established firms, as many clients would prefer to conduct their business with large firms rather than the smaller ones which are considered risky.

23.4. How can small businesses benefit the people in the community where the businesses are located?

In my view, small businesses often give a town a sense of community as they can meet with the customer more frequently and develop more of a personal relationship than a large company. In addition, shopping at small, local shops means that the customers are putting money into the pockets of local workers who may be their neighbors or even family members, thus enhancing both the town's standards of living and economic conditions.

23.5. What kinds of small business are most popular in your country?

Probably street food **vendors** and local **convenience stores**. Street food has always been a vital and vibrant part in my country, so as long as the owners can offer high food quality along with some uniqueness to set their stores apart from other competitors on the market, I believe the business will achieve at least semi-success. Meanwhile, local convenience stores are usually guaranteed a loyal **customer base** that is the local residents so I think they have a higher chance of **breaking even** and increasing the **bottom line**.

23.6. Why do some people open their own business?

In my opinion, people would rather be their own bosses, looking after themselves, instead of being observed by higher-ups. In other cases, many startup **hopefuls** may

have true passion for their jobs and are confident that they know a business should be run; hence it might motivate them to go out on their own and get directly involved.

23.7. What qualities does a small business owner need to have?

I think it's crucial that small business owners maintain a positive outlook and accept 100% of the responsibility for the results of his or her business. They should also focus on making smart hires and then take the time to get to know and **cultivate** a good relationship with their staff, since employees who feel seen, respected and appreciated almost always produce more than anticipated. Being **on the lookout for** new opportunities can also help a **prospective entrepreneur** get a small business up and running.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ **Red flag (noun):** a sign of danger
You're not allowed to swim when the red flag is flying.
 - ✓ **Startup (noun):** a small business that has just been started
Working on a startup business can produce a real mix of emotions.
 - ✓ **Inventory (noun):** a complete list of items such as property, goods in stock, or the contents of a building
Our major customers cut back on their inventory and projections.
 - ✓ **Cash flow (noun):** the amount of money moving into and out of a business
Small traders often have short-term cash-flow problems.
 - ✓ **Vendor (noun):** a person or company offering something for sale, especially a trader in the street
She glanced around quickly, and her eyes caught a street vendor who was selling ice cream.
 - ✓ **Convenience store (noun):** a shop that sells food, drinks, etc. and is usually open until late
The biggest difference in services between a grocery and convenience store is that the latter usually sells gasoline.
-

- ✓ **Customer base (noun):** the people who buy or use a particular product or service
A customer base is absolutely essential for business success.
- ✓ **To break even:** to have no profit or loss at the end of a business activity
After paying for our travel costs, we barely (= only just) broke even.
- ✓ **Bottom line (noun):** the final line in the accounts of a company or organization, stating the total profit or loss that has been made
How will the rise in interest rates affect our bottom line?
- ✓ **Hopeful (noun):** a person who wants to achieve a position of power
Five presidential hopefuls were invited to speak.
- ✓ **Cultivate (verb):** try to acquire or develop
He did his job efficiently, while also cultivating friendships with many Australians.
- ✓ **Outlook (noun):** the likely future situation
The economic outlook is bleak.
- ✓ **Prospective (adj):** people who are expected to buy something, employ someone, become parents, etc.
Her father always wants to meet her prospective boyfriends.
- ✓ **Entrepreneur (noun):** someone who starts their own business, especially when this involves seeing a new opportunity
He was one of the entrepreneurs of the 80s who made their money in property.

24. Describe a time you needed to use imagination

You should say:

- what the situation was
- why you needed to use imagination
- What the difficulties were and explain how you felt about it

Honestly, I had to admit that I am quite **realistic** and barely either spend time imagine or day dreaming. However, **every now and then** in school life, imagination is life saver in remembering the knowledge **imparted**, especially in the subject of History. Indeed,

envisaging a **chain** of images and actions inside my head based on the story or series of events in the book enabled me to acquire new things way more efficiently. For instance, in the time of learning about the history of chocolate, by **utilizing** the technique of imagine and envisage the image, just like making a movie inside my head, I could remember quickly a quite **enormous** knowledge and can still recall today. I can tell you that wild chocolate trees can grow easily in the **humid** Amazon rainforest. Clusters of flowers from these trees turn to seeds. Approximately 20 to 60 cacao beans, which are the **ingredient** needed to create sweet, **soothing** and delicious chocolate **treats**, can be found in the seeds. The Mayan and Aztec cultures both thought that chocolate trees are brought from paradise by God. They used the bean from this **divine** tree to create a special beverage with a very pleasant **odor**. Gradually, the treats and drinks made of these beans become **prominent** and millions of people around the world **adore** it as the most delicious sweet ever. Making my own film using the imagination in fact helps me to **obtain** knowledge like a piece of cake.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

24.1. Why do most children have a wild imagination?

Well, in my opinion, the reason for children's wild imagination is their inexperience. Obviously, children have an **insatiable** curiosity, always wondering and looking for answers. Since they have little knowledge of the real world, children have to use their imagination to come up with an explanation for their questions. It may be wrong but it's their own way of learning about the outside world.

24.2. What kinds of books can boost people's imagination?

I think any type of books can enhance creativity, but I guess the more effective **boosters** would be novels. These books usually revolve around a story and there are often a lot of **descriptive** scenes, therefore, readers need to **let their imagination run wild** to be able to actually live in the scenes. Harry Potter, for instance, is an all-time favourite book series which falls in the fantasy categories.

24.3. Do you like to watch movies about the future?

Definitely, I have always been curious about how the world would end up, so movies about the future **never fail to** excite me. Many films have been produced based on this theme with plots varying from robots' taking over the world, to the **uprising** of animals, to **apocalypse**, all of which are so **thrilling** to watch. However, a good film depends more on the storyline, the cast acting and the quality of production rather than the genre itself. That's why not every movie of this kind has been highly rated by critics or enjoyed high **viewership**.

24.4. What can schools do for students' creativity?

Actually, there are many ways in which schools can encourage children's creative thinking. They can, for example, organise contests in writing, drawing or even handcrafting for students to compete against each other. This will not only inspire children to be inventive but also provide them with a chance to prove themselves and maybe, enlarge their **circle of friends**. Another way is to assign educational books or movies for them to enjoy instead of **overwhelming them with** a bunch of homework.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ Insatiable [adj]: not able to be satisfied
Eg: Her desire for knowledge was *insatiable*.
 - ✓ Booster [n]: something that increases force, power, pressure, or effectiveness
Eg: The teacher's positive comments on my essay were a real confidence *booster*.
 - ✓ Descriptive [adj]: using words to describe what someone or something is like
Eg: She gave a *descriptive* account of the journey.
 - ✓ Let one's imagination run wild [expression]: to imagine freely
Eg: *Let your imagination run wild* and you can come up with the best ideas.
 - ✓ Never fail to do sth [expression]: someone or something always does something that you expect them to do
Eg: You *never fail to* impress me!
 - ✓ Uprising [n]: a rebellion or revolt against people in power
-

Eg: The *uprising* against the government has been defeated.

- ✓ Apocalypse [n]: a great disaster

Eg: His book tells of an environmental *apocalypse*.

- ✓ Thrilling [adj]: very exciting

Eg: It's *thrilling* to go on a roller-coaster.

- ✓ Viewership [n]: a television audience

Eg: 'How I met your Mother' was a TV series with very high *viewership*.

- ✓ Circle of friends [expression]: a number of close friends who usually do things together as a group

Eg: She is sociable, so she has a wide *circle of friends*.

- ✓ Overwhelm sb with sth [expression]: give a person too much of something

Eg: As a beginner, I was *overwhelmed with* the heavy workload.

25. Describe an interesting or unusual thing you do in your spare time.

You should say:

- What is that thing
- Why do you like it
- How often do you usually do that

I have an **unlimited** list of things that I would like to do in my free time. However, I would like to share about the most **outstanding** ones, which is to read ancient Greece stories. I guess this hobby has been **nurtured** ever since I was a child by my mother **enormous** collection of Greece **legends**. The very first one that actually **triggered** my passion for ancient Greece stories is the one about the first peacock. There was an **abnormal** man living in the ancient Greece named Argos. He was born with 100 eyes and this brought him so many benefits. The most **remarkable** one is that they allowed him to be excellent at guarding things. Argos worked for a great **goddess** Hera. His

primary function was to guard a special cow which was Hera's pet. This was an easy job for Argos. However the God Zeus was **desired** to take the cow from Hera. He trapped Argos to fall asleep by a **miraculous** music player. The beautiful song had an **immediate effect**. Argos couldn't **concentrate** on his task Zeus took the cow. Hera was so **irritable** that she turned him to a peacock and put a **myriad of** eyes on his tail. And that was one of the most beautiful birds' origin. Even today, when I have become an adult, I still find myself **intrigued** by those amazing legends.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

25.1. How do people in your country spend their leisure time, for example, after school, after work or at weekends?

People in my country choose different ways to relax depending on the groups of people and their personal preference. For instance, most **energetic** students or adolescents prefer outdoor activities like playing football or cycling after a long day at school. Adults, as a rule, tend to spend free time enjoying various kinds of **recreation** such as watching films, listening to music or hanging out with friends. In addition, they may go for picnics or have parties or **family reunions** at weekends.

25.2. Why it is important for people to have time for leisure activities?

It is essential for everybody to spend time relaxing in order to keep a **balance** between their daily life and work. Having time for leisure activities such as playing sports or watching favorite films allows people to release stress and feel happy. Moreover, **taking part in** leisure activities will help to improve people's health, including their mental and physical health, and reduce risks of illness in the long run; as a result, after that they will be in the best health and **frame of mind** to work **productively**.

25.3. Compare how adults spend their leisure time with how children spend their leisure time.

There are obvious **dissimilarities** between the ways children and adults **make use of** their free time. Children prefer leisure activities which bring a lot of fun such as playing video games, sports, going outside or playing with their friends. Conversely, adults tend

to do things for relaxation such as **hanging out with** friends or just lying down and **taking a nap**.

25.4. What kinds of things do families in your country do together in their leisure time?

People in my country always respect the family reunions and the time they spend together. There are many fun activities they can do together, such as going for picnics to rural areas, having meals together in the home or in a restaurant, or simply enjoying a **drive** in the car. Visiting family relations who live far away is another popular activity, because maintaining the **family ties** is very important.

25.5. Would you say that people have enough leisure time today?

Yes, I think so. Thanks to the advances in **technology**, such as computers and mobiles, people are able to do their work more quickly and effectively. Therefore, they can save a huge amount of time, which they can then use to relax and enjoy life. For example, employees can work and send documents to the company using e-mails without going to the workplace. Consequently, they will have more time for themselves, their family and friends.

25.6. How do you think science and technology has changed people's live in the past few years?

Recently, people's lives have been changed significantly due to the development of science and technology. People can easily **keep in touch with** their friends and relatives by using smart phones and social networks such as Skype or Facebook, regardless of distance. They can also access the new world right in their home by watching TV, videos about other countries and their cultures. However, the downside of science and technology is that this may make people gradually become **selfish** and **addicted** to electronic devices.

25.7. Compare the way men spend their leisure time and the way women spend their leisure time.

Regarding gender, men and women have different preferences in their free time. Generally, active men tend to play sports or **work out** at the gym whenever they have

time, to **keep in shape** and **bulk up** muscles. Women, on the other hand, may prefer going shopping, cooking for their families or seeing their friends.

25.8. What types of leisure activities may become more popular in the future?

Personally, I think **countryside recreation** such as hiking, camping or horse riding will become increasingly popular in the long run. Nowadays, most people are under a lot of pressure at work and the fast pace of city life, so in order to **escape** from the **hustle and bustle** of the city and release stress, they may like to experience the peaceful atmosphere of the countryside. These things will make them feel better and work more productively when they return after their break.

VOCABULARY

✓ **Energetic** [adjective]: having or needing a lot of energy

Example: Some elderly people still do **energetic** activities like running or playing tennis.

✓ **Recreation** [noun]: a way of enjoying yourself when you are not working

Example: His favourite form of **recreation** is playing golf with his friends.

✓ **Balance** [noun]: a situation in which different things exist in equal, correct or good amounts

Example: This newspaper maintains a good **balance** in its presentation of different opinions.

✓ **Take part in** [expression]: to be involved in something Example: How many countries **took part in** the last Olympic Games?

✓ **Frame of mind** [expression]: the way that somebody feels about something at a particular time

Example: Go into the exam with a positive **frame of mind** !

✓ **Productively** [adverb]: in a way that does a lot or achieves a lot

Example: It's important to spend your time **productively**.

✓ **Dissimilarity** [noun] the fact of not being the same as something or somebody else

Example: He is doing research on the **dissimilarities** of several Asian languages.

✓ **Make use of** [expression] to utilize someone or something

Example: Can you **make use of** these papers for other purposes instead of throwing them away?

✓ **Hang out with** [phrasal verb] to spend time with somebody in an informal situation

Example: I like to **hang out with** my friends at a coffee shop after school.

✓ **Take a nap** [expression]: to have a brief period of sleep

Example: The baby always **takes a long nap** for a couple of hours after lunch.

✓ **Drive** [noun]: a car journey

Example: Let's go for a **drive** in the mountains.

✓ **Family ties**: [expression] a strong connection between members of a family

Example: Christmas is a time when people remember their **family ties** and visit their relations.

✓ **Keep in touch with** [expression]: to maintain communication with someone

Example: After my neighbor moved, we still **remained/kept in touch with** each other.

✓ **Selfish** [adjective] : the quality of caring only about yourself rather than about other people

Example: Don't be selfish, leave some ice cream for your sister !

✓ **Addicted** [adjective]: spending all your free time doing something because you enjoy it

Example: He is **addicted** to chess – he spends hours every day playing against the computer.

✓ **Work out** [phrasal verb] to train the body by physical exercise

Example: I lost weight by **working out** at the gym.

✓ **Bulk up** [phrasal verb]: to make your body bigger and heavier, especially by gaining more muscle

Example: This season he has bulked up to 230 pounds.

✓ **Hustle and bustle** [expression] busy and noisy activity

Example: I can't stand the **hustle and bustle** of big cities – I prefer the peace and quiet of the countryside.

26. Describe a time you missed an important appointment for something

You should say:

- What is that occasion
- How important it was
- Why did you miss it

There is a saying goes “Time is what we want most, but what we use worst”. I still did not understand the message behind this saying **to the fullest** until the time it **cost me an arm and leg** paying for the **wastage** of time. I missed a final interview for my dream job due to not planning time carefully. After putting so many **effort** to prove myself through many tough challenges from the recruiter, I was selected for the final interview with the line manager to whom I was supposed to directly **report** to if I was the one chosen. However, the interview took place at another city and I had no choice but **resorted** to flying there. Everything would have been perfect if I had chosen to **get on board** just one hour earlier. But things unfortunately didn’t go like that. I was missed to take the traffic condition of that city into serious **consideration**. Although **congestion** is a **prevalent scenario** in that city, I failed to add more time for the transportation and got to the interviewing site 45 minutes late. Despite the fact that I was still given the opportunity to talk with the Recruitment board, they in deed didn’t show many interest in my part and just asked some questions **for simplicity’s sake**. There was absolutely no **excuse** for mistake and my dream job just slipped away right in front of my eyes. It took me almost a month **berating** myself for being careless in such an **integral** event. However, it also **opened my eyes to** a precious lesson in life. That is be extra careful whenever you do anything, the real trouble is you think you have time. Time is free for everyone but you have to use every moment in the smartest way since once it’s gone, you will never be able to take it back at any price.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

26.1. How often do you make appointments?

I think it depends on what I have to do at the time. For example, when I was a first year student, I didn't have a part-time job, nor did I join any clubs at university, so I didn't have to make many appointments. But 2 years later when I became a member of the Marketing Club, I had to make appointments every week for club meetings or my own department's meetings.

26.2. Is it important to be punctual in your country?

Yes, of course it is, but most of the time, people just don't realize the importance of being punctual. When someone is late for an appointment, they're hardly **judged** because it's most likely that other people are late too. And gradually, one just forgets the importance of **punctuality** and starts to think that being late is normal, until **one has a taste of one's own medicine**.

26.3. Is it easy to make an appointment in your country?

Well, it depends on the type of people you're making appointments with, and sometimes your **social class** as well. For example, if you're an ordinary person and you need to schedule an appointment with a top business executive, the process is gonna be long and hard and the chances are that you won't be able to meet him at all. Like you have to **get through to** his secretary first and that secretary will have to **squeeze you in** a time slot when the businessman has no schedule. But it's a different case if you're an important partner or major client of that company, and then of course the process will be much easier.

VOCABULARY

✓ **To judge** [v] to express a bad opinion of someone's behaviour, often because you think you are better than them:

e.g. You have no right to *judge* other people because of what they look like or what they believe.

✓ **Punctuality** [n] the fact of happening or doing something at the agreed or correct time and not being late

e.g. He insists on regular attendance and *punctuality*.

✓ **A taste of one's own medicine** [idiom] the same bad treatment that you have given to others

e.g. Let the bully have *a taste of his own medicine*.

✓ **Social class** [expression] position in the society:

e.g. People tend to judge each other based on their *social class*.

✓ **Get through (to smb)** [phrasal verb] make contact with somebody by phone:

e.g. I couldn't *get through to him*, his phone was always busy.

✓ **Squeeze smb/smt in** [phrasal verb] to give time to somebody/something, although you're very busy:

e.g. If you come this afternoon, the doctor will try to *squeeze you in*.

27. Describe a team project for study or entertainment

You should say:

- What that project was
- What was your role in that project
- Who did you do it with
- What was the result

Being a senior at university, I have to say that team working is a commonplace assignment that we need to complete in almost every module. Despite doing projects like a thousand times, each new team working gives me various experiences and lessons. Among those, the most memorable one would be the time that I was engaged in during my second year at college. I would like to start by highlighting some points about our main duty as well as the group's structure. Well, the team, which consists of 5 members, has to cooperate with a local business to research and **establish a plan** for expanding their market. The final report and presentation will be **assessed** by the company's management board and our professor. Since this project **accounts for** a substantial part in our final module assessment, it took us quite a great deal of time to planning and seeking for the **appropriate approach**. The very first thing we did was dividing the team into two smaller groups. We had been **delegated** to a company that

manufactured a wide range of bicycle accessories, therefore, two members in my team would spend some time getting an insight into the company's activities and operation, while the other group **took charge of** doing market and competitors research. After that, the team came together and assembled all the info, statistic, data that we had collected and analyzed in order to come up with a brand-new sales module and **promotion campaign** for the company. In the end, we fulfilled our presentation with **flying colors** and it was very well – **evaluated** by the company we worked with. I have to say that the projects like this one is **precious opportunities** for me to **gain more realistic experience** and rules of thumbs that are usually **non – transferable in conventional classroom**. It also the time for us to **apply all the business theory to the real practice** of the corporate world.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

27.1. What kinds of qualities does a leader need?

Well, I suppose leaders need to possess a wide range of skills. First, they have to know ways to **inspire** and motivate their followers. Second, they have to be the ones who are willing to take responsibilities and criticism. Sometimes, their ego can **hinder** them from being a great leader. Leadership skills also include their abilities to build relationships. The stronger their relationships, the better a leader they will be.

27.2. What are the reasons for the failure of teamwork?

I reckon teamwork failure depends **solely** on the failure of that team's leader. If the leader has a short vision and makes **misguided** decisions, he or she will lead the whole team into a **mess**. Moreover, the leader is the bridge between team member's relationships. Bad relationships **result in** weak communications and a lack of networking with each other. Consequently, team members cannot work effectively together. Apart from poor leadership skills, poor time management or poor budgeting may also cause the whole team to fail.

27.3. Do children need to know more about teamwork?

Of course they do. Children need instruction in effective teamwork for a wide variety of reasons. When learning about teamwork, not only are children learning to work as a

team, they're also learning to actively listen and respond in a way that makes the group effort more effective. It's beneficial for their ability to interact socially. In addition to that, working in a team helps children learn to reflect on their individual experience versus the experience of the group. They often get feedback from their instructor and other members of the group. **Self-reflection** contributes a lot to a child's development.

27.4. Is cooperation more important than competition?

Actually, I can't tell which one works better in general. On the one hand, by competing against others and comparing ourselves with one another, we learn how to improve and achieve success. On the other hand, in some cases, competition leads directly to hostility and greed, both of which are the enemies of progress. Cooperation also has certain advantages and disadvantages. The main strength is that cooperation provides the chance to help other people and let them help you in return, while the biggest weakness of cooperation is that the mass of members may lose interest and let a small clique **take over affairs** and manage things for their own benefit. So, I would say that it depends on each situation as to whether cooperation or competition is more important.

VOCABULARY

✓ **inspire:** [verb] to make someone feel that they want to do something and can do it:

Example: After her trip to Venezuela, she felt *inspired* to learn Spanish.

✓ **hinder:** [verb] to limit the ability of someone to do something, or to limit the development of something:

Example: Her progress certainly has been *hindered* by her lack of experience.

✓ **solely:** [adverb] only and not involving anyone or anything else:

Example: He's *solely* in charge of the operation.

✓ **Misguided:** [adjective] wrong, because you have judged a situation badly:

Example: Her decision to quit her job is, in my opinion, *misguided*.

✓ **Mess:** [noun] a situation that is full of problems:

Example: The economy is in a *mess* as a result of government policies.

✓ **Result in:** [phrasal verb] lead to, bring about

Example: The fire *resulted in* damage to their property.

✓ **Self-reflection:** [noun] careful thought about your own behavior and beliefs

Example: I often do some *self-reflection* when I'm alone.

✓ **Clique:** [noun] a group of people who spend their time together and exclude others:

Example: A small *clique* of corrupt politicians are running the country.

✓ **Take over:** [phrasal verb] to get control of something, or to do something instead of someone else:

Example: She *took over* management of this department last winter.

28. Describe a place in other country that you would like to work/visit

You should say:

- What is that place
- Why do you like to go to that place
- When will you go

Honestly speaking, I have a **myriad of destinations** on my must – visit list around the world. However, if I have the opportunity to choose one city, I would probably pick London, which is one of the most **prominent** capitals around the globe. I guess the reason why I am desired to visit London has something to do with the fact that ever since I was a kid, I have always been amazed by how gorgeous and unique the architects in London are. There are also some interesting facts about London that I want to witness in real life. One of them is the fact about Big Ben tower. So far, many people see the tall clock tower and think that it is Big Ben. But in fact, Big Ben is a giant thirteen - ton bell inside the tower that is rung every two hours by a two hundred - kilogram hammer. The real name of the Bell is the Great Bell of Westminster. Buckingham Palace is also so appealing to me since it is the home to the Queen of England and many tourists to London says that enjoy watching the changing of the guard ceremony that takes place in front of the Palace's gate. There are many other elements that make London so tempting to me. Pay this amazing city a visit in the future is one of the items in my wish – list.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

28.1. What kind of jobs are easy to get in a foreign country?

In today's society, thanks to the great **strides** in technology, I think that jobs related to this sector will be the easiest ones for **expatriates** to get in foreign countries.

Especially, in English-speaking countries, there are **abundant** jobs for IT employees such as computer programmers or mobile app developers, regardless of their nationalities, as long as they have sufficient qualifications and skills.

28.2. Should young adults work abroad?

Yes. It is useful for youngsters to **take up** a job abroad at least once, because they are energetic and enthusiastic enough to **experience** new things that may be **obstacles** when they get older.

Working overseas is a great opportunity for young people to meet different types of people and gain global understanding of their industry. It also provides them with experiences and skills that they would never get at home.

Not only that, most young people are energetic and **adventurous**; therefore working abroad provides them with opportunities to travel more, and **be exposed to** different cultures, which will result in higher level of knowledge and cultural **sensitivity**.

28.3. Why do many people want to work abroad?

There are various reasons behind the preference of people to work in foreign countries. Firstly, working abroad is good for their personal growth. In addition to a higher salary, moving overseas or even getting a temporary contract abroad will give people opportunities to meet potential customers or partners who will help them **further** their career.

Secondly, **expatriates** can **experience** new cultures and a greater mix of backgrounds that will give them **invaluable perspectives** in all aspects of life, including work.

VOCABULARY

✓ **Strides (noun):** advances or improvements in the way that something is developing

Example: Since I started at a new school, I have been making great **strides** in my studies.

✓ **Expatriate(s) (noun):** a person living in a country that is not their own

Example: My family lived as **expatriates** in Hong Kong before I was born

✓ **Abundant (adjective):** existing in large quantities; more than enough

Example: We have **abundant** evidence to prove his guilt.

✓ **Take up (phrasal verb):** to start or begin something such as a job

Example: He **takes up** his duties next week as the head of the department.

✓ **Experience (verb):** to have a particular situation affect you or happen to you

Example: When I lived in Japan, I **experienced** a very different way of life.

✓ **Obstacle (noun)** a situation, an event, etc. that makes it difficult for you to do or achieve something

Example: A lack of qualifications can be a major **obstacle** to finding a job.

✓ **Adventurous (adjective):** willing to take risks and try new ideas; enjoying being in new, exciting situations

Example: For the more **adventurous** tourists, there are trips into the mountains with a local guide.

✓ **Be exposed to (expression):** introduced to, not protected from

Example: I **was exposed to** a completely new culture when I first went to the USA.

✓ **Sensitivity (noun):** the ability to understand other people's feelings

Example: She pointed out with tact and **sensitivity** exactly where he had gone wrong.

✓ **Further (verb):** to help something to develop and be successful

Example: Although the salary was low, she took the job to **further** her career by learning all about the fashion industry.

✓ **Invaluable (adjective):** extremely useful Example: The research should **prove invaluable** in the study of children's language.

✓ **Perspective (noun):** a way of thinking about something

Example: The book gave me a new **perspective** on Indian culture.

29. Describe a sport stadium that is important in your country

You should say:

- What is that stadium's name
- Why is it important
- What is that stadium used for

Honestly to tell the truth, I have to admit that I am not a big fan of sports as well as keen on watching them through media channels. Therefore, the number of stadiums that I know can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Among them, I would like to share some facts about Paradise Stadium which is usually responsible for hosting lots of important events in terms of national and international level. The first thing about this stadium that I have to refer to is that it is a multi – purpose stadium located in a **suburban commune**. Although this stadium has a seating capacity of 50,000, every **now and then**, it is able to accommodate even a larger number of audiences. Since the event of official grand opening in 2003, it has served as one of the most integral stadium not only for the city but also for the whole country. Now with reference to the point of what people usually come there to. Obviously, the **chief purpose** of coming to a stadium is to encourage, support the events as well as immerge themselves into an energetic atmosphere of sports. **There is no doubt** to confirm that Paradise Stadium is almost **irreplaceable** due to its reputation and well – equipment. The proof is some essential events namely the Olympics Games, and the Champions League were all hold at this stadium. In addition, besides sports, it is also an ideal place for organizing various events in terms of culture, economics and society.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

29.1. Where do people play sports?

It is common for people to play sports in the parks, on sports fields, and in gym clubs. For example, on sports fields football, badminton and running are all popular, while in the gym people can do various exercises using the equipment, such as running, walking or **weightlifting**.

29.2. Are there many stadiums in your country?

Yes. There are a wide range of stadiums of various scales. For example, in small cities, we have small stadiums with a **seating capacity** for around 200 people or more. In big cities, stadiums can seat thousands of people.

29.3. What are the benefits of having stadiums in the city?

Firstly, **all-seater** stadiums in urban areas are built to meet the spectators' demand to watch matches or sports competitions.

Secondly, the construction of stadiums will bring economic benefits to the city and the country as a whole. New stadiums **generate** many jobs, in the construction **phase**. The **revenue** of the city is also increased thanks to the tax from ticket sales and businesses nearby the stadium.

29.4. Do you prefer indoor sports or outdoor sports?

I prefer outdoor sports to indoor ones because playing sport outside such as cycling or mountain climbing allows me to breathe fresh air, in the countryside and to help **ward off** any future **respiratory** problems. Best of all, it gives me a sense of freedom and chances to make more friends.

29.5. What are the benefits of group sports?

Playing sports as a team brings various advantages. Besides health benefits, by taking part in team sports, people can develop cooperation and teamwork skills, socialinteraction skills, **self-discipline**, patience and **persistence**. They can also **overcome** shyness and build confidence.

29.6. In what ways can children benefit from doing sports?

It is very **advantageous** for children to play sports. In addition to improving their **stamina** and developing their muscles, they can build their confidence and communication skills as they encounter many people who share their passion for sport.

29.7. Should young people try dangerous sports?

Personally, I think youngsters ought to play sports which are suited to their standard of health. Even though dangerous sports such as **heli-skiing** and mountain climbing are very **appealing** to most young people, they will be injured if they are not strong enough and don't have **sufficient** skills in those sports.

Vocabulary

✓ **Weightlifting (noun):** the sport or activity of lifting heavy weights

Example: You have to be very strong to practise the sport of **weightlifting**, but it's a great way to build up your muscles.

✓ **Seating capacity (noun)** the maximum number of spectators that the stadium can accommodate in seated areas

Example: Paradise Stadium has a **seating capacity** of 100,192 seats

✓ **All-seater (adjective):** in which every spectator has a seat

Example: Nobody will have to stand in the new stadium, it's **all-seater**.

✓ **Generate (verb):** to produce or create something

Example: The proposal has **generated** a lot of interest.

✓ **Phase (noun):** a stage in a process of change, development or construction

Example: The new building is almost finished – it's in the final **phase** of construction.

✓ **Revenue (noun):** the money that a government receives from taxes or that an organization, etc. receives from its business

Example: Advertising **revenue** finances the commercial television channels.

✓ **Ward off (phrasal verb):** to protect against danger, illness or attack

Example: Take Vitamin C to **ward off** colds and flu.

✓ **Respiratory (noun):** connected with breathing

Example: City dwellers tend to suffer from **respiratory** problems due to the air pollution.

✓ **Self-discipline (noun):**

the ability to make yourself do something, especially something difficult or unpleasant

Example: It takes a lot of **self-discipline** to go jogging in winter.

✓ **Persistence (noun):** the fact of continuing to try to do something despite difficulties, especially when other people are against you and think that you are being annoying or unreasonable

Example: His **persistence** was finally rewarded when the insurance company agreed to pay for the damage.

✓ **Overcome (verb):** to succeed in dealing with a problem that has prevented you from doing something

Example: She **overcame** her fear of flying, and she now travels regularly by air.

✓ **Advantageous (adjective):** good or useful in a particular situation

Example: If you travel to the USA, it is **advantageous** if you know some English in order to communicate with people there.

✓ **Stamina (noun):** physical strength to do some activity for a long time Example: It takes a lot of **stamina** to run a marathon.

✓ **Heli-skiing (noun):** the sport of flying in a helicopter to a place where there is a lot of snow on a mountain in order to ski there

Example: Dangerous sports like **heli-skiing** and mountain climbing are very appealing to most young people.

✓ **Appealing (adjective):** attractive or interesting

Example: Brightly colored packaging made the pens especially **appealing** to children.

✓ **Sufficient (adjective):** enough for a particular purpose; as much as you need
Example: These reasons are not **sufficient** to justify the ban.

30. Describe an important holiday (or festival) that is celebrated in your country

You should say:

- What is it
- Why it is important
- What do people usually do on that festival
- How important it is to your country

Talking of holiday and Celebration, I want to share more about New Year, which is one of the most essential and **widely celebrated** festivals in my country. This is the occasion that people celebrate with great joy, hope and festivity with their beloved ones. One of

the most **integral** moments that is expected by all people is the stroke of midnight according to Lunar Calendar. It is often celebrated with fireworks and people send each other their best wishes for an awesome year ahead. In my country, people often get **careful preparation for** Lunar New Year in order to ensure that every single thing is perfect for welcoming a new year. On the last night of the year, people stay awake, reunite with their family and wait for the very first sacred moments of the year. According to the **conventions**, people dress smartly on the following days, pay their relatives, friends a visit and send them the beautiful regards for the upcoming year. It is also traditional in my country to go to **sacred places** like pagoda or churches with the aim of praying for peace and happiness in the future. In people's belief, red is considered as the lucky color in the new year. That's why people often choose to dress in vivid color as the way to **eliminate** bad luck and welcoming good things. My country also has some **unique traditions** like lucky money, preparing home – made food or decorating home in the first days of the year. It is also a precious time for family reunion, resolution and relaxation after a hard – working year.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

30.1. Why is it important to protect traditions?

Well, each and every country has its own traditions, and it is these traditions that **distinguish** one country from another. As a matter of fact, traditions not only represent the people of a nation but they also reflect that nation's history as well. Therefore, I believe that if governments wish to promote **patriotism** and national pride, it's essential that customs are continually practised and adapted, so that they suit modern society better yet remain **relevant** to the life of people.

30.2. What's the most important tradition in your country?

I suppose one of the most important traditions is showing other people, especially the elderly, respect by adding specific words into our speech and behaving in an appropriate way. While some Westerners may see this as unnecessary and rather **awkward**, it is a way of being polite and avoiding giving unintended **offense** for people in my country.

In addition to this, there are other important traditions, such as exchanging red envelopes on New Year or eating mooncakes during the Mid-autumn festival.

30.3. What kinds of traditions have disappeared in your country?

As society develops, some traditions have been **done away with**. For example, people used to dye their teeth black in the past, but not in modern days anymore. This is probably because of the difference in beauty standards now and then. While it was once considered elegant to have black teeth, which **entails** having to dye them several times to make them look smooth and shiny, these days, white and even teeth are what people **yearn** for.

30.4. Why should children learn about traditions?

In my opinion, if children are informed about the traditions of their country, they'll feel stronger love and responsibility for the culture of their country. Moreover, it is young children who will eventually be responsible for **preserving** traditions and **passing them down to** future generations. If the young aren't properly educated about traditional customs, those customs will most likely disappear in the future.

30.5. What can governments do to protect traditions?

Well, I think there are several measures that governments can take. One way is to maintain the celebration of traditional festivals and encourage people to take an active part in them. It's important to make sure that these festivals are not only celebrated among local citizens but also known **nationwide** which, with the help of social media, can now easily be done. Governments, especially those of developing countries, need also to limit the impacts of globalisation on their culture to prevent traditional customs from being replaced by foreign ones.

VOCABULARY

✓ **Distinguish** [verb]: to notice or recognize a difference between people or things

Example: I have trouble **distinguishing** the twins.

✓ **Patriotism** [noun]: love that people feel for their country

Example: They supported the war with a fierce **patriotism**.

✓ **Relevant** [adjective]: relating to a subject in an appropriate way

Example: Make sure your answers during the interview are short and **relevant** or you will lose marks.

✓ **Awkward** [adjective]: difficult to deal with and embarrassing

Example: There was an **awkward** pause in the conversation.

✓ **Offense** [noun]: something that causes a person to be hurt, angry, or upset

Example: Mary didn't say hello and her teacher took it as an **offense**.

✓ **To be done away with** [expression]: to be got rid of, to be made to disappear

Example: A lot of the restrictions on imports have **been done away with**, so that it is now easy to import goods.

✓ **Entail** [verb]: to cause or involve by necessity or as a consequence

Example: A lavish wedding **entails** extensive planning and often staggering expenses.

✓ **Yearn** [verb]: to feel a strong desire or wish for something or to do something

Example: Not having seen their families for months, the sailors out at sea **yearned** for home..

✓ **Preserve** [verb]: to keep (something) in its original state or in good condition

Example: The fossils were well **preserved** so that they could be displayed in museums.

✓ **Pass something down** [expression]: to give knowledge or teach skills to your children or to younger people

Example: These traditional stories have been **passed down** from parent to child over many generations.

✓ **Nationwide** [adjective]: extending throughout the nation

Example: The murders attracted **nationwide** attention. Everyone was following the news about these cases.

31. Describe an event that resulted in a positive change in your life/ describe a positive change that you made to your life.

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

QUESTION FOR PART 3

31.1. Is your country changing rapidly?

According to data recorded, economic growth has reached nearly 7% on average in the past few years so I do believe that our country is **gearing up** and **on the right track** to build a better future. It can be seen in the number of **skyscrapers** are being built and the quality of young workforce **in comparison with** those of many years before. We are also attracting more and more potential investors and continue to establish and **consolidate strategic partnerships** with countries within and outside the regions.

- **gear up:** to prepare for an activity or event
- **on the right track:** to be doing something in a way that will bring good results
- **skyscraper:** a very tall building in a city
- **in comparison with:** when compared with somebody/something
- **consolidate:** to make a position of power or success stronger so that it is more likely to continue

31.2. What can smart phones do these days?

Smart phones are considered to be **indispensable** accessories to almost everyone in this digital era due to its convenience and usefulness. Gone are the days when phones can only be used to call or send messages, now they are changing the way we **communicate**, work and entertain. They are equipped with high resolution cameras for users to capture the moments in its finest. A wide range of applications assisting people in almost everything from personal finance, education to stress-reducing provided by online app stores are ready to be downloaded. With just one light touch on the screen, the world will be **in the palm of your hand**.

- **Indispensable:** too important to be without
- **communicate:** exchange information
- **in the palm of your hand:** under your complete control

31.3. Since most people do work on their computers, why do they still need to go to the office?

Personally, I believe it depends on their company's policy to ensure the **communication flow** and easy access to needed resources. Most people don't have **self-discipline**, which means they are unable to accomplish their tasks without constant supervision or tend to **procrastinate** until the deadline. This can cause serious trouble and have **detrimental** effect on the whole project, especially if it's a teamwork. Therefore, even though people can work remotely from home, companies still do not **take risk** when it comes to business.

31.4. Do you think people's work in the future will be heavily affected by technology?

There is no doubt that would be the case, I suppose. We don't need to look further to realize that machinery is taking over almost everything that used to need **manual labor**. Since Henry Ford **adopted assembling** technique in mass production back in the 20th century, the number of employees working in areas where technology could do 10 times more efficiently has been dropping. Hence, with the speed of **innovations** being introduced to the world now, we should be **embraced** for the impact coming from technology regarding our jobs in the near future.

- **There is no doubt that:** undoubtedly
- **manual labor:** physical work done by people
- **adopt:** to accept or start to use something new
- **innovation:** a new idea or method
- **embrace:** to accept something enthusiastically

31.5. Compare the pace of technological progress in the past and in the present.

As far as I am concerned, the pace of **technological advancement** in the present has completely **outstripped** that in the past. Take iPhone for example. Every year, a new version of iPhone is launched to meet Apple's users' expectation. Sometimes, not one or two, but three different versions at the same time such as iPhone 6, iPhone 6S and iPhone 6S Plus. There are not only changes in their appearances with new colors or

wider screens, the software is also upgraded with more advanced features. Therefore, in comparison with the past, technology nowadays is moving with **lightning speed**.

- **advancement**: progress

- **outstrip**: be faster, better or more successful

32. Describe a piece of good news that you received.

Speaking of good news reminds me of the moment I received an offer letter to attend a national conference for young leaders and individuals who are **passionate** about international affairs last summer. The program called Youth Model United Nations was held in NY City 3 days and was one of the most exciting journeys I've ever experience. It's safe to say that being elected as one of the candidates for a **national scale** event where brilliant, dynamic and ambitious young people gathered **gave me some sense of confidence and satisfaction**. The **recruitment process** was not terribly complicated but **highly competitive**. We had been through 3 different rounds where we were tested about our knowledge of international affairs in general, our solutions for various issues like environment and sustainable energy as well as English proficiency. Though it required time and effort to actually get tuned into the world's current status and to provide relevant answers, the result was **immensely rewarding**. I recalled it was 9PM in the evening and our family were all in the living room for some quality time when I got an email from the organizer. I was speechless, then **shouted my heart out** because that was a fully-funded trip and I would be able to travel alone for the very first time. Even though my parents had been worried and against it at first, I managed to **convince** them that if they didn't allow me to **step out of my comfort zone** and explore the world, I would forever dream small and be small. Eventually, everything went smoothly and the conference was a blast. It was an **eventful** and memorable 3-day adventure where I made friends with people from diverse backgrounds and became more independent in every decision and action that I took – a better version of myself. Hence, I wouldn't mind receiving good news like this more often in the future.

Vocabulary

- **Passionate:** having or showing strong feelings of enthusiasm for something or belief in something
- **Competitive:** used to describe a situation in which people or organizations compete against each other
- **Rewarding:** worth doing; that makes you happy because you think it is useful or important
- **Shout one's heart out:** to shout with vigor or intensity
- **Eventful:** full of things that happen, especially exciting, important or dangerous things

QUESTION PART 3

32.1. How do people share good news?

Good news is meant to be spread wide and far. Accordingly, everyone does that, especially with their beloved ones first. However, the way in which they share it may vary from person to person and depend on what kind of news it is. One of the fastest one to **disseminate** information, or in this case, good news these days is via social media, the internet-based platform that has transformed the way in which people communicate. Facebook, Twitter or Instagram are widely used for this kind of purpose.

- **disseminate:** to spread information, knowledge, etc. so that it reaches many people

32.2. How does modern technology affect the delivery of information?

Technology basically affects everything we come across in this modern world and the advance of **artificial intelligence** somehow arises some concerns, too. However, its advantages seem to **outweigh** its drawback, especially regarding how information is being delivered. Prior to the advent of smartphones or portable tablets, people used to rely mostly on newspaper or printed materials to get updated with all the latest events around the world. But that's ancient history. Now, you have 24/7 access to all kinds of

information you want with only a click, not only news but academic knowledge provided by different kinds of online courses and apps. How convenient!

- **artificial intelligence:** an area of study concerned with making computers copy intelligent human behavior
- **outweigh:** to be greater or more important than something

32.3. What kinds of good news have you received before?

Well, to be honest, good news is just good news no matter what kind it is, at least to me. Through my 20-something years of existence, the majority of good news I received were those related to my studying. Not that I meant to brag but truth to be told, I was excel at school and had always been in the group of students with best performance. In other words, I was a nerd. Therefore, more often than not, I was chosen to **represent** my class or school to compete in many contests for students in subjects like literature, English or biology. Together with other teammates, we brought home quite a few prestigious prizes that made our families, teachers and friends extremely proud.

- **represent:** to act or speak officially for somebody and defend their interests

33. Describe something special that you saved money to buy.

It was my mom's fiftieth birthday that my sister and I managed to surprise her with our gift – an **exclusive** emerald green scarf **tailor-made** by the most **renowned** tailor in town.

Mom is the most **warm-hearted** and forgiving person I've ever known and should be given "Mom of the Year" award if there is one. However, since there isn't, my sister and I decided to give her the best she deserved when she turned 50 – a truly milestone in one's lifetime and it was her birthday after all. Therefore, we started saving money from our part-time jobs 4 months before D-day and met up with Joe – the talented tailor who was most well-known for his **remarkable** collection of beautifully handmade scarfs: from silk to wool with a variety of unique patterns. Our choice was the long and

emerald one which was made in silk charmeuse, allowing it to show off saturated colors so well. The smooth texture felt like a soft touch on your skin and depending on how you tied it, you could emphasize on the shiny side or the matte. We chose it not only because of its **elegance** and **affordability** in comparison with others but also its usage. It matched perfectly with different kinds of clothes and was not too thick for daily use in a tropical country.

Our mom fell in love with the scarf at first sight because it was in her favorite color or simply just because we were her favorites in the whole world. She **bragged** about it to all her friends and family days after that and we didn't mind, not even the slightest as there was nothing as precious as the smile that lit up her face.

Vocabulary

- **exclusive:** of a high quality and expensive and therefore not often bought or used by most people
- **tailor-made:** made for a particular person or purpose, and therefore very suitable
- **renowned:** famous and respected
- **remarkable:** unusual or surprising in a way that causes people to take notice
- **elegance:** the quality of being attractive and well designed
- **affordability:** the fact of being cheap enough that people can afford to buy it or pay it; how affordable something is
- **brag:** to talk too proudly about something you own or something you have done

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

33.1. What can parents do to teach children to save money?

Children are quick learners and can be easily affected by others' behaviors. Therefore, it's both a simple and challenging task at the same time to teach them anything, including how to efficiently **manage their budget**. Since we all learn through **imitating** and **replication**, the most practical way is to set a good example and be open to

conversation. For instance, parents shouldn't overspend if they want their children how to save money. Occasional exception like Christmas can be accepted, but other than that, no. Parents can even talk to them about **financial management** and do not **underestimate** your kids since they may understand more than we believe they can.

33.2. Why do young people tend to waste money?

First of all, because they are young. Youngsters nowadays usually justify their financial issues with the YOLO philosophy which means "you only live once". Since life is too short and aint nobody got time to waste, they tend to spend much more than they can earn, buying unnecessary things they barely **afford** to **enjoy the best out of life**. Secondly, that is not even their money, but their parents'. Therefore, they don't value the effort behind those bills and keep throwing them out of the window as long as it suits them.

33.3. What kinds of things do people like to buy in your country?

I can't tell for sure what the overall consumer behavior is like, but one thing everyone can notice is that just like most of other nationalities people is **obsessed** with high-tech devices, especially smartphones and tablets. The **sales volume** of such **digital gadgets** has significantly increased over the past few years, together with the proliferations of mobile stores. From my experience and observation, Apple's products are **in high demand** among the middle-class, which can be proven by the moment you step into any coffee shops in Madrid City where iPhones and MacBooks are of various types and colors.

33.4. Do schools teach anything about financial management?

Unfortunately, I have to say no, or at least it is what I know. Only after students attend university, are they going to be introduced to finance and anything related. That is if they go to schools of economics, other than, I can't guarantee, which is actually a sad truth. Since financial management is so important in how youngsters will shape their mind and prepare for the future, such subject should be taught at high schools as one of

the most essential skills that allow students to deal with any issue related to money at the early age.

33.5. What is it necessary to teach teenagers to manage money?

There are many topics to cover when it comes to financial management, I suppose. However, for students, I believe teaching them about the labor value, **financial stability** and independence is more crucial. Teenagers maybe a little young to understand how hard their parents have to work to afford the whole family but it would help if we let them do some voluntary or part-time jobs for them to have a closer look of where money comes from. From there, they would learn how not to **overspend** and take any amount of money for granted.

33.6. How do parents give pocket money in your country?

Frankly speaking, it heavily depends on each family and their lifestyles. Some parents **grant** their children a specific amount of allowance daily or weekly which they can spend on snacks or necessary learning materials and stationery when needed. Others may not give at all since their kids already are fully provided with lunch boxes and everything else.

34. Describe a good part of your personality or character.

Frankly speaking, nobody is perfect and I ain't no exception. I, as well as others, am **acutely** aware of many flaws within myself and have been working hard to improve them as well as to **strengthen** the other good parts, one of which I am fiercely proud of is my **non-judgmental** attitude.

The state of being non-judgmental is not to pass judgement on anyone or anything too quickly without full **acknowledgement**. It's an unhealthy habit as well as a sign of people with **fixed mindset** that **hinders** them from **truly perceive** the surroundings as what they are. Therefore, I try to avoid it at all cost, which is not impossible because, fortunately, it has **imprinted** in my mind at early age that everything has its own reason

for existence. An ability to be fair and to reserve my comments on everything around has opened up my eyes and **afforded me an opportunity to** actually reach out to people and learn about their inner desire and motivation. For example, if you have a classmate who breaks the school's record for the number of times him being late, you could presume that he is a lazy boy who spends the whole night playing Play Station 4. However, little do you know that he wakes up at 4.00AM every morning to deliver milk and newspapers in a nearby neighborhood. No, you don't. You just want to be right and don't have a heart to dig deeper. That's exactly where things go wrong. As a result, I've made a promise to myself that no matter what the situation is, I would look into it with the eye of an outsider, someone who can view it in different angles.

Admittedly, it's easier said than done. Once in a while, your emotion will cloud your **common sense**. Still, practicing non-judgmental attitude is one step closer to perfection.

QUESTION FOR PART 3

34.1. What kinds of characteristics are common in modern society?

People in modern world tend to have bigger vision, **curiosity** and ambition than those of the earlier days. Youngsters no longer limit themselves in four walls but reaching out to explore the world with endless energy and passion. With constant effort and firm **determination**, we are now experiencing considerable changes resulted from thousands of innovations and **disruptions** every second, which leads us to where we are now. If it hadn't been for those **remarkable traits**, we wouldn't have ever gone this far.

34.2. What qualities should a good teacher have?

If you ask me, **inspiring** and **tolerate** are the most desirable characteristics I find in any teachers. There is nothing more encouraging and motivational than having a teacher who constantly stimulates and challenges students by providing **two-way conversations** and **conveying meaningful messages** through his or her lectures. As we all know, teenagers are **troublemakers**, therefore, the one who can overlook the **impulsive** acts and guide them back on track with pure compassion will definitely win them over.

34.3. Do you think parents' characters can affect young people's development?

There is no doubt parents' characteristics can have **profound influences** on their children's development, particularly in their **formative years of childhood**. What they say and how they do things will probably be **duplicated** by their kids without their acknowledgement. If parents are caring, supportive and tolerate, their children may consider them their peers and be open with them about their hopes and concerns. Since love and care are what the kids know, they will treat others with the same manners. On the contrary, if children are **neglected** or inappropriately treated at home, they **couldn't care less** about what happens to others.

34.4. Would you like to develop a specific personality in the future?

Nobody is perfect and neither am I. There are many things I need to work on to improve myself, personally and professionally, one of which I would like to deal with most is my **procrastination**. I have a tendency to put everything off and wait until I have an urge or enough motivation to **kick start** myself, which has proven to be extremely dangerous sometimes. Once I almost missed a deadline of my final thesis for graduation just because of my laziness and, of course, procrastination. They say old habits die hard, especially the bad one, but I'll try my best to get rid of that unhealthy style of working.

35. Describe a person who you like to spend time with.

I'm grateful to have such a supportive family and a large circle of friends who are always be there for me no matter what. I spend most of my free time surrounded with my beloved friends and family. Even though I **love** them all **to the moon and back**, my younger sister, Jade, is the one that's closest to me.

Jade is seven years younger than me, which might create some sense of **generation gap**, yet, we still get along well, or at least most of the time. She is in high school now and has a dream of becoming a doctor one day. In term of appearance, we **have little in common**. By that I mean while I'm kind of tall, she's relatively short; while I **take after**

my father, she's my mom's **splitting image**. Same thing with our characteristics. I am **people-oriented** and a true free spirit, Jade, on the contrary, is quite **introverted** and into stability. Hence, that came as a huge surprise when others acknowledge our strong bond. We're like 2 sides of the same coin.

No matter how different we are, we have never neglected or **abandoned** each other. In fact, we are **partners in crime** in so many **impulsive** and silly acts that our family has lost count. Once, I tried to play the victim with my uncle as I accidentally broke a crystal vase that my aunt adored, Jade backed me up as we **put the blame on** our poor cousin. What a **shameful** act! But that was years ago and we learnt our lesson in a hard way. Another time when my sister's teacher asked to meet our parents because Jade had ditched class. **To her defense**, that subject was boring and I was the one who talked to her teacher. In the end, Jade had to serve more time at the library and we kept this from our parents and so were other things. We got each other's back and we always will because that's what sisters do and simply because I love her.

QUESTION FOR PART 3

35.1. How do you usually spend your spare time?

To be honest, I barely have free time between work and study these days. However, whenever I need a break from work or try to **loosen** myself a little bit, I always turn to music. Music is my religion, so to speak and I don't know what I would do without it. No matter how awful my day has been or how **deliriously happy** I am with my new project, music always gets my mood. It offers comfort when I feel down with some smooth melodies and celebrates my success with hard beats, totally understanding. Hence, it is safe to say music is my soulmate.

35.2. Why do some young people dislike living with old people?

The most common reason might be a large generation gap between youngsters and their **senior citizen** in terms of mindsets and living style. To be more precise, young people are more open-minded and always up for adventures in comparison to the elder. They live bolder, act more impulsively and refuse to settle for anything less than freedom and

big dream while their grandparents are more careful in every decision and **take into account** possible consequences before making any move. Hence, when living together, they can hardly reach any mutual **consent** in any aspect. However, there are also exceptions where 2 or 3 generations living in harmony under the same roof.

35.3. What do you usually do when you hang out with your friends?

Well, the kinds of activities can vary depends on which groups of friends I hang out with. If they are my best friends whom I've known most of my life, we will undoubtedly do silly things together regardless how ridiculous it would look on us. For example, one time, we were playing truth or dare when I was forced to stand in the middle of the road singing my heart out Justin Timberlake's songs. It was one of the most embarrassing moments of my life and of course, as what best friends always did, they recorded it and replayed occasionally anytime we got bored. Though it was distinctly **sheepish**, it was how we enjoyed our company whenever we hung out.

35.4. Do you like to spend time on your own or with your family/friends?

I would say I enjoy both equally. I don't consider myself an extrovert but I love being surrounded by people, whether they're my family, friends or just someone I meet at a **social gathering**. I find it **intriguing** to communicate and get to know people no matter who they are or what their **political standpoint** is since every individual I talk to gives me a different perspective of life. Therefore, I don't mind spending time with others. However, whenever I feel the need to **contemplate** myself or just want to get away from reality, I prefer being on my own.

35.5. What are the advantages of living with old people?

Old people are like living dictionaries packed with endless stories about lifetime experience and wide **bread of knowledge**. Though born and raised in different social context, they can always provide youngsters with practical pieces of advice and be a valuable reference sources whenever we are in need. For example, if you get bored with all the facts and dates listed in history books, which are highly informative, yet, **tedious**, turn to your grandparents and get ready to be inspired by their personal insights and

authentic experience. No one knows the stories better than those who have been through it.

35.6. Should young adults live on their own?

In my opinion, adolescences who have **reached their maturity** should live apart from their families to be more emotionally and financially independent. This kind of practice is more common in European and American countries compared to their Asian counterparts, which can be explained by traditional lifestyles and mindsets. However, the number of Asian youngsters moving out of their parents' houses are growing substantially since living on their own not only force them to be more responsible with their lives from washing their own dishes to ironing their clothes, but also offer them certain freedom to pursue what they want.

36. Describe an item that you received and made you happy.

I received a mail box two days after my eighteenth birthday from my best friend who is now residing in England. It was an utter surprise since I thought she had forgotten it because she didn't once mention it during our conversation the previous night. What inside the box intrigued me more. It was a book called "How to win friends and influence people" by Dale Carnegie, one of the most classic books of all time and has been my bible ever since.

The book was first published about 60 years ago but still holds the same value until today. It was also one of the most **influential self-help** books that provided wonderful, yet practical advice on how to become a social person who earned respect from as well as was **well-liked** by others. My version was the 14th edition with a hard, black cover which was **engraved** with the title in gold script. The book comprised 6 main sections, each focusing on one aspect varying from handling people, presenting yourself in a proper way to influencing others. Those were timeless lessons that were widely applied on a daily basis as and especially formal occasions.

There was plenty to take out from "How to win friends and influence people" but the one thing that I found most applicable and everyone should practice it was "6 ways to

make people like you". It might sound **as easy as pie** and inevitable truth like smiling and being a good listener, however, few had mastered it or took it seriously since they failed to acknowledge the importance of simple but powerful act. I've read the book countless time but still struggled to bring those philosophies into life. But practice makes perfect.

QUESTION FOR PART 3

36.1. What type(s) of shop would you recommend a visitor to your country should go to? (Why?)

If travelers ever want to have an **authentic** and unforgettable experience during their journey, I would highly recommend they **pay a visit to** traditional markets or food stands on the street to have a taste of true street foods, which are not only diverse in types and flavors, but also **signature features** of cuisine. Street vendors will also offer visitors a wide range of delicious dishes and true dining experience.

36.2. Do you ever buy anything on the internet?

I reckon that most of clothing items I have ever bought are from Lazada, an online fashion shop where you can find basically everything you need to become a stylish lady. From sexy little black dresses for partying to formal blouses for day life at office, Lazada won't **let you down**. Since **e-commerce** and online shopping has become a trend thanks to its convenience and **optimal** user experience, I no longer spend 30 minutes driving to any clothing shops and another 2 hours choosing and trying on everything. In fact, with only my laptop and a cup of coffee, I can easily **shop from home** with even more choices. Internet really works magic.

36.3. What do you think are the advantages of buying things on the internet?

Online shopping has **prevailing** in a past few years for reasons. First and foremost, buying online is incredibly **time-saving**. Well, obviously, time is considered the most precious **asset** that everyone has but many have **taken for granted**. Instead of spending hours driving to your favorite malls to get some new clothes of the latest collection, your problem can be solved with only Internet connections and, of course, your fine taste **in fashion**. No energy is needed, either. Secondly, you always have best deals

when subscribing to any online stores, which can save you tons of money that you even notice. Some shops even offer exclusive promotions for loyal customers, therefore, get ready for special treats. Lastly, you can easily switch **from site to site** to have even more choices without moving anything but your fingers. How awesome is that.

36.4. Are there any disadvantages (or dangers) of buying on the internet? (What?)

Every cloud has a silver lightning. Online shopping, in particular and e-commerce in general are true advancement in modern world, however, their drawbacks couldn't be overlooked. It is widely known that there is no such thing as 100% nowadays, cyber security included. No less than once or twice have I heard about users' information has been leaked, which can cause serious trouble to customers who are using that company's products or services. Another concern should also be taken into account is overspending due to constant exposure to products of preference. By this I mean technology has advanced to the point that any shopping sites, especially social media, all have **algorithm** that can track your shopping habits and keep reminding you not to miss their latest items that might attract you. What a clever, yet annoying tool at the same time.

36.5. Do you like window shopping? (Why?/Why not?)

I must say I am not **a big fan of window shopping** no matter how **shopaholic** I am. Window shopping can only worsen my financial status rather than helping. Admittedly, it pleases your eyes when looking at gorgeous clothing and fancy handbags, yet, it's too much a temptation that not anyone can resist. As a result, you **end up** being drown in debt just because the urge to become a trendy lady gets a better hold of you than your modest budget. Hence, as I know myself well enough to understand that would be my reaction towards anything that is pretty, I would rather stay home than window shopping.

36.6. In your country, how has shopping changed in the past few decades?

Just like any other parts of the world, Singapore has experienced dramatic changes in customers' behavior when it comes to shopping. One of the striking features of shopping habits these days is people tend to buy things online and get them delivered to their houses, regardless what kinds of items. It could be pizzas, clothing or kitchen

appliances. Besides, international trade has afforded customers easy access to a wider range of products and services which are not only from domestic suppliers but foreign ones as well. Lots of items have been imported to meet the demand of users within the country, ranging from food and beverage, cosmetics, cars and so on.

36.7. Do you think people spend too much time (or money) on shopping? (Why?/Why not?)

I can't tell for sure because the amount of time spent on shopping varies among different people. Nevertheless, thanks to the advent of Internet and online shopping, that amount might be relatively less than it used to be. Besides, people seem to be busier and their schedules get tighter with much more important tasks other than shopping itself. Therefore, I don't think shopping is people's priority or anything more than a necessary deed to **get on with** life.

36.8. What kinds of people spend an excessive amount of time or money on shopping?

There is no doubt that people who spend an excessive amount of time or money on shopping are those with purchasing power and time to spare. In other words, they are of **high-income class** and love to **pamper themselves with** qualified products and premium services. They, regardless gender, are people with fine taste and know what they want. They can sacrifice hours just to choose a dress or suit, which can cost a fortune just to attend an opening party.

37. Describe an antique or some other old thing that your family has kept for a long time.

Settled in my family's jewelry box is the old-fashioned, yet **astonishing** pearl necklace that belonged to my great grandmother. It has been there for quite a long time as a family **heirloom** on my mom's side, which, I guess, would become mine when the time comes. Though I haven't seen neither my Grannie nor my mom wear it, the necklace still holds an **underlying meaning** and is always treated with greatest care and love.

The pearl necklace is super classic and simple, just like what it represents: pure beauty. The strand was hand-strung with a notch between each pearl to avoid them rubbing

against each other. Even though it has been **carefully preserved**, the shiny surface of each pearl is no longer at its best; instead, a few scratches have appeared and the bright white color has started to get dull. It was on our great grandparents' wedding that my great grandfather presented his beloved wife this precious gift and it immediately became her favorite. She wore it whenever there was an occasion, which means practically every time she went out. This was proven by the number of pictures we found her wearing the chain years later. My Grannie **inherited** it after her mom passed away but almost never touched it unless to clean or move it from box to box. She said she wanted to keep its true spirit and the beautiful story behind as it was meant to be. As a result, years has gone by but that **delicate** pearl chain has always stayed untouched inside the jewelry box and will still be there in many years to come as a sign of respect and reminder of the good old days.

Vocabulary:

- ✓ **Astonishing (adj)** very surprising, amazing

Example: It's astonishing how much the place has changed.

- ✓ **Heirloom (noun)** a valuable or special possession that has belonged to a family for many years

- ✓ **underlying meaning (expression)** are the real or basic meaning, although they are not obvious or directly stated

Example: The underlying meaning of the book has been ignored.

- ✓ **inherit (verb)** to receive property or money from someone who has died

Example: He inherited the business from his father.

- ✓ **delicate (adj)** attractive with many small details

Example: a delicate floral design always attracts me.

QUESTION FOR PART 3

37.1. Which do you think are better, old things or new things?

Everything has its own value, together with its own meaning, I believe. Old things remind us of our past and tradition, while newer things are **embodiment** of advancement and innovation. That's why vintage style has never gone **out of date**, whether in fashion or **interior** design. On the other hand, modern devices are providing significant benefits for users. Take iPhone for instance. Every year, a new version is introduced to the world with different features and better applications, which is obviously a plus.

Vocabulary:

- ✓ **Embodiment (noun)** someone or something that is the best possible example of a particular idea, quality, or principle, especially a good one

Example: He is the very embodiment of kindness.

- ✓ **Out of date (adj)** old and no longer suitable for modern processes, purposes, or methods

Example: Out-of-date film for camera was sold to photographers with cheaper price.

37.2. As well as family photographs, what are some other things that people keep in their family for a long time?

Besides family photographs, heirlooms such as **antique** jewelries and diaries are probably some of the most popular things that have usually been **passed down** from generation to generation. Our ancestors often tended to leave something valuable and unique to their **successors** not only because they wanted to give what would be best for their children but also to remind them of the true owner along with his or her stories. There will be time when our memories about those stories fade away but the piece of antique object is still there as a constant reminder for our families' tradition and history.

Vocabulary:

Antique (adj) an old object such as a piece of furniture or jewellery that is valuable because it is rare, beautiful, or well made

Pass down (verb) to give knowledge or teach skills to your children or to younger people

Example: These traditional stories have been passed down from parent to child over many generations.

Successor (noun) used about someone who continues the work of someone who came before them

37.3. What are the benefits (=What is the value/what is the importance) of keeping some old things in the family?

As mentioned above, old things bear great meanings and some stories that are worth sharing about our ancestors. Nothing works better in reviving such historical events in the most authentic and emotional fashion than a part of the events itself. Therefore, these heirlooms play an important part in keeping such stories alive and ensure memories of our great great grandparents will never get lost.

37.4. Do you think it's good to recall the past?

People always say “Past is a nice place to visit but certain not a good place to stay”, which I couldn’t agree more. Some might think we should just move on with our lives without looking back since our pasts are full of mistakes and painful experience. However, if it hadn’t been for what we had been through in our journey to the present, where would we have been? Therefore, I believe, sometimes it’s a healthy practice to contemplate yourself, not only about the present or the future but the past as well because you may realize things you might have overlooked when you were less mature as you are right now.

Contemplate (verb) look at or think very carefully about something for a long time

Example: I haven’t got time to sit around contemplating the meaning of life.

38. Describe a time when you made a mistake.

To be honest, I have lost count on how many times I have acted on impulse and caused troubles for not only me but also others. One time when I was in high school, I **played truant from class** for a week and finally got caught at an Internet store nearby playing Audition, the most popular online game among teenagers during that time.

It was an embarrassing and forgettable experience when you were **escorted** by the school's supervisor all the way from the Internet store to the principal's room. It was even worse when all of that happened in broad daylight when everyone could see and I could have sworn my face was **as red as a lobster**. That was not my first time absent from school but was the first time I got caught and my parents were involved. Fortunately, they didn't **make a fuss about** it in public but kept regard me with **disappointment** and **suppressed anger** in their eyes, which made me felt guilty and ashamed at the same time for my thoughtless action. The exchange with the principal was swift, yet serious when I got an after-school detention for a week and had to work on all of my assignments the week before.

After everything had been sought out at school, it was kind of tense on our way home. Unlike what I had expected, my parents didn't raise their voice or keep nagging me about my misconduct. On the contrary, we had a so-called "peer to peer" conversation in which we shared our concerns. After all, I learnt my lesson the hard way and truly appreciated my parents' reaction when dealing with a teenage girl like me. Bottom line is our parents love us no matter what, therefore, I've tried ever since to give them less headache.

Vocabulary:

Play truant (phrase) to stay away from school without permission

Example: Parents often don't know their children are playing truant.

Escort (verb) go somewhere with another person to protect them or to prevent them from escaping

As red as a lobster (expression) very red

Make a fuss about (expression) become angry or complain

QUESTION PART 3

38.1. What should teachers do when students make mistakes?

Teachers have their own methods when dealing with different types of students. Those who tends to be rebels often receive more severe punishment, while those who rarely make mistakes can easily get off the hook. Still, I think no matter how naughty or **disobedient** students might be, the way teachers communicate their messages or penalties are all that matter. Teenagers usually behave inappropriately to seek attention, to **show off** or to drag themselves out of boredom. The reasons are varied and that's what teachers should care about. Once they understand the source of the issue, they can have **straightforward** conversation with their students and have higher chances to get through their stubborn minds than just **imposing punishment on** them.

Disobedient (adj) deliberately not obeying rules

Show off (phrasal verb) to boast; to show people something that you are very proud of so that they will admire it

Example: Young musicians will get the chance to show off their musical skills.

Straightforward (adj) clear and honest

Impose something on someone (expression) to give someone something unpleasant to deal with

Example: This new tax is imposing an unfair burden on employers.

38.2. What can people learn from mistakes?

I have to say they can learn a lot from what they have done in the past. We can consider them mistakes, or simply a life lesson and in either way, it would be best to look at them with a positive attitude and an open mind. Learning process happens with **trial and error** so once you've made mistakes, whether it was work-related or relationship issues, you would acknowledge the cause and learn from it, more or less. For example, if you failed to meet the deadline of your previous project because of your procrastination,

learn how to manage your time and try something out to kick start yourself any time you get **demotivated** or the like.

Trial and error (phrasal noun) experimenting until a solution is found

Demotivate (verb) to make someone lose their enthusiasm and interest

38.3. Do you often make mistakes?

There's no way I could ever say no since I am a true **troublemaker**. Making wrong decisions appears to be my talent, both in my professional and personal life. Yet, thanks to those wrongly made choices, I've learnt to be less **gullible** and more efficient in most of the things I do now. There was a time when I would say "yes" to practically anything anyone told me to since they were my friends, my bosses or my colleagues. It could be sending an email for somebody, working a little late or on weekend or just hanging out with friends. I was so stressed out with all the requests I got that I barely had time for myself. Fortunately, I realized my mistake soon enough and learnt how to say "no" to people and to prioritize on what I care and love doing.

Troublemaker (noun) someone who causes problems, often by being violent or by making others argue or not obey people in authority

Gullible (adj) a gullible person is easy to trick because they trust and believe people too easily

38.4. Can mistakes help people to be more successful?

That's the truth which has been proven by so many successful people around the world. Mistakes and failures are meant to be **obstacles** that you need to overcome in order to have **a taste of glory** and those who can't walk through the fire line will forever stand still. "**Fire proves gold, adversity proves men**". Thomas Edison is a prime example. If he hadn't had a will to try no less than 10,000 times, he would never have come up with new solutions and finally invented a light bulb, a significant **breakthrough** in mankind history. Hence, don't afraid to be wrong if you truly want to advance.

Obstacle (noun) a difficulty or problem that prevents you from achieving something

Example: Disabled people succeed in overcoming many obstacles in everyday life.

Breakthrough (noun) a discovery or achievement that comes after a lot of hard work

Example: Scientists predict a major breakthrough within six months.

38.5. How to avoid making mistakes?

From my point of view, it's nearly impossible to avoid making mistakes, especially in areas you don't **familiarize** with. However, there are some certain measures we can take to **minimize possible consequences** to an acceptable extent. Firstly, do your own research. If you have no idea what you're dealing with, it will be like going to wars unarmed. As a result, find out as much information as you can about the issue. Secondly, ask the right person the right question. If someone in your friend circle has knowledge, or better yet, personal experience related to what you're **working on**, don't waste such a valuable source of reference. Lastly, just go with it. That may sound useless but after you're done with those previous steps, don't **hesitate** to jump into action. The faster you start to work on it, the less nervous you become.

Work on something (phrasal verb) used for saying that you are dealing with something

Example: Don't worry about that, I'm working on it.

Hesitate (verb) to pause before doing something

Example: My mother never hesitates to tell me when I look bad.

39. Describe a big company that you would like to work in.

It's every girl's wish to be surrounded by beautiful clothes and latest shoes of the season, especially with recognized fashion brands, which is why I've always dreamed of working in a fashion company, Nasty Gal in particular, where my creativity and passion in contributing to women's image could be fulfilled.

Nasty Gal has been one of the fastest growing retailers in fashion over the past 10 years and its founder – Sophia Amoruso is also a heroine in my heart. I am deeply impressed by how she started the company and build up her reputation. She even has her own podcast called #GirlBoss where she interviews other **entrepreneurial** women who are also successful and true feminists on how and what they do to be at where they are today. With such an **inspirational** and **quintessential** girl boss like Amoruso, there's no reason any girl wouldn't want to be at Nasty Gal. In addition, the said fashion empire is also renowned for its trendy, sexy yet classy and total badass collection at the same time, which is also my style when choosing clothing.

However, everything always has two sides. Working in fashion industry would be tough and stressful due to its **competitiveness** and **supreme** fast-paced characteristics. You are required to have a fine taste in fashion and **a keen eye for** what's popular or what's potential to become popular to ride the fashion trend and wouldn't get lagged behind. Creativity and personal touch are just as important to deliver not only qualified but unique products as well. Therefore, those who crave challenges and love to push themselves to the limit like me are best suited for this kind of job and the like. Hopefully, when Nasty Gal is officially launched in my country that would be where I work and **pursue my dream**.

Entrepreneurial (adj) willing to work hard and take risks in order to build up a business; enterprising

Example: We must reinvigorate the entrepreneurial spirit of America.

Inspirational (adj) giving you the enthusiasm to do or create something

Example: Obama's speech was really inspirational to listen to.

Competitiveness (noun) a competitive activity is one in which companies or teams are competing against each other

Supreme (adj) very great

Example: Television exposure is of supreme importance in American politics.

A keen eye for (phrase) an ability to notice and recognize something

Example: My friend's a tireless shopper with a keen eye for a bargain.

QUESTION PART 3

39.1. What are the differences between big companies and small companies?

There are many noteworthy things to notice between large and small companies. First thing first, the scale and structure can be considerably distinct. While large corporates operate with various departments and hundreds of employees, small companies don't have that scale and **hierarchy**, which can be seen clearly in startups' structure. In startups and small companies, one person can take on various positions and their work arrangements can be fairly flexible. For instance, you can be a founder as well as finance director and sometimes when the company is running low on **manpower**, you can also jump in to help with designing.

Hierarchy (noun) a series of things arranged according to their importance

Manpower (noun) all the people who are available to do a particular job or to work in a particular place

39.2. Are there many big companies in your country?

Absolutely. Some of them are **state-owned**, some are incorporated between the state and foreign companies, and others are multinational companies. These corporates are doing business in various sectors including FMCG, real estates, and electronics **and so on**. Prominent brands that are widely known to customers and users are Unilever, P&G, Sam Sung and many more.

State-owned (adj) belonging to, funded by, and controlled by the government.

And so on (phrase) etc; continuing in the same way

39.3. What are the good things about working for a big company?

One of the biggest advantages when working for those **recognized brand names** is if you apply for another job at a different company, it will probably be a plus point when a

big name is written on your employee record. Recruiters would regard you with certain interest and respect if you've already proven your ability at some **high-profile** corporate. Furthermore, high reputation comes with high demand in employees as well as **reputable** training processes. Therefore, once you are an employee, there will be so much things to learn and many opportunities to develop yourself, both professionally and personally.

High profile (noun) a position attracting much attention and publicity

Reputable (noun) generally considered to be honest and reliable

39.4. How can a small company grow big?

I guess it would have to go through various stages as any big corporate does before reaching that level. There are many ways to **scale up** a company and depending on what industries of the business, people prefer different **tactics**. Traditionally, it could be a **merger and acquisition** in which a company can expand their scale, and market shares. Today, a small company could **go public** on stock markets to sell its shares. Take many startups for instance. This digital era can be seen as a breeding ground for startups to **proliferate**, especially in technology and innovation. The usual road many startups take to grow bigger is to attract investors via many funding rounds or attending **pitch competition** to get money and reputation. Then, after they reach a certain level, they are ready to exit, which is where entrepreneurs become rich when startups go public or being **acquired** by some big company.

Scale up (phrasal verb) to make something larger in size, amount etc than it used to be

Tactic (noun) A plan or action for achieving a goal; a maneuver

Go public (phrase) the act or process of a company selling stock in itself when it moves from private ownership to public trade.

Proliferate (verb) to increase or spread at a rapid rate

Merger and acquisition (phrase) the buying, selling, dividing and combining of different companies and similar entities that can help an enterprise grow rapidly in its sector or location of origin

Pitch competition (phrase) seminars created for entrepreneurs with new business ideas who are in need of seed money

39.5. Should big companies donate more to charities?

Undoubtedly. As a part of **corporate social responsibilities**, **profitable** companies should be encouraged to **contribute** more to social development as well as human well-beings. Such activities not only greatly benefit the community but also **enhance** the company's image and values. Some common ways to join hands in **charitable** acts that big companies can consider are sponsoring for several events about social and environmental issues, raising awareness of gender equality or the importance of education and so on. Additionally, these **humanitarian aids** might also help bonding employees through meaningful charity trips.

Corporate social responsibilities (phrase) the belief that a company should consider the social and environmental effects of its activities on its employees and the community around it

39.6. Should big companies be punished more seriously if they break the law?

Since large corporates have larger budgets and a whole legal department, they should know better than **contravening** the law. As a result, should any **illegitimate** act be conducted, such companies need to receive strict punishments, either financially or with business-related fines. There might be possibilities that employees of these companies will be badly affected by the fines imposed, therefore, it's worth carrying out in-depth investigations to **hold the right people accountable for the misconducts**.

Contravene (verb) to do something that is not allowed by a rule, law, or agreement

Illegitimate (adj) not allowed by the rules or laws; illegal

40. Describe a useful app or computer program for a smart phone, computer or tablet that you have used.

Technology are reshaping our world in more ways than we've ever expected, including how we communicate, work and learn. The last point is highly valued due to its mobility and availability for learners around the world in digital age. Among a countless number of mobile learning apps proliferating on app stores, Duolingo is my all-time favorite.

Duolingo is a friendly-user app which **has gone viral** among language learning community around the words thanks to its **eye-catching** display and systematic lessons. The best thing about Duolingo is it's totally free, supreme **plus point** in comparison with other apps. Although over 50 language courses are offered free of charge, they are all of high quality, together with assessment tests for users to check their proficiency. It is like Christmas all wrapped up in a teeny tiny button. Duolingo is available on both iPhone and Android app stores so that no matter phones you're using, Duolingo is there to help. This education app has made a cute green owl its icon, a symbol of wisdom and intelligence. You can learn as many languages as you want and at your own speed. Furthermore, Duolingo even keeps track of our progress and reminds us to study daily – an awesome feature to **boost people's motivation**.

I accidentally found this app when reading an article about learning tools and it has changed my study habits ever since. Duolingo makes my studying French and Spanish a relaxing process instead of a weighty issue. Whether you're a beginner or advanced users, Duolingo will benefit you at some point. Therefore, I highly recommend it for those who prefer and seek interacting and motivating language learning experience.

Go viral (phrase) to spread quickly and widely among internet users

Eye-catching (adj) attractive or unusual and therefore noticed

Plus point (collocation) an advantage or positive characteristic

40.1. What are popular apps for young people?

I think it is safe to say that the majority of youngsters are all over social media as a **means of entertainment**, both via website or their apps. **Prominent** social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and most recently, Snapchat all have their apps applicable for any kinds of mobile phones and young generation, not only in my country but all around the globe, are literally living with them. For example, teenagers always take selfies with food before actually eating them, which is quite a ritual for anything else these days. They tweet about practically everything going on with their lives on Facebook so their friends are updated with their every move. Personally, I find it a little bit **disturbing**, not to mention **reckless** since **cyber security** can't guaranteed your virtual safety nowadays.

Prominent (adj) important and well known

Reckless (adj) not thinking about the possible bad effects of your actions

Cyber security (phrase) computer security

40.2. What kinds of app do you have on your phone?

Just like any other adolescence, I can't stay out of a **widespread effect** of social media due to its **utility** and convenience. Internet-based applications like Facebook and Instagram are two of my frequent destinations whenever I'm on my phone. They provide easy platform for conversations and enhance the flow of interactions among people, which is of great help if you need to contact with people regarding work or studying matter. Besides, learning and travel apps always rank top on my survival tool kits list. No less than once I was rescued by services provided by Google Translate and HotelTonight in order not to get lost and secure the cheapest place to crash during traveling.

Utility (noun) the state of being useful

40.3. What are the drawbacks of having too many apps on your phone?

Too much is never good. Even though there is a wide range of apps that can provide you with **substantial assistance**, personally and professionally, it doesn't make sense if you try to make use all of them by download everything to your phone. Let me explain

this further. If you need a software to remind you on a daily basis what task you should achieve within a specific day, you have Any.do, Evernote, Trello and hundreds of others. However, you just simply can't simultaneously use them all since it's incredibly **time-consuming, inefficient** and confusing. You can possibly lose track of where you put what and probably don't want endless notifications from different apps on just one matter. Therefore, make a choice and be a smart user.

Time-consuming (adj) something that is time-consuming takes a long time to do

40.4. How much time do you spend on these apps?

It varies widely depending on what kind of apps, however, I've been trying to limit the amount of time I waste on Internet and my phone to focus on something more academic and physically **interactive** such as books and outdoor activities. If it is Facebook or any other social media, I usually check my notifications every two hours in less than 20 minutes. Language learning apps like Duolingo and Memorize take me more time to accomplish a certain goal or level, probably an hour. Other than that, I have my nose in a book or enjoy some fresh air while doing some exercises.

Interactive (adj) communicating with each other and reacting to each other

40.5. Do you like to look for new apps or just keep using the old ones?

Normally, I don't actively search for newly launched apps since most of the apps I've been using are highly recommended and **constantly automatically upgraded**. Yet, once in a while I come across something innovative and captivating, I don't mind giving it a shot and try out the new app. More often than not, these apps would be **equipped** with better services and user experience as the laws of evolution, therefore, if you have any doubt in the capability and performance of any new app, do not hesitate to experience it yourself, especially the free-of-charge ones.

40.6. Do you use free apps or the ones that you need to pay for?

Frankly speaking, I have never used any apps that cost me anything more than two minutes to download. In my defense, the free ones are already full of useful features that can assist you just as well as the paid ones, apart from some advanced

characteristics that you have to pay for if you feel the need. As in my case, I rarely exploit the full range of features provided by a free app, for example Duolingo, let alone further assistance from paid courses. Nevertheless, there are some cases where the sayings “**You get what you pay for**” proves to be right. If you ever use Skype, it would probably come to your attention that you can only make a video call with one person at a point. In case you would love to have a reunion with your classmates who are now residing in four different continents in which you can see one another’s faces, an upgraded fee is required. Though you lose some money, you have better service.

41. Describe a course you would like to study (or, do).

Digital technology has reshaped the world in more than one way during the last decade. As a result, a new way of living and working has also prevailed among people, especially Millennials. If you’ve heard about “digital nomad” – a work-from-anywhere kind of employee, you already know how a specific digital skillset can improve and simplify your life, which is why I take great interest in and set Photoshop – one of the most powerful graphic design tool to be my next challenge to **conquer**.

Being known as an incredible image editing program, Photoshop has **earned its reputation** for good reasons. Created and maintained by Adobe, Photoshop provides users with a complete and advanced tool set to maximize their creativity. It can do anything regarding online media, for example, creating 3D images, resizing, color correction and even editing video. Fancy as it sounds, to acquire Photoshop skill would be a painstaking process. Due to complex features and even more complex applications, Photoshop is not for those without patience and constant practice. Furthermore, the program usually gets updated with more usages, therefore, you would have to keep learning to avoid being obsolete.

Graphic design is a critical skill in this digital era which affords anyone flexibility as well as attractive income. Therefore, it would definitely be on top of my must-learn skill in the near future. Actually, I have already schedule my timetable and squeeze in some

hours for Photoshop 101 course for next month and I hope it would go as well as it could be.

41.1. Should schools teach both arts and science?

Arts and science play equal roles in human development, hence, I don't see no reason that schools shouldn't include both in their teaching **curriculum**. While science provides interesting facts and implications of how it improves our life through the advent of technology and hundreds of other inventions, arts deliver mental messages and benefits to our better understanding of how people entertained in the past and **reflect** the spiritual lives of our ancestors. Both offer us insights to fully consider human beings and the environment around as they truly are, giving us the best of both world.

Curriculum (noun) any programme or plan of activities

Reflect (verb) to show the existence or nature of something

41.2. What kinds of courses are useful for university students?

Courses in university should be practical and constantly updated in terms of knowledge and **pedagogical** approach to provide students with applicable skills and **hands-on experience** in preparation for work life. Lots of graduates are lacking certain kinds of skills to advance in their career path such as communication, problem solving, time management and analytical thinking. For that reason, it is worth considering making these skills an official course for university students to be well-prepared before entering real working environment.

Pedagogical (adj) academic; advanced

Hands-on experience (phrase) training involves you doing something rather than just reading about it or watching other people do it

41.3. Why do some students dislike studying at school?

I think it came as no surprise that some students don't enjoy going to school. This can be explained by the fact that lots of students are being bullied at school by their peers and too afraid to speak up, which only has **detrimental effects on** their physical and

mental health. Another possibility might be the **heavy workload** students have to deal with every night. Teachers tend to assign more homework than they used to, hence, kids feel more pressure and depressed that they would be grounded or get detention unless they finish them all.

Workload (noun) the amount of work that a person or organization has to do

41.4. What school activities are good for schoolchildren?

As children are **hyperactive** and at the age of exploration and discovery, it would be best to have them engaged in outdoor and social activities rather than in-class ones only. One of the most common extracurricular activities is camping or picnicking, which helps boost up kids' engagement with their classmates, raise awareness about environment issue as well as introduce them to the world outside the four walls. In addition, school trips to local museums and zoos can contribute substantially to their general knowledge with **hands-on experience** instead of theories, exclusively.

Hyperactive (adj) very active and finding it difficult to concentrate or relax

Hands-on experience (phrase) training involves you doing something rather than just reading about it or watching other people do it

42. Describe a difficult decision that you made.

One of the hardest choices I have ever made was which university I would attend to pursue my dream and further explore the world. That was when I was eighteen. Now years later, even though I haven't figured out what I should do with my life and keep tip toeing on my way to discover my **inner self**, I still believe my decision was right.

When you were eighteen and living in an Asian country, going to university was all you know. When your parents were looking forward to seeing you being a college students and your classmates **up to their neck** with homework and extra classes, things might get stressed and you felt like you were carrying a giant candy bag big enough to **trick or treat** all the kids in your neighborhood until the next Halloween. That was how

stressful it was. However, once you successfully passed the university entrance exams, the real deal began. I was lucky enough to get accepted by both schools that I had applied for, one in economics, the other in pedagogy. It was such a **dilemma** since I enjoyed studying how the world economy operated as well as looked forward to the day when I could share my knowledge and inspire my students to become anything they wanted to be. I felt like my future was **hanging by a thread** at that moment and in serious need of others' help. Thankfully, my family and friends were always there for me when I needed them most. After sharing my concerns, with their **in-depth analysis** and personal sharing, we **came to a conclusion** that economics would be a more appropriate choice. And that was what I did.

Until now, I have never regretted it since going to ABC school has changed me, in a positive way and **afforded me many opportunities** to learn and grow. After graduation, in spite of working full-time in financial industry, I still pursue my teaching hobby with some classes during weekend, which is **the best of both worlds** to me.

Inner self (noun) a person's true or internal mind, soul, or nature

Up to one's neck (idiom) deeply involved or occupied fully

Dilemma (noun) a situation that requires a choice between options that are or seem equally unfavorable or unsatisfactory.

Trick or treat (phrase) a Halloween custom for children in many countries. Children in costumes travel from house to house asking for treats such as candy

Hang by a thread (idiom) to be in danger of having something unlucky or bad happen

In-depth (adj) detailed and thorough

QUESTION FOR PART 3

42.1. What's the most important factor in decision-making?

Speaking from my own experience, the thing that should be **taken into account** firstly when making any decision is its impacts on a current situation and people who are involved. It would be **unmindful** and thoughtless if one only **pay sole attention to** his

or her own benefits while neglecting others'. There might be many **outcome** as direct results of your choices, which could either positive or the other way around. Hence, considering how your decision would be of great help for not only you but other parties is absolutely essential.

Take into account (collocation) to remember to consider someone or something

Unmindful (adj) not conscious or aware

Outcome (noun) a consequence

42.2. Should parents make decisions for their children?

Parents tend to be **overprotective** and **overreact** when it comes to their children, therefore, they would always want to be a part of the decision-making process of their kids, if not the whole process. It is understandable that parents have their worries since children are young, inexperienced and sometimes **impulsive**. There might be a chance they just go with it with absolutely no care about the consequences. In such cases, parents should act as their mentor or advisor who are considerate and empathize with children that age. However, under no circumstance should parents forfeit their child the right to have their own voice and thinking in making decisions related to them as they need to be responsible for their own choice and learn from their mistakes.

Overprotective (adj) too worried about someone's safety, so that you prevent them from being independent

Overreact (verb) to be more worried, annoyed, or offended by something than you should be

Impulsive (adj) someone who is impulsive tends to do things without thinking about what will happen as a result

42.3. What can people learn from wrong decisions?

Life gives us both happiness and disappointment. As we make a mistake by making a wrong decision, we taste failure and defeat. However, everything happens for a reason. If you've never **committed a mistake**, how could you know you are doing things the

right way. Likewise, if you've never made a wrong decision or dared to make any important decision at all, how could you avoid making it the next time. Therefore, as how a learning process should be, you acknowledge your wrongdoings, accept it, find motivation to **pick yourself up**, learn from it and **move on**. You will understand there's always a way for those who have a **will**. Don't let that one failure pull you down.

Pick yourself up (phrasal verb) self-motivate yourself after failure

Move on (phrasal verb) to continue moving

Will (noun) someone's determination to do what is necessary to achieve what they want

Pull down (phrasal verb) to depress someone, as in spirits or health

42.4. Do you like to make quick decisions?

Ideally, making **swift decision** is likely to save you tons of time and energy since you don't have to bother about details and overanalyze every **nuance** of reaction. That, however, only works best for things which are **trivial** and have little impact on our lives. Those that are particularly influential should be granted thorough consideration, otherwise, you yourself will be the one to blame for any **unfavorable outcome**. For example, if you have no idea which university you should enroll, spend enough time to do research and ask for advice other than randomly pick one because that's what you spare 4 years of your life to accomplish, which is no joke.

Nuance (noun) a slight difference that may be difficult to notice but is fairly important

Trivial (adj) not very important, serious, or valuable

Unfavorable (adj) not positive, or not showing approval

42.5. Do you think adults always make better decisions than children?

In most of the situations, I believe, but not always. Adults are likely to have more experience and certain skills acquired after years of living and dealing with particular matters that can afford them to make **rational decisions**, especially in situations in which they used to face. Having said that, there are cases where fresh and unconventional approach are best policies and children are the ones who give us that.

Thanks to their innocence, **can-do attitude** and continuously growing mindset, they might approach the same issue with different angles and find the simplest but sometimes most effective way to address it.

Rational (adj) based on sensible practical reasons rather than emotions

Can-do (adj) keen to do difficult things and confident of success

43. Describe a time when you tried a new food for the first time.

Southerners always have a thing for delicious dishes and a great company and so do I. A **foodie** as I call myself, I have never passed a chance to try out new food no matter their origins, whether it's Asian cuisine or European fusion. Once I tried "Bun Cha Hanoi" during my first trip there, the experience was truly **delightful**.

"Bun Cha Hanoi" was a **signature dish** of the capital city that one must try when they travel here. It used to be exclusive to northern people long before it was first introduced to the rest of the country. Now, you can find Bun Cha in my city but the taste has somehow been adjusted to meet southerners' appetite. The first morning of my trip to Hanoi, I was looking for a place to have breakfast and came across a super crowded food stand with a very savory smell. Bun Cha was printed on a big billboard, illustrated by a **mouth-watering** picture, therefore, I decided to give it a shot. Bun Cha was a **combination** of rice noodle and grilled pork, served with herbs and a side dish of dipping sauce. I didn't even know how to eat it in the right way at first as many bowls and dishes were displayed at the same time. However, it wasn't tricky as it looked. The flavor reminded me of "Bun thit nuong" back in the south, which I believed was a variation of Bun Cha but still had a distinct taste. Together with papaya pickles, Bun Cha made you crave more the genius mixture of sweetness and sourness. If you want to get a true taste of Hanoi, do not miss Bun Cha during your stay there.

Foodie (noun) someone who enjoys eating or cooking different types of food and who talks a lot about food

Delightful (adj) very pleasant or attractive

Signature dish (collocation) a recipe that identifies an individual chef

Mouth-watering (adj) having a very good appearance or smell that makes you want to eat

QUESTION FOR PART 3

43.1. Do you like to try new food?

I consider myself a foodie for good reasons. There's nothing that pleases me more than being able to get lost in a food paradise where plenty of mouth-watering dishes from different parts of the world are displayed. Yet, it's not only about having a taste of signature cuisines but gaining insights and understanding about other cultures and customs in general because food is an **integral** part of any community's history and development. Therefore, I would never **turn down** the opportunity to test out new dishes.

Integral (adj) important

Turn down (phrasal verb) reject

43.2. What kinds of foreign food are popular in your country?

Well, there's no need for debate since fast food such as fried chicken and potato chips has **dominated** domestic market over the last decade. Traditionally, people aren't accustomed to consuming fast food with high concentration of oil, fat and lack of seasoning, however, things has changed since KFC, Lotteria and many others well-known brands evaded the F&B market. Besides said items, burgers, Korean and Japanese cuisine are attracting more and more consumers thanks to the effect of these countries' movie and music industry.

Dominate (verb) to have control over a place or person

43.3. Do you like to cook at home?

Much to an enthusiastic foodie myself, I am not that skillful as a cook. Don't get me wrong but I love home meal even more than eating out, but I prefer not to cook. Sometimes I do bake if there's any occasion or I just want to give myself a special treatment. Chocolate chips cookie, sponge cake and caramel flan are my signature dishes together with lemonade and strawberries soda. That's definitely not cooking but the best I can do with my kitchen skill, at least at the moment.

43.4. Is it expensive to eat out in your country?

Generally speaking, dining out is relatively higher than preparing meals at home by yourself. Still, depending on what kind of food you prefer, the cost will vary greatly. If street food or Asian cuisine is your favorite option, the price is quite affordable considering its quality and quantity. In case you are an addict for foreign taste such as Korean, Japanese or European, you're better be prepared since it will **cost you an arm and a leg** for a decent meal.

Cost you an arm and a leg (idiom) be very expensive

43.5. What's the difference between Asian food and western food?

It is noticeable that Asian cuisine is more diverse in terms of spices and herbs in comparison with Western dishes, which is considered to be healthier for people's body and mind. Spices and herbs like cinnamon, rosemary, ginger... not only help **sharpening the flavor** and adding color but works as medicine as well. People always try to **make the best use of** out spices and herbs in healthcare treatment instead of heavily depending on conventional medicine. Besides, Western food has **higher concentration of** fat since butter and cream are usually main ingredients in almost every dish.

43.6. What do you think about traditional food?

Just as what we call them, traditional food represents tradition and cultural characteristics. Therefore, they should be preserved and passed on from generation to generation as a reminder and honor to our past. Traditional dishes, in most cases, are

still as **delectable** as they used to be and with some variations and additions to the original recipes, they taste even better.

Delectable (adj) looking or tasting extremely good, and giving great pleasure

44. Describe an activity you do for your health or fitness.

I'm not a great swimmer in any sense but swimming is like my religion. It is truly refreshing and literally, washes away every disturbing thought I have whenever I dive into cold water. No matter how tight my schedule can get, I usually pay at least one visit to a local swimming pool to work myself up and **get rejuvenated**.

Sometimes, I have a partner or two, who are also my best friends since high school. We live in the same neighborhood so it's not too stressful when we have to set a schedule our swimming session. We carpool more often than not and it takes us roughly 15 minutes to get to the local **recreation center** where it provides the locals with a variety of facilities for training purpose such as gym class, stadium, swimming pool, tennis court and so on, which is extremely convenient for those who practice more than one activity. The only thing better than swimming itself is swimming with your besties, which is one of hundreds of things I love about my weekly **ritual**. Hardly do we have time to meet each other during week days as we're all **up to our neck** at work and totally **stressed out**. Therefore, having such a healthy way to **catch up with** your friends and **recharge your battery** after an exhausting week never sounds better. Just like any other sports, swimming helps maintain your health, keep you fit as well as build your endurance. However, unlike others, it's a very relaxing and peaceful form of exercise, you don't even sweat for hours – a supreme advantage. Therefore, if you're looking for a kind of sport that brings you comfort and relaxation, swimming should be your first choice.

Rejuvenate (verb) to make someone feel or look younger or have more energy

Ritual (noun) something that you do regularly and always in the same way

Up to one's neck (idiom) fully occupied; very busy

Recharge one's battery (phrase) Regain one's strength and energy by resting for a time

QUESTION FOR PART 3

44.1. What do old people in your country do to keep fit?

Each individual has their own way to **keep fit and stay healthy**, including senior citizen. In my country, you can easily **catch a sight of** some elders taking a walk early in the morning in the park or on the pavement along the street. Since they are usually early risers, that's one of the most activities they take part in. Additionally, some old people even join many dancing session for the elders to feel more energetic and livelier.

44.2. What kinds of sports are popular in your country?

From my observation, football is the most widely practiced sport as well as having most viewers compared with any other sports. Like others, football has its own **sets of rules** and regulations that players need to **comply with** in order to perform well and of course, to score. Every football tournament in our country always draw the attention of football lovers and gets **broadcasted** either on national or local channel, which is extremely convenient for those who can't make it to the stadium.

44.3. Do you think young people should play dangerous sports?

I believe youngsters should be well aware of their physical and mental capabilities before deciding to take up any new sports since such activities rarely have a hundred guarantee that you will never get injured during practice, especially extreme ones. **Bungee jumping, skydiving, hang gliding** and so many more are not for everyone and everything needs to be **taking into account** when participating in these sports.

Therefore, if you're up for adventures and well-prepared about what you're up to, go for it, otherwise, you had better look for another hobby.

44.4. What else people can do to keep fit besides sports?

There are many ways that people can employ to take care of their mind and body in collaboration with sports. First of all, **pay more attention to** your daily diet. You are what you eat, hence, it's best if people can try to minimize the amount of junk foods they consume and practice healthy diet the sooner the better. Secondly, do not take sleep for granted. Many young people nowadays will not go to bed before midnight, which has **detrimental impacts** on your brain and skin in long term. You'll never be fully energized without a **decent** rest to recharge your battery and let the biological clock does its job. Last but not least, advanced medicine might be extremely useful in some cases. If you lack some kind of vitamins due to unbalanced diets or you just naturally be, functional foods can help solve the issue but **bear in mind** that doctors' advice are highly recommended.

Decent (adj) good enough

Bear in mind (phrase) remember

44.5. What do parents do to make their children like sports?

Children loves doing what adults usually do. As a result, **set a prime example** for your kids to make them like it naturally. If a father enjoys soccer and has a weekly match on every Sunday, bringing his son along seems to be a brilliant idea to pique his interest and nurture his passion for soccer. Next step is to encourage children engage in any kind of sport that **intrigues** them when they're old enough to go to school. Being in a team not only **harnesses** their team spirit and responsibility but also helps build character.

Intrigue (verb) make someone very interested in knowing more about something

45. Describe a situation that made you a little angry.

Even though I am an extremely **even-tempered** and **laid-back** kind of person, there have always been situations when things get ugly or some terribly disturbing incidents happens that I can't **keep hold of** myself, one of which was the time a friend of mine lost a crystal bracelet I treasured.

It wouldn't have made me angry if it had been her first time or that crystal bracelet was any bracelet. In fact, that was her millions time and that bracelet was a gift on my 20th birthday from my Grannie, which I have rarely worn myself but kept in a jewelry box to save for special occasions. She was my flat mate in college but we weren't that close. We sometimes hung out on weekends after exam weeks with some other friends but we didn't exactly sign in any sisterhood club. Hence, it annoyed me a bit every time she borrowed my stuff without my **acknowledgement**. It was when she took the said crystal bracelet that I couldn't take it anymore. My Grannie had handpicked that bracelet for me **in celebration of** me turning 20, a true **turning point** to any girl and it was a special one. The amber shade of the bracelet **embodied** the glory and brightness as well as **affection** and warmth, which was what Grannie believed would fit me well. As my friend explained later, she had a special event to attend and wanted to wear something special. I was clueless until she returned home looking so **contrite**, telling me she had accidentally lost it somewhere when partying. Unfortunately, that was a very **bad timing** since I **was already on edge** that day. Therefore, we **throw a fit** at each other and went for silent treatment for days. Eventually, we had a **straightforward** conversation and **worked things out** and fortunately, our friendship was still **intact**. That taught me a lesson that next time when I have issue with anyone or anything, rather than **bottle it up** and let it **wear me out**, I'll talk about it to anyone related for effective solutions.

Even-tempered (adj) not often angry or upset

Laid-back (adj) calm and relaxed

Keep hold of (phrase) take control of

Acknowledgement (noun) a statement of thanks for something that someone has done

Turning point (phrase) a time when an important change takes place in a situation, especially one that makes it better

Affection (noun) a feeling of liking and caring about someone or something

Contrite (adj) very sorry or ashamed because you have done something bad

Timing (noun) the skill or luck that is involved in doing something at the most suitable moment

On edge (phrase) upset

Throw a fit (expression) to get very angry and shout

Work out (phrasal verb) solve a problem

Intact (adj) not harmed, damaged, or lacking any parts as a result of something that has happened

Bottle up (phrasal verb) to hold one's feelings within; to keep from saying something that one feels strongly about

45.1. How do you control your anger?

Frankly speaking, I am a **mellow** and **laid-back** kind of person so hardly do I get angry with anyone. Yet, everything has its limits. I know myself well enough to recognize some signs and energy I release when I want to communicate a message that the situation starts to irritate me. And every time I take in my own signal, I tell myself to take a breath and remain silent **for a while** rather than **reciprocate** immediately since I am fully aware that letting my outburst lead the way can only bring **undesired consequences**.

Mellow (adj) relaxed and satisfied

For a while (idiom) for a short time

Reciprocate (verb) to do the same thing for someone that they have done for you

45.2. Why do some people get angry easily?

I can't tell for sure but each has their own explanation. Some people can just easily get **offended** by others' insults or not very subtle **implication** and don't mind their image being **stained** by **acting out** what they truly feel, one of which is anger. Many appear to overreact or simply anger is their second nature, therefore, they make their points by intense expression.

Act out (phrasal verb) to express your thoughts or feelings through your words or behavior

Stain (verb) if something stains someone's reputation, character etc, it spoils it

45.3. Is it important to be calm?

Being diplomatic **plays a vital role** when establishing and **maintaining relationships**, particularly in business world. Hence, it's crucial that one is able to **keep a cool head and a warm heart** when dealing with others. Under no circumstances should you **unleash** your anger or **say out loud** what you wish others to hear without mentally filter them in your head. It would cost you a lifetime to rebuild your personal branding with just **a slip** in a wrong situation.

Unleash (verb) to allow someone or something to be free when they were previously strictly controlled

45.4. What would you do if you make others angry at you?

Well, that's a tough question. Hardly have I ever made others angry besides my mother. Still, **once in a while** when my friends were so **pissed** since I **broke my promises** or cancelled our plan **at the very last minute**, I did nothing except from sincerely apologizing and listening to them expressing their disappointment and anger. That doesn't happen very often but it bothers me every time since I let people down. Therefore, I've learned to say no to things I am unable to fulfill rather than raising people's hope and couldn't accomplish it.

Once in a while (idiom) sometimes, but not very often

Pissed (adj) angry

At the very last minute (expression) at the latest possible moment or opportunity

45.5. In what way, can people manage their anger well?

As far as I am concerned, there's only one way to handle things well. Practice, practice and practice. If you're fortunate enough to be born with **charisma** and **diplomacy**, you already **hit a jackpot** since you're natural in managing your emotion, in this case, anger. However, if you're not, the skill can be acquired by learning and constant practice. They suggest that a person has to spend at least 10,000 hours on a specific area to be an expert in it and handling your behavior is no exception. Be observant to notice your feeling and have a keen determination to **eliminate** negative response would be helpful.

Charisma (noun) a strong personal quality that makes other people like you and be attracted to you

Diplomacy (noun) the ability to deal with people in a sensitive way that does not upset or offend them

Hit a jackpot (phrase) to be very successful at something

Eliminate (verb) to get rid of something that is not wanted or needed

46. Describe an occasion when you got up very early.

I have recently **adopted** a new and healthy habit of waking up early in the morning. It's only been a while but has **tremendously beneficial**. However, before that time, I was rarely out of bed by 8.00 AM apart from some specific occasions, one of which was to attend the English speaking club on Sunday morning.

The English speaking club was held on Sunday morning every 2 weeks at around 9.00 AM, therefore, I had to get up approximately 2 hours before to get ready. The coffee shop where the club usually gathered for socializing was quite far from my house, which took me nearly 30' to get there by bike. Each session would focus on a different topic which covered from economics, politics to fashion trend and traveling. Thanks to the

diversity of topics, our discussions were always refreshing and **intriguing**, which helped to attract more and more participants. The English club was specialized for those who were interested or **pursuing** IELTS – an international English assessment for those who were non-native speakers. However, anyone who wished to practice and improve their English were always welcomed here. Besides learning and practicing English together, this was an awesome place to meet new people and make friends. I had opportunities to talk with people from diverse backgrounds who worked in different industries with different points of view. They, **more or less**, had **contributed to** how I reconsidered the world and I was **grateful** for that.

Gone are the days when I stayed in bed until 8.00 every morning, however, every time I thought about those rare occasions when I got up early, those interesting conversations at the English club filled my head. And if you want to open your world and experience more, participate in any social group around to and **engage in** conversation, you will get more than you've expected.

Adopt (verb) to start using a particular idea, plan, or method

Intriguing (adj) interesting

More or less (idiom) used for showing that you are guessing a number or amount

Example: A sum of £80,000, more or less, will be needed to carry out repairs.

Grateful (adj) feeling that you want to thank someone/something

46.1. Who usually get up early, young people or old people?

In my opinion, the elder are always **early birds** since they cannot have so much sleep even if they try, which maybe results from aging. Youngsters, on the other hand, are **night owls** and some might even more energetic at night than in the morning. Surfing Facebook, going to nightclubs or staying up late to meet the deadlines are common among those who are **in their twenties** as they don't pay much attention to the long-term effect of functioning against **natural biological clock**.

Early bird (idiom) someone who gets up early in the morning

Night owl (idiom) someone who enjoys going out at night or does not go to bed until it is late

46.2. Will working late at night influence the next day's work?

It would be undoubtedly a yes for me. Staying up the previous night, no matter the reason, is highly likely to adversely affect your **productivity** and awareness the next day unless you are accustomed to it. Research has shown that a person need at least 7-hour-sleep per night to assure their physical and mental capability. Therefore, if you are to increase your efficiency and meet all your deadline, start to manage your time and prioritize other than working late.

46.3. Do young people stay up late at night?

I suppose that the majority of adolescence do not go to bed until midnight. Due to night time schedule. Sometimes they have no business to stay up that late but somehow Facebook keeps receiving notifications or their favorite TV show has a very **good timing** to release a newest episode they've longing for the whole week.

46.4. Is it easy to get up early for you?

If you had asked me that question a few years ago, I would have said no because back then, hardly did I get out of bed before 8.00 AM. Nevertheless, I've changed and adapted a new lifestyle for a couple of years. One of the most significant changes I've made during my transformation is becoming an early riser. It was a real challenge at first since old habits die hard, but if you make a commitment to yourself and try hard enough, it will pay off sooner or later. And that's what happened to me.

46.5. What do you do to guarantee a good sleep?

Since I started getting up early, I forced myself to go to bed before 11.00 PM at night, too in order to maintain a long enough sleep. I did my research online and found various ways people can employ to have a decent sleep. One of those is not to use your phone or have contact with **electronic gadgets** at least 15 minutes before sleeping; instead taking time for relaxing activities such as getting a foot massage or putting on facial mask to bring your body to **ready-to-sleep** state. Another useful advice that most have

already knew is to limit caffeine, alcohol and big meals right before bed, or else it would be bad for your **metabolism**.

Metabolism (noun) all the chemical processes by which cells produce the energy and substances necessary for life

47. Describe a skill you learned when you were a child.

When I was a little girl, I had always dreamed of being an architect so I would be able to build and decorate my own house. Though I was not the best student in drawing class, my paintings were usually collected by teachers to be presented as one of the best examples, which had nurtured my interest in becoming skillful at drawing someday.

Needless to say, art was one of the most **complicated** subjects and mastering any specific part of it was a true challenge. With an ambition to become an architect in the future, I enrolled in a drawing class after school. It was a 2-hour class on every Tuesday and Thursday when my schedule was less tight than any other days of the week. My instructor was a **middle-aged** lady who was highly **dedicated** and inspiring. She talked me through every single step from how to hold a pencil, how to mix colors, from what angle should I look and **the like**. She always encouraged me to draw as often as I could, even just a rough sketch of what I was visioning in my mind, which not only allowed me to perceive things more clearly but **boost my creativity** as well. I realized that it was not all about drawing but also a way to acknowledge everything around and enjoy life. I spent most of my afterschool time drawing and coloring whatever within proximity and not surprisingly, my drawing skill significantly improved together with a sense of appreciation for art.

During my high school time, I was entirely occupied with homework and some voluntary activities that I rarely picked up my pencil. However, it was a truly awe-inspiring experience then and I'm sure to visit a drawing class soon someday when my artistic soul comes out once again.

Needless to say (phrase) used for saying that something is already known or understood

Complicated (adj) difficult to do, deal with, or understand

The like (phrase) a similar kind

QUESTION FOR PART 3

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

Well, it's safe to say that it's never too late to start something new, even if it's a new language or a new skill. Yet, how fast they can acquire those things is hard to tell as it depends on the amount of time they spend on learning and practicing, how committed they are and what their purpose is. Most have agreed that children and people of young age **have an edge over** older learners when it comes to adopt a new skill since they are more open-minded and flexible than their older counterparts. Still, that is just a theory.

Have an edge over (phrase) have an advantage that makes someone or something more successful than other people or things

47.2. Will the age of 5 or 20 be better?

If we are referring to aesthetic subjects or skills, I believe the younger the better. Since learning how to play a musical instrument and being able to play it well are two different things and it takes quite a long time and often **gifted talent** to truly master at any kind of instrument. So for arts and music, younger age is more likely to learn better. **As regards** personal skills or something more academic and required some **expertise** in a specific area, older individuals might find it easier to acquire as they already have the foundation and just need to build up their skills from that.

As regards (phrase) used for introducing a subject that you will be discussing

Expertise (noun) special skill or knowledge that you get from experience, training, or study

47.3. Who will you learn a skill from, friends, teachers or parents?

Depending on what kind of skill I need, I will find myself the most suitable mentor. By this I mean, if I want to be excellent at video game, my best friend – Adrian will be the one I'm looking for. Likewise, in case I fall in love with teaching, inspiring and nurturing others, there's no one who can do that better than Ms. Julie – my English teacher when I was in high school. All in all, the most crucial thing is having the right attitude and asking the right question to the right person.

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

I think that different is just similar to what an adult has to face when they learn things they love and things they can hardly tolerate but have to and it's simple. Whenever you do something you've always longed for, you don't mind spending more time and resources to seek answers for even a smallest detail. In contrast, if you're asked to do something that you find **unappealing** and useless but cannot refuse, you will do it anyway with much less enthusiasm just to get it done without caring about the results.

48. Describe a short trip that you frequently make (or, take) but dislike.

Hospitals would be the least favorite places on earth if there was a survey. As a matter of fact, I hate every second since setting foot on any hospital campus, including Saigon Eye Hospital, where I have to visit every 6 months to get my eyes checked.

The last time I've been there was 3 months ago when it was time to have **a regular check-up**. It was not a very enjoyable trip but I had to do anyway, otherwise, my eyes were the ones that got hurt. The eye hospital was far from my house but pretty near where I worked, therefore, I went to work earlier than usual that day to pay a quick visit to the eye center. It was a smart decision because less people were there when it was still early in the morning and traffic wasn't that horrible. Once I arrived at the hospital

around 9AM, I had to wait 2 hours for my turn, which was the most longest 2 hours of my life. This time, I took my number and went out for fresh air since I wanted to do something different rather than sitting **cross-legged** on the chair playing Angry Bird. Hence, I made a tour around the hospital campus to explore the building. After half an hour of reading all the leaflets informing people about how to protect their eyes to ensure 10/10 vision and studying thoroughly the hospital's map, I was bored out of my mind and started to get back where I was supposed to have a check-up. Although my exploration didn't make me feel more enthusiastic with a hospital, it did help to keep my eyes away from my phone for 30 minutes, which was impressive. Next time when I get back, I'll make sure to find the best way to enjoy myself.

Check-up (noun) an examination by a doctor or dentist to make sure that you are healthy

Cross-legged (adj) in a sitting position, with your knees bent and with the lower legs crossing each other

48.1. Are there any special places for visiting?

My country is one of the most ideal places to visit in the world since it has a wide range of natural landscapes ranging from mountainous areas such as Venick to beach villages scattering along the countries such as Scubbi.

48.2. Do people like to travel abroad?

Traveling abroad is everyone's dream, I think and most people share that dream as well. However, not everyone can afford it. First thing to **take into consideration** is that people need to pass a visa application round in order to travel to foreign countries apart from those which are located in South East Asia (mostly). The procedure might take time and is not actually simple at all because applicants have to prove their financial status and meet other requirements. Another reason is **language barrier** could be a **deterrent** for anyone who wishes to experience but unable to communicate in any other languages outside their **mother tongue**, which might be easier if they can speak English since it's the most widely spoken one.

Take into consideration (phrase) consider something

Deterrent (noun) something that makes people decide not to do something by making them realize that something unpleasant could happen to them

48.3. What can people benefit from travelling?

They say “Travelling is the only thing you buy that makes you richer”. Not in terms of finance or physical materials. It’s all about experience and expanding your world. Going to different places where different customs are practiced, different languages are spoken and different people with completely different perspective of life might overwhelm you at first but will be an incredible memory and **lifetime experience**. Travelling can transform you forever since you will start to wonder how life is like in other parts of the globe, being more tolerate and **embracing all the opportunities** to share and **open up** your world.

Lifetime experience (phrase) the best experience that you’ve ever had

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

Traveling alone and with my family are both exciting because I’ve tried both. Each has its advantages and disadvantages but I really appreciate both types of experience since they offer me what I need at a certain amount of time. For example, if I plan to **get away from** the city for a few days to have time for myself, I will be on the road on my own with my little backpack. This gives me flexibility and freedom that I’ve never had if I go on a holiday with my family. However, it will be more enjoyable if I have a family trip on New Year holiday.

Get away from (phrase verb) move away from a place

49. Describe a wedding that you have attended.

I am at the age when each of my friends started to **tie the knot** with their beloved ones, which reminds me how grown up we all are but at the same time is a true **blessing**.

Weddings have always made me dreamy because you can feel that love is **in the air**. One of the most beautiful and intimate weddings I've ever attended was Anna's, my classmate in high school.

The Anna I knew from high school was a true **embodiment** of traditional women: **feminine, delicate**, caring and **wholeheartedly devoted** and I had no doubt her wedding would be the same the minute I received the invitation. It **came as no surprise** that the reception hall was completely covered with the pastel pink color, from many **bouquets** of roses, balloons, table cloths and other decorations. It should have looked like a 6-year-old birthday party, on the contrary, that light and feminine color surprisingly created a delightful and **congenial** atmosphere for the wedding. There were not too many people at the wedding because the groom and bride wanted to keep it simple, yet intimate and meaningful, which I couldn't agree more. The ceremony was so emotional when the couple took an oath and exchanged wedding rings that I could have sworn I saw **tears shined in their eyes**. The whole ballroom **erupted** in endless applause and whistles when the groom landed a passionate kiss on his woman's lips as the pastor announced them as husband and wife – one of the most magnificent moments I've ever witnessed and Anna could easily be the most beautiful and happiest bride I've ever seen in a glamorous baby pink gown and bohemian hairstyle. I also met a couple of friends in high school which made me feel like we were having a reunion and it was great to know after all those years, we could still talk and share this special moment together.

Tie the knot (idiom) get married

Blessing (noun) something good that you feel very grateful or lucky to have

In the air (idiom) noticeable all around; becoming prevalent

Bouquet (noun) a collection of flowers, cut and tied together in an attractive way

Congenial (adj) pleasant, friendly, and enjoyable

Erupt (verb) suddenly explode with a lot of noise as people start laughing/shouting

QUESTION FOR PART 3

49.1. Do you often attend weddings?

Not really at the moment since I've recently graduated and most of my friends are at the same age as me. However, some has already married and I was also invited once or twice. As a romantic person, weddings always make me nervous and exciting at the same time since you can feel love is in the air.

49.2. How do you think of the perfect age for marriage?

I have had countless **debates** with my friends and we have different ideas regarding when is the ideal age to **get settled**. I, together with some girls, agree that it should be above 30 for both men and women while others flatly contradict us by saying people should get married as soon as possible even though they have nothing. Some may find it too late to **tie a knot** at the age of 30 but I cannot see the point of living together with more bills to pay and more mouths to feed without having a career and stable income, which is one of the most common reason for separation among married couples.

Settled (adj) if you have a settled way of life, you stay permanently in one place or job or with one person

49.3. Do women prefer to be single or to be married?

Women nowadays have a more advanced mindset than they used to a few decades ago, which is why not so many left still bother about being single anymore. Instead, they enjoy their single lives and **pamper** themselves with great food and fine clothes. Modern women don't need a man to be her anchor anymore since they are independent and confident enough to take on the world herself. They go out and make money instead of staying at home knowing nothing but taking care of their kids and depending on their husband.

Pamper (verb) to look after someone very well, especially by making them feel very comfortable or by giving them nice things

49.8. Why has the divorce rate increased over time in modern life?

It's noteworthy that that divorce rate in modern life is far higher than they used to, which is not a positive trend to look forward for. Reasons for such separations vary depending on **irreconcilable** families' issues which could be financial problem, disagreement on how to raise their children or worse, infidelity.

Irreconcilable (adj) can't find a way to become friendly again after disagreement.

50. Describe something that you have shared with others (or another person).

You may have heard a lot because it's true that girls share clothes, and sometimes even shoes. My best friend, Kelly, and I have done that countless times, which is not only economically wise but time-saving as well.

Kelly and I have grown up together since her house is just across the street from mine. She is like a sister from another mother, which is proved by our similarities in appearance, especially our height and weight. And we have **taken full advantage** of that. Since we have the same taste in clothes and are true shopaholics, we go shopping together every time our budgets can afford us. What a way to spend money! One time we **came across** an extremely elegant, classic, sexy, yet not too revealing little black sequin dress, we were both blown away. However, you get what you pay for. The dress came with **exorbitant** price tag which was far higher than either of us could afford. Still, we decided to bring it home by both us sharing a bill. It **turned out** even prettier when being put on a real person instead of a mannequin and we didn't regret at all even though it pained us severely when paying for the dress at the store. And just like any other pieces of clothing, we take turn wearing the dress whenever either of us has parties to attend. Anytime we have girls' night out together, we do **rock-paper-scissors**. Yes, it sounds childish but it works everytime.

Thanks to our habit of sharing closets, each of us can wear twice the number of pieces of clothes we own, which is **outrageously** convenient and money-saving. What else could I ask for other than having a best friend sharing the same size and the same mind.

Take full advantage of something (expression) to use a situation or opportunity to get what you want

Come across (phrasal verb) find something by chance

Exorbitant (adj) very expensive

Turn out (phrasal verb) become

Rock-paper-scissors a zero-sum hand game usually played between two people, in which each player simultaneously forms one of three shapes with an outstretched hand. These shapes are "rock" (✊ a simple fist), "paper" (👐 a flat hand), and "scissors" (✂ a fist with the index and middle fingers together forming a V).

50.1. Do people in your country prefer to share public transport or do they prefer to use private transport?

I reckon that people prefer public transport to private one since the majority of the population are using motorbike, which is **highly individual**. There are certain reasons for this reality. First of all, transport system is not exactly ideal for large vehicles like cars in order to carpool since the roads are relatively narrow. Secondly, public transportation is not of high quality which can be proven by just the look of the buses and bus stations. Other than that, motorbikes seem to be the most **affordable** means of transportation that anyone can use to commute from one place to another due to its convenience and **mobility**.

50.2. Do many people in your country share their home with others or do they mostly live alone?

I do believe most people are sharing their home with their families or friends rather living alone. It is not **utterly surprising** since our culture is all about family. Most young people live with their parents until they get married, apart from those who live

away from home for work or studying. Although this practice has already been ingrained in some youngsters' mind, many have started to move out from their childhood house to live independently somewhere near their workplace to have their own space and freedom.

50.3. Do you think there are many advantages when sharing your home with other people?

To some certain extent, I am convinced that sharing a place with others may benefit me in comparison with renting the whole place by myself. One of the biggest advantages is being able to share the rental fee in half or three, of course depending on the number of people I share with. Instead of bearing all the cost, now only have half of it to worry about. Besides, we can work out the chore or even cooking arrangement in order to share the workload. In some bad days that I am **overloaded** with work and can't fulfill my housework duty, my roommate could help me and **vice versa**. How cool is that?

Overload (verb) to give someone too much work to do

Vice versa (phrase) the opposite of what has been said

50.4. Would you ever share your food with someone else?

I do this all the time with my friends and family. Actually, sharing food with others is kind of common in our country since we always have meal together where food is placed in the large bowls and dishes and we **take turn** taking food in our own bowl instead of having separate plates like European and American tradition. Therefore, it's not a big deal.

Take turn (phrase) each of people does their share of something, one after the other
