

**Part 1-style questions**

**Examiner: Have you got a relation you're particularly fond of?**

Sinita: Yes ... my granddad ... he's 94 years old but generally he's **as fit as a fiddle** ... we're very close and see each other a lot ... whenever he **goes down with a cold** or **is under the weather** I make a point of visiting him ...

**Examiner: Do you do any sport?**

Jon: Yes ... I'm keen on skateboarding ... but I haven't done it for a while ... I had a bad fall recently and **pulled a muscle** and had a few **cuts and bruises** ... but I'm **on the mend** and hope to be doing it again soon ...

**Examiner: Is there anything you're particularly afraid of?**

Davide: The dentist ... I hate going to the dentist ... I only ever go if I **have a toothache** so it usually means I have to **have a filling** or even **have a tooth out** ... I really don't like it ...

**Part 2-style task**

Describe a time when you were ill. You should say:

- when this was
- what your symptoms were
- how long the illness lasted

and say how it affected your life at the time.

Pierre: This is a tricky one really as I'm usually quite healthy ... I've never been seriously ill ... like everyone else I sometimes get a few **aches and pains** or **catch a cold** ... I can remember a few months ago I had to have time off work with **a heavy cold** ... I had the usual symptoms ... **a blocked nose** ... **sore throat** ... it lasted quite a while ... about 2 weeks I think though I didn't have that much time off work ... for a few days I remember **feeling poorly** but I was **over the worst of it** after a few days and went back to work ... I always find it's better to be active when you feel ill as it keeps your mind off your symptoms ... I think my family get a little fed up with me when I'm ill though ... I tend to feel sorry for myself and lie on the sofa all day as if I'm **at death's door** ... but as I said earlier ... on this occasion it was nothing serious and didn't really cause me any problems ...

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## Part 3-style questions

**Examiner: What costs are involved when you are ill in your country?**

Anya: Well ... people have to pay **prescription charges** which can be quite expensive ... but fortunately general healthcare is free ... unless you want to **go private** of course and then you can pay a fortune for your treatment ...

**Examiner: In your experience are people too quick to take time off work when they're ill?**

Alicia: Yes .. I've got friends who have a day off work if they wake up with a **runny nose** ... and in most cases they seem **to make a speedy recovery** after they've **phoned in sick** ...

**Examiner: Do women pay more attention to their health than men?**

Julie: I think so yes ... women are more likely to see their **GP** for a **check-up** if they're concerned about something ... men tend to avoid facing up to any health problems they have ... my dad always seems to have a very **chesty cough** but refuses to go to **make an appointment** to see the doctor ...

## Definitions

- **aches and pains**: minor pains that continue over a period of time
- **to be a bit off colour**: to feel a little ill
- **to be at death's door**: (informal) to be very ill indeed
- **to be on the mend**: to be recovering after an illness
- **to be over the worst**: to have got through the most serious or uncomfortable stage of an illness
- **to be under the weather**: (informal) to not feel well
- **a blocked nose**: when the nose has excess fluid due to a cold
- **to catch a cold**: to get a cold
- **a check-up**: a physical examination by a doctor
- **a chesty cough**: a cough caused by congestion around the lungs
- **cuts and bruises**: minor injuries
- **to feel poorly**: to feel ill
- **as fit as a fiddle**: to be very healthy
- **to go down with a cold**: to become ill
- **to go private**: to choose to be treated by commercial healthcare rather than by services offered by the state
- **GP**: General Practitioner (family doctor)
- **to have a filling**: to have a tooth repaired
- **to have a tooth out**: to have a tooth removed
- **a heavy cold**: a bad cold

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- ***to make an appointment:*** to arrange a time to see the doctor
  - ***to make a speedy recovery:*** to recover quickly from an illness
  - ***to phone in sick:*** to call work to explain you won't be attending work due to illness
  - ***prescription charges:*** money the patient pays for medicine authorised by a doctor
  - ***to pull a muscle:*** to strain a muscle
  - ***a runny nose:*** a nose that has liquid coming out of it
  - ***a sore throat:*** inflammation that causes pain when swallowing