

## **42 TOPICS FOR IELTS SPEAKING & SUGGESTED ANSWERS**

1. Name
2. Study/major/Work
3. Hometown
4. Living place & Accommodation
5. Weather/Favourite Season
6. Punctual
7. TV program
8. Museum/gallery
9. Holiday/Public holiday
10. Film
11. Leisure Time
12. Sports
13. Fruits
14. Math
15. Sky
16. Clothes
17. Weekend
18. Reading
19. Sleep
20. Tree
21. Newspaper
22. Text message or phone calls

23. Memorizing
24. Friend
25. Traveling by train/car/taxi
26. Public Transportation
27. Letters VS email
28. Swimming
29. Snacks
30. Photography
31. Help
32. History
33. Handwriting
34. Music
35. Colour
36. Teachers
37. Being in a hurry
38. Being alone
39. Team work
40. Countryside
41. Social network
42. Hanging out with friends

## NAME

1. Who gave you your name?
2. Does your name have any particular (or, special) meaning?
3. Do you like your name?
4. In your country, do people feel that their name is very important?
5. Would you like to change your name?
6. Is it easy to change your name in your country?
7. Who usually names babies in your country?
8. Do you have any special traditions about naming children?
9. What names are most common in your hometown?

My parents gave me my name, my father to be exact. LO means knowledge, and BE means accumulation. So I guess my parents wanted to tell me that being knowledgeable depends on accumulation. You see, they put a lot of pressure on my shoulders with this name.

I quite like my name, and I won't change it for the world, because it is unique. I don't think that anyone else in Vietnam has the same name. It's part of my identity, and it is meaningful to me.

People in my country pay great attention to their names because they believe that suitable names will bring them good fortune. Sometimes they even change their names for their business and family purpose.

In Vietnam, I believe that fathers are in the position of naming their children. Sometimes they will look through some Vietnamese classical literatures to seek the meaningful words for their children.

Oh, there are some nick names that are very popular in Vietnam. For example, XINH means that their parents hope their daughters would be beautiful; and LUONG, indicates that their sons would be magnanimous when they are grown up

## **STUDY/WORK**

Do you work or are you a student? I'm currently a first year student at Humanity & society University. My major is education which I believe is a very meaningful subject. In the future I hope to give back to society by being a responsible high school teacher.

### **Is that a popular subject in your country?**

Actually I believe it is quite popular, but only for girls. Since the job most people will apply for after studying education is teaching - girls in Vietnam tend to favor this career cuz it's stable.

### **What are the most popular subjects in Vietnam?**

In my opinion business is probably the first choice for most people. Nearly everyone wants to be rich so they think that majoring in business would help them achieve this goal. I guess the second most prevalent subject would be computing. You know many students like to play computer games so there is no doubt that people are into that subject.

### **Why did you choose that university?**

To be honest the main reason is because my score for the college entrance exam was not high enough to go to a better uni. Another factor I should mention is because Banking university is my dream and the uni is it's quite close to now home - my parents might miss me if they don't see me for a long period of time.

### **What are your favourite classes/ courses/ subjects at university?**

Children psychology is my all time favorite subject. As I have mentioned before, I would like to be a teacher and this subject teaches us how children think. It's not only meaningful but also very interesting. I want to be a father one day so I think its important to know why children do certain things or what not to say to children.

## **HOMETOWN**

1. What's (the name of) your hometown (again)?
2. Is that a big city or a small town?
3. Please describe your hometown a little.
4. How long have you been living there?
5. Do you like your hometown?
6. Do you like living there?
7. What do you like (most) about your hometown?
8. Is there anything you dislike about it?
9. Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?

Well, my hometown is the city of Vietnam, which is a small and quiet place. It is surrounded by the mountains so that it is a pretty nice place to live. The weather there is quite pleasant all year round, even in winter the temperatures are quite mild.

Although Ha Tinh is developing a lot recently, and expanding every year, it is still a traditional town as the new architectures are built in the old-fashioned way. I think that as the tourist city, it should preserve its own characteristic to attract the tourists. In addition, the food there is excellent. You can digest a lot of local snacks that can not be tasted elsewhere. In sum, I believe my hometown is definitely worth a visit.

I was born and raised there. I only moved out when I went to university in 2002. So I had lived there for about 19 years.

Well, my hometown earns a high reputation for its Mountain which attracts floods of tourists every year around the globe. It is renowned for its graceful

pinetrees, unusual rocks, cloudy sea and hot springs. I have been there for two times. I was really attracted by its magnificent natural scenery.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

1. What kind of housing/accommodation do you live in?
2. Do you live in a house or a flat?
3. Who do you live with?
4. How long have you lived there?
5. Do you plan to live there for a long time?
6. (If you answer you haven't lived there long) What's the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?
7. Can you describe the place where you live?
8. Which room does your family spend most of the time in?
9. What do you usually do in your house/flat/room?
10. Are the transport facilities to your home very good?
11. Do you prefer living in the house or a flat?
12. Please describe the room you live in?
13. What part of your home do you like the most?

I live in the pretty spacious apartment in Saigon. I live in the 8th floor of a high-rise, and it covers a little more than 120 square metres. It is a fairly nice place. My apartment has six rooms - one living room, one kitchen, two bathrooms and another two bedrooms. All of them are well-decorated and furnished. There is a big bookshelf beside my kids' room so that my boy can

easily get books to read. In addition, we have a big balcony beside the dining table so that we can enjoy eating dinner and having tea there.

My family spends most of our time in the living room. We'd like to sit around a set of comfortable sofa there and chat with each other or watch TV. But when I am free, I would prefer to read the story books to my son.

I live with my wife and my kid. My apartment is pretty big so there is enough space for everyone. We rented the apartment four years ago. And my kid is in the kindergarten near my home, so we won't intend to move around in the future.

We sometimes go out by car because it is not convenient to take a taxi in that area, and it needs nearly 30 minutes' walk to the nearest subway station. So generally speaking, it is not good to go out without cars.

## **WEATHER**

- 1.What's the weather like today?
- 2.What kind of weather do you like (best)? (Why?)
- 3.What's your favourite weather? (Why?)
- 4.What do you usually do during your favourite weather (or season)?
- 5.What's the weather (usually) like in your hometown?
- 6.Do you like that weather (or, that kind of climate)? (Why?/Why not?)
- 7.How often is the weather good in your hometown?
- 8.What did you do the last time the weather was good?
- 9.Are there any bad points about the weather in your city?
- 10.What is the typical weather in Vietnam like?
- 11.Have there been any changes in the weather over the past few years?

- 12.Does the weather ever affect what you do?
- 13.How does the weather affect people (or, you)? (If yes, how?)
- 14.How do you feel when the weather is cloudy?
- 15.Do you always pay attention to the weather forecast?
- 16.Can you give any examples of unusual weather?
- 17.Do you like snow? (Why?)
- 18.Would you prefer to live in a place that has just one, warm season that lasts the whole year or a place with different seasons?
- 19.Do people in Vietnam play the same sports in different seasons of the year?

It's really freezing today. If I don't have to take the IELTS exams, I would prefer to stay at home.

Actually I prefer the cloudy day as it's neither too hot nor too cold. And what's more important to me is that this whether is perfect for photography as the light is soft and tender. So at this time of day, I'll always go out with my camera to the forest parks to take photos.

In my hometown, as it is surrounded by mountains, the weather is quite pleasant, neither too hot nor too cold. Even in winter, the temperature is still quite mild. The weather is good almost all year round as my hometown is a tourist city and there is no any industrial pollution out there.

The bad points about the weather in my hometown are that it doesn't snow as heavily as up north like Sapa. It does snow, but is just a little bit. Every time I saw children having a snowball flight or making a snowman on TV, I really envied them. It was really pity.

I believe though Vietnam is a vast country, there are four distinct seasons in most places. But unfortunately in recent years, many places in summer are becoming boiling hot. I guess the changes are primarily due to the green-

house effect. So in this extreme weather, I will really prefer to work at home, and the air-conditioning is working all day long, and at night, I even sleep on the floor.

Yes, as Vietnam is facing more and more oppressive haze, I always keep a watchful eye on the weather forecast. I installed an app in my mobile phone, and see the indicator of PM 2.5. It has been a routine for me.

As for the unusual weather, the global warming has really become a heated topic around the world. It is caused by the greenhouse effect as the sheer volume of carbon dioxide has been emitted into the air, preventing the atmosphere from cooling off at night. And another unusual weather, I'm afraid is the hurricane which can easily flatten thousands of homes near the coast in a short period of time.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with the distinct seasons in each year because each season has its own merits. Whereas I will get bored if it is warm all year round.

No, when in spring and autumn, the temperature is neither too cold nor too hot, people in Vietnam tend to hike in the mountains, or go running. When it comes to summer, people can choose more physical activities like swimming, camping in the forests and playing balls, etc. But in winter, people believe it not suitable for outdoor exercises, so they prefer to stay at home for resting.

## **Punctual**

### **1. Do you Think it's Important to be on time?**

Yeah, I think it definitely is, because it's basic manners to be on time for things. You know, I think you'd agree it's pretty rude to keep people waiting, and so it kind of leaves a bad impression on people.

### **2. How do you Feel When others are Late?**

Well I guess it kind of depends, because I mean, if there's a good reason for being late, you know, like getting stuck in traffic, then I will not really mind

that much. But you know, if the person does not really have any excuse and it's simply because they could not be bothered to arrive on time, then I suppose I might feel a bit annoyed.

### **3. Are you, Yourself, Late very Often?**

If yes:

Yeah, I am. And I know it's a bad habit, but for some reason, no matter how hard I try, I always seem to end up being late for things !

If no:

No, I would not say I am. You know, most of the time I'm pretty good with being on time for things, because I always make a quite big effort not to be late.

### **4. How do you Feel When you are Late?**

I feel pretty bad, especially if I've kept the other person waiting for a long time. So if I know I'm gonna be late, I will always try to let the person know in advance, you know, like send them a text message or something, so at least they know when to expect me.

### **5. How do you Think you could be on time Improve and More Often?**

I guess the best thing to do would be to always allow lots of time to get anywhere. So for example, if it normally takes me, say, half an hour to get to the city centre, then I should probably leave home about an hour before I need to get there.

### **6. Do you Wear a Watch?**

If yes:

Yeah I do - you can see it right here !

If no:

No I do not, because I do not think it's really necessary to wear a watch anymore. You know, if I wanna know the time, I'll just look on my mobile !

## **7. When does time SEEM to move fast, and When does it SEEM to move Slowly?**

Well, I think most people would agree that time moves fast when you're having fun. And a prime example would be when playing computer games, cos I mean, whenever I play online with my friends, it always seems that only an hour or two has passed, but in actual fact, it's probably been four or five hours !

And time normally goes slowly when you're bored or simply just not enjoying yourself. For example, I remember at school, some of my classes felt like they would never end, when in fact they were just, like, 45 minutes long !

## **8. If you could go back in time, What Would you do Differently?**

That's a good question. What would I do differently? Um ..... , ok well first of all, if I could go back in time,

I would definitely spend more time practicing the piano, because you know, I never really practiced that much when I was younger, and I kind of regret it now, because I'd love to be able to play the piano well

## **TELEVISION**

- 1.How much TV do you (usually) watch?
- 2.What's your favourite TV programme?
- 3.Did you watch much TV when you were a child?(How much?)
- 4.What(types of) programmes did you watch when you were a child?
- 5.Do you think television has changed in the past few decades?
- 6.(Possibly) Do you think television has changed since you were a child?
- 7.Has television changed your life in any way?

Seldom. I only turn on the TV to watch the football match on weekends. That is once a week. I am a big fan of football so I watch a lot of football matches. It's exciting and entertaining to see how players push their limits to win the games. Besides I enjoy watching movies, especially when I connect my computer to the TV screen and watch the High Definition movies on bed, it is really enjoyable at night. Lately I have tried to watch the BBC programmes, because it is all in English and it can improve my listening for my IELTS exams.

Oh, yes, I was a really a couch potato when I was a little boy. When on weekends, my parents went out to do other things, I was left alone at home with TV all day long. Therefore, I was deeply obsessed with various TV programmes, even including the adverts. I can still remember the favourite cartoons like Transformer, Tom and Jerry, Dragon Ball, etc, which all went along through my childhood.

Yes, as the techniques have advanced in these years, the TV has also developed a lot. They have become thinner and clearer to be exact. I remembered that old TV screen was made with plasma panel, making the whole TV heavy and big. Then the LCD technology and the LED display come out lately, making the TV thinner and lighter while we can enjoy brighter and clearer programmes.

I believe that watching TV has benefited me in some way, as well as bringing me some detrimental consequences. Watching TV programmes had enabled me to broaden my vision as I was born and raised in a small county and there were many places and things I had no opportunities to experience. But the TV had helped me to see them. But spending too much time in front of TV also made me addicted to it and did harm to my eyes unfortunately. So I had to wear glasses since middle school

## **MUSEUM**

- 1.Are there many (or, any) museums in your hometown?
- 2.Do you think museums are useful for visitors to your hometown/country?

3. Do you often visit a museum?
4. Did you go to any museums when you were a child?
5. When was the last time you visited a museum?
6. Do you think museums are important?
7. Do you think it's suitable for museums to sell things to visitors?

Not so many, actually there is only one museum in my small country about the local history. It allows the local residents to know better about their traditions and historical celebrities.

I go to the museum a lot, when I come to the new place, I'll find some local museums that have interesting features. The museum I visited last time was the Art Museum located in the rural area of Saigon. It is a private-owned museum featuring Vietnamese antiques like porcelain, furnitures, jade and some paintings.

Museums are really important in protecting, preserving, propagating and researching numerous human treasure. Once the antiques are in the museums, they are permanently out of circulation, which means they can be seen by public.

Yes, the reason is that generally, most museums are nonprofit organisations, and these goods are their large portion of income, except the tickets, and also partly because these items are closely related to the theme of the museums, which cannot be bought in most other bookstores or shops.

## **HOLIDAYS**

1. What public holidays do you have in your country?
2. Do people in your country celebrate Christmas?
3. Do you like public holidays?

4. Which public holidays do you like the most?
5. What did you do during the last public holiday?
6. What do other people in your country usually do on public holidays?
7. What would you like to do during the next public holiday?
8. Do you think public holidays are important?
9. Do you think there should be more public holidays in your country?

We celebrate a lot of public festivals in my country. I am sure you know about the Spring Festival which is the most important one. In addition, we get together with our family for the Mid-Autumn Day and the National Day.

Yes, there are so many people in my country, it's really hard to say, probably most people tend to go shopping with families or friends to take advantage of the sales the shops are offering, but personally speaking, I am afraid we don't celebrate Christmas like the way in Western countries.

Yes, I am fond of holidays. The main factor is that on these days, I don't have to work and have plenty of time travelling around to unwind myself and also I will have more consecutive time with my family.

I believe my favourite public holiday would be the National Day because I will have at least seven days to go travelling and also it's the best time to go around, the weather is neither too cold nor too hot, and the foliage of trees have turned yellow or red, which will give you picturesque views.

It's kind of hard to say but people that I know around me tend to go shopping with families or friends to take advantage of the sales the shops are offering, but maybe for others, they probably stay at home for resting.

I believe the public holidays are rather important and there should be more of them in my country. The main factor is that people really need to unwind themselves without any distractions after tiring work and also public

holidays can dramatically boost consumption as the goods will be sold at a discount during these days.

## **FILM**

1. Do you like to watch films?
2. Do you prefer foreign films or Vietnamese films?
3. How often do you go to a cinema or watch a movie?
4. Do Vietnamese people like to go to a cinema to watch a film?
5. What kinds of movies do you like best?
6. What was the first film that you watched?

I'm really into watching films because some films are very entertaining and provoking. I sometimes go to cinema with my friends and family to enjoy our leisure time in the weekends.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with the foreign films, especially the Hollywood films because most of them are well-acted, with lots of charismatic celebrities and always are enormous box-office hit; whereas you know, the Vietnamese films are almost low-budget, so they are not as attractive as their American counterparts.

I go to cinema to watch movies from time to time. Normally if I'm not busy with my work, I'll check out the movies to see whether there are any movies that attract me; but if I have lots of things on my hands, I'll probably focus on my work.

It's kind of hard to say but people that I know around me tend to like watching movies in the cinema, but maybe for others, they just prefer stay at home and watch TV programmes.

As for me, I like the drama films the best because sometimes they just tell simple but warm and heartfelt stories with provoking endings, which would touch on my deepest emotions.

The first film that I watched was the The Lion King many years ago in the cinema with my parents. What I can remember now is the terrific animation and the amazing soundtrack. I particularly liked the song Can You Feel the Love Tonight that I knew it was produced by Elton John later. And I'd learned lessons from these movies. It was about living up to our responsibilities, no matter how hard it is.

## **LEISURE TIME**

- 1.What do you do in your spare time?
- 2.What do you do to relax?
- 3.How do you usually spend your evenings?
- 4.What do you usually do after work/after classes?
- 5.Do you prefer to stay at home in the evenings or do you prefer to go out?
- 6.Do you think modern lifestyles give people enough time for leisure?
- 7.Do you think people today have more time to relax than in the past?
- 8.Do you think it's important for people to have leisure time?
- 9.Do old people and young people spend their leisure time in the same way?
- 10.What do you think are the good points and the possible bad points about having leisure time?
- 11.How do people in your country spend their holidays?
- 12.Do you like to travel in your holidays?
- 13.If you had a child, what leisure places would you go to with your child?

Well, I enjoy self-driving travelling in my spare time. I always drive my car with my friends or family to the rural areas of Saigon during the weekends to loosen up. I feel that self-driving travel can not only enable me to go somewhere I want to at any time, but I can also make my own itineraries and discover the stunning places that others may not find.

Normally, I'll hang out with my friends because I want to loose up, but after being a father, I spend more time at home to stay with my kid, telling stories to him or playing games with him.

If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably spend more time at home to stay with my kid, telling stories to him or playing games with him, whereas, hanging out with friends will reduce my quality family time with my son.

Oh, definitely not, you know, modern lifestyle can bring people convenience, however, the modern fast paced society and fierce competition have made most people spend more time with work, resulting in less quality time with family and friends.

Yes, definitely. After tiring work, people really need to loose up. Apart from earning money, I still need to enjoy family time, hang out with friends to socialise and travel around to experience different lifestyle.

Well, between the two, old people are fond of slow-pace of life compared to young people, for example, old people enjoy walking in the garden or chatting with old friends, on the contrary, young people are fond of energetic activities such as football and hiking in the mountains.

Well, it's kind of hard to say but people that I know around me tend to hang out with friends for dinner, but maybe for others, they will probably go shopping with family in the shopping malls to enjoy themselves.

Well, I'm really into taking my kid travelling around in the natural scenery spots during the weekends to loose up. Although travelling to other places is

really time consuming, I still like going out because I believe that staying close to the nature can cultivate people's mental development

## **SPORTS**

1. Do you like to watch sports on TV?

Yes, I'm really into watching sports on TV because it entertains me a lot. Besides, I like seeing other people do the things that I can't do and wish I could do.

2. Do you play any sports?

Yes, I sometimes play football with my friends in the garden during the weekends' morning to get some exercises.

3. Do you have a favourite sports star?

I feel that my favourite sports star is Messi who is a forward in Barcelona. He is the perfect blend of speed, strength, skill and toughness. He is also an icon in the modern football.

4. What's the most popular sports in Vietnam?

I guess the most popular spectator sport in Vietnam is basketball. Basketball is also played by many young people, mainly boys, for basketball courts are easy to find and it doesn't require specific facility or expensive equipment other than a basket and a ball.

5. What kind of sports would you like to try in the future?

Well, I guess what I'll try in the future is the tennis because it can help me build my strength and improve my flexibility and balance. Besides, tennis is social, it's a sport I can enjoy with friends if I play regularly.

6. Have you ever tried any dangerous sports?

Oh, no, though my life is quite a bit boring, I'm too scared to do any extreme sports because I don't think I have enough guts to put myself in the difficult situations.

## **Vegetables and fruits**

1. What's your favourite vegetable and fruit?

My top three are broccoli, celery and grape because all of them are both nutritious and delicious. Also, I want to give mushrooms an honourable mention as they are one of my favourite things to cook with, although they are a fungus.

2. How often do you eat fruits?

I think I eat fruits at home on a daily basis. I always buy a lot of different fruits in the shopping mall in the weekends for my whole family.

3. Are there any special fruits in your hometown?

Oh yes, there are loquat trees everywhere in my hometown. Loquat is very sweet and has lots of nutrition and can become medicine.

4. Should we eat vegetables every day?

Yes, we do. We really need to eat vegetables everyday because you simply cannot find another food group that is as perfectly matched to our everyday human needs as vegetables. There are various protein, fibre and vitamin that cannot be found in other food like meat.

## MATHS

1. When did you start learning maths?
2. Do you like maths?
3. Who taught you maths?
4. Who's your favourite teacher so far?
5. Is maths difficult for you to learn?
6. Do you like to use a calculator?

I firstly started to learn maths when I was in the first grade in primary school. I was about seven years old then.

To be honest, I disliked maths at all because there were always too many abstract formulas I had to remember. You know, I was not good at memorising things, so I often used the incorrect formula in the exams, and made lots of mistakes and got low marks as a result.

My maths teacher was an elderly woman. She was very kind and patient, but she always tended to be demanding with us, she seemed like making the simple theory very complicated. And she liked leaving endless homework to us.

Yes, I'm afraid that I wasn't quick at fingers. And I was also bored with these abstract formulas and found it hard to pick the appropriate ones to solve the maths problems in exams.

No, actually we were not allowed to use the calculator in class or exam because we were asked to calculate the results with pencil and paper. Therefore I'm not used to use the calculator now.

## SKY

1. Do you like to watch the sky?
2. What is the sky like at night in your hometown?
3. Do you like to watch stars?
4. Have you ever taken a course about stars?
5. Is it important to study stars?
6. What's your favourite star?

Yes, I am really into watching the sky especially at night to count the countless stars when I was a kid. I remember I sometimes laid down in the grass for hours to watch the shining stars when in summer because I was fond of imagining the folk stories about the stars.

Well, as my hometown is a tourism city and there is no any industrial pollution, the sky is always clean and clear, and I can see the stunning night sky with countless and glittering stars and sometimes even the galaxy. But unfortunately in a metropolis like Saigon light pollution makes the night sky invisible.

No, I have never been in any sorts of courses about stars because actually there were no such courses in the schools or university. But fortunately my grandmother once sent me an encyclopaedia about nature in which there were loads of stories about stars, I got the most of the knowledge about stars from it.

Yes, I believe that astronomy has always had a significant impact on our world view as it can help open our eyes, give context to our place in the cosmos and that can definitely reshape how we see the world.

My favourite star constellation is Orion. It's very easy to spot on winter nights. Firstly, it has a huge red giant star, which may explode any time soon. Besides, it has a massive blue star which is very young. On top of that it also has a big nebula where new stars are being born - so it has everything !

## CLOTHES

1. What clothes do you usually like to wear?
2. Do/did you wear the same clothes at school and at home?
3. Will you change your clothes when you go home today?
4. Did you have any special clothes to wear when you were a child?
5. Did you like them?

Well, actually I don't have an instinct for fashion and my look says I'm a laid-back kind of guy. So I usually wear casual clothes. I'm most comfortable wearing jeans, a T-shirt and my flip-flops.

Oh, definitely not. I always wore the school uniforms which was a blue jacket with a white shirt. They were very simple and boring. So when I reached home, I intended to put on my favourite outfits.

Oh, yes. The formal clothes really make me nervous so after I go home later, I'll take them off and change my sweatshirts.

Yes, when I was a child, I needed to wear a uniform at school from primary school all the way to the very last year of high school, which is an institution, so I believed my parents had to follow this tradition.

No, I really couldn't stand the school uniform because the clothes were a bit too old-fashioned; in addition, sometimes I was reluctant to wear them because they were too large. I doubted why they couldn't be a bit more trendy and colourful like the ones in other countries, like Japan and Australia.

## WEEKEND

- 1.How do you usually spend your weekends?
- 2.In your country, do men and women usually do the same kind of things on weekends?
- 3.When do you spend time with your family?
- 4.What do you usually do on weekends?
- 5.What did you do last weekend?
- 6.What do other people in your hometown usually do on weekends?
- 7.What are you going to do next weekend?
- 8.Is there anything new that you'd like to do on weekends?
- 9.Do you like working on weekends?
- 10.Do you think employees should have to work on weekends?
- 11.Do you feel that weekends now are more important to you than when you were a child?

Normally I'll go out to some stunning natural sceneries to let off steam with my family or friends on weekends; but if it's not sunny, I'll stay at home for the whole weekend. Mostly I just use the internet to kill time.

I guess some men play sports while women may just do housework. So men may probably do things to their own interest, by contrast, women spend more time for their families.

I always spend the whole weekends with my family. I barely work on weekends.

Last weekend, I took my son to the Saigon Botanic Garden to go around to see the various plants. Besides we went into the greenhouse exhibition of plants which is very remarkable.

Well, there are so many people in my hometown, it's really hard to say, probably most people tend to stay at home to enjoy the family time, but personally speaking, I guess there are not much entertaining facilities in my small hometown for people to go.

Next week, I plan to go to do some shopping because as the Spring Festival is just around the corner, I need to go to some super markets to prepare some food and other groceries; besides, I have to buy some new clothes for my family for the coming new year, it's an old Vietnamese tradition.

Yes, actually I've been thinking about going to the gym on Saturdays. I have to do some exercise, I'm so out of shape now !

Absolutely no ! That's crazy. I have to relax no matter what. Weekends are not for work !!!

If I were an employee, I would think this is a horrible idea. Employees are human, we all deserve to have some off-work time.

Yes, the main factor is that after five-day of hard work, I really need some leisure time to let off steam, or travel around to experience the stunning natural scenery. Whereas, when I was a kid, I had plenty of time to play, every day was almost the same.

## **READING**

1. Do you like reading books? Why or why not?
2. What (kinds of) books do you like to read?
3. Did you read much when you were a child?
4. What (kinds of) books did you like reading when you were a child?
5. Do (young) children like reading books?
6. For children, what do you think are the benefits of reading?
7. What do you think are the benefits of reading to children?

Yes, I'm really into reading because I believe that reading can be both entertaining and educational. Reading broadens my knowledge by opening up the whole world to me. While I'm reading, I can be visiting another country or a different time period, or traveling through space. I can find out how people solve problems or think up new ideas.

Oh, it's a tough question, or it should be more of what books I don't read. I have a really open mind to books and what genre they are. Classic literature, novel, autobiography, historical story...whatever.

Yes, I remember when I was a kid, I'd like to take some historical books from my father's bookshelf, and read the historical stories, which were really entertaining and educational to me. As a result, I'm very familiar with our Vietnamese ancient history.

It's kind of hard to say but young children that I know around me tend to read fairy tales to cultivate their mental development, but maybe for others, they just want to watch TV and play toys.

I believe if you want your children to be smart, they have to acquire a love for reading, which has numerous benefits. Reading opens the door to child's early academic success, imparts a love of learning and leads to higher grades in every subject. Besides, reading can help children Improve linguistic skills in the form of a richer vocabulary, correct grammar, and more articulate oral communication. On top of that, books teach child about relationships, situations, personalities, and what is good and what is bad in the world he lives in.

## **SLEEP**

- 1.How many hours do you sleep every day?
- 2.Is it necessary to take a nap every day?
- 3.Do old people sleep a lot? Why?
- 4.How to have a good sleep?
- 5.Do you like to get up early in the morning?
- 6.Can you sleep well if you are in a noisy environment?

Usually I sleep for seven to eight hours every day in order to let my body relax. But if I want to do something very important at night, I could only sleep for less than four hours.

Yes, I believe that after having lunch at noon, it's beneficial for body to take a nap, half of hour would be enough, to brace for the tasks in the afternoon.

Yes, I guess the elderly people do need to sleep more. I believe the reason is that after years of working, stress and the natural process breaks down people's body until all they want to do is sleep, consequently, their bodies take longer to recharge the batteries.

I believe you have to follow several rules to get a good sleep regularly. Firstly, go to bed at the same time every night. Choose a time when you normally feel tired, so that you don't toss and turn. Besides, make sure your bed is comfortable so that you can stretch and turn in bed comfortably. As well as that, stay away from big meals at night or try to make dinnertime earlier in the evening, and avoid heavy, rich foods before bed.

Yes, getting up early in the morning is really beneficial for health, because I can enjoy the fresh air in the morning; besides, I have plenty of time in the morning so that I can do some physical exercises liking running and jogging; as well as that, I can prepare a good dinner for the family.

Well, I'm afraid I can't fall asleep in the noisy place like barking dogs, loud neighbours and city traffic because I used to sleep quietly from childhood.

So sometimes I envy someone who grows accustomed to environmental noise and can sleep well in whatever place.

## **TREE**

1. Do you like trees?
2. Are there any important trees in your country?
3. Is there a forest near your hometown?
4. Would you like to live in a place that has a lot of trees?
5. Where can one find trees (or forests) in your country?
6. Do you think places with trees attract more visitors than places with few trees?
7. Did you ever climb trees when you were a child?
8. Have you ever planted a tree?
9. Do you think more people should plant trees?
10. Do you think we should plant more trees?
11. Do you think trees are important?
12. What would you say are the benefits of having trees?
13. Do you think we need to protect trees?

Yes, I am a tree lover because trees let me breathe better, without them I couldn't survive any longer. There are many important trees in my country. The use of bamboo, for example, can be ranged from furniture making to building construction. Besides, the weeping willow trees symbolise the new hope in ancient Vietnam, therefore, there are many poem complimenting them.

Yes. It's just the world-renowned Huangshan Mountain with various kinds of trees living there, the most famous one are pine trees.

Yes, I'm really into getting close to nature cos I believe it's the most healthy and natural way of living. Although it's unreasonable to have such lifestyle in Saigon now, I still hold that dream in my life.

I guess trees can be easily seen in my country. If you are in cities, there are always many sycamore trees along the streets; or if you are in the suburb areas, you will see forests in various sizes.

Well, yes. Obviously places with lots of trees are more shady, cooler, more humid and much less windy, therefore, people will feel more comfortable and more likely to get close to nature.

Yes, of course. There are many trees in my community when I was a kid, I always climbed trees to get higher or to seek the birds' eggs.

Yes, once. I remembered when my middle school once organised hiking in a mountainous area, we planted several saplings in the forest, and I guess they have grown up into big trees already.

Yes, I believe more trees should be planted both in and outside the cities because they can absorb the pollutant gases and provide enough oxygen; besides, tree can save water and prevent soil erosion. Therefore, trees are critically important to keep our eco-system balanced. We are supposed to not only plant more trees, but protect the existing ones.

## **NEWSPAPER**

1. Do you often read newspapers?
2. Which do you prefer reading, magazines or newspapers?
3. What kinds of newspapers (or magazines) do you usually read?
4. How old were you when you first started to read newspapers?
5. Do you think it's important to read newspapers? (Why?/Why not?)

6. Why do you think people read newspapers?
7. What different types of newspapers are there in Vietnam?
8. Do you care about the news?
9. Is the news important to you?
10. What kinds of news do Vietnamese people read in newspapers?
11. Do you prefer to read about domestic (or local) news or international news? (Why?)
12. What are some methods that newspapers use to attract readers?
13. What influence do you think newspapers have on society?
14. Do you think the internet is a good way to get news?

Not very often. Newspaper always takes time to get published so that they are not so updated. Besides, I have to go to the kiosks and spend money to buy newspapers. It's quite troublesome.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with reading magazines in my spare time because they are well printed and always have in-depth reporting on some particular events; whereas, you know, newspapers always report the same news as the Internet, so they now seem to be not so indispensable.

I'm more interested in newspapers about foreign cultures. I like to learn about their religions, customs, and the foods they eat. Occasionally, foreign news interests me, too. I really like reading scientific related news.

I got the habit of reading newspapers when I was in high school, 18 years old maybe. The library in my school had several kinds of newspapers and magazines so that as long as I had free time, I'd like to go to read some news about the latest political events, sports and fashion news.

Yes, I feel that it's very important for me and other people to know what happened in the domestic and international events.

It's kind of hard to say but people that I know around me tend to read the political news because they are interested in what happens in the domestic country and abroad, but maybe for others, they just care more about the sports and fashion events.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with reading domestic news because they are closer to home, and affect me more; whereas, you know, international news sometimes have nothing to do with my daily life, so I just read the headlines.

Well, I feel that newspaper agents always try to use the bold headings, attractive advertisements, and insights in the article to get the readers' attention.

Well, I guess that newspapers have a great influence on society. Newspapers keep them informed about economy, political activities, science, education. Besides, it gives a true and correct picture of the society, country. Moreover, they also help us to educate people about their rights and duties.

Yes, getting news from internet is a regular source now because it's very convenient for me to get news from internet such as mobile phone. The news apps in my mobile phone usually send me the most urgent notifications to me so it keeps me posted.

### **Text messages**

1. Do you text someone if he doesn't answer your phone?
2. Is there any chance when texting someone is better than calling him?
3. Have you ever had difficulty replying?
4. How often do you send text messages?

Yes, when my friends can't answer my phone, I will text him to let him know and wait for his reply.

I believe when the person answering the phone is having a conference or in a cinema, it's better to text him instead of having a telephone call.

Yes, I remember when I have to refuse some requests of friends, I have to think carefully about how to reply for a long time.

I almost send text messages on a daily basis. I always text my friends and family to greet, chat and make a travelling plan.

## **MEMORISING**

1. What do you remember to do every day?
2. What helps people to remember things?
3. Why do old people forget about things easily?
4. Have you ever forgotten something important?

Well, there are many things I have to remember to do every day. For example, after getting up in the morning, I need to take some simple physical exercises like doing some crunches and push-ups. Besides, another important thing that I should keep in mind is to teach my son to read the traditional Vietnamese poems in the evening.

Well, it's kind of hard to say but people I know around me use the to-do-list apps in their mobile phones to help them remember what to do next; but maybe for others, they may probably write the urgent things down in the notebooks.

Well, I guess it's quite normal that people are more and more forgetful when they are becoming ageing. Apart from some negative emotional factors like stress and depression, elderly people are easier to forget things because of their normal ageing.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot the birthday of a woman I liked last time. I once asked her what her birthday was, and told her I would send her a gift, but I

just unbelievably forgot it until the evening that day. Fortunately I asked her out to dinner to celebrate with her.

## **FRIEND**

- 1.How often do you like to hang out with friends?
- 2.Who do you usually like to hang out with?
- 3.Where do you like to go when you hang out with your friends?
- 4.Do you like to go out with a big group or just few friends?

I hang out with my friends to somewhere from time to time. Normally if we have lots of time in the weekends, we will go to the cinema to watch movies with our kids to have a good time; but if we don't have plenty of time, we'll just have dinner together in a restaurant.

Usually I'd like to hang out with one of my close friends. Actually we live in the same community so we can meet frequently. Besides, both of our kids are in the same class in the kindergarten, so we'd like to take them to the park or playground together.

Well, that depends. We sometimes go to the restaurants to enjoy the tasty food if someone finds a decent place; and if we have plenty of time, we'd like to plan a hike or camp in the nearby forest park to enjoy the natural life. That would be a very memorable experience.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with hanging out with a big group people because I feel that I am an extrovert, I like to meet different people to know about different kinds of life and make myself more sociable; whereas, you know, with few people around, it would be hard to find something interesting to do, such as travelling, hiking, etc.

## **TRAVELLING**

1. Do you like travelling?
2. In which seasons do you prefer to travel?
3. Would you say your country welcomes travellers? (or tourists)?
4. Would you say your country is a good place for travellers to visit?

You bet ! I am a big fan of travelling around. I spend months all together each year to go somewhere else. I feel that it's not only an indispensable part of my life, but also can culture my mental development.

I guess the autumn is the best time to travel. As it is neither too hot nor too cold, people will feel comfortable to go out. Besides, as the foliage of trees will turn yellow or red, you will find the picturesque views all around you. Wherever you go, you will experience a memorable trip.

Yes, Vietnamese people are renowned for their hospitality to visitors. And there are also numerous tourist attractions around the country. For instance, you can visit the natural landscape to see the picturesque views, or you can go to the historical relics to know the events through the long Vietnamese history, or you can just stay at the metropolises to experience the local people's lifestyle.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

1. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?
2. How often do you take buses?
3. Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?
4. Is driving to work popular in your country?
5. Do you think people will drive more in the future?

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

7. What will become the most popular means of transportation in Vietnam?

8. Do you prefer public transportation or private transportation?

Well, I guess people in my hometown always ride bike to go work or somewhere else because my hometown is a small town and it's very convenient to go out by bike.

I barely go out by bus because I have my own car now, so I always go somewhere by car.

Well, between the two, travelling by planes is relatively very fast, for example, it just takes three hours for me to go between Saigon and Hanoi which covers distance of 1500 kilometres; on the contrary, travelling by trains is an increasingly cost-effective alternative to planes, particularly if I'm going a relatively short distance.

Yes, people that I know around me tend to go to work by car because it's very convenient to drive, but I believe that maybe for others, they just take buses to office because it's cheap and always on time.

Yes, I believe that as people earn more money and lead a better life, they will tend to buy cars for their families, and apparently drive cars to offices.

Oh no, it's impossible to ride bike to work because you know, Saigon is a big city, I always drive about 20 kilometres to office, so I'll be late if I ride bike.

I believe private transportation will be the most popular means of transportation in my country because as people get richer in the following years, people will tend to buy cars for their families and business for various purposes, and obviously Vietnam has already become the biggest vehicles market in the world.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go to work by my own car because apparently it's much more comfortable than in the crowded bus or subway.

### **Letters or Emails**

1. Do you write many letters or emails?
2. Who do you usually write to?
3. Do you prefer to write letters by hand or to use a computer?
4. How often do you write an email or a letter?
5. What are the differences between emails and letters?
6. Is it hard to think of what to write?
7. What kinds of letter/email do you think is the hardest to write?
8. How do you feel when you receive a letter or email?
9. What sorts of letters or emails are the most difficult to reply to?
10. What kinds of emails (or letters) do you receive that make you feel excited?
11. Which do you prefer to make a phone call or write an email?
12. Do you think people will still write letters in the future?
13. How do you communicate with others at work -by emails or is it more convenient to communicate face-to-face?

Yes, I almost write emails for my clients as part of my job on a daily basis. There are many things I have to write, for example, I usually write end user training for my clients to teach them how to use the system, or I write the development guide for my technical staffs to tell them how to code.

If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with writing things with a computer. I believe that in the age of fast living and a culture of convenience, writing things with computers can bring people convenience and efficiency. Whereas, hand writing is really time consuming and hard to share.

Well, between the two, a letter is printed or handwritten on actual paper and sent through the mail while an email is typed on a computer, tablet or smartphone and sent electronically. While emails have become a more popular way of communication for individuals and businesses, traditional letters still have a place in today's modern, tech-oriented society.

Normally it seems like a daily routine for me to write emails to my clients about how to use the system; but if they complain to me about the poor user experience, I sometimes really find myself getting stuck in explaining to comfort them.

I would be feeling both honoured and excited to receive a letter or email from other because the sender has spent time writing it. Especially when someone writes to me to appreciate me or compliment me about my responsible work.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with writing an email because I can have plenty of time thinking about how to express my opinion correctly and clearly, besides, the whole conversation can be tracked in the mail list; whereas, you know, making a telephone call usually leads to misunderstanding because sometimes it is not very accurate and obscure.

I believe that as a major method of communication between people, letter writing has a vast and interesting history; besides, handwritten letters are personal. They show the receiver that someone has spent time and effort in communicating with them. They are a way of connecting two people that cannot be achieved through the impersonal use of texts or instant messages. Therefore, I feel that the handwriting letters are irreplaceable in the future.

## **Swimming**

### **Can you swim?**

Yes I can. I learnt at school when I was about 7 years old. Swimming lessons were compulsory at our school, like most schools I think.

Are there many places to swim near you?

Yes, there are a few public swimming pools. There is the main indoor one at a big sports complex in the center of town. There are also a couple of outdoor ones, but you can only use them in summer as it is too cold in winter. One is a big one in a park, the other is a much smaller one.

### **Do you think everyone should learn to swim?**

Of course, I think it's very important. Firstly, you spend much of your life on holiday by water, for example, when you go to the beach on holiday, so you won't be able to enjoy yourself with your friends if you can't swim. Also, for safety reasons it's very important. You often hear about sad accidents involving young children so it's very important.

## **SNACKS**

### **1. Do you like snacks?**

- No, not really. I generally prefer to eat at meal times rather than graze between meals.

- Yes, I do. Around mid morning I usually have some fruit and then about 3pm I have some biscuits or something like that.

### **2. What kinds of snacks are popular in your country?**

- Well, I guess that most people eat junk food like crisps, chocolate and biscuits for their snacks.

- I suppose official workers mainly eat junk food like biscuits but other people sometimes eat fruit or something healthier.

### **3. Do you think eating snacks is good for your health?**

- I think that if you're hungry, it's perfectly fine to have some fruit but if people eat junk food between meals, then it's really unhealthy.

- I think all kind of snacking between main meals is bad for your health. If people avoided snacking, they would be much healthier and less over weight.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

1. Do you like to take photographs? (Why?)

2. Do you prefer to take photos yourself or to have other people take photos? (Why?)

3. How long have you liked taking photographs?

4. How (Why) did you become interested in photography?

5. How often do you take photographs?

6. In what situations do you take photographs?

7. What kind of photos do you like to take?

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

9. Who do you take photos of?

10. How do you keep your photos?

11. Do you keep your photographs on your computer?

12. Are there any photos on the walls of your home?

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

14. Do you prefer to send postcards to people or to send photos that you took yourself?

Yes, I am a big fan of photography in my spare time. I always travel around to the stunning natural scenery with my camera. I have been in the habit of it for almost 8 years. The main factor is that I can capture the precious moment in my life, such as the graduation ceremony, or the sweet moment with my girlfriend, and also I believe the photography will cultivate my mental development.

If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with taking photos of others because I feel that different people have different characteristics, so the photos will be distinguishing. Whereas, I barely take a selfie because it will make me embarrassed.

Normally, I'll probably go with the scenery to take photos because I really enjoy the marvellous natural scenery such as the seashore, sunset and twilight, but if I take my son travelling around, I'll take photos of him to capture his happiness.

I store my photos both in my computer disk and Internet for backup. And besides I have a photography website running for 4 years, keeping all my premium photos there.

Yes, I used to print some photos of my kid to hang them in his room, which can help us memorise the warm moment we had together.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with my own photos because they are unique and seeing a lot of comments from friends is really a pleasant thing. Whereas postcards are not as meaningful as photos taken by myself.

## HELP

1. Do you like to help others
2. When was your last time you helped others?
3. Did your parents teach you the importance of helping others?
4. Have you ever refused to help others?
5. Would you like to keep helping others in future?

Frankly, I am very happy to help others, especially my neighbours, , getting along well with neighbour is also very important to lead a happy life.

Well, let me tell you about a time when I helped someone not familiar. One day in the morning, I met a neighbour in the shop who was an old lady and also lived in the same building as me. She just bought a bag of rice and was ready to take the heavy bag home. I saw the bag was quite heavy and she was trying to lift it up. I walked straightly to her, and told her that I could help her take the bag home. She was very thankful and agreed to accept my kindness. I could feel that she really hope someone could stand out and do her a favour at that moment.

When I was young, my parents and teachers taught me a lot about helping others. It is the core virtue in my culture, the solidarity of community is the thing that keeps members off society connected so we are always willing to help each other

Yeah, sometimes when I am in hurry or in business I have to say apology to refuse other's ask for help

## **HISTORY**

1. Do you like (to learn about) history?
2. What historical event do you find most interesting?
3. Do you think history is important?
4. Do you like to watch programmes on TV about history?
5. Do you think you can really learn history from films and TV programmes?
6. Do you think the internet is a good place to learn about history?
7. Can you name a person from history who you would like to learn more about?
8. Why would you like to learn more about him/her?

Yes, I am a big fan of reading historical stories. When I was a little boy, I always took some historical books from my father's bookshelf and read the historical events. I feel that history not only can cultivate my mental development, but also give me a better picture of human society.

Personally I am fond of the Battle of Red Cliffs happened in the early period of Three Kingdoms, which was a decisive battle at the end of the Han Dynasty. It was also the typical battle in Vietnamese history renowned for the fewer and weaker defeating the more and stronger.

Yes, the main factor is that like our native language, history forms a cultural identity and keeps a unique record of country, and also we can learn the experiences from history to correct our current actions.

Yes, I enjoy watching some documentaries about history on TV because I can see a lot of video materials that can not be seen in the textbooks. I always watch them at home during my time off with my son to learn something about history.

I don't feel that watching the current TV series can make you be aware of the history, you know, TV programmes are more engaging than books, however the true historical events in most of the TV series have been distorted by the producers to cater for the audience. It's really shame as the young people will misunderstand the history by these irresponsible productions.

Yes. History is full of debates so you can find both of the two sides of opinion online which will help you be aware of the true facts and think critically. I always google some engaging historical materials about the Song Dynasty, for example, to know about the truth.

The people I'd like to learn about is Wu Chengen, the author of A Journey to the West. He combined the folk tales and his own imagination to write the great fairy story in the 16th century. I want to know about his personality as much as possible and I believe that his imagination is what is lack of nowadays.

## **HANDWRITING**

1. Do you often write things?
2. Do you write everyday?
3. What do you usually write?
4. Do you like writing to people?
5. How often do you send e-mails?
6. What are your main reasons for using e-mails?
7. Do you like to send e-mails?
8. Do you usually write by hand or write using a computer?
9. Nowadays, how do most people write things?
10. Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?
11. When do children begin to write in your country?

12.How did you learn to write?

13.Do you think handwriting is very important (nowadays)?

14.How can children today improve (or, practice) their handwriting?

15.What impression does a person's handwriting have on other people?

Yes, I almost write documentaries for my clients as part of my job on a daily basis. There are many things I have to write, for example, I usually write end user training for my clients to teach them how to use the system, or I write the development guide for my technical staffs to tell them how to code.

Yes, I'm really into communicating with my clients in emails. I send emails to them almost on a daily basis in my office, discussing business, guiding them how to use the system and solving the problems. I feel like sending emails because I can trace the communication by mail list, which is much more useful than telephone.

If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with writing things with a computer. I believe that in the age of fast living and a culture of convenience, writing things with computers can bring people convenience and efficiency. Whereas, hand writing is really time consuming and hard to share.

Well, there are so many people in my country, it's really hard to say, probably most people write something with computers, for example, people like to write blogs to share their feelings with friends on the internet, but personally speaking, I don't think that writing without pens can be called writing.

In Vietnam, children usually learn to write in elementary school. They firstly learn the basic elements of the Vietnamese characters, then the simple characters, and finally the complicated ones. They will have to do a lot of writing practises to remember them. The more they practise, the better they write.

Yes, I feel that handwriting can allow people to get more opportunities because if you have a decent handwriting, people will admire you and you are considered to be both well-educated and literate.

## **MUSIC**

1. Do you often like to listen to music?
2. When do you listen to music?
3. How much time do you spend listening to music every day?
4. What kinds of music do you like to listen to?
5. What's your favourite kind of music?
6. How often do you listen to that type of music?
7. When did you start listening to this type of music?
8. Where do you listen to it?
9. How do you feel when you listen to this music?
10. Do you like listening to songs?
11. Have you ever been to a musical performance?
12. Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument?
13. Is music an important subject at school in Vietnam?
14. Did you often listen to music when you were a child? (If yes, give details.)
15. What kinds of music are most popular in Vietnam?

Yes, I am a big fan of music all these years. I sometimes listen to music before sleeping at night for one hour and when I am driving, which will both help me relax. I am very fond of pop music from Taiwan and Hong Kong,

and I also frequently listen to some American pop singers, like the Backstreet Boys. I can feel the energy when I hear the tune.

Personally, I am interested in the traditional instrumental music, like erhu, mixed with pianos and guitars.

I always get time to listen to these music during the weekends. It is an impressive combination that can give you a both nostalgic and modern feelings. I firstly encountered this type of music when I was driving and listening to the radio five years ago, I forgot the name, but the tune sounded really amazing.

Oh, yes, I saw a pop singer performance several years ago. It was a really memorable night as the live performances were very exciting. I remembered that after the song, when the singer talked to the audience, everyone cheered and clapped crazily. It made me feel so cool being there.

Unfortunately, I had not learned to play any type of musical instrument when I was a little boy. I remembered that in schools, teachers always told us to put all energy into studying and preparing exams. The music lessons, along with physical exercises and paintings, were not so important as the schools claimed to be. I really felt pity when I grew up.

I didn't get enough time to listen to music because I had to give all time to study. That was my biggest pity during my childhood, so when I got to the university, what I firstly did was to buy me a new mp3 player.

I believe currently in Vietnam, the most popular music is pop music. There are many famous pop singers now, releasing numerous albums every year, and they are always trendy for a period of time.

## **Colours**

- 1.What's your favourite colour?
- 2.Are there any colours you dislike (Why?)
- 3.Are colours important to you?

4. Were colours important to you when you were a child?
5. When you are buying something, is the colour important to you?
6. Do you usually wear clothes in your favourite colour?
7. Is colour very important to you when you are buying clothes?
8. Do you prefer light or dark (or, bright) colours?
9. Are there any colours that have a special meaning in your country?
10. What colour would you choose to paint the walls of your room?
11. Is there any colour you would not want your walls to be? (Why?)
12. Do you think different types of people like different colours?

My favourite colour is blue, it is the colour of depth and stability. Blue symbolises wisdom, confidence and intelligence. And I don't like the pink because it is too girly.

I suppose so. You know, different colour conveys different meaning to people. Red represents passion and enthusiasm while green means energetic. So I always choose the suitable colours for things.

Well, yes, I have several clothes in blue, which can bring calm and tranquil feelings to me. I believe that blue is always fashionable in men's outfit.

If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with dark because I believe dark represents stability and wisdom, for example I always choose the dark outfit in my office to highlight my profession, whereas light suits juvenile better.

Yes, there are many colours that have special meaning in my country such as black, which would make people think of mystery. Also like red, it means lucky and good fortune in Vietnam, when it is New Year, people like to wear red clothes, set red firecrackers and give red pocket money to children.

I would like to paint my walls in light yellow or light blue because light colours convey warm and calm to me which should be suitable for household.

Yes, I believe different people have different psychological demand for colours. Some need peace of mind, whereas others may feel like energetic and rebellious.

### **Teachers**

1. Do you have a favourite teacher?
2. Why do you like the teacher?
3. How does (did) this teacher help you?
4. Do you think you could be a teacher?
5. Would you like to be a teacher?

My favourite teacher was my physics teacher whose name was Mr. Zhang in my middle school. He was the most influential teacher I had ever had. He told us a lot of physical background knowledge to encourage and motivate us because physics was quite complicated for us. I still remembered that he frequently gave us articulate speeches that the physics was the gymnastics for the brain, which inspired my enthusiasm to learn it well.

I don't think I am suitable to be a teacher, I am not a patient man and cannot bear to repeat the same things frequently. Teachers' job is really boring to me, you have to make your explanations as easy as possible for students to fully understand. It is a challenging job, I am afraid I cannot do it.

## **Being in a hurry**

When was your last time you did something in a hurry?

Do you like to finish things quickly?

What kind of things do you never do in hurry?

Why do people make mistakes when they are in hurry?

My last time I was in a hurry was the time I rushed to school in a morning for final exam, because I woke up so late

I guess when people are working, for example if a doctor is doing an operation a slight mistake might be vital to the patient. Also if a person is taking a test obviously they should concentrate or they might make mistakes

No, I don't like to make things quickly because I will not concentrate or I might make mistakes.

## **Being alone**

1. Do you like to be alone?

2. What do you like to do when you are alone?

3. Do you like to spend time with your friends or just stay at home on your own?

4. When was the last time you were being alone?

Yes, I'd like to stay alone for some period of time if I have to do something without interruption. But if I have spare time, I would prefer stay with my friends to enjoy the free time.

I really enjoy being alone in the weekend morning, reading some books and playing computer games. During that time, I can do something I am interested in, and don't have to think about how to brace for the coming problems.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with hanging out with my close friends because you need to be sociable in the society and friendship really adds spice to my life; whereas, you know, spending too much being alone is really boring and terrible.

The last time I stayed alone at home was when my wife went on business trip with my child for several days, so I was living, eating, sleeping at home with myself. It's quite quiet so I can do something at ease.

### **Team work**

1. When was your last time worked with a team
2. Do you like to work or study with others or just by yourself?
3. What's the most important thing for teamwork?
4. Do you like to be a leader?

It was the project I did in a team in the second year of my graduate school. Our tutor gave us an assignment to review the server log of an international trade website and give a brief analytics using the data warehouse and data mining technology.

Personally, I would like to work in a team because I'll have partner to shoulder responsibility together and solve problems better, as the saying goes "4 eyes see better than 2"

I think the most important thing for teamwork is task appointment. Every member of team is assigned for specific tasks and he or she should stick to that. Besides team spirit is equally important

Honestly, I would like to be a leader. That position reflects my constant effort that I've done so far in job, and I can win other's respect as well

## **Countryside**

1. Would you like to live in the countryside in the future?
2. What do people living in the countryside like to do?
3. What are the benefits of living in rural areas?
4. What are the differences between living in the city and the countryside?

Absolutely ! I'm a huge fan of going to going to the forest. The environment there is just superb. Every now and then I would visit a forest just because there isn't that much pollution so I could smell the fresh air. Also the animals there are also quite cute - especially some colourful birds.

Living in the countryside, people can enjoy various activities that they hardly have in cities like going out at night without fear of street criminals, doing exercise in the early morning to enjoy the fresh air

Living in the countryside can definitely benefit people in a number of ways. For onething, it's good for one's health condition thanks to significantly lower levels of pollution. It is undeniable that, air quality in big cities is so bad that long-term exposure to it may cause respiratory diseases and other health problems. Besides, the cost of living in rural areas is likely to be lower than that in cities.

However, many people have been attracted to live and work in big cities because of better employment opportunities and higher living standards.

## **Social network**

1. What kinds of social networking websites do you like to use?
2. Are you a social person?
3. What kinds of people do you like to make friends with on those websites?
4. Is it clear to find real friends on social network?

It's undeniable that social networking sites have become a huge part in our lives, especially young people's and so am I. I am addicted to Facebook and Google Plus

I suppose I am out-going and kind of socialized. I have many friends on facebook and can easily get along well with others

I would love to make friends with people who have same interests like mine in music, travelling and learning English

I think no, most of friends I have on facebook are normal friends, it is common that people just make friends for fun and do not interact or share things a lot on social websites.

## **Hanging out with friends**

- 1.How often do you like to hang out with friends?
- 2.Who do you usually like to hang out with?
- 3.Where do you like to go when you hang out with your friends?
- 4.Do you like to go out with a big group or just few friends?

I hang out with my friends to somewhere from time to time. Normally if we have lots of time in the weekends, we will go to the cinema to watch movies with our kids to have a good time; but if we don't have plenty of time, we'll just have dinner together in a restaurant.

Usually I'd like to hang out with one of my close friends. Actually we live in the same community so we can meet frequently. Besides, both of our kids are in the same class in the kindergarten, so we'd like to take them to the park or playground together.

Well, that depends. We sometimes go to the restaurants to enjoy the tasty food if someone finds a decent place; and if we have plenty of time, we'd like to plan a hike or camp in the nearby forest park to enjoy the natural life. That would be a very memorable experience.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with hanging out with a big group people because I feel that I am an extrovert, I like to meet different people to know about different kinds of life and make myself more sociable; whereas, you know, with few people around, it would be hard to find something interesting to do, such as travelling, hiking, etc.