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**Kiran Makkar**

English for Exams

**Kiran Makkar's Speaking Guesswork**  
**Sep - Dec 2022**  
**First Version**



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**Kiran Makkar**  
English for Exams

## **Speaking Guessbook (September to December 2022)By ieltsking**

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# PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING

This is only a tentative list of September to December 2022 exam questions. You may be asked questions that are not part of this list.

## Speaking Guesswork

We, at ieltsking, are well aware of the challenges students face in their Speaking Module. While sometimes it is a lack of impressive ideas, at other times students struggle with poor vocabulary leading to ineffective communication.

Our Speaking Handbook is an attempt to solve all your Speaking worries and give you the ultimate key to a high band performance in your Speaking test.

### What it contains

A comprehensive list of probable questions with sample answers for Parts 1,2 and 3 for September to December 2022.

Extensive range of vocabulary, idioms, phrasal verbs, complex sentence structures and idea inputs to give you the best tools for optimal performance.

### How it can help you

Read through the sample answers. Read aloud a few times noting the words used and the sentence structures till you get a grip of the language used. As you continue to do this, you will find that your language quality has improved tremendously and you can now speak fluently and express your ideas freely.

Memorising the answers would not serve the purpose. So our advice to you is to refrain from blindly mugging up the notes. Use them as signposts and interact with the material trying to get a feel of the language.

We would also like to clarify that some words may have multiple meanings, but we have given only the one that is apt for the context.

We are confident of the quality of our Speaking Handbook and its ability to take your speaking skills several notches higher.



Hi students, I wish you all the best for your exams. Don't approach the IELTS exam with fear and anxiety. Stay positive, work hard and believe that you can do it. This journey towards your required Band Score is challenging and exciting at the same time. Enjoy it.

Mani Dhaliwal

**Founder&CEO "IELTSKING"**

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## Sep to Dec 2022 Guesswork

All 6.5+ sample answers

**Note:** these Cue cards are provided by the students who have done their speaking exam.

### 1. Describe a time when you had to go to see a doctor.

- You should say-
- What was the problem?
- When did it happen?
- How did you feel about it?

Well, anyone does not like to go to a hospital and see a doctor but, sometimes, we have to see a doctor. Here, I would like to talk about a time when I had to go to the hospital. I recently had visited a doctor. Dr. Johan one locality doctor I had suffered from fever, headache and continue sneezing.

I had to go. I did not want to go but, I had to go. I visited the hospital and wanted for twenty minutes outside Dr. Johan's chamber. Finally, I went into the chamber. Dr. Johan had checked up my body temperature and infection in my throat. then, he said to me that it was just normal viral infection due to changes of season. he took his prescription pad and wrote some medicine.

After it, he recommended me that do not drink cold water, cold beverages, and fried food as well as spicy also. I asked him how long I might be healed, then he just little smiled. he told me for rest as well as, visit for a checkup after three days. I had felt very good and comfortable. Then, I visited the hospital after three days and I was normal. so, I started a connection on my daily works without heavy head and fever.

## 2. Describe an appointment that was put ahead of schedule.

You should say-

- What was this appointment?
- Why had it put ahead of schedule?
- How did you feel about it?

Well, we fix a time for appointments many times. It is important to attend a fixed appointment because time is very precious. But some times we have to cancel it or put it ahead of schedule. Here I would like to talk about such a time when my appointment was put ahead of schedule due to some reasons. I explain it briefly.

About two months ago, I applied for the job of a computer teacher in a well-reputed school named Preet Convent School. I sent a Resume to that school's principal. Then, the principal called me via phone and informed me that your interview for a teacher is after 7 days. I thanked him. I thought that I have enough time to prepare for this interview.

I decided that I will do all the preparations two days from the interview. Then, I indulged in the other works. I just forgot about that interview. But suddenly, after three days, a teacher from Preet Convent School called me and told me that your interview will be tomorrow. I felt so shocked. I did not know what I have to do?

Then, I said about this problem to my mom, she told me to do it calmly. So, the next day, I went to attend the interview which was put ahead of schedule. The principal took my interview and answered all his questions very patiently. He told me about the matter that why he put this interview ahead of schedule. Actually, that principal is a member of a musical group and the next day, he has to go to London to present a performance there.

So, he did it. He appreciated me for behaving patiently. I thanked her. So, after one week from this interview, the Principal sent me an email in which he said to me to join the job of a teacher in his school. I felt immensely glad. I thanked him again.

All in all, that was the time when my interview was put ahead of schedule due to some reasons.

### 3. Describe a handmade gift you gave to a friend or relative.

You should say:

- what the gift was
- who you gave it to and when
- how you made it by hand

Well, the gift was a wooden doll (I must confess that doll did not look that great as I made it when I was only 15 years old and I had little skills making such things). Yet my sister loved it so much and felt so proud for making this gift for her. It was a late winter evening probably in 2001 when I took my Bister to the market to buy her a pair of shoes. On our way back home, she showed me a large doll displayed in a fancy toy shop She told me that she would love to own a doll like that She knew the price of that doll would be really high and did not have enough money to actually buy her that doll

This event made me sad a lot and I asked my father, who lived in a different city for his job to buy her a doll. He probably forgot about the doll and did not send any doll in the next two weeks. My sister's birthday was approaching and I wanted to make her a beautiful doll before her birthday, I used to make boats, wooden pens, and other types of toys in my childhood as a passion but making a doll was something I never thought would do someday. However, dared to make one and worked for more than 7-8 days to finally make something that I could claim as a doll. I took a fine quality wood large enough to give it a shape of a doll, used other tools, glue and other ingredients to make this doll. I painted that doll and tried to mimic my sister's facial features in this doll. When gave this doll to my sister, she was so amazed that she kissed me and thanked me again and again. She even recognised that tried to mimic her face in that doll. Then I told her that the name of this doll is Emmy'. She laughed and told me that it was even more beautiful than her

A few weeks later my father bought her a very expensive and beautiful doll but my sister was somehow convinced that the one I made was prettier Maybe that was because of her love and affection for me.

I basically wanted to make my sister happy and to give her something before her 8th birthday. I did not have enough money to buy her a big doll and I had some skills in making toys with woods and papers. Considering all these facts was convinced that I should make a wooden doll by myself for my sister.

## 4. Describe how you behaved in a stressful situation.

You should say-

- When it was?
- Why had you faced it?
- How did you feel?

Well, I have experience of a number of stressful situations in which I felt sad. And here I would like to describe one stressful situation of my life. About two months ago I had lost my passport in a taxi. I explain it briefly.

One day, I was going to my friend Saba's house to meet him. I had kept my passport in my skirt's pocket. Actually, I was going there to fill the form for the IELTS exam online. Saba has had internet access on his laptop and she told me that she will fill my IELTS exam's form. So, I took a taxi to reach my destination.

I was in the cab, then suddenly my phone started ringing. Saba was calling me to know my location because she was waiting for me. I received her call and said to her that I am nearby her home. When she cut the phone call, I reached her home. I gave traveling costs to a taxi driver and went to Saba's house.

When she asked me for my passport, I checked my pocket. Unfortunately, I had lost it. I was worried so much. Quickly, I went back to my home and started searching for my passport. I could not have found it.

Then, my phone had started ringing, It was an unknown number. I received this phone call, this was the phone call of a taxi driver who was telling me about my passport. Actually, I had kept a slip in the cover of my passport on which I had written my mobile phone's number.

He told that he checked this number and called me. I thanked him. I requested him to keep my passport with himself. I said to him that I will take it the next morning from the taxi stand. So, the next day, I went to the taxi stand and took me a passport. I thanked him a lot.

Eventually, by the grace of God, I had found my passport. It was a very stressful situation for me.

## 5. Describe a natural calamity that you fear

You Should say :

- What it is?
- Why do you fear it?
- How it affects people's lives?
- And explain how to think damage can be reduced.

Well, natural calamities or disasters occur due to an imbalance in the earth's environment. And here I would like to talk about a natural calamity named earthquake from which I fear so much. The earthquake is also known as a quake, tremor temblor.

It is a shaking of the surface of the earth, results from the sudden release of heat or energy in the earth's lithosphere that creates seismic waves. Some Earthquakes are so weak but some are violent enough to toss people around and destroy whole cities. I have experience with this calamity.

And here I like to tell you about a time when Earthquake occurred during the night. About two years ago, I was sleeping in my bedroom at night. Suddenly, the window of my room was opened and it made a loud sound. I felt that my bed is shaking. I opened my eyes and then I went to nearby the window.

I saw that there was a fast wind was blowing. All the plants nearby my home were producing the horrible sounds. It was a nightmarishly terrible scene. I thought that it is definitely occurring due to an earthquake. I tried to close the window but I Could not have done it. I had afraid so much and started screaming because all the objects in my bedroom were shaking.

I ran to my mom's bedroom and she woke up with my loud voice. she gave me water to drink and said to me to sleep with her.

Eventually, this natural calamity becomes the cause of death of many people who live in the soil houses. because when an earthquake occurs, houses have broken with the strong shaking. I fear it.

## **6. Talk about an own thing which would like to remove**

You should say:

- What is that thing?
- Why do you want to change it?
- Talk about an own thing which would like to remove

Everyman has a plethora of things in his life which are may be very useful or some things are not. Sometimes, people want to remove old things because it might become unimportant for them. Here, I would like to talk about a thing which I want to remove. It is an old bookcase. I bought it 7 years ago from " Lara Furniture Shop". It is made of wood. I really fond of reading books and magazines, so I purchased it. I took a plethora of books on it. It has four shelves to keep books or anything other. When I purchased this bookcase, it really mesmerized me with a mirror on the front of it but, now its condition is very bad. Except for the mirror, the whole bookcase has spoiled because of fungus.

moreover, the three shelves have broken and now, I cannot keep my books as well as, magazines in this bookcase. By the way, I have one another bookcase which has made of iron. I can keep books in the new one. I like and I will really do it. I have kept the old bookcase till now because I bought it with my first job salary but, now I feel sad as well to remove it. But, I can use its mirror and set it up on the front of the iron made bookcase. Further more, I will feel quite good after removing the old bookcase.

## **7. Describe a situation you were not allowed to use your cell phone.**

You should say:

- Where was it?
- When was it?
- Why you were not allowed?



- What did you want to do with your cell phone?

Well, in this contemporary era, mobile phones have become part and parcel of our life. More than a luxury these days, it is a necessity to stay connected with our near and dear ones (kith and kin). Moreover, we are so addicted and dependent on this device that we can't even imagine our life without it for a single moment. However, uses of mobile phones are prohibited at a myriad of places, like hospitals, temples, in flights, and while driving. Besides, a similar thing happened to me a couple of months ago, when I had to visit a bank and was not allowed to use my cellphone.

We are so habitual to check our mobiles every now and then for everything, like WhatsApp messages or emails, that if we are asked to stay away from it, then certainly we feel as if we are standing on a death's door. Actually, due to some financial transactions related to my education loan, I had to visit one of the bank's branches in my city. Just like any other day, the bank was overcrowded. Since I was aware that mobile phones were restricted inside the bank, I turned my phone into silent mode. And being a responsible citizen, I lined up in the queue and waited for my turn patiently.

When my turn came, I presented all the documents to the bank cashier. However, to my surprise, the check leaf was missing from the papers. That time I realized that accidentally I would have left it at home. Therefore, I took out my mobile and started to make a call to my father.

Nevertheless, I was stopped by a security guard, to not make any calls from inside the building due to security reasons. At first, I was in a dilemma as I couldn't understand what to do, so I requested him to let me make a call so that someone from my home can get the chequebook for me.

But he added an insult to injury by saying that if he would allow me, then everyone could start demanding it. On the one hand, I began to have blues if I moved from the line, then I must wait in the queue again for my turn to come while on the other hand, he was also reasonable. Since I had no option, with a heavy heart, I went outside the bank and called my dad to get the chequebook.

Indeed, I was frustrated to the core by the strict rule, but I also do realize how significant it is for the security system. Additionally, from that day onwards, I am extremely cautious about my documents as I learned a good lesson to be attentive and careful.

## 8. Describe an outdoor sport that you haven't done yet and would like to do in the future.

You should say:

- what is it?
- when and where you would do it?
- what preparations and equipment you would need?

sports are an important part of human's life. it has a great role to play in the life of every human being. I like sports and played in my childhood and school time. I belong to a village and there are ordinary sports to play in a village. but today I would like to talk about an outdoor sport which I didn't play in my past life but I would like to play in my future life. it is the game of hockey which is the national game of India.

in my school days, I have seen many boys playing this game but I didn't get a chance to play at that time. because in my school days I was concentrating on my studies. I am much worried about my future at that time. after completing secondary education I went to college for my further studies. I got tough subjects in my graduation. but my inspiration toward hockey was increasing day by day. now I am in the final year of my graduation. I often met the hockey coach of my college hockey and he always motivated me to play this game. I will play this game in my post-graduation when I will go to the university.

I need a coach who has deep knowledge about this game. I already contact some players who had played hockey at the school time. I would buy a hockey, a ball, a hockey dress and sports shoes. I often watch hockey matches telecasted on the tv which is a great source of knowledge for me. I also watch the matches organized on the zone level in my city. I hope I would definitely fulfill this wish in my future.

### follow-ups

#### Q-1 Do you play any sports at night?

Ans: no, I don't play sports at night because I am so busy during daytime at my work. so I get tired due to work. so I prefer to play at daytime.

#### Q-2 What are the benefits of playing sports?

Ans: there are many benefits of playing sports. first of all one could pursue his career in sports. because successful sportsmen choose for higher jobs.

the other benefit is one could keep himself fit and healthy.

**Q-3 What is the difference between playing sports on your own and playing sports in the group?**

Ans: playing sports on your own could give you chance to bright like a star and pursue your career.but playing in a group or team could give the feeling of team spirit and promote brotherhood.

## 9. Describe a faraway place that you would like to visit

You should say:

- Where is It?
- Why do you want to go?
- When do you want to go?

Well, I have visited several places in my whole life such as an Air castle in Jaipur, Red Fort in Delhi, Zoo in Indore and so on. But here I would like to talk about a place which is located at some distance from my hometown. That place is a museum which has known as “Shaheed Bhagat Singh Museum”.

This museum is located in a city named Lialpur which was the birthplace of Great-martyr Bhagat Singh. I heard about it from one of my friends named Saba. He told me everything about it that many things related to Punjab’s traditions and culture are set up over there. Besides it, the whole biography of Shaheed Bhagat Singh is presented there through his pictures. When Saba was explaining everything to me, then I felt very excited to see it.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh was the freedom fighter of India who fought with the British government before the freedom of India. he hung up on 23rd March by the British Government for doing anti-British government activities. 23rd March has announced as a national holiday by the Indian Government.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh was very brave and confident since his childhood. He wanted to do something to get freedom from the British government. He joined Freedom Association which did various activities to defeat British officers. In this, he met with two other freedom fighters named Sukhdev and Rajguru.

These three made a plan and threw the bomb in an assembly in Lahore. This explosion was never for killing anyone because it was only thrown to put lacs of screams of Indians in the ears of the British government. After this explosion, they did not run from there and arrested by British officers. Court Punished them and ordered them to hand them. After this, Indian people got awareness and started a fight against the British government to go back to their country, Britain. As a result of it, India got freedom in 1947.

On 23rd March, several functions organize in India, especially in Punjab. Also In my school, a programme organizes every year to recall the

memories of martyr Bhagat Singh. I visit over there each year and gain knowledge about Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

All in all, I would like to visit this museum because it is related to a great martyr Shaheed Bhagat Singh who helped us to get freedom from cruel British officers. I believe, everyone should be like that brave martyr. I shall go there as soon as possible.

## 10. A visit you made using public transport

You should say:

- When and where you went?
- What kind of transport did you use?
- How was your trip?

Well, every day I go to college in public transport. According to me, public transportation is safe for long journeys as well as for short visits. But here I would like to talk about a visit which I made via a bus. I explain it briefly. About two months ago, I had made a plan to go to the Golden Temple Amritsar with my two friends. We decided to travel via bus.

According to our plan, we reached the bus station in my hometown Moga. On the bus station, We bought eatable things and beverages to drink. We took a bus in which only a few people were traveling. During this journey, We sit on the same seat on the bus. We shared many views with each other. My one friend who was traveling with us is a very talkative person. He makes each and every moment memorable with his funny and captivating talk. He was doing funny activities on the bus. After some time, When the bus conductor came near to seat, then we got a ticket from him.

When one hour passed during the journey, we ate the food which we carried with us.

Then, we reached the city of Amritsar after one hour. We went out of the bus and took a cab to reach Golden Temple. We went in just ten minutes. We did supplication over there for the goodness of our loving families.

Moreover, I prayed to God for the strong relationship between us three friends. After prayer, we came back to the bus station and took the bus to reach home.

Eventually, till the evening, we came back to my hometown. So, that was the time when I went with my friend by bus.

# 11. Describe plant grown in your country you think is important

You should say:

- What is it?
- Why do you think it is important?
- Where is it found?

Well, India is a diverse country. There are a variety of plants that are being grown by Indian citizens such as Neem, Basil, Turmeric and so on. But here I would like to talk about the most important plant named Aloe Vera plant. This plant is small in size and very easy to grow. Because we can plant it in any type of soil. This plant has multifarious benefits to a human being. I explain it briefly.

Firstly, Aloe Vera is used in various medicines such as antibiotics, anti fungus and so on. The doctor advised to diabetic patients to apply Aloe Vera gel on their feet to reduce the effect of diabetes. Secondly, many people grow it in front of their home for the decoration purpose. I also have grown it nearby the main entrance of my house. It needs less water to grow but a large amount of sunlight to grow well.

Moreover, some persons grow it in the beautiful pots and keep it in their bedroom just near to the window. Because it produces ten times extra oxygen in the environment rather than other plants. It sucks harmful bacterias from the air and refreshes the bedroom. Apart from it, Aloe Vera has been using in the home remedies by Indian manpower. Its gel is very beneficial in the skin as well as hair problems such as tanned skin, hair fall, uric acid, and joint pain.

People cut this plant's parts and cook it as a dish that purifies the blood of a human body. Furthermore, I use its gel on my hair to make them healthy and lengthy. I have been doing it for one year in order to reduce the hair fall problem. In the past time, my hairs were short and I wanted to make them longer.

Then, once a time I read about a home remedy to grow long hairs on the internet. I watched that Aloe Vera gel is also a part of this remedy. So, I grew it in my home and started using it. Now, my hairs are so long and a plethora of humans ask about my long hairs. I say them that it is a miracle of Aloe Vera gel.

All in all, it is a very beneficial plant for each and every person. Everyone should grow it in the home.

## 12. Describe idea of your dream vacation

You should say:

- Where you want to go?
- Why do you want to visit this place?
- What do you know about this place?

well, everyone love vacations and I am one of them. I love to travel to different places to explore different culture and lifestyles. normally I don't get enough free time for a long vacation but yes if I get a chance then I would like to go to Australia for at least 15 days.

To be honest, going to Australia just like a dream come true. I heard a lot about this place and in fact, my cousin sister also lived there. she shared pictures with me one of the beautiful city of Sydney in Australia. after watching the beauty of this city I just love this and my curiosity to be going there is on peak now.

I have planned so many things .when I go there first I want to see Sydney opera house which looks incredible in pictures and I love to see it in reality. Apart from it, some other places which I like to visit such as "the Sydney harbour bridge ", "the rocks ", queen victoria building and so on. I hope I go there very soon because of my cousin sister invite me to my nephew's birthday party .if I got the visa for traveling then definitely I explore the beauty of Sydney. my mother also planned to go with me so it would make my trip more memorable. we planned to stay with my sister house throughout the vacation.

she also free on that time due to summer off so there is no worry for her to take off from work especially for us. she promised me to help me to explore each and everything. I also want to try some local food in their country. when this dream come true I would capture it with my cam for saving this loving memory. overall, I still waiting for this type of vacation hope it will possible as soon as



## 13. Describe a person who works on protecting environment

You should say:

- Who is he?
- How do you know him?
- What efforts does he make for the environment?

It is quite evident that the Degradation of an environment is getting grimmer day by day. And many persons have been putting the contribution to protecting the environment. Although I belong to a small village, It is a miniature developing village which includes modern facilities such as a dispensary, school, bank and so on.

In my village, a human being named John Drill who has been working to protect the environment. Mr. John has established a youth club that works for my village such as cleaning all the allies, solve problems of villagers, helping to poverty-stricken people with money and so on. Mr. John is a leader of that youth club.

About three months ago, Mr. John had organized an awareness programme for villagers in order to aware them about the deformation of an environment and solution to defend it. I went over there with my mother.

He invited all the people to come over there in this programme. On that day, the programme started with a lecture of Mr. John on Solutions to secure the environment at 10:30 AM. Each and every villager was listening to him very patiently and calmly.

Mr. John told that earth is our home and we are being unwise by degenerating it. If the earth will vanish, then, all individuals will terminate. He explains it very well to villagers. He leaves a profound impact on their minds. He requested manpower to grow more and more plants because trees are a cause of life on the earth and it is our duty to do it.

At the end of this awareness programme, Youth club distributed plants to every person to grow in their homes. By seeing all these things, I was so astounded by Mr. John's work for the protection of the environment.

All in all, Mr. John is the person who works to defend the environment known by me.

## 14. Describe an activity you enjoy doing when you alone

You should say:

- What are you doing?
- Why do you like to do?
- How do you feel after doing them?

Well, there are a number of activities which I love to do when there is no one at my home. For instance, working in the kitchen garden of my home, reading a book, cleaning my bedroom, surfing the internet, watching a movie on television and so on.

But here I would like to talk about an activity which I do commonly when I alone at my house and that is cooking. I love to cook food for myself as well as for my loving family. My mother has great culinary skills and I have learned cooking from her. When I feel bored due to loneliness, then I go to the kitchen trying to prepare new dishes.

To be honest, I do not like to have food from a food corner situated in any market because I know very well that many times food has prepared in the unhygienic conditions which harm to anyone. So, I make food in my home's kitchen. I like to try a variety of recipes. For instance, I can bake a cake of any flavor, Chinese food, Italian food, Dhokla, Punjabi dishes like Daal Makhani and so on.

Moreover, sometimes I cook special dishes for my family members as per their choice and give a surprise to them. They feel immensely glad when they see their favorite food items. I remember that about a couple of weeks ago, I was alone at home and other family members went outside due to work or study. I had a holiday on that day. I felt bored.

Then, I went into the kitchen and started preparations to cook a healthy dish. I decided to make a special dish named "Gajar Ka Halwa" which is my mom's favorite dish. I cooked it with milk, sugar, butter, carrots, and dry fruits. when I had cooked it, I tasted it. It was mouthwatering.

When my mother came back home, I showed it to her. She ate it and felt highly elated. For this, she kissed me. I felt on the ninth cloud at that time because a smile on her face made my day. So, I like to cook food when I alone at my home.

## 15. Talk about your teenager friend

You should say:

- Who is he/she?
- Why do you like him/her?
- What do you experience from him/her?

Well, I have met with a plethora of teenager and beautiful girls. But I like one teenager from them, I admire her beauty as well as her good personality. I explain about her briefly.

Her name is Manpreet Kaur. She is my classmate. She is very attractive because of her beauty. She is tall, fair complexion with black hair. She maintains her beauty and looking stunning. Every type of dress suits her because she is a slim lady.

Moreover, she is a well-educated human being. She is 17 years old. She is studying with me in a well-reputed school in my home town. She is very honest about her studies. She is very intelligent. From morning to night, She does everything for the goodness of her family as well as for her studies.

Apart from it, she teaches to poverty-stricken students in the evening every day. She does it free for poor learners.

Furthermore, she donates money in schools from her pocket money for the help of intelligent and poor juveniles. Besides it, all her activities attract others as well as myself so much such as her way of talking, sense of humor, politeness, creativity and so on.

All in all, she is the backbone of her family who has attached to all family members. I meet with her many times. I invited her once on the marriage of my cousin. During a marriage function at my house. She came to my home with his family to attend the wedding party of my cousin's marriage.

She impresses me whenever I meet her. She also does chit-chat with me on facebook. I like her very much and wish to be like her.

## 16. Talk about something you would like to get replaced.

You should say:

- what is it?
- when you replace it?
- why you replace it?

Today is the world of technology. new inventions are coming day by day into the market. new versions of available products with updated and new functions are introducing in the world. people are crazy for buying new versions with the latest technology. in earlier time simple TVs were available. but with the advent of technology LCD, led, and now smart TVs came into the market. smart TVs have come with HD picture quality and wifi direct, youtube facility. so I would also like to replace my ordinary tv with smart tv.

I would like to replace it in the coming weeks because I had started to save the money for this one year ago. when I would have the desired amount I will buy it. moreover, when I am free, I go to the market with my friend to see the different kinds of models of different brands. because a large number of brands are available in the market. I want to buy the best model of best brand. my friend has already bought it a few months ago. so he could guide me to buy it in a better way.

I want to replace it because it has a big screen with HD picture quality. so it would be an experience like theatre at home. furthermore, it can be connected to the internet through wifi and one can see anything on youtube. one can also experience other social websites on it like facebook, Instagram etc. it is slim in size and would be installed in a little space. it could also be hanged on the wall of your room. so it has a large number of facilities and I want to replace it.

## **17. Describe the time when someone took a good photograph of you.**

You should say:

- when and where the photo was taken?
- who took the photo?
- what does the photo depict?

In this modern era technology is developing day by day and new inventions are coming onto the market. In the earlier time, a few people had cameras to capture pictures and cameras were very heavy to carry by someone with him or her. But nowadays with the advent of technology, mobile phones of different brands are available in the market which has a large number of functions like one could capture pictures and make videos at any time and anywhere. These mobile phones are not only easy to carry but have high dimension picture quality. I have a Samsung mobile and always capture pictures on different occasions. But today I would like to talk about a picture which was taken by my sister-in-law with my mobile when we had gone to Wonderland Jalandhar after my marriage.

I had gone to Wonderland Jalandhar in the month of June just after my marriage with my in-laws. My sister-in-law Candy is fond of taking pictures and she is very expert in it. We were wandering in the garden. Then I saw an artificial fountain where water was falling from an artificial hill made with heavy rocks. It presented a beautiful view of nature. We decided to capture pictures there because it was a beautiful location to take the pictures. Everyone was taking pictures one by one turn. Then I asked my sister-in-law Candy to capture our picture. She took our picture in a beautiful way. It is really awesome.

In the picture, my wife sits on the rock at the center of the fountain and I sit beside her by holding her shoulder. Water is falling from the hill behind us. It is really a beautiful picture and it is one of the best pictures in my album. The picture shows our love and our affection with nature.

### **follow-ups**

#### **Q-1 do you like to take photographs?**

Ans: yes definitely I like to take photographs. It is a good source to capture your memories and preserve them for a long time. I like to take photographs since my childhood because my uncle gave me a camera as a gift on my fifth birthday.

**Q-2 what are the new and easily available sources to capture photographs?**

Ans: in the past time there were only a few sources to capture pictures. there were only ordinary cameras with a reel in it by through one could have captured only 35 to 36 pictures. but in this modern era, there are not only available higher internal memory cameras by which one could capture a large number of pictures but mobile phones also with an internal memory of 8GB, 16 GB, 32gb and 64 GB.

**Q-3 what is the new style to take pictures with mobile cameras prevailed in the society nowadays?**

Ans: the new style to take pictures with mobile cameras is named selfie. mostly youth of the nation is crazy about this new style. some young persons became mad to take selfies that sometimes they have to lose their lives. this style is not only prevailed in my country but all around the world also.

## 18. Describe a time when you saw lots of people smiling

You should say:

- what it was?
- when it was?
- why people were smiling?
- How you felt?

First of all thanks for giving such a nice topic. A smile can make anyone's day but in fast-growing life, we can forget the value of smiling. here I would like to share with you a time when I laughed too much and that time was remember me till now.

In last month I and my uncle attend a party which was held in "laughing club" Chandigarh. My uncle has the membership of that club. In that party maximum, 200 people have come. all Generations ( senior citizens, youngsters or as well as children ) were there.

That was a theme party and theme was "How to live happily". Children performed some activities such as ( crapes jokes, funny dress competition, memocarry of Bollywood stars). the main motive of that activities was given a smile to everyone and it really worked.

When 2 children play a role in some famous personality and crape a joke on each other. Everyone who suited in club laughed loudly. That time was the best time when I saw the whole member of the club laughed and they feel very relaxed and happy.

## **19. Talk about a wish that you could not accomplish for a long time**

You should say:

- what it is?
- how long you have it?
- what you have to do to achieve it?

Everyone has some wishes or dreams but all cannot be fulfilled at the same time. Here I would like to talk about one of mine wish which is unfulfilled till now. I have a dream to start cooking classes or cooking blog since 10 year ago but unfortunately, due to very busy schedule, I can not start work on it.

I love to do the cooking and I want to share my own recipes or technique of cooking with others. now I decide to make a timetable I add my passion work also. First of all, I create a blog online and start free classes for those who love to do the cooking.

After that, I want to start offline classes also for the needy student who can not afford internet fees. Its really help that student who moves outside due to their job or studies. They learn cooking skills and able to cook them self. I love to fulfill this wish as soon as possible.



## **20. Talk about an English lesson you enjoyed or Describe an English class, seminar or training session that you enjoyed.**

You should say:

- Who gave the lecture?
- When did you attend?
- Where did you attend?
- What did teacher do?
- What do you think it was enjoyable?

During my school time, I was very weak in the English Language. Hence to improve my English Language skills, I had to attend few English classes. Among the classes I have attended, few were quite boring, except the one class which was very interesting and I enjoyed attending that class a lot. So here I would share my experience about attending that enjoyable class.

The lesson was basically related to English Grammar. But this class was different, as in this class the more significance was given to advanced grammar, and less on simple grammar. And only in this class, for the first time, I learned about Advanced Grammar, before that I had no idea about this form of grammar.

I attended this class at my school. At that time, I was in 12th class. And this happened some 4 years ago. This class was presented by Mr. Baldev.

I learned a plethora of skills from this class. I was introduced to numerous useful tips and tricks on how to improve grammar. Apart from this, he made us aware of articles, linking verbs, determiners and many more topics related to grammar.

Honestly saying, I enjoyed this class a lot. But there's a reason behind my interest in this class. Normally, students find grammar class uninteresting and tiresome. Even a class of 10 minutes can make the student feel sleepy. But in this class, everyone, including myself were excited and were paying full attention towards the lesson. Mr. Baldev teaching style was very interesting.

So this was all about an English lesson that I enjoyed.

## 21. Describe a shop that has opened in your hometown

You should say:

- What shop it is
- What it sells (or, what you usually buy there)
- when you first started going to this shop (or, how you came to know about this shop)
- and explain why you like (to go to) this shop

I live in a famous town of Punjab, Moga it is one of the districts of the state it is known for its export of eatable products to different parts of the world made by Nestle India limited it is a famous industry established by the reunion of the Indian and Swiss governments both countries have equal share in it, but today I would like to talk about shop which is recently opened by this company in our hometown this shop is opened in the heart of the city .

It is a big shop where all kind of products includes candies, chocolates, coffee, milk powder Ghee, Tammaro sauce, etc. this shop sell these products on a wholesale basis.I heard about this shop from my uncle who works. In that company, he is a good friend of my father. He always visited my home to meet my father.

One day when he came to my house, he told me about the shop and suggested me to visit the shop. One day when I was free, I decided to go there with one of my friends. When we reached there, we saw that there was an excellent parking facility for the vehicles. The shop was huge, and all the items were displayed on stands.

The place was elegant, and clean .baskets were available to carry different products, and you could pay at different counters. The price of every product displayed on it, and there was no need to ask for price .there were concessions on some items. so I liked that shop very much and I often visit there

## 22. A Radio or TV programme you like to talk to others with

You should say:

- what kind of TV program it was?
- when you saw this TV program.?
- what the TV program was about.?

Nowadays there are a 500+ of Television channels and many programmes are running on Television. The one programme I am going to talk about here is FRIENDS. It is my all-time favorite tv series. In fact, all my family members enjoy this serial together. Later on, I discuss this with my friends too. We all have a good laugh at the serial the next day. Earlier it was on Zee Cafe but now it is telecast on Colors Infinity Channel.

Its time is 10.30-11.30 pm. This show about Ross Geller, Rachel Green, Monica Geller, Joey Tribbiani, Chandler Bing, and Phoebe Buffay are six 20 something-year-olds living in New York City. Over the course of 10 years, these friends go through family, love, drama, friendship, and comedy. Monica Gellar – A compulsive neat freak, who has trouble with her love life. Monica was teased when she was in high school for being overweight.

However, now a head-chef at a top restaurant in Manhattan Rachel Green, Ross Geller, Monica Geller, Joey Tribbiani, Chandler Bing and Phoebe Buffay is six 20 something year-olds, living off of one another in the heart of New York City. Over the course of ten years, this average group of buddies goes through massive mayhem, family trouble, past and future romances, fights, laughs, tears and surprises as they learn what it really means to be a friend. Rachel Green – A popular schoolgirl of the past, is now a spoiled brat living off her father's finance. Ross now is devoted to finding a girl to settle down with, without a divorce, and makes it his personal goal to share happiness with Rachel.

Phoebe Buffay – Brought up as a fatherless child, Phoebe is a ditzy yet loveable hippy, who has become a personal masseuse Phoebe often performs at the 'Central Perk' coffee house, and strongly believes in herself. Chandler Bing – A financially secure data processor, who relies on humor as a defense mechanism. Joey Tribbiani – Despite being close to all the friends, he is especially open with Chandler, who his also his roommate. Joey is a small time actor, he always saying " how you Doing" to every girl. At the end of the serial, there is a lesson as to what should have been done. Every show taught a lesson to us

## **23. Describe a couple who you think have a happy marriage**

You should say:

- Who the couple is?
- How they look like?
- Why you consider they happy marriage?

Well, I know several happy couples out there including my parents who have a great relationship, however, today I want to talk about my cousin and his wife. You know, they have been married for almost twenty years now and whenever I see them they always seem to be cheerful and still-in-love.

I must say that there are the bunch of reasons for their healthy relationship. First thing I want to mention is that they have a lot of common interest such as their passion for music. Whenever I go to their home, I frequently watch them play music together, in fact, they are a perfect combination when it comes to this matter because my cousin plays the piano while my sister-in-law plays guitar and both can sing very well.

The most interesting thing is that they both work in the same hospital because they are both professional doctors. However, the most important thing is that they share the household chores together, they work as a team as they help each other at home on a quite regular basis.

My cousin cooks delicious food while my sister-in-law washes the dishes. So I get the impression that they treat each other very well. In addition to that, I've noticed that my cousin always drives his wife to and from work every single day.

All in all, there's no doubt that they're really happy together, and I think they're actually great role models on keeping a marriage strong and healthy.

## 24. Talk about a day off that you took to relax from work

You should say:

- what you did,
- where you went,
- who was there with you, and
- what you did to relax.

I've had many relaxing days in my life, but the day I'm going to talk about here is last Sunday.

The whole month before that I was very busy.

We were getting our house re-painted and I was busy helping my parents in setting and re-setting the furniture and almirahs.

So, last Saturday the whole work was over and we all family members heaved a sigh of relief.

On Sunday, we went to see a movie.

We saw Dabang in Sarb Multiplex.

We really enjoyed a lot.

We had popcorns and pepsi in the interval.

After the movie we went for shopping

We didn't buy much but we enjoyed the window shopping

Then we went to Haveli and enjoyed the traditional Punjabi food at Rangla Punjab

We also saw a cultural programme that was going on over there

You know ma'am, on that day Gurdas Mann had come there with his troupe.

There was a lot of rush there.

People were queuing up to take his autograph.

He is a very popular Punjabi singer, lyricist, actor and director.

We returned home very late in the night.

It was a day full of fun and frolic.

It was a very relaxing day for me.

## 25.TALK ABOUT A DEBATABLE ISSUE

You should say:

- What the issue is?
- Why it is debatable?
- Which side did you support?
- And How do you think it can be resolved?

Well, it is not uncommon to see debates getting sparked on minor as well as major issues and the topic which is very much in controversies these days in society and the one I am going to talk about is whether the employees should be allowed to continue to work from home or not. Actually, the thing is that during the Corona pandemic, the employees were supposed to work from home.

The fact is that there was a complete lockdown and it was not feasible for companies to allow their employees to visit the office on regular basis. This is the reason, employees started working from home. Now, the debate is that the employees want to continue to work from home. The fact is that earlier, they were unable to maintain or strike a balance between their professional and personal lives. Now, they can do it better because they are not wasting the time that they were wasting earlier traveling to and from work.

But, there is another segment or a group which believes that working from home is having a detrimental impact, especially on the work efficiency of the employees. They are not giving their 100 percent to work. At the same time, their professionalism and commitment to work are also affected. Since there is no interaction with their colleagues or there is no supervision of their employers.

For that reason, they are not working as they should be and if I talk about myself, I too believe that there is certainly a drastic fall in the professionalism of workers. They are becoming lethargic and that's the reason why I think the best idea to resolve this debate or to come up with the best solution to resolve this problem is that the workers and the employers should come up with some kind of agreement. There has to be an arrangement under which employees are expected to visit their workplace for a few days a week while for the rest they may continue to work from home. This way, both parties would be satisfied and the problem would be resolved.

## 26. Describe a Fountain you really liked

You should say

- Where it is?
- How did you learn about it?
- Describe the fountain.?
- Why did you like it so much?

Well, falling water is something that mesmerizes everyone and it is not uncommon to see fountains erected in most public places especially gardens and squares to simulate natural waterfalls. Here, I am going to talk about a newly constructed fountain in my city's biggest park "The Nature Park". Well, the council erected this fountain just a couple of months ago and I got to know about it from one of my friends who regularly visit this park.

On his recommendation, I visited this park and I was completely astonished to see how beautiful and massive this fountain is. It is actually in the shape of a mermaid almost 15ft tall a burst of water goes high up in the air and when it falls, it creates a lovely and breath-taking view. In fact, the sound of the falling water is just so pleasing that when you close your eyes and listen to it, you feel a connection with nature.

What's more, The main fountain is surrounded by a cluster of small fountains and the water gets collected in a pond where there are a few ducks as well. In fact, this fountain has enhanced the beauty of this park and just because of this fountain, the footfall has increased greatly.

The best part of this fountain is that it is equipped with thousands of LEDs and at night time you get amazed to see the color of the water changing from red to blue and green to yellow. In no time, this fountain has become extremely popular in the area and youngsters especially visit this park to take photographs or selfies in front of this fountain.

I am grateful to the council who consider erecting this fountain and I hope it would be maintained and would be taken care of properly so that in times to come, it keeps on attracting the visitors and giving them a good time to relish and relax their stressed minds.

## 27. Talk about a time when you were asked opinion in a survey

You should say:

- When it was
- Where it was
- What it was about
- Explain about the survey experience

Well, I have participated in quite a few surveys conducted by different organization But, here I would definitely like to share the experience of participating in survey that I had just last month fact is that, I was at a bus stand waiting for my bus that was suppose to leave in another twenty minutes During this time I saw a canopy of Samsung mobile phones with some people around.

I too approached to see with excitement what is going on and I got to know that Samsung Company is conducting a survey of its latest release Note Ten Plus mobile

Since, I am user of this mobile phone so, I too decided to take part in it. Mr. Singh who was one of the representatives at this canopy he handed me over a questionna There were about ten close ended questions that were regarding different features of this mobile and at the bot there was also a suggestion box I answered all the questions as per my experience with this mobile and in the suggestion box,

I left my comments that this mobile is little too pricey and should be more affordable. During this time also served me a cup of coffee. I must taking part in this survey was quite a satisfactory experience I felt I am directly communicating with company and sharing my feedback that would be quite beneficial for the company Overall, it was the wonderful experience now I never miss a chance to part in a survey.



## 28. Talk about A Joke That Made You Laugh

You should say:

- Who told you joke?
- When and where?
- What the joke was?
- Why did you find it interesting?

Well, laughter is the best medicine and people often love listening to jokes to have some good fun and here I am going to share a funny incident narrated by my cousin which is as good as any funny joke. I vividly remember that my cousin simran was visiting us during summer holidays and one day we were sitting in a restaurant to enjoy some snacks while having food, he shared this funny incident with me.

He said that he was having big trouble with his friends who are really very stingy by nature. They are never willing to spend a penny and always make him to spend money on their behalf and never pay him back in any circumstance. So, Simran decided to teach his friends a lesson and for that one day, he called and invited all his friends to reach a restaurant by 6 pm where he is going to throw a party.

Actually, he pretended to throw a party, but his intention was something else. Now, sharp at 6 pm, all the friend's arrived and this was the time when Simran said to all that you can order anything you want from the menu and In greed, they ordered the most expensive food items in the menu and In fact ordered more than what they could eat. My cousin was observing all this and when the food was served, he made an excuse to use the washroom and from there, he eloped and switched off his phone.

Now, his friends were trapped at this restaurant because they had no money to pay. The restaurant owner detained them and made them clean the restaurant and dishes till midnight. They had terrible experience at the restaurant but they were truly sorry for their behaviour to Simran as well. Listening to this incident, I started laughing hysterically and everyone was staring at me in restaurant. Somehow I controlled my laughter that day but now everytime I recall that incident, I start laughing again. Overall, it was one funny incident or a joke that I heard that made me laugh a lot.

## 9 Band Sample Answer

Those are listed below

### 1. A time you were stuck in a traffic jam

Say when and where it happened  
How long you were in the traffic jam  
What you did while waiting  
And explain what you felt when you were in the traffic jam

#### Sample Answer

Bangalore is known for its perennial traffic blocks and I had a taste of it recently and I can say it was a nightmarish experience.

I happened to visit Bangalore last October as I had to get my laptop from the TCS Bangalore office.

My cousin who stays in Bangalore had warned me to start from my hotel early to factor in the traffic delays. So I started off one hour in advance , but still I was two hours late.

The usual traffic congestion had been worsened by a protest march by Congress workers. Some of the arterial roads were completely choked due to the march and there was a massive gridlock.

The police had set up diversions and alternative roads, but these too were jam packed.

My feelings went from frustration to boredom and finally I just began observing people around me and how they were responding to the chaos. Some were nervous, stressed and anxious about reaching work late probably.

Some hot headed drivers repeatedly kept trying to switch lanes and honk continuously. Some were just bored and were killing time by chatting on their mobile.

After about an hour and a half of being stuck in this sea of

traffic we began to plod ahead , but still at snail's pace. I couldn't go beyond 6-7 km and every traffic light meant a five minute wait.

The experience was an exasperating and nerve racking one and I still shudder when I think of it. For me, India's Sili-

**Perennial - lasting for a long time**

**Factor in - include something when you are doing a calculation**

**Arterial roads - a major road carrying high volumes of traffic**

**Choked - blocked**

**Gridlock - traffic block**

**Hot headed - getting angry soon**

**At snail's pace - at a very slow pace**

**Exasperating - frustrat-ing**

**Nerve racking - stressful**

con Valley lost much of its sheen due to the state of its road infrastructure and its traffic snarls after that visit.

### Part 3

1 Are traffic jams common in Indian cities?

Yes they are. Most metropolitan cities in India such as Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore are some of the most choked cities in the world, ranking high in congestion level parameters. Traffic snarls are perennial in these cities, with average residents spending hours caught in these jams.

2 Why are cities facing serious traffic issues?

One major cause is the rapid unplanned growth of the city. With the huge influx of people, the population in most cities has expanded manifold, whereas the infrastructure has failed to keep pace with it. Rise in use of private vehicles, due to inefficient and inadequate public transit systems is yet another cause for the clogging of streets.

3 What can be done to improve traffic conditions in cities?

The most effective solutions for traffic congestion are investing in high quality public transport and walking and cycling infrastructure. Along with this people must be incentivised to shift to these modes. A highly efficient public transport network along with encouraging non motorised transport for short trips by providing comfortable footpaths, protected bicycle lanes would go a long way in addressing this issue.

4 Can developing public transport help resolve traffic issues in cities?

Yes definitely. A car centered urban culture is the major cause of congestion and so curbing the car culture and making sustainable public transport a reality, would be the best solutions.

## 2 Describe an invention that has changed how people live

Say what it is  
How it has changed people's lives  
What benefits it has brought  
And explain how you feel about it

### Sample Answer

Evolving technologies have undoubtedly transformed our lives. One among these inventions is the Internet.

One of the most dramatic changes the Internet has brought about is the way we connect with each other. We can stay in touch with friends and family across the globe through chat applications or video calls.

Never before have people been so connected. Connectivity also has made remote work possible.

Another massive change is the convenience it brings to our lives. There are umpteen things we can use the internet for, such as shopping, checking the news, navigating, booking transport, carrying out bank transactions and so on.

This is particularly useful for elderly people, who can carry out many of their day to day affairs from the comfort of their homes.

Also access to information is perhaps the most significant benefit. Long before the internet or search engines existed, we would have to go to a library, search and read through books for information. Now we can just ask Google and get our answers.

This also means that the internet helps in education. We can do courses online, upskill ourself, acquire a host of skills and become proficient in any task imaginable.

The Internet can be called a great leveller. It offers equal opportunities to everyone, to grow, advance and acquire knowledge.

**Massive - huge**

**Umpteen - a number of**

**Navigating - finding the direction**

**Leveller - something that affects all classes of people in the same way**

**Hub - centre**

**Overstate - exaggerate**

The internet is also of course, the hub of entertainment with the latest films, series, online gaming and so on.

Overall, it's hard to overstate the impact the Internet has had.

### Part 3

1 How has technology made our life easier?

Technology has come a long way over the past years and has brought a lot of ease and convenience into our lives. It is so much easier for people to communicate, shop, work or study. We also have access to volumes of information on our fingertips.

2 Which invention do you think is the most useful at home?

Well I think almost all household appliances and gadgets are indispensable. However if I have to pick one, I would choose the water filter. The quality of tap water in many places, especially urban areas is suspect, But thanks to technology, today we have a solution for accessing pure and healthy drinking water. Water purifiers not just remove microbes, but also chemicals and other contaminants and keep waterborne diseases at bay.

3 Is it more difficult for old people to accept new technologies?

Yes, most elderly people struggle with new technologies and are less inclined to use them. There are many barriers to accepting modern innovations, the most significant one being that they generally find them very complicated and feel intimidated.

4 What can be done to make old people use technologies?

I think plenty of things can be done to encourage the aged to embrace technologies. Technology classes specially designed for older people would be a great start. Manufac-

turing elderly friendly devices would also go a long way in achieving this goal. For example phones with big buttons, bright screens and big font sizes would make them easier to use for people with arthritis and sight issues.

5 Will our life be better if we live without technology?

Technology has pervaded almost every area of life today and considering the conveniences it has ushered in, it is almost unimaginable to think of life without technology. It would not only be laborious and burdensome but also would lack colour and vibrance.

### 3 Describe a family member you would like to work with in the future

Say who he is

How you know him

What he does

And explain why you would like to work with him.

#### Sample Answer

A person I would like to work with is my nephew Davis. Davis is a digital media marketing manager with a company in Bangalore.

In the four years that he has been working there he has proven his mettle in marketing and managed to phenomenally expand their customer base and sales revenue.

Today digital marketing is vital to expand a business and create brand awareness.

Companies need to have a solid digital media presence and digital advertising strategies to stay ahead in the competition.

This needs innovative and creative thinking skills. I have seen some of the marketing campaigns Davis had run for his company . He uses multiple platforms for advertising such as Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

His out of the box thinking and excellent use of design and visuals to get the message across, is really impressive. He finds ways to attract,engage and delight customers online.

Recently he devised a catchy phrase about his business and used it as a hashtag in order to trend on Twitter.

I would like to work with him to get some smart insights to succeed in online marketing. I would also be able to get a better understanding about the algorithms used by different social media platforms as well as digital marketing strategies.

**Proven his mettle - showed his worth**

**Phenomenal- unusually great**

**Out of the box thinking - imaginative thinking**

**Catchy - memorable, appealing**

**Steep learning curve - learning quickly**



I am sure working with him would put me on a steep learning curve.

### Part 3

1 What kind of family businesses are there in India?

I think there are several types of family run ventures. Restaurants, retail outlets, event management companies and pickle businesses are some of them.

2 Are there any positive effects of working with family members?

Working with members of the family would mean a more supportive and pleasant work environment. The trust and closeness between family members would help them give emotional support and advice in times of need. The atmosphere would be friendly, relaxed and stress free, which would make collaborative work much easier.

3 What makes family businesses successful?

Family members would definitely be more committed and willing to sacrifice more time and effort to make the business successful than hired staff from outside. Task delegation, planning and strategizing would be easier and more effectively managed.

4 What are the differences between big companies and small companies?

Large companies are huge in terms of investments, resources, turnover, infrastructure and employee strength. They usually have a large customer base probably world wide and usually diversify into various areas. They invest heavily in advertisements and brand building to get an edge in the market. Small businesses run on much smaller capi-

tal and usually are limited in terms of number of employees and reach.

5 What are the benefits of working in big companies

Big companies offer better exposure and it is easy to advance in one's career through the number of opportunities to network with professionals with high expertise and talent as well as inhouse training programmes. They also offer perks such as insurance coverage, family tours, membership of different clubs etc.

6 Are there many big companies in your country?

Yes, India is all set to be an economic powerhouse and it has numerous large companies such as Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Bharat Petroleum,, Hindustan Petroleum, Coal India Limited etc.

7 How can a small company grow big?

There are many big companies that began as small enterprises. For growing big, companies need to have uncompromising quality, smart advertising and marketing strategies and also huge financial backing.

8 Should big companies donate more to charities?

Large companies have huge resources and hence should have greater responsibility to the community. Donating to charities also builds greater respect and good will among customers and thus would indirectly benefit them.

9 Should big companies be punished more seriously if they break the law?

Yes, definitely. Corporate houses that violate laws should be penalized. No one is above the law and businesses should be subject to existing regulations and should adhere to sustainable business practices.

## 4 Talk about an important river or lake in your country or hometown

Say which it is

How you know about it

And explain why it impresses you

### Sample Answer

India has hundreds of rivers and lakes crisscrossing the length and breadth of each state. All of them are significant in one way or the other.

While some serve as a lifeline for the country, others may hold value due to their sheer charm and mesmerizing beauty.

One such lake is the picturesque Pangong Lake in Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir. Actually the lake lies partly in Ladakh and partly in Tibet.

It's a major tourist destination for people, especially youngsters in search of adventure. I came to know about this enchanting place from my cousin who had gone on a bike trip to Ladakh some years back.

I was completely amazed by the pictures of this shimmering turquoise lake that he showed me.

The tourist boom to this place was triggered by the Hindi blockbuster 3 Idiots. The climax was shot in the backdrop of this lake and after the release of the movie, it has been attracting hordes of tourists.

This lake has captured the imagination of many more film makers and so has featured in many Indian movies.

One curious thing about the lake is that it is situated at a height of 4350 kms and is the world's highest salt water lake. Its blue waters stand in stark contrast to the arid rocky mountains surrounding the lake.

**Lifeline** - something you depend on to lead your life

**Mesmerizing** - fascinating

**Picturesque** - stunning

**Triggered** - started

**Hordes** - large number of

**Alluring** - magical

**Bucket list** - list of things to do in their lifetime

**Iconic** - famous

Another thing that makes this lake alluring is that it changes colours through the day - changing from a light sky blue to a turquoise and then a deep royal blue,

There are a variety of camps on the banks of the lake offering budget to luxurious accommodation. Visiting this lake is on my bucket list. I have already done a considerable amount of research about the tour operators, the route, the accommodation facilities and so on. I cannot wait for the day when I'll finally land on this iconic location.

### **Part 3**

1 What kinds of activities do people like to do in places near water bodies?

Areas near water bodies like rivers and oceans are enjoyable getaways. People like to swim in rivers or just take a dip. Sometimes just sitting by the riverside and watching the river flow is a pleasant experience. Cruising on the rivers on country boats or houseboats is also an amazing option. People also engage in various water sports like rafting and kayaking in rivers.

2 What do people like to do on the beach?

Beaches are fun places for enjoying with friends and family. Just walking on the soft sand barefoot is a thrilling experience. Children and adults both like to play with the waves, make sand castles and draw with sticks on the sand. Some water sports include water surfing, parasailing and water skiing.

3 Why are people fascinated by the sea?

People have always had a great fascination for the sea. The endless stretch of water and the continuous motion of the waves are a mind blowing sight. The sound of the waves is also a fascinating experience. Watching the sunrise and the sunset at the beach is also quite memorable.

4 What are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling on the ocean?

Travelling on the ocean in a ship is a relaxing and enjoyable mode of travel. We can enjoy the fresh, pollution free air and the cool sea breeze. It is a real vacation from the outside world as there are no noises or hustle and bustle of cities and vehicles.

But cruising on a ship can have a downside. Some people are sea sick and so it may not be possible for them to enjoy. Also when the weather is bad, the sea can be rough and bumpy.

5 How important is water in daily life?

Water can be called the elixir of life. It is impossible for people to survive without water. About 60 % of the human body comprises water and hence it is said that we need at least 2 litres of water a day. Not getting enough fluids can result in dehydration which can be life threatening especially for the elderly.

6 Do you think human activities are posing a threat to oceans globally?

Yes, definitely. One danger is over fishing. Unsustainable fishing is a threat to marine life. Pollutants on land such as untreated sewage, garbage, fertilizers, pesticides and plastics eventually reach the ocean and pollute it. Also oil spills and dumping of rubbish from ships endanger marine habitats around the world.

## 5 Talk about a traditional object of your country

Say what it is

How it looks

What it is used for

And why it is important

### Sample Answer

India is a treasure chest of a vast number of indigenous objects which are part of our cultural heritage. One such object which has been around for centuries is the harmonium. It's a musical instrument which is an integral part of Indian music.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that it is almost synonymous with Indian music.

The harmonium is a kind of portable wooden box. The keys are played and the bellows are compressed simultaneously.

It is extensively used to accompany folk songs and classical music. Indian musicians traditionally sat on the floor when they gave concerts and the harmonium could be played while placed on the ground.

Many famous musicians like Bhimsen Joshi and Rabindranath Tagore used this instrument while they sang. Almost all religious groups such as Hindus, Sikhs and Christians adopted it for their devotional music.

Harmoniums can be found in most temples and gurudwara. It is also often used for social and religious gatherings and stage performances.

It's also used across a wide spectrum of music such as folk music, classical music and even film music.

I have seen this instrument since I was a child. In fact in the music classes in school our teacher used to play this instrument and even taught us how to play the basics.

**Treasure chest - box of treasures**

**Indigenous - occurring in a particular place**

**Synonymous - having the same meaning**

**Spectrum - range**

**Waned - decreased**

I would say it's one of the easiest musical instruments.

Today many modern musical instruments have emerged on the scene such as the electronic keyboard and the electric guitar, but the popularity of this humble instrument has not waned and still continues to remain intact.

### Part 3

1 Name some traditional objects of your country.

India is rich in innumerable traditional arts and crafts. Every region, city and village boasts of its own handmade traditions and skills—the centuries-old knowledge embedded deeply in our culture. These handicraft works include include items such as terracotta Pottery, Zardozi Embroidery, and Wood Carving of Uttar Pradesh, Pashmina shawls of Jammu and Kashmir and the Madhubani paintings of Bihar.

2 What are the benefits of traditional objects to locals?

Handicrafts and traditional items keep culture and heritage alive. They help local people get an awareness of their rich and priceless heritage and also preserve these skills from dying.

3 Do you think the government should help in the promotion of traditional items?

Yes definitely. With industrialization and new age technology, handmade products have taken a back seat. As a result many artisans have moved to urban centres, seeking low paid unskilled jobs. This has caused many traditional skills and crafts to disappear. So it is vital to launch initiatives to protect and preserve these skills. Workshops must be held to train craftsmen in marketing, micr-finance and branding. The government must also empower these artisans and craftsmen to also effectively use technology to market their products worldwide.

4 What is the difference between traditional items and modern items?

Traditional items are painstakingly crafted by artisans who have been doing this trade for generations and have honed their skills. Each piece is created uniquely and takes a lot of time. On the other hand machine made items are mass

produced and identical. Large scale production means lower costs and hence machine made items would be cheaper than handmade ones.

5 Should young people learn about traditional objects of their country?

Handicrafts are a vital part of our rich cultural heritage. So it is important for young people to be given awareness about them to revive and preserve them. Craft workshops in schools and colleges by artisans would generate greater respect and understanding about these crafts.

6 How can we make young people more interested in traditional art?

I think introducing traditional art in the school curriculum would be an effective way to ignite their interest. Taking students on trips to villages to observe artisans and craftsmen engaged in this art could also fuel an interest in it. Arranging exhibitions and shows depicting traditional art can be yet another way to expose them to the beauty and timelessness of such art.

7 What do young people think about traditional handicrafts?

I think young people are quite appreciative of traditional handicrafts and believe they should be preserved. Many choose to buy handicraft products to support the economy. There are many NGOs started by young people to preserve several traditional handicraft skills.



## 6 Describe a positive change in your life

Say what it is  
Why you made this change  
When you made it  
And explain how you feel about it

### Sample Answer

A positive change that I have incorporated in my life is the habit of going for a morning walk. I started doing this about six months back. My main motivation was to lose weight.

I had gained weight and I knew I needed some kind of 'exercise. I considered several options and I figured out that a morning walk would be the ideal one.

So I set the alarm to wake up earlier than usual and go for a 30 minute walk. Well I must say it wasn't as easy as I thought it would be.

I'm not an early riser and waking up early was the first battle. When the alarm went off at 5 my first impulse was just to switch it off and go back to sleep, but in a week or two I managed to wake up early and now it's a cinch.

I can sense that the morning walk has benefited me in many ways. I can feel the difference. The most noticeable change is in my energy levels. I feel so much more energetic. Earlier I used to be sluggish, slow and tired throughout the day but now I'm full of energy.

These walks give me an energy boost and I'm much more productive than I typically used to be.

Another wonderful aspect is the cool morning air. It's so refreshing and peaceful. The only sound you hear is the chirping of birds.

I have also made some friends in the park where I walk and my morning walk buddies keep me motivated and accountable. So definitely this change that I initiated in my life by

**Incorporated - included**

**Cinch - easy**

**Sluggish - slow**

making these adjustments to my lifestyle and habits has greatly enriched my life and I hope to sustain this change. I can say that this is a small change but it has made a big difference.

### Part 3

1 Is your country changing rapidly? In what ways?

There have been phenomenal changes in my country over the years and they are continuing at a relentless pace. Improved infrastructure such as roads, railways, airports, highways, electricity, wired internet connectivity are among the major ones, both in villages and cities. High band internet connectivity has enabled online shopping, studies, bank transactions and so on. There has also been an increase in the development index which considers factors such as health, education and income. India is also one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

2 Are all these changes positive?

Yes definitely. People are enjoying the benefits of these advances. Living standards have improved and opportunities for personal and professional growth have advanced exponentially. The divide between rural and urban areas has also narrowed and there is a greater degree of social equality and justice.

3 Do you think change is good?

Changes are unavoidable. However some may be good, while others may produce a negative outcome. I think the important thing is to have the right perspective and see the positives in every change. For instance if a person lost a job, it would seem like a negative change, but it can be used as an opportunity to upskill themselves or launch their own business. So I feel perception and attitude matters.

4 What are some of the major changes that usually occur in people in their lives?

People experience many changes in their lives. Changes may come by choice, as a result of a crisis or just by chance. Some of these may be a change of residence, loss of loved ones, marriages, birth of children and so on. While some of these make us happy, others may be stressful, challenging and may force us to step out of our comfort zone.

5 Should people change according to their surroundings?

Yes definitely. Change is the law of life. It is important to adapt to them instead of trying to resist them. We need to develop an open attitude and resilience so that we can use changes as opportunities to learn and grow.

## 7 Describe an interesting neighbour

Say what it is

Why you made this change

When you made it

And explain how you feel about it

### Sample Answer

My neighbourhood is a large close knit community. Among my neighbours, one person whom I find very interesting and unique is Shiela. Sheila and her family had just moved into our neighbourhood a few years back and so one day I decided to pay my new neighbours a visit.

The moment I stepped into their house I was wonderstruck by the charming interior decor. The living room was tastefully decorated with paintings, indoor plants and small hand-craft items.

I came to know that Sheela is an art teacher in a nearby school and she herself had created all the beautiful art works showcased in that room.

She had transformed her home into a mini gallery, where she displayed a wide variety of her spectacular handwork. There were beautiful wind chimes, dream catchers, hand painted bottles and home made planters.

I was awestruck by the stunning creativity, the meticulous work and intricate designs. Since I also have an eye for creativity, I am always intrigued by her creations. I find them truly mesmerising.

I was so fascinated by her creative ideas and aesthetic sense that I am now a regular visitor at their house.

Whenever she gets some downtime, she takes out her craft supplies and gets working. With her creative juices flowing, she gives a unique spin to mundane materials or waste items like beer cans, cardboard or plastic bottles .

**Wonderstruck** - a feeling of delight or admiration

**Spectacular** -impressive

**Awestruck** - filled with admiration or respect

**Meticulous** - extremely careful

**Intrigued** - interested

**Downtime** - free time

**Metamorphose** - to change into a completely different form

Her creativity never fails to surprise me. Recently I saw beautiful earrings and bracelets she had made for her daughter using buttons.

Coconut shells invariably find their way to the trash bins in every household. But for Sheila they are raw materials with huge possibilities and in her hands they metamorphose into beautiful craft products. I can say I am a huge fan of Sheila and her creativity fascinates me no end.

### **Part 3**

#### **1 Why are good neighbours important?**

Neighbours are the people closest to us in times of emergencies. If we run out of groceries we can always go over to our neighbour's place and borrow. Neighbours can also protect our homes because they would be aware if they see something suspicious. In addition, having a good relationship with neighbours enriches our social life as we can have fun sharing meals, going for outings or doing work together.

#### **2 What are the qualities of a good neighbour?**

Decent and helpful neighbours make a community warm and inviting, whereas if they are obnoxious and disrespectful, it would be very unpleasant living in that area. Good neighbors are always willing to help and careful to respect our boundaries. In case differences arise, such as a dispute over borders or a problem with a pet, they would handle it in a mature way.

**3 Do most people in your country know their neighbours?**  
Yes people generally try to have good neighbourly relations in my country. Many neighbourhoods form friendly communities, where there is plenty of cooperation and give and take. However, there are instances when relationships become strained due to misunderstandings, property disputes and so on.

#### 4 How can we improve relationships with neighbours?

Like every relationship, this too needs time and concerted effort. Smiling and saying hello can be a simple way of making contact with our neighbours. Organising parties and get togethers or inviting them over for dinner can cement relations.

Also offering help in times of need, such as watching over their pets and keeping a close eye on their property when they are away would also go a long way in building a closer community.

## 8 Describe a chocolate you didn't like

Which it was

When you tasted it

How it tasted

And explain why you didn't like it

### Sample Answer

I think no one can resist the charm of a luscious and creamy chocolate bar. These smooth, melt in your mouth delicious treats are universally loved.

However, a chocolate I found absolutely unpalatable was dark chocolate. When my friend Smriti handed me a bar of dark chocolate some time back, I was not at all prepared for the strong bitter taste that hit me.

It was my first experience of dark chocolate. It had a chalky texture and was hard as a rock. As my face turned into a grimace, my friend burst into a fit of laughter and went on to enlighten me about dark chocolate.

She told me that it has a bitter flavour due to the high content of cocoa which has huge health benefits. It's rich in minerals and antioxidants and therefore good for the heart and also lowers the risk of diabetes.

On the other hand, the commercial milk chocolate that we all love to eat, has mainly milk and sugar and very small quantities of cocoa. This information was an eye opener but the chocolate still didn't hold any appeal for me.

Smriti turned out to be a diehard fan of dark chocolate. She was not ready to let me off the hook. She was determined to change my mind about this chocolate.

She suggested pairing it with fruits such as bananas or dates or having it with honey to neutralize its bitterness.

But all of these suggestions have been quite futile. I believe there are many things we wish we would like for the health

**Luscious** - having a sweet taste

**Unpalatable** - not pleasant to taste

**Grimace** - an ugly expression on the face

**Diehard** - strong

**Let me off the hook** - to allow one to escape

benefits they offer, but are unable to. My list of those foods included broccoli and spinach and now of course dark chocolate.

### Part 3

#### 1 Why do people love chocolate generally?

No one can deny that chocolates are delicious and almost addictive. They are gooey, sweet, creamy and just melt in your mouth. They are the ideal option if you wish to satiate your sweet tooth.

Chocolates are also excellent stress relievers as well as energizers and popping them into your mouth at the end of a hard, stressful day immediately peeps up your spirit and elevates your mood.

#### 2 What are the different types of chocolates?

There are a wide range of chocolate varieties to delight our taste buds. Milk chocolate, dark chocolate and white chocolate are some of the common types I know about. Chocolates are combined with fruits or nuts like almonds or walnuts or may have a thin crispy wafer and come in different shapes and sizes. There are several well known chocolate brands such as Nestle, Cadbury and Hersheys selling their own unique chocolates.

#### 3 Have you ever gifted chocolates to anyone?

Yes of course. I feel chocolates are a perfect gift for all occasions and it is one present that everyone would be glad to get. There are chocolates to match every budget. High end premium chocolates are perfect for someone special. We get chocolates packed in exquisite tin boxes, which gives the packaging an elegant and extravagant look.



## 9 Describe a plant, vegetable or crop you are familiar with

Say which it is and where it grows?

How you know about it

What you like or dislike about it

And explain why it is important in your country

### Sample Answer

My country India has a diverse variety of flora mainly due to its tropical weather, and one common household plant is the aloe vera. It is found in gardens as well as homes as it can be grown both indoor and outdoors.

Frankly I don't have a green thumb and growing plants is quite intimidating for me. But I'm quite fond of this plant because it's a low maintenance plant that can thrive without much care. And so it's a perfect choice for novices.

The aloe vera has a unique and attractive appearance. It has a short stem with about fifteen to twenty leaves spreading out like a rosette.

The leaves are light green in color, I think about 20-30 cms long and are thick and fleshy.

I think the aloe vera looks spectacular when planted in clusters or along a walkway and that's the reason why it's commonly used in landscaping

It also looks incredibly pretty if you just put it in a terracotta plant and place it indoors.

But aloe vera is more than a decorative plant. For centuries it has been known for its therapeutic properties. The thick leaves of the aloe vera are filled with a gel which can be used to treat cuts, burns and insect bites.

Also it's the latest beauty craze. The gel is supposed to be very good for the skin and hair. It keeps the skin young and hydrated, nourishes damaged hair and helps in hair

**Green thumb - interested in gardening**

**Intimidating - scary**

**Thrive - flourish**

**Novice - new comer**

**Therapeutic - medicinal**

**Hydrated - cause to absorb water**

growth.

I use this gel quite frequently. Sometimes I apply it directly on my face, other times I prepare a pack combining it with honey and rose water. I have experienced its wonderful effects on my skin and complexion. So I must say this spikey green plant is surely a wonder plant.

### Part 3

1 Do people grow plants in your country?

Yes, people like to grow plants. Those in the countryside plant a variety of agricultural crops, fruit trees, vegetables, herbs etc, while those in towns and cities where space is limited, generally have potted plants such as orchids, roses and begonia. Some even cultivate vegetables such as tomatoes, peas and beans in pots.

2 What plants are important to the economy of your country?

There is a huge demand for medicinal plants used in Ayurveda medicine. Plants such as cocoa, tea, turmeric and eucalyptus also have huge economic importance. India is also one of the largest producers of fruits and vegetables. I believe the climatic and geographical conditions in my country are conducive for a wide variety of horticultural plants.

3 Do you think technology will change farming in the future?

Technology has ushered in sweeping improvements in the quality and yield of crops. In the future we can expect more advances in genetic modification of crops. Packaging for long term storage, improved nutritive quality, improvement in techniques like hydroponics and aeroponics can be expected.

# 10 Describe a competition you would like to take part in

Say what it is  
What you would do in this competition  
And explain why this interests you

## Sample Answer

I am an avid runner and have been jogging for most of my life. I've found it very effective for staying fit and healthy. So running a marathon is a challenge that I would like to take up.

All my running is limited to just a few rounds of a nearby park. So I have a keen desire to compete in a 5 km marathon and win a prize.

I know it seems scary and almost impossible, but it is something that I think will push me out of my comfort zone. My interest in marathons began after I read an article about animals and long distance running.

To my surprise, humans were ranked on top, second only to horses. I couldn't believe that my body was capable of outperforming lions and tigers, when it came to long distance running. I think that is what sparked my interest in marathons.

For the last few years I have been following the marathons hosted in different cities. The energy, the passion, the excitement I can see on the faces of the runners, both men and women of all ages, is truly inspiring.

I know this will require commitment and perseverance. I will need to practice rigorously for my body to adapt to running for longer duration.

I also need to research the different marathons and decide one that would be appropriate for me and finally register for it. I feel more than the physical preparation, I would need to prepare myself mentally for the challenge. Anxiety, self

**Outperforming -  
perform better than**

**Sparked my interest -  
create interest**

**Perseverance. - contin-  
ued effort**

**Plagued by - troubled by**

doubts and fear often tempt me to quit the idea. I am often plagued by questions like - will I be able to finish? What if I injure myself? So I need to conquer these fears and push on.

I know crossing the finish line in a marathon ahead of others will be a proud moment for me. I will be proud that I was able to push my boundaries and exceed my limits.

### **Part 3**

#### 1 Is competition good?

Yes definitely. Competitions push people out of their complacency and motivate them to excel. It makes them innovate and be more creative. It also teaches how to take setbacks and failures gracefully and prepares them for wins and losses in life. Competitions also develop skills such as perseverance, tenacity and resilience. At the workplace, encouraging healthy competition pushes employees to achieve higher goals and raise the performance bar.

#### 2 What is the difference between healthy and unhealthy competition?

Unhealthy competition emphasizes the outcome rather than the process or the journey. When winning becomes the sole focus, a person or team may be compelled to do whatever it takes to win, such as adopting unethical practices or tearing others down. Healthy competition on the other hand, puts more focus on participating than on winning.

#### 3 What kind of competitions do people take part in?

There are a host of competitions in sports, academics, at the workplace or those involving other talents such as music, dance, painting and so on.

4 Why are there so many competition programmes on television?

I think there is an abundance of talent and these reality shows on television help to showcase and nurture them. A second reason is that such shows like Indian Idol, Star Singer etc enjoy huge popularity and high TRP ratings. There is plenty of drama in such shows with the reactions of the judges, the rivalry of the contestants, the emotions when results are announced, the lively compering etc. So on the whole I think these shows are quite high on the entertainment factor. Also we see ordinary people becoming stars overnight, which is very appealing to the audience.

# 11 A time when you observed the stars

Say when you observed the stars

Where and with who you went

What you observed

And explain how you felt when you saw the stars

## Sample Answer

I recently had an enthralling experience of viewing a clear and glittery sky. It was a spellbinding sight. We had gone on a trip to Munnar, a hill station located almost 2000 ft above the sea level. While we were there, one night our guide took us on a stargazing trip.

We headed out to a nearby mountain armed with warm clothes, insect repellants, blankets and of course binoculars.

The sky was clear and pitch black and the stars were shining so brightly that I literally gasped. When we reached the mountain top, we camped there for the night and as we lay under the dazzling, twinkling sky, I was overwhelmed with wonder.

I had downloaded an app for looking at stars. Once it is installed and we set our location, the app indicates what is in the sky right above us.

All we need to do is point the phone at the night sky and the app informs us what we are seeing - whether it is stars, constellations, satellites, or the International Space Station.

Using the app, we were thrilled to discover that the bright white star hovering over the horizon was actually Venus.

Our guide told us that the International Space station, which is home to six astronauts from around the world, is a frequent sight, but unfortunately we did not see it that day.

I felt so happy and calm just looking at the vast expanse of the sky. I feel stargazing is a fine way to travel far outside

**Enthralling - amazing**

**Spell binding - captivating**

**Overwhelmed - overcome**

**Out of the world - extraordinary/superb**

the four walls of our home and our limited surroundings. Truly lying underneath the stars is an out of the world experience. It fills us with marvel and wonder at the beauty of the infinite cosmos.

### Part 3

#### 1 Why do people like to study the sky?

I think astronomy holds great fascination for everyone. The vast expanse of the cosmos fuels people's curiosity. While amateurs just like to enjoy looking at the stars, planets and constellations, professionals like to push the boundaries of knowledge and expand their understanding of what lies beyond. Organizations such as NASA and ISRO launch satellites and rockets as well as various other space projects to get a deeper understanding of celestial bodies like asteroids, meteors, galaxies, planets and so on.

#### 2 Do you know any stories related to planets?

I have not read any stories related to planets but have watched plenty of science fiction movies based on space, planets and extra terrestrial beings such as Star Wars, Star Trek and Interstellar.

#### 3 Do you think children should be told planet stories to improve their imagination?

Yes definitely. Space is an interesting topic for children and the little ones may be filled with wonder about things like the stars, the moon and the sun. So fictional stories based on space, the planet and galaxies would pique their interest and fire their imagination. I also believe that as they grow older they should be given interesting books which would introduce them to the facts about space - such as the milky way galaxy or how astronauts survive in zero gravity and so on.

#### 4 Would children be benefitted from watching stars?

I think stargazing is a fun activity. It can fill children with wonder and excitement. It can also spark interest in science or astronomy from an early age. Buying them inexpensive binoculars or telescopes, taking them on visits to planetariums etc would help them explore the heavenly objects and

gain more knowledge about them. However, even if children are not very interested in astronomy, such activities would be a nice time for family bonding and would give children some great memories.

5 Did you like to watch the sky when you were young?

Yes I always had a fascination for the sky especially during sunset and sunrise. Growing up in the countryside, I was able to view the vast expanse of the sky easily and I still remember the fiery reddish orange sky in the evenings. Sometimes we used to go to the beach, where the sunsets were truly breathtaking.



# 12 Talk about a special day which was not that expensive or on which you did not spend a lot of money

Say when it was

What the occasion was

What you did

And explain how you felt

## Sample Answer

It was my father's birthday. My brother and I started making plans on how to celebrate this day weeks in advance. From a surprise party at home to a dinner at a luxury hotel, we explored a variety of options.

We also started trying to get some feelers from our father about what his most ardent desires were. During one such conversation, we realised that he greatly missed his classmates at school.

That set us on a hunting trail and we managed to find the whereabouts of almost twenty of his closest buddies at school, many of whom had moved abroad.

We decided to arrange a zoom party on his birthday inviting all these friends. We sent out the links to the zoom party. We instructed them all to have a candle and matches ready to light and hold onto the screen to have the birthday boy blow them all out at once.

We also asked everyone to have their cakes ready, so everyone could eat together.

We decorated the room with string lights, flowers and balloons. Once everyone had logged in I brought my father into the room.

His eyes opened wide with wonder and excitement as he saw all of his long forgotten buddies right before his eyes. He was totally surprised as all guests broke into the birthday song. He blew the candles and cut the cake.

**Feelers** - remarks designed to bring out the opinion of others

**Ardent** - enthusiastic

**Buddies** - friends

**Screen share** - sharing the contents of your screen with another device

After the cake cutting, we had some activities. Mainly we got everyone to sing along with my father. We screen shared karaoke videos of his favourite old Malayalam hit songs.

After about an hour, we wound up the party. On the count of three everyone shouted one final Happy Birthday and then waved goodbye.

It was not a fancy celebration but it created some fun moments and wonderful memories on a very humble budget. I realized we don't have to spend too much to build lasting memories and fill our lives with laughter.

### **Part 3**

1 What events do people in your country like to celebrate?

In my country people celebrate different types of occasions. They usually celebrate milestone birthdays such as the first, eighteenth, fiftieth and so on. Wedding anniversaries, the beginning of a year, the birth of a baby, getting a promotion or a job are also events that call for a party with friends and family. Religious festivals are also occasions for elaborate celebrations.

2 Why are celebrations important?

Celebrations are a way of marking the milestones in our life. They also serve as occasions for people to meet, socialise and build bonds. They give much needed break from the drudgery of day to day life, allow people to let their hair down and create lasting memories. So I believe they play a key role in people's lives.

3 Why do some people like parties and others hate them?

I think people enjoy parties since they are fun occasions to meet friends, enjoy good food, music and dance. However those with introverted nature may feel shy and awkward as

they struggle to deal with social situations. Such people are happier to be on their own.

#### 4 Why do some people prefer grand celebrations?

There are some who are more inclined towards lavish bashes, with guest lists running into hundreds, conducted at luxurious venues with multi-course menu, grand decor with fresh flowers, drapes and lights and of course music and dance. Very often highly affluent people opt for such extravagant celebrations. The reason for this could be to flaunt their wealth or just to make the day memorable and enjoyable for everyone.

#### 5 Do you think celebrating national events too lavishly is a waste of money?

I don't think so. Celebrating them is a way of reinforcing our patriotism and sense of nationality. It also serves as an occasion to foster unity as well as pride in our accomplishments as a nation.

#### 6 How can people plan for an event?

I think every event, be it small or large, needs detailed planning. Establishing the budget, picking the venue and date, the food options and entertainment are the most important aspects. Organising games, music and dance as well as decorations for the venue and making the guest list are parts of the event planning checklist.

#### 7 Have you ever had a bad shopping experience?

Yes, I had an unpleasant experience recently. I had ordered a top from a new online store, only to find that it was a fake site. The product I received was very poor in quality and had no resemblance to what was shown in the picture. There was no way to contact them as the contact numbers were also fake. That is when I realized that there are scammers who run fraudulent sites and sell counterfeit goods. Since then I make it a point to shop only from reputed stores.

## 8 What are the advantages and disadvantages of shopping online?

The biggest perk of shopping online is the convenience. We can shop sitting on our couch, free of hassles like pushy salespeople, long queues at cash counters, crowds and the chaos. We can land some great deals, discounts, rebates and access a much wider range of items from any part of the world. Another advantage is that we get to make more informed choices as we can research ratings and reviews before making purchases.

On the other hand there are some negatives. One downside is the delay in shipping the items. Also risks of frauds, credit card scams, hacking, counterfeit products and bogus websites are quite common. The fact that we cannot touch, feel or try items, especially garments is another concern.

# 13 Describe something that helps you concentrate

Say what it is

When you do it

How you learnt about it

And explain how it helps you concentrate

## Sample Answer

With all the stress , distraction and continuous multitasking, I had begun to experience a depletion in my concentration levels.

That's when my friend Sweta suggested that I should try meditation. It has been about four months since I started doing this activity and I can observe a tangible change in my focus and attention.

Sweta is a diehard fan of meditation and always talks at length about its positive effects. She told me that it has a strong and transformative effect on the brain, helping people focus and concentrate better. It also reduces stress and increases inner peace and happiness.

She advised me to start with 10 minute sessions and then build up gradually. I agreed to give it a try and started my sessions.

It was quite frustrating in the beginning as my mind kept getting distracted. Sweta had told me to just concentrate on my breath as I inhaled and exhaled and to count my cycles.

I realized that my mind would begin to wander before I counted even up to 3. At each session several thoughts and feelings kept sidetracking me and I had to shake them off and bounce back to the object of my focus.

With time and patience, however, my ability to focus improved .After about one month, I had gained better control of my wandering mind and could count longer. I increased my meditation time to 20 minutes and then half an hour.

Today, I can experience several benefits of this activity. My

**Depletion - decrease**

**Tangible - clearly visible**

**Diehard - strong**

**At length - in detail**

**Sidetrack - become distracted**

focus has sharpened and I'm much more productive and goal oriented.

### Part 3

1 When do you need to concentrate?

Concentration is vital for everything we do as it improves the quality of work and minimises scope of error. I think multitasking does not bring quality. Whatever we do, whether it is having a conversation, watching a movie, reading a book, doing an assignment, cooking or driving, concentration is key to achieving better outcomes.

2 Why do people find it hard to concentrate ?

Concentration difficulties can be related to intrusive thoughts, overactivity, or inattention. It is believed that psychological conditions like anxiety and depression can also hinder concentration. In addition, I think external disturbances such as notifications on the mobile, honking of vehicles etc can also pose hindrances to concentration.

3 How can we improve concentration?

I think brain training games, improved sleep, exercise and meditation can have a big impact on concentration.

4 Do you think you can do many things at the same time?

I am not a huge fan of multitasking. I think when we try to get more quantity work done, the quality gets compromised.

5 Is it important for children to learn how to concentrate?

It is vital for children to master the art of concentration. It has far reaching benefits in their life. It helps them do better in studies. Academic activities require them to concentrate for long hours. Improved attention span also improves their relationships and confidence.

6 What can employers do to help employees concentrate better?

Concentration levels of employees directly affect produc-

tivity and consequently the growth of the business. Hence this is an aspect employers need to give serious thought to. Employees can be encouraged to turn off their mobiles, but take regular breaks to check their phones. Providing the staff with the right tools and equipment would allow work-flow to go unhindered. The work environment must also be free of noise and distractions and must be comfortable.

7 What kinds of jobs require higher concentration?

I think concentration is a key ingredient for best outcomes. From a baker to a surgeon, almost all jobs need sharp focus. I think jobs that require working with numbers or data especially require a peaceful and quiet work environment. Accountants, business analysts and programmers need keen focus. Writers both fiction as well as non fiction writers such as novelists, copy writers, bloggers etc also crave for peace.

# 14 Describe an activity you do to keep fit

Say what it is

When and where you do it

How you do it

And explain how it keeps you fit

## Sample Answer

A daily habit that has made my life healthier and happier is a morning walk. Two years back, when the lockdown was imposed, working from home meant that my only commute was from one room to the other and in this new routine I had gained a few kilos.

I knew I needed to tweak my daily routine and add some kind of adoptable healthy habit. I considered several options and I figured out that a morning walk would be the ideal one.

I am lucky that the small town I live in is spotted with a number of open grounds. I chose the vast ground of a nearby school and my neighbourhood buddy, a retired bank employee, was keen to join me.

Like two excited school kids, we made our plans. We decided to wake up at 5 and go for a walk early in the morning in the nearby school ground. I'm not an early riser and waking up early was the first battle.

When the alarm went off at 5 my first impulse was just to switch it off and go back to sleep, but in a week or two I managed to wake up early and now it's a cinch

I can sense that the morning walk has benefited me in many ways. I was able to achieve my weight loss goals very soon. The most noticeable change is in my energy levels. I feel so much more energetic.

Earlier I used to be sluggish and slow and tired throughout the day but now I'm full of energy and I feel these walks give me an energy boost and I'm much more productive than I typically used to be. Of course daily walks can

**Tweak - to make changes**

**Cinch - easy**

**Sluggish - slow**

**Ripple effects - continuing effects of an action**

**Incorporated - included**



strengthen the heart and lungs and ease joint pain and much more.

I think such healthy habits not only improve physical health but also have ripple effects on our overall well being. I pat myself on my back for having incorporated and sustained this healthy habit in my routine.

### **Part 3**

1 What do old people in your country do to keep fit?

There are many elderly people who are conscious of maintaining fitness and try to include some kind of exercises. Some of them go for walks, while others may do some bending or stretching exercises recommended by their doctors.

2 Why do some people enjoy extreme sports?

I know there are many people who are daring enough to try dangerous sports like bungee jumping, base jumping, kayaking etc. They do these sports for the excitement, the adrenaline rush and the thrill it gives. They like to push their limits and face their fears. Probably it gives them great satisfaction to accomplish dangerous feats. However I find them too scary. Just the very thought of jumping out of an airplane or off a cliff gives me goosebumps.

3 What are some popular outdoor activities in India?

In India I think most common outdoor recreational activities include trekking, hiking and camping. Young people love to go on long bike rides. Photography and bird watching are also activities many people are interested in. If there are water bodies, fishing, swimming or boating are also delightful activities people like to do.

4 How do outdoor games benefit children?

Such games can be very critical for the healthy development of children. They give more opportunities for activities like jumping, climbing, running etc. When they are outdoors, children explore the environment and develop a connection with nature and such games also build social skills.

5 What is the difference between indoor and outdoor sports?

Indoor sports such as chess or carroms are played inside the house and involve very little physical exertion. On the other hand, outdoor sports like cricket, football, badminton etc involve a lot of physical movements such as running, jumping and leaping. Also outdoor activities bring people closer to nature and offer greater opportunities for making friends and building relationships

# 15 Describe a fishing area you visited

Say where it is

When you visited it

What you did there

And explain how you felt

## Sample Answer

I had an exciting experience of seeing people fishing while on a trip to God's own country Kerala around five years back. We were staying in a resort called Vembanad Lake Resort, overlooking Lake Vembanad.

It was a charming place and we were captivated by the view of the tranquil lake and the gently swaying coconut trees bordering the lake.

While we were there our gracious host invited us one day to see how the local community caught fish at the lake. He explained to us that the backwaters of Kerala teem with fish especially during the monsoons.

Casting a net was the most common method and fishermen would get a good haul. I saw fishermen throwing nets over the water surface and when they pulled back the nets after some time, they were filled with small and medium sized fishes.

Some fishermen went further into the lake on canoes to cast their nets. It was quite scary to see them balance themselves in the canoe while doing this. But they were highly skilled and had a great sense of balance.

We were also surprised to see children catching fish with fishing lines. We watched how they hooked earthworms to the fishing rods as bait. We also learned some names of the fish such as mackerel, salmon, pearl spot and pomfret.

I too tried my hand at fishing. I waited for about 15 minutes, rod in hand, for a fish to bite my bait but nothing was happening. After that to my great excitement a fish bit and I hauled up the rod. My first catch was about 6 inches and

**Captivated - fascinated**

**Tranquil - peaceful**

**Teem - full of**

**Haul - catch**

was a slimy brown coloured fish.

On the whole, the green shady trees and the vast blue expanse of the lake, the vibrance and energy of the local community all together made it a pleasant and memorable outdoor experience.

### Part 3

Which is the most popular water sport in your country?  
India has vast coastlines and therefore water sports are quite popular. I think river rafting, surfing, kayaking and sailing are the most popular ones.

Why are people interested in doing different activities related to water?

Water based activities are exhilarating and enjoyable. They give a more thrilling experience than activities on land and it is less tiring. Splashing and frolicking in the water cools the body especially during the hot summers and it is an ideal way to be in perfect harmony with nature.

Should schools teach swimming to the students?

Swimming is not only a survival skill but an excellent exercise as it is a high intensity cardio workout. So it would definitely help children stay fit and healthy. Also If children are good swimmers, they can not only escape water accidents, but can even offer a helping hand in case they see a person drowning at some point. in their life. Being in water is also an excellent relaxation for students after their gruelling studies..

4 Why should water transport be developed?

Water transport is a cheap and non polluting form of transportation. There are plenty of places that are amenable to different modes of water transport like country boats, motor boats and jengars and hence infrastructure should be developed to cater to the needs of people living close to water bodies like lakes, rivers etc.

## 16 Describe an introvert whom you know

Who he is

How you know him

What makes him an introvert

And explain how you feel about this person

### Sample Answer

In college we were a gang of four friends. We used to do everything together, from preparing for exams and shopping to bunking classes and playing pranks on others. We are all in different places now, but still our friendship has stood the test of time. Video chats, texting, sharing pictures on social media and occasional get-togethers kept our bond intact.

Among us Shyla was always quiet, reserved and introspective, while all the others were outgoing and talkative. Due to these different traits that Shyla had, we all understood early on that she was an introvert. While we all were social butterflies who loved to socialise and party, Shyla preferred to spend a quiet time with her books or hobbies. Although Shyla and the rest of us were like two ends of the personality spectrum, we got along very well.

I have realized that Shyla is not the kind of person who likes small talk. While we could go on chatting about superficial matters, such as the weather or fashions, Shyla likes deep and meaningful conversations. She feels very comfortable in our group and is chatty and bubbly but when she meets new people she tends to withdraw into her own shell.

Shyla is one of the most sincere and straightforward people I have ever known. She is very understanding, takes genuine interest in others and is also a very good listener. I feel very comfortable confiding in her and she always has nuggets of wisdom to pass on to me.

I have always felt that introverts are often misunderstood

**Stood the test of time - to continue for a long time**

**Introspective - to examine one's thoughts and feelings**

**Outgoing -friendly**

**Spectrum - range**

**Got along - have a good relationship with  
Small talk**

and undervalued. Our culture gives greater importance to values like assertiveness and being outgoing rather than for self reflection or contemplation, which make introverts very special.

Knowing Shyla has increased my appreciation for this intelligent, refined and sensitive personality type.

### Part 3

1 Why do people get nervous when they speak in public?  
People often experience stage fright, stress and anxiety when they have to face an audience. This can range from panic to a paralysing fear. It could be because they are in the spotlight and all eyes are on them.

2 How can people improve their public speaking skills?  
I think people can overcome stage fright and become confident in public speaking through practice and proper preparation. There are several speaking groups such as Toastmasters that help polish public speaking skills.

3 What kind of different lectures or speeches have you attended?  
I have attended a host of different lectures and speeches in various forums and venues. Many of them were of course connected with my course in college or school. I am also very interested in listening to motivational speakers as well as attending workshops and seminars related to my profession, where I get to listen to experts sharing their inputs. Functions such as farewell parties, centenary celebrations etc have speakers giving speeches related to the occasion.

4 What qualities should a public speaker have?  
I think a thorough knowledge about the topic is a key factor. Effective public speakers should have excellent communication skills and the ability to grab the attention of the audience. Use of humour, body language, intonation and pitch modulation are qualities of a master orator.

5 Why is it hard to give a talk to young children?  
Children may get bored very easily and lose focus. If speak-

ers just stand and deliver their talk, children will probably never pay attention. They are mostly visual learners so using some kind of visual aids during the speech would be helpful.

# 17 Describe something that saves your time

Say what it is

When you usually do it

Why you do it

And explain how you think it saves your time

## Sample Answer

One thing which has proved to be a massive time saver in my life is grocery delivery service.

I have always been quite a busy bee struggling hard to balance my professional and personal fronts. My daily routine is so hectic with the barrage of workplace and household responsibilities, that at times I feel 24 hours are not enough to finish all my work.

Grocery shopping is one such tedious and unavoidable chore. Every time I realize we have run out of something I pop over to the store.

Each trip means spending more time than I need to. I end up walking around the aisles attracted by the 'top deals' and 'lowest price offers'. If the aisles are overcrowded and the queue at the check out is long, the minutes spent at the store pile up higher.

I have made many attempts to avoid these frequent trips. I have tried to do some planning in advance but there always seems to be something that evades my attention like a packet of salt or detergent.

Home delivery has proved to be an amazing time saver. Groceries delivered right at our doorstep!

I am really amazed by the amount of time it saves me. I can just shop from my couch, my office or when I am on the move, without navigating crowded aisles and lengthy cashier queues. I can keep adding items to my cart as and when I remember til the day of delivery. This means that I don't have to trek to the store each time I forget something.

Free time had become a scarce commodity for me, but thanks to grocery delivery services, now I have lots more

**Barrage - to come in a fast continuous flow**

**Tedious - tiring**

**Evades - escapes**

**Navigating - to find a direction**



time which I can spend more productively.

## **Sample Answer 2**

I have always wanted to manage my time better and become more organized and efficient with my time. One practical thing that has given me considerable success in this area is making a plan for the day.

I have seen that a lot of time gets wasted without proper planning.

Often I end up going several times to the store or perhaps forgetting something behind at home and then having to go back again, forgetting important office tasks and spending more time on something which was not that important. All of this means precious time wasted.

I have realized that having a plan of action for my day, a clear to do list, helps me stay focussed. I have a clear mind-set of how I need to move to accomplish all that needs to be done.

Writing all my tasks on paper makes it look more manageable. After the task is done, crossing it off the list gives a sense of progress and achievement. I feel this spurs me on and motivates me to keep going.

To do list also means that I do not end up mindlessly scrolling through social media posts. Without proper plans, it was hard for me to resist the urge to go from one post to the next or one video to another.

But ever since I have started making daily plans, I have been able to strictly limit my screen time also.

All it takes to put pen to paper and make this list is just about five to ten minutes each morning. Time truly well spent.

### Part 3

#### 1 How can we avoid wasting time?

It is very crucial to make the best use of time and avoid frittering it away on unproductive activities. Time tracking helps us to know how exactly we are spending minutes and hours and identify areas that need to change. Also making a list of priorities or a daily timetable of things to do helps us accomplish more and keeps us focussed. I believe avoiding distractions like social media notifications, messages etc is yet another way we can save precious minutes.

#### 2 Is time management important?

If you lose money, you might get a chance to make it back; but a wasted time is irreplaceable. It is a finite resource and time lost is lost forever. Hence managing time in an optimal manner is essential to be successful. It allows us to create a healthy balance in our workflow and home life and increases productivity.

#### 3 Should parents teach children time management?

Yes I believe it is a core skill that will be highly useful to them all through their life. Parents can encourage children to make a daily schedule incorporating various activities like study, home work, play, television time etc. Parents can also set good examples by regulating media time and being more disciplined.

#### 4 Is it a waste of time to relax?

Definitely not. Leisure time is indispensable and vital for physical and mental well being. It helps us unwind and is a perfect antidote for stress. Setting aside time periodically to relax energises us and enhances our output.

# 18 Describe a friend you like to talk with

Say who he is

What you like to talk about

Why you like to talk with him

And explain why you like to talk with him

## Sample Answer

I have a large circle of friends with whom I enjoy hanging out, just cracking jokes, sharing funny anecdotes or discussing the latest series on Amazon Prime. However, among them Rani is my closest friend with whom I have the most meaningful conversations.

When I spend time with Rani, conversations go much deeper than just the light and superficial talks I generally do with other friends and acquaintances. So generally our topics are not films, fashions or TV shows.

We talk about our struggles, our fears or our plans. Sometimes we argue and get into debates which even get a little heated but still our friendship remains strong as ever.

Rani has been with me through the ups and downs in my life and has been my support system. She knows me inside out and accepts me with all my shortcomings. So I can always be me, when I am with her.

I can communicate openly. She is always non judgemental and tries to see things from my point of view and gives me her honest opinions.

Whenever I am planning to do something I go to Rani who is like a sounding board to test my ideas. She always gives me her honest feedback.

A few months back when I wanted to resign in a huff since my junior colleague had been promoted to a post I was expecting. Rani listened to me patiently as I vented all my frustration and anger.

Then she advised me not to sulk and behave immaturely but rather to do some serious self evaluation and try to

**Anecdotes - incidents**

**Ups and downs - happy and sad moments**

**Shortcomings - faults**

**Non judgemental - without judging others**

**Sounding board - someone you use to test an idea**

**In a huff - angrily**

**Vented - released**

**Sulk - to be bad tempered**

upskill myself.

That was the best advice I received. It was unpleasant but only a true friend would talk to me so bluntly. I think true friends are irreplaceable.

### Part 3

1 What topics do young people in India talk about?

Young people today are exposed to global culture and they often talk of Hollywood movies, music, celebrities, and sports. They also like to talk about education and job opportunities abroad, their goals and future plans. There are also some young people who are interested in politics and social issues.

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

I believe in the past, topics were mostly limited to local or national matters. In the pre internet era, people had limited access to global events and happenings. Also there was more interest in matters concerning the community at large than personal affairs.

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

There are many ways to know if others are not connecting with us in a conversation. Body language is one important cue. People crossing their arms while speaking or looking elsewhere is a sign of disinterest. Also they may not contribute much to the conversation or ask questions and their responses may be perfunctory.

4 What is the influence of modern technology such as the internet and emails on our communication?

The rise of the internet and social media use has dramatically changed the way people communicate and maintain friendships. Now people can use email, social media, chat messengers, video conferencing, video calls, images, videos, symbols, diagrams, charts, and emoticons, etc. for communication. Geographical distances have been eliminated and it is possible for us to maintain friendships across countries. Modern technology also allows 24\*7 con-

nectivity . However high internet use may lead to lack of social skills and increase feelings of loneliness, and deprive us of real and more intimate face to face communication.

# 19 Describe something important that you lost

Say what you lost

When and where you lost it

What you did to find it

And explain how you felt about it

## Sample Answer

I am really very careful with my things and rarely lose them. However recently my earphones went missing, but I had the good fortune of getting them back.

I'm a bit of an audiophile and I love listening to music. So a few months back I bought a new pair of expensive earphones. I bought them from House of Marley after doing extensive research. They have unmatched sound clarity and base.

I adored my earphones and I couldn't get enough of them. I carried them wherever I went and last week I had to accompany my niece to her dance rehearsal at school because her parents were busy.

As soon as I reached the classroom I wrapped up my earphones in a knot and kept them on a table. Just then my niece's teacher walked in. So I went to have a chat with her. We talked for a while and then I watched their rehearsal. And afterwards I returned to the table where I had kept my earphones and to my horror the entire table was cleaned out.

I was panic stricken. I frantically searched all over but I couldn't find my prized earphones.

Anxiety and dread began to creep in. My niece suggested talking to the cleaning lady. We went to her and she told us she had cleaned the class and all the waste was collected in trash bags.

So we quickly hunted out the trash bags, rummaged through them and miraculously found my earphones.

**Audiophile - one who loves music**

**Unmatched - without comparison**

**Frantically - with fear and anxiety**

**Rummaged - searched**

A wave of relief passed over me. Luckily they did not get dirty as the bags contained only paper waste. I was overjoyed and I profusely thanked the staff. Since then I try to be more mindful about where I put my belongings.

### **Part 3**

1 Why do people lose things?

It could be because they are absent minded, or maybe they are preoccupied with several things. There are also greater chances of losing things when people are tired, stressed, disturbed or in a hurry.

2 What are the things people lose?

People frequently misplace things of everyday use such as keys, pens, chargers, wallets, the TV remote or even mobile phones

3 How can people find things they have lost?

It can be frustrating and annoying to lose things but it's possible to find them. We need to stay calm. First we must try to figure out where we may have kept it where we last used or saw it. We also need to retrace our steps and look everywhere - cupboards and boxes and every nook and corner.

4 How can we avoid losing things?

We can avoid losing things by being more organised. We should set designated places for every object. We should form habits and rules. We should also be more mindful of where we put things away.

## 20 Describe an interesting thing you have learned from a foreign culture

Say what it was

How you learnt it

Why you learnt it

And explain how you think it will help others

### Sample Answer

I believe knowing about other cultures is very enriching and each culture has something valuable to teach us. One such thing I have learned is the art of Kintsugi from the Japanese culture.

I read some articles on this art and it gave me a wholly new perspective.

Kintsugi is a 400 year old technique of repairing broken vessels by sealing the cracks with liquid gold. When we break a bowl or vase we throw it away as useless but with Kintsugi the cracks are not hidden but made more visible and the cracks filled with gold make the vessel more beautiful and valuable.

This concept is truly a mindblowing one and quite alien to our use and throw culture where every broken thing gets discarded off as junk. Kintsugi has taught me to repair and repurpose things rather than throwing them away.

The Japanese also apply Kintsugi to their lives. They believe that broken, painful and difficult parts of our life make us stronger and better.

Mistakes, wounds, hurts and failures are all part of our lives. But all this can be used as raw material to create something more amazing. So we don't need to be obsessed with being perfect. Imperfections can also create beauty when approached with an open and positive attitude.

Applying this philosophy in my life has made me more optimistic and joyful. Any crack that I see in my life, caused by pain, failures or hurts, I am ready to fill it and move ahead

**Mindblowing - amazing**

**Alien - Unfamiliar**

**Discarded - thrown away**

**Flaws - defects**

**Dejected - upset**

**Demoralized - discouraged**



with the confidence that no experience is wasted. Kintsugi has taught me not to be dejected and demoralized by my scars and flaws, but to accept and celebrate them.

### Part 3

1 What is the importance of traditions and festivals?

Festivals and traditions are part of our culture and they help us understand our glorious heritage and pass them on to the next generation. They also play a vital role not only in strengthening our relationships, and deepening our sense of community, but also giving us special moments of fun and togetherness.

2 What is the difference between celebrations in the past and those now?

I believe there is more importance on splurging and outward celebrations these days, compared to the past. The sense of community and the togetherness also seems to have diminished as people hardly have time for get-togethers and celebrations.

3 Do you think western festivals like Christmas are replacing traditional festivals?

The influence of global culture is undoubtedly being felt in all aspects of life today and we have adopted many western ideas such as Valentine's Day, Mother's day etc. These days festivals like Christmas are also celebrated with great gusto among Indians, of course more for the pomp and splendour rather than the religious significance.

4 Is it wrong for children not to celebrate festivals?

Yes I believe it would not be proper for children to be indifferent to festivals. They are essential to nurture bonds with family, friends, and society and to create a sense of unity. Festivals also help children experience and understand their rich culture and heritage and thus keeps them rooted in their identity.

## 21 Describe an occasion when you got a positive feedback for work that you did

Say when it happened

What you did

Why you got positive feedback

And explain how you felt about it

### Sample Answer

I still remember the kudos and appreciation my friends and I received in our final year of college. We had been assigned the task of hosting the send off party for our principal and my teacher had made me the team leader. We were all apprehensive about this huge responsibility and dreaded the thought of falling short of everyone's expectations.

However we decided to give it our best shot .We started off immediately with brainstorming sessions and drew up a to-do list. We had to create an estimated budget and get approval, draw up the guest list, choose a caterer , order the memento etc.

We split all the work among us and set off tirelessly to accomplish what we were assigned to do. It was hard work for a week but I can say working as a team made it fun and enjoyable. It kept all of us enthusiastic and on our toes. Every evening we used to meet over tea and banana fritters to track each one's progress and coordinate the flow.

As the day approached, our stress levels went up, but we kept encouraging and supporting each other. There were no last minute hiccups or disasters and our mission was accomplished.

To our great relief, the event went off smoothly and we got wide appreciation from everyone for organizing everything so well. We all felt very proud of the validation and positive feedback we got. Words of appreciation came from the principal, our teachers and also our guests.

I must say being showered with all those praises felt really good. We were thrilled at being recognised for all our ef-

**Kudos - praise**

**Apprehensive - fearful**

**Falling short of - not reaching**

**Brainstorming - thinking of ideas**

**Tirelessly - without resting**

**Hiccups - problems**

**Skyrocketed - increased dramatically**

forts. Our self worth and motivation surely skyrocketed. A pat on the back is truly a wonderful feeling.

### Part 3

1 How can children help their parents?

Children can assist parents mainly with simple household chores like tidying the house, washing dishes, clearing the table etc. They should also be encouraged to keep their rooms clean, fold their clothes, polish their shoes etc.

2 Should parents reward children when they help them?

Rewards are an effective way of reinforcing positive behaviour. Children will feel motivated to continue doing such work when they feel they are appreciated for it.

3 What are the benefits of children helping parents?

By helping parents, children become more competent and confident. In the process of doing various kinds of chores, they learn valuable life skills. Also helping parents reduces their work and gives more time to spend with the children.

4 Do people help others more than in the past?

I think people are now too preoccupied with their own affairs and hardly have the time or the inclination to help others. However in the past there was a closer sense of community and willingness to reach out to others.

5 Should parents teach children to help others?

Being caring and helpful are vital qualities that should be instilled in children. It can be done by setting good examples for them to copy. Parents should exhibit a culture of selflessness and compassion in their words and deeds.

6 Which professions involve helping others?

Doctors, nurses, teachers, those involved with emergency services all help people in need.

7 Why are some people very willing to help others?

They may be compassionate and selfless by nature. They always put others and their interests before their own and hence they are ever ready to lend a helping hand.

8 Should people today participate more in voluntary work?

Volunteering is a way of giving something back to the community. It can make a serious impact on the lives of those less fortunate. On a personal level it will offer new life experiences and insights into social issues and get people out of their comfort zones. Hence I believe volunteering should be a part of our lives.

9 Is international aid important?

Yes definitely. International aid can contribute to fighting poverty, hunger and help get access to medical care in poor countries. Studies reveal that millions die in third world countries due to preventable diseases and nearly 30.5 million face starvation. Financial aid also helps such countries build their economy through developmental programmes.

## 22 Describe a popular/well known person in your country

Say who the person is  
What he has done  
Why he is popular  
And explain how you feel about this person

### Sample Answer

There are numerous people who have achieved great renown in different walks of life such as business, sports, politics or films. One such person is the actor Sonu Sood.

He has acted in several films in Bollywood as well as the South Indian film industry. However Sood's popularity comes more from his philanthropic efforts than his acting prowess.

About two years back I read about an initiative he had undertaken through Facebook and began to follow him.

He helped migrant workers in Mumbai to reach their homes during the nationwide lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As part of his 'Ghar bhejo' campaign, he helped over 12,000 migrants reach home. He launched a toll free number through which anyone could reach out to him for help.

During the second wave, he launched helplines to help people find oxygen cylinders and hospital beds. He is also helping underprivileged young people with free education and scholarships.

These activities have catapulted Sonu Sood to the national spotlight.

Recently Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal named Sonu Sood brand ambassador for 'Desh ke Mentors' programme to give career related guidance to government school students in Delhi.

Sonu Sood's Twitter followers have crossed the 10 million

**Renown - fame**

**Philanthropic - helping others**

**Prowess - ability**

**Initiative - effort**

**Catapulted - launch**

**Spotlight - getting public attention**

mark and people still continue to approach the actor for help. This real life hero, respected and admired across the country, is a true inspiration.

### Part 3

1 What are the qualities that make people popular?

I think there are several traits that are associated with popularity. Popular people generally have a great sense of humour and are pleasant and fun loving. They are good listeners and are ever ready to help and support others sincerely. They treat everyone with respect and radiate a warmth and openness, which makes others feel comfortable being with them.

2 Do you know of any popular film star who likes helping people?

I think many film stars are involved in humanitarian activities. I have read that many Bollywood stars like Salman Khan, Raveena Tandon and Akshay Kumar are actively involved with NGOs and donate generously to the needy and underprivileged. I also read somewhere that Nana Patekar donated almost 90% of his earnings to charity every year.

3 Do you think children should imitate their idols?

It is definitely good for children to have idols. But often celebrities and famous stars seem to be obsessed with glamour, wealth and status. This would send unhealthy messages to children and lead them to have wrong priorities in life. It is important for children to imitate idols for the qualities which made them reach those heights, such as determination, hard work, perseverance and dedication.

4 What influence do popular stars have on teenagers?

Stars who enjoy great media popularity have a powerful influence on teenagers. Young people look up to them, idolize them and try to imitate them. Often celebrities are obsessed

with things like their body image, dressing styles, make up or hair styles. This would motivate youngsters to give greater priority to these superficial matters. Celebrities also fail to set up high standards of moral and ethical behaviour. Hence generally I believe their influence is unhealthy.

5 Do you think popular stars have more or less freedom?

Fame comes at a price and mostly privacy and freedom are the price. I think popular stars are constantly hounded by the media and hence are generally unable to enjoy much freedom. They are mostly denied simple pleasures like going shopping with family or spending time in a park since they are always in the public eye and can never enjoy privacy.

## 23 Describe a time when you helped a child

Say when it happened

Who you helped

What you did

And explain how you felt

### Sample Answer

A few months back I taught my neighbour's son Appu how to ride a bicycle. Appu had just turned seven and on his birthday his parents gifted him a cycle, his long cherished desire.

Seeing how eager he was to learn cycling and since his parents were busy those days, I offered to teach him. The next morning we headed to the open area near our house.

First I taught him how to straddle the cycle. I told him to stand on one side and lean it towards him and then get on it. The cycle was big for Appu and when he sat on the seat his feet were a few inches above the ground. He seemed a bit uneasy as he sat on the cycle.

I asked him to look ahead and start pedaling. Holding on to the seat and handle bars I jogged alongside as Appu pedalled furiously. Occasionally I let go and allowed Appu to balance. Slowly I released my hold for longer and longer time till Appu was balancing on his own. I kept a close eye on him all the while, running alongside, ready to grab him if necessary.

In about an hour, Appu had learnt to balance the bicycle and ride on his own. I was huffing and puffing with all the running but Appu was over the moon. He didn't want to stop. It was not long before he was brimming with confidence and taking on new riding obstacles and challenges. He kept going in circles, clockwise and then anticlockwise and even tried to look back at me while pedaling.

When his parents got back from work that evening he proudly showed them his cycling skills. Appu soon set off on his cycling adventures with his friends. I often see them

**Headed - go towards**

**Straddle - to sit or stand with one leg on either side**

**Over the moon - very happy**

**Brimming - overflowing**

**Ample - more than enough**

**Gratification - satisfaction**



trying to race or show stunts.

I can say it is a proud moment for me when I see Appu on his bicycle, balanced and confident. The thrill on his face is ample gratification for all my efforts.

### **Part 3**

1 Do people help others more than in the past?

I think people are now too preoccupied with their own affairs and hardly have the time or the inclination to help others. However in the past I believe, there was a closer sense of community and willingness to reach out to others.

2 Should parents teach children to help others?

Yes definitely. I think being caring and helpful are vital qualities that should be instilled in children. It can be done by setting good examples for them to copy. Parents should exhibit a culture of selflessness and compassion in their words and deeds.

3 Which professions involve helping others?

I would say doctors, nurses, teachers, those involved with emergency services all help people in need.

4 Why are some people very willing to help others?

There are people who are very service minded. This may be because they are compassionate and selfless by nature. They always put others' interests before their own and hence they are ever ready to lend a helping hand.

## 24 Describe something that surprised you

Say what it was

How you found out about it

What you did

And explain whether it made you happy

### Sample Answer

My mother sprang a surprise on me on my birthday in the form of an adorable kitten with a fancy red bow around her neck.

I had been asking my parents for a pet cat for years. But they were always uncomfortable with the idea of keeping a pet and kept brushing aside my requests. My mother used to lecture us about what a huge responsibility it was and the health issues it could cause.

So when my mother handed me this cute furball on my birthday, I was taken aback. I was totally speechless to see this adorable kitten.

My sister and I had begged, lobbied and tried every trick in the book to get our mother to agree to bring home a cat. But she would not budge an inch. So we couldn't believe our mother had made this complete turnaround.

I named my kitten Maxie. She has the softest, fluffiest fur and the roundest green eyes. She is so cute.

She has become a part of our home now. It's funny to see how she lies on her back with her legs perched up in the air.

A few months after Maxie became part of our home, I was in for another surprise. My mother turned from being a cat hater to a cat lover. Maxie had won her over.

Now she sneaks into her lap when she is watching television or reading a newspaper and my mother strokes and cuddles her. Sometimes I find Maxie fast asleep on my mother's bed.

**Furball - pet animal**

**Taken aback - surprised**

**Speechless - surprised**

**Lobbied - tried to influence**

**Try every trick in the book - try everything**

**Budge - change an opinion**

**Turnaround - a complete change**

**Perched - sat**

**Irresistible - uncontrollable**

She also likes to play, stretch and jump on the kitchen shelves and play hide and seek among the jars when my mother is in the kitchen. My mother also fell for Maxie's irresistible charms.

### Part 3

1 What are some of the things that make you happy?

I find joy and fulfilment in simple things that I experience every day. Hanging out with friends, reading a book or listening to soulful music are some of the simple pleasures I enjoy. Time spent with family is also a source of great joy for me. Nature walks, watching the sunset or waves crashing on the shore are yet another source of delight.

2 How would you define happiness?

I think there is no one-size-fits-all definition since every individual perceives it as per his own psychological conditioning. I think what brings joy to one may be just an ordinary and mundane experience for another. For example, while a person with an artistic temperament may enthuse over a glorious sunset, a practical minded person would be untouched by it.

3 Do you think artistic activities can make a person happy?

I believe creating some kind of art or enjoying someone else's artistic work can make people happier. Art is a creative activity and involves new ideas and imagination. It is a form of self expression and helps in giving vent to our feelings and emotions. Further, creating art offers a feeling of accomplishment and boosts self esteem. So art can be very therapeutic, relaxing and pleasurable.

4 Do you think talented people are happier than others?

I believe talented people would have greater levels of happiness. Their talents in different fields such as music, dance or sports help them perform well and thus gives a sense of achievement and self fulfilment. Also pursuing talents is a pleasurable pastime, which would help people unwind and forget about their stresses.

## 25 Describe a person you only met once and want to know more about

Say who he is

When you met him

Why you want to know more about him

And explain how you feel about him

### Sample Answer

Often in a lifetime, our lives are blessed with the presence of people who can touch our hearts, illumine our mind and inspire the hero in us. In my life, one such person is a **septuagenarian**, Mr Wilson John. He is a professor of Literature in a college in my city and a motivational speaker.

Once I got a chance to attend his book launch function. At the event, he delivered an excellent speech which I almost remember **verbatim**.

His **forte** and passion is to inspire and motivate the young to dream big. Mr. John is a firm believer in the **intrinsic** value, worth and giftings of each individual.

So all his efforts both in his role as college lecturer and motivational speaker, are directed towards equipping people to lead fulfilling lives, stepping beyond their limitations. He says his goal is to bridge the gaps between where people are and where they wish to be.

His speech that day lasted about 45 minutes and it infused a new energy and passion into me. I realized I had no clear goals in life and was just frittering away my life. Suddenly I wanted to dream big, set goals, unleash my potential and be a person of influence.

I was impressed by Mr John's combination of **charisma**, personality and intellect. Even though he is in his seventies, his passion and energy would put a youngster to shame. I wish to know more about his life and his achievements.

I believe that one can share only what one has experienced. And I would like to know more about his life

**Septuagenarian** : a person in his seventies

**Verbatim**: word to word

**Forte**: strength

**Intrinsic**: basic

**Charisma**: attractive personality

and struggles as well as, how he overcame them.

**Emulate:** copy

I admire his warmth and sincere wish to help others. which are rare qualities in this self centered world we live in. I am truly privileged to have a person to look up to, to learn from and whose values and actions I would like to **emulate**.

### Part 3

1 What is the influence of social media on friendships?

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Whatsapp etc have helped friendships transcend distances, time zones and physical circumstances. Today we have opportunities to develop and nurture friendships that would have been almost impossible before.

2 How do people make friends in India?

I believe most people love to meet new people and the internet can be one of the best ways to start friendships. People meet on online forums and social media and find people with similar interests and thus bond with them easily. People also make friends at workplaces, neighborhoods or while travelling.

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

I believe similar interests, tastes and hobbies are the backbone of great friendships. Friends can spend time doing things that interest both of them and talking about common areas of interests. However, If interests are different, friendships are not likely to last long.

4 What qualities make true friends?

I believe true friends are trustworthy and reliable. They accept us with all our shortcomings and flaws. They are fiercely loyal to us and stick with us through thick and thin.

## 26 Describe an ambition that you haven't achieved

Say what it is  
Why you haven't achieved it  
What you did about it  
And explain how you feel about it

### Sample Answer

I have always **nursed a secret ambition** right from my school days. It is to write a detective novel. I am an **avid** reader of detective novels and I believe there are very few things than can **outmatch** the thrill of a murder mystery.

Whether it is a book, a movie or a web series, I always love these **enthralling** complicated **whodunnits** and I think in the midst of enjoying them, I developed the desire to write one myself.

Although I have not started taking any serious steps, I always make it a point to carefully note the components of every murder mystery.

I know writing one would require very careful planning of the plot or even many subplots within the main story, the clues, the criminals and the motives. I will have to plan the sequence of the story and decide what clues should be planted so that the detectives will find them.

The vocabulary and detailing should be such that it brings alive the twisted plots and keeps readers in suspense.

I have never written any literary piece in my life, so I know I will have to research and study about how to do it. With my present job and responsibilities I will not be able to spend much time on it.

However, I have it on the back of my mind and I try to take small steps towards it, whenever I can, and I know I will fulfil it one day.

There are an overwhelming amount of resources on the

**Nursed an ambition:** to have an ambition for a long time

**Avid:** keen

**Outmatch:** be superior to

**Enthralling:** highly interesting

**Whodunnits:** murder mystery

**Beacons:** Guiding lights

internet to guide me through the process and of course my leading lights and **beacons** Agatha Christie and Sherlock Holmes to motivate me.

**Beacons:** Guiding lights

### Part 3

1 Should parents encourage children to follow their ambitions?

I think parents should support and encourage their children to achieve their ambitions and should not rubbish their ideas however silly they may seem. Telling them about success stories and role models can embolden and inspire them to chase their dreams. When children are praised and appreciated for their effort and perseverance, they will develop a healthy self esteem and see themselves as having unlimited potential.

2 Should parents interfere in the ambitions of their children?

While advice and guidance are desirable, too much interference would prevent children from developing their own opinions and independent thinking.

3 What is the difference between the ambitions of adults and that of children?

Adults grapple with realities of life and tend to typically aim for career success, making money and getting settled. Children may have fanciful ambitions like becoming a magician or a rock star.

4 Why are some people very ambitious in their work?

There are several people who have a fire in their belly. They are always striving for more, setting the bar higher and are never content with where they are. I think it could be in their genes. Being ambitious is an inherent quality for some and they are always on the lookout for the next goal or target. I believe being ambitious could also be a result of a sense of competition. The desire to do better than friends and siblings can make people determined and ambitious about achieving more and more.

5 Why is it that some people do not have any dreams?

This could be due to a lack of confidence or a fear of failure. Those who have no dreams probably lack the courage to take the risks and create their future.

## 27 Describe a time when you organized a happy event successfully

Say what the event was  
How you prepared for it  
Who helped you to organize it  
And explain why you think it was successful

### Sample Answer

A recent event that I organized with the help of my cousins was the ninetieth birthday of my grandfather. It was a **resounding success**.

With the travel restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, there was no way of getting all of my grandparents' eight children and 14 grandchildren together. While some were in other parts of the country, others were abroad.

The only solution was to have a zoom party. So I **roped in** a few of my cousins and started planning. We made a list of invitees. We decided to include my grandfather's closest friends, all of our uncles, aunts, cousins and a few other relatives spread across almost the whole world.

We sent out the links to the zoom party. We instructed them all to have a candle and matches ready to light and hold onto the screen to have the birthday boy blow them all out at once. We also asked everyone to have their cakes ready, so everyone could eat together.

We decorated the room with string lights, flowers and balloons. Once everyone had logged in I brought my grandfather into the room. He was totally surprised as all of the over 50 guests broke into the birthday song. He blew the candles and cut the cake.

After the cake cutting, we had some activities. Mainly we got everyone to sing along with my grandfather. We **screen shared** karaoke videos of his favourite old Malayalam hit songs.

**Resounding success:**  
huge success

**Roped in:** brought in

**Screenshared:** sharing  
your screen with  
multiple devices

**Buddies:** friends



We had managed to make a virtual scrapbook compiling recorded videos of greetings from my grandfather's old classmates from the school and college he studied in. We screen shared the video.

**Buddies:**friends

My grandfather's eyes opened wide with wonder and excitement as he saw all of his long forgotten **buddies** right before his eyes.

After about an hour, we wound up the party. On the count of three everyone shouted one final Happy Birthday and then waved goodbye.

The virtual party was a huge success and everyone appreciated my efforts. For me the satisfaction was to see how much my dear grandfather enjoyed the day. We had managed to make it truly special.

### **Part 3**

1 How can parents help children to be organized?

I believe it is vital for parents to teach their children to be more organized. They can be trained to have a fixed daily routine. Making to-do lists and checklists can ensure that everything gets completed on time. Giving them organizers and boxes to keep their belongings in an orderly manner would also lay the foundation for an organized and disciplined lifestyle.

2 On what occasions do people need to be organized?

People need to be organized in almost every area of their life. Finance is an important area that needs to be organized well. In addition, living spaces need proper and systematic organization. Also, when planning events and functions, every tiny detail regarding the venue, the catering, the chairs etc need to be well planned in advance.

3 Does everything need to be well prepared?

I believe proper planning leads to proper execution. Poor planning may cause chaos and confusion. We may be unprepared for unexpected emergencies or happenings. However, thinking beforehand of all possible scenarios and being prepared can save us much stress.

4 Do people need others' help while organizing things?

Yes, definitely. I believe assistance from others is essential. It is not possible to organize things especially on a large scale on one's own. There are people who may have better ideas, better skills or knowhow and hence seeking their aid is definitely sensible.

## 28 Describe something you received for free

Say what it was

Who you received it from

Where you received it

And explain how you felt about it

### Sample Answer

I think there is no one who wouldn't like to get a free gift. **Freebies** and **giveaways** are **irresistible** for people. I too was pleasantly surprised when I got a lovely glass bowl as a free gift at a supermarket nearby.

The bowl was a freebie being offered for purchases of over Rs 2000. The bowl had a **bespoke** design and looked elegant as well as **contemporary**. It was a multi purpose bowl which could serve as a dining table decor, a vase or a **potpourri bowl**.

The next time I had guests, I placed some floating candles in the bowl, which instantly **spruced up** the aesthetics of my living room and earned me plenty of compliments.

The story however does not end with me feeling excited with this new home decor accessory. I wanted one more of this item, so I could set them as a pair. I tried searching for a similar bowl on several online stores, but couldn't find one exactly similar to the one I had.

Left with no other option, I headed back to the supermarket, where the free gift offer was still on. This time I did not need to purchase items worth Rs 2000, but since that was the only way I would be entitled to receive the gift, I ended up buying a cartful of unnecessary items.

As I headed back home, happy to have got my second free gift, I had an **underlying** feeling of guilt for having spent so much.

I realized I had fallen prey to the clever manipulative strategies employed by supermarkets to **woo naive** consumers like me into over spending. I learnt my lesson to

**Freebies:** free gifts

**Giveaways:** free gifts

**Irresistible:** cannot be resisted

**Bespoke:** custom made

**Contemporary:** modern

**Potpourri bowl:** bowl with dried petals and leaves to give a pleasant smell

**Spruced up:** decorated

**Underlying:** fundamental

**Manipulative:** clever

**Woo:** attract

**Naive:** lacking experience or wisdom

be more wary of free gifts. But I have to admit that my two glass bowls look stunning, sitting side by side.

### Part 3

1 Do you think people should pay for higher education?

I believe higher education must have a reasonable fee. However there should be scholarships for meritorious students who cannot afford the costs, so that they too can gain college education. Interest free loans can also be provided to ensure that everyone can avail themselves of tertiary education, regardless of their financial status.

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

I think the idea of free education is not a sensible one. Anything that people get freely tends to be valued too lightly. As a result, the quality of education may decline and students may tend to lack seriousness regarding education. Free education can be given only in exceptional cases where students are too financially backward to afford it.

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

Companies offer a host of giveaways to attract and lure customers. Complimentary giveaways may include gift vouchers, small items like pens, key chains, chocolates or even grocery.

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

Customers always need to pay for the smallest of purchases and money matters to everyone. So naturally when they get things totally free of cost, it is definitely exciting and it is likely that they would develop a positive attitude and trust towards the company.

## 29 Describe a famous person you are interested in

Say who he is

How you know him

What sort of life they had before they became famous

How this person became famous

And explain why you like this person

### Sample Answer

The world is filled with people who fascinate us with their lives and tales and for me one such person is Robert Downey Jr.

He is an American actor and producer, who rose to the heights of fame and is today one of the biggest and most beloved stars in the world through his portrayal of Tony Stark in Iron man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

I, myself, began to have a strong **penchant** towards him ever since I saw the first Iron man movie . Since then I have become a huge fan of his.

He is an amazing and **versatile** actor. I am awestruck by his charm, **sass** and naturality. I feel he is one of the key reasons why Marvel studio movies have been so successful, especially the Avengers Endgame, which broke records in almost all countries.

Although RDJ , as he is commonly called, is hugely successful today, what people don't know about him is his struggles with drug addiction. Way back in the 1990's he got into a lot of trouble.

He was even **incarcerated** and this brought his career to a standstill. He lost big budget projects under prominent banners.

However he overcame his addiction and even managed to get a few minor roles in movies and finally in 2008, he got a lead role in Iron man and from there it was blockbuster after

**Penchant:** a strong liking

**Versatile:** good at many things

**Sass:** boldness

**Incarcerated:** put in prison

**Bleak:** gloomy, disappointing

blockbuster.

**Bleak:** gloomy,  
disappointing

So what I love about RDJ is not just his talent and charisma but his ability to rise from the ashes. He did not quit when things looked **bleak**.

He was able to get back on his feet and get his life and career on track. His life journey teaches me that no matter what adversities you face, it is never too late to turn your life around and become the best possible version of yourself.

I cannot help but feel an immense sense of admiration and respect for this amazing actor.

### Part 3

1 How do people become famous?

In my country, people earn fame due to their talent in singing, dancing, acting or playing some kind of sport. Others may become famous for some things they did in a particular situation. Social media allows news tidbits to travel fast, due to which people can achieve a certain amount of fame for their achievements both big and small.

2 What type of people are famous in your country?

Politicians and leading businessmen, educationalists are people who tend to be in the limelight very often. Celebrities like film stars, sports persons or other such top achievers in their respective fields also enjoy a certain amount of fame. Another recent group of famous people is the influencers who gain millions of views and a large following on social media and thus become famous.

3 Is there any difference between famous people now and famous people in the past?

I think in the past, famous people like writers, actors or politicians achieved fame due to their abilities, hard work and talents. However people today seem to become famous overnight for trivial matters mainly through the power of the media.

4 What qualities do famous people have in common?

Famous people have certain common attributes. They are goal oriented and hard working. They have worked their way through setbacks and challenges through their grit and resilience. They are willing to take risks in life and set high standards for themselves.

5 What is your opinion about nepotism among famous people?

I think nepotism is totally wrong and unethical. Favoritism towards family members and acquaintances is an abuse of power and is unfair because it disregards true merit and talent. This can affect the morale of other more deserving people and lead to mediocrity.

## 30 Describe a resolution you made in the new year

Say what it was

How you plan to stick to it

Why you made this resolution

And explain how you feel about it

### Sample Answer

I have always been very excited about making new year resolutions. But they are much easier to make than to keep and quite often by March, I abandon my resolve and settle back into my old habits.

However this never discourages me from making resolutions each year. I believe every year is a **clean slate** with opportunities to make changes, improve ourselves and **turn a new page**.

This time my new year resolution was to give one compliment a day. I believe this is a far easier goal than the more physically demanding ones like reducing weight, waking up early or daily exercises.

I made this resolution since I feel complimenting people spreads positivity around. I realized that I was becoming so focussed on myself that I had no time or interest in appreciating good things I saw in people around me.

I started with complimenting my mother for the cup of tea she brought me. She was taken aback by that unexpected appreciation. That same day I passed on at least ten compliments far **surpassing** my mandatory number of compliments.

As I continued, I realized that there was so much to appreciate and compliment and I had been quite blind and self centered not to even have noticed them.

My colleague had the most charming smile, the security guard at the gate had a remarkably thick moustache, my next door neighbour had a beautiful garden and the list went on. As the days pass, it has become very easy to spot

**Clean slate:** a fresh start

**Turn a new page:** a fresh beginning

**Taken aback:** surprised

**Surpassing:** exceeding



positive traits in people.

I have also realized that giving a compliment can be a good conversation starter or a good way to get over a bump in a conversation.

Also, being generous with **affirmations** benefits the giver too. It makes us optimistic and creates a happier outlook. They cost nothing and can change lives for good. It has been two months now and I am still going strong.

I do hope that this time I will finally **follow through** over the whole year.

**Affirmations:** positive declarations

**Follow through:** continue an action to its conclusion

### Part 3

1 What kind of decisions do people take everyday?

People make small and big life changing decisions in their day to day life. The decisions may be on trivial matters like what to eat, which movie to watch, how to spend their time etc. Or it could be on weightier matters like career choice, deciding on whom to marry, how to invest money, relocating to another country etc.

2 Can children make their own decisions?

Yes children can be encouraged to take decisions in small matters like what dress to wear, what game to play, which toy to buy etc. Decision making is one of the most important skills children need to develop to become healthy and mature adults.

3 Why do people change their decisions sometimes?

People may change decisions when they realize it was not the right decision. Sometimes decisions are taken hastily, without proper thinking or we may be unsure of our decision. Sometimes other people may influence us to rethink.

4 Why do people need to make decisions?

Decision making is inevitable in our life and almost every second we are forced to make choices from the options before us both big and small.

## 31 Describe an interesting song

Say what the song is  
What the song is about  
Whether the song is popular  
And explain why you think it is interesting

### Sample Answer

I am a music lover and my interests **span** a range of **genres** from hip hop and rap to slow melodies. I think there is so much emerging talent we get to see on social media today, that we can enjoy amazing music all the time.

One song that I find very fascinating is the 'Pawri ho rahi hai' meme song. Conventional music composers and lyricists would probably **turn up their noses** at this song. It was composed by the upcoming music composer Yashraj Mukhate.

It was released last year and **garnered** over 70 million views and continues to be a popular number among millions of netizens. I can say that it's a song which has almost the entire nation tapping its feet. It would be more apt to call it a dialogue with beats rather than a song.

Yashraj Mukhate has a very unique style of creating music. He takes dialogues from reality shows, Tv shows or videos and adds a musical twist to it. The end result is **hilarious**. It makes you laugh and **groove** at the same time. All of his meme songs went viral on Instagram garnering millions of views.

I first noticed his talent two years back when he released his first rap song which was a remix of a scene from a popular Hindi soap opera. I think that song made him an overnight Youtube sensation.

In the 'Pawri ho rahi hai' song he takes a video by Pakistani influencer Dananeer Mobeen called 'Pawri ho rahi hai' - meaning a party is going on.

She deliberately says the word party with an accent, which

**Span:** cover

**Genres:** styles or categories

**Turn up their noses at:** be scornful about

**Garnered:** gathered

**Hilarious:** very funny

**Groove:** dancing

**Quirky:** strange

**Blends:** combines

**Vibing:** enjoy by listening to music or dancing

adds to the charm of the song. It is amazing how Yashraj takes this simple dialogue and turns it into something **quirky** and fun. He makes a beat according to the dialogue and a pitch and tempo that **blends** with it and plays it on a loop.

The 'pawri ho rahi hai' mashup has become a hit across all sections of society. Actors, politicians, sportspersons and celebrities can be seen **vibing** with this song.

It has become a hot favourite during wedding parties and other gatherings. The best part is that this song is something people in India and Pakistan can enjoy together.

**Quirky:** strange

**Blends:** combines

**Vibing:** enjoy by listening to music or dancing

### Part 3

1 Why are many music competitions popular in India?

I believe there is an abundance of musical talent in India and these competitions offer a platform for showcasing and nurturing it. There are many participants who went on to become famous singers in the film industry or on social media. A second reason is that such shows on television are hugely popular and have high TRP ratings. Almost everyone enjoys music and spending time watching music based reality shows can be very relaxing and entertaining.

2 What kinds of music do young people like?

I think young people are mostly fond of hip hop and rap. More and more new artists are emerging with their own unique styles and are skyrocketing to stardom. Artists like Eminem, Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift are also hot favorites. Closer home we have Punjabi music with popular artists like Badshah and Diljit Dosanjh.

3 What kind of people like traditional music?

I think traditional music appeals more to the older generation. The young crowd is more inclined towards western forms of music, creative fusion of east and west as well as remixes.

4 What are the differences between a live concert and an online concert?

Enjoying live musical shows is an exhilarating experience

.The energy, the loud music, the cheering crowds and the atmosphere gives an exciting and euphoric experience. On the other hand, online concerts would lack the energy and vibrance of a live concert, but would help people enjoy the music without distractions and disturbance from raucous members of the crowd.

5 Do teenagers and old people enjoy the same kind of songs?

Definitely not. While the aged are inclined more towards haunting, soulful melodies of the yester years, youngsters are open to new genres especially western music such as pop, rock, reggae and fusion music.

6 What are the factors that make a song popular?

While some songs sound insipid and dull, others stick in people's heads and go on to be chart busters. They usually have some features like a catchy tune, good rhythm and tempo as well as appealing lyrics.

7 On what occasions do people in your country sing together?

Songs are an inseparable part of functions such as weddings, pre wedding ceremonies as well as parties. There are also specific songs people sing together during festivals and other religious ceremonies.

8 What kind of songs are suitable for children?Why?

I think songs that are easy to sing and have a fast rhythm are the songs that children would prefer.

9 Why do musical tastes vary with age?

Musical choices do undergo changes with age. I think adolescence is the age for intense and aggressive kinds of music such as pop or heavy metal.As people grow more mature, I think, there is a greater inclination towards more

## 32 Describe a thing you cannot live without (other than your phone or computer)

Say what it is

How long you have had it

Why you cannot live without it

### Sample Answer

A thing that is an absolute essential for me is my wrist watch. Today, of course, we have the time on our phones and watches seem to have been **relegated** to the background. But I still have a **penchant** for watches.

I believe a strong reason why I wear it is due to habit. Having worn a watch for so many years, I think I find it hard to **reconcile** myself with the idea of discarding it.

I started wearing a watch in my tenth standard. My first watch was a gift from my father. It was an HMT watch with a gold square dial and black leather strap. I wore it proudly to school and almost everywhere I went.

I have had a few more watches since then. In college I bought my first digital watch, but it did not appeal to me much and I stuck to **analog** ones after that.

Many people ask me why I wear a watch when I can tell the time from my mobile. But I think getting the time from my watch is so much more effortless than **fishing for** my phone in my bag and pulling it out. There are so many places where it's even impossible to do that, like in a crowded bus or in a meeting.

Also you whip out your phone to look at the time, but you get distracted by the notifications and end up spending more time on your phone than you intend to.

Another thing that makes watches irresistible for me is that they are a great accessory to wear. The straps both leather and shiny metal, look quite eye-catching. I think they enhance my appearance and I can match them with

**Relegated:** transferred

**Penchant:** liking

**Reconcile to:** accept

**Analog:** watches with traditional watch face

**Fishing for:** trying to find out

my outfit. They work very well as style statements. So I can say that my watch is my favorite, most used and must have accessory.

### Part 3

1 Why are people attracted to new things?

People have a tendency to purchase the latest trend and styles. One reason could be that they become bored with old things and want to try out something different. Also checking out new things in malls or online stores has become a common mode of entertainment, I also feel the desire to buy new stuff could also stem from a desire to impress others,

2 Why do some grown ups hate to discard old things?

I believe the older generations lead frugal lives and try to avoid throwing away things. They try to minimize wastage and look for ways to repurpose things rather than throwing them away.

3 In what ways have people's buying habits changed?

I think the most significant shift is that shopping has evolved from being a need based activity, to something people do for fun and relaxation. It is very common for people today to go shopping just for pleasure and purchase things on an impulse. In other words, the levels of consumption today are far higher than in the days of our thrifty older generations. Also the trend of online shopping is picking up at a furious pace, with perks such as convenience, discounts, fast shipping and wider options.

4 What influences people to buy new things?

I think one reason why people end up making unplanned impulsive purchases is what they see on social media. Lifestyles, fashions, outfits of others can push us into buying similar stuff. Advertisements also play a key role in shaping people's desires and pushing consumption.

## 33 Describe something that was broken in your home and then repaired

Say what it was

How it was broken

How you got it repaired

### Sample Answer

This happened just a few months back. I was playing with my pet Peppy and as he **scurried** around the house , he bumped into a vase.

I watched in horror as my mother's favorite white and blue ceramic flower vase **wobbled** and then crashed to the floor. A small portion of the vase was **chipped** at the top and there was a long crack on one side.

My **heart sank**. The vase was my mother's treasured possession, a gift from her dear friend and colleague. Although I was feeling guilty and horrified, I started thinking of ways to reverse the damage.

I carefully picked up the vase and the broken pieces and **sneaked** into my room.

Thankfully I was alone in the house and was saved from a **dressing down** from anyone. I took the broken piece, applied a layer of super glue on it and gently pressed it onto the vase till the bond was secure. I also applied the glue inside the entire length of the crack and then lightly brushed some white and blue paint over the crack.

Once the glue was set and the paint dried, I realized that the repair was almost **undetectable**. The **ornate keepsake** was restored back to its original form. I heaved a sigh of relief .

My Superglue was truly a lifesaver that day as on numerous occasions before. It's happened so often that a coffee mug slipped from my grasp or the buckle of my sandal came off.

Super glue is a fast bonding, easy to use and instant adhesive that never fails to come to the rescue. Its

**Scurried:** move in a hurry

**Wobbled:** move unsteadily from side to side

**Chipped:** a small portion broken off the edge

**Heart sank:** became disappointed

**Sneak:** go secretly

**Dressing down:** scolding

**Undetectable:** cannot be easily seen

**Ornate:** with elaborate decorations

**Keepsake:** something kept in memory of the person who gave it

**versatility** makes it a must have staple for me. I can say it helps me repair, reuse and recycle which are the mantras for eco friendly living

**Versatility:** having many uses

### Part 3

1 Is the quality of products worse than it was before?

Yes I think products today are manufactured with a poorer quality and a shorter shelf life. Durability and quality do not ensure profits. So I think it is a shrewd marketing strategy to make products of inferior quality so that people need to discard the old and keep buying new things.

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

People like to repair objects of daily use such as sandals, cups, crockery and so on which can be fixed easily. Usually they can be repaired with some glue or tape. Torn clothes can be repaired with a sewing machine or a needle and thread. There are also electrical appliances, which can be repaired.

4 Why do people like to get their mobile phones repaired from specialized service centres?

One reason is that if the phone is within the warranty period, repairs are done freely by authorized service centres. Also these centres are subsidiaries of mobile manufacturers and so parts would be 100% original, whereas local shops may use duplicate parts for our smartphones.



## 34 Describe a toy you liked in childhood

Say what it was  
How it was broken  
How you got it repaired

### Sample Answer

I had quite a big collection of toys when I was growing up. And one that I prized the most was a toy train.

It was gifted to me by my uncle. He lived abroad and every year when he came for holiday he would visit us and take me and my brother to the nearby toy store and ask us to pick whatever we wanted.

Going toy shopping with my uncle is one of my happiest childhood memories.

I remember the shelves of the big toy shop lined with such a wide variety of toys like remote control cars, buses, dolls, superhero figures, teddy bears etc. It was during one such trip that I picked up this toy train set.

If my memory serves me correctly, I was about eight years old. I felt so **captivated** by the picture of the train on the box. I didn't see the train because it had to be assembled.

As soon as we got back home my uncle opened the box and took out all the pieces, there were many pieces of tracks, some were curved, some straight. They could be interconnected. The engine, the passenger carriages and the goods carriages were also separate pieces and we could join them with hooks.

The train was battery operated and once I had assembled everything, it was thrilling to see the train running on the tracks.

My train became my favourite play item and I **vividly** remember the fun time I had playing with it. Often my neighbourhood friends would join me, sometimes we would make the train pass through mountain tunnels made of

**Captivate:** attract and hold the interest and attention of

**Vivid:** producing powerful feelings or strong, clear images in the mind

**Pang:** a sudden sharp pain or painful emotion

**Nostalgia:** a feeling of pleasure and also slight sadness when you think about things that happened in the past

mud. All my action heroes would be railway guards waving the green or red flag.

So my toy train offered me such a variety of fun possibilities, I still have a few pieces of that train in my cupboard and whenever I see it, I feel that **pang** of **nostalgia**.

### Part 3

1 What kind of toys are suitable for different age groups. Each age category has its own type of toys. For infants, bright colourful rattles, squeeze toys, musical toys, teething toys would be ideal. For toddlers and older children, the best toys would be vehicles, plastic animals, stuffed toys, kitchen sets, dolls, modelling clay, picture books and building blocks

2 How are toys beneficial for children  
Toys are fun and an endless source of enjoyment. They also help children improve fine and gross motor skills. Additionally toys boost creativity and imagination and stimulate concentration.

3 What are the differences between toys that girls like and the preference of boys?  
We can see a gender stereotype in toys. Boys are more predisposed to toys like cars, guns, superhero figures and robots, while girls prefer to play with dolls, kitchen sets or colouring books.

4 Does technology have an influence on toys?  
Technology has pervaded the realm of toys too. With sensors, chips, remote operated toys etc, they have become more advanced and allow greater interaction with children. Gone are the days of crude and simple toys made of plastic or wood. Artificial intelligence and virtual reality will usher in much more sophistication in future toys.

5 Parents don't spend much time with their children and instead give toys. Is it good enough?  
Children love to have new toys but the most important thing for them is the presence of their parents. When parents give

their children time and attention, it builds a sense of security, confidence and self esteem in the child.

## 35 Describe a long walk you had

Say when it happened

Where you walked

Who were with you

And explain how you felt about this walk

### Sample Answer

Walking is something that is **extolled** by one and all for the huge health benefits it gives. However I was a person who totally **shirked** the idea of walking and preferred to drive even short distances.

However, a few years back, I trekked nearly 6 kms while on a trip to Nainital and I can say the experience was so memorable that it helped me overcome my stubborn resistance to walking.

I had gone there with my family and our tour guide was Swati, my friend who hails from Nainital. Knowing the place **inside out**, Swati helped organize, manage and plan the whole journey so that we could enjoy it to the fullest. Every stop in our **itinerary** was unlimited fun.

However one day we were heading to the next destination and midway I got a blow when we were asked to park our vehicles and walk. I **cringed** at the thought of walking. But on this trip, I didn't want to miss out on anything so I set out. It was an uphill climb along a narrow path dotted with boulders and passed through a forest full of eucalyptus and cypress trees .

Enjoying the scenic views, the cool mountain air, chirping of birds and the tranquil atmosphere, I didn't realize that three hours had elapsed since we started walking. I was **taken aback** when the guide told us that we had covered 6 kms. I just couldn't believe I had walked that long.

Of course we had taken short breaks in between to click some Instagram worthy pictures and enjoy hot ginger tea. However I can say that I was so captivated by the picturesque surroundings that it gave me tremendous zest to walk without fretting or even experiencing any kind of

**Extolled:** praised

**Shirked:** avoided

**Inside out:** thoroughly

**Itinerary:** planned route

**Cringe:** to shrink back

**Elapsed:** passed

**Taken aback:** surprised

fatigue. Once we reached the top we were **awestruck** by the stunning and panoramic view of the city and the surrounding majestic mountains of Kumaon region.

**Awestruck:** amazed

The long trek was definitely worth it and I felt a sense of achievement, not just for the out of this world experience, but also because I had managed to overcome my aversion to walking and I am ready to get on my feet more often.

### Part 3

1 What outdoor activities do people like?

From walking, trekking, swimming to adventure sports such as river rafting, surfing, kayaking and sailing, there are a host of outdoor activities that people are interested in. I believe the interest in such activities is rising as people want a break from their dreary daily routines and wish to experience some adventure and fun.

2 What is the difference between indoor and outdoor sports?

Indoor sports such as chess or carroms are played inside the house and involve very little physical exertion. On the other hand, outdoor sports like cricket, football, badminton etc involve a lot of physical movements such as running, jumping and leaping. Also outdoor activities bring people closer to nature and offer greater opportunities for making friends and building relationships.

3 What are the differences between outdoor activities of children in the past and now?

With regard to outdoor activities now, I feel the interest is waning among children today. With new fangled entertainment options such as browsing, playing mobile games, binge watching web series on OTT platforms, the electronic media had virtually replaced outdoor activities. In the past, children used to spend most of their time outside running, climbing trees, playing different sports and so on.

4 Is leisure important to everyone? Why?

I think with the never ending demands of work and home today, leisure has almost become a luxury. But it is essential for everyone to have adequate leisure time. Leisure

activities such as playing games, having chit chats, indulging in hobbies or watching movies give much needed relaxation to our minds and help us unwind. They are a perfect antidote to stress and help energize our minds and bodies. I think leisure costs us nothing but provides multiple gains. So instead of neglecting it, we must find time for leisure to become happier and healthier versions of ourselves.

4 Do women have more leisure time than men?

I do not think so. Most women are employed and shoulder a lion's share of the household and child care responsibilities. I believe women end up working more than men and hence have less time available for leisure than men.

## 36 Describe a person you follow on social media

Say who he is  
How you know him/her  
What he/she posts on social media  
And explain why you follow him/her

### Sample Answer

Social media is a staple for young people like me. I spend quite some time browsing through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

There are over 500 influencers that I follow on different media. They include my family members, friends, sports personalities, film stars and a few other celebrities. I also follow a few others who post quality content, which I find very inspiring or informative.

One such person is the actor Sonu Sood. He is a talented actor who has acted in several films in Bollywood as well as the South Indian film industry. About two years back I read about an **initiative** he had undertaken through Facebook and began to follow him.

He helped migrant workers in Mumbai to reach their homes during the nationwide lockdown due to the Covid -19 pandemic.

Thousands of migrant labourers had been **stranded** in urban areas with no livelihood or money to survive during the lockdown, which forced them to go back home on foot. Each day Sonu Sood organized buses for the workers to travel to their respective hometowns. As part of his 'Ghar bhejo' campaign, he helped over 12,000 migrants reach home.

He launched a toll free number through which anyone could reach out to him for help. Each day at least 45,000 people were provided food and water.

**Staple:** a common commodity

**Initiative:** attempt

**Stranded:** stuck

**Gets a bad rap:** get a bad reputation

During the second wave, the actor launched several helplines for people to enable them to find oxygen cylinders and hospital beds.

**Gets a bad rap:** get a bad reputation

This year he has been providing medical assistance to patients affected by Covid 19

Social media often gets a **bad rap** for being a distraction but influencers like Sonu Sood show how this media can be harnessed for good.

It is a tool to reach out to the needy, mobilize support, raise funds as well as inspire more such initiatives.

### Part 3

1 What all things can people do on social media?

I think there are billions of people who turn to social media for various purposes. Some like to update themselves on daily happenings and news while others seek entertainment. It is also a place to find quality content and advice on a host of topics such as lifestyle, fitness, beauty or travel. Social media platforms like Instagram are places where people like to socialize, meet and talk with others

2 Do you think older and younger people will use the same kind of social media software?

No, I don't think so. There is a hip element to social media and the newer generation will always want to be part of the hip and trendy platforms. We see it happening in real life as the older generation of social media users use facebook and we see the younger generation use instagram, though they are quite similar.

3 Do old people spend much time on social media?

No they do not. There is a technology barrier. While some of them have Facebook accounts and are active on social media, the vast majority are basically not very interested in using social media platforms. For them staying in touch with friends means calling or visiting them and conventional media like television or newspapers are their choice of resources for updating themselves.



4 Are non social media like television and newspapers still useful?

I think a vast majority of the population still uses these, mainly out of habit.

But I believe the idea of television and printed news is here to stay, since there is a large population of people, who prefer this form of media.

## 37 Describe a thing you did to learn another language

Say what language you learned

What you did

How it helped you learn the language

And explain how you felt about it

### Sample Answer

Soon after my engineering course, I got a job in a multinational company. My first project was for a French client.

Although we used to communicate with the client in English, I realized that being fluent in French would be an added advantage, not just to ease the communication, but to build a better rapport.

I had studied French as a third language at school and was aware of the basics of grammar and vocabulary but lacked fluency.

I **toyed with** the idea of enrolling for a course in the language, but the idea of sitting for a class at the end of a tiring and exhausting day **held no charm** for me. That's when I thought of the idea of watching French movies.

I could relax and at the same time pick up the **nuances** of the language.

I downloaded a few good French movies. I started off with the first movie, watching it several times, with and without subtitles. Movies are a way of seeing how language is used in a practical context.

I started paying careful attention to the accent and pronunciation. I could also observe the body language and other oral and non-verbal cues.

I would fast forward, rewind and even turn it into slow motion or pause for a while. I continued doing this everyday for nearly a month.

**Toyed with:** thought about

**Held no charm:** did not like

**Nuances:** small differences

**Tedium:** boredom

**Drabness:** monotony

My confidence in the language increased significantly and today, I am not where I used to be.

I can definitely say that watching films in another language is an excellent learning experience, which takes away the **tedium** and **drabness** from learning and makes it more fun, enjoyable and effective.

### Part 3

1 What difficulties do people face when learning a language?

Learning a language presents a host of problems. Language learners need to start with the basic alphabets, pronunciation, grammar and syntax. Remembering new words and their meanings can also be quite demanding. Also they need to step out of their comfort zone to practice speaking, which can be really frustrating.

2 Do you think language learning is important? Why?

Yes, I believe proficiency in several languages can be highly useful in today's world where the world is more interconnected than ever before. Bilingualism and multilingualism are becoming highly attractive features in resumes. In addition to providing an edge in the job market, knowledge of other languages opens a window to other cultures.

3 Which is better - to study alone or in a group?

I think both have their merits. While studying alone, students know what works best for them and they can use techniques and plan schedules that are most effective. Also they may be able to accomplish much more due to lesser distractions.

On the other hand, studying collectively enables students to develop many skills such as social skills, decision making, communication and leadership. It also allows for new insights and perspectives.

4 What is the best way to learn a language?

I think motivation and hard work are prerequisites for language learning. Immersion can help improve listening

and speaking skills. This can be done by listening to podcasts or watching shows in the language. Learning key phrases and vocabulary can help us make fast progress. Also we can harness technology such as tutorials and apps to make language learning fun and easy.

## 38 Describe a course that impressed you a lot

Say what the course was  
Where you took it  
What you did during the course  
And explain why it impressed you a lot

### Sample Answer

A course that I found highly useful and impressive is a one day course in first aid, which I did when I was in the eleventh standard.

It was a free hands-on practical programme delivered by Red Cross Society, for students and teachers in schools in our area.

Accidents can happen any time to any one and this course equipped the students and teachers to step up and do the needful.

The best thing about the course was that it was given to students right from the primary to senior school. Each age group was given **age appropriate** lessons.

For instance the primary school students were taught how to recognise an emergency and call for help. The middle school students were trained in putting the person into a recovery position and checking for vital signs.

I was in senior school and we were given more advanced lessons covering various emergency situations such as cuts, **abrasions**, burns etc and the appropriate action to be taken such as setting up a splint ,the right way to bandage etc. We were also introduced to CPR and given hands-on experience on mannequins.

I liked the way the course was structured, from simple to more complicated steps. At every stage we were given a thorough understanding and explanation of the techniques and procedures, followed by practical demonstrations. We also got ample hands on training sessions.

I think first aid skills are **invaluable** as they help us to

**Age appropriate:**  
suitable for the age

**Abrasions:** cuts

**Invaluable:** very important

**Promptly:** immediately

**Fretting:** complaining

**Commendable:**  
admirable

respond quickly to accidents and deal with them **promptly** before professional help arrives.

**Promptly:** immediately

Once my nephew sprained his ankle and my normal reaction would be worrying and **fretting**, But having attended the course, I confidently proceeded with the first aid.

**Fretting:** complaining

**Commendable:**  
admirable

I applied an ice pack to the injury to control the swelling and then tied a compression elastic bandage firmly and elevated the leg, before we sought medical help.

So I believe this course was highly **commendable** not just in its utility value but also for the way it was delivered.

### Part 3

1 Why do some people have a better memory?

I think some people have better memory by virtue of nature. It could be hereditary. Others may become memory champions using proven techniques that keep their brains and memory skills sharp.

2 Which can help people remember things better - words or photos?

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Images speak louder than words. So I believe visuals can be understood and processed much faster and also retained for much longer period than words.

3 Can technology help people remember things better?How?

I think there are ways to stimulate brain function and reverse memory lapses. I am not very aware of these technologies. However, keeping reminders and marking things on our phone calendars are ways we can get assistance from technology in remembering important things.

## 39 Describe a special cake you received from someone

Say when this happened  
Where it happened  
Who gave you the cake  
And explain why it was special

### Sample Answer

With confectioners and expert home bakers offering the most delectable cakes for sale, people are spoilt for choice. However, one cake I consider very special is the one baked by my dear friend Rosanne , when we were in the tenth standard.

Rosanne wanted to bake a cake for my birthday. I was quite amused by this quirky desire of hers. She knew nothing about baking, had never baked before and did not even have an oven.

Still she would not settle for the idea of buying a cake and held on obstinately to the idea of baking one herself. She was quite an adventurer by nature and resolutely and fearlessly pursued opportunities to try new things. I tried to dissuade her.

I was quite sure that it would be a disaster and feared the prospect of having to eat something undercooked or burnt for my birthday. Rosanne stuck to her guns. She told me she would bring the cake to school and we would cut it during the recess.

The next day I went to school with some degree of trepidation. I wondered if Rosanne had gone ahead with her baking plans.

Lunch break came and Rosanne came rushing to my class with a cake box. She opened it and it was a flawless chocolate cake. All of my classmates gathered around the cake. They sang the birthday song.

I cut the cake and distributed it to everyone. I took one bite

**Spoilt for choice:**  
unable to choose  
since there are so  
many good choices

**Quirky:** strange

**Settle for:** agree to

**Obstinately:**  
stubbornly

**Resolutely:** with  
determination

**Dissuade:** discourage

**Stuck to her guns:**  
refuse to change your  
opinion

**Trepidation:** fear

**Apprehensions:** fears

**To a T:** exactly

and all my apprehensions melted away. It was soft and spongy and tasted perfect.

She told me that she had bought a cooker cake mix and followed all the instructions to a T. This pressure cooker chocolate cake remains a truly memorable and special one till date. It was not from a seasoned baker, but a novice with a desire to make a friend's birthday memorable.

### Part 3

1 What kind of foreign dishes are available in your country?

There are several global cuisines that are now available in our country and are quite popular. Chinese dishes, I believe, are the most common with dishes like chow mein, chilli chicken etc available practically everywhere. Italian foods especially pizzas and Thai dishes have also entered Indian markets.

2 Is it expensive to eat outside in your country?

There are a wide variety of options available in my country for dining out. From street food stores and roadside vendors to cafes, fast food chains and elite classy restaurants, there are places to suit every kind of budget. I

I feel the all time favourite, however, is the street food which is easy on the pocket and delicious too

3 Do you like to cook food at home?

Yes I love cooking at home. I am very fond of trying new recipes, especially North Indian and Chinese. With restaurants and cafes closed for the most part of last year, I took to more serious home cooking. I think, all through this period of lockdown due to the Corona pandemic, many people turned to cooking as a hobby, sharing their favorite recipes and pictures of the dishes they cooked on Instagram. With so many food blogs, youtube cooking videos, it is easy and fun and of course extremely satisfying to whip up exotic dishes.

4 What is the difference between Indian food and Western



food?

I think there are huge differences between Indian and Western foods. When we speak of Western food, it conjures up images of burgers, pizzas and french fries. I believe western food mainly consists of processed foods and ingredients. On the other hand, Indian food consists of fresh and homemade dishes, mostly vegetarian.

5 What is a healthy diet?

Well I would say a healthy diet is one that provides a balance of all the necessary nutrients such as proteins, fats, carbohydrates, fibre, vitamins and minerals. Personally, I don't go in for strict limitations or rules but try to make sure I include plenty of vegetables and fruits in my diet, minimize processed and refined foods. I also drink plenty of water and keep away from sugary drinks.

6 Why do some people choose to be vegetarians?

I feel the trend of veganism is on the increase and this could be due to multiple reasons. For some, the reasons are ethical. They oppose animal exploitation and find factory farming cruel and inhumane. Others choose a vegan diet for health reasons or because of their religious convictions.

7 Is the food that people eat today in your country different from the food that people used to eat in the past?

I think food has evolved a lot from the past, when people only ate traditional foods, made of locally available produce. Today people have wider choices from a range of different cuisines. Western foods such as pizzas, burgers and fries, the Chinese noodles and Italian pasta are all household names today. Takeaways, ready to eat meals, convenience foods and microwave meals have become the norm today, as they fit perfectly into people's hectic and frenzied schedules.

8 What can you say about the food habits of people in the future?

I think in the future people will switch to healthier food options such as organic foods and nutrient-based foods rather than processed, fried and calorie rich ones. Superfoods such as avocado, kiwis, quinoa and green tea are now readily available in India. So I believe the trend towards healthy eating will pick up in the coming years.

## 40 Describe an interesting conversation you had with a friend

Say who the friend was  
Where you were  
What the conversation was about  
And explain why you think it was interesting

### Sample Answer

A few months back I bumped into an old school friend at a supermarket. Having met after ages, we decided to catch up with each other over a cup of coffee.

We reminisced about our classmates, our school, our teachers, the pranks we played, the classes we bunked, the drama rehearsals and of course Anjana's struggle with English. She always got into trouble with our English teacher. Either it was wrong spellings or incorrect grammar.

Anjana still had not got over her confusion with the rules of the English language. I had always managed to get decent scores in English, and tried to explain that they were not that confusing.

However, she told me she could prove that English is a funny and weird language. She then began to give me examples to prove her point.

She told me that when the stars are out they become visible, but when the lights are out they are invisible. When she wound up her watch, she started it, but when she wound up her story, she ended it.

She went on to show me how grammar rules are bent in so many instances. The plural of box is boxes, while the plural of ox is oxen.

C-u-t is pronounced cut and 'b-u-t is pronounced but, whereas p-u-t has a different pronunciation. If the plural of man is men, shouldn't the plural of pan be pen?

I was in splits over these examples and had to admit to

**Catch up with:** to talk to someone whom you have not seen for some time to find out what they have been doing

**Weird:** strange

**Rules are bent:** rules are not followed

**In splits:** laughing loudly

**Conclusive:** without any doubts

**My mind harks back to:** remember something

these peculiarities. I added a few instances such as the fact that a guinea pig is neither a guinea nor a pig. There is no egg in eggplant.

Anjana next moved on to weird pronunciations. She pointed out that the pronunciation of words like debt, doubt or receipt or queue had no connection with the way they were spelt.

By the end of the conversation, we had gathered conclusive evidence to prove that in spite of being the most widely spoken language in the world, English has its comical and crazy aspects.

Even today as I prepare to take the IELTS exam and come across an illogical grammar rule, my mind harks back to the fun conversation I had with Anjana.

### **Part 3**

1 What topics do young people in India talk about?

Young people today are exposed to global culture and they often talk of Hollywood movies, music, celebrities, and sports. They also like to talk about education and job opportunities abroad, their goals and future plans. There are also some young people who are interested in politics and social issues.

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

I believe in the past, topics were mostly limited to local or national matters. In the pre internet era, people had limited access to global events and happenings. Also there was more interest in matters concerning the community at large than personal affairs.

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

There are many ways to know if others are not connecting with us in a conversation. Body language is one important cue. People crossing their arms while speaking or looking elsewhere is a sign of disinterest. Also they may not contribute much to the conversation or ask questions and their responses may be perfunctory.

4 What is the influence of modern technology such as the internet and emails on our communication?

The rise of the internet and social media use has dramatically changed the way people communicate and maintain friendships. Now people can use email, social media, chat messengers, video conferencing, video calls, images, videos, symbols, diagrams, charts, and emoticons, etc. for communication. Geographical distances have been eliminated and it is possible for us to maintain friendships across countries. Modern technology also allows 24\*7 connectivity . However high internet use may lead to lack of social skills and increase feelings of loneliness, and deprive us of real and more intimate face to face communication.

5 Do you think women are more talkative than men?

I don't think so. It depends on the individual rather than the gender. While some are more loquacious, others are reserved. I don't think it has anything to do with one's gender.

6 Are conversation topics of men and women different?

I think women are more interested in talking about personal topics and building relationships. Men on the other hand stay away from personal matters and choose topics like current affairs, their business, sports and so on.

7 What is the difference between chatting and gossiping?

I think chatting is just light informal talk between friends or family. Gossip, however, is idle 'alk about others. It is behind-the-back conversation mainly intended to spread negativity. It can be mean and malicious.

# 41 Describe a place in a village you visited

Say which place it was  
When you visited it  
What you did there  
And explain how you feel about this place

## Sample Answer

Cities are a bedlam of annoying sounds - the honking of cars, the high decibel construction noises, the shouts of street vendors, cars and buses whooshing past, the wail of sirens or music playing from a window.

So a visit to the countryside was a pleasant change for me. It was a quiet and secluded getaway, far from all the clamour, where I could just relax and unwind.

I got a chance to visit this place last year. It is my friend Swati's ancestral village called Manimala and during one of her visits there, she invited me to accompany her. It was a five hour drive from the place we live in and we reached there by noon.

Swati's uncle stayed there in their huge elegant ancestral house. We enjoyed their gracious hospitality and the lip smacking lunch they had prepared for us.

After a little rest we spent the evening strolling through trees, the farms and the plantations. Swati's uncle had a huge farm where he grew vegetables such as pumpkin, okra, carrot and leafy greens.

I was also impressed by the mushroom and ornamental flower farm. I was quite impressed to know that he synthesized his own organic compost and manure and also made organic pesticides with neem leaves.

There was a small stream, with clear sparkling water, flowing close to the house and we had some delightful time frolicking in the stream

We spent the rest of the evening just sitting and chatting in

**Bedlam:** confusion

**Getaway:** holiday destination

**Clamour:** loud confused noise

**Soundtrack:** sounds

**Nook:** corner

the open pillared verandah soaking in the peace and serenity.

Of course there was the beautiful soundtrack scored by the numerous birds around us and the sound of the wind blowing through the trees, all of which were soothing and pleasant to our ears. After spending the night there, we headed back home early in the morning.

Visiting this picturesque place was a welcome break for me from my mundane daily routine and I was greatly blessed to experience this tranquil nook.

### **Part 3**

1 Why is it hard to find quiet places in cities?

Cities are congested places, full of hustle and bustle. Sounds from road, rail and air traffic, construction, factories, televisions blaring, hawkers selling their wares, all create a never ending din.

2 Why is it quieter in the countryside?

Countrysides are less populated, less congested and have fewer vehicles. There are vast open spaces full of greenery. So we don't hear the harsh annoying city sounds of honking of vehicles, sounds of engines and machinery in factories etc. We get to hear soothing sounds like the chirping of birds or the sound of the wind.

3 Why do people like to go to quiet places?

Peaceful places soothe the mind and help people relax. Being constantly exposed to noise can be irritating and overwhelming. Silence allows us to get in touch with our own thoughts, focus better and enjoy the time spent alone.

4 Which age group prefers quiet places - the young or old?

I think younger people like noisy bustling places while those advanced in age prefer tranquility. This explains why young people like to visit crowded shopping centres and busy malls. Old people, on the other hand, prefer secluded places.

5 Why do some people not like quiet places?

For some people, loud sounds are stimulating and exciting. They feel uncomfortable in the absence of sounds. Probably they like to plug into loud music all the time.

6 Do you need a quiet place when you're working?

Yes, I am able to work only in a silent environment. Noises are distracting for me. I am not able to focus, concentrate, get ideas or be creative, when there is some kind of noise in the background. I am also able to achieve much more in totally peaceful environments.

7 How has life changed in the countryside in your country or state?

I think the most visible change in the availability of digital data even in remote rural areas. There is also improvement in infrastructure especially transport and health care. So I believe these changes have managed to bridge the gap

## 42 Describe a skill you learned from an older person

Say what it is

Who you learned it from

How you learned

And explain how you feel about it

### Sample Answer

My grandmother has always been a hero of sorts for me and I can say I have gleaned nuggets of wisdom and unique insights from her along with a host of skills. One such skill is frugal living.

She lived in times where the income was meagre and there were many mouths to feed So she was an excellent penny pincher.

She was very cautious with money and would make every penny count. Nothing in the house ever got discarded as my grandmother would find some clever way to repurpose and upcycle it. She also believed in DIY ing.

In stark contrast,I belong to a generation that lives on credit cards. I often feel guilty at the amount of money I tend to splurge on non essentials. My salary is gone before the month is over. I realized I needed to be more careful with money and that's what made me turn to my grandma's tips.

My grandmother taught me to be mindful about the way I spend and to resist impulse buying .She had a habit of making a monthly budget on how much to spend and how much to save.

I also began keeping an account of daily expenses as well as setting aside some amount as savings. My grandmother's motto of consuming less is another lesson I decided to emulate. When my Grandma used to get cash, she followed the envelope system, keeping a set amount in separate envelopes.

Taking cue from her I decided to use an app to keep tabs on money. I have also made it a habit to explore ways to re-

**Gleaned:** obtained

**Nuggets:** pieces

**Insights:** awareness

**Frugal living:** living without spending much money

**Meagre:** very little

**Penny pincher:** stingy with money

**Splurge:** spend extravagantly

**Keep tabs on:** carefully monitor



pair or recycle broken items rather than throwing them and buying replacements.

Knowing the basics of saving, investing and developing good financial habits is a lifelong gift and for this I owe a big thanks to my Grandma

### **Part 3**

1 What can children learn from their parents?

Parents are the first teachers and children can learn a host of things from them. They can learn about adequate sleep, healthy eating and discipline from their parents. They can also imbibe values such as honesty, integrity and empathy along with good behaviour. Parents can also teach their children how to communicate openly.

2 What can children learn from their grandparents?

Grandparents share a special bond with their grandchildren. Grandparents often tell them stories both imaginary and real life, which can convey important values and morals. Grandparents can teach children about respecting and caring for others. There are also traditional skills, simple games and fun activities of the bygone days that grandparents can impart to the young ones.

3 What kind of help do you think old people need?

The aged generally feel isolated and lonely, Hence giving them companionship, encouragement and support would make them happier. Helping them understand and use modern technology can help them lead more fulfilling lives. Old people also need help with going for health check ups and buying medicines.

4 What can young people learn from old people?

The elderly have a wealth of wisdom and experience. They can teach young people how to stay strong and overcome challenges and adversities in life. They can give valuable advice, teach life lessons, instill values as well as educate youngsters about their rich culture and heritage.

## 43 Describe an item of clothing someone gave you

Say what the clothing was

Who gave it to you

When you got it

And explain why this person gave it to you

### Sample Answer

About two years back I received a very special birthday gift from my aunt in Delhi. It was a leather jacket.

I had just bought a bike and my aunt assumed that a leather jacket would be the right style for a biker.

I was thrilled to pieces.

It was a black leather biker jacket. It had two slit pockets and a classic collar, just the kind I wanted. I have always been fascinated by the cool looks of a leather jacket and wished to own one.

But the good ones are prohibitively expensive and I had given up on my dream of owning one. So the gift was a dream come true.

I wear my jacket almost every time I ride my bike. Some time back we had gone on a biking tour with my friends and my jacket was my inseparable partner.

It gives me excellent protection from the weather and keeps me comfortable.

I usually like to pair it with my denim jeans. That gives a casual look. But the best part is that I can pair it with chunky boots and checked pants and elevate my style.

In whatever way I choose to wear it, I know it looks smart and trendy and makes heads turn.

It is a classic item and will definitely never go out of fashion. I take very good care of it. After use I put it on a hanger so that it will keep its shape.

**Thrilled to pieces:** very pleased

**Prohibitively expensive:** costing so high that it cannot be afforded

**Inseparable:** that which cannot be separated

**Elevate:** lifted up

**Timeless appeal:** so beautiful that it cannot be changed by time

I know the jacket is of top quality leather so I hope to use it for many more years to come. With its timeless appeal, I can always turn to my jacket to make a bold style statement.

### Part 3

1 What is the importance of uniforms in schools?

Uniforms create a sense of equality and eliminate all kinds of differences.

They foster a sense of pride and unity. They also help people identify which school a student belongs to.

2 What are the advantages of uniforms at the workplace?

They act as an identification due to which customers can easily spot the employees. They can help market a brand through the logo or emblem.

Uniforms give a professional image Some uniforms help in safety such as the uniforms of fire fighters.

3 Are there any disadvantages of wearing uniforms?

Sometimes it may be quite boring to wear the same outfit day in and day out Also poorly designed uniforms may hamper performance, for example flight stewardesses need to wear high heeled shoes which may cause pain when they need to stand for long hours.

4 Do clothes reveal personality?

Yes, clothes define personality to some extent.

People who wear bright colours are friendly, have positive thoughts and are outgoing. Those who wear black and grey are usually more sophisticated

Those who wear abstract, tribal or geometric prints are usually very creative, unique and bold.

5 Where do Indian people buy clothes from?

They mostly purchase their outfits from online stores like Myntra, Ajio etc and conventional textile stores. There are also street markets in several places that sell only clothes and many young people are attracted to such markets where trendy and stylish articles of clothing like tops, skirts jeans etc are available at dirt cheap rates.

## 44 Describe a city you think is very interesting

Say where it is

What it is famous for

How you know this city

And explain why you think it is very interesting

### Sample Answer

A city that never stops to fascinate me is New York. I was introduced to the city through one of my childhood friends, Harkiran who moved to the city for her graduation. Normally she is a quiet person but she becomes loquacious when asked about the city.

So I have managed to garner plenty of tidbits from Harkiran when we talk.

I realized that I am not the only one who considers the city very appealing. It was named as the most exciting city in the world recently by a global magazine.

The most striking quality of this city is its ethnic diversity. This city is known as the melting pot of America with more than 800 languages spoken there.

There are immigrants from different countries with their own New York story. This is one point of attraction for me personally,

I believe if you live with people from varied backgrounds, you can understand, appreciate and respect other cultures, as well as be more open minded.

New York has also plenty to offer on a cultural level. There are magnificent museums, theatres, music, opera, acres and acres of parks and vast grounds.

There are also the iconic and historical landmarks such as The Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Grand Central Station. We can attend a concert, ride a bicycle through the vast open spac-

**Loquacious:** talkative

**Melting pot:** place where people of different cultures live together

**Open minded:** receptive to different views

**Hub:** centre

**Mundane:** dull

**Metropolis:** large city

es or go on picnics.

There is always something to see or do in this city that never sleeps. It is also supposed to be a foodie's paradise with about 25,000 restaurants serving nearly 60 international cuisines. It is a hub of business, fashion, entertainment and technology, with vast job opportunities. So truly life is never mundane in this exciting metropolis

### **Part 3**

1 Why are people attracted to cities?

I believe the chief reason people opt for city life is that they are social and financial hubs. People can access better job opportunities. Eventually it leads to quality of life which encompasses better living standards, healthcare system and top notch school and university education. The reason for these facilities is because cities are designed to be social and financial hubs.

2 What are the differences between the young and old with regard to choosing a place to live?

The general consensus is that old people or retired people seek to live in a quiet neighbourhood, whereas young people would prefer to live in a thriving locality with lots of options. Young adults choose to live in a city where an ample amount of professional opportunities present themselves. On the other hand pensioners favour the tranquility and calm of the countryside.

3 Which is better, living in one place all our life or living in different places ?

For me, living in different places throughout our life is more beneficial and exciting. Firstly it would give wider opportunities for professional development and personal growth. Furthermore, shifting to a new place is exciting as it is an unknown and unfamiliar area that you can explore. New places also give you a chance to interact with different communities, cultures and people.

4 Do you think tourists affect historical places positively or negatively?

I believe tourism can impact historical spots in both positive and negative ways. Firstly it is the tourist interest that motivates the state to ensure they are conserved properly. Without historical value, old places would fall into a state of total disrepair. On the other hand, influx of tourists means more pressure on the land and resources and fragile old structures can be greatly threatened.

## 45 Describe a rule that you don't like

Say what it is  
Why you don't like it  
How others feel about the rule  
And why you dislike it

### Sample Answer

I have always been a stickler for rules, but there is one rule that I find quite irksome and totally unreasonable.

This is a rule imposed by Kottayam Public library, a library in my city, forbidding members from charging their phones or laptops while in the library.

The library is a book lover's paradise and is a well stocked one offering a host of resources . My friends and I are frequent visitors to this place.

Along with thousands of books of all genres and newspapers , members can also avail themselves of computer terminals and free Wi-Fi. You can even get your own laptops and work for hours

Whenever I am looking for some quiet downtime or want to work undisturbed on a project, complete an assignment or just catch up on some reading, I head to this library.

But there have been umpteen occasions when I have been rudely jolted out of this idyllic setting by my laptop battery getting completely drained. There is nothing more aggravating than being in the middle of some important work and suddenly the laptop dies.

Although there are power sockets in the library, the rule forbidding charging of devices, means that you are forced to head back home.

Such disruptions in work can easily be avoided if the library would allow members to charge their devices.

Several members have complained about the unfairness of this rule. College students, free lancers, researchers

**Stickler for:** someone who insists on

**Irksome:** irritating

**Unreasonable:** illogical

**Genres:** style or category

**Downtime:** free time

**Umpteen:** numerous

**Idyllic:** perfect

**Aggravating:** causing annoyance

**Have a beef with:** have a complaint about

**Repeal:** cancel

**Flout:** violate

**Arbitrary:** based on desire rather than reason

**Decorum:** correct behaviour

all have a beef with this policy and have made repeated requests to the management to repeal this rule, but to no avail. There are some who try to flout the rules when the staff is not around.

I am basically a respecter of rules and libraries definitely need strict rules and regulations to ensure their smooth and hassle free functioning. But I feel this rule is totally arbitrary and illogical and seems to bear little connection with maintaining the library decorum.

### **Part 3**

#### **1 Why do we need rules?**

We see rules everywhere and we may even feel at times that they restrict our freedom and are oppressive. However the fact is that without rules there would be anarchy and chaos. Rules are the building blocks of harmonious and peaceful societies. Rules ensure civil behaviour and as well as ensure fairness, justice and safety. Rules provide the framework on which to act and operate.

#### **2 Why do schools make rules?**

Schools make rules to ensure their smooth functioning and create a peaceful learning environment. So students have rules related to punctuality, uniforms, exams and so on. Many rules in schools are designed to keep students safe. They also play a key role in disciplining students, shaping their behaviour and equipping them for the future.

#### **3 What's the importance of obeying laws?**

It is imperative for people to obey laws. If people were to do what they please, there would be chaos. Laws are put in place to ensure a safe and peaceful society in which individual's rights are respected. If people break laws there would be conflicts and disagreements between social groups and communities. Laws help safeguard people's life and property.

#### **4 What can parents and teachers do to help children follow rules?**



Parents and teachers must be unequivocal and clear about rules. Children must be strictly told to obey rules and breaking them must have consequences. This would give them a clear understanding of the paramount need to respect rules and abide by them.

5 What rules do children usually follow at home?

Most homes have clear rules. They may be related to dental and body hygiene, being polite and respectful or even with regard to household chores.

## 46 Describe someone you really like to spend time with

Say who this person is

How you know him/her

What you usually do together

And explain why you like to spend time with him/her

### Sample Answer

A person whose company I enjoy thoroughly is my nephew. He is my brother's three year old son Rahul and we call him Appu. Like all three year olds, he is lively , energetic and sociable.

One can never get bored with Appu, with his funny antics and non stop prattle he never fails to make us all laugh. He is a bit more inclined to me than all other family members and I think that's because usually I am the only one willing to play with him.

We both do a lot of fun things together like playing hide and seek, firing water guns at imaginary thieves ,making swords out of cardboard or stomping and splashing in water puddles after the rains.

His parents are strict with him and have rules but Appu knows that I allow him to do whatever he wants. I indulge him with sweets, toys and ice creams. Everyone in the family says I am spoiling him.

At night, Appu likes to cuddle with me in bed and listen to stories. Telling him stories actually requires a huge amount of patience because he keeps bombarding me with questions .

Whenever I return from college, he grins from ear to ear and runs to me, arms held out and gives me a big bear hug.

My lap is his favourite place and once we sit he rummages my bag for his favourite chocolate. that I always buy for him.

Prattle: simple talk

Antics: funny behaviour

Stomping: walking

With a loud step  
cuddle: hug, hold closely

Bombarding: keep asking

Rummages: searches

Sometimes Appu does naughty things like scribbling with crayons on the walls, jumping on the couch or playing with his father's laptop, gets a scolding or spanking from his parents and comes sobbing to me.

I take him in my lap, tickle him, tell him jokes and he is happy again.

I can say that time spent with Appu is full of wonderful surprises and priceless moments which I will always cherish.

### **Part 3**

1 What are the benefits of younger and older generations living together?

There are significant perks of this arrangement. One benefit is that elders can get assistance and care from their children since they usually have age related disabilities and health issues. Family members can keep an eye on their medical needs such as periodic health check ups, daily medications etc. Also elders also get to enjoy the company of their grandchildren. This removes feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Children on the other hand can enjoy the undivided attention and love from grandparents and also learn many things from them. Further, in families where both spouses go for work, household chores can be shared and grandparents can help with care of children. Thus family bonds and relationships can be strengthened.

2 What are the disadvantages of older and younger generations living together?

There can be friction, strife and differences of opinion. Disagreements can also arise over issues like finances, family responsibilities, parenting etc.

Moreover people will have less personal space and hence less privacy.

3 Do you think there are differences between how men and women care for children?

Yes, I think the approaches of the father and mother towards their children can be quite different. Fathers tend to be tough and strict, while mothers are soft towards their children. Another difference is that mothers are more open and demonstrative of their love and affection than fathers.

4 Is family bonding important for happiness in life?

I would say, a warm caring family environment plays a key role in the proper emotional development of children. Children feel loved and secure which helps them grow into happy and confident adults.

## 47 Describe a time you visited a new place

Say when you went there

Which place it was

Why you went there

And explain how you feel about this place

### Sample Answer

A stunning getaway that I visited a few years back was Munnar. It is a picturesque hill station in Kerala and one of the most popular destinations in South India.

I went there with my family during the Christmas holidays about four years back.

Mist clad mountains, rivers that look like silver ribbons, sprawling tea plantations and gurgling waterfalls, make this place, one of the most charming destinations.

We stayed in Munnar for 3 days . The weather was cool and charming and it was the perfect time to visit Munnar.

There are numerous places for sightseeing and a host of things to do in and around Munnar, so every minute there was packed with fun and excitement.

I thoroughly enjoyed trekking up the enchanting mountain trails.

We trekked to a place called Echo point. When we reached the top, we were able to enjoy some stunning views and we had fun listening to our echo as we shouted and screamed. Another captivating place to visit in Munnar is the Eravikulam National Park.

This wildlife sanctuary is famous for the highly endangered species called the Nilgiri Tahr. We also visited a spice garden where we got an insight into how cardamom, ginger and turmeric are cultivated.

Visits to tea factories are also an integral part of the itinerary. Our guide arranged jeeps for us to travel up the bumpy roads to the factory.

**Stunning:** attractive

**Getaway:** an escape

**Mist Clad:** covered with mist

**Sprawling:** spread out

**Picturesque:** attractive

There we saw how the freshly plucked tea leaves from the plantations are processed into the tea we get at the market. I was very excited to meet the plantation workers, who explained to me how they picked the leaves by hand.

This trip was truly memorable for me. The picturesque beauty of this place refreshed and rejuvenated me. I carried back some of the most beautiful memories of this trip.

### Part 3

1 What measures should be taken to deal with damage to public facilities?

The government should deal strictly with those who damage or vandalize public facilities. Young people are especially seen damaging public property and it is important to deal with such miscreants sternly.

2 What are the differences between new and old facilities? Old facilities such as parks or libraries were simple and did not involve much expenses. However new ones are extravagant and built with the latest features and are of global standards.

3 What facilities do young and old people like in your country?

All age groups like facilities for fun and enjoyment. Parks, malls, theatres etc offer people a break from their stressful lives, improve bonding within family and community and enhance the quality of life.

4 What is the difference between facilities in the countryside and those in cities?

The countryside usually has only basic facilities such as education or health care., whereas cities offer entertainment and leisure options for city dwellers to unwind and enjoy. Facilities in the countryside are modest and simple, whereas in cities, they are top notch and are aimed to offer a taste of luxury and extravagance.

## 48 Describe a house or apartment you would like to live in

Say which it is

Where it is

Why you would like to live there

And explain how you feel about this place

### Sample Answer

I recently got an opportunity to visit a newly constructed apartment complex in Cochin with my friend Geetikia. Actually Geetike is planning to relocate to Cochin from Mumbai and wanted me to help her scout around some properties in the area.

I was highly impressed by the functional yet aesthetic design of the Haritha Apartments that we visited and I would definitely like to move into it sometime in the near future.

The apartment is in the heart of Cochin city and all of the city's best shopping, entertainment and dining destinations are within a five kilometre radius.

There are also many malls and markets within walking distance or a quick ride in the Metro..

Each of the flats has a view of the waterfront. In this crowded bustling noisy city, we can enjoy a haven of peace just sitting on our balcony and enjoying the beautiful panoramic view of the sea. I was completely bowled over by that idea.

I was also very impressed by the open kitchen plan with a built-in breakfast counter. It felt it was an optimal use of space.

The bedrooms and living area are large and have floor-to-roof windows which allow the sunlight to flood in and make the rooms bright and airy.

The pastel shades of the walls make it look very trendy. The hallway has a series of recessed wall niches for plants

**Scout:** search for

**Aesthetic:** artistic

**Panoramic:** of a wide area

**Bowled over:** amazed

**Pastel:** light colours

**Recessed wall niches:** small hollow space inside a wall

**Rundown:** in a poor and neglected state

**Minimalistic:** simple and plain

or decor items. The modern cabinets and cupboards, the stylish sinks and bathroom fixtures and the granite countertops all add to the modern look of the apartment.

There is also plenty of storage space in the form of walk in closets, racks and storage nooks here and there.

My present flat is quite an old one with a basic design and rundown rooms and I would love to move into this apartment with its contemporary minimalistic features and luxury amenities

### Part 3

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

Well, in urban areas, apartments are generally the most preferred accommodation. City dwellers find apartments very convenient due to the proximity to modern amenities and their compact design. So I can say that people in cities prefer apartments, while those in the countryside are more inclined towards large spacious houses.

2 Do young people like to live with their parents or by themselves?

There is an increasing trend of millennials and gen zers moving out of their homes. They are more independent and most of them opt to move out and stay on their own or with their friends especially once they start earning.

3 How are modern home designs different from those in the past?

I think modern homes give greater importance to optimal space utilization. They tend to be minimalistic in design with open floor plans, unlike houses in the past where rooms were all separate. Today a wide variety of modern construction materials are available such as glass, steel, hardwood along with finishing materials such as ceramic, stone or even glass, which are not only cost effective but aesthetically pleasing.



#### 4 Do people usually rent or buy a house?

I believe that while the older generation favoured the idea of owning a house, millennials prefer renting houses. This may probably be due to the fact that young people today are less inclined to the idea of staying in one place and tend to relocate in search of better prospects. Experts forecast that the growth in the rental market could outpace homeownership over the next decade.

## 49 Describe a person who contributes to society

Say who he is

How you know him

What type of work he does

And explain why you think he contributes to society

### Sample Answer

There are numerous inspiring men and women who are famous for their positive contributions to society. There are also several unsung heroes who work silently and sincerely to make the world a better place.

One such person is Pratima Devi, a rag-picker and a slum dweller in Saket in South Delhi,. She seems like a highly unlikely candidate to be named as a contributor to society. However her life story is nothing less than extraordinary and unbelievable.

She isn't just a normal morning to evening rag-picker, she is also a guardian of dogs. She has made her life's mission to care for over 400 stray dogs .

Protima Devi is a perfect example of the fact that we do not need a hefty bank balance to help others. Despite her meagre daily earning, she not only makes sure that her dogs are properly fed but that they also get the proper medical care.

She lives in a shabby tin shack and often foregoes her own medicines, but makes sure her furry companions never lack anything.

Protima Devi got married early and marital abuse forced her to leave her home in Nandigram in West Bengal. She reached Delhi and in the large unfamiliar new city, it was her furry friends who gave her company and soon became her family.

She continued to feed, protect and take care of her adopted

**Unsung heroes:**

persons not noticed for their hard work

**Hefty:** heavy

**Meagre:** little

**Forego:** do without

**Furry companions:** pets (cats/dogs)

strays. She has three children, who are now grown up and live in their own homes and keep inviting their mother to stay with them.

But since the dogs are not welcome in their homes, Protima Devi continues to stay on in her shack.

Of course, there are many people who genuinely care about the well being of others but often it is done in ways that do not harm their pockets or their convenience.

For Protima Devi, her needs always come second. It is this selflessness that makes her truly inspiring. It is no wonder that the story of the dog lady had reached far and wide. Many dog lovers visit her and offer her help. Dog mother India is an ideal name for her.

### **Part 3**

#### **Part 3**

1 Do people help others more than in the past?

I think people are now too preoccupied with their own affairs and hardly have the time or the inclination to help others. However in the past there was a closer sense of community and willingness to reach out to others.

2 Should parents teach children to help others?

Being caring and helpful are vital qualities that should be instilled in children. It can be done by setting good examples for them to copy. Parents should exhibit a culture of selflessness and compassion in their words and deeds.

3 Which professions involve helping others?

Doctors, nurses, teachers, those involved with emergency services all help people in need.

4 Why are some people very willing to help others?

They may be compassionate and selfless by nature. They always put others and their interests before their own and hence they are ever ready to lend a helping hand.

5 What is more important in a job, the income or the interest one has in it?

Well I believe a job which interests me would be more

preferable for me because I would be passionate about it. I would be able to put my heart and soul into it and that will give me such a huge sense of self fulfillment and satisfaction and it would be highly rewarding.

6 Are there many well paid jobs that are not very interesting?

Yes there are jobs that come with impressive paychecks but can be quite boring. I think accountants, computer programmers, database engineers all sit at a desk staring at their computers and do tedious jobs but take home a six figure salary.

# 50 Describe a story someone told you and you remember

Say what the story was about  
Who told you the story  
Why you remember it  
And explain how you feel about it

## Sample Answer

Stories never fail to fascinate and inspire us. One story that left an indelible mark on me was the one I heard on the orientation day programme for us new recruits in a firm. The story was about three masons.

They were all working at a construction site. Each of them was asked what he was doing.

The first one said that he was laying bricks, the second one answered that he was building a wall, while the third one proudly said that he was building a palace for the king.

Although all three were doing the same thing everyday, they had different perspectives on what they were doing.

Each one had a different attitude towards their work and this would make a huge difference in the quality of their work.

The story very powerfully brings out the importance of seeing the bigger picture. When we see the end result of what we're doing, we have a greater enthusiasm and pride.

This would make us excel in what we do. On the other hand, our tasks would be mundane and boring if we lack a sense of purpose.

I recently read something very similar to what this story conveys. Once late American president John F Kennedy visited NASA and he saw a janitor mopping the floor.

Kennedy asked him what his job at NASA was and the

**Indelible mark:** a lasting impact

**Perspectives:** attitude

**The bigger picture:** an overall view

**Mundane:** dull and boring

**Guiding force:** motivating principle

janitor replied that he was helping send a man to the moon.

So understanding the big picture has always been a guiding force for me. At work, instead of always focussing on just the small details and day to day tasks, I consider the larger impact, the overall plan and vision of the organization. I believe this gives me greater purpose and fulfillment. I believe this gives me greater purpose and self fulfillment.

### Part 3

1 Has storytelling changed over the years?

I would say that the art of storytelling is dying. I think children born in the eighties and before had the opportunity to listen to their parents or grandparents telling them stories mostly during bedtime. With the coming of books, people began to read stories aloud to children imitating the actions and voices of the characters, which made the stories more engaging. However, nowadays children get initiated into the world of technology at a very early age and hence listening to stories has been replaced by watching cartoons, movies or playing online games. Digital stories have also appeared on the scene transforming the way stories are delivered.

2 Which is better - traditional storytelling or the use of technology in storytelling?

Traditional storytelling means a person narrates a story. He uses his voice, different tones, facial expressions etc to tell the story, whereas doing this digitally involves using computer based tools. Digital stories incorporate several other elements like sound, music, images and videos. So I believe using technology definitely adds to the experience of the story but the traditional method ensured a greater bonding and intimacy between the storyteller and the listener.

3 Do you think generally people are good at storytelling?

Yes I think generally all people are good raconteurs, sharing their experiences and life stories with others. Sometimes it may be round the dinner table to make people laugh or it may be to inspire and motivate a friend. I think sharing anecdotes is a kind of story telling

#### 4 What makes storytelling effective?

Stories must have a meaningful sequence. It must be a chronological account. There must be a strong central theme or message. The narrative style, the voice, facial expressions and tone of the storyteller can all play a role in making the story engaging and interesting.

#### 5 Is it important to tell stories?

Yes I think stories are a powerful way to engage others. We all tell anecdotes from our life or other stories to others to inspire, entertain or influence them. Telling stories helps with learning also since they are easy to remember. This is probably why more and more corporates are embracing storytelling as an effective way to motivate and inspire their staff as well as sell their products.

#### 6 Do older children like the same stories as younger children?

I think older children would prefer stories with plenty of characters and complicated plot, whereas smaller children like small stories, mostly fables or fairy tales.

#### 7 Why do children like stories?

Children love stories as it feeds their imagination. Stories transport them to imaginary worlds and sometimes children think of themselves as part of that world. So stories about fairies, giants, witches and superheroes are very exciting for children.

# 51 Describe a gift you would like to buy for your friend

Say what gift you would like to buy  
Who you would like to give it to  
And explain why you would like to give this gift

## Sample Answer

I love giving gifts but selecting the right gift is often a tough call. I have been pondering for quite some time over the perfect gift for my bosom friend Jyoti who is tying the knot next month.

I have settled for the idea of gifting her a watch.

For quite some time I had been scouring gift shops, checking out gift ideas on websites.

I was in a dilemma over whether the gift should be something functional and practical or sentimental and meaningful.

However, a few days back, I happened to come across an advertisement of a watch company in a magazine and the snazzy watch featured in the advertisement caught my eye.

I visited the website of the company and when I saw the range of stylish and stunning watches, right then and there I made up my mind that my gift would be a watch.

Almost the entire world has moved from watches to their mobile phones to find out the time, but Jyoti is old school and has a fetish about watches. In the ten years that I have known her, I have never seen her without a watch.

So I am confident that a watch is a gift she will appreciate and treasure.

I plan to give her a rose gold tone Fossil watch. It has a mesh bracelet a white dial with crystal hour markers. It

**A tough call:** a difficult task

**Pondering:** thinking

**Scouring:** searching

**Snazzy:** stylish

**Caught my eye:** attracted my attention

**Old school:** old fashioned

**Fetish:** a strong liking



has a contemporary look and is the perfect combination of beauty and utility. It would not just be functional but also a style statement.

### **Part 3**

1 Why do people give gifts?

Gifts make the receiver feel special. Gifts are a nice way of communicating our feelings such as our love, affection or appreciation. Thus they help to strengthen relationships.

2 Do you prefer handmade or store bought gifts?

Well personally I prefer receiving DIY gifts. It is very touching and heartwarming to know that someone put in so much of their time and effort to make something unique and personal. It means a lot to me.

3 What are the common gift ideas?

Most people prefer to give something functional and useful. For a house warming function, gifts like cookware, decor accessories or clocks are considered good gifts. For birthdays or weddings, people scout for something based on the people's tastes and interests. Offbeat gift ideas such as tickets for a concert, a year's subscription for Netflix etc are also common.

4 Does the cost of the gift matter?

For me what counts is the affection and the thought behind it rather than the cost.

## 52 Describe a time when you moved to a new home or school

Say when you moved

Where you moved

Why you moved

And explain how you felt about it

### Sample Answer

Moving from one place to another can be quite a thrilling experience for some, but for others it can be quite **traumatic**. When I had to say goodbye to my childhood home a few years back, it was an intensely painful moment.

It was in the year 2014 that my parents retired from their respective jobs and decided to relocate to their hometown.

This came as a shock to me as I had never, even in my wildest dreams, thought of **uprooting** myself from the city and home that I grew up in.

I had lived here for nearly 20 years and although this **transition** was unavoidable, I couldn't help feeling **bereaved**. Every corner of this house was bursting with memories both good and bad.

My younger siblings were born in this house. My mother had a large vegetable garden in the backyard and we children were allotted small spaces where we made our own gardens and competed with each other.

There were many children in the neighbourhood and we all were one huge gang hanging around together in the evenings. We were like one family. The huge guava tree was our favourite hangout place, with each one of us **perched** on one of its branches.

It was depressing to go through the whole packaging and shifting process and above all that it was heartbreaking to step out of my childhood home once and for all and enter a

**Traumatic:** stressful

**Uprooting:** leaving a place

**Transition:** change

**Bereaved:** saddened

**Perched :** seated

**Terrain:** a geographical area

**Memorabilia:** objects that are collected as a remembrance

**Discard:** throw away

**Vignette:** scene

totally unfamiliar **terrain**. My house had served as a haven for assorted **memorabilia**. I had to sort through my boxes full of keepsakes - my class photos, report cards, newspaper clippings, my high school jacket, my first painting, my dolls and magazine cutouts.

I had to go through the painful process of deciding what to keep and what to **discard**. Obviously I could not take everything to the new house.

As my parents proceeded with the selling, paperwork and packing, I knew I had to accept this change. I walked around with my camera and took pictures of every room, each little **vignette**.

I realized that in life we need to simply let go and move on. I made peace with the change.

As I realized later change doesn't always mean loss - it can open up opportunities for new things in life, a fresh start. I love my new home now. I have a whole new set of memories here with my loved ones.

**Terrain:** a geographical area

**Memorabilia:** objects that are collected as a remembrance

**Discard:** throw away

**Vignette:** scene

### Part 3

1 Why do people move to a new home?

In my country, people move from the home of their parents, to a new home when they get married and wish to set up a family of their own. They also do so when they relocate to a new city or country in search of jobs or for higher studies.

2 What problems do people face after moving to a new place? How do people solve them?

A new place comes with new challenges. The first thing, of course, is to find a suitable house or an apartment. We need to get familiar with the roads and transportation. The packing, unpacking and adjusting with the new environment, the topography, the neighbours or maybe even a totally unfamiliar culture can make the process tedious and frustrating.

However, the process can become less stressful through proper planning at every step. Being systematic and methodical with packing, finding efficient movers and getting

professional help can make relocating less burdensome. Also, if we are adaptable and adjusting, issues related to unfamiliar surroundings can be resolved quite effortlessly. Further, in most places, the sense of community is often strong and this support helps in easy integration into a new area.

3 What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the same place?

Residing in the same location can help us form close bonds with our community, so much so that the entire neighbourhood can begin to feel like a family. However the downside is that it can get quite dull and monotonous living in the same surroundings.

4 Is it good to move to new places frequently?

I don't think relocating too often is a good idea. It would deprive people, especially children, of a sense of belonging or roots. Also it is quite stressful transporting goods from one place to another. The emotional setbacks of having to part from close friends and neighbours and move to totally unfamiliar places is yet another downside.

## 53 Describe a time when you felt proud of a family member

Say when it was  
Who the person is  
What he did  
And explain why you felt proud of him/her

### Sample Answer

Just last year my brother cleared the Chartered Accountancy exam. That was a moment of pride for our family. The CA exam is considered the toughest exam in the world with a success rate of just 6-7 percent and to crack this exam was no mean achievement.

The exam is divided into different levels and at each level there are four or five papers. It is a really challenging exam and people take almost 7-8 years to clear the entire exam i.e. all the levels.

I remember when my brother expressed his interest in becoming a Chartered Accountant, we were all quite **apprehensive** and tried to discourage him.

We knew how hard and **gruelling** the exam was and the years of **consistent** effort he would need to put in. But he was quite determined and **stuck to his guns**. No goal comes effortlessly or easily. We watched how he pursued his goal with **tenacity**, determination and **perseverance** all those five years.

There were hurdles, obstacles and failures. He had to sacrifice a lot of things. He missed family functions and parties, stayed away from social media, and studied for about 10-12 hours everyday.

All his efforts **paid off** and finally a few months back he cleared his final paper. Our family, friends and relatives were all thrilled and overwhelmed by this exciting news.

His disciplined approach, positive attitude and patience to survive **the long haul** helped him. We feel truly proud of his

**Apprehensive:** worried

**Gruelling:** long and tiring

**Consistent:** not changing

**Stuck to his guns:** not changing one's beliefs

**Tenacity:** determination

**Perseverance:** hard work

**Paid off:** gave results

**The long haul:** taking long time and lot of effort

hard earned achievement.

### Part 3

1 When do parents feel proud of their children?

Parents love their children unconditionally and are always proud of them. However every time their children score high in exams or top in extracurricular activities, parents experience a great sense of pride.

2 Should parents reward children?

I believe it is a must for parents to reward their children. Rewards are an effective way of reinforcing positive behaviour. Children will feel motivated to continue doing well when they feel they are appreciated for it.

3 Is it good to reward children too often?

I believe rewarding children each time they behave well or do good things may seem like a bribe and thus can be manipulative. Instead of imbibing good behaviour, children may do things only to impress and get rewards. It is possible that as they grow up they will constantly seek approval and admiration.

4 On what occasions would adults be proud of themselves?

Adults are likely to experience a sense of pride in their accomplishments. It may be landing a lucrative job, buying a house, passing a tough exam, starting their own business or even losing weight. There are people who feel proud of the way they overcame setbacks in their life and steered ahead in the face of tragedies. Some may have fought debilitating diseases and emerged victorious. So there are a host of different things people may pride themselves in.

## 54 Describe an activity you do that wastes your time

Say what it is

When you usually do it

Why you do it

And explain why you think it is a waste of time

### Sample Answer

During the Covid19 lockdown phase, I faced days of isolation at home and since recreation sources are limited in the home setting, I started watching web series on Netflix.

What started off as something **seemingly** harmless however has become an addiction. Nowadays it has become common for me to binge watch them for hours on end. I am so **hooked** on it that I am forever in front of the television, often neglecting important tasks.

I must say the content on web streaming platforms is so thrilling. Jamtara, Delhi Crime and Mirzapur are some of my favourite series.

So even though I know fully well that it's a sheer waste of time, I am unable to put the remote down. All episodes end in **cliffhangers** and it is impossible to tear myself away, when I have immediate access to all the episodes.

So unable to bear the suspense I fast forward to the next episode and end up watching upto 4-5 episodes in one sitting. With the good old television, I would be forced to stop after the day's episode. But with streaming services we have access to all the episodes of a season.

My daily routine is almost fixed now. As soon as my office work is done, I turn on the television, sit comfortably on the couch, grab some snacks and although I start with a **resolution** to just watch one episode, I end up watching them **back-to-back** before I know it's 4 in the morning.

I am deeply aware of the **colossal** waste of time this is. I know it affects my work, my goals and my commitments. It

**Seemingly:** Outwardly

**Hooked:** addicted

**Cliffhangers:** an episode of a serial ending in suspense

**Resolution:** decision

**Back to back:** on following the other

**Colossal:** huge

interferes with my daily routines.

This is even disconnecting me from my friends and even my family as I hardly get to spend time with them. Trading my sleep for more Netflix time is also leaving me fatigued and tired.

I have started working on **snapping out** of this unproductive practice. I have enrolled for an online baking class and have started to spend some of my evening time on this new found hobby. So I can say I am already making good progress in **reclaiming** my life.

**Snapping out:** getting out

**Reclaiming:** get back again

### Part 3

How do you balance work and life?

It is vital to strike a balance between work and life to lead a happy and healthy life. Being over committed to our work and working long hours can adversely affect our physical and mental well being as well as our home and relationships. To strike the right balance, I make it a point to draw clear lines between work and home and I never allow one to encroach on the other. I always try to divide my time carefully between these two areas, so that I get a sense of fulfilment in both. It is absolutely necessary to find time for family, friends and hobbies along with meeting deadlines.

Will you continue doing something when you are aware that it wastes your time?

Definitely not. I believe that time is a precious commodity. Once lost it's lost forever and a key tool to success is optimal use of time. So if I feel that an activity is a huge draw on my time, I would definitely avoid it.

What kind of things make people pressured?

People experience stress from various sources. It may be financial stress, where they struggle to make both ends meet. It could be workplace pressure due to the enormous demands, tight deadlines or friction and strife among the colleagues. Another source of pressure could be relationships at home or at the workplace.



## 55 Describe a skill that was difficult to learn

Say what it is  
When you usually do it  
Why you do it  
And explain why you think it is a waste of time

### Sample Answer

I am quite an expert driver today but about five years back when I started learning driving, it was an **uphill task**.

All my friends had learnt to drive quite fast and I assumed it would be **smooth sailing** for me. But the reality was just the opposite.

I faced problems at every step. Just getting behind the wheel made me nervous. The idea of **manoeuvring** a large machine all by myself and the damage I could do scared me. I was confused with changing gears and had trouble with the clutch and accelerator.

I ended up getting **stalled** many times in the middle of busy roads, as I released the clutch abruptly. Busy roads were another challenge.

Just the sight of the heavy traffic would make me **panicky** and at times I would be so terror stricken that I would just slam the brakes abruptly in the middle of the road.

I realized that driving a car requires me to multitask. I was supposed to remember all the rules, use the right signals and know what road signs meant.

My driving instructor was quite patient with me, probably because he had seen worse drivers than me. He encouraged me and slowly I gained confidence in driving through better busy congested roads.

I became more skilled in the different maneuvers like making U-turns, driving in roundabouts and intersections. With each kilometer I clocked, kept improving my skill. I became more and more comfortable behind the wheel and

**Uphill task:** difficult job

**Smooth sailing:** easy progress

**Manoeuvring:** controlling

**Stalled:** to stop suddenly

**Panicky:** scared

**Rich dividends:** brings advantages at a later date

finally cleared my driving test in the first attempt. I feel although the skill was difficult to master, it pays me **rich dividends**.

**Rich dividends:** brings advantages at a later date

### Part 3

1 At what age is it difficult to learn skills?

I think determination and persistent efforts can enable people of all ages to acquire skills but as age advances the level of difficulty is likely to increase.

2 Will the age of 5 or 20 be better?

Both these ages are suitable for acquiring skills appropriate for the age. For instance a five year old cannot be taught driving or computer skills.

3 Who will you learn a skill from - friends, teachers or parents?

I think teachers would be better instructors as they would have better experience and knowhow regarding how to impart skills to others. From their experience of teaching numerous students they would be able to customize their approach and achieve faster results.

4 What is the difference between children learning what they like and learning what they are forced to ?

Learning with interest ensures faster and better results, as there would be a greater degree of passion, involvement and pleasure in what they are doing. However forced study is boring, monotonous and progress is likely to be very slow.

5 What are the different kinds of skills that are important for people?

We all need a variety of skills in our day to day life. These requirements depend on our life circumstances and situations. Communication and interpersonal skills are extremely crucial to live and work with others. Decision making and problem solving skills are required to meet our day to day challenges at home and work.

At college students need to develop their reading, writing and leadership skills. Time management, money manage-

ment, note making etc are also relevant especially in student life.

6 What are the skills important in the workplace?

Skills are especially valuable for employees. Niche skills are of course vital so that they have expertise in that specific area such as programming, coding, designing etc. However there are also some general skills that are equally valuable. These include organizational skills, critical thinking and team work skills. Honing these skills can definitely maximize our chances of being successful in our jobs.

## 56 Describe the person who impressed you the most when you were in primary school

Say who he or she was  
How you knew him/her  
Why he/she impressed you  
And explain how you feel about him/her

### Sample Answer

Although much of my primary school days are a blur, I remember a few people I was very fond of. One among them was Mrs Shivani, my class teacher in the first and second standards. We all just adored her.

She used to breeze into class grinning broadly and we knew she was as happy to see us as we were to see her. She always had an **upbeat** mood, a sense of vitality and enthusiasm.

The energy she **emanated** was **contagious** and there was never a dull day for us.

She taught us through fun activities like role plays, competitions and quizzes.

I think what distinguished her from all other teachers was the love and affection that she **oozed**. There was a genuine warmth about her.

She would hug us, nurse our wounds when we hurt ourselves and sympathise with us when our toys broke. Her role was not just limited to teaching. She had to tie our shoelaces, fix our ponytails and help us draw straight lines in our notebooks.

She was like a second mother to all of us. Her hugs and kisses along with her words of appreciation and encouragement helped us build a strong sense of confidence in ourselves and carried us through the challenges that we faced in later years.

As we moved to senior classes, there were teachers who were strict and **intimidating** and often **belittled** and

**Upbeat:** cheerful

**Emanated:** spreading from

**Contagious:** spreading

**Oozed:** seeped out

**Intimidating:** scary

**Belittled:** humiliated

demeaned us for our mistakes. But the trust Mrs Shivani had **reposed** in us, kept our self esteem intact. Truly she was an outstanding teacher who made a significant impact on the lives of her students.

**Reposed:** placed

### Part 3

1 Why do people always miss their childhood?

I think every single person cherishes his childhood days. This stage can be called a golden period in life, when we just soak up all the love, affection and pampering of our parents and other relatives. In childhood we have no cares, anxieties or responsibilities and we just flit from day to day enjoying, exploring and having fun with our gang of friends. However as we grow, life becomes more and more complicated with burdens and responsibilities of studies, workplace, household demands and so on.

2 Are kids happier than adults?

Yes, I believe kids are happier than adults. They have no cares in the world. Their minds are innocent and they are quick to forget and forgive. They are curious and full of wonder at the things around them and so each day is packed with new discoveries and fun.

3 Why do people still remember many of their friends from primary school?

It is probably because those are usually the first friends they make and they remain together almost all through the primary school years. They often create happy memories together with their childhood friends of playing with toys, getting wet in the rain or their various school activities.

4 What kind of primary school teachers impress students?

Usually children are very close to their teachers at the primary school level. They consider them almost like their second mothers. Students are so fond of them that they share everything with them, tell them about all that happened, show them their new toys or dresses and even share their candies with them. So I think teachers who are loving and affectionate are the type of teachers, who appeal to children the most.

## 57 Describe an item on which you spent more than expected

Say what it is

How much you spent on it

Why you bought it

And explain why you think you spent more than expected

I love window shopping on ecommerce websites. I am basically thrifty by nature and my main objective as I scour the different online stores is to see if I can land some attractive deals.

A few months back I planned to buy a phone as mine was almost three years old. I was over the moon to see a Realme phone with just the features I wanted at a 30% discount.

It was an end of season offer and I could hardly contain my excitement. The discount meant that I could get this amazing phone with all the advanced features for just Rs 20,000 which was well within my budget.

I immediately placed the order. Often items get out of stock very fast during flash promotions and sales and I didn't want to miss this offer.

A few days later I got a call informing me that there was some problem with the stock and so I would have to wait until the new stock arrived. I definitely didn't mind waiting a few more days.

About two weeks later my package arrived. To my horror, the delivery executive demanded Rs 33,000 which was the full amount. I was dumbstruck.

I immediately contacted the customer care service. I was informed that my phone was not shipped during the time-frame of the discount and hence I would not be able to avail myself of the discount.

I felt angry, frustrated and confused. I had a long drawn out argument with the executive but it did not go anywhere. I ranted and raved but to no avail.

**Thrifty:** stingy

**Objective:** aim

**Scour:** search

**Over the moon:** very happy

**Dumbstruck:** shocked and unable to speak

**Long drawn out:** extending for a long time

**Ranted and raved:** speak loudly and angrily

**Penny pincher:** someone who is very careful with money

**Mortified:** embarrassed

I did not want to return the product as I had waited over 2 weeks and I was eager to use the new phone. So I reluctantly paid the full amount.

As a penny pincher I was quite mortified that I had purchased such a costly phone, but slowly as the days passed I realized it was definitely value for money.

### **Part 3**

1 Do you often buy more than you expected?

I am quite an impulsive buyer and tend to buy whatever attracts me. I have often ended up buying bags or dresses even when I never needed any. I know being a spendthrift is not a good tendency and I must exercise more prudence and restraint while shopping.

2 What do you think young people spend most of their money on?

I think people generally tend to spend a major part of their money on items like electronic goods, cars, kitchen and home items, clothes, cosmetics and jewellery.

3 Is increasing consumerism a good trend?

I think consumerism is a trend which has both pros and cons. Among the advantages, the primary one is that it boosts economic growth. The demand for goods and services helps businesses to flourish and allows the economy to grow. Also as consumers keep looking for better products, businesses need to bring greater innovation and creativity to design better products. However, on the flip side, consumerism has huge environmental costs. As production increases to meet demand, resources are consumed at a faster pace and waste and pollution levels also rise.

4 Do you think it is important to save money?

Yes, absolutely. The future is unpredictable. Nobody can foresee what might happen in the next second. Sometimes people may lose jobs or they may have a hospital emer-

gency, while in other cases it may be a vehicle breakdown requiring expensive repairs. When such emergency situations arise, savings can be a huge help. On the other hand, if people have no money, it would add to the stress as they would have to run from pillar to post to collect the needed funds.

#### 5 Why do people buy things they don't need?

With modern day malls and supermarkets stocked with a dazzling array of products, it is only natural that people would be tempted to spend mindlessly. Along with that many shops have irresistible offers like 'Buy one, get one free' or '50% off' which lures people into reckless spending.



## 58 Describe a difficult thing you did

Say what it was

How did you complete it

Why it was difficult

And explain how you felt about doing it?

### Sample Answer

A really challenging thing I did recently was to reset my sleep schedule. Due to the long period of lockdown, I had become used to sleeping late and rising late.

**Binge watching** web series on Netflix, scrolling through social media and late night chatting with friends, meant that sleep timing was getting extended to 1 or 2 am.

As lockdown restrictions were relaxed a few weeks back and the government announced reopening of colleges, I was faced with the **onerous** task of **tweaking** my lifestyle and getting back to the habit of waking up early.

I must say making a shift to an **early bird** lifestyle was a **hard nut to crack**. The first week I set a target of getting to bed by 11 and waking up by 6 am. I **turned in** by 11 but kept tossing and turning in bed for a long time.

Sleep kept **eluding** me. And when the alarm went off at 6 the next morning, I turned it off and didn't wake up till about 9 am.

The first few days of my new **endeavour** were a total disaster. I realized the real battle was not waking up early, but going to sleep on time.

Now I was hit by the seriousness of the situation. I was **distraught** at the prospect of not being able to wake up early and get to college on time.

I turned to online resources for tips. After watching some videos, I realized that the change could happen only gradually. I set up more realistic bedtime and wake up goals. I also made some serious alterations to my lifestyle.

**Binge watching:**  
watching multiple episodes of a series or programme in succession

**Onerous:** difficult

**Tweaking:** changing

**Early bird:** a person who rises early morning

**Hard nut to crack:**  
difficult task

**Turned in:** went to bed

**Eluding:** avoiding

**Endeavour:** effort

**Distraught:** extremely upset

**Starters:** as first stage

**Recalibrate:** change

**Cinch:** easy

For **starters**, I took some steps like having an early dinner, turning down the lights, avoiding my phone and also cutting down on coffee in the late evenings.

**Starters:** as first stage

**Recalibrate:** change

I also began to incorporate some workouts close to bedtime, so that I would be totally exhausted and would just plop down on bed and go to sleep.

**Cinch:** easy

All this was not easy at all. I had to be disciplined and consistent. My efforts paid off finally.

I managed to **recalibrate** my system, to get up early, feeling fresh, while at the same time getting the sleep I need. Now waking up early is a **cinch**.

### Part 3

1 What kinds of jobs require people to be confident?

I think confidence is vital in all workplaces. From teachers to doctors, almost all professions require people to have confidence in their skills and abilities. Confidence and self assurance are keys to success and high productivity. Confident people would be able to stay calm when faced with challenges and would be able to tackle them effectively. Also I believe, confidence helps others trust you more easily and your views would be taken more seriously.

2 On what occasions should children be encouraged?

Children should be encouraged to be confident and strong. They can be encouraged to try out new hobbies or learn new skills. Some children may feel discouraged by poor academic grades and a word of encouragement would be of great help on such occasions.

3 How can you help children to stay focussed?

Children get distracted due to several factors. Minimising these could help them concentrate better on their task. Distractions from mobile phone notifications or other electronic gadgets are the most prominent. They may also be distracted by noisy environments.

4 What challenges do young people face today?

Youngsters face various kinds of challenges. In academ-

ics they are faced with the huge syllabus and the cutthroat competition to get into premier institutions. Socially young people struggle for acceptance and approval and are constantly making efforts to keep up to the standards of society. Young people also face huge turmoil in relationships when they fail to find trustworthy friends or an emotional support system.

## 59 Describe a time you were friendly to someone you didn't like

When and where it happened

Who he was

Why you didn't like this person

And explain why you were friendly to him on that occasion

### Sample Answer

Along life's road, we **cross paths with** different kinds of people. While some may be charming and likeable, there may be others we may find hard to get along with.

Although we would definitely like to avoid such distasteful people, it may not always be possible to do so.

One such person I found difficult to deal with was my classmate Shilpa. I found her very snobbish and difficult. She always felt that everyone else was beneath her and would **put others down** with rude remarks.

I always tried to avoid her. But one day my science teacher put us together in a group for our project work. I was horrified at the prospect of working with her, but there was no escape.

The project was about the tribals in India. We had to divide the work among the four of us in the group. Shilpa always wanted her way and wanted to take all the decisions.

From the start, it was an **uphill task** adjusting with her ridiculous ways. But I decided that I had to be tactful and diplomatic and should try to ignore her irritating behaviour.

She never missed a chance to criticize my inputs and ignore what I had to say. All this got me **riled up**, but I made a conscious effort and let those feelings dissipate.

I tried to put on a **poker face** and focus on completing the task. Although it was **exasperating**, I was just smiling with my front teeth and **grinding my back teeth**.

**Cross paths with:** meet

**Put down:** to insult

**Uphill task:** difficult task

**Riled up:** Annoyed

**Poker faced:** an impassive expression

**Exasperating:** intensely frustrating

**Grinding my teeth:** being very angry

**Lauded:** appreciated  
Civility

Finally the project was over and it turned out well. While our teacher appreciated our efforts, I **lauded** myself for getting along with Shilpa with a fair degree of civility.

### Part 3

1 Why are some people friendly with people they don't like? While some people are blunt and demonstrate their dislike towards people, others may be more diplomatic and tend to hide or mask their real feelings. Or maybe they are more mature and accept that there will always be differences in values and opinions, and personalities. Due to this open minded attitude, they act with decorum towards people they dislike.

2 What kind of people are usually friendly?

I think people who are amiable are usually pleasant and warm. They like meeting people and are approachable. They have the knack of putting people at ease and genuinely care about others.

3 What is the difference between being friendly and polite?

Being polite means being well mannered in speech or action. It means to be courteous and civil. I think this mostly has to do with the outward behavior.

On the other hand, friendliness is a quality on the inside of a person. Friendly people are caring and compassionate. They have a genuine interest in others and are open minded. I think both politeness and friendliness are vital life skills.

4 What do you think about people who are always straightforward?

Personally I like straightforward people. They wear their heart on their sleeves and never hesitate to speak the truth however harsh it may be. They never feel the need to sugar coat their words. I like such people because they are honest and can always be trusted.

## 60 Describe a plan in your life not related to work or study

Say what it is

Why you made this plan

What you would need to do first

And explain how you would feel if it is successful

### Sample Answer

A plan that I have **nurtured** since a long time is to take part in a marathon. I am an avid runner and have been jogging for most of my life. I've found it very effective for staying fit and healthy.

So running a marathon is a challenge that I would like to take. All my running is limited to just a few rounds of a nearby park. So running a 42 km marathon surely seems impossible and scary, but it is something that I think will push me out of my comfort zone

My interest in marathons began after I read an article about animals and long distance running. To my surprise, humans were ranked on top, second only to horses.

I couldn't believe that my body was capable of **outperforming** lions and tigers, when it came to long distance running. I think that is what **sparked my interest** in marathons. For the last few years I have been following the marathons hosted in different cities.

The energy, the passion, the excitement I can see on the faces of the runners, both men and women of all ages, is truly inspiring.

I know this will require commitment and **perseverance**. I will need to practice rigorously for my body to adapt to running for longer duration.

I also need to research the different marathons and decide one that would be appropriate for me and finally register for it. I feel more than the physical preparation, I would need to prepare myself mentally for the challenge.

**Nurtured:** cared for

**Outperforming:**  
perform better than

**Sparked my interest:**  
create interest

**Perseverance:** continued effort

Anxiety, self doubts and fear often tempt me to quit the idea. I am often **plagued** by questions like - will I be able to finish? What if I injure myself? So I need to conquer these fears and push on.

**Plagued by:** troubled by

I know crossing the finish line in a marathon will be a proud moment for me. I will be proud that I was able to push my boundaries and exceed my limits

### Part 3

1 Do you think it is important for a person to have a career plan?

Yes absolutely. Having a clear plan give you direction in life. It helps you find the appropriate courses and skill sets you need to acquire. Without a plan it is likely that we may fritter away time unproductively and just stay in a rut. Plans, on the other hand, keep us motivated and focussed.

2 How do people plan their education and career?

The first step that most people take while planning is to understand their strengths, weaknesses, interests and aptitude. They also do plenty of research on different job profiles that match our interest, talk to professionals to understand the ground realities or seek guidance from career experts.

3 Is salary an important factor while planning a career?

Definitely, money is an important part of career planning. While job satisfaction is a crucial aspect, we also need financial stability. With rising living costs, not having an adequate source of income can be stressful. Beyond the basic needs, money helps us enjoy life, have fun, travel, pursue higher education and even make a difference to the lives of other people.

# 61 Describe a person who solved a problem in a smart way

Who this person is

What the problem was

How he/she solved it

And explain why you think he/she did it in a smart way

## Sample Answer

Life is beset with problems, big and small. But for every problem there are solutions if we think with **ingenuity**.

I would like to talk about a time when my friend helped me find an **incredibly** clever solution to a problem I faced recently.

I had invited some of my friends for lunch and instead of ordering food from a restaurant, I had decided to cook on my own. My best friend Shyla had offered to help me.

So we had decided on making biryani and in about 1 hour it was ready. I also wanted to bake a cake. I had baked on a few occasions and had come up with decent results.

So I hunted out a slightly more sophisticated cake recipe, unlike the simpler ones I had tried before. I followed the recipe **to a T** and soon I had the batter in the oven and sat waiting for my beautiful cake to be ready.

Finally the timer went off. I took the cake out of the oven. But when I saw it, my **heart sank**. It had burnt around the edges and the middle had sunk. Instead of a lighty spongy cake, I had a flat hard one. I was heartbroken.

My plans to impress my friends had **gone awry**. However, strangely instead of panicking, Shyla kept her cool and instantly came up with a brilliant idea to repair the damage.

She broke up the cake into little bits. Arranged them at the bottom of a bowl, added a layer of whipped cream and then toasted nuts and jam.

Then she repeated the layers till the bowl was full and

**Ingenuity:** cleverness

**Incredibly:** unbelievably

**To a T:** exactly

**Heart sank:** was disappointed

**Gone awry:** went wrong

**Awestruck:** impressed

**Astute:** clever

**In deep waters:** in great trouble

**Saved the day:** something that prevented a defeat

**Tide over:** to survive

**Culinary:** related to cooking



it was the best dessert. I was **awe-struck** by her astute move. I knew I'd have been **in deep waters**, but thanks to Shyla, the crisis was thwarted.

**Awestruck:** impressed

**Astute:** clever

All my friends complimented me on the amazing dessert and wanted the recipe. Shyla's creativity **saved the day** and helped me **tide over** this mishap. I was deeply grateful to Shyla for her creativity and quick thinking, which helped transform a **culinary** disaster into something truly memorable.

**In deep waters:** in great trouble

**Saved the day:** something that prevented a defeat

**Tide over:** to survive

**Culinary:** related to cooking

### Part 3

1 Are children born smart or do they learn to become smart?

While I believe we inherit a certain degree of intelligence from our parents, it can lie latent in us unless developed fully with hard work and diligence. So genes and hard work both go hand in hand.

2 How do children become smart at school?

At school, students study a variety of different subjects. Doing Maths builds the IQ, while speaking, reading and writing improves linguistic skills and the ability to communicate. Performing group activities nurtures emotional intelligence and social skills.

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

Some people may put all their energy and effort into developing and honing one talent they have. Others may have a broader range of interests and thus develop in a more well rounded manner. There are schools which are focussed on more holistic development of students and thus incorporate a wide range of activities geared to nurture different types of talents and skills. This would definitely help students to be talented in multiple disciplines.

3 Why does modern society need talent of all kinds?

Society definitely needs a broad spectrum of talents. While a company may need people talented in accounts, mar-

keting, advertising or decision making, the entertainment industry needs people with talents like video creation, photography, story telling, music or dance. Being a good listener, being persistent or friendly are also talents which are vital in building harmonious societies.

## 62 Describe a useful or exciting book you read

Say which it was  
When you read it  
What it was about  
And why you found it exciting or useful

### Sample Answer

**Captivating:** attractive

I recently read the novel 'Five Point Someone' by the famous Indian novelist Chetan Bhagat. Frankly I am not very fond of reading but my friend recommended this novel very strongly and it's just about 300 pages.

**Drawbacks:**  
disadvantages

So I decided to give it a try. Once I started reading, it was so **captivating** that I couldn't put it down. The novel is about three friends Ryan, Alok and Hari who are studying in IIT Delhi, which is one of the most prestigious engineering colleges in India.

The story depicts how they struggle to cope up with the highly competitive and stressful environment of the college.

There are several things I found really fascinating about this novel. One is that we can easily connect with the characters. They are so real.

The pressure they face is what every student experiences. The frustration with the endless tutorials, lectures, assignments, projects and exams is something we can easily relate to.

Also the novel portrays the **drawbacks** of the education system, which gives so much importance to marks. Ryan, Alik and Hari just score five points which is the lowest in the college and they are labelled as useless and good for nothing., when in fact they are bright and intelligent.

So the novel conveys the message that students can never be judged on the basis of grades.

And life is not just about marks but friendships, having fun

with family, chasing our dreams and identifying and nurturing our unique talents.

**Engaging:** interesting

So I think Chetan Bhagat is an excellent storyteller. With an easy, simple and flowing style which makes the novel highly entertaining, **engaging** and easy to read. I would definitely like to read the other novels of this author.

### Part 3

1 Do people in your country like to read?

The interest in reading is dwindling due to the lure of modern entertainment media like mobile games, social networking media etc. While the older generation is very interested to read in their leisure time, young people rarely take it up as a hobby.

2 What kind of books are most popular in your country?

I think people mostly like to read fiction - such as short stories or novels with family or romantic themes while there are some who have a greater affinity towards murder mysteries and detective novels.

3 .Can ebooks replace paper books?

Although e books may not entirely replace conventional books, it is highly likely that their use will increase manifold owing to their numerous merits. They are convenient to carry, handle, store or distribute. Also they are eco friendly unlike paper books which are made of pulp from trees.

4 What are the benefits of reading?

Reading offers multifarious benefits. It widens the horizons of our mind and makes us more knowledgeable. It improves attention span, concentration, imagination and also improves language skills. Reading offers endless pleasure and can be therapeutic.

## 63 Describe a difficult decision you once made

What the decision was

When you made the decision

How long it took you to make the decision

And explain why it was a difficult decision to make

### Sample Answer

It is said that the hardest choices require the strongest of wills. We all undergo numerous circumstances, where we are forced to make tough calls.

One such instance that I clearly recall happened right after my board exam results were declared. I had to decide where I would do my undergraduate studies.

On one hand, I had the convenient choice of joining a college in my hometown, staying in the comfort of my own home. On the other hand, moving to another city or country meant stepping into the unknown.

Faced with this difficult decision, I experienced many days of internal dialogue. I kept listing the pros and cons of both sides. Uncertainty and self doubt plagued me.

Talked to my family, friends and mentors. I listened to everyone with an open mind and finally I got a better clarity of the situation and I made the decision to join a college in Mumbai.

It meant I had to move away from Delhi, my home and my parents and start from scratch **fending for myself** for everything from accommodation to cooking. My instincts screamed out against leaving my **cocoon** and the constant presence of my friends.

I knew the days ahead would be **riddled** with problems and challenges but I remained focussed and did not let anything **deter** me.

I rid my mind of all limiting thoughts that were holding me back from my dreams. I came to accept the fact that life is

**Fending for myself:** take care of yourself without help from anyone

**Cocoon:** a safe place

**Riddled:** filled with

**Deter:** prevent

**Vacillates between:** swing between

**Springboard:** launch pad

**Hapless:** helpless

**Metamorphosed:** transformed

a long journey of constant change and **vacillates between** comfort and discomfort, pleasure and pain.

Today, I'm armed with a good degree, relevant qualification and training that serves as a **springboard** to a bright future.

Now I proudly boast of the decision I took at the cusp of my career. From a **hapless**, shy, dependent, home food addict, full of inadequacies to a confident, independent and fearless person, I have come a long way indeed. I have **metamorphosed** into a whole new person and that's the power of a right decision, though a difficult one.

### Part 3

1 What kind of decisions do people make everyday?

People make small decisions as well as big life changing ones in their day to day life. The decisions may be on trivial matters like what to eat, which movie to watch, how to spend their time etc. Or it could be on weightier matters such as career choice, deciding on whom to marry, how to invest money, relocating to another country etc.

2 Can children make their own decisions?

Yes children can be encouraged to make decisions in small matters like what dress to wear, what game to play, which toy to buy etc. Decision making is one of the most important skills children need to develop to become healthy and mature adults.

3 Why do people change their decisions sometimes?

People may change decisions when they realize it was not the right decision. Sometimes decisions are taken hastily, without proper thinking or we may be unsure of our decision. Sometimes other people may influence us to rethink.

4 Why do people need to make decisions?

Decision making is inevitable in our life and almost every second we are forced to make choices from the options before us both big and small.

5 Which is easier, making a decision by one self or making a decision after a group discussion?

I think that if leaders try to solicit the opinions of their team members in all matters and then try to reach a consensus, it can cause too much delay. However not consulting others may adversely affect the trust of the team. Hence it is important to strike a balance between both these approaches, where leaders should consult and get valid feedback, but at the same time take decisions themselves.

## 64 Talk about an art or craft activity you had at school

Say what you made

How you made it

What it looked like

And explain how you felt about this activity

### Sample Answer

**Blur:** unclear

Art and craft classes in school are a treasured memory for me. We spent many delightful hours creating art with materials like paper, clay, sand and play dough.

**Vividly:** clearly

**Creases:** folds

Among them the sessions that were very dear to my heart were the origami sessions in primary school.

**Misshapen:** not having a normal shape

Although most of my primary school is a **blur**, the origami classes are **vividly** alive in my memory.

**Plain sailing:** easy progress

I remember when our teacher transformed pieces of paper into different shapes like jet planes, finger puppets, dogs, and cats we almost thought she had some magical powers.

**High-point:** most exciting time

It sparked our interest and we were all gung-ho about learning the art.

I must confess we were all very clumsy in the beginning. Our **creases** were not sharp, our folds often went wrong and we ended up with **misshapen** figures.

Origami definitely requires patience and hard work, both of which were not my strong attributes. But with some more practice, the paper folding techniques were **plain sailing**. Gradually origami sessions became the **high point** of my day.

I attended them with zest and motivation to master the art. We started with simple designs and slowly moved on to more elaborate ones. I even won several prizes in the craft competitions.

Even to this day I remember how to make many of those origami models and I have taught them to many. I also find



them quite **handy** when I am around children, especially my nephews and nieces.

**Handy:** useful

I love to get some sheets of paper and quickly turn them into tulips, birds, cats and then see their eyes go wide with wonder and excitement. This easy and inexpensive craft I learnt in my childhood, is a source of fun and relaxation to this day.

### Part 3

1 Do people in your country give handicrafts as gifts?

Gifts are an integral part of our culture. I think most people give store bought gifts. On the other hand, we can view children making efforts to make gifts from scratch for their dearest. They make items like photo collages, handmade flowers etc. I believe handicraft gifts add a personal touch. It shows you have dedicated your time for the gift.

2 What do young people think about traditional handicrafts?

I think young people are quite appreciative of traditional handicrafts and believe they should be preserved. Many choose to buy handicraft products to support the economy. There are many NGOs started by young people to preserve several traditional handicraft skills.

3 Should art be a compulsory subject in schools?

Absolutely. One proven stress buster is to express yourself creatively. There is no better medium than art to portray an individual's creativity. Art classes lay the foundation for a child's emotional intelligence which cannot be achieved through math or science classes. Art is also a way of fostering creative thinking and imagination, which drives all innovation. Additionally, art classes aid in evolving skills which are crucial in life like social skills, decision making, motor skills and presentation skills.

4 How can we make young people more interested in traditional art?

I think introducing traditional art in the school curriculum would be an effective way to ignite their interest. Taking students on trips to villages to observe artisans and craftsmen engaged in this art could also fuel an interest in it. Arrang-

ing exhibitions and shows depicting traditional art can be yet another way to expose them to the beauty and timelessness of such art.

5 Why do some people find it difficult to understand works of art?

I think it is mostly in the case of modern art that people find it difficult to interpret what the artists are trying to express. Modern art tends to be more abstract and what we see on canvas may not be actual representations of things around us. However portraits or still life paintings are more realistic and hence very clear to the viewer.

## 65 Describe an article you have read about health

Say what it was about

When and where you read it

And explain how you felt about it

### Sample Answer

I read an interesting and **informative** article recently on the importance of sleep and I'd like to talk to you about it.

It was my grandfather who showed me this article in a magazine, probably because he had noticed that I stayed up late, when I was in his house a few months back.

The article was based on an interview with Arianna Huffington who wrote a book called 'The Sleep Revolution.' The article was boring initially but as I continued reading, it **piqued** my interest.

The article explained how sleep quality and duration is directly linked to our physical and mental health. I was surprised to read that sleep **deprivation** is the major cause of health disorders such as diabetes and heart disease.

**Skimping** on sleep can also cause mental health issues such as anxiety and depression and a good night's sleep is essential for maintaining a healthy and calm mood and being productive.

The article included a lot of findings from various studies and showed how most people get less than six hours of sleep nowadays when the required amount for adults is 7 to 8 hours.

The article made a lot of sense to me. I could notice how the sleep **deficit** was impairing my own performance.

I realised that I had seriously neglected this aspect as I also stayed up late nights with my mobile phone. I believe that although we all know the importance of a nutritious diet and regular exercise, sleep is an often neglected component of good health.

**Informative:** giving lot of information

**Piqued:** aroused

**Deprivation:** lack

**Skimping:** to give insufficient attention to

**Deficit:** lack or deficiency

I managed to find the digital version of this article and sent it to all my friends and I also shared it on social media platforms. This article overhauled my approach to sleep and I began to give greater priority to it.

### **Part 3**

1 What are the things people do to maintain good health?

Now there is much more awareness regarding a healthy lifestyle. One thing people focus on is a nutritious diet which includes plenty of vegetables and fruits They cut down on fatty and processed food and junk food and tend to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated also make sure they do something to exercises

2 What can you say about the health status of people today?

There is an increase in the number of people suffering from disorders such as diabetes, high blood pressure obesity and sleep disorders These are due to poor dietary choices, sedentary lifestyle and high stress conditions. On the other hand, the lifespan of people has increased due to medical advances and better nutrition.

3 Do people read a lot of magazines nowadays?

Well magazine readership seems to have declined. Very few people opt to buy magazines because they prefer to read online.

## 66 Describe a time when you woke up extremely early

When it happened

Why you woke up early

What you did

And explain how you felt about it

### Sample Answer

I must confess I'm not an early riser. I've been more of a **night owl** all my life and dragging myself out of bed early in the morning is a difficult and dreadful thing for me.

But a few months back I happened to wake up early, **contrary** to my usual routine and I'd like to talk to you about it.

My friends and I had gone on a trip to Munnar and while we were there, we decided to experience the famous sunrise at the Kollugumala hills.

Our guide told us that we would have to start from our hotel at 3.30 in the morning to reach the sunrise point. We set our alarms at 3.

Needless to say, when the alarm went off, shaking me out of my **blissful** sleep, my first impulse was to switch it off and go back to sleep. But the thought of the **glorious** sunrise made me jump out of bed. We had a cup of black coffee and set off.

It was still dark and totally quiet and peaceful outside and during the drive I felt very drowsy and I kept dozing off. However, once we began to climb up the mountain, the bumpy ride through the rocks completely knocked off my sleepiness.

So by the time we reached the mountain top I was wide awake and fresh. The **air was crisp** and cold. I could see the town below still asleep and the street lights scattered around like tiny stars.

The serene morning ambience was a rare experience for

**Nightowl:** a person who is habitually active or wakeful at night

**Contrary:** opposite in nature, direction or meaning

**Blissful:** extremely happy

**Glorious:** having a striking beauty

**Crisp air:** air that is cold, dry or fresh

me. We sat in silence and watched the sky change. There was yellow, orange, vermillion red and all these rich colours spread across the sky.

I watched the bright red sun ascend the horizon. It was a stunning view. As I sat there soaking in the beauty of the morning, I realized there's something very magical and

### **Part 3**

1 Why do people wake up early?

Early risers probably like to get a head start during the day. Waking up early allows them to finish their day's work faster. Some like to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the morning atmosphere or take a walk or do some yoga early in the morning.

2 In what kind of situations do people need to arrive early?

I think people need to arrive ahead of schedule for important meetings, interviews or other such appointments. It is always advisable to arrive beforehand rather than be late. Also arriving at a good time for big events or shows can ensure that we get better seats.

3 Why do some people like to stay up late?

Some people are most productive and concentrated at night. They can achieve much better outputs when they stay up late rather than when they rise early. There are many students who are night owls and prefer to study through the night as well as adults who achieve much more working late nights.

## 67 Describe a time you bought something from a street market

What it was

When it was

Where the market was

And explain how you feel about it

### Sample Answer

Street markets are my favourite places to hang out with my friends. One market that I frequently visit is the bustling Sarojini Nagar Market, just about 10 kilometers from my house.

The place is **crammed** with shops selling a huge variety of items, from trendy outfits, classy footwear to electronic gadgets and everything at unbelievable prices. Often during these visits I end up getting some attractive deals.

Recently as I strolled through the narrow crowded lanes of the market, a terracotta wind chime caught my attention. It was quite **captivating**.

I am a huge fan of terracotta items. I have numerous items like planters, wall hangings and table pieces. This particular piece was a delicately hand crafted and hand painted one in bright maroon and yellow colours.

It had a loop on the top from where it could be hung . I instantly decided to purchase it and got ready for some serious bargaining.

The shopkeeper asked for Rs 800, but with my superb bargaining skill, I was able to slash it down to Rs 450.

Once I got back home, I began to **scout around** for the best place to hang it. Ideally I wanted a place where it could catch the breeze and chime.

So I decided to hang it in our garden so that the vibrant colours stand out amid the foliage. It is a perfect place for the wind chime, as it is not just visually pleasing but also fills the air with the sweet delightful jingling sound.

**Crammed:** Full of

**Captivating:** attractive

**Scout around:** search

Every time a nice breeze comes, I eagerly wait for the symphony to start. I must say, I am quite proud of this new garden accessory.

**Enamoured:** impressed

**Wow factor:** an impressive quality

When visitors drop by, they are completely **enamoured** by its exotic look. It gives a **wow factor** to my garden. I always believe that decorating our homes with handicrafts not only adds a good vibe to the space but also a traditional and ethnic touch.

### Part 3

1 What kinds of markets are there in India?

I think in India there are various kinds of markets that form an integral part of the local economy. There are weekly markets on specific days in a week with temporary shops selling mostly groceries, vegetables, cloth items or utensils. There are also shops in every neighbourhood close to residential areas, where people can buy items like milk, stationery, groceries or eatbles for daily use conveniently. Shopping complexes or malls are common in urban areas mostly selling high end branded items. Street markets are yet another type of markets which are bustling chaotic places selling a wide range of items such as local handicrafts, street food or accessories at super cheap rates.

2 Do you think small markets will disappear in the future?

I think the emergence of malls and supermarkets has made this question relevant today. These places are attractive and appealing for the ambiance and convenience they offer. However I believe they can never supersede small shops. There are wide sections of society who would always prefer small shops. The items are relatively cheaper and there is a closer bond that customers develop with small shop owners through shopping over the years. So I believe small markets will continue to coexist with malls, super markets and e stores.

3 How have people's shopping habits changed in recent years?



I think the most significant shift is that shopping has evolved from being a need based activity to something people do for fun and relaxation. It is very common for people today to go shopping just for pleasure and purchase things on an impulse. In other words, the levels of consumption today are far higher than in the days of our thrifty older generations. Also the trend of online shopping is picking up at a furious pace, with perks such as convenience, discounts, fast shipping and wider options.

4 What are the differences between shopping in street markets and big malls?

Malls offer a wide range of high end, high quality branded merchandise under one roof. They are centrally air conditioned and come with entertainment facilities such as theatres, gaming zones and food stalls. They create a welcoming ambiance where families can spend an entire day shopping, eating or watching movies. However the products are quite exorbitantly priced and hence not affordable to everyone. Street markets, on the other hand, offer items at dirt cheap rates. Also street markets exhibit the ethnic image of an area, unlike malls which house international brands. For many people enjoying the hullabaloo of the market, gorging on delicious street food and landing some great deals are the charms of a street market that malls can never match.

## 68 Describe a time you were waiting for something special that would happen

What you waited for

Where you waited

Why it was special

And explain how you felt when you were waiting

### Sample Answer

Something special that I awaited eagerly was a get together with my old school friends. Staying cooped up at home for months was quite stressful for me.

Our homes were no longer spaces where we once relaxed and spent quality time with our families. Our bedrooms were now gyms, our living and dining rooms, classrooms or work from home stations.

So when eventually covid cases began to dwindle, I heaved a sigh of relief. It was when life was limping back to normalcy, I got a call from my friend Angeline who is currently in the US saying that she was coming on a holiday. I was **thrilled to pieces** on hearing the **glad tidings**.

This news was almost unbelievable. We decided to contact our other gang members. We were four friends right from our school days.

We used to do everything together, from preparing for exams and shopping to bunking classes and playing pranks on others. We were all in different places but still our friendship had **stood the test of time**.

Video chats, texting, sharing pictures on social media and occasional get-togethers kept our bond intact.

Now the prospect of meeting everyone after a long time was too **exhilarating** for words. My mind was filled with anticipation and my heart was **aflutter**.

All of us were buzzing with excitement, planning all the details of the reunion. We were planning a whole weekend

**Thrilled to pieces:**  
very excited

**Glad tidings:** good news

**Stand the test of time:**  
to work well over a long period of time

**Exhilarating:**  
thrilling

**Aflutter:** nervous and excited

**Took precedence:**  
became more important

**Rummaging:**  
searching

of activities. The countdown had started, but time seemed to be going slowly.

I couldn't think of anything else. Our reunion **took precedence** over everything. I was on my feet, planning, dreaming, making arrangements, **rummaging** through my cupboard in search of outfits to wear and buying gifts . I could hardly contain the excitement of it all.

Finally the wait was over but I must say the longer the wait, the more we appreciate and treasure it when it arrives. That special day was truly worth the wait.

### Part 3

1 On what occasions do people usually need to wait?

People need to wait for buses, trains or flights. Sometimes they need to wait to receive a product after placing an order for it. After exams or an interview, there is a long and tense wait for the results. Cash counters at supermarkets are also places where waiting is unavoidable.

2 Who behaves better when waiting - children or adults?

Generally adults are more patient when they need to wait. Children tend to get impatient faster. They get easily annoyed, frustrated and tend to complain about the delay.

3 Compared to the past, are people less patient now?

I think people today want instant gratification. In the age of instant connectivity, instant streaming, instant noodles and instant delivery, the word instant has become so much a part of people's lives, that if things don't happen instantly, they become restless and intolerant.

## 69 Describe a creative person whose work you admire

Say who he is

How you know him

What creative things he/she has done

And explain why you think he or she is creative

### Sample Answer

A person who has oodles of creativity is my neighbour Sheila. Sheila and her family had just moved into our neighbourhood a few years back and so one day I decided to pay my new neighbours a visit.

The moment I stepped into their house I was **wonderstruck** by the charming interior decor. The living room was tastefully decorated with paintings, indoor plants and small handicraft items.

I came to know that Sheila is an art teacher in a nearby school and she herself had created all the beautiful art works showcased in that room.

She had transformed her home into a mini gallery, where she displayed a wide variety of her **spectacular** handwork. There were beautiful wind chimes, dream catchers, hand painted bottles and home made planters.

I was **awestruck** by the stunning creativity, the **meticulous** work and intricate designs.

Since I also have an eye for creativity, I am always **intrigued** by her creations. I find them truly mesmerising. I was so fascinated by her creative ideas and aesthetic sense that I am now a regular visitor at their house.

Whenever she gets some **downtime**, she takes out her craft supplies and gets working. With her creative juices flowing, she gives a unique spin to mundane materials or waste items like beer cans, cardboard or plastic bottles. Her creativity never fails to surprise me.

**Wonderstruck:** a feeling of delight or admiration

**Spectacular:** impressive

**Awestruck:** filled with admiration or respect

**Meticulous:** extremely careful

**Intrigued:** interested

**Downtime:** free time

**Metamorphose:** to change into a completely different form

Recently I saw beautiful earrings and bracelets she had made for her daughter using buttons.

Coconut shells invariably find their way to the trash bins in every household. But for Sheila they are raw materials with huge possibilities and in her hands they **metamorphose** into beautiful craft products. I can say I am a huge fan of Sheila and her creativity fascinates me no end.

### Part 3

1 Do you think you are a creative person?

Yes I think I am a person with creative ideas. I can think of new ways to do things like decorating my room or working out solutions to problems. I think I am able to think out of the box.

2 Is it good for children to learn arts?

I think it is vital for children to get involved in the arts. When children draw pictures, use colours, enact plays or make clay models, they are encouraged to create, design and generate new ideas. It is a fact that advances and innovations in all fields such as technology, architecture or even medicine are fuelled by such out of the box thinking. Hence art can act as a catalyst in moulding creating original thinkers.

3 What kind of jobs require people to be creative?

There are various jobs that require high levels of creativity. These include jobs of film and video editors, website developers, graphic designers, product designers and architects. In all these fields, people need to generate original ideas, designs or plans. They need to be inventive and original.

4 Do you think leaders need to have creative ability?

Yes, I believe a certain degree of creative thinking is vital in leadership. This can help them find innovative solutions to problems companies face and come up with new ideas.. They can convert challenges into opportunities, improve products and services, understand customer needs better with a creative mindset.

## 70 Describe a cafe you like to visit

Say where is it?

What kinds of foods and drinks it serves

What do you do there?

And explain why you like to go there?

### Sample Answer

One of the most **charming** cafes that I have ever visited is the Cha Bar in Delhi. It is a bookstore and cafe rolled into one.

I had gone to the Oxford bookstore hunting for a book a few years back, when I stumbled upon this cosy little cafe tucked between the bookshelves. I was totally **blown away** by this new concept of bookstore cafe, which is catching up quite fast in cities all over India.

These bookstore cafes offer booklovers a charming **hideout** to bury themselves in their favourite books and get some precious me time.

And of course as they sit and read they can enjoy the **delectable** delicacies and sip hot coffee. The items on the menu are limited but delicious. What an awesome combination of books, coffee and snacks!

For me spending time here is sheer bliss. The Oxford bookstore has floor to ceiling shelves lined with books on almost every **genre**, ranging from autobiographies to mythology. There is fiction and nonfiction by Indian as well as international authors.

The tastefully done interiors, the **captivating** artworks in the walls and the brightly coloured walls create a vibrant ambiance. Although there is the hustle and bustle of the city outside, the cafe is quiet and peaceful .

Once we are inside, we are hit by the **enticing** smell of old books, baked goodies and espresso coffee.

The staff is courteous and friendly and the cafe always has welcoming and heartwarming **vibes**.

**Charming:** Beautiful

**Blown away:** Very impressed

**Hideout:** a place of retreat

**Delectable:** tasty

**Genres:** types

**Captivating:** stunning

**Enticing:** attractive

**Vibes:** atmosphere

I visit this place very often. I head straight to the rows of books and once I get the book of my choice, I can flop down on one of the squishy cushions or the bean bags and order a plate of crispy chilli potato or choco chip cookies with a cup of hot steaming coffee.

I can eat, drink and read to my heart's content with no one disturbing or interrupting me.

As a book lover, this place is a dream come true for me, truly a book lover's paradise.

### **Part 3**

1 What kind of people like to go to a cafe?

I think millennials and Gen Zers are most likely visitors to cafes. They love to hangout in such places with their friends.

2 Why do young people like studying in a cafe instead of at home?

One reason for this is that it is an ideal space for undisturbed study. There are no distractions from family, visitors, the television and so on. Another reason could be that being surrounded by young people and the vibrant ambiance make cafes a pleasant and delightful alternative to being cooped up at home.

3 Do Indian people like to drink coffee?

I think coffee is a staple beverage of South India. South Indians typically begin their day with a hot cup of filter coffee, which is an amazing rich milky brew made of infusing frothy milk with a coffee decoction. Some have coffee at least twice or thrice a day, while others may have it more frequently.

# 71 Describe someone older than you, whom you admire

Say who this person is

How you know this person

What kind of things you like to do together

Explain how you feel about this person

## Sample Answer

Family is the foremost space from which we draw inspiration that eventually shapes our personalities. I, for one, have always found that in my father throughout the years.

His name is Mr Babu Joseph and he is a 66 years old retired Accounts Manager with a handsome face, salt and pepper hair, and a sweet smile. He has a pleasing demeanour and is also very soft spoken yet at the same time, he is **stern** and a **no-nonsense** person.

I have always **looked up to** him since my childhood as he has been more of a friend to me. We have shared a lot of amusing instances and moments with productive talks especially when he used to drive me to school everyday.

He finds immense pride in **regaling** me with his struggles and hardship of living in a small village with minimal prospects and **making it big** through his hardwork and **perseverance**.

He always advises me about the importance of maintaining strong relationships and being responsible. More than anything he would emphasise on living life in the moment and being content with even the smallest of things life gives you.

My father also exhibits a very dynamic persona as he has active involvement in various committees and events other than the ones pertaining to his work. It inspires a sense of awe in me to see how respected he is in all spaces and I too aspire to be like him.

Like all humans he too is not devoid of **flaws**. He has **bouts**

**Stern:** strict

**No nonsense:** straightforward

**Look up to:** respect

**Regaling:** entertaining

**Make it big:** become successful

**Perseverance:** hard work

**Flaws:** defects

**Bouts:** short periods of



of short-temperedness and I have seen him lose his cool on a few occasions. However he bounces back and is quick to make amends. My father is truly my hero.

### Part 3

1 What can young and old learn from each other?

I believe there are valuable insights both generations can gain from each other. The young generation can learn wisdom and life lessons, which the elderly have gained through their life experiences - their trials, setbacks and triumphs. They can also understand the family history, stories about their ancestors, traditions and rituals. On the other hand, the older members can gain immensely by learning the basics of new technologies and skills from young people. They can understand the changes happening around them and the beliefs and views of young people.

2 Has old people's quality of life improved when compared to the past?

I believe the elderly enjoy a positive quality of life compared to the past. Advanced medical facilities and treatments allow them to lead longer healthier lives. Along with their medical needs, I believe their mental emotional needs are also met adequately these days. There are numerous leisure centres where they can meet and interact with each other. Also improved financial security and social lives have improved significantly, making retired life a fulfilling time for the aged. Technological advancements help seniors to keep in touch with loved ones and thus alleviate loneliness.

3 Why is there a generation gap between the young and the old?

The generation gap is an unavoidable reality which often hampers intergenerational relationships. This gap is often due to differing perspectives, views and opinions. The areas of differences are mostly seen in areas such as interests, tastes, moral values, religious beliefs.

#### 4 What do old people usually do?

Many elderly people find themselves unable to be very active due to health problems. Others however remain busy physically and mentally. They prefer activities like watching television, gardening, cooking or playing with their grandchildren.

## 72 Describe a town or city you would like to live in the future

Where it is

How you know about it

What it is famous for

And explain why you would like to live there

### Sample Answer

The city where I dream of living is New York. I was introduced to the city through one of my childhood friends, Harkiran who moved to the city for her graduation.

Normally she is a quiet person but she becomes **loquacious** when asked about the city.

New York, or The Big Apple was named as the most exciting city in the world recently by a global magazine. The most striking quality of this city is its ethnic diversity.

This city is known as the **melting pot** of America with more than 800 languages spoken there. There are immigrants from different countries with their own New York story.

This is one point of attraction for me personally, I believe if you live with people from varied backgrounds, you can understand, appreciate and respect other cultures, as well as be more **open minded**.

New York has also plenty to offer on a cultural level. There are magnificent museums, theatres, music ,opera, acres and acres of parks and vast grounds.

There are also the iconic and historical landmarks such as The Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Grand Central Station. We can attend a concert, ride a bicycle through the vast open spaces or go on picnics.

There is always something to see or do in this city that never sleeps. It is also supposed to be a foodie's paradise with about 25,000 restaurants serving nearly 60

**Loquacious:** talkative

**Melting pot:** place where people of different cultures live together

**Open minded:** receptive to different views

**Hub:** centre

international cuisines.

It is a **hub** of business, fashion, entertainment and technology, with vast job opportunities. So truly life is never **mundane** in this exciting **metropolis**.

**Mundane:** dull

**Metropolis:** large city

### Part 3

1 Why are people attracted to cities?

I believe the chief reason people opt for city life is that they are social and financial hubs. People can access better job opportunities. Eventually it leads to quality of life which encompasses better living standards, healthcare systems and top notch school and university education.

2 What are the differences between the young and old with regard to choosing a place to live?

The general consensus is that old people or retired people seek to live in a quiet neighbourhood, whereas young people would prefer to live in a thriving locality with lots of options. Young adults choose to live in a city where an ample amount of professional opportunities present themselves. On the other hand, seniors favour the tranquility and calm of the countryside.

3 Which is better, living in one place all our life or living in different places ?

For me, living in different places throughout our life is more beneficial and exciting. Firstly it would give wider opportunities for professional development and personal growth. Furthermore, shifting to a new place is exciting as it is an unknown and unfamiliar area that you can explore. New places also give you a chance to interact with different communities, cultures and people.

## 73 Describe a foreign person you have heard about or known who you think is interesting

Say who the person is  
How you know him/her  
What kind of person he is  
And explain why you think he/she is interesting

### Sample Answer

The world is filled with people who fascinate us with their lives and tales and for me one such person is Robert Downey Jr.

He is an American actor and producer, who rose to the heights of fame and is today one of the biggest and most beloved stars in the world through his portrayal of Tony Stark in Iron man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. I, myself, began to have a strong **penchant** towards him ever since I saw the first Iron man movie.

Since then I have become a huge fan of his. He is an amazing and **versatile** actor. I am awestruck by his charm, **sass** and naturality.

I feel he is one of the key reasons why Marvel studio movies have been so successful, especially the Avengers Endgame, which broke records in almost all countries.

Although RDJ , as he is commonly called, is hugely successful today, what people don't know about him is his struggles with drug addiction.

Way back in the 1990's he got into a lot of trouble. He was even **incarcerated** and this brought his career to a standstill.

He lost big budget projects under prominent banners. However he overcame his addiction and even managed to get a few minor roles in movies and finally in 2008, he got a lead role in Iron man and from there it was blockbuster after blockbuster.

**Penchant:** a strong liking

**Versatile:** good at many things

**Sass:** boldness

**Incarcerated:** put in prison

So what I love about RDJ is not just his talent and charisma but his ability to rise from the ashes. He did not quit when things looked **bleak**.

**Bleak:** gloomy, disappointing

He was able to get back on his feet and get his life and career on track. His life journey teaches me that no matter what adversities you face, it is never too late to turn your life around and become the best possible version of yourself.

I cannot help but feel an immense sense of admiration and respect for this amazing actor.

### Part 3

1 Do you have any foreign friends and do you think having foreign friends is a good way to know about other countries?

Yes, I have a few international friends from countries like the US and Spain. I think they help us get insights into their culture, cuisine, traditions and tourist spots in their country. We also end up learning a few bits and pieces of their language.

2 Do you think it's important to know the culture and language before going to another country?

I don't think it is necessary to get information about aspects like culture and language of a country we plan to visit. However I believe doing some research on what to expect in terms of food, weather, hotels etc. would be useful. We can also avoid being cheated by the locals. It also helps us plan our itinerary more effectively.

3 What do you think of people who work in international companies?

Global multinational companies hire the best talents. These companies not just look for niche skills and abilities but also soft skills such as team spirit and communication. So I think the employees in such workplaces would be people who are qualified and have well developed personalities.

4 What abilities do people need to have when working in an international company?

Multinational companies often have people of multiple cultures working together. Hence it is vital to be culturally sen-

sitive. People should be able to embrace the diversities and be open minded and tolerant. Respecting others and their traditions helps create trust and harmony.

## 74 Describe an activity that you do after school/work

Say what it is

When you do it

How often you do it

And explain why you like this activity

### Sample Answer

A fun pastime for me is playing Sudoku. I have always been a fan of puzzles. Right from my childhood, I found all types of puzzles irresistible, from simple jigsaw, crossword or math puzzles to more complex ones.

I would spend lots of time in the evenings or weekends working them out. To take on the challenge of solving them, applying your logic, reasoning and critical thinking and then finally cracking it, is fun and exciting.

Among all the different puzzles, my favourite is the Sudoku. I came across this puzzle in The Hindu a few years back, and began solving it. I must say once I started playing it, I got **hooked on** it.

The Sudoku is a popular number puzzle with a square grid which has nine rows and nine columns. The challenge is to fill the grid with numbers such that the numbers 1 to 9 appear in each row and column only once.

The puzzle comes with a few spaces already filled in. The tougher puzzles have very few numbers filled in. There are several levels of Sudoku.

The ones in the newspaper were quite easy but there are also really difficult puzzles that are almost **insurmountable**. Sometimes I get totally **stumped** and unable to **fathom** the solution and such occasions can be really frustrating.

Often I take a break, **clear my head** and come back to it and keep trying till I solve it. Sometimes it takes one or two hours to solve the really tough ones and my office work

**Hooked on:** addicted to

**Insurmountable:** hard to overcome

**Stumped:** unable to answer

**Fathom:** understand

**Clear my head:** relax to be able to think clearly



tends to suffer. But perseverance always pays and I am finally able to crack them.

**Downtime:** freetime

Sudoku is available online . I have also downloaded a Sudoku app with thousands of puzzles of five difficulty levels. Whenever I get some moments of **downtime**, I whip out my phone, **put on my thinking cap** and get started on another brain workout.

**Put on my thinking cap:**  
to think

I think working out these puzzles invariably lifts my spirits and cheers me up. The sense of accomplishment it gives when I successfully crack them is beyond description.

### Part 3

1 Why do some people enjoy extreme sports?

I know there are many people who are daring enough to try dangerous sports like bungee jumping, base jumping, kayaking etc. They do these sports for the excitement, the adrenaline rush and the thrill it gives. They like to push their limits and face their fears. Probably it gives them great satisfaction to accomplish dangerous feats. However I find them too scary. Just the very thought of jumping out of an airplane or off a cliff gives me goosebumps.

2 Are men more likely to do adventure sports than women?

Although earlier adventure sports was considered the realm of men, today I think both genders equally participate in them. I have read about many women who are defying stereotypes and trying sports like paragliding, white water rafting, rock climbing and I think they will inspire many more women to follow suit.

3 What are some popular outdoor activities in India?

In India I think most common outdoor recreational activities include trekking, hiking and camping. Young people love to go on long bike rides. Photography and bird watching are also activities many people are interested in. If there are water bodies, fishing, swimming or boating are also delightful activities people like to do.

## 75 Describe a piece of equipment that is important in your home

Say what it is

When you bought it

What you use it for

And explain why it is important for you

### Sample Answer

I think if we were to make a list of household devices that enhance our lives, it would be pretty long. From the small alarm clock that wakes us up, to the washing machine that makes cleaning dirty laundry a **piece of cake**, every piece of equipment plays a key role in our lives today.

I'd like to talk about one such vital appliance and it's the water purifier.

We have a wall mounted Kent RO purifier. We bought this about four years back and I must say it was one of the smartest purchases that we made.

The quality of tap water in our area has always been **suspect** and so my mother used to boil water before using it for cooking or drinking. It was a tedious and time consuming process and was not always practical.

We also experimented with bottled drinking water, which was too costly.

But thanks to technology, today we have a much better solution for accessing pure, clean and healthy drinking water. Water purifiers are truly a blessing and our most trusted partners in keeping many water borne diseases **at bay**.

I remember when we decided to purchase one, we were quite **overwhelmed** by the wide range of options available. There were so many brands and so many types that we were completely **at a loss**.

They come with assorted different features to suit different

**A piece of cake:**

something that can be done easily

**Suspect:** what cannot be trusted

**At bay:** keep away

**Overwhelmed:**

completely overcome in mind

**At a loss:** not knowing what to do

types of water. After some research on the different functions that these purifiers perform, we decided to purchase a Kent RO purifier, which not just removes microbes, but also chemicals and other contaminants.

On the other hand, boiling water only kills the microorganisms, but doesn't remove heavy metal from water, making it unsafe for consumption.

This appliance was not heavy on the pocket, but quite reasonably priced. It also came with a warranty, making repairs easy and affordable.

So finally today we have a highly efficient and cost effective means to access clean and pure drinking water at all times.

### **Part 3**

1 How do you think modern technology has changed the way we work?

Technology has revolutionized all aspects of life today and the workplace is no exception. Technology gives tools and resources to work more efficiently and with greater speeds. Messages can be sent instantly to clients across the world and teams spread in different countries can work collaboratively through video conferencing or cloud based file sharing tools. Working remotely or telecommuting has also become a possibility today.

2 Do you think operating equipment at work can even have some bad effects on the body?

There are several types of equipment and machinery in factories and industries and operating them can pose health and safety risks. High levels of noise or polluted air can pose serious health risks. Handling of equipment can affect the back, limb joints or muscles. Sometimes there are also risks of injuries.

3 Do you think it is important for employees in industry to be trained to use the equipment at work?

I think it is mandatory to instruct and train employees in the use of all types of equipment. They will be able to carry out their tasks safely and without risks to health. They should be given clear instructions and guidelines to identify

hazards, understand warning signs and how to use protective gear.

4 Do you agree that older people have difficulties in using modern equipment?

I think seniors struggle with modern devices. They feel intimidated by them and think they are very complicated. They fear that they will make mistakes and mess up everything. Difficulties may also arise due to physical hindrances like weak eyesight , unsteady hands or poor memory.

5 Are there any disadvantages of using modern equipment too much in the home?

Although modern advancements usher in ease and convenience, there is a downside of being over dependent on them. Labour saving devices such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners make life sedentary, while the mobile phone usage can almost become addictive. Use of calculators for every calculation can make our brains weaker and reduce cognitive skills.

## 76 Describe a place you visited on vacation

Say where it is

When you went there

What you did there

And explain why you went there

### Sample Answer

A **stunning getaway** that I visited a few years back was Munnar. It is a picturesque hill station in Kerala and one of the most popular destinations in South India. I went there with my family during the Christmas holidays.

**Mist clad** mountains, rivers that look like silver ribbons, **sprawling** tea plantations and gurgling waterfalls, make this place, one of the most charming destinations.

We stayed in Munnar for 3 days . The weather was cool and charming and it was the perfect time to visit Munnar. There are numerous places for sightseeing and a host of things to do in and around Munnar, so every minute there was packed with fun and excitement.

I thoroughly enjoyed trekking up the enchanting mountain trails. We trekked to a place called Echo point.

When we reached the top, we were able to enjoy some stunning views and we had fun listening to our echo as we shouted and screamed.

Another captivating place to visit in Munnar is the Eravikulam National Park.

This wildlife sanctuary is famous for the highly endangered species called the Nilgiri Tahr. We also visited a spice garden where we got an insight into how cardamom, ginger and turmeric are cultivated.

Visits to tea factories are also an integral part of the itinerary. Our guide arranged jeeps for us to travel up the bumpy roads to the factory.

There we saw how the freshly plucked tea leaves from the plantations are processed into the tea we get at the market.

**Stunning:** attractive

**Getaway:** an escape

**Mist Clad:** covered with mist

**Sprawling:** spread out

**Picturesque:** attractive

I was very excited to meet the plantation workers, who explained to me how they picked the leaves by hand.

**Picturesque:** attractive

This trip was truly memorable for me. The **picturesque** beauty of this place refreshed and rejuvenated me. I carried back some of the most beautiful memories of this trip.

### Part 3

1 What are some popular attractions in your country?

India boasts of a wide range of tourist attractions. There are historical places and world heritage sites for history lovers such as the Taj Mahal and Red Fort. For adventurous tourists, India has the most charming hill stations, sea beaches, coastlines, forests, lakes and rivers. Places like Shimla have mist clad mountain ranges and wonderful lakes. Kerala has a long coastline with spectacular beaches. For wildlife buffs there are national parks like the Jim Corbett Reserve and Ranthambore National Park.

2 Do Indian people like to travel abroad?

Indians love to travel abroad, but unfortunately due to the often prohibitive cost of travelling to foreign countries most Indians choose to limit their travels to within the country. But whenever they get the opportunity, they try to travel abroad. Sri Lanka, Dubai, and Singapore are some of the places that Indians often travel to.

3 Who prefers travelling abroad - the young or the old?

Often it is the young who are more adventurous and thus they tend to travel abroad more often than the old. Young professionals with disposable incomes are more receptive to new experiences and cultures, and they make it a part to set aside some time to travel and explore. Recently though, there is an increased tendency amongst older people, especially retirees, to spend some of their savings and travel abroad.

4 How much time do you think people should spend on a trip abroad?

People find inspiration and creativity when they travel, as well as receive the opportunity to learn about other cultures.

While it can be a truly eye-opening experience, I think it would be best to limit our travels to not exceed more than a couple of weeks, as the leisure we seek must not interfere with our ability to perform our duties well.

5 Which do you think is a better way of knowing about a country - reading about it or visiting it?

While we can glean a lot of information about a place by reading about it, it is still a second hand experience, we can only come to truly understand something by experiencing it personally. While books are a great way to get a birds-eye view of a place, to truly know a place, we must visit it.

## 77 Describe a quiet place you like to spend your time in

Where it is

How you know about it

How often you go there

What you do there

And explain why you like the place

### Sample Answer

Cities are a **bedlam** of annoying sounds - the honking of cars, the high decibel construction noises, the shouts of street vendors, cars and buses whooshing past, the wail of sirens or music playing from a window.

So every once in a while I head to a quiet and secluded **getaway**, far from all the **clamour** to just relax and unwind. This peaceful **hideaway** that I love to visit is my ancestral house in a small remote village about 50 kms from my place.

The village itself is a **quaint** sleepy one. It is full of verdant greenery and dense foliage. Visiting this picturesque place and breathing in the fresh air and listening to the loud chirping of birds is a welcome break for me from my mundane daily routine.

I am far from the concrete structures, the traffic and the **din** of the city where I live. This haven of peace and tranquility that never fails to refresh and rejuvenate me.

The huge elegant house lies uninhabited as the entire family relocated to different parts of the world. The caretaker who lives nearby takes care of the maintenance and cleaning. I spend an entire day there just sitting in the open pillared verandah soaking in the peace and serenity.

Of course there is the beautiful **soundtrack** scored by the numerous birds around me, or the sound of the wind blowing through the trees, all of which are soothing and pleasant to my ears.

**Bedlam:** confusion

**Getaway:** holiday destination

**Clamour:** loud confused noise

**Hideaway:** a place for relaxing

**Quaint:** old fashioned

**Din:** loud confusing noise

**Soundtrack:** sounds



Finding solitude and silence has become a luxury for people in urban areas, and I am greatly blessed to find this tranquil **nook**.

### **Part 3**

1 Why is it hard to find quiet places in cities?

Cities are congested places, full of hustle and bustle. Sounds from road, rail and air traffic, construction, factories, televisions blaring, hawkers selling their wares, all create a never ending din.

2 Why is it quieter in the countryside?

Countrysides are less populated, less congested and have fewer vehicles. There are vast open spaces full of greenery. So we don't hear the harsh annoying city sounds of honking of vehicles, sounds of engines and machinery in factories etc. We get to hear soothing sounds like the chirping of birds or the sound of the wind.

3 Why do people like to go to quiet places?

Peaceful places soothe the mind and help people relax. Being constantly exposed to noise can be irritating and overwhelming. Silence allows us to get in touch with our own thoughts, focus better and enjoy the time spent alone.

4 Which age group prefers quiet places - the young or old?

I think younger people like noisy bustling places while those advanced in age prefer tranquility. This explains why young people like to visit crowded shopping centres and busy malls. Old people, on the other hand, prefer secluded places.

5 Why do some people not like quiet places?

For some people, loud sounds are stimulating and exciting. They feel uncomfortable in the absence of sounds. Probably they like to plug into loud music all the time.

6 Do you need a quiet place when you're working?

Yes, I am able to work only in a silent environment. Noises are distracting for me. I am not able to focus, concentrate, get ideas or be creative, when there is some kind of noise in the background. I am also able to achieve much more in totally peaceful environments.

# 78 Describe a law on environmental protection

Say what it is

How you heard about it

And explain who benefits from it

## Sample Answer

I believe environmental laws are absolutely essential for ensuring sustainability of the environment in the present times. They are put in place by governments to achieve goals such as **mitigating** climate change, reducing pollution and preventing widespread species and habitat loss. I'd like to talk about the Wildlife Protection Act.

I came to know about it when I read about the arrest of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan some years back for **poaching** two black bucks in Rajasthan . He was fined and also sentenced to five years in prison. Black bucks are among the endangered animals listed in the Act and therefore hunting them is a criminal offence .

I read about this rule again last year in the news. The Odisha government imposed a seven month ban on fishing in certain rivers to protect the nests of the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles. The ban was imposed under the provisions of the same Act.

Reading about the Act in these two news reports was truly very **reassuring** for me. I feel this legislation is truly an urgent need of the hour. With several animal and bird species already extinct and others on the verge of extinction, this rule will go a long way in safeguarding our invaluable flora and fauna.

We all know that human activities like clearing of forests for farmlands, logging, pollution, hunting and poaching of animals have led to rapid decline in wildlife species. So it is important to take steps to counteract the harm done .

However, I think merely enacting such laws is not enough. It is also vital that they are implemented strictly. It is heartening to know that over 400 cases were filed under

**Mitigating:** reducing

**Poaching:** hunting of animals

**Reassuring:** comforting

this act in Rajasthan in just one year. However there are other laws like the Pollution Control Act which have become practically **toothless** . Hardly any cases are filed under it in spite of the numerous polluting industries, factories and vehicles which **blatantly flout** this law.

**Toothless:** ineffective

**Blatantly:** without any shame

**Flout:** disregard

So I hope that any kind of violations of the Wildlife Protection Act are strictly dealt with. This would ensure that the objectives of this law are achieved and wildlife populations will be increased and habitat will be protected. It will also educate people about the importance of wildlife conservation.

### Part 3

1. Do you think this law is acceptable to the people?

Absolutely. I believe people are convinced that human activities which harm the environment must be limited. There is a consensus regarding the fact that environmental issues can no longer be swept under the carpet, but need proactive response.

So most people welcome such laws, with many taking to social media to air their views or point out blatant violations.

2. Is there any situation wherein people may disobey the law?

Flouting of environmental laws mainly occurs for profits and monetary gains. Animals are poached to sell their body parts, which can be sold for astronomical sums. Factories and industries pollute the air and let effluents flow into water bodies. Extensive quarrying, mining, logging etc are done with little regard for the environment. All this is done purely for the money it can bring in.

3. Do people like being a police officer in your country?

I am not sure how popular this profession is. I do not have any of my friends or acquaintances who have opted for this career. So probably it is not very high on the list of popular careers.

4. What qualities should a police officer possess?

Police officers are part of the law enforcement machinery and have a job that can be physically or mentally demanding. They need to be brave and courageous. They should be

able to act appropriately to situations, some of which can be dangerous. Keen observation and evaluation, along with critical thinking is essential to be able to gauge situations quickly. They must be able to remain calm in volatile situations and also have a high sense of social responsibility.

5. Why do some people prefer to be a lawyer?

Lawyers are part of the justice system of a country and hence the profession is very noble and respectable. They ensure that people get justice and thus protect the defenseless and the oppressed.

6. Should people be penalized when they use mobile phones while driving?

Absolutely. Using the mobile while driving is a grave offence which puts not only the driver but others at risk. I think stringent penalties must be imposed on such reckless and irresponsible acts.

7. Is kindness the most important quality of a police officer?

Definitely. Being kind and compassionate would help build a rapport with the citizens and thus they would be willing to cooperate better with them. Being aloof and cold might, on the other hand, distance people.

8. Do you think both men and women can be police officers?

Today men and women rub shoulders with each other in almost all professions and I can say there is no job that is out of bounds for women, unlike in the past. I think we are seeing a new breed of courageous progressive minded women ready to take on any challenge a job poses and they have already made significant inroads into conventionally male dominated professions such as the Defence Forces.

9. Do you think the police officers are paid too much?

I don't think they are paid astronomical amounts. I feel their salary is in accordance with the work they do and the critical role they play in ensuring safety and security in our communities and keeping them crime free

## 79 Describe an argument two of your friends had

When it happened  
What it was about  
How it was solved  
How you felt about it

### Sample Answer

When I think of an altercation between friends, my mind **harks back** to my college days when my friend Sam **lost his cool** and an argument **ensued**.

Sam, Ashima and I were thick friends all through college. During our final year, as was our custom, we were all huddled together in the cafeteria during our lunch break. The pressure of exams, placements and project deadlines was building up and we were not in our usual lively, **zesty** mood.

Everyone was a little snappy and that was probably why this conflict happened. It began as an **innocuous** exchange between Sam and Ashima. Ashima had joined another group of students to work on the term project, although she had earlier planned to join Sam and me.

Sam questioned Ashima about it and soon the conversation escalated into an argument. Sam **flew off the handle** and the argument **snowballed**, while I watched embarrassed. I tried to reason but Sam got hysterical.

The war of words continued and things were spiralling out of control. They were hurling accusations and counter accusations at each other and emotions were running high. Finally, our seniors had to intervene to stop the argument. Sam **stormed out** of the cafeteria and Ashima was reduced to tears.

I was fretting about what to do and then just decided to give them space for a little while and wait until the emotions died down. After a few days, I advised Sam to **swallow his pride** and apologize to Ashima.

Thankfully, they admitted that they were both behaving

**Harks back:** think of something from the past

**Lost his cool:**  
become angry

**Ensued:** happened

**Zesty:** energetic

**Innocuous:**  
harmless

**Flew off the handle:**  
became angry suddenly

**Snowballed:**  
increased in intensity

**Stormed out:** left the place

**Swallow his pride:**  
become humble

immaturely. They decided to **let bygones be bygones** and the friendship was **rekindled**.

**Let bygones be bygones:** forget an offense

**Rekindled:** revived

### Part 3

What do family members generally argue about?

In a family there are a range of subjects that people may argue about. It may be about petty matters like which channel to watch, what to cook for dinner or where to hang a newly bought painting. There may also be arguments between parents and children about what kind of haircut to have or dress to wear. However, there are also arguments that can turn out to be nasty and bitter. It could be between siblings regarding the share of the family inheritance and other such money matters.

Is it easier for you to have arguments with friends or family members?

There are several occasions when we may have differences of opinion with our families and friends. I honestly think fights with our families are uncomplicated. Even if you have a serious fight with a family member, it is resolved quickly. Families make it a point to prioritize issues, resolve them and move forward. However, this may not be the case with friendships. Tiffs may spiral out of control and lead to breaking down of the relationship.

If two people argue, do you think a third person should be involved to settle it.

It is often the case that two people having a quarrel are not able to reach a healthy resolution. In such situations seeking the help of a third person is desirable. When two people are arguing both of them are biased towards what they feel is right. Intervention of a third person brings a fresh set of eyes or perspective and consequently, an impartial solution can be suggested. However the mediator must be acceptable to both parties.

Why do disagreements arise?

I suppose one fundamental reason for disagreements is lack of communication. In any institution like family, workplace, religious place and so on and so forth if open and honest communication lines are not established disagree-

ments and arguments take shape. Another cause could be differences in temperaments, personality or backgrounds.

Can disagreements be useful in any way?

Disagreements are unavoidable but as long as arguments stay within certain boundaries they can be productive and healthy. When people disagree, they are communicating openly rather than bottling up their feelings. Being silent may worsen the problem, whereas dialogue can help find solutions. However, if disagreements are done maliciously and degenerate into name calling and shouting it can be unhealthy. But if they end in successful reconciliations they can strengthen the relationship.,

## 80 Describe a natural talent you want to improve (like sports or music)

What it is

How you discovered it

How you plan to improve it

And explain what you feel about it

### Sample Answer

It is a fact that all individuals are born with immense natural talents and abilities and in my case it is a talent to draw. When I was in school, often, my classmates used to catch me **doodling**.

I used to **dabble** on and off with art at home also. From my early school years teachers spotted my innate drawing talent and told my parents about it. Of course, I didn't value it much and my parents wanted me to concentrate on my studies.

So my talent remained **interred** throughout my growing years. As I became busy with acquiring a college degree and a job, my art supplies gathered dust.

However recently with the lockdown restrictions and the option to work from home, I realized that I had some unexpected time to kill. That's when I picked up my drawing pencils and my paint brushes. After the long **hiatus** I was a bit nervous about how it would turn out.

I painted a sunset scene and my family was awestruck. My brother promptly got it framed and today the painting hangs in our living room.

My long **wilted** interest was suddenly revived. Oozing with enthusiasm and excitement, I **scoured** the internet for tutorials and found some really good ones. I am planning to sign up for a tutorial on acrylic painting.

I realized how satisfying it is to follow our passions and interests. There is no struggling, no stress, no huffing and puffing, it just comes naturally. With my passion **ignited**, I am sure I am in for a change in my growth trajectory.

**Doodling:** scribble  
absent mindedly

**Dabble:** take part  
casually

**Interred:** buried

**Hiatus:** break

**Wilted:** withered

**Scoured:** searched

**Ignited:** lit



### Part 3

#### 1 Should artists focus on their talent?

Artists are people with artistic talent and stifling the inborn abilities and passions can be very frustrating. So it would be ideal to allow those creative juices to flow and give wings to their creativity. However, unfortunately, art does not seem to be a lucrative career option, so often people with creative ability choose mundane jobs to get a stable paycheck.

#### 2. Is it possible to identify talents in 3 or 4 year olds?

I think if parents are observant, they can easily recognize the giftings their children have. Children would be more likely to indulge in activities they are talented in. While some may like to draw, others may be more inclined towards music, dance or sports. For example a child with a talent for dancing would have a good sense of rhythm and would sway and tap to music whenever he hears it. These signs indicate that a child has the potential to become a highly accomplished musician, sportsperson or chef, provided he gets the right training and means to hone his talent.

#### 3 Do parents feel guilty for putting too much pressure on their children?

Parents, who keep goading their children to get top scores and excel, do this out of good intentions. They want the best for their children - the best colleges, respectable jobs etc. So they feel they are doing their duty when they push their children to aim higher and reach their full potential. It's very rare that parents realize that there is a fine line between caring and pressurising. And I feel, for parents generally, that line is blurred.

#### 4 Why do people like to watch talent shows?

Talent shows like Indian Idol, Star Singer etc enjoy huge popularity and there is no sign of it waning, despite shows running for years. I think these shows have a fairy tale element of ordinary people becoming stars overnight, which is very appealing to the audiences. There is also plenty of drama in such shows with the reactions of the judges, the rivalry of the contestants, the emotions when results are announced, the lively compering etc. So on the whole I think these shows are quite high on the entertainment factor.

5 Do you think it is more interesting to watch shows of famous people or those of ordinary people?

I think it's a matter of individual choice. While some may be predisposed towards shows about everyday lives of ordinary people, shown in an authentic and honest style, others may find celebrity shows with all the glamour and razzle dazzle more appealing.

## 81 Describe a puzzle (a jigsaw, crossword, etc) which you play

Say what it is

How easy or difficult it is

How long it takes you to solve it

And explain how you feel about it

### Sample Answer

I have always been a fan of puzzles. Right from my childhood, I found all types of puzzles irresistible, from simple jigsaw, crossword or math puzzles to more complex ones. To take on the challenge of solving them, applying your logic, reasoning and critical thinking and then finally cracking it, is fun and exciting.

Among all the different puzzles, my favourite is the Sudoku. I came across this puzzle in The Hindu a few years back, and began solving it. I must say once I started playing it, I got **hooked** on it.

The Sudoku is a popular number puzzle with a square grid which has nine rows and nine columns. The puzzle comes with a few spaces already filled in. The tougher puzzles have very few numbers filled in.

The challenge is to fill the grid with numbers such that the numbers 1 to 9 appear in each row and column only once. There are several levels of Sudoku. The ones in the newspaper were quite easy but there are also really difficult puzzles that are almost **insurmountable**.

Sometimes I get totally **stumped** and unable to **fathom** the solution and such occasions can be really frustrating. Often I take a break, **clear my head** and come back to it and keep trying till I solve it.

Sometimes it takes one or two hours to solve the really tough ones and my office work tends to suffer. But perseverance always pays and I am finally able to crack them.

Sudoku is available online. I have also downloaded a Sudoku app with thousands of puzzles of five difficulty

**Hooked on** : addicted to

**Insurmountable**: hard to overcome

**Stumped**: unable to answer

levels. Whenever I get some moments of **downtime**, I whip out my phone, **put on my thinking cap** and get started on another brain workout.

I think working out these puzzles invariably lifts my spirits and cheers me up. The sense of accomplishment it gives when I successfully crack them is beyond description.

### Part 3

Are puzzles good for children?

I believe puzzles are an excellent learning tool since they develop many vital skills such as cognitive skills, problem solving skills, fine motor development and hand eye coordination. Working out puzzles not only enhances attention span and concentration, but also offers opportunities to encourage cooperative play among kids.

What kind of puzzles improve people's intelligence?

I think recent years have seen a resurgence in the popularity of jigsaw puzzles as many adults are working them out during their leisure time. People view it as a mental workout. Moreover it boosts your visual-spatial reasoning. In addition people who do jigsaw puzzles have reduced chances of Alzheimer's disease, memory loss or dementia.

Why are detective novels appealing to people?

Humans by and large have the natural drive to find solutions. Clearly our brain is a puzzle solving machine. This could be one reason why people often find detective novels alluring. It is noteworthy that detective novels not only gratify the puzzle solving element but also invoke our imagination. I think that makes the suspense of whodunits gripping and enticing.

4 Which do you think is better, a detective novel or the movie adaptation of the novel?

I believe that cinematic adaptations of detective novels offer a richer experience than the novels themselves. It is gripping to see the characters come to life. The acting, the soundtrack and the cinematography blend together to give an impact that reading the novel would not be able to mimic.

**Downtime:** freetime

**Put on my thinking cap:**  
to think

## 82 Describe a time when you shared something with another person

Say what it was

Who you shared with

Why you shared

And explain how you felt

### Sample Answer

I have no **qualms** about sharing. It's a trait that's inherent in me. I feel sharing is a prime virtue worth developing. Something I shared recently was the recipe for a chocolate cake.

Recently, **cooped up** at home during the lockdown, I decided to get my oven out and do some baking. I had decided on my favourite chocolate cake. I got my ingredients ready and in about fifteen minutes the batter was ready and the cake was in the oven.

Just then, my friend Rekha, who lives next door, walked in saying that the **tantalising aroma** of the cake had accosted her. She watched me remove the cake from the oven and when she had tasted it, her eyes widened with delight and she wanted the recipe for the cake. It was her father's birthday the next day and she was planning to order a cake online. However, after seeing my cake, she wanted to bake one herself.

I was only too happy to share the recipe with her. One reason was that it was an almost **sure fire recipe**. It can be made quickly and easily without any elaborate baking skills. Rekha was a **novice** at baking, but I was confident that this recipe would come out **flawless** - deliciously soft and moist textured and perfect for the occasion.

I listed out the ingredients and also supplied her with items she did not have. She was delighted but still she had **niggling** doubts about trying it the next day. I encouraged her and gave her an elaborate step by step explanation of the entire process and things to be careful about while baking. **Mustering** courage, she left, inviting me to the birthday party the next day.

**Qualms:** doubts

**Inherent:** inborn

**Cooped up:** held in a small space

**Tantalising:** tempting

**Aroma:** pleasant smell

**Sure fire recipe:** recipe that is sure to be successful

**Novice:** inexperienced

**Flawless:** perfect

**Niggling:** persistent

**Mustering:** gathering

The next evening I was at Rekha's place and when it was time for her father to cut the cake, she brought out her home baked chocolate cake. It was a perfect, moist and melt in your mouth cake with rich deep chocolate flavour. Rekha got compliments from everyone and as they **gobbled up** the cake, they all wanted the recipe.

Rekha was beaming with pride and I felt **ecstatic** when I realised I had contributed to that smile on her face. As she passed on the recipe to others, I realized how simple acts of sharing have **ripple effects**. It can be a smile, a kind word or just a simple recipe. They may be small but when done with a heart of caring and desire to help others, they serve as catalysts for more acts of kindness.

**Gobbled up:** eat greedily

**Ecstatic:** very thrilled

**Ripple effects:** an event that causes other events to happen

### Part 3

1. Do you like to share?

Yes I think I am basically a kind and generous person. I am very open to sharing my belongings with others. I think right from my young age, my parents taught me to share everything with others. I have come to understand that keeping everything to yourself and being self centered makes you isolated. On the other hand, being open and empathetic can help you get more friends and build better relationships.

2. What are the consequences if children don't like to share?

I think not learning to share and be generous could lead to problems for children. They may not be able to make friends and would be selfish. They would fail to empathize with others due to their self centredness.

3. How do you feel about sharing accommodation with others on campus?

Sharing accommodation can be challenging or pleasant depending on the kind of person who is your roommate. We need to adjust, understand and respect each other's privacy and personal space. Clear agreements would be needed to be set in place regarding cleanliness, organization of space, sharing chores etc. However the upside is that your roommates can become your best buddies.

4. How could parents teach young children to share?

I think the best way parents can help children inculcate this quality is by being good role models. They should set examples of sharing that their children can follow. Also children can be given opportunities to practise sharing, when they are with others. It can start with sharing their toys, sweets or cookies with their friends.

5. Would you ever share your food with someone else?

Definitely. We would always share food at school and college. Lunch breaks were always fun as we got to taste a variety of dishes from different tiffins. I think sharing food is a great way of bonding.

## 83 Describe an occasion when you were not allowed to use your mobile phone

When it was

Where it was

Why you were not allowed to use your mobile phone

And explain how you felt about it

### Sample Answer

Life without smartphones is unimaginable today and we are so attached to our phones that they have become an extension of ourselves. However a few weeks back I had an unusual experience of not being allowed to use my phone. Actually some of my old college friends and I had planned to meet for lunch at a restaurant.

It was there that one of our friends, Deepa, shared something **quirky** that she had read online. She said there was a challenge in which people who met to eat at a restaurant kept their phones on the table and didn't touch them till the end of the meal. And whoever touched his or her phone before that would have to **foot the entire bill**.

It was a funny idea and we decided to give it a shot. We all placed our phones at the centre of the table. For the next one or two hours, we just chatted, cracked jokes, laughed and **reminisced** about our college days, our teachers, the happy and sad moments. We updated each other about the recent happenings in our lives and we just enjoyed the delicious food.

We all had the urge to look at our phones from time to time. We were **itching** to check our messages when the notification lights blinked. But we resisted those urges and no one among us **succumbed** to the temptation. So there was no loser and we just split the bill among ourselves as we used to do in our college days.

This no-phone policy during the time that we spent together helped us have a great time of bonding. There were no distractions from Facebook, Instagram or Whatsapp. And so we just focussed all our attention on each other and just enjoyed the moment.

**Quirky:** peculiar

**Foot the entire bill:** to pay for something

**Reminisced:** recollected past events

**Itching:** longing

**Succumbed:** unable to resist

**Digital detox:** a period when a person avoids using electronic devices such as phone or laptop.



I must say this break from my mobile screen was a refreshing experience for me. I am seriously thinking of attempting some **digital detox** on a regular basis.

### Part 3

1 What are the uses of smartphones?

Well there are numerous functions and a wide range of applications available on smartphones. The first one is of course communication. We can stay connected via calls or messages on Whatsapp, Facebook etc. We can stay updated with the latest happenings around the world. There is ample entertainment like video games, movies, music etc. Mobile phones bring convenience. We can make payments and do our shopping. Mobile phone cameras also help us create memories through photos and videos and even share them.

2 What are the negative effects of cell phone dependence?

Overuse of mobile phones affects focus and concentration and thus has a negative impact on learning outcomes and productivity. Moreover excessive use of smart phones is also associated with sleep deficit, stress and anxiety. Also as digital use increases, it can cause health problems like eye strain, vision problems, back pain, neck pain and headaches. Being engrossed on mobile screens also affects relationships and social skills. It makes people more isolated and socially withdrawn.

## 84 Describe an occasion when many people were smiling

When it happened

Who were with you

What happened

And explain why many were smiling

### Sample Answer

I happened to witness a sea of smiling faces recently. It was during a cultural programme conducted by the Kindergarten students of a school nearby. My friend was the photographer for the event and I happened to accompany him. The four and five year olds had put up a variety of items.

They sang songs, recited nursery rhymes, performed action songs, danced and even presented a play. From the beginning to the end, there was no way we could watch the programme with a **straight face**. **Bloopers** after bloopers kept happening.

The young ones kept **goofing up**. While sometimes moustaches fell off their faces, at other times they dropped their mikes. While some of the little ones forgot their lines, there were others who just stood smiling cutely to see their parents sitting in the audience. The dancers with their **gaudy** costumes and make up looked extremely cute. Many had their lipstick and eye paint all **smudged**.

The most **hilarious** part was when one of the boy's dhoti fell off during a group dance. Instead of retrieving it, he continued dancing **unabashedly** in his shorts. The teachers backstage tried their best to maintain their sanity and keep the programme going.

The audience which consisted mainly of parents and other family members of the young ones went from chuckling and giggling to laughing hysterically. It was an amusing one hour, which still **leaves me in splits** when I replay some of those scenes in my mind.

The innocent little children with all their imperfections and

**Straight face:** not to smile

**Bloopers:** a mistake

**Goofing up:** make a silly mistake

**Gaudy:** too bright

**Smudged:** smeared or spread

**Hilarious:** funny

**Unabashedly:** without any shame

**Leaves me in splits:** make me laugh uproariously

messes had spread smiles on hundreds of faces, which probably a well executed performance may not have been able to do.

### **Part 3**

1 When and why do people smile?

Smiles are one of the most beautiful human gestures. People smile when they are happy. Smile is a way of expressing warmth, pleasure or politeness when we greet a person. Also people often show their approval and appreciation through a smile.

2 How can you distinguish between a fake smile and a genuine smile?

There are smiles which are just polite smiles but there are also smiles which come from the bottom of our heart. I think we can differentiate between the two by looking at the eyes. In a real smile, the eyes also light up but when a smile is feigned it uses only the mouth.

3 Why do people smile while taking photographs?

I think everyone looks better when they are smiling. Also smiling faces make better memories than grim and serious looking ones.

4 Who smiles more - men or women?

I have noticed that women have a greater readiness to smile. They smile more promptly when they meet strangers than men, who mostly remain serious. Women always tend to put others at ease through their smiles and create a pleasant atmosphere.

5 Do you think people who like to smile are more friendly?

A smile makes people look more approachable and charming. People tend to gravitate towards people who smile than towards those with a serious demeanour. A smile is a positive body language and sends out a message of warmth. So people with beaming smiles are likely to have a larger circle of friends.

# 85 Describe a time you saw something interesting on social media

When it was

Where you saw it

What you saw

And explain why you think it was interesting

## Sample Answer

I see hundreds of posts on social media everyday and one thing that caught my attention was a picture with a caption "Hand of God".

The picture was that of an unconscious covid patient whose hand was covered by two disposable gloves filled with warm water. The gloves **mimicked** the feeling of a person's hand grip. As I read on, I came to know this was a kind action by a nurse who tried to **simulate** a human touch using surgical gloves.

This happened in Brazil, where the coronavirus pandemic is seeing a **resurgence** and the health care system is under severe pressure. Since family members are barred in isolation wards, the nurse was trying to do her best to create a feeling of someone holding the patient's hand and comforting her.

She filled the gloves with warm water and tied them together with the patient's hand.

This post was extraordinary . The empathy and compassion of the nurse, who went beyond her professional duty to give a loving touch is remarkable.

As frontline workers struggle to provide care to patients, these efforts show their **unflinching** dedication and compassion.

It is also a reminder of the one thing that everyone needs: the human touch and its power to comfort, reassure, strengthen and give hope. It conveyed very clearly that, much more than our training and skills, the most vital need is to be **humane**.

**Mimicked:** imitate

**Simulate:** create a model of

**Resurgence:** increase

**Unflinching:** without fear or hesitation

**Humane:** showing compassion

The post went viral on social media with thousands of people commenting on the creative and compassionate gesture.

### **Part 3**

1 Why do people use social media?

I think people use social media like Facebook or Whatsapp to stay connected with each other. People share photos, events, achievements etc with friends. It is also a place to keep ourselves abreast with daily news and current events. Businesses use social media to market and advertise their products or services.

2 What kind of things are popular on social media?

I think funny videos, interesting articles or news stories are the most trending posts on social media. Videos offering information or entertainment also attract a huge amount of traffic.

3 What are the advantages and disadvantages of using social media?

The primary benefit of social media is that it allows worldwide connectivity. It brings people together and helps build communities across geographical boundaries. It is a key tool to share information. Raising funds for charity, protesting a government decision or raising awareness about matters etc are much easier on social media.

On the other hand, sharing too many things on social networking sites can cause trouble. Also spending too much time on social media platforms takes time away from face to face relations and generally reduces intimacy in relationships.

4 What do you think about making friends on social networking sites?

Social media is a nice place to befriend people with similar interests, through mutual friends or while playing video games. However there is an element of risk involved and we need to be cautious about sharing personal information.

## 86 Describe a skill you can teach others

Say which it is

How you learnt it

How you can teach it to others

And explain what you feel about this skill

### Sample Answer

A skill that I acquired recently and would be happy to **impart** to others is how to give first aid. Stuck at home amid the pandemic, with plenty of extra time on my hands, I wanted to do something **worthwhile**.

Although playing mobile games, **binge-watching** my favourite web series and trying out new recipes were good pastimes, I wanted to use my time more effectively and that's when the idea of learning first-aid struck me.

A recent incident also helped me **take the plunge**. My next door neighbour fell from a ladder and although I was the first to rush to the spot, I had no clue about what to do.

She was **writhing** in pain and I badly wished I knew how to comfort her and reduce the pain.

I felt helpless and that's when I realized how important it is to have basic first aid skills. Emergency situations can arise anywhere and anytime without prior notice and I didn't want to be a mere bystander.

So having made up my mind to learn it, I **scoured** the internet and **zeroed in** on a web site which had some high quality videos alongside written guidance.

The course covered various emergency situations such as cuts, abrasions, burns etc and explained the appropriate action to be taken such as setting up a splint, the right way to bandage etc.

After doing the course, I've had several occasions, when I was able to assist people. I feel quite proud that I made myself useful to others by knowing these invaluable skills.

**Impart:** give

**Worthwhile:** valuable

**Binge-watching:** watching multiple episodes in a single sitting

**Take the plunge:** to do something after some hesitation

**Writhing:** twisting and turning

**Scoured:** searched

**Zeroed in:** aimed at

A few days back my nephew sprained his ankle and my normal reaction would be worrying and fretting, However, this time, I confidently proceeded with the first aid.

**Empower:** to make confident or strong

I applied an ice pack to the injury to control the swelling and then tied a compression elastic bandage firmly and elevated the leg, before we sought medical help.

I would really like to teach this skill to as many people as I can. I can show them basic techniques and procedures.

I would be happy to recommend useful websites and tutorials that can help them master the skills.

I'm sure it will **empower** them to help themselves and others. I believe this area is highly neglected and taking the training programme has convinced me that it's really worth it.

### Part 3

1 Is it important for teachers to be funny while teaching? Definitely. Humor is by far the best thing that can bring people together. It can help learners connect with their teachers and also help them get over the anxieties and pressures of an academic environment. More importantly, studies have shown that it is extremely difficult for teachers to hold the attention of learners for long periods of time. Interspersing learning with humor can boost concentration and ensure a better academic outcome.

2 Which type of skills, do you think are more important - academic or practical?

We live in a world of hyper-specialization, which is creating professionals, who are becoming more and more out of touch with the world that we live in. I think that while there definitely is the need to inculcate academic skills in students, the current scenario places too small a focus on practical skills, such as fixing a flat tyre, car maintenance, managing a bank account etc. This is placing young learners at an extreme disadvantage, therefore, I think we should try to increase the importance given to practical skills.

3 What are the qualities a teacher should have?

I believe one of the most essential attributes of a great teacher is a passion for teaching. She should be passionate and creative enough to make lessons interesting and engaging. She should be caring, compassionate and approachable, so that students would be encouraged to share problems and concerns with her, A good teacher should also be a good communicator, who is able to clearly articulate her viewpoints, as a learner looks to a teacher for clarity

4 Which age is the best for learning new skills?

Children definitely have an advantage over adults in picking up new skills, but it doesn't mean that one cannot pick up skills later on in life. I believe that you can acquire new skills at any point, as long as you are dedicated and willing to approach things with an open mind.



## 87 Describe a time when you needed to use your imagination

Say when it was

What the situation was

How difficult or easy it was

And explain how you felt about it

### Sample Answer

I think our imagination is one of the most important faculties that we possess. It helps us overcome tough situations and adversities by coming up with creative solutions.

I remember an occasion when I had to put all my creative abilities to play, to tackle a really challenging situation.

This happened about a few months back. My uncle and aunt had to make an urgent trip to the bank and they left their two children in my care.

They were aged two and four. Bubbly, active and full of energy, the moment they came in they started running around, rummaging my study table and messing up my clothes, I scratched my head wondering how I would manage these bundles of energy.

I was alone at home with no one to help me in the task and as luck would have it, there was no electricity. This meant I could not switch on the cartoon channel for them, or charge my phone to show them funny videos.

Now I was faced with the **onerous** task of keeping them busy. That's when I began creating pretend games. I pulled out an old cardboard box and that was our ship, which was sailing on the seas.

Suddenly we were attacked by pirates, so we had to escape them by shooting them with our cardboard guns. Once they got tired playing that, we imagined the floor was lava and to escape that, we had to walk on the furniture.

**Adversities:** hardships

**Rummaging:** search unsystematically and untidily through something

**Onerous:** involving a great deal of effort

Touching the floor would mean we would get scalded. Next we made a fortress with pillows and I made them take a nap in it.

**Twinge:** a sudden, sharp localized pain

We played many of these games, with the children transforming themselves into superheroes with capes or doctors with stethoscopes.

**Nostalgia:** an affectionate feeling you have for the past

I enjoyed as much as the kids, probably because somewhere deep down, when I played with them, I went back to my own childhood and the delightful little games we played, and couldn't help feeling that **twinge of nostalgia**. When their parents came to pick them up, they didn't want to leave but more than that, I didn't want them to go.

That was a time my imagination and creative skills helped me change a potentially burdensome task into something truly exciting.

### Part 3

Are adults imaginative?

Irrespective of our age, everyone has the ability to be imaginative. The fact that some of our most famous writers are quite old, stands as a testament to this. The issue is that most people dismiss the imagination as not being important as they grow older and become adults. They think that imagination is the same as fantasy, but imagination is actually an aspiration for something better than what is already present. As long as we can remember this, anyone can be imaginative, irrespective of their age.

Do scientists need imagination?

Most people assume that scientists are unimaginative, but it is their ability to be imaginative that allows scientists to come up with creative solutions to problems. If scientists were unimaginative then they would never be able to make new discoveries or inventions. For example, till the Wright brothers invented the aeroplane, the reality was that human beings could not fly, it was their child-like ability to imagine a world where human beings could fly, that helped them invent the aeroplane.

What kind of jobs need imagination?

One needs imagination to do any job well, because imagination is basically borne out of a firm belief that the way we do things currently can be improved, and to come up with a better solution, one needs to be able to imagine a better way. Imagination comes most into play in jobs that have a creative aspect to it, like for writers, movie directors, entrepreneurs, and scientists. Anyone who has a responsibility to come up with something new will need a strong imagination.

How can we develop our imagination?

The best way to improve our imagination is to hold onto our childlike curiosity, even as we grow up. The second we accept that the current system is the only one possible, we lose our ability to be imaginative. As long as we are willing to aspire for the better and spend time to think about things, we can develop our imagination.

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# Warm Up Questions (Part-1)

## Four ID Checking Questions

Good morning, my name is XYZ. Can you tell me your full name please?

Good morning, my name is Manpreet singh.

What can I call you?

You can call me Manpreet.

Can you tell me where you are from?

I'm from a small town called panjraian, in Sangrur District.

Can I see your identification, please?

Sure

# 1 Your home / accommodation

Do you live in a house or a flat?

I live in an independant house, It's a single storeyed modern structure. We have three bedrooms with attached bathrooms, a living room, a dining hall, a kitchen, a service area and a front veranda.

Which is your favourite room?

My favourite room is my own room. It's my own space where I can enjoy my privacy and do whatever I wish to do like play video games, watch movies and chat with friends sitting on my comfortable couch or just lying down on my bed.

What are the benefits of living in flats?

Flats are compact and much more easy to maintain than houses. They are safer because they are within a gated community with round the clock security and CCTV. They have plenty of amenities like swimming pools, gardens, lawns etc and are usually located in prime locations. Also they offer ample opportunities to develop friendships. In addition, they have inhouse maintenance staff like plumbers, electricians etc for maintenance work which saves us from many hassles.

What are the benefits of living in independent houses?

The main benefit is that you have greater freedom and privacy. Independent houses are also more spacious and we can set up our own garden, cultivate plants, keep pets etc.

## 2 Your work or study

Are you working or studying?

I'm working. I'm a high school teacher in a school in my hometown called St Mary's High School.

### Work

Do you enjoy that work?

Absolutely!! Because I love being around young people who are full of energy and I have a passion for teaching.

Would you say your work environment is good?

Yes certainly. That's because we are surrounded with children and it is impossible to be bored or stagnant in this job. We are constantly challenged to find creative ways to teach and deal with our students and the daily problems.

### Study

What subjects are you studying?

I have opted for the Commerce stream, so I study Commerce, Accountancy, Business Studies, Economics and English.

Why did you choose to study this?

I plan to opt for a career in the banking or finance field, so this stream would allow me to enrol for undergraduate programmes in this field. .

How much do you study every week?

We have about thirty hours of classes per week at school. In addition I do at least two hour of private study daily.

How can you improve your efficiency as a student?

I think proper time management would enhance my productivity. I get sidetracked from my studies by social media notifications, messages etc on my mobile phone and this creates a backlog in my studies. If I make a proper study timetable and stick to it, I would be able to accomplish more.

## 3 Mirrors

How often do you look at yourself in the mirror everyday?

I mostly look at myself in the mirror when I need to get dressed to go out. I am basically not very particular about my looks and so I don't spend much time in front of the mirror. But my sister who is very style conscious spends a lot of time examining her flaws, her pimples, her eyebrows and so on.

Have you ever bought mirrors?

Yes I purchased a mirror for my bathroom. I opted for a large oval shaped one.

Would you use mirrors to decorate your room?

Yes I think they are a stylish piece of decor. They come in various sizes and shapes. Some have artistically designed borders of metal, wood or even sea shells. I had once purchased a mirror with sea shells on its borders from Kanya kumari.

## 4 Watch

Do you wear a watch?

I still wear a watch although it has been relegated to the background now with people preferring to get the time from their phones.

Have you ever got a watch as a gift?

Yes, in my fifth standard my father gifted me a Titan watch with a round gold dial and leather strap. It was my very first watch.

Do you think it is important to wear a watch?

I don't think it is important to wear a watch. However it is important to keep track of the time by whichever means people may prefer, so that they can carry out their day to day activities in a time bound manner.

Why do some people wear expensive watches?

Probably it is because they see a watch as a great accessory to enhance their appearance and make a style state-



ment. Expensive watches are also the ultimate prestige symbol.

## 5 Talent

Do you have talent?

Yes I am a talented artist and have done some impressive paintings on canvas using water colours and acrylic.

Do you think your talent can be useful in your future work?

My talent makes me very creative and creative ideas are always useful at my workplace. I am always able to come up with innovative ideas due to my creativity and imagination.

Do you think anyone in your family has the same talent?

Yes. I have inherited this talent from my mother. She was also a very artistic person. I still have some wall hangings done by my mother. My aunts and even my grandmother also had this artistic talent and excelled in handicrafts and stitching.

## 6 Books

Do you like to read books?

Yes I am an avid book reader. My favourite genre is detective novels. Sherlock Holmes, Alfred Hitchcock and Agatha Christie are my favourite authors.

Are your reading habits now different from that in the past?

Yes I think my interest in reading has waned compared to the past. Today the lure of electronic entertainment media is too irresistible and I find that I am more inclined towards spending time on Facebook, Youtube or binge watching web series on OTT platforms rather than reading books.

Have you ever read a book that has been adapted into a film?

Yes, many of the stories of Agatha Christie have been

adapted into movies. The movie adaptations are much more appealing than the books.

Which do you prefer - watching films or reading books?  
I prefer curling up in a quiet corner with a book. I admire the way authors build character sketches, plots and sub-plots and keep the readers hooked. I love to explore different literary genres and writing styles. Hence reading is much more pleasurable for me than watching a movie.

## 7 Watching sports programmes

Do you prefer to watch live sports or watch it on TV?  
As a sports fan, I know how electrifying watching a match in person can be. However I am more inclined towards watching on television or other streaming services. The first reason is the convenience because we are free from the hassle of travelling to the stadium, the traffic, the long queues and the uncomfortable seats. Another major advantage is the replays and the different camera angles available. So you never miss out on what is happening in the field.

Why do some people like to watch live sports?  
I think it is because they like to immerse themselves in the excitement and the energy. In a stadium, we share the entire spectacle with a large group of people like us, cheering, excited and full of energy. So the experience is always better than a virtual one.

What kind of sports do Indian people like to watch?  
I think cricket would win hands down as the most popular sport in India. We truly are a cricket obsessed nation. People love to watch our ace players and are proud of their sterling performances. You can also see children and adults alike, indulging in the game in nearby open grounds or even on the streets. Badminton is also another hugely popular sport. Many Indian players such as Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu have managed to make a mark in international events. So I think this has generated greater interest in this sport.

## 8 Old Buildings

Do you think old buildings should be preserved?

I think all old buildings need not be preserved. Only the ones with historical or cultural significance must be preserved. However other dilapidated buildings must be demolished to make space for new structures.

Do you prefer to live in old or modern houses?

I prefer modern buildings for the numerous conveniences and aesthetically designed that they incorporate.

Are there any ancient buildings you would like to see?

Yes, I am interested in seeing some ancient structures. I am very interested in the Mughal architectural styles and would like to visit structures built in that style. I would also like to visit the ancient magnificently designed temples in Tamil Nadu.

## 9 Meeting places

Which kind of places do you like to meet your friends?

Our favourite hangout places are cafes, fast food joints or parks. We like to spend hours chatting there munching on snacks or sipping coffee.

Are there any differences between your favourite meeting places now and the ones in your childhood?

In childhood we met in people's homes or parks. The trend of meeting in cafes, restaurants or fast food outlets was not so common.

## 10 Computers

What do you mostly do on the computer?

I mostly use my computer to watch movies and read books. Sometimes I also use it for work related matters like sending various applications, and checking up on new opportunities on LinkedIn. I also use it to study various online courses from Udemy and Skillshare.

How have computers changed the world?

Almost all of the smart devices that we use today from smartphones to self-driving cars have mini-computers in them and they have made life a great deal easier for us. Computers have also allowed for the development of robotics which is being used increasingly in factories. The complex calculations needed for complicated activities like space flight could also only be achieved with computers.

Have computers made our lives easier or more complex? Computers have made our lives easier by enabling the creation of devices that save us a lot of time and effort. For example, computers and the internet allows us to access information about any topic from anywhere as well as access services like cabs and food delivery in a quicker and more convenient way.

Do you think using computers has more negative than positive effects on children?

Yes, excessive use of computers by children is a major problem in our society. Children are focusing less on their academic work and spending too much time on YouTube and on playing video games. While computers offer children the opportunity to access a great deal of information, the entry of children into internet platforms and social media also puts them in the way of harm, as they are put at risk of being exploited by miscreants online.

Should children be allowed to use computers at school?

While it is important to teach children how to use computers as part of the curriculum, their use of computers must be strictly monitored, and they must only be allowed to use it when necessary. Children should be allowed to use computers to complete projects, but their access to computers must be at the discretion of the teachers.

Do you think old people struggle with the use of modern technology? How can we help them?

Old people tend to struggle quite a bit with modern technology, they often don't understand how to use them and are frustrated when their early attempts fail. Young people can help them by explaining how to use these technologies.

Are there any differences between your favourite meeting places now and the ones in your childhood?

In childhood we met in people's homes or parks. The trend of meeting in cafes, restaurants or fast food outlets was not so common.

## 11 Collecting things

What kind of things do people collect?

People collect a variety of objects. While some collect stamps and coins, there are some who have CD or feather collections. Collecting old objects gives a sense of nostalgia also.

What are the benefits of collections?

Building collections give a sense of pride and satisfaction as people see their collections grow. It also teaches people how to take care of things.

## 12 Boring things

What kind of things are boring to you?

I find subjects like chemistry and physics dull and boring. I find some movies also boring, mostly those which are too slow and tend to drag.

What do you do when you feel bored?

I like to watch comedy programmes when I feel bored. They tickle my funny bones and refresh me.

Did you find school boring?

I never found school boring as I used to have great fun with my friends. So even dull classes would get pepped up in the company of my friends.

## 13 Advertisements

Do you like to watch advertisements?

Yes I love watching advertisements because I like to see how creatively they convey information about the product.

What kind of advertisements do you dislike?

I dislike advertisements targeting children as I think it is unethical to aim at children who are gullible and lack maturity.

Do you want to work in the advertising industry in future?

Yes definitely, if I get a chance I would like to definitely work as a copywriter for the advertisement industry creating catchy slogans and taglines.

## 14 Films

Do you like foreign or domestic films?

I like both domestic and Hollywood movies. However I am very choosy about the movies I watch. I always read the reviews, check the IMBD ratings and watch trailers before watching so that I do not waste my time on mediocre movies, but rather on the really good ones.

Do people like to go to the cinema to watch movies?

With the coming of OTT platforms most young people prefer watching films on their own devices. The older generation however still prefers to go to the cinema.

What are the different types of movies?

There are a wide range of genres in movies such as action, drama comedy suspense , animation romance, documentaries, biopics and martial arts films.

How is technology used in films?

Technology has transformed the way films are made. In the past movies were shot on film but now they are shot using digital cameras. Movies are stored in internal storage or memory cards not on film reels. Another use of technology is the use of computer graphics or animation, computer generated images and visual effects. Also movies can be distributed through streaming websites like Netflix or Amazon Prime etc.

What are the differences between Hollywood movies and Indian films?

One difference is that Hollywood films are shorter in duration. Also they use more advanced technology. Further Indian movies always have songs and dances, which is usually

not there in Hollywood films. Also Hollywood movies are mostly science fiction, horror or suspense thrillers, whereas the themes that dominate Indian films are usually family oriented or romantic.

## 15 Your country

Which part of your country do you live in?

I live in the southern most part of my country, in a state called Kerala. It is flanked by the Arabian Sea to the west and the state of Tamil Nadu to the east.

Are you proud of your country?

Yes absolutely. I am proud of the rich cultural diversity of my country, its past and also the unity amidst the diversity.

Do you know the history of your country?

Yes of course. In school, we had to study the history of my country in great detail. Right from the Indus Valley civilization to the British rule, we have learnt of all the different kings, rulers and empires. I must say I may not remember all of the history, but I am aware of the important details.

## 16 Spending time with others

1 Do you like talking with people?

Yes, of course. I am basically an extrovert and I love meeting people and talking to them. I think I'm quite talkative and love chatting over the phone with my friends for a long time.

2. How do you like spending time with friends?

I think being with your friends is an awesome experience. The best thing about friends is that they accept you as you are, with all your flaws and shortcomings. So we can just be free and open with friends. There are no pretences. Also we can share everything with friends. They are trustworthy and never judgemental.

3 Would you like to study alone or with others?

I think group study is fun, but I feel I can accomplish much more when I study on my own. So although I do study with my friends, when I am closer to my exam, I like to study solo.

4 Do you remember a time when you needed to cooperate with others?

All through school, there were group activities and projects. I remember our project in senior school, where we were in a group of 6 and we had to cooperate and collaborate with each other.

## 17 Pets and Animals

What's your favourite pet animal?

I love dogs. We have a pet dog. His name is Ponchee. I think dogs are the most adorable creatures. They love unconditionally and are fiercely loyal. They are also wonderful companions.

Have you ever had a pet before?

Yes I had a few cats before. I think cats are low maintenance pets as we don't need to give them a bath or brush their fur like we need to do for dogs.

Where do you prefer to keep your pet - indoor or outdoor?

I keep Ponchee indoors. He loves to sit on our laps most of the time. I have a dog bed for him where he sleeps during the night. He loves to get into the kitchen, drawn by the tempting smells, but we don't allow him entry there.

## 18 Headphones

1 Do you use headphones?

Yes I do, I am an audiophile and love listening to music. So headphones are a very important part of my life. I spend a lot of time researching and finding the right pair



2 What type of headphones do you use?

I use a JBL on ear headpone, it sits on the ear and is very comfortable

3 When do you use headphones?

I usally use it when I'm trying to relax and unwind. The noise cancellation and sound clarity are perfect for listening to music. I also use them while listening to lectures and informative podcasts related to my work or study

4 In what conditions do you avoid using headphones?

I generally avoid wearing them while walking in busy streets so that I can pay attention to my surroundings and traffic

## 19 Shoes

1 How often do you buy shoes?

I buy shoes when I feel the existing ones are worn out and need to be replaced. So there is no fixed time frame.

2 Have you ever bought shoes online?

Yes. I prefer to buy leather shoes online. I manage to get amazing discounts and a wider range of choices than I would get at a local store.

3 How much money do you usually spend on those?

They are quite expensive and can cost upto Rs 3000. However they are durable and last long if we take good care of them. So I believe investing in a quality pair is worth it.

## 20 Apps

1 What apps have you recently used?

I use a wide variety of apps. The most go to app for chatting is Whatsapp. I use Zomato and Swiggy apps to order food and Spotify and Gaana to listen to music.

2 What kind of apps are you interested in?

I use all kinds of apps, but im especially interested in education applications like udemy and coursera, I find a lot of courses, many of them free that help me upskill for my career. I also find courses that help me take my hobbies to the next level such as guitar and baking.

3 What kind of apps would you like to use in the future?

I would like to use apps that can be used for self development. I believe a reading app like juggernaut books or kindle and a workout app like nike fitness would add a lot of value to my life.

## 21 Colour

Which is your favourite colour?

My favourite colour is white. I think it is a soothing colour.

What colours do you like?

I love bright and vibrant shades

Do colours affect your mood?

Yes. I think green and blue have a soothing effect. Bright colours are a source of pleasure and make us feel more upbeat. White conveys a sense of freshness and purity. Dull shades can dampen our moods.

Does colour matter when you are buying things?

Yes I give importance to colours when I purchase things. For items like phone cover, bedspreads or home decor items, I may opt for bright shades, whereas for home furniture, bags and footwear I prefer softer tones.

What is the difference between colour preferences of men and women?

I think women have a penchant for vibrant shades, while men prefer dull colours like brown and grey. However, the reverse may also be true for some. There are many women who love soft tints of colours like pink, while men may prefer darker shades.

## 22 Flowers

1 What kind of flowers do you know about?

There are flowers all around. I feel so fascinated by their vibrant shades. I know about a lot of flowers because my mother is an avid gardener and we have several varieties of flowers in our garden. There are orchids of different colours, yellow and red roses, dahlia and lily.

Are there any flowers with special meaning in your country?

Yes, there are certain flowers with some religious or cultural significance. Lotus is the national flower of India. For Buddhists, the lotus symbolises divinity, knowledge and enlightenment. Hindus also consider the lotus auspicious. Easter lily stands for purity.

Have you planted any flowers?

Yes I have. Gardening is my passion. I think I have inherited this from my mother, who has a green thumb. I have planted many varieties of flowers in my garden. I often try to get rare ones from nurseries. I recently planted some begonias and tulips. There is nothing as refreshing as the sight of these blooming beauties.

## 23 Barbecue

1 Do Indians like barbecue?

Barbeque is an all-time favourite among Indians. They love to gorge on the variety of flavorful barbeque dishes. I think this is a fairly recent trend which started with a couple of barbeque restaurants springing up in my state.

2 What kind of food do you like for barbeque?

My absolute favourite is marinated barbecued chicken. Just the thought and I'm salivating. It's simply irresistible. Barbeque fish and other sea foods also taste delicious.

3 Would you like to eat barbeque dishes with family and friends?

Nothing can beat the thrill of trying out barbeque recipes at home with our family and friends. So every once in a while, we fire up our grill and make some barbecue and enjoy it with green salads and coleslaw.

## 24 Car trip

1 Do you like to travel by car?

Certainly, travelling by car is by far the most convenient and safest mode of transport. It has always been my first preference, also for the freedom, comfort and privacy it offers.

2 When do you travel by car?

I drive to my workplace in my car. Also for weekend family outings, all of us jump into the car. Car ride is a sure-fire way to enjoy a weekend getaway.

3 Where is the farthest place you have travelled by car?

My cousin and I drove to Bangalore a couple of years back. That was my longest car trip. We covered a distance of nearly 500 kilometres in around 12 hours taking turns to drive. It was truly an adventurous and unforgettable trip.

## 25 Relaxing

1 What do you do to relax?

Personally, I find listening to music very relaxing. I sit in my room, dim the lights and play some slow, soothing music. It instantly calms me and creates a positive vibe. So whenever I want to recharge my batteries, I tune in to my playlist of some beautiful soulful songs.

2 Do you think sports is a good way to relax?

Certainly, sports is a surefire way to relax and re energise. It also ups the fitness level.

3 Do you think vacation is a good time for you to relax?

Undoubtedly, vacation gives a much needed break from the daily grind and also helps us to soothe our frayed nerves, relax and unwind.

4 Do you think students need more time to relax?

Absolutely, students should get more time to relax as it is refreshing and they can return to studies with renewed energy and vigour.

Regular breaks to relax will also boost their concentration.

## 26 Special Costumes

1 Do you like to wear special costumes?

I am not really interested in wearing costumes. There are people who like to dress up in different sets of attires and click pictures of themselves, like my cousin Deepu, who has a Spider Man costume, which he purchased online.

2 Did you try any special costumes when you were young?

As a kid, I used to participate in many competitions. Hence, as part of that, I remember wearing special costumes. I remember dressing up as an angel once and as a tribal woman on another occasion.

3 When was the last time you wore a special costume?

The last time I wore a special costume was during Christmas last year. I wore the costume of Santa Claus, just to entertain my little nephews and nieces. I also carried a bag full of goodies for them and they were thrilled to pieces.

4 Have you ever bought special costumes?

No, I have never purchased any special costumes. However I have bought a joker mask.

## 27 Wallet

1 Do you use a wallet?

Wallet is a must- have for me. I keep all my valuables such as my money, credit cards, identification documents and business cards inside my wallet. Also, I fancy stylish wallets.

2 Have you ever lost a wallet?

In fact I was pickpocketed a few years back. I had boarded a bus and it was crammed to capacity. I had to elbow my way out through the pushing and jostling crowds, when I reached my stop. I think that was when it got stolen.

3 Have you ever given a wallet to anyone as a gift?

Yes, wallets are one of my frequent go to gift options. That's because I know how useful they are and can be confident that my gift will be appreciated.

4 Do your friends use a wallet?

Yes, I've seen all my friends using wallets. They keep their essentials in it.

## 28 Primary School

1 What did you like to do most in primary school?

Primary school was all about playing. There were swings, slides and merry go rounds in the school and we couldn't wait to rush out after class to get on them. I was also fond of the colouring classes, where we got to colour the books with crayons or pencil colours.

2 How did you go to school in primary classes?

In primary school, my parents had arranged a van that ferried about 10 of us from our apartments. The rides were fun as we chatted, joked and laughed all the way up and down. We had our fixed seats and did not like to give them to others.

3 Did you like your primary school?

All of my school years, right from primary to high school were the golden years of my life. It was a carefree time when we just giggled, chatted non stop and had loads of fun. There was no stress or pressure in primary classes. Our teachers were loving and sweet and so school was a second home for us.

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

During leisure time in primary school, I was out on my voyages of discovery, as I was quite fascinated by the towering school building. So my friends and I used to scan the biology lab, the huge library and the sports room. All these places aroused my interest and free hours were the perfect time to explore.

## 29 Environment Protection

1 Would you like to work in a company related to environmental protection?

I love to be involved in protecting my planet and I would definitely like to work with a government body or an NGO dealing with safeguarding the environment.

## 2 How can we protect the environment?

There are various effective ways to save the environment and it should begin at an individual level. For instance, we can promote reusable bags, recycle often, go paperless, stop using bottled water and save electricity.

## 3 Do you think you have done enough to protect the environment?

I haven't done enough but I feel little baby steps from all of us can bring in a sea change in the environment. In future I'll continue to do my bit in whichever way possible. I think we can never say we have done enough. We need to make environmental consciousness a part of our lifestyle.

## 4 Is environmental protection taught in schools?

Now steps are being initiated to incorporate environment lessons in the school curriculum. Also teachers lead by example to create environmental awareness in the school. Students are encouraged to reuse, reduce and recycle.

# 30 Your living area

Where are you living at the moment?

I live in a small town called Puthupally in the Kottayam District of Kerala.

How long have you been living there?

I have been living there for the past twenty years.

What do you like about your neighbourhood?

What I like about my neighbourhood is that it is a peaceful and serene place and does not have the bustle of cities and big towns. So it's not noisy and congested, But we have all the amenities we need, such as shops, good public transport, a nice park, a theatre, healthcare facilities etc.



What changes would you like to see in your hometown?

I would like to improve the waste management system in my area. There is no proper and sustainable management of waste which can have serious health and environment consequences.

## 31 List

Do you make lists while shopping?

I always make a list when I need to go grocery shopping, as I find it hard to remember all the items. I also feel it prevents me from impulse buying and makes me focus on only the things that I need.

Why is it that some people do not make lists?

It may be because they can make a mental note of all the different items and they may be good at remembering them.

Do you make lists for work or study?

For my work, I make a daily to do list. That helps me prioritize important things, keeps me on track and prevents wastage of time.

## 32 New Year

How do you celebrate New Year?

New Year is celebrated with great pomp and show with family and friends, all busy preparing for new year's eve party. Bursting crackers, distributing sweets, conducting prayer meetings are the common ways that we usher in the new year.

Do you have any ceremonies to celebrate New Year in your country?

I think different religions have their own ways of celebrating new year. In Kerala, the festival Vishu ushers in the new

year according to the Kerala calendar. Likewise Baisakhi marks the Sikh new year.

Why do people think New Year is a new beginning?  
New Year marks a beginning, a start of a whole new year so people also tend to start afresh with renewed vigour and let bygones be bygones.

## 33 Decorating your house

How have you decorated your house?

I love decorating my room and always try to explore new ideas. I have attractive wall art and lamps to add an aesthetic touch. I have also kept an indoor plant and try to play with colours to make my room look bright. So I have brightly coloured cushions and floor mats.

Do people like to decorate their houses?

While artistically inclined people always keep thinking of ideas to spruce up their living spaces, others may decorate their house during festive time or on some occasions which call for a celebration.

What is your favourite colour for decorating your house?

I love bright vibrant shades more than pastels. My favourites are orange, yellow and blue.

What are the new trends in decoration?

I think hanging lamps and lanterns are becoming quite trendy home decor items in my area. People are also purchasing paintings to hang on the walls of their houses.

## 34 Window view

What can you see from the window of your room?

The window of my room faces a park bustling with activity from dawn to dusk. So I get to watch some really interesting scenes from my window. I see the laughter club members in the morning practising their loud laughing or joggers jogging along the walkways and many other such scenes.

Do you like to watch the scenery from your window?

I love watching scenery from my window, it uplifts me after the grinding routine. Also watching people as they go about their different activities in the park keeps me amused.

Would you like to live in a house with beautiful window views?

Absolutely, in fact it's a 'must have.' I would prefer a window that opens to a garden, a river or just plenty of greenery.

How do you feel when you cannot see any beautiful view from your window?

I feel miserable and everything seems so monotonous.

## 35 Tidiness

Are you a tidy person?

Absolutely. I am a tidy person, I always want my surroundings to be neat and orderly. Infact, I am obsessed with tidiness.

Do you think that it is necessary to be tidy?

Being tidy goes a long way in maintaining health, a good frame of mind and acts as a catalyst to a successful life.

Do you think people should be tidy all the time?

Yes, people should be tidy all the time at least to a minimal degree if not to a fetish extent because it is a habit worth developing.

Do you keep your workplace tidy?

I am a tidy person so my workplace is always neat, with things in the proper place and every thing well ordered.

Are you tidier at work or at home?

Comparatively, I think I work more towards keeping my surroundings tidy at home because I have the freedom to take care of every detail. However, at work I am confined to a small cabin and hence have less freedom.

Are your family members tidy?

They are not tidy but my habits of extreme tidiness have rubbed off on them now.

## 36 Reading

Do you like reading?

I am an avid reader and whenever I get time I'm voraciously devouring all kinds of books.

Do you like reading at home or at other places?

I am a book lover so the place doesn't really matter, I am engrossed be it home or any other place.

In what places do you find it difficult to read?

I am not able to read when there is too much disturbance and jarring sound in and around my place. It distracts me a lot.

## 37 Waking up early

Do you wake up early every day?

Yes I am a morning person. I love the quiet tranquil morning moments of the morning.

Do you get up early on weekends also?

Yes, now waking up early has become a way of life, I cannot get detached from it, infact now my body is wired that way, it wakes me up early morning daily.

What do you usually do when you wake up early?

Waking up early gives me plenty of time to do things my

way. I start my day with yoga and meditation. Then I tidy the house.

## 38 Singing

Do you like to sing?

Yes, I like singing and I have a sweet voice.

Are you a good singer?

Yes I am a good singer. I am able to carry a tune well and I have a melodious voice.

What kind of songs do you like to sing?

I prefer slow melodies to fast songs. I am very fond of film songs especially songs of Shreya Goshal and Sonu Kakkar

Is it difficult to sing well?

Yes I think singing well is a talent and not everyone has this talent.

Would you like to be a singer?

No, I don't want to be a singer. Actually I get conscious when I sing in front of others and my tune goes haywire.

## 39 Staying Happy

Is there anything that made you happy lately?

Yes recently I lost two kilos and that was a great news for me, since I have been working out lately in the hope of shedding some extra weight that I had gained.

What do you do to stay happy?

I am basically a happy and cheerful person, so I don't have to do anything to stay happy. I always tend to look at the

positive side of things and so I remain quite unruffled even through difficult times.

Can you stay happy all the time?

There are occasions when I feel hurt, upset or sometimes annoyed. Life is not always hunky dory and so it may not be possible to stay happy all the time, but I do bounce back quite soon.

Is it important to be happy?

Absolutely. Happiness makes our life more enjoyable. Happy people are more productive, healthy and make better relationships. I feel they also enjoy longer lives.

## 40 Farm

Have you ever visited a farm?

Yes my uncle back in the countryside has a large farm, where he grows vegetables and fruits.

What kind of farm do you like?

I like farms where animals are reared. I have seen people rearing cows, goats etc.

Have you ever done any farm work?

I have never got any opportunity to get involved in farm work. I know farm work is quite strenuous and laborious. Often labourers are hired to manage the different types of work in a farm.

Do you think farming is important?

Definitely. We depend on farming for food crops, dairy, vegetables, fruits and livestock products.

Does your country still use traditional methods of farming?

No, my country has made rapid strides in farming and agriculture, with the use of modern technology. From modern farming equipment, pesticides, insecticides, fertilizers to genetically modified foods and factory farming, we have come a long way.

## 41 Furniture

Do you have a lot of furniture in your house?

I am not very fond of cramped interiors, so I have very minimal furniture in my house. We just have the most essential pieces of furniture such as sofas, beds, a dining table, a book shelf and a few tables.

Which among them is your favourite?

My favourite is an old teak wood table with beautiful carvings on the sides.

What kind of furniture would you like to buy?

I would like to buy some cane furniture as I am very fond of it. I would like to buy some chairs to put in our patio.

## 42 Stages of life

Do you like your current stage of life?

Yes, absolutely. I am working at the moment and I enjoy the freedom, the challenges and the opportunities it offers me, I feel every day is a new learning experience.

In which stage of life were you the happiest?

It is hard for me pick a particular stage, but I feel childhood days were the most thrilling. Without a care in the world, enjoying the pampering, love care and affection of my parents and other relatives, childhood was truly a golden period.

What are your plans for the next stage of your life?

I plan to seek opportunities abroad and step into a new career. I think this would be a milestone in my life and a door to rich and exciting experiences. Though it will bring challenges, I think eventually it will help me grow, both in my career and as a person.

## 43 Handwriting

Do you usually write by hand?

Actually it is very rarely that I need to write by hand as I do most of my work on my laptop. So I would say typing has replaced writing for the most part.

Do you prefer to write by hand or type?

I prefer typing, I find it faster and more convenient. I am able to type at a high speed and typing on the computer enables us to easily correct errors.

Writing with a pen is slower and mistakes cannot be erased.

Do you think handwriting will be replaced by typing on computers?

I see a strong likelihood of handwriting being replaced with typing. Many schools have removed cursive handwriting from their curriculum in lower classes as it has almost no practical use. I think writing is likely to be limited to just a shopping list or a post it note.

Can you tell someone's personality from his or her handwriting?

Yes it is possible to identify certain aspects of a person's nature from his handwriting. There is a whole science related to handwriting analysis. There are many companies that use handwriting analysts or graphologists to help them identify better candidates while recruiting.

## 44 Neighbours

Do you like your neighbours?

Yes I am very fond of my neighbours. There are four families near my house and almost all of them have children who are my age and so I enjoy their company.

Are your neighbours close to each other in your country?



Yes people generally try to have good neighbourly relations in my country. However at times there are disputes between neighbours due to property issues or other misunderstandings.

What is your neighbourhood like?

My neighbourhood is not very congested. We have only four houses near ours. We have a warm and friendly relationship with our neighbours and we all are ever ready to help each other. We always try to keep our neighbourhood clean and beautiful.

How can neighbours be helpful;?

Neighbours are the people closest to us in times of emergencies. If I run out of groceries, which I urgently need, I can always borrow from my neighbour. My neighbour who is a teacher in a school often helps me when I face difficulties with my studies. So I think there are plenty of ways neighbours can be of help.

Do you think your neighbourhood is a good place for children?

Yes I think so as it is not too congested and there are open spaces for children to run around and play.

Do you think it is important to have good relationship with our neighbours?

Cultivating a good relationship with our neighbours is very essential. It enriches our social life as we can have fun sharing meals, going for outings or doing work together. Neighbours can also protect our homes because they would be aware if they see something suspicious.

## 45 Remembering names

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

I must confess that I am very poor at remembering names. However, though I tend to forget most names, some names stick to my memory. I think it may be because the name is rare or has a meaning.

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

It can be insulting when people you have met and interacted with on many occasions do not remember your name. It almost seems like an affront to me. However I don't expect people to remember my name if I have just met them once or twice.

How do you remember people's names?

Frankly I don't have any strategies to remember names. I just happen to remember some, while I completely forget others.

## 46 New activities

Do you like to try out new activities?

Yes absolutely. Recently I started learning French and also signed up for Zumba dancing. I think doing the same things puts you in a rut and make life dull and dreary.

What activities did you like to do as a child?

As a child, I loved being outdoors. That was the age before smartphones and mobile games had appeared on the scene and we enjoyed simple pleasures like climbing trees, plucking fruit and playing simple games.

What activities would you like to try?

I am very keen to try adventure sports. I have already started doing my research on bungee jumping and I would like to try it in the near future.

Would you like to try new activities on your own or with friends?

I would prefer to explore new activities with my friends which would probably reduce the stress and the nervousness.

## 47 Trees

What kind of trees do you have in your hometown?

The most common tree in my state is the coconut tree, from where my state takes its name. Other trees include fruit trees like guava, jackfruit, and mango.

Do you like planting trees?

In school we used to have tree planting drives, when we used to dig pits and plant saplings. However since I live in the city I don't get opportunities to plant trees, although I am interested in doing so.

What are the benefits of planting more trees?

Trees purify the air by providing oxygen and thus combat the effects of climate change. They offer shade, make the place cool and enhance the beauty of outdoor spaces. They also serve as homes to a large number of birds and other creatures.

## 48 History

Did you enjoy studying history as a child?

I used to feel terribly bored during history classes in my school. We began studying history from the sixth standard and we had to learn about the different empires, the rulers, the period of their reign etc. And memorising all this was very tedious and boring.

Have you ever watched movies related to history?

Yes, I have watched several movies based on history, both in my local language Malayalam and other languages like Hindi and English such as Gandhi, Mangal Pandey, etc.

When was the last time you read a book on history?

I have never read any history based book after my school days. We had a separate text for history in school which covered important events of not just Indian history but also ,world history,

Do you think history is important?

Absolutely. The study of history connects us with our past. It helps us understand our identity and also our culture.

## 49 Picnic

Did you go for picnics as a child?

Yes, we used to go for picnics regularly. We used to pack up our food and head to a park or the lake nearby and spend time just enjoying ourselves.

Do you go now?

I have not gone on a picnic for a long while now. When we plan outings, our destinations are usually the mall, the theatre or a restaurant. Picnics have lost their charm for me nowadays.

Where do you go for a picnic?

When I was a child, we used to go to parks or the lakeside for picnics. They gave the perfect ambience for a pleasant and relaxing time in the lap of nature.

What is the difference between eating at a picnic and eating at home?

Eating at a picnic is a thoroughly enjoyable experience. It is

a huge change from the usual dining room and dining table to just spread a mat under a tree and have your food with the chirping of birds in the background.

## 50 Mathematics

When did you start learning Maths?  
I started studying Maths from class 1.

Was it easy for you?  
For me Maths has always been a tough nut to crack, I am not among the whiz kid minority, so it was always a struggle to sit through the Maths classes.

Did you like your Maths teacher?  
Frankly, I never liked my Maths teacher. She was biased and partial. She had a handful of favourites and mostly ignored the rest of the

## 51 Text Messaging

Do you like texting?  
I really like texting. Text messages can be exchanged even when people are busy with their work. A hi ,a smiley or a brief message to our loved ones is a nice way to keep in touch when we don't have the time to call and chat.

Do you prefer sending or receiving messages?  
I prefer sending messages.  
Maybe because I have the habit of sharing little nuggets of news, forwards, videos and so many other stuff. Life is all about sharing.

In what circumstances is it better to make a call rather than

send a message?

In crucial matters and also when a situation needs immediate attention, it would be better to call rather than send a message.

Have you ever got a text message which was confusing? Some messages are really confusing and I'm left wondering how to respond. It's an awkward situation. Sometimes I may not be able to guess the tone of a message, whether it is harsh, angry or just hurriedly typed.

## 52 Recycling

Do you recycle?

Yes we have scrap pickers, who take items for recycling especially glass and paper.

What kind of things do you recycle?

I recycle and I feel we should all drastically improve our recycling habits.

90% of my kitchen waste consists of recyclable food scrap. So for me, composting is the most undemanding and eco-friendly way to recycle food waste.

Why is it good to recycle?

Recycling is crucial to the future health of our planet. Recycling conserves important raw materials and protects natural habitat.

## 53 Taking a break

Do you like taking short breaks or long ones?

I like taking short breaks which are refreshing and rejuvenating. They help me recharge my batteries so that I can catch up with the neglected work quickly.

Why do we need breaks?

Caught in a frenetic pace, juggling ever-increasing workload and responsibilities, a break comes as a shot in the arm. After a break, we come back with renewed vigour. A break is very essential for physical and emotional health.

How often do you take breaks?

I take several small breaks at my workplace and one annual long break to spend some quality time with my family away from the bustling metropolis.

## 54 Plans

Do you make plans? When?

Yes I plan. In fact everything, from the smallest detail to big endeavours. When I plan and visualise, the execution becomes easy.

Is it easy to stick to your plans?

No it's not easy to stick to your plans. It needs a lot of discipline. If we are not organised, all our plans get derailed.

Why is planning good?

Planning is good. It is the essence of good performance. Planning helps to respond rather than react. It is a catalyst to achieving our goals. Planning also keeps stress at bay.

## 55 Fishing

Do you like fishing?

I don't like fishing because of my ingrained aversion to waterborne activities. Besides, I am very clumsy and fishing requires a lot of precision.

Is fishing a good hobby?

Fishing is a great hobby. The serenity and calmness that you feel while sitting on the banks of a river catching fish, makes you forget even the most complex problems and worries. It ups our happiness quotient and recharges our batteries.

Do you like to eat fish?

I love eating fish. Fish is the ideal non - vegetarian food. It is loaded with protein and because of its nutritive value, it is highly recommended.

## 56 Water Sports

Do you like water sports?

Frankly I am not a huge fan of water sports. I don't know swimming, so I like to stay away from water. So all kinds of water sports are quite scary for me.

Would you like to try any water sport?

Although water sports of all forms fill me with fear and dread, I am keen to try out scuba diving. From the time a friend of mine shared her scuba diving experience, I have been very excited and eager to have that kind of thrilling experience. But I will have to overcome my fears first.

Are any water sports popular in your country?

Yes, there are numerous states in India such as Kerala,



Goa, Andaman and Nicobar islands with water bodies such as seas, rivers, lakes etc in my country due to which they are popular water sport destinations. The most preferred ones are scuba diving, white water rafting, surfing kayaking

## 57 Running

Do you like running?

Frankly I dislike running. I am not the athletic type of person and I am quite lazy to run. Also, since I am quite out of shape, running is really hard for me and I get breathless

Where do people usually go for running?

Some people run on the streets. There are many parks in our area. For runners there are trail and road routes for running inside the parks. There are also many who do their daily runs on a treadmill.

Have you ever run a long distance?

Usually in schools, our physical education teacher would force us to join for the athletic competitions like 100 metres or 200 metres races. But during my college days I once participated in a mini marathon, which extended over a 2 km stretch along the main road in my city. It was an unforgettable experience. I didn't think I would be able to finish the race. Half way through it, my legs and back were throbbing, but I felt proud that I managed to reach the finish line.

Do you like watching running races on television?

Yes, I enjoy watching athletics on television, especially during the World Athletics Championships and the Olympics. The Commonwealth Games also have numerous racing competitions such as the running races, hurdle race, relay race, marathon etc.

## 58 Cake/ Desserts

Do you like having dessert?

I love desserts. I have a sweet tooth, so I find them irresistible. India has such a variety of traditional sweets to pick from.

Do you like eating cakes?

Absolutely. Cakes are so mouth watering and delicious and they come in so many varieties of flavours and styles that everyone enjoys them. I think no occasion is complete without a cake, be it a birthday, a wedding or just a simple celebration.

Have you ever made any cakes?

I recently bought an oven and tried baking some simple basic cakes like vanilla cake and chocolate cake. I just followed the recipe and made sure the measurements were right. I was quite delighted that my cakes came out well.

In your culture do people usually eat dessert at the end of dinner?

Yes, in India we have a tradition of having dessert after dinner. There are a wide range of amazing desserts in the Indian cuisine such as fruit based desserts or those prepared with milk and nuts. The rice pudding is also a much liked sweet delicacy.

## 59 Science

Is it important to study science?

The study of science is definitely very beneficial. Science subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology etc help us to get an in depth understanding of our environment, our surroundings, the earth, the animal and plant kingdom, our body.

Today's world is highly advanced scientifically and technologically, and so scientific literacy is very important. Studying science also fosters critical thinking skills and problem solving skills.

Another positive is that it opens the door to many careers and so a strong foundation in science is very important.

## 60 Laughter/ Jokes

When was the last time you laughed?

I think it was just last evening. We were watching a comedy show and it was so hilarious that I almost fell off my chair laughing.

Do you like watching funny shows?

I enjoy watching comedy shows. After a long day, it is very relaxing to just sit back on my couch and get a dose of humour. My favourites are series like 'Friends,' 'Mr Bean' ,shows by stand up comedians like Kapil Sharma, and competitions like the Great Indian Laughter Challenge etc.

Do you like to make people laugh?

I like making people laugh, sometimes by cracking a joke, saying something witty or may be just making a funny face. Finding something really humorous even in mundane situations is a way to have a lot of smiling faces around you.

## 61 Spending time alone

Do you like to spend time by yourself?

Yes, I think times of solitude are very relaxing. You can reflect on things and think deeper about matters. Also when we are very upset or disturbed, time alone can help calm us down. We can also try out new things and explore new activities.

What do you usually do when you spend time by yourself? I enjoy going on solitary walks. I like to read or listen to music when I am on my own.

## 62 Haircut

How often do you have a haircut?

My hair grows very fast and so I go to the hairdresser every month to get my hair trimmed.

Have you ever had an unhappy haircut experience?

Yes, I've had many experiences when I was totally disappointed after my visit to the hairdresser.

Do you like to have your haircut?

Yes, I do. It helps me look well groomed because my hair grows fast and I tend to look a little shaggy if I don't visit the barber once a month.

## 63 Parks

Do you like parks?

Yes, I find parks really wonderful. They are green spaces that enhance the beauty of communities. They are open areas where people can gather to play, relax and enjoy and spend refreshing time in the lap of nature. It helps people to be active especially in a time when people tend to spend too much time indoors and lead sedentary lives, leading to many health disorders.

Do you think there are enough parks or gardens in your hometown?

I live in a small town and so we just have one park in our area. It is quite a large area and I can say it forms the heart of the community.

Do you think it is important for cities to have parks?

Parks are definitely vital in urban areas. In the midst of the traffic congestion and concrete structures, these green spaces help urban dwellers relax and unwind. They help people get much needed physical exercise and socialise with each other and thus we can say they foster physical and psychological health.

## 64 Sports

What kind of sports do you practice?

Frankly I don't practice any sports nowadays. My days are usually very busy and by the time I return from work, I am too exhausted. I must confess I am in pretty bad shape. I would like to start playing some sport or work out in a gym.

Did you do much sport as a child?

Yes, I was a good basketball player and I was part of our school team and we won many competitions. However once I moved to college, my studies, assignments and projects

took priority and sports took a backseat.

How do you keep healthy?

I go for walks in a park nearby. I take a brisk thirty minute walk early in the morning and also try to stick to a healthy nutritious diet.

Is it important to do sport?

Yes absolutely. It keeps people active , fit and healthy and a sound body means a sound mind. Also sports is a nice way to relax, unwind and reduce stress.

## 65 Patience

Do you think patience is important?

I think patience is a vital virtue. It keeps us peaceful and calm when we do not get the desired results immediately. There are many occasions in life when we need to exercise this quality. It may be while waiting in a queue, when we are stuck in a traffic block or when dealing with irritating people.

Have you ever lost your patience?

Yes I have lost patience several times. I find it very difficult to wait in long queues, which really tests my patience. I tend to lose patience when I am trying to teach my younger siblings and they don't get it the first time.

Were you patient as a child?

I think I was totally spoilt as a child and expected everything to go my way. I wanted everything immediately, whether it was a toy, a new dress or something to eat.

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Why is planning good?

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## 67 Art

Do you like art?

I have a keen aesthetic sense and I am very attracted to all forms of art - be it drawings, paintings, sculpture, mural art or tribal art forms.

Are art classes important for children?

Art should be included in the classroom curriculum. It is crucial in creating a well rounded and well prepared learner. Art boosts creativity and imagination. Teaching through art simplifies learning. Art education can also be a means to connect students with their own culture as well as with the wider world.

What kind of paintings do Indian people like?

Indians tend to like pleasant paintings that enhance their decor. They like paintings of natural objects like flowers, trees, the sunset etc. Some people are also fond of portraits.

## 68 Numbers

Are you good at memorizing numbers?

No, not at all. I am very bad at remembering numbers.

When I have to remember numbers, I save them on my phone.

Do you have a favourite number?

I like the number 7, probably because my birthday falls on the seventh.

Are you good at maths?

I am quite bad at maths. I dreaded the subject in school and struggled a lot with my Maths topics like fractions, trigonometry, geometry etc. There were some students in my class, who were brilliant in Maths, but for me it was a nightmare.

Would you like to have a job dealing with numbers?

Since Maths has never been my cup of tea, I would like to stay away from jobs that require number crunching, such as banking, finance, accounts etc.

For what all purposes do we use numbers?

Numbers are used in all spheres of life. Our life revolves around numbers from the time we are born. For calling people on a phone, calculations, transactions, codes, education, finance management, business, construction etc the list is endless. The use of numbers is inevitable and numbers are ubiquitous.

## 69 Scenery

Does your hometown have beautiful views?

Yes my hometown is a charming place blessed with scenic beauty. There is lush greenery everywhere . You can see diverse vegetation, small rivers, coconut trees, exotic birds etc.

Why do people take pictures of beautiful scenery?



Landscape photography is something everyone loves to do, especially now that taking a picture is so much easier with improved technology. It is a nice way to capture the beauty of the place. Some like to take pictures to explore their photography skills and also to share them on social networking sites.

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