

 CAMBRIDGE



IELTS

ACADEMIC 14

WITH ANSWERS

AUTHENTIC PRACTICE TESTS



WITH AUDIO

 CAMBRIDGE



IELTS

GENERAL TRAINING

14

WITH ANSWERS

AUTHENTIC PRACTICE TESTS



WITH AUDIO

SPEAKING

PART 1

The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.

EXAMPLE

Future

- What job would you like to have ten years from now? [Why?]
- How useful will English be for your future? [Why/Why not?]
- How much travelling do you hope to do in the future? [Why/Why not?]
- How do you think your life will change in the future? [Why/Why not?]

PART 2

Describe a book that you enjoyed reading because you had to think a lot.

You should say:

what this book was

why you decided to read it

what reading this book made you think about

and explain why you enjoyed reading this book.

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

PART 3

Discussion topics:

Children and reading

Example questions:

What are the most popular types of children's books in your country?

What are the benefits of parents reading books to their children?

Should parents always let children choose the books they read?

Electronic books

Example questions:

How popular are electronic books in your country?

What are the advantages of parents reading electronic books (compared to printed books)?

Will electronic books ever completely replace printed books in the future?

25. Describe a book that you would like to read again.

You should say:

- *What the book is*
- *Why you read it*
- *Why you want to read it again*

Sample 1:

Although I don't read a lot of books, I still have my favorite one. For this question, I would like to choose my English 12 **textbook** as the book I want to read again. I guess you'll be surprised at my choice **owing to** its **content** and **cover**. This English book is the course book of grade 12. There are a variety of topics related to our daily lives with the **combination** of 4 skills: reading,

listening, speaking and writing. I used to use it to study English when I was in grade 12. Interestingly, at the time, I just focused on grammar because it's the main part of the final tests, so I don't really **pay attention to** other parts, which is such a pity. Now when I have a look at it again, I realize that the reading text is quite cool and **academic** with a number of useful words and **structures**. Reading it again gives me a **chance** to **fulfill** my English knowledge more, especially reading skill and vocabulary. I guess I would spend more time re-reading and taking notes of important points in this book, which is very exciting.

Vocabulary

- **textbook** [n] a book that contains detailed information about a subject for people who are studying that subject
- **owing to** [pre] because of
- **content** [n] the ideas that are contained in a piece of writing, a speech or a film
- **cover** [n] something which is put on or over something else, usually to protect it, to keep something in, etc.
- **combination** [n] the mixture you get when two or more things are combined
- **pay attention to** [phrase] to watch, listen to, or think about something or someone carefully or with interest
- **academic** [a] relating to schools, colleges and universities, or connected with studying and thinking, not with practical skills
- **structure** [n] the way in which the parts of a system or object are arranged or organized, or a system arranged in this way
- **chance** [n] an occasion which allows something to be done; an opportunity
- **fulfill** [v] to do something that is expected, hoped for or promised or to cause it to happen

Sample 2:

The book I am going to describe to you is titled Da Vinci Code authored by Dan Brown, one of the most **influential** and **remarkable** bestselling American

authors of all time. His numerous **bestsellers** include Digital Fortress, Angels & Demons and Deception Point. I have read them for like a hundred times but none of those could ever **top** Da Vinci Code and plus the movie starring Tom Hank was **a huge blockbuster worldwide**.

Of all the books I have ever read, Da Vinci Code was the only one that I managed to finish within two weeks and you know, the book is not just a few pages long. Anyway, the book deals **with the hunt for the truth**. Regarding the Holy Grail by **symbolologist** Robert Langdon and the victim's granddaughter Sophie., they attempted to reveal the answers to mysteries like "Is Jesus God?" "Did he get married?". And if they succeed, it could possibly **shake the foundation of mankind**.

Well, my reading adventure wasn't **off to a good start**, for there were lots of Religious terms involved and **twists and turns** were so confusing that I could rarely **figure out** where the story was going. But I **kept up** reading, I was **totally into** the book and I could hardly **put it down**. **In a nutshell**, this was the best book I have ever read.

Vocabulary

Influential (adj) able to influence the way other people think or behave

Remarkable (adj) Making you feel surprised or amazed

Best-seller (noun) a book that many people buy

Top (verb) exceed something

Blockbuster (noun) something that is very successful, especially a film, show, or novel

Symbolologist (noun) A person who studies or interpret symbols or symbolism.

Shake the foundation of (phrase) to cause a person or organization to question the truth of something it strongly believed

Off to a good start (phrase) to start a particular activity correctly or to have a successful beginning

For (preposition) because

Twists and turns (phrase) surprising changes

Put down (phrasal verb) to put someone or something onto a surface, especially the floor

In a nutshell (phrase) used for saying that you are going to express something in a simple direct way

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

25.1. Do people read more nowadays?

Reading can be seen a part of modern culture and has become easier than ever thanks to the advent of technology. If books and specialized documents were only available for **scholars** and those with high **social status** in the past, anyone with **curiosity** and burning desire to learn can now **get access to** such materials easily. People can read not only from printed materials such as newspaper or magazines but digital ones like eReaders or online.

Scholar (n): a person who knows a lot about a particular subject because they have studied it in detail

Social status (n): a person's standing or importance in relation to other people within a society

Curiosity (n): a strong desire to know about something

Get access to: to get the right to see

25.2. Do you read before going to bed?

I don't have a habit of reading before going to sleep but in the morning instead. I am an **early riser**, which **saves** me lots of time to **schedule** my day, starting with reading. Normally, I often exercise first, make myself breakfast before grabbing my unfinished book. I don't have a study room in my apartment so the balcony is my favorite place to read. There's nothing I rather do than sipping a cup of coffee and **immersing** myself in a good book for hours.

Early riser (n): a person who usually gets out of bed early in the morning

Spare (v): to make something such as time or money available to somebody or for something

Schedule (v): to arrange for something to happen at a particular time

Immerse (v): to become or make somebody completely involved in something

25.3. What's the difference between films and books?

I presume it's not only me but the vast majority of avid readers are left **unsatisfied**, or more honestly, disappointed when books are **adapted** into movies since its lack of **persuasion** and significant details. Original books are always more **in-depth** with **consecutive** plot line, which makes them more fulfilling and convincing. Movies, on the other hand, tend to focus more on visual and sound effects that they fail to deliver the true message of the story. Hence, most people who have read the story find its **film adaptation unappealing**.

Unsatisfied (a): not having got what you hoped; not having had enough of something

Adapt (v): to change a book or play so that it can be made into a play, film/movie, television programme, etc.

Persuasion (n): the act of persuading somebody to do something or to believe something

In-depth (a): very thorough and detailed

Consecutive (a): following one after another in a series, without interruption

Film adaptation (n): a movie based on a book

Unappealing (a): not attractive or pleasant

25.4. How will ebooks affect paper books?

Ebooks are the **advancements** of modern technology and have rapidly becoming popular among readers, especially those who constantly **commute**. You can store hundreds of ebooks in your cellphone or eReader and read anywhere you happen to be, which is probably one of the best advantages ebooks have over paper ones. However, with those who prefer the smell of printed papers and the weight of an actual book on their hands like me, nothing can replace printed materials, not even ebooks.

Advancement (n): the process of helping something to make progress or succeed; the progress that is made

Commute (v): to travel regularly by bus, train, car, etc. between your place of work and your home

Have an advantage over something: be in a superior position to something

25.4. How often do people in your country read novels?

Personally speaking, I'm not a **fan of** novel but from my observations, only the teenagers have time to read novels. I guess for others, they have to spend time on working and studying but as far as teenage girls are concerned, I have to say that they read a great deal.

25.5. What kinds of books that old people like to read?

Since I'm not an elderly person, what I'm going to say is **just guesswork** but old people are really into novels which tell about the daily lives of ordinary citizens or those books which give them the chance to **reflect on** their life. This is because, they are at an age where **spiritual well-being** is **of more importance**, and many old citizens would choose books containing some **philosophy or moral lessons** to read. The reason I feel this way is they can not only can while away the time, they can also improve their personality and pass the experience they read onto their grandchildren.

25.6. Does reading books become a less common activity because of ebooks?

I strongly disagree with this view. Although **the advent of the internet** gives us a wide array of options when it comes to reading, like we can read ebooks on our laptop or Ipad, nothing can compare to the experience of holding a book in your own hands, and **read it from cover to cover**. Another point is that you can jump to the page you want to read by turning your fingers and browsing for the desired contents with your eyes, which is much more convenient and user-friendly than having to use a computer screen or a mouse to do the job.

25.7. What benefits do young people get from reading?

As far as I can tell, reading brings people a wide range of benefits. Firstly, I'd put it down to the fact that you can **broaden your horizons** and **improve your outlook on** life. The thing is the more you read, the more knowledge you acquire regarding the world around, and this helps you learn to accept and tolerate differences in life. The second point worth mentioning is reading can be an entertaining activity as well. Comic books are a prime example, which gives you a good time through the witty comments and funny drawings as well as a suspenseful storyline.

Describe a novel that was particularly interesting to you.

You should say:

- what it was about
- when you read it
- what was the main story

and explain why it was interesting to you.

[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]

Model Answer:

I am not a big fan of reading and love to spend my leisure hours by chatting with my friends or by playing video games. But suddenly one day I found a novel and started reading the book for the illustrations and then found it interesting than the most other books. The novel is named – Treasure Island.

The novel has been composed in the 18th century by a Scottish novelist - Robert Louis Stevenson. The novel is about the adventures of a young boy in search of treasures hidden by an evil pirate in a specific island. Initially, before being published as a book, the novel was published in a magazine for kids named Young Folks and the publication continued for two continuous years (1881 and 1882). But the title of the series was different. It was known as The Mutiny of the Hispaniola. The series was first published as a book in 1883. The book contains all the adventures of Jim Hawkins and his search for the treasures of Captain Flint. The story of the novel begins at an inn which is owned by the parents of Jim Hawkins. The novel is famous around the world for its perception of pirates, sailing ships, treasures and adventures which are not available in the current days.

Now I am in my university second year and studying in sociology at the National University of Singapore. I had to take a sick leave for my physical illness as I underwent much stress in the last field trip in some remote parts of the country. The doctor advised me to take a complete bed rest. So, during the bed rest, I had nothing else to do except reading. Though I am not a reader at all but my dad had brought some books for me from his personal library. The books were of different categories and most of them dealt with the issues I am uninterested most. In fact, I have nothing to do with the Principle of Economics or Chinese Literature Basics. So, I tried to find a suitable one and the well-

illustrated book attracted me. I picked the Treasure Island and started reading it.

The main story of the book was about discovering a hidden treasure from an island by following a treasure map. A small boy named Jim Hawkins lives with his mother and helps her running the inn - Admiral Benbow. An old sailor came into the inn and suddenly died leaving some of his belongings. Hawkins and his mother open the belongings and had found a map which leads towards an island where an evil pirate, Captain Flint had hidden his treasures. So, decisions were made to make the move to rescue the treasures. Some other characters like Captain Smollett, Long John Silver also take part in the voyage and play different roles in the ship. But everyone seems to be aware of the aim of the voyage. Gradually, Jim Hawkins discovers that the people they had taken as crews are not crews. In reality, they were pirates and are waiting for a suitable chance to snatch the treasure once that is discovered by Jim and his companions. A mutiny takes place on the ship and there were two groups. Battles took place and some of the pirates are killed. On the island, some of the pirates managed to hide and waited for the chance. When the treasures were discovered, they charged Jim and his companions but were ambushed and killed by the other mates of Jim. Then collected the treasures and shared among them after returning to Bristol.

The novel was interesting to me for some particular reasons. Firstly, the novel took me in the days when there were sailing ships. The age was of pirates who killed innocent sailors and looted their belongings. The age was also about hidden treasures like gold coins, precious stones, valuable clothing, chests filled with riches and much more. In fact, the days were filled with adventures. Besides, the writing capacity of the author is so lively that it appeared to me that everything is happening right before my eyes. I started believing that I am one of the participants in the voyage. Finally, the book made me amazed and I was glad at the success of the little boy, Jim Hawkins.

If you can talk about the cue card topic "Describe a novel that was particularly interesting to you." you should be able to talk about the following IELTS cue cards topics as well:

- Describe a book you have recently read.
- Describe your favourite book.
- Describe a book you would recommend someone to read.
- Describe an interesting book you have ever read.
- Describe a story from a book you have read.
- Describe a novel or book you really liked.

Describe a book that influenced you.

You should say:

- what it was about
- when it was written
- why you decided to read it

and say why it had a strong effect on you.

[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]

Model Answer 1:

I like to read books since my early childhood and have read a large number of books so far from different writers. But I did not get inspiration from all of the books, some of them made me amazed while the rest others entertained me to some extent. I was influenced by the book of Mark Twain with the title – The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

Recently the book is known as ‘The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn’ but previously it was known as ‘Adventures of Huckleberry Finn’. The entire book is about a little teenage boy who is unable to stay steady for a moment. The book is lead by Huckleberry Finn and his friends address him as Huck. The events took place in different parts of the USA including Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and Arkansas. The entire book is illustrated with the adventures of Huck and his friends. The story starts with the setting of a fictional town in Missouri. Huck is associated with his friend Thomas, better known as Tom Sawyer. Both of the kids have gained a lot of money from their former adventure and Huck is the narrator of the book. He describes all the events to inform the reader and thus the reader becomes aware of everything that happened to him and his friends in the last episode.

The novel was first published in 1884 in England and it was published in the USA in the following year. The book is famous for the lively descriptions of different places, especially the geographical locations of the USA. The book is considered as the sequel to the previous book named – The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. The plot centres around the events happening with Huckleberry Finn. In the previous book, Thomas (or Tom Sawyer) was the protagonist and led the events. But now it is the turn for Huck to lead the events though Tom tried to influence some of his activities. The book has been written based on a society which existed about 20 years ago. Some of the complexities of the then time have been pointed here.

There are several causes behind reading the book. Firstly, I was inspired to read the book by watching a movie of the same name. But I could not enjoy the movie being too older and some of the dialogues were not delivered properly on my DVD player. So, I decided to read the book and accordingly I collected the copy. But it was difficult as well for me to collect a well-printed copy of the book. Further, being a Chinese national, it is really difficult for me

to read books in English. But the events that I enjoyed on the DVD made me inspired. The other reason behind reading the books is that I also was a kid like Huck and underwent many adventures in our locality. Often people use to meet my mom to submit their report against me. Like Huck, I also smoked the pipe in my early childhood and stole the tobaccos and pipes from my dad. So, all the things that Huck did were similar to my own experiences.

When I read the book, I not only enjoyed but came to know about many unknown issues. I was completely unaware about slavery and after reading the book; I researched the issue on the Internet and came to know about many horrific events. So, I felt pity for Jim – who wanted to be free and meet his family. Moreover, I also was hurt when Huck's father died. It is tough indeed for a teenager to grow up without a family. If he were in a family, he would have a different life and everything could have been changed. So, I think Huck turned into a naughty boy as he did not experience the tie of a family. He was sent to different people to be taken care of but the care of a family is entirely a different thing. Every feature of Huck sometimes touched me while reading the book, and I also made me laugh, often. I wish I could be a boy like him and get back my teenage again!

35/ Describe a book you have read recently

You should say:

- *What it is*
- *Who wrote it*
- *What it is about*
- *And explain how you felt about it*

I'm going to tell you about a well-known book I just read called *The Alchemist*. It was written by Paulo Coelho, an author who has also written many other best sellers. Now I don't want to **spoil (give too many details)** it for you, but this book tells the story of a shepherd boy, Santiago, from Andalusia, the southern part of Spain, traveling to Tangier, Morocco and across the Egyptian deserts in search of treasure.

At the end of the story, Santiago discovers that the treasure was in the ruins of the old church in Spain the entire time, right behind the tree spot where he often passed his days. With this said, the story teaches us that the treasures we often seek in life are already **at our feet (already within us)**, which we often don't even realize. Although he didn't find what he was looking for, the book was about his own personal journey.

I felt really inspired by this book because it is something that I can apply to my own life. I think that it's human nature to **take** our homes **for granted (to not appreciate something)** and believe that all treasures of life are in a far away place. For example, I've never been a fan of my hometown and have always traveled in search of finding happiness. Although I'm still doing this, 4 years and counting, it occurred to me that I can still discover new things, even in my small town. Some of the quotes in the book really moved me, such as the one that says "When we love, we **strive (try hard)** to become better than we are. When we love, everything around us becomes better to." This made me prioritize loving my own family, even though they are difficult to love at times. All in all, this book was a positive self-reflection for me. It would be difficult to dislike this book!

52. An exciting book you read or a book you read recently

Describe an exciting book you have read

- When you read it
 - What type of book is it
 - What is it about
 - Why did you find it exciting
-
- I have not read many books apart from my text books.
 - Here, I would like to talk about a book, which my friend gifted me, and I read it all.
 - I found this book very exciting and motivating and would like to read it again.
 - This book is 'The Wings of Fire' by Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
 - My friend got this book as a prize when she participated in a declamation contest
 - It is Dr.Kalam's autobiography.
 - It was first published in 1999.
 - This book became popular only after Dr. Kalam became the President of India.
 - He was sworn in as the president of India on 25th July 2002.
 - Mr Arun Tiwari helped Dr Kalam in writing the book.
 - In this book Dr. Kalam says why he wrote his autobiography.
 - This book is very motivating.
 - From this book I came to know all about the life and achievements of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
 - Dr Kalam was born in a very poor family in the southern parts of India at Rameshwaram.
 - The reason why I admire him is that his life shows how & ordinary boy from a deprived class (poor family) could reach the highest level of the nation.
 - He became not only the best rocket engineer but also the first citizen of the nation.
 - It is true that he described his post as the President as a piece of luck, but his achievement as a rocket engineer was because of sheer hard work.
 - He is a role model for one and all.
 - The success of Dr Kalam depended on the fact that he was willing to grow daily.
 - He learned everything that come to him and was always looking for things to learn.
 - The real success of Dr.Kalam is in his application of the discipline, what he learned, in other fields also.
 - That is why he could contribute to the making of the artificial limbs of lesser weight.

- In him we find a person with insatiable quest for knowledge & great love for suffering fellow beings.
- Unfortunately, we don't have Dr Kalam with us today, but he will live in the hearts of all Indians.
- I would like to read this book again, because it is a very motivating book.

Part 3 - Follow Up Questions

1. Do people in your country like to read books?

Yes, people of my country like to read books. There are bookshops in most towns and cities, which are all doing good business.

2. What kinds of books are most popular in your country?

All types of books are very popular. India is a diverse country. People have diverse tastes in everything, including reading.

3. Do you think reading is important?

Yes, reading is very important. It develops imagination and also develops language skills.

4. Do you think electronic books will eventually replace paper books?

Not completely, but to a large extent yes. E-books have a lot of advantages

Benefits of e-books over traditional books

Easy to carry while traveling – eBooks allow you to bring a whole library with you wherever you go. You can switch between titles with ease and the weight is lighter than a standard paperback.

Need less storage space - Those who own a lot of books know how much space they can take up, but with a reader, your bookshelf is located on a small handheld device, your computer or on both.

Less costly - eBooks are often cheaper in the long run because there are no printing fees associated with them. In fact, you can often find free eBooks online, whereas physical books almost always cost you something. However, you have to spend one time on a reader, such as a kindle or any other tablet.

Immediate purchase - When you buy an eBook, your reward is instantaneous. Whereas if you order a book online you have to wait for it to arrive before the fun begins.

You can do font adjustments. With an eBook, you can instantly change the darkness of the lettering or the size of your font.

You can do night reading. If you read in bed, an eBook may be a good option as many readers come with built-in reading lights.

5. Some people like to collect books. Why do you think they do this?

They do so because they love books. They treat books as collectibles, and are proud of their collection.

6. Is compulsory reading (in school) is a good idea?

Yes, definitely. In order for students to achieve in math, science, English, history, geography, and other subjects, reading skills must be developed to the point that most of them are automatic. Students cannot struggle with word recognition when they should be reading quickly for comprehension of a text. But the ability to read and write develops with careful planning and instruction. Children need regular and active interactions with print.

- Reading is a Good Workout
 - Just like muscles, the brain benefits from a good workout. And reading is more demanding than watching TV or listening to the radio.
- Reading Builds Vocabulary
 - While reading books, especially challenging ones, you will find yourself exposed to many new words you wouldn't be otherwise.
- Reading Helps Self Esteem
 - Another one of the key reading benefits is that the more you read, the more knowledgeable you become. With more knowledge comes more confidence. More confidence builds self-esteem. So it's a chain reaction.
- Reading Improves Creativity
 - Reading exposes you to new ideas and more information helps to develop the creative side of the brain.

7. What books do children read and what do adults read?

Children read fantasy, fiction and books on supernatural characters like Barbie, Superman and Shaktiman. Adults read biographies, fiction and religious and spiritual books.

8. Why men and women prefer different books?

This is because they have different tastes.

9. Why some books become internationally popular?

This is perhaps because these receive a lot of publicity.

10. What type of books children read nowadays? What type of books did children like reading in the past and what do you think they will read in the future?

Nowadays, generally speaking, the reading habit of the children is on the decline. Whatever books they read are based on fantasy, fiction and supernatural characters like Barbie, superman and Shaktiman.

50 years ago – Children read a lot. They read moral and spiritual books. They read animal stories.

After 50 years – I do not think they will do any reading. All the time will be spent in front of computers.

11. Do you think children have lost their interest in stories?

No, I don't think that children have lost their interest in stories. However, the stories they read today are very different from those in the past.

12. Can storybooks be an ideal gift for children?

Yes, definitely! Storybooks can be an ideal gift for children. They can help the child imagine the characters in the mind, which is the first step to creativity. Another important benefit is that we can impart the knowledge of culture, tradition, moral values and religion in the mind of the child. This forms the basis of the child's personality. Finally, storybooks enhance the curiosity of the child and enhance their mental growth.

13. What can be done to encourage the habit of reading among children?

A lot can be done to encourage the habit of reading among children. The first and foremost step would be to make books available. There should be good libraries in the schools as well as in neighbourhoods. Story telling competitions could be organised. If children have to take part in these competitions, then naturally, they would be encouraged to read books. Finally, books could be made more interesting by adding graphics.

14. How does reading help a child?

Reading helps to improve concentration. It also helps to improve general knowledge. It also improves the language skills and satisfies the curiosity of children on various things.

15. What sort of books can be suggested to children to read?

Children should be encouraged to read religious and historical books. They should also read biographies and autobiographies of famous people so that they get motivation from them. They should also be encouraged to read books on science and technology. However, these books should be made very interesting by adding pictures.

16. How much should a child read every day?

A child should read half to one hour daily. I think that would be enough considering that they have to go to school and do their homework as well.

17. What is the difference between the books sold in the past and the books sold nowadays?

In the past, books related to culture, tradition, religion and history were sold. Nowadays, books are mostly based on fiction and fantasy. E-books have become very popular nowadays as compared to the printed books.

40. Books

1. How often do you read?

I like to read quite often. I read magazines and newspapers and my textbooks. Apart from that I have read a few novels by Amrita Pritam. I have read her Pinjar, which means skeleton.

2. Do you have many books at home?

No, I do not have any books at home. I only have my textbooks at home.

3. Do Indian people do enough reading?

Yes, Indian people do a lot of reading. They read magazines, newspapers, fiction and nonfiction such as biographies and autobiographies.

4. Do Indian people like to read?

(similar to above)

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

People who are literate like to read. Many people don't like reading because they don't have interest in reading.

6. What type of books children read nowadays?

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In the past, books related to culture, tradition, religion and history were sold. Nowadays, books are mostly based on fiction and fantasy.

SPEAKING

PART 1

The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.

EXAMPLE

Social media

- Which social media websites do you use?
- How much time do you spend on social media sites? [Why/Why not?]
- What kind of information about yourself have you put on social media? [Why/Why not?]
- Is there anything you don't like about social media? [Why?]

PART 2

Describe something you liked very much which you bought for your home.

You should say:

what you bought

when and where you bought it

why you chose this particular thing

and explain why you liked it so much.

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

PART 3

Discussion topics:

Creating a nice home

Example questions:

Why do some people buy lots of things for their home?

Do you think it is very expensive to make a home look nice?

Why don't some people care about how their home looks?

Different types of home

Example questions:

In what ways is living in a flat/apartment better than living in a house?

Do you think homes will look different in the future?

Do you agree that the kinds of homes people prefer change as they get older?

Social Media

Pros

Spreads information faster than any other media

Allows people to improve their relationship and make new friends

Helps employers find employees and job-seekers find work

Offers teachers a platform for collaboration with other teachers and communication with students outside the classroom

Facilitates political change

Cons

Enables the spread of unreliable and false information

Lacks privacy and exposes users to government and corporate intrusions

Entices people to waste time

Users are vulnerable to security attacks such as hacking, identity theft, and viruses

Leads to stress and offline relationship problems

83. Social Network

1.What kind of social networking websites do you like to use?

I mostly use the Facebook website for social networking. These days all the social networking sites have an app that we can install and use on our phones, so I don't usually visit the websites. I use my cellphone apps.

2.Are you a social person?

I am not a very social person. However, I have a good social circle of friends. I like to meet them at least once in two-three months.

OR

I am a social person. I like to meet new people and make new friends. I have a big social circle of friends.

3.What kinds of people do you like to be friends with on those websites?

On those websites, I only have friends whom I already know or whom I know through someone. I do not make new friends on such websites.

4.Is it easy to find real friends on a social networking website?

No, it is not at all easy to find real friends on social networking websites. People make fake ids, with fake information and dupe people.

5.What kind of chatting app or software do Indian people like to use?

Indian people like to use chatting apps like, Whatsapp, Snapchat, Hike, V-chat, Viber, etc.

Industrial relations:

TOPIC 61

KEY IDEAS

Causes:

Industrial conflicts are usually due to collision of interests between workers and employers. Some major causes are as follows: poor pay and wage disputes, heavy physical work, lack of mutual respect, poor working conditions, long irregular working hours, inflexible hours, forced overtime, lack of insurance coverage, lack of job security, limited career promotion, discrimination and inequalities, unfair dismissals and layoffs, redundancy payment problems, retirement issues, hazardous duties, lack of labour productivity; poor performance of workers, irresponsibility of workers who don't follow the regulations, disruptive strikes, miscommunication, lack of holiday entitlements, lack of well-defined job descriptions, unclear roles, and unreasonable expectations.

Suggestions to settle work disputes:

Encourage any creativity and self-development, e.g. providing reasonable financial assistance as a motivator; providing and facilitating a situation in which employees can upgrade their professional skills, provide a friendly work atmosphere with team-focused activities, consider workers' welfare, respect workers' rights, ensure the safety of workers, provide opportunities for growth, and ensure greater protection against unfair dismissals.

Discussion Questions:

1. What catalysts and polices do you suggest to resolve industrial disputes?
2. Why sometimes conflicts arise between workers and employers?
3. 'Negotiation and compromise are the most effective way to settle problems between employers and workers.' Do you agree?

(The) Internet:

TOPIC 62

KEY IDEAS

Pros:

The Internet facilitates the flow and dissemination of information; the Internet has changed the quality and quantity of information; the convenience and speed of the Internet helps people gain access to all sort of information. The Internet is a great tool for interacting around the world at a relatively low cost. The Internet enables people to form communities in new and unique relationships, e.g. discussion forums, people can easily communicate and share their ideas. The Internet provides many learning opportunities and research activities. The most important features of the Internet include e-mail, online conversation, information retrieval, e-commerce, online shopping, online learning and browsing the internet for downloading different material.

Cons:

Some of the drawbacks of the Internet are as follows:
 Unsupervised children on the Internet: children are being inundated with dangerous information.
 There are a lot of websites which promote immorality in society.
 'Copy and paste academic assignments' associated with the availability of the Internet.
 Loss of privacy is one of the major problems associated with the growth of the Internet.
 (The) Internet addiction causes irregular sleeping patterns. The internet can cause isolation.
 Hacking, spam, viruses, cookies and credit card fraud are other problems of the Internet.

Discussion Questions:

1. In your opinion, what is the most important feature of the Internet?
2. In what sense has the internet revolutionised the life of modern man?
3. How would you account for the popularity of the Internet?
4. In what ways does the Internet influence the availability of information?

TOPIC 62

5. How do you think the Internet might affect the way people work?
6. The Internet has enabled people to work from home, do you think this is good or bad?
7. How has the Internet affected shopping patterns?
8. Would you think the Internet will ultimately pull everyone away from TV entirely?
9. Would you say the Internet will one day replace print media?
10. How do you think the Internet will change entertainment in the future?
11. In your opinion, is the Internet a valuable educational tool?
12. In what ways has the Internet changed education?
13. 'E-mail and text messaging have transformed communication, but they are seriously threatening the status of written language.' What can be done to deal with this issue?
14. How does the Internet promote plagiarism?
15. In what ways does the Internet affect attitudes about methods of research?
16. Does the Internet open up opportunities for disabled people?
17. How can the Internet best be used to facilitate and improve new product development?
18. To what extent does the Internet promote globalisation?
19. Do you think the Internet encourage more unity or diversity?
20. Does the Internet help or hinder cultural understanding?
21. In what ways do you think e-communication can invade people's privacy?
22. Should the Internet be regulated by laws?
23. 'It is important for students to develop an awareness of how to use the Internet.' Why?
24. What impact has the Internet had on the way people generally communicate with each other?

Job:

TOPIC 63

KEY IDEAS

Features of a good job:

A good job is financially rewarding (high-paid/high-earned); a reasonable level of salary is ensured. An ideal job provides you with a sense of accomplishment and it is emotionally fulfilling (Job satisfaction). A good job provides meaningful and challenging learning experiences to improve job skills. There is always a good prospect for promotion. You benefit from job security.

Qualities of a good employee:

A good employee is creative, well-educated, well-trained, well-informed, well-adjusted, energetic, self-directed, highly responsible, efficient, well-organised, businesslike, personable, punctual, dependable, a self-starter, a good goal setter, and flexible enough to carry out tasks outside of job description. A good employee respects the chain of commands, and has a sense of loyalty. Motivation is one of the most important attributes in an employee.

Qualities of a good Employer:

A good employer is understanding, reliable, open-minded, tolerant, responsive, approachable, considerate, positive, encouraging and supportive. A good boss treats all his or her subordinates fairly and has high regards for his or her employees. A good manager always tries to promote good morale among his or her employees. A good employer always considers his or her employees' welfare and rights, e. g. providing decent benefits package and insurance coverage. A good employer protects the health and safety of his or her employees. A good employer tries to provide a friendly working atmosphere.

Describe something special you brought home from a holiday.

You should say:

- what it was
- where you got it
- how much it cost

and explain why you think it is special.

[You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.]

Model Answer 1:

Knives are often dangerous for us if we do not know how to handle them and if we have the know-how to use a knife perfectly, it can make the impossible to possible. I brought a set of six knives of different sizes, shapes and designs for my home use.

Now, I live in New Delhi in India. Earlier, my family consisted of my parents and siblings, used to live in an extended family with many other relatives. But after the death of my grandparents, everyone formed their own. In my family, my mom was in deep trouble for cooking. She was unskilled in preparing the food ingredients like vegetables before cooking; especially cutting them into pieces

and cleaning was a great difficulty for her. She was used to cut the food ingredients and other crops with knives instead of large choppers, and here in our New Delhi apartment, we did not have a single vegetable knife. So, when I went in a holiday last week, my mom asked me to bring some knives for home use. She was seriously having trouble for the absence of the knives. Cooking became a great problem at our place.

I went to Nepal for a three-day long trip with my college mates. When my mom came to know about my plan, she asked me to bring a set of Gurkha knife for her kitchen use. She recommended the Nepali knives as those were the best for common use. Thereby, I did not forget her requirement and once I landed in Nepal, I started looking for the knives. One of my mates told me that the knives are available on some street markets. He also said that he had bought knives for his home in his last trip. After his advice, both of us started seeking the knives. Finally, we got the knives in a small street shop. There were six knives in a knife set. The sizes and sharpness of the knives were different. The largest knife was 18 inch with the handle while the blade was 12 inches, and the smallest one was six inches only with its entire body including the blade and handle.

The knives were a bit pricy as those are made by original khukuri knives. The knives were made of pure steel and the handles were made by solid wood. The entire set cost me around 2500 rupees. Though it appears a bit pricy comparing the knives available in India, I think the price is reasonable. Most of the knives available in India are not up to the standard and often the blades get broken or blunt after some frequent use. Besides, the steels are too thin that someone could easily break down the blade by applying some minor pressures. Moreover, the sellers claim the knives to be imported and charge more than the usual price but in fact, those knives are made locally. So, I think it is better to pay a bit more to have the standard quality product. When I told mom that the price of the set was Rs 2500, she was not surprised and instead she said that I was lucky to have the knives in this cheaper rate.

The knives are special for different reasons. Firstly, they were made with the finest quality of steel. The steels were heavy and unbreakable. The blades of the knives were too sharp and do not needed to sharpen them regularly. The sellers also said that the knives are of a life-time guarantee. Nothing will happen with them in a lifetime. I also liked the weight of the knives. Each of the knives was moderately heavy based on their size and shapes. It is said that simplicity is the best art. The knives were simple. None of them had any

designs on the blades or on the handle. The handles were made of rock solid woods and riveted with the knife body. The seller also advised me to use the knives carefully as accidents may occur easily with the knives. But mom seems to be happy with them and she skillfully works with the knives. She adores them much and I am also amazed by their quality and sharpness.

Sample Answer 2:

My recent holiday trip to Switzerland was excellent. And when I returned home, I bought some wrist watches for my family as the Swiss-made watches are considered as one of the best watches of the world in every term. I will explain the matter in brief now.

A wristwatch is one of an essential gadget for everyday life. In fact, it is helpful for the users to know the time whenever they need. So, during my visit, I decided to bring some wrist watches for my family members. They were really happy with the watches. And it was a kind of special gift for them from my part.

I bought the wrist watches from Bern. This is the capital city of the country. And also adorned with wonderful things. The most important matter that attracted my attention is the modern architecture and cleanliness. The entire city was neat and clean. When I compared the city with my own city in Mumbai, I felt shy. However, there were many other things to do in Bern. My father also asked me to bring some other things for him like a pouch of tobacco, and a pipe. I also collected them from a superstore. I also visited some other noted places of the city for shopping purposes.

The prices of the watches were different. I bought seven wristwatches of Rado brand. And they cost me in an average around 1200 Swiss francs. Luckily I got some discounts from the seller. Later, I compared the price with the prices of India and realised that I am a winner in this deal. The watches were sold cheaper than India. I wanted to take a couple of more wrist watches but my wallet did not permit me any further deal about this. The seller guaranteed the watches will last a lifetime. He also suggested replacing the batteries after every three years.

The watches were really special. They had a sleek design while the body was made with light steel. Besides, all of the watches were waterproof and easy to use. The internal illumination system made the watches to get illuminated in

night times so that there are no troubles in watching time in darkness. The other special aspect about the watch is their colour. All the colours were permanent and scratch resistant. But I was told to use them carefully as if the glasses get broken, I will not get the original glass. The wristwatch that I took for my mother was an exceptional one. The heart shape wristwatch fitted in her wrist perfectly. She was so happy with the present from me. And all the other members were happier too. All these matters have made the wrist watches special to me.

10. Flats/Houses/Accommodation

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Troublesome (adj) causing difficulty or annoyance

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

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

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

Chill out (phrasal verb) relax

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

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

10.4. Who do you live with?

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

10.5. How long have you lived there?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Torture (n) great physical or mental suffering

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Harmonious (adj) friendly and peaceful

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ownership (n): the fact of owning something

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. Describe a product you bought and felt happy

You should say:

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

Ok. well the first thing that **came to my mind** when I saw this topic was olive oil, because I bought a bottle of it not that long ago, and if I'm not mistaken, it was from either Italy or Spain, so that's what I've decided to talk about.

And as for where I got it, well, it was actually just from my local supermarket selling quite a few imported products, which I'm really happy about, as I always enjoy trying new things, especially stuff from other countries.

With regard to what I used the olive oil for, well. I'd say I used it for most of my cooking, because it **went well with** almost everything, especially bread and pasta, as you probably know.

But anyway, as for what made me decide to buy it, well firstly, it is really good for my health. So it's basically a lot healthier than most other kinds of cooking oil. And another thing to mention would be that I remember tasting some olive oil at a Western restaurant I went to a couple of weeks ago and I liked it so much that I **made a mental note** to get some when I went to the supermarket. I guess these would be the main reasons, and even though it's quite a bit more expensive than ordinary cooking oil, I reckon it's definitely worth it.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What are the differences between street market and supermarkets?

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

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

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

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

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

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

How often do people in your country go shopping?

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

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

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

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

Do you think online shopping will replace shopping in reality?

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

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

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

How is online shopping so popular these days?

It is understandable that buying stuff online is gaining tremendous popularity

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

21. Describe your idea of a perfect home or dream house

- Where this place would be
- What it would look like
- When you would like to live there
- Explain why it is ideal to you

Note: This question could be asked in present tense as well

Describe an ideal house

- Where this place is
- What it is like
- When you want to live there
- Explain why it is ideal to you?

Sample answer (For those who live in villages)

- Presently, I live in a village.
- My house is very big and has many rooms and open space in the front and back.
- But, for every small requirement, we have to rush to the village.
- My dream home would be in the suburbs of my hometown.
- There I would get the best of both worlds.
- I would be near the facilities of the city as well as be able to enjoy the calm and peaceful atmosphere of the village
- I would not like to live in a big house.
- Big houses are difficult to maintain.
- My house would have three bedrooms, a lobby, a kitchen a small lawn in the front and a kitchen garden in the backyard.
- I am very fond of gardening.
- I would grow coriander, mint, aubergine, okra, tomatoes, green chilly and some other seasonal vegetables.
- I would use only organic fertilisers, such as home made compost from the kitchen waste.
- I would not use any insecticides and pesticides.
- All the rooms of my house would be well lit and airy.
- The bathrooms and kitchen would have the latest fittings.
- I would have solar panels set up on the terrace to harness solar energy.
- I would like to welcome and entertain friends and relatives in my house.
- I would keep it spic and span.
- I hope to live in such a house one day.

Sample answer (For those who live in cities)

- Presently, I live in a city.
- My house is not very big but has three bedrooms and some open space in the front and back.
- But, it is a very noisy and congested area.
- My dream house would be in the suburbs of my hometown.
- There I would get the best of both worlds.
- I would be near the facilities of the city as well as be able to enjoy the calm and peaceful atmosphere of the village
- I would not like to live in a big house.
- Big houses are difficult to maintain.
- My house would have three bedrooms, a lobby, a kitchen a small lawn in the front and a kitchen garden in the backyard.
- I am very fond of gardening.
- I would grow coriander, mint, aubergine, okra, tomatoes, green chilly and some other seasonal vegetables.
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- I would have solar panels set up on the terrace to harness solar energy.
- I would like to welcome and entertain friends and relatives in my house.
- I would keep it spic and span.
- I hope to live in such a house one day.

Part 3 Follow Up Questions

1. Do most Indian people live in an apartment or house?

I think it depends on the region they are living in. In most of the big cities, like the metropolitan cities, people live in apartments, as there is a scarcity of land in such places and to accommodate the ever-increasing population, there are more and more apartment buildings being built. However, in the small cities, towns and the countryside, we can find people mostly living in houses, rather than apartments.

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

In my country, young people like to live with their parents, unless they have to move to another city or country, for higher education or for better career prospects. It's a part of the Indian culture for children to live with their parents.

3. Do Indian people like to rent a place to live?

No, Indian people do not like to rent a place to live. I think it's the dream of almost every Indian to own his/her own house.

4. Would you live in a foreign country in the future?

Yes, definitely. I would like to live in a foreign country in the future. I plan to pursue my education abroad. I think there are better education facilities and better job opportunities in developed countries.

5. How is modern home design in your country different to that of the past?

The modern home design is very different to that of the past, in my country. The material being used now in the construction of houses is much advanced, like weather proof paints, insulated walls, soundproof windows, etc. The design of the modern houses is according to the space available. There is better utilization of space in the modern home designs. The homes in the past used to be more spacious and not equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and equipment, like washing machine, microwave, dishwashers & so on.

6. In your country what type of home do most people live in?

India is a vast and diverse country. People live in different types of houses, depending on the region and the climate in that region. For example, in the eastern parts of India, houses made from bamboo are very common. In regions where there is snowfall, sloped houses are common. In plain areas, people design their houses, as per the area and space available.

7. Do people prefer to live in Modern Homes or the older style homes (for example from 50 years ago)?

People prefer to live in modern homes rather than older style homes because modern homes are better equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and technology. Also, the material used to build modern homes is better, for instance, weather proof paints, earthquake proof design, etc. The modern homes are planned better to utilize the space properly.

8. How are modern homes different to older homes?

Modern homes are quite different from the older homes, in terms of the design, material used and the structure of the building. Older homes were more spacious, with proper ventilation. Modern homes are designed to properly utilize the space, due to the shortage of land these

days. These days, people employ interior designers and architects to plan and decorate their homes. Older homes may not be equipped to handle the latest electronic gadgets and appliances.

SPEAKING

PART 1

The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.

EXAMPLE

Neighbours

- How often do you see your neighbours? [Why/Why not?]
- Do you invite your neighbours to your home? [Why/Why not?]
- Do you think you are a good neighbour? [Why/Why not?]
- Has a neighbour ever helped you? [Why/Why not?]

PART 2

Describe a very difficult task that you succeeded in doing as part of your work or studies.

You should say:

**what task you did
why this task was very difficult
how you worked on this task**

and explain how you felt when you had successfully completed this task.

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

PART 3

Discussion topics:

Difficult jobs

Example questions:

- What are the most difficult jobs that people do?
- Why do you think some people choose to do difficult jobs?
- Do you agree or disagree that all jobs are difficult sometimes?

Personal and career success

Example questions:

- How important is it for everyone to have a goal in their personal life?
- Is it always necessary to work hard in order to achieve career success?
- Do you think that successful people are always happy people?

31. Neighbors

31.1. Do you know your neighbors?

Yes, I do. My family has been living on the same block since I was born, so we've gotten to know each other quite well. We are close to my next door neighbor in particular, Ms. Elizabeth. As she's a **widowed (husband died)** 80 year old woman in poor health, we keep a close eye on her to make sure she's managing on her own. The other neighbors **have come and gone (many new ones have moved here, many have moved away)** so we aren't as close with them.

31.2. Do you like your neighbors?

Some of them! We are all quite fond of Miss Elizabeth; she has always been like a grandmother to me. She has always been there during our important **milestones (important life stages)** in life. I'm always thrilled when she turns up at our door with freshly baked banana bread. On the other hand, some of our other neighbors are quite **stand-offish (unfriendly)** so we tend to keep our distance. However, Miss Elizabeth is family.

31.3. What do you think of your neighbors?

I think they are just so-so people. It seems as though they lead stressful daily lives and **cannot be bothered (making the effort would bother them)** to talk to their neighbors. They are **caught up in (lost in)** their own family dramas. We used to be friends with another neighbor, but then she ended up being too **nosey (too interested in the lives of others)**, so now we just smile at her but don't share our business.

31.4. How often do you see (or talk to) your neighbors?

Other than Ms. Elizabeth, I just **see them in passing (see briefly)**. So, I see them everyday but really only talk to them once or twice a week when we are forced to be in the same vicinity. For example, when I take the garbage out, we usually **make small talk (talk about unimportant things, like the weather etc.)**

78. Neighbor

1. Do you know your neighbors?

Yes, I know my neighbors well. I meet them daily and we are like a family.

2. Do you like your neighbors?

Yes, I like my neighbors. They are very friendly and helpful. In fact, we are like a family.

3. Why are neighbors important?

Neighbours are very important because they are next to our family. In fact, in today's era of nuclear families, neighbours are the only family we have in times of emergencies. Neighbours are the people with whom we share our walls. They are the first ones to help us in times of need.

4. When do you meet your neighbors?

I meet my neighbors in the evenings. We usually meet them in the park or outside my home. Sometimes we have some celebrations in our neighborhood or some community programs, where I get to meet my neighbors.

Describe a paid job you or someone you know ever did.

You should say:

- what the job was
- how you/this person found this job

Model Answer:

Completing a thesis paper is really boring and so I hired one of my friends, John, to complete my thesis on climate change. He did that very well. Thank you for the smart question and I am going to tell everything in detail here.

Before the semester completion at the university, I was asked to submit the thesis paper and present it before the class. The thesis was about the climate change and its overall impacts on humans, animals and environment. So, it was really difficult for me to collect all the necessary information. Accordingly, I hired John to complete my thesis paper.

I had completed the initial tasks, collected necessary data and resources for the thesis paper. But I was unable to manage enough time to complete everything. So, I sought help from my friends and definitely it was a paid job. I posted the job on my social networking profile and many of the friends responded over it. But I picked John for some specific reasons. He was skilled in completing thesis paper. He just has submitted his own thesis paper and is well aware of everything of such a thesis completion project. So, after talking with him, I requested him to complete my project. I agreed on the payment that he demanded and in fact, it was a reasonable amount.

It took about a week for John to complete my entire thesis. As I said before, I collected all the necessary information and he just placed the information in their order. He worked almost day and night to make the thesis paper a successful one. By this time, I had to accompany him for each of the needs. Sometimes, I made the information clear to him or supported him with narratives and literature. The work was not as simple as it sounds. In line with John, I also had to participate in some other tasks for the thesis paper. The most challenging task was the formatting of the paper on the word processor. But John did it successfully for me.

I was worried about the thesis paper that if I could be able to submit it within the prescribed deadline. In fact, my final grades were depending on this thesis. If I could complete it by the time and the supervisor approves it, I would pass the course and be a graduate. But if there are troubles with the thesis, I need another semester to complete my graduation. So, it was really a matter of concern for me. Without the help of John, it would have been difficult for me to complete the thesis paper in due time. I did everything in time and have completed graduation. Now I am relaxed about the matter.

SPEAKING

PART 1

The examiner asks the candidate about him/herself, his/her home, work or studies and other familiar topics.

EXAMPLE

Your neighbourhood

- Do you like the neighbourhood you live in? [Why/Why not?]
- What do you do in your neighbourhood in your free time? [Why/Why not?]
- What new things would you like to have in your neighbourhood? [Why/Why not?]
- Would you like to live in another neighbourhood in your town or city? [Why/Why not?]

PART 2

Describe a website you have bought something from.

You should say:

what the website is

what you bought from this website

how satisfied you were with what you bought

and explain what you liked and disliked about using this website.

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

PART 3

Discussion topics:

Shopping online

Example questions:

What kinds of things do people in your country often buy from online shops?

Why has online shopping become so popular in many countries?

What are some possible disadvantages of buying things from online shops?

Online retail businesses

Example questions:

Do you agree that the prices of all goods should be lower on internet shopping sites than in shops?

Will large shopping malls continue to be popular, despite the growth of internet shopping?

Do you think that some businesses (e.g. banks and travel agents) will only operate online in the future?

4. Which room do you spend most of your time in?
5. Do you like the place where you live?
6. How long have you lived there?
7. How long do you expect to continue living there?
8. Where do you think you will be living five years from now?
9. Describe a (an imaginary) room that you would like to spend time in.

NEIGHBOURHOOD
Interview

Examiner: Describe your neighbourhood.

Candidate: I live in a quiet neighbourhood in the north of [...] city. Fortunately, there are plenty of public facilities in our neighbourhood, such as parks...er...cultural centres and libraries.

Alternative answers:

- I live in [...] city. Even though it is a very large city, we live in a part that is like a small village. We know everyone there. There is a very large park just in front our home...um...there is a bus stop so we can easily go anywhere in the city.
- I live in a neighbourhood which is quite close to the city centre. It's so convenient for shopping. There are many shops, restaurants and a variety of businesses.
- Your answer:**

Examiner: How long have you lived there?

Candidate: I have lived there since I was ten...um... for about eighteen years.

Alternative answers:

- I have lived there since 2003.
- Your answer:**

Examiner: Have you noticed a lot of changes during that time?

Candidate: Yes, I have witnessed lots of changes; beyond recognition. It's a much nicer place to live now than it used to be. Also, over the last few years, the municipality of our city has planted trees everywhere. It's much greener now. Above all, the transport facilities of our area have been considerably developed.

Alternative answers:

- Not really, unfortunately, our neighbourhood has been kind of overlooked.
- Your answer:**

Examiner: Do you like the place where you live?

Candidate: Absolutely, the main reason is that it is right in the heart of the city and whatever I need is just outside the door.

Alternative answers:

- Oh, sure. We live in a quiet neighbourhood, there is no noise at all, more importantly, neighbours are very nice and friendly.
- Um...not very much, the reason is that, unfortunately some of our neighbours are inconsiderate and noisy.
- Your answer:**

Examiner: What do you think your neighbourhood/area is missing?

Candidate: Um... a community centre, I think.

Alternative answers:

- Er...a medical centre, unfortunately, there's no hospital in the immediate vicinity.
- Your answer:**

Examiner: What are your neighbours like?

Candidate: We have good neighbours. Most of them look out for each other and are always willing to help. In other words, there is a sense of belonging in our neighbourhood.

Alternative answers:

- Generally speaking, the people who are living in our building are warm and friendly.
- Noisy, gossipy and selfish. With neighbours like that who needs enemies!
- Your answer:**

Examiner: How would you describe a good neighbour?

Candidate: In my opinion, a good neighbour respects the rights of other neighbours and possibly makes contributions to the development of the neighbourhood.

Alternative answers:

- To my view, a good neighbour is helpful, considerate and caring.
- Your answer:**

NEIGHBOURHOD
Questions

1. What do you like best about your neighbourhood?
2. How do you think your neighbourhood could be improved?
3. How safe is your neighbourhood compared with other areas?
4. What do you like best about your neighbourhood?
5. Is there anything that you don't like about your neighbourhood?
6. How do you think your neighbourhood could be improved?
7. Can you describe the neighbourhood you grew up in?

22. Describe a website you like to visit.

You should say:

- *What type of website it is*
- *How you found out about it*
- *What it allows you to do*
- *and explain why you like it*

Today, I am going to tell you about one website which I'm really interested in. Its 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**.

Another type is online shopping. Consumers can access the virtual stores on the Internet and browse for the items they love. Moreover, they can compare prices and look at the review sections and receive advice whether that product is worth buying or not

Do you think online shopping will replace shopping in reality?

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

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

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

How is online shopping so popular these days?

It is understandable that buying stuff online is gaining tremendous popularity

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