

1. Say if you agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom” (Oprah Winfrey).

- 1) What are the reasons behind the worldwide trend in most countries for students to continue into higher education after finishing school?
- 2) How can we make the best use of technology in education?
- 3) Do you think most teaching will be done online in the future?
- 4) Are adults better at learning foreign languages than children?

2. How do you understand the following statement: “The limits of my language are the limits of my world” (Ludvig Wittgenstein)? Do you agree with it?

- 1) Is your native language difficult for foreigners to learn?
- 2) Why are you learning English?
- 3) Why is English so popular today?
- 4) What languages would you like to master in the future? Why?

3. Express your attitude to the following statement: “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page” (Saint Augustine).

- 1) If you could spend a year studying in another country, which country would you choose? Why?
- 2) What problems do you think you might have?
- 3) What advice would you give to a friend hoping to study overseas?
- 4) Have you travelled around Belarus?

4. Agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master” (Christian Lous Lange).

- 1) How far do you agree that the computer is the greatest invention of modern times?
- 2) A lot of personal information about all of us is now kept on computers. Do you find this worrying?
- 3) Do you think robots will replace pets in the future?
- 4) What sorts of new challenges will teenagers face in the coming generations?

5. Say if you agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “*We are making photographs to understand what our lives mean to us*” (Ralph Hattersley).

- 1) Do you like being in photos? Or do you like taking photos?
- 2) Do you have a photo you really like? Who took it? What was happening at the time?
- 3) Do you have any photos in you bedroom or living room?
- 4) Who is good at taking photos in your family?

6. How do you understand the following statement: “*School is a building which has four walls with tomorrow inside*” (Lon Watters)?

- 1) What’s your happiest memory of school?
- 2) Do you think sport should be compulsory at school? Why?
- 3) Which did you find more enjoyable – primary school or secondary school?
- 4) Do you think that school holidays in Belarus are too long or too short? Why?

7. Comment on the following statement: “*We all eat, and it would be a sad waste of opportunity to eat badly*”(Anna Thomas).

- 1) Do you prefer eating out or cooking at home?
- 2) How well can you cook?
- 3) How has technology changed methods of food production in your country in the last 50 years?
- 4) What are your favourite kinds of food?

8. Say if you agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “*The secret of your future is hidden in your daily routine*” (Mike Murdock).

- 1) What’s the first thing you do in the morning?
- 2) What do you usually do after school?
- 3) What part of the day do you enjoy most?
- 4) What do you like to do at weekends?

9. Do you agree with the following statement: “A different language is a different vision of life” (Federico Fellini)?

- 1) How long have you studied English?
- 2) Where do you look up words that you don't know?
- 3) Which do you find easier to understand: American English or British English? Why?
- 4) Why do so many people choose to learn English as a foreign language?

10. Agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “During the holiday season, Christmas specifically, it can be hard to be away from family and friends” (Monica Johnson).

- 1) What are the most popular Belarusian holidays?
- 2) What is the way of celebrating New Year in Belarus?
- 3) What do you know about Christmas in Great Britain?
- 4) Are public or national holidays in Belarus similar or different to the ones in Great Britain?

11. How do you understand the following statement: “Sports teaches you character, it teaches you to play by the rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose – it teaches you about life” (Billie Jean King)?

- 1) Which do you think is the best sport for a young person to take up? Why?
- 2) Do you go in for sport or prefer to watch other people playing?
- 3) Do you go to watch a local sports team?
- 4) What world-famous sports events do you know?

12. Agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “A holiday is having nothing to do and all day to do it” (Robert Orben).

- 1) What kinds of holiday appeal to you most?
- 2) Where do you usually spend your holidays?
- 3) Where would you go on holiday if you could go anywhere?
- 4) How many times have you been abroad?

13. Comment on the following statement: “Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today” (Malcolm X).

- 1) How essential are computers in education nowadays?
- 2) In your opinion, which school subjects could be taught more effectively with computers? Why?
- 3) How can we account for the recent explosive growth in online education?
- 4) Do you think computers will replace traditional schools in the future?

14. How do you understand the following statement: “A true friend is someone who is there for you when he / she would prefer to be somewhere else” (Len Wein)?

- 1) Who do you think knows you better, your family or your friends? Why?
- 2) What does your best friend do?
- 3) What kind of person he / she is?
- 4) How long have you known your oldest friend?

15. Agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “Some of your best ideas come when you’re on vacation” (Gautam Singhanian).

- 1) What is the best way of spending summer holidays?
- 2) Who do you prefer to spend your holidays with? Why?
- 3) What do you enjoy doing when you’re on holiday?
- 4) Where did you go for your last holiday?

16. How do you understand the following statement: “For some, shopping is an art; for others, it’s a sport. It can be a vice and it can be a cause. Some love it. Some hate it. Rarely is someone indifferent” (Pamela Klaffke)?

- 1) What kind of small shops are there near where you live?
- 2) What do you enjoy buying?
- 3) Do you ever shop online? What for?
- 4) When shopping for clothes, do you prefer to go alone or with a friend? Why?

17. Comment on the following statement made by the Chairman of Toyota Motors Corporation: “Environmentally friendly cars will soon cease to be an option ... they will become a necessity” (Fujio Cho).

- 1) In what ways do people pollute the environment?
- 2) How strongly do people feel about protecting the environment in your country?
- 3) What are the major environmental problems in your region?
- 4) Do you think smoking should be banned in all restaurants?

18. How far would you go to support or contradict the following statement: “The most technologically efficient machine that man has ever invented is the book” (Northrop Frye)?

- 1) What kind of books do you read?
- 2) What book did you use to like when you were a child?
- 3) What’s the nicest or most unusual place that you’ve spent time reading in?
- 4) Do you usually take a book with you when you’re travelling or do you prefer e-book readers?

19. Say if you agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “There’s no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing” (Alfred Wainwright).

- 1) Do you believe weather forecasts?
- 2) Where do you get the weather forecast from?
- 3) What kind of weather do you like the best?
- 4) Do you know the weather forecast for tomorrow?

20. Say if you agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “Every season has its own character and charm” (Pierce Brosnan). Give arguments to sustain your ground.

- 1) What do you like in Belarusian climate and seasons?
- 2) What is the worst thing about climate in Belarus?
- 3) What is your understanding of climate change?
- 4) Is it too late to prevent climate change?

21. How do you understand the following statement: “The real danger is not that computers will begin to think like men, but that men will begin to think like computers” (Sydney J. Harris)? Do you agree with it?

- 1) What are the dangers of social networks (Facebook, Instagram etc.)?
- 2) Some people say that computers are helping to create a generation without social skills. What’s your opinion?
- 3) What will be major technological trends in the next 50 years?
- 4) How widespread is the use of the Internet in Belarus?

22. Give arguments for or against the following statement: “Every time I go to a movie, it’s magic, no matter what the movie’s about” (Steven Spielberg).

- 1) Can you think of a film which you’ve seen several times?
- 2) Do you prefer seeing foreign films dubbed or with subtitles?
- 3) Have you ever met a film actor or director? Whom would you like to meet?
- 4) Would you like to appear in any kind of film?

23. What does the following statement tell you about: “At the age of six I wanted to be a cook. At seven I wanted to be Napoleon. And my ambition has been growing steadily ever since” (Salvador Dali)? Develop the idea, comparing with your experience.

- 1) Is it difficult to choose your future occupation?
- 2) Would you like to set up your own business?
- 3) Are you someone who likes to plan for the future or do you prefer to let things happen? Why?
- 4) What job would you like to be doing in ten years?

24. How do you understand the following statement: “Some people believe football is a matter of life and death. It is much more important than that” (Bill Shankly)? Do you agree with it?

- 1) Do you do any sport in your free time?
- 2) What are the most popular sports in Belarus?
- 3) Is there any sport you’d like to learn to play well?
- 4) Do you prefer doing sport or being a spectator?

25. Say if you agree or disagree with the following statement and give your reasons: “*The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share*” (Bird Johnson).

- 1) Do you think coordinated action on climate change will succeed?
- 2) What are the major environmental problems in Belarus?
- 3) How do you feel about smoking in restaurants?
- 4) How important do you think it is to educate young children about environmental issues?