

IELTS Speaking

Model answers

Part 1

Contents

1. Work or Study	17
1. Are you a student or do you work?	17
2. What is your job?	17
3. How did you get this job?	17
4. Do you have to work with other people?	17
5. What do you dislike about your work?	17
6. Do you think you will change jobs in the future?	17
1. What are you studying at the moment?	17
2. Do you enjoy what you study?	17
3. Why did you choose that major?	18
4. Is it a popular subject at your university?	18
5. If you could change to another subject, what would it be?	18
6. What do you like most about your studies?	18
2. Home/Accommodation.....	19

1. Where do you live?	19
2. Do you live in a house or a flat?.....	19
3. Who do you live with?	19
4. Is it a big place?	19
5. How is your apartment decorated?	19
6. Is there anything you would like to change about your flat?	19
7. Do you live in a house or an apartment?	19
8. Which room do you like most in your house? Why?	19
9. Is there anything about your house that you would like to change?	20
10. Tell me something else about your house.	20
11. What kind of housing/accommodation do you live in?	20
12. What's the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?.....	20
13. Can you describe the place where you live?	20
14. Which room does your family spend most of their time in?	20
15. How long have you lived there?	20
16. What do you usually do in your house/flat/room?	20
17. Do you plan to live there for a long time?	20
18. Are the transport facilities to your home very good?.....	21
19. Please describe the room you live in?	21
20. Do you prefer living in a house or a flat?	21
21. What part of your home do you like the most?	21
3. Hometown	22
1. Where is your hometown?	22
2. What do you like about your hometown?	22
3. What do you not like about it?	22
4. How often do you visit your hometown?	22

5. What's the oldest part of your hometown?	22
6. Do many people visit your town?	22
7. Is there any way your hometown could be made better?	23
8. How has your hometown changed over the years?	23
9. Are there good transportation links to your town?	23
10. Would you recommend the town to people with children?	23
11. Is there much to do in your hometown?	23
12. What are the people like in your hometown?	23
13. Is that a big city or a small place?	23
14. How long have you been living there?	24
15. Do you like your hometown?	24
16. Do you like living there?	24
17. Please describe your hometown a little.	24
18. Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?	24
4. Boats	25
1. Do you like going boating?	25
2. Have you ever traveled by boat?	25
3. Would you like to have your own boat?	25
4. Is boat trip popular in your country?	25
5. Do you like boats?	25
5. Colors	26
1. What is your favorite color?	26
2. Did you like that color when you were small?	26

3. Is the color of your car or motorbike important? Why?	26
6. Do you like dark colors or light colors?	26
6. Computers	27
1. Do you use computers very much?	27
2. Have computers changed your life in any way?	27
3. Do you think computers are useful in everyday life?	27
4. Do you think there are any disadvantages to using computers?	27
5. Computers are now used a lot in education. What do you think of this?	27
6. What kinds of computers are popular in Iran?	27
7. How often do you use a computer?	28
8. Who taught you how to use a computer?	28
9. Do you think computers have changed your life?	28
10. What do you usually use your computer for?	28
7. Crowded places	29
1. What kind of places are often crowded?	29
2. Do you like going to crowded places?	29
3. Why do people like going to crowded places?	29
8. Daily routine	30
1. what is the busiest part of the day for you?	30
2. What part of your day do you like best?	30
3. Do you usually have the same routine every day?	30

4. What is your daily routine?
30
5. Do you ever change your routine?
30
6. Do you think it is important to have a daily routine?
30
7. What would you like to change in your day-to-day routine?
31
8. Are all your days the same?
31
9. What time do you get up?
31
10. What's the difference in routine between you and your teenager's times? 31
9. Dictionary
32
 1. Do you like a paper dictionary or electronic dictionary?
32
 2. How will dictionaries change in the future?
32
 3. What kinds of dictionaries have you used before?
32
 4. How often do you use your dictionary?
32
10. Exercise
33
 1. Do you like extreme sports?
33
 2. What kinds of exercises do you do?
33
 3. Do you think children should play sports regularly?
33
 4. What was your favorite sport when you were young?
33
 5. What kinds of exercises are popular in your country?
33
11. Family
34
 1. How many people are there in your family?
34

2. Can you tell me something about your family?	34
3. What kind of things do you and your family do together?	34
4. Do you prefer to spend time with your family or with your friends?	34
5. How are you getting on with your parents?	34
6. Is family very important to you?	34
7. Would you prefer to have a larger or smaller family?	34
8. How many family members does your family have?	34
9. Do you like to talk with your parents?	35
10. What don't you like about your brother or sister?	35
11. Would you say that your family affects your life very much?	35
12. How often do you meet your family?	35
13. How do you spend time with your family?	35
14. Do you want to live with your family in the future?	35
15. Are you close to all of your family members?	35
16. How has your family influenced you?	36
12. Friends	37
1. Are your friends mostly your age or different age?	37
2. Do you prefer one or two close friends or many friends?	37
3. Do you usually see your friends during the week or at weekends? Why?	37
4. Do you prefer to stay alone or with your friends?	37
5. The last time you saw your friends, what did you do together?	37
6. What do you prefer: going out with your friends or spending your spare time staying at home?	37
7. Do you have many friends? Why? Why not?	37

8. Are friends as important to you as a family?	37
9. What do you expect from a good friend?	38
10. Do you remember your friends in primary school? Why?	38
11. What do you do with friends?	38
12. How do you make friends?	38
13. Do you like chatting with friends online?	38
13. Fruit & vegetables	39
1. Do you usually eat fruit and vegetables every day?	39
2. What kind of fruit do you enjoy the most?	39
3. Did you enjoy the same type of fruit when you were a child?	39
4. Do you prefer to eat fruit or vegetables?	39
5. Are there any fruits or vegetables you don't like?	39
6. Do most people eat vegetables in your country?	39
7. Are there many vegetarians in your country?	39
8. Is it important to eat fruits?	39
14. Garden/Park	40
1. Do you have a garden?	40
2. Is there any park near your house?	40
3. Do you want to change anything about the park?	40
15. Gifts	41
1. What kinds of gifts are popular in your country?	41
2. How often do you buy others gifts?	41

- 3. Why do people send gifts?41
- 4. Do you like to give expensive gifts?41

16. Handwriting.....
42

- 1. How did you learn to write? I mean writing a story or something like that?
42
- 2. Nowadays, how do most people write things?
42
- 3. What impression does a person's handwriting have on other people?
42
- 4. Do you think handwriting is very important (nowadays)?
42
- 5. How can children today improve (or, practise) their handwriting?
42
- 6. When do children begin to write in your country?
42
- 7. Do you usually write by hand or write using a computer(, typewriter or word processor)?
42
- 8. Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?
42

17. Having meals
44

- 1. What kinds of meals do you like?
44
- 2. Do you often dinner with your family or friends?
44
- 3. When do you usually eat dinner?
44
- 4. Are there any fruits or vegetables you don't like? Why?
44
- 5. And what is your favourite cuisine?
44
- 6. What's your favourite restaurant?
44
- 7. Who do you often have meals with?
44
- 8. When do you have meals?
44

9. Do you often eat out?	44
10. Do you like to eat at home or outside?	45
18. High School	46
1. How old were you when you started school?	46
2. How did you get to school each day?	46
3. Tell me something about the school?	46
4. What subjects did you study in secondary school (=high school)?	46
5. Have you ever returned to see your old school again?	46
6. Can you describe yourself as a good student?	46
7. Do you study English now?	46
8. Did you enjoy/Do you enjoy studying at school?	46
9. What kind of school did you go to as a child?	46
10. Which subject did you like most? and dislike?	47
11. Do you still in contact with your friends in high school?	47
12. What was your high school like?	47
13. What happened on your first day of high school?	47
19. Holidays	48
1. Are there a lot of holidays in Iran?	48
2. What do Iranian people like to do during holidays?	48
20. Animals	49
1. What kinds of animals do you like?	49
2. Do you like to see animals in the zoo?	49

- 3. What is the most popular animal in Iran?
49
- 4. Why do some people keep pets at home?
49
- 5. Have you ever had a pet before?
49

21. Apps
50

- 1. What's the most popular app in your country?
50
- 2. What kinds of apps do you often use?
50
- 3. Do old people in your country like to use apps?
50
- 4. What kinds of apps would you like to have in the future?
50
- 5. What was the first app you used?
50
- 6. How often do you use social networking applications?
50
- 7. Why do you use social networking applications?
50
- 8. What are the disadvantages of social networking applications?
50
- 9. Do you think it is good to make friends online?
51

22. Jewelry
52

- 1. What's your attitude toward jewellery?
52
- 2. What kind of jewellery you like to buy?
52
- 3. Why so many people choose to buy expensive pieces of jewellery?
52
- 4. How often do you wear jewellery?
52

23. Morning routine
53

- 1. What do you do in the morning?
53

2.	Have you ever changed your routine?	53
3.	Do you often have breakfast?	53
24.	Music	54
1.	Have you ever been to a concert before?	54
2.	When do you listen to music?	54
3.	What's your favourite kind of music?	54
4.	What kinds of music do you like to listen to?	54
5.	How much time do you spend listening to music every day?	54
25.	Names	55
1.	How did your parents choose your name?	55
2.	Does your name have any special meaning?	55
3.	Is your name common or unusual in your country?	55
4.	If you could change your name, would you?	55
5.	Have you ever changed your name?	55
6.	Why do so many people change their name?	55
7.	Do you like your name?	55
8.	What kinds of names are popular in Iran?	55
26.	Neighbors	56
1.	Tell me about the place you are living in.	56
2.	Do you know a lot of people there?	56

3. Do you like your neighbours?	56
27. News/newspaper	57
1. Do you read the news?	57
2. How often do you read the news?	57
3. Do you usually read local news or international news?	57
4. Do you read news from the newspaper or the internet?	57
5. Do you talk about the news with your friends?	57
7. Why do you want to know the latest news?	57
8. Do you often read newspapers?	57
9. How old were you when you first started to read newspapers?	57
10. Are you very interested in the news?	58
11. What sort of news are you most interested in?	58
12. What kinds of (types of) newspapers (or magazines) do you usually read?.....	58
13. Do you think it's important to read newspapers? (Why? /Why not?)	58
14. Why do (you think) people read newspapers?	58
15. What different types of the newspaper are there in Iran?	58
16. Do you care about the news?	58
28. Newspapers or Magazines	59
1. Which do you prefer, reading newspapers or magazines?	59
2. What type of stories do you like to read about?	59
3. Have you ever read a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language? [When/Why?]	59
4. Do you think reading a newspaper and magazine can help you learn a language?	59
5. Why do you think some people prefer magazines to newspapers?	59
6. Which magazines and newspapers do you read (why)?	59

7. Do younger people or older people prefer to read magazines?	60
8. Did you read magazines when you were young?	60
9. What kinds of magazines are popular in your country?	60
29. Outdoor activities	61
1. How often do you do that?	61
2. Do you like outdoor activities?	61
3. How often do you do outdoor activities?	61
4. What outdoor sports do you like? (Why?)	61
5. What outdoor activities do you (most) like to do?	61
6. What do you do in your spare time?	61
7. How much time do you spend outdoors every week?	61
30. Parks	62
1. Do you think there are enough public gardens in your hometown?	62
2. Are public gardens very important in Iran?	62
3. Are there any public gardens in Iran?	62
4. What do you think are the benefits of having gardens in the city?	62
5. Why do people who live in cities like public gardens?	62
31. Patience.....	63
1. Are you a patient person?	63
2. Have you ever lost your patience?	63
3. When do you need patience the most?	63

32. Pets	64
1. Do you have a pet?	64
2. What kinds of pets are common in Iran? Why?	64
3. If you have children in the future, will you allow them to raise a pet?	64
33. Rainy days	65
1. Do you prefer rainy days or sunny days?	65
2. What do you do on rainy days?	65
3. What do you usually do when it rains and you are outside?	65
4. Do you think rain is good?	65
5. How does rain affect life in your country?	65
6. Is there any part of your country where it doesn't rain much?	65
7. Does it rain much in Iran? (Where? When?)	65
8. When (in what month/season) does it rain most in your hometown?	65
9. In which season does it rain most in other parts of Iran?	66
10. Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your hometown?	66
34. Shoes	67
1. Do you often wear shoes?	67
2. Do you like to wear casual or fashionable shoes?	67
3. How often do you buy shoes?	67
4. Have you ever purchased shoes online?	67
35. Sleep	68
1. How many hours do you sleep every day?	68

2. What time do you usually go to bed?68
3. Do old people sleep a lot? Why?
68
4. Is it necessary to take a nap every day?
68
36. Street market
69
1. Are Street markets common in Iran?
69
2. What is usually sold there?
69
3. Do you think people like street markets? Why?
69
37. Advertisements
70
1. Are there many advertisements in your country?
70
2. Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?
70
3. What are the various places where we see advertisements?
70
4. How do you feel about advertisements?
70
5. Have you ever bought anything because of the advertisement?
71
6. Do you like advertisements?
71
38. Teenagers
72
1. What activities do teenagers in your country like to do?
72
2. Do you often spend time with teenagers?
72
3. What is the best part of being a teenager in your country?
72
4. Do you like to spend time with teenagers?
72
5. What are the best things about being a teenager?
72

6. How do teenagers entertain themselves?	72
7. Do you know anything about the kind of fashion that teenagers like?	72
39. The Internet	73
1. Do you use the Internet very much?	73
2. When was the first time you used the Internet?	73
3. Is the Internet very important (or, useful) in your daily life?	73
4. Do think you can (or, could) live without the Internet?	73
40. Transportation	74
1. What transport are there in your city?	74
2. Why do so many people in Iran ride bikes?	74
3. How do you think the traffic condition could be improved?	74
4. Do you think transportation costs(gasoline, subway, bus and taxi fares, etc.) are expensive in your hometown?	74
5. Describe the advantages and disadvantage of saloon cars.	74
6. What kind of people do you think like walking	74
7. What do you think about public transportation?	74
8. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?	75
9. Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?	75
10. How often do you take buses?	75
11. Is driving to work popular in your country?	75
12. Would you ride bikes to work in the future?	75
13. Do you prefer public transportation or private transportation?	75
14. Do you think people will drive more in the future?	75
15. What will become the most popular means of transportation in Iran?	75

41. sky
76
1. Do you often watch the sky?
76
 2. Do you like to watch the sky in the morning or at night?
76
 3. Where is a good place to watch the sky in your hometown?
76
 4. Do you like to watch stars?
76
 5. Have you ever taken a course about stars?
76
 6. What's your favorite star?
76
42. Water
77
1. How often do you drink water?
77
 2. Do you often drink bottled water or tap water?
77
 3. Do you think water is a vital resource?
77
43. Plants
78
1. Do you know anything about growing plants?
78
 2. Do you keep plants at home?
78
 3. Did you grow any plants when you were young?
78
44. The countryside.....
79
1. What do you usually do in the countryside?
79
 2. Have you ever lived in the countryside?
79
 3. Would you enjoy living in the countryside?
79
 4. Will you live in the countryside in the future?
.....79

45. Photos	80
1. Do you like to take photos?	80
2. In which situation do you take photos?	80
46. Public transport	81
1. Do you travel by public transport?	81
2. When was the last time you traveled by public transport?	81
3. What don't you like about public transport?	81
4. Would you prefer to use public transport in the future?	81
47. Stay up late	82
1. Do you sometimes go to bed late?	82
2. What do you do when you stay up late?	82
3. How do you feel when you have stayed up late the night before?	82
48. Celebrities and stars	83
1. Have you ever met a celebrity in real life?	83
2. Who is your favorite movie star?	83
3. Are international superstars popular in your country?	83
49. Cooking and baking	84
1. Do you like to cook?	84
2. Have you ever baked a cake?	84
3. Would you like to learn how to bake?	84
4. What kinds of things are baked in your country?	84
50. Tidiness	85

1.	Are you a tidy person?	85
2.	Do you think people should be tidy all the time?	85
3.	Are you tidier at work or at home?	85
51.	Movies	86
1.	What's your favorite movie?	86
2.	Do your friends like this movie?	86
3.	What kind of movies do young people like?	86
4.	Would you like to be a movie star?	86
52.	Plans	87
1.	What is the hardest part of making plans?	87
2.	What is the most recent plan you made?	87
3.	Do you make plans every day?	87
4.	Are you good at managing your time?	87
53.	Running	88
1.	Do you like running?	88
2.	Have you ever run a long distance?	88
3.	Would you prefer to watch a running competition live or on TV?	88
4.	Do you think running is a good way to stay healthy?	88
54.	Walking	89
1.	Do you often walk?	89
2.	Where do you walk?	89

3. Do you think you walk enough?	89
4. Do you think people will walk more in the future?	89
5. Where do you usually take a walk?	89
6. Do you think people will walk more or not in the future?	89
7. Do you walk more often in the past?	89
8. Do you walk a lot?	89
55. Languages	91
1. Which languages do you speak?	91
2. What are the common languages in your country?	91
3. Would you like to learn a new language?	91
4. Is it important to speak a foreign language?	91
5. Will you learn other languages in the future?	91
6. Do you think it is difficult to learn a new language?	91
7. What language can you speak?	91
8. Why do you learn English?	92
56. Public holidays	93
1. How many public holidays do you have in your country?	93
2. Which public holiday is your favorite?	93
3. What do you usually do on a public holiday?	93
4. Do you think people need more public holidays?	93
57. Age	95

1. Do you like your current age?	95
2. What do you like about it?	95
3. At what age do you think people are the happiest?	95
4. What was the most important decision you have made?	95
58. Travel	96
1. Do you like traveling?	96
2. Which cities have you traveled to?	96
3. What kind of cities do you like to travel to?	96
4. Which city left the deepest impression on you?	96
59. Break	97
1. Do you prefer a long break or several short breaks?	97
2. How often do you take a break?	97
3. What do you usually do during a break?	97
4. Why do you need to take a break?	97
60. Pens or pencils	98
1. Do you prefer to use a pen or a pencil for writing?	98
2. When was the last time you bought a pen or a pencil?	98
3. How would you feel if someone gave you a pen or a pencil as a gift?	98
61. Spending time by yourself	99
1. Do you like spending time by yourself?	99
2. How do you usually spend your time by yourself?	99

3. What did you do last time when you were by yourself?	99
62. Laughter	100
1. When was the last time you laughed?	100
2. Do you like watching funny programs on TV?.....	100
3. Do you like to make people laugh?	100
4. Do you think it is important for friends to laugh together?	100
63. cakes and desserts	101
1. Do you like eating cakes?	101
2. Have you ever made a cake?	101
3. Do you like having desserts?	101
4. What desserts are popular in your country?	101
64. Concentration	102
1. What helps you concentrate?	102
2. What stops you from concentrating?	102
3. What do you do when you can't concentrate?	102
65. Beautiful scenery	103
1. In your country, are there many places to see beautiful scenery?	103
2. Do you like to visit places with beautiful views when you are traveling?	103
3. Do you like to take pictures of beautiful scenery?	103
66. History	104

1.	Do you like history?	104
2.	Did you enjoy learning history when you were a child?	104
3.	When was the last time you read about history?	104
4.	Do you think history is important?	104
67.	Coffee or tea	105
1.	Do you like coffee or tea?	105
2.	Do you remember when you drank coffee/tea for the first time?	105
3.	Do you offer coffee and tea to visitors when they come to your home?	105
4.	What are the benefits of drinking coffee or tea?	105
68.	Rubbish	106
1.	Why do some people throw garbage on the street?	106
2.	What do you do with garbage when you are on the street?	106
3.	How do you feel when you see people throw garbage on the street?	106
4.	Do you think your city is clean or not?	106
69.	Perfume	107
1.	Do you use perfume?	107
2.	What kind of perfume do you like?	107
3.	What does perfume mean to you?	107
4.	Do you give perfume as a gift?	107
70.	Reading	109

1. Do you like reading?	109
2. What kind of books do you read?	109
3. Do you read electronic books?	109
4. Do you read books related to your profession?	109
71. Visit relatives	111
1. Do you often visit your relatives? (Answer) Yes, I	111
2. What do you do when visiting relatives? (Answer) There are a lot of	111
3. When was the last time you visited a relative?	111
4. Why do people visit relatives? (Answer) For many reasons, I	111
72. Weather	113
1. What kind of weather is typical in your hometown?	113
2. What's your favorite season?	113
3. What kind of weather do you like most? Do you prefer dry or wet weather?	113
73. Sharing	114
1. Have you had anything to share with others recently?	114
2. Did your parents teach you to share when you were a child?	114
3. What kind of things do you like to share with others?	114
4. What kind of things are not suitable for sharing?	114
74. Handwriting.....	116
1. Do you often write things?	116

2.	Do you prefer to write by hand or write using a computer?	116
3.	Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?	116
4.	When do children begin to write in your country?	116
75.	Number	117
1.	Are you good at remembering numbers?	117
2.	Do you often use numbers?	117
3.	Is there any special number you like? (Answer) Yes,	117
76.	Sweets	119
1.	Do you like to eat sweets?	119
2.	Is your liking for sweets the same as when you were a child?	119
3.	Have you ever tried to make sweets? (Answer) Honestly, I have	119
4.	Why do people like sweets?	119
77.	Museums	121
	Do you go on field trips to museums to learn history?	121
2.	Do you learn much history at school?	121
3.	When was the last time you read a history publication?	121
78.	Art	123
1.	Do you like art?	123
2.	Have you ever visited an art gallery?	123
3.	Is there any artwork on the wall in your room?	123
79.	Science	125

1. **Have you ever taken science courses?**
125
 2. **Is science important?**
125
 3. **Should we learn science?**
125
 4. **Did you have any science classes in elementary or high school?**
125
 5. **What kind of science do people usually study?**
125
80. Alone
126
1. **When was the last time you were alone?**
126
 2. **What do you like to do when you are alone?**
126
 3. **Do you wish to have more time alone?**
126
 4. **Is it essential to have some time alone?**
126

1. Work or Study

1. Are you a student or do you work?

I'm a student at Foreign Trade University, which is located on Chua Lang Street. My school is about 5 kilometers away from where I live.

2. What is your job?

I currently work as an office manager at a large marketing company. I've been on the job for about five years now. I'm usually assigned to work with a specific business in order to improve their sales through various marketing strategies.

3. How did you get this job?

Well, I am done with my Bachelors in technology in Information Technology. So, during the last year, a lot of companies came in for campus recruitment and I got selected at Infosys.

4. Do you have to work with other people?

Oh yes, all the time. It's a big office and we all have to work as a team if we want to achieve results. I have colleagues I need to liaise with such as the graphic designers and I also have administration staff who work under me. And of course, I also have to work alongside the companies that we provide marketing for. So yes, I definitely have to work with other people.

5. What do you dislike about your work?

The only thing that I really don't like about being a software engineer is that apart from being a great job, it is not something very close to my heart. At heart, I am a writer, traveler and reader. And I would definitely want to do something near to it.

6. Do you think you will change jobs in the future?

Well, that's not something I'm thinking about at the moment as I really enjoy what I do and it's a really good company to work for. The pay is good and they have other good benefits such as flexi-time and end of year bonuses. But that said, change is always a good thing, so I can't see myself being there forever. I'm sure I will change one day.

1. What are you studying at the moment?

I'm studying history at university. It's a four-year course, and I started it three years ago, so I have just one year left. I'm enjoying it a lot so it will be sad to finish.

2. Do you enjoy what you study?

Not really. I don't think what I am learning is practical and there is always a lot of homework and deadline. But my friends at school are really nice. They are the main reason for me to go to class.

3. Why did you choose that major?

I was fascinated by being an auditor when I was in high school. At that time, I was inspired by my cousin, who is an excellent auditor. To be a good auditor, I have to be good at accounting so I made a decision to study it at Tehran University.

4. Is it a popular subject at your university?

Very popular, in fact, it's one of the most sought-after courses. I think there are about 350 people reading law at Queen's. I think lots of student's parents want them to study law so they can get a good job after they graduate.

5. If you could change to another subject, what would it be?

I planned to study medicine, but then when I went on work experience, I fainted at the first sight of blood, so definitely not that. I'm a real history buff and read books about World War 2 all the time, so I suppose it would have to be Modern History.

6. What do you like most about your studies?

We learn about many things from the past such as politics and wars, but I like learning about how people lived in the past the most. It's amazing to see how our lives have changed so much from the past up until now. In some ways, our lives have got much easier now, but in other ways, the simplicity of life in the past made people much happier. Learning about all that is fascinating.

2. Home/Accommodation

1. Where do you live?

I live on the outskirts of XXXX City, in a district called XXXX, about 15 km from the city Centre.

2. Do you live in a house or a flat?

I live in a 3-bedroom flat on the 11th floor of a big apartment building.

sample (2) Currently, I'm living in an apartment in the downtown area with my parents, it's not big, but cozy. You know, I'm still a student. Maybe in the near future, when I'm independent, I'll move out of it and live in a flat by myself.

3. Who do you live with?

I live there with my wife and little baby son.

sample (2) I live in a small apartment with my brother. And it's very convenient to live near my parents, as my mom often cooks for us when we are pretty busy.

4. Is it a big place?

It's pretty big for a flat. It has 3 large bedrooms, one for my wife and me and one for my son when he gets older. It also has a smaller bedroom that I use as a study and to store things in. The kitchen is small but it is part of a big open plan living room, so there is lots of space for the family.

5. How is your apartment decorated?

I don't like lots of over-the-top decoration, so I guess you would describe it as minimalist. The walls are all white and the furniture is also either white or black. There are very few ornaments or pictures because again, I like to keep things quite minimal and I hate clutter.

6. Is there anything you would like to change about your flat?

I would like to have a big balcony. We have a sort of balcony at the moment, but we mainly use it for washing and drying clothes. It would be really nice to have some tables and chairs on a proper balcony, with maybe a few plants, so we could sit there in the evenings and relax.

7. Do you live in a house or an apartment?

I live in a semi-detached house with three bedrooms and a small garden.

8. Which room do you like most in your house? Why?

My favorite room is the kitchen because it looks out onto the back garden, and it's on the side of the house that catches the afternoon sun.

9. Is there anything about your house that you would like to change?

Well, it would be nice if it were a detached house so that we could have windows on the wall that we currently share with our neighbors.

10. Tell me something else about your house.

The previous owners converted the loft into an extra bedroom; that's the quietest room in the house and the best place to go to do some work.

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

My parents and I live in a three-bedroom flat on the 13th floor. Basically, the flat is about 120 square meters in total and since I live quite high up, so I have a wonderful view of the city.

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

In the past, I lived in a small flat. While now I'm living in a big house with my parents. The flat I used to live in is smaller than the house. What's more, it wasn't nicely furnished and didn't have a backyard. The house we are living in now is more comfortable.

13. Can you describe the place where you live?

I live in the downtown of a big city. Nearby is a big city park with beautiful scenery, so living here is enjoyable and relaxing. However, we're thinking about moving away because there is a newly constructed seafood market here, it's so rowdy and chaotic.

14. Which room does your family spend most of their time in?

Well, my family spend most of the time in the living room, there is a large TV set hanging on the wall and during our time off, we often watch TV or movies, sit around and talk about our days. That's enjoyable.

15. How long have you lived there?

Well, I've been lived there since I was born, it's more than 20 years, you know, to be honest with you, I like living with my family because we can look after each other.

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

I often listen to music if I'm really tired, I watch TV with my parents after dinner. Sometimes, I just sit quietly on the sofa to have some meditations, to have a peaceful mind. In a word, it's graceful, restful and comfortable.

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

No, I'm not. I would love to own a nice townhouse close to work. It has a patio, a big kitchen, and plenty of rooms to entertain, which would be great.

18. Are the transport facilities to your home very good?

Yea, it's in an easily accessible location. You can take a bus, taxi or the subway, any way you want, to my home.

19. Please describe the room you live in?

Well, it's a common but cozy room without a special design. The wall is white and the floor is covered by brown wooden floors. Besides my bed, there is a built-in desk and several closets.

20. Do you prefer living in a house or a flat?

It depends, I guess. If I live alone, of course, I like to live in an apartment because of the cheap rent and convenience of cleaning. But if I live together with my family, I will prefer a house since every member of the family will have their own space.

21. What part of your home do you like the most?

I like my bedroom the most because it gives me a sense of freedom. It's a place Where I can look around and not feel agitated or confined, everything is in harmony.

3. Hometown

1. Where is your hometown?

My hometown is on the southeast coast of Northern Ireland. It's called Dundrum and it's about 1 hour south of the capital city.

sample (2) My hometown is Tehran, the capital city in Tehran Province, since it's a small place, I've been to almost every corner of the city and know many local foods. It's also interesting when I go out because I could always run across some acquaintances.

2. What do you like about your hometown?

It's an area of outstanding natural beauty and for me, one of the most beautiful places on earth. It has everything; fantastic beaches, rolling mountains, dense forests and picturesque countryside.

sample (2) I like the nightlife in my hometown, because there is a lot of restaurants there, and that's what I'm really into. You know, I'm the kind of person who likes to be where the crowds are.

3. What do you not like about it?

It can be a little bit boring because it's really tiny. There are only a few small shops and a couple of pubs and that's it! In the summer, it's OK because you can enjoy the outdoors but it would be nice to have a few more indoor facilities for the winter.

sample (2) I hate the traffic conditions there. My hometown's traffic always drives me crazy; it often takes me more than one and a half an hour to go back home from work. Another one of my least favorite things is pollution, it has become one of the most serious problems in my hometown.

4. How often do you visit your hometown?

Not as much as I should. I only get to visit about once a year now to see my family because I'm really busy with work and it's quite far away, but I hope to visit more in the future.

5. What's the oldest part of your hometown?

There is an old Norman castle that sits on top of the highest hill of the town. It's a ruin now, but there are some breathtaking views from it and it's easy to see why they chose that site for a castle because you can see for miles around.

6. Do many people visit your town?

Thousands of tourists visit every summer. They come from the capital city mostly to get away from the hustle and bustle and enjoy the peace and quiet. There are more and more international tourists visiting because lots of scenes from the TV show 'Game of Thrones' were shot just outside the village.

7. Is there any way your hometown could be made better?

As I said before, the best thing about the town is its rural beauty and you can't really improve that. If I had to say something, it would be to improve the roads, they are in a terrible state and cause a few car accidents every year.

8. How has your hometown changed over the years?

Since I was a child, the town has almost doubled in size and population. It used to consist of just one main street, but now there are many new housing developments and apartments next to the water. With all these new people moving in, it has changed the character of the town a little bit, people are not as friendly as before.

9. Are there good transportation links to your town?

The public transport system consists of just buses that pass through the town on an hourly basis. One bus goes north to the capital city which is really convenient if you need to do any shopping and the other bus goes south where you can switch buses and go across the border to the Republic of Ireland, so you could say we have international transport links which are not bad for a little town like ours.

10. Would you recommend the town to people with children?

Yes and no. It is obviously a great place to bring up kids because there are so many things for them to do like swim in the sea, play in the forest and run on the beach. However, the good schools are pretty far away and I remember having to get up really early every morning to catch a bus to school that was 20 miles away.

11. Is there much to do in your hometown?

Oh yes, there's certainly lots to do there as it's a fairly big city. If you like going out in the evening there are a lot of good restaurants and bars. If you prefer cultural activities there are museums and art galleries. But if you like nature there are lots of other things outside of the city which are easy to reach.

12. What are the people like in your hometown?

They are mostly quite friendly, but as with most big cities everyone is often busy so it may seem as if they are not interested in speaking or having a chat. But if you live there, you know that most people are quite happy to have a chat if they have time and will help you if needed.

13. Is that a big city or a small place?

Well, it's a big city with some scenic spots. Modern facilities for entertainments are also built up in downtown areas. So we can always find something interesting to do when getting together with friends.

14. How long have you been living there?

I have been living there since I was born, for more than twenty years. It's really a beautiful and comfortable place to live.

15. Do you like your hometown?

Of course, who doesn't? And from all the aspects, I love local food and everyone who comes to my hometown would try this food. Also, I like the city Centre because there are a lot of cafes there and hustle and bustle.

16. Do you like living there?

Yes, definitely. I have already gotten accustomed to living there, you know, the crowds, the streets, the environment, this is the place where I have spent the most precious years of my life. It's no exaggeration to say that I have left my memories in every street of the city and it's like my blood and flesh.

17. Please describe your hometown a little.

My hometown is Damavand, a city which is located in the northeast of Tehran. Basically, it's a municipal city with a modern transportation system. And it's quite renowned for its local food. I have to say every region has its famous food and it's hard to find authentic food in my hometown in other cities, so sometimes I really miss local food when I'm away.

18. Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?

No, since I'm planning to have further education and future jobs in bigger cities like Tehran. I guess when I grow old, I will probably go back to my hometown and live there.

4. Boats

1. Do you like going boating?

For sure I like it. As it is a beautiful and enjoyable way to see some city or area or just enjoy the scenery that passes by.

2. Have you ever traveled by boat?

Oh, dozen times, I guess. Boating **is the perfect way for me to unwind and reconnect in the natural environment.** So, yeah, I always try to go on a boat trip while traveling near the water.

3. Would you like to have your own boat?

Oh yeah, I would do it with pleasure. I think it is an **excellent investment** and also great fun and **one of the best ways to draw a family together**.

sample (2) Definitely! If I did have a boat, I would be able to go on a boating trip on a nearby lake with my friends. We can fish and chat together about it. It would be so much fun!

4. Is boat trip popular in your country?

No, not really, because Iran's road network is so widespread that most people **under most circumstances** will choose it over boat travel. but sightseeing by boat on the river can be a fun journey for many.

sample (2) I don't think it's very popular. Although there're a lot of rivers and lakes in Iran, I think people are not allowed to go boating on their own. But there're boat trips at some tourist attractions where we can give it a try.

5. Do you like boats?

Yes, I do. Because with a boat I can travel to various places. when I'm on a boat, I feel as if I'm sitting or standing on water.

5. Colors

1. What is your favorite color?

When I was growing up, I guess blue was my favorite color. I don't know why, but I always really liked things that were dark blue. These days though, I tend to have a preference for green things. So, I suppose green and blue are the colors that I like most.

2. Did you like that color when you were small?

As I mentioned, I always liked dark blue when I was young, but green is something that I started to like just a couple of years ago.

3. Is the color of your car or motorbike important? Why?

Yes, and no. I mean, I don't really care what color it is; however, I wouldn't really like to have a pink motorbike. Pink is a little bit too feminine for me. These days I have a black motorbike, which I think is a good color for it.

4. Do you usually wear clothes in your favorite colors?

Yes. My mum says my wardrobe looks green. I have all shades of green from lime, olive, and emerald to sea green and parrot green.

5. Are there any colors you dislike?

No. It is not that I dislike, but I avoid colors like black when it comes to painting my house. It makes sense when the painter says you have to choose colors that reflect light.

6. Do you like dark colors or light colors?

I choose based on my mood. When I'm happy, I pick out bright, vibrant colors. When I'm sad, I go for dull shades.

6. Computers

1. Do you use computers very much?

Not regularly, I think, just to browse websites for the news every day, actually sitting in front of the computer for a long time is harmful to my eyesight and physical health. Also, I feel a headache when I look at the monitor for over 30 minutes.

2. Have computers changed your life in any way?

Yes, computers have made considerable changes in my life. In fact, it improves efficiency at work. I can type words, figures, or data through the keyboard of my computer, which is more efficient compared with handwriting. Furthermore, computers enrich my recreation activities and I can play video games or go shopping online.

sample (2) Yes, I think so. It makes my life convenient and helps me to get up-to-date information. Also, it's a great way for me to entertain myself.

sample (3) Yes. It has made my life a lot easier in many ways. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to get so much useful information about my schoolwork, and my time after school would've been really boring.

3. Do you think computers are useful in everyday life?

Yes, it makes considerable changes to my life, for example, I use it to connect to the Internet to communicate with friends through some instant messaging programs, browse the web, download music and save them to my removable hard drive

4. Do you think there are any disadvantages to using computers?

Yes, sitting in front of the computer screen for a long time has a detrimental effect on people's health. You know, a sedentary lifestyle can cause some chronic diseases, like backache or something like that.

5. Computers are now used a lot in education. What do you think of this?

Computers may reduce efficiency and distract students' attention. Without the supervision of parents and teachers, students may focus on playing computer games and getting addicted to them.

6. What kinds of computers are popular in Iran?

sample (1): Laptops are popular in Iran because they are portable, people always carry their laptops with them wherever they go.

sample (2): All computers are popular. I think people use different computers for different purposes. Most people work with a desktop or a laptop computer while they may use a tablet computer for recreation.

7. How often do you use a computer?

sample (1): Well, I use the computer almost every day, it has become an essential part of my life. I use it to do my job, get some entertainment as well. I can't imagine life without a computer.

sample (2): I use it almost every day. I have to use it for my studies.

8. Who taught you how to use a computer?

sample (1): It was one of my classmates. I remember I watched comic cartoons read novels on the Internet. Actually, that was my first time using a computer.

sample (2): My computer teacher in primary school did. But he only taught me the basics, I learned the rest on my own.

9. Do you think computers have changed your life?

sample (1): Yes, I think so. It makes my life convenient and helps me to get up-to-date information. Also, it's a great way for me to entertain myself.

sample (2): Yes. It has made my life a lot easier in many ways. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to get so much useful information about my schoolwork, and my time after school would've been really boring.

10. What do you usually use your computer for?

sample (1): Normally, I use the computer to search for some information because it's fast. However, if I'm really tired, I will switch to computer games because I can lose myself a little while I'm in the games.

sample (2): I use it to search for information about my schoolwork. And sometimes, when I'm done with work, I use it to chat with my friends or listen to music.

7. Crowded places

1. What kind of places are often crowded?

I think public places that offer any means of entertainment are usually filled with people, like coffee houses, movie theatres, or swimming pools. However, public places like museums or libraries are not as crowded, I suppose.

2. Do you like going to crowded places?

Oh no, actually. I always think of myself as an introvert, so hanging out at crowded places is not really my cup of tea. Personally, I would prefer to have my own space and do whatever I want without being disturbed.

3. Why do people like going to crowded places?

I guess some people enjoy immersing themselves in the crowded atmosphere instead of spending time alone. It's just a matter of personal preference.

8. Daily routine

1. what is the busiest part of the day for you?

From about 10 o'clock to noon. That is when I have to take care of my work and things are a bit hectic.

sample (2) As most of my classes in the university are scheduled in the late afternoon, it is usually the busiest part of my day.

2. What part of your day do you like best?

My favorite part of the day is the late afternoon because the day's work is coming to an end, I can go home, and I have the evening to look forward to, and the weather is generally pleasant and cool.

sample (2) I am a night person, so the best time for me to do the things I love is at night time. I prefer to study, to read and to watch films in bed or on the sofa at night.

3. Do you usually have the same routine every day?

Almost. I start my day with coffee, then rush to the train station to go to work and back home. Not too much room for flexibility when you work 9 hours a day and you are 12 hours out of the house. I dream of becoming a freelancer, especially for this reason.

4. What is your daily routine?

On a typical weekday, I have to wake up a bit early and revise my university lessons and then I rush to the university campus to attend the lecture. At around 2.00 pm I eat my lunch in the cafeteria and spent the whole evening in the library. After I return home at around 7.00 pm I spent my time in my study room and have my dinner with my family members. I watch a news channel for an hour and then get back to my room.

sample (2) I usually wake up at 8 am, as my day usually starts at 9 am. Typically, I have a simple breakfast before setting off to school. At 7 pm, I am usually back home from school. Dinner with my family is often at 8 pm. The rest of the evening I typically spend on homework, doing some research, and part of it chatting with friends on social media.

5. Do you ever change your routine?

I always want some changes in my life, so my routines also are constantly changing. I do not like to have a mundane or routine set of activities each day, that would be boring. Also, having different patterns can keep others guessing about your whereabouts, just adds to the security factor!

6. Do you think it is important to have a daily routine?

Not really. I try to make each of my days a little different from the previous one, to keep me motivated and to add to the fun.

7. What would you like to change in your day-to-day routine?

I would like to get up earlier in the morning than I do now. Next, I would like to take up regular exercises in a gymnasium. Apart from that, I would like to leave the office/ university early to walk in the park for an hour. Apart from that, my current daily routine is all good

8. Are all your days the same?

Not really. For me, a day-off is quite different from a busy working day in every perspective. Apart from that different circumstances and events make the days different from each other. While Sunday is a day to spend time with my family members and to meet friends and play with them in the evening.

9. What time do you get up?

Well, let's see. Some days I wake up early. Maybe about 6 o'clock. Yeah, sometimes I wake up at 8 o'clock. When I get up early, I like to get ready for the day, take a shower, and have breakfast. But other days, I don't like getting up early. Maybe I'll sleep in until 10:00 or 11:00.

10. What's the difference in routine between you and your teenager's times?

There are a variety of differences indeed. When I was in my early teenage life, I was happy—go—lucky kind of person who has all the time to do sport, take piano lessons. But these days, there's too much pressure on my studies and I am so occupied all week. Chilling out is not part of my daily routine.

9. Dictionary

1. Do you like a paper dictionary or electronic dictionary?

I prefer the paper dictionary. You may say an electronic dictionary is much more convenient, easy to use, and lightweight. But I find that when I look up the new words in the paper dictionary and write them down in my notebook, I can remember better.

2. How will dictionaries change in the future?

For the paper dictionary, is probably much lighter and easy to carry around. While the electronic dictionary may be much more detailed and accurate.

3. What kinds of dictionaries have you used before?

I mainly used bilingual dictionaries, like Advanced Oxford English-Persian and Persian-English Dictionary or the Longman Dictionary and some electronic dictionaries my teachers recommended. Each has its advantages.

4. How often do you use your dictionary?

I use my dictionary nearly every day. My major is English, so whenever I encounter some words I don't know, I will look them up either in the paper dictionary or the electronic dictionary.

10. Exercise

1. Do you like extreme sports?

you mean sports like bungee jumping, rock climbing, and the high jump? I don't like them at all. Because they seem dangerous, I am prone to get hurt.

2. What kinds of exercises do you do?

I am an active person, and I'd like to be close to nature, so I like doing outdoor exercises, like running on the street or climbing in the wild.

3. Do you think children should play sports regularly?

Yes, I think so. Children are busy with their schoolwork on weekdays. They don't have enough time to do exercises, even though they do have PE classes at school. Besides, playing sports regularly can build up a good physique and is also good for their study.

4. What was your favorite sport when you were young?

Climbing was my favorite. I really enjoyed the feeling that after a long and tiring journey I had finally reached the top. The fresh air and the magical views were the best rewards.

5. What kinds of exercises are popular in your country?

Running, I think. It doesn't need professional equipment, just a pair of sports shoes is enough. And people can run with their friends, or just on their own and listen to some music during the journey, a good way to get rid of troubles.

11. Family

1. How many people are there in your family?

There are four. There's me of course. Then there's my younger brother, he's fifteen years old. And I have my mother and father who are both in their late 70s. I have two grandparents as well, but they don't live with us.

2. Can you tell me something about your family?

Well, I've got two older sisters and one younger brother, so I'm right in the middle. My mum and dad are divorced and they're remarried. So, actually, I have quite a lot of stepbrothers and stepsisters, so there are quite a few of us.

3. What kind of things do you and your family do together?

There are a lot of things that we do together. My whole family always gathers at dinner and discusses various types of stuff. I often take advice on important things from my parents, and sometimes my little brother too.

4. Do you prefer to spend time with your family or with your friends?

If I were to choose between the two, I'll go with my family because in many ways, my family is my friends and they are the ones who will stay with me all my life, whereas I don't actually meet my friends very often, you know although yeah sometimes I have more fun with my friends because they are closer to my age.

5. How are you getting on with your parents?

If you asked me that question when I was in junior high, it would be totally different point of view. I mean, my parents, they had a list of things that they thought I need to become, and that I need to better myself and all, always compared me to another kid but it's just like the story of the last decade.

6. Is family very important to you?

Of course, it is. Family is the most important thing in the world to me. It's the only thing that never turns back on me and it's really all I have in the long run. Once I grew up and moved out and away, I more realized how important they are.

7. Would you prefer to have a larger or smaller family?

Actually, I prefer my family to remain unchanged coz it's the best now. Although I also wanna live in an extended family then family members can support and foster each other but I'm a bit worried about generation gaps which might lead to some unnecessary arguments, you know.

8. How many family members does your family have?

I have a lovely family and my family is the most important aspect of my life. I am very close to my family members and they are my best friends, mentors, and supporters.

9. Do you like to talk with your parents?

I find it difficult to talk with them at least now. My parents just try to convince me to follow in their footsteps, becoming a businessman and woman that could run in the family, but I dream of being an educator. So, this “serious” topic has become so hot every time we talk but I often get bored and find a way to leave it.

10. What don't you like about your brother or sister?

What I don't like about my sister is that she always let herself get into trouble at school like staying out late or just being lazy. So that makes my poor mother and I have to try to turn a blind eye to some of her behavior, but it wasn't easy.

11. Would you say that your family affects your life very much?

I'd like to say that no one could influence me as strongly in my life as my father, a businessman. I followed in his footsteps and joined him in the family company. He enjoys showing me the ropes that'll help a lot when I'm going to run my own business.

12. How often do you meet your family?

sample (1) I don't live in the same city as them, so I can only visit them during public holidays like spring festivals and national holidays. So I'd say twice each year. **sample (2)** About once every two months, when I have a long holiday from school.

13. How do you spend time with your family?

I like to cook with them. Both of my parents are good at cooking. So whenever we three have time, we'd plan a great home meal together and I really enjoy the time helping them to make great food.

sample (2) At home, we watch TV and have meals together. Once a year, my family and I go on vacation.

14. Do you want to live with your family in the future?

sample(1) Not really, I want to live with my spouse independently. This is because my parents have a different lifestyle, they are early birds and they sleep before 10 o'clock, and they expect me to do so. I don't want to get in a fight with them constantly over trivial things like these, so I have to have my own place.

sample (2) In the future when I grow up, I want to live close to my parents but probably not in the same apartment because we have different lifestyles.

15. Are you close to all of your family members?

Yes. I'm from a nuclear family so it's not very big. We are all very close in family life and we always try to take care of each other.

sample (2) I only talk to a few of them regularly. The ones I barely talk to are those who either live far away or I don't know much about. So I usually choose to be with the ones that I feel connected with.

16. How has your family influenced you?

sample (1) My parents are self-disciplined people. So what they do or say really has a big influence on me. For example, they always say thanks to the people offering service at public places. And they are friendly to neighbors. When they have cooked something nice, they are willing to share the food with others. All these deeds have shaped who I am today.

sample (2) My parents are both very honest and hardworking people. They have set good examples for me and taught me to have integrity and perseverance.

12. Friends

1. Are your friends mostly your age or different age?

Why? Most of my friends are my age and I have a few friends who are seniors to me. The reason I have friends of my age is that they were mostly my classmates initially and then became my good friends. The majority of my friends are from my high school and college and that naturally makes them be my age.

2. Do you prefer one or two close friends or many friends?

When I was in my early teenage, I preferred many friends but nowadays I have few friends but they are very close to me. So, I would say, I prefer having few close friends to having too many ordinary friends.

3. Do you usually see your friends during the week or at weekends? Why?

I usually see my friends at weekends. Weekdays are busy days and after I get back home in the evening, I prefer to stay at home with my family members.

4. Do you prefer to stay alone or with your friends?

I usually prefer to be with my friends. However, there are times when I need my personal time and, in this case, I prefer solitude rather than a company.

5. The last time you saw your friends, what did you do together?

Well, we played badminton together and had our dinner in a nearby restaurant. That's the last thing I can recall doing with my friends and that would be about a week ago.

6. What do you prefer: going out with your friends or spending your spare time staying at home?

That depends. Sometimes I prefer being with my friends and sometimes I prefer staying at home with my family members. I try to maintain a balance in terms of spending time with my friends and with my family. For example, while playing any outdoor sports, I prefer going out with friends.

7. Do you have many friends? Why? Why not?

As I've already said, I had many friends when I was in high school. But these days I have comparatively fewer close friends.

8. Are friends as important to you as a family?

To me, my family is more important. However, this does not make my friends less important to me. Naturally family comes first for almost everybody and then friendship. I am no exception.

9. What do you expect from a good friend?

Well, that's a tough question! Not that I have not thought about it, but I have never drawn a solid conclusion about it! Umm, my expectation from a good friend is that he would be a good companion, a good listener, would criticize me whenever needed, would be supportive and positive. He must be honest and would have a sense of humor.

10. Do you remember your friends in primary school? Why?

Yes, I remember most of them, if not all of them. The classes were small, so we were all pretty close. And most of us were from the same neighborhood, so I still see them now.

11. What do you do with friends?

I do a ton of things with friends, like going shopping, singing, reading. I like being with them.

12. How do you make friends?

Most of my friends are from school. When I meet fun people in a new class, I would start a conversation with them, and if we get along, we become friends.

13. Do you like chatting with friends online?

Not really. I prefer chatting with them in person because I can see their expressions and listen to their tones, which are really important in communication.

13. Fruit & vegetables

1. Do you usually eat fruit and vegetables every day?

Yes, I do. I usually have bananas with my cereal at breakfast time, an apple for lunch, and sometimes I have melon or some other types of fruit after the main meal. I eat lots of vegetables each day as well because they're good for me.

2. What kind of fruit do you enjoy the most?

I really love bananas because I enjoy the flavor and the fact that they are convenient to take to school, and they fill us up easily.

3. Did you enjoy the same type of fruit when you were a child?

No, I don't think so. I used to hate peeling the skin of bananas, so I never really enjoyed eating them. Then, when I got a bit older, I changed my mind.

4. Do you prefer to eat fruit or vegetables?

Sometimes, I think I prefer vegetables because they are always part of the meal, not separate, so it's easier to get enough vegetables to stay healthy. But then, fruit is so sweet and delicious. I guess I enjoy both fruit and vegetables equally.

5. Are there any fruits or vegetables you don't like?

Why? Yes, there are... I'm not a fussy eater, but I really hate onions and seafood... I try to avoid meals that might contain these products...

6. Do most people eat vegetables in your country?

Yes, they do. Almost every meal has either rice or potatoes and also another vegetable as well, such as cabbage, carrots, green beans or something like that. Quite a lot of people have a small proportion of vegetables to meat but at least they always have some kind of vegetable with their meal.

7. Are there many vegetarians in your country?

Yes, quite a lot. Many people choose to avoid eating meat and their diet consists of both vegetables and grains. There are quite a few restaurants in my city which cater to vegetarians and offer the most wonderful dishes such as fried aubergine, spinach and potato, onion cakes and things like that. They're actually very delicious.

8. Is it important to eat fruits?

Definitely. Fruits, like vegetables, are nutritious and therefore are great for our health. Most fruits are packed with vitamins and minerals that are essential to boost our immune system.

14. Garden/Park

1. Do you have a garden?

Well, I'm currently living in an apartment in a condo near the heart of Hanoi, so as you can imagine, there is no space for a garden in my living place. However, I do have a lovely garden where I grow all kinds of favorite flowers and plants in my parents' house.

2. Is there any park near your house?

Fortunately, yes, my house is located near a large park with a wide variety of flowers and big trees, so it is an ideal place for me to stroll around and blow off some steam every weekend.

3. Do you want to change anything about the park?

The park itself is really nice, but it would be better if there were more lights around the park to make it slightly brighter. To be honest, I find it a bit scary when jogging in this park at night, so I only go there during the day.

4. Do you like going to the parks?

I'm very fond of Gibb's Garden near my house. It has a small pond as well. I go there on weekends to relax and enjoy the fresh air.

5. Do you think there are enough parks or gardens in your hometown?

We have one large garden in the center of the city, but there are also several parks in the suburbs. So, I think we have just the right number of parks in our town.

6. What did you use to do in parks as a child?

I had loads of fun in the park nearby. It had a see-saw, and I enjoyed going up and down on it. We had other children from the neighborhood who joined me in playing. We had a miniature version of the merry-go-round which we thoroughly enjoyed.

15. Gifts

1. What kinds of gifts are popular in your country?

I'm not quite sure what gifts are popular in Iran, but I do know that whenever I go to a boutique, I can always see the furry dolls taking up a large room in the stores, so probably dolls are quite popular.

2. How often do you buy others gifts?

I only buy presents for friends on special occasions, such as on their birthdays or during festivals.

3. Why do people send gifts?

I think sending gifts is part of our Iranian culture. There is an old saying that says little gift, deep goodwill. Sending gifts, on the one hand, shows that people value the receiver, on the other hand, sending gifts on special occasions is also a respect to our time-honoured tradition.

4. Do you like to give expensive gifts?

Honestly speaking, I don't like to give expensive gifts, but I'd like to receive expensive gifts. Hahaha. I think sending a gift is a token of regard, it needn't have to be expensive to show your love or care.

16. Handwriting

1. How did you learn to write? I mean writing a story or something like that?

I think I just did what everybody else would do. At first, I collected good stories from reference books, I would draw down the good words, sentences and paragraphs in one notebook. And of course, I would change my reading materials when I went to different grades. With time passing by, I gradually had an idea of how to write. Yes, that's just me, read first, then copied, finally started writing.

2. Nowadays, how do most people write things?

I think they prefer to use computers or their mobile phones to write something, for business or for private affairs, such as sending an email through the internet, or use the cellphone to record their daily life.

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

There is an old saying: the style is the man, which means one's handwriting in some way is already reflecting his or her character. In my view, good handwriting is a bonus point. I can earn other people's compliments by sending an exquisite card, with beautiful handwriting.

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

I think handwriting still plays an important role in our daily life. For example, students need to have good handwriting so they can get good grades in their entrance examinations. In a broader sense, if we don't practice writing in a regular term, we will gradually forget how to write, it is a cultural loss, I think.

5. How can children today improve (or, practise) their handwriting?

Practice makes perfect. There is only one way to improve their handwriting, which is practising as often as possible. They can buy a notebook and practise writing on a regular basis. And I think that offering calligraphy courses at school is also a good way for children to improve their handwriting.

6. When do children begin to write in your country?

Generally, around five to six years old. Most kids start to learn how to write and how to read in kindergarten, although they may just be able to write their names.

7. Do you usually write by hand or write using a computer(, typewriter or word processor)?

Computer. Because most of my work is related to the computer, like sending e-mails, writing and editing articles, and so on.

8. Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?

I don't think so. Although I admit that nearly everyone has his or her own computer today, but handwriting still has its advantages. Imagine when receiving a postcard from one of your best friends, you can smell the paper, you can see the handwriting of the person, it's just more intimate.

17. Having meals

1. What kinds of meals do you like?

Oh, I adore different meat plates... My mouth is watering whenever I see roast beef, grilled chicken or pork chops. However, I don't like to cook. That's why I often eat ready meals and take-away.

2. Do you often dinner with your family or friends?

Well, I try to dinner with my family as often as possible. Unfortunately, I don't have enough time for such dinners due to my busy schedule...

3. When do you usually eat dinner?

I usually have a main meal at about 4 p.m. ... I'm starving hungry by then and sometimes overeat myself...

4. Are there any fruits or vegetables you don't like? Why?

Yes, there are... I'm not a fussy eater, but I really hate onions and seafood... I try to avoid meals that might contain these products...

5. And what is your favourite cuisine?

Well, I love French cuisine for its versatility and flavorful ingredients... French cuisine has a variety of dishes, starting from their famous onion soup and ending with cheese fondue... Also, it rarely uses artificial ingredients or flavours.

6. What's your favourite restaurant?

My favourite restaurant in my hometown is called Kebab Store. I am a practical person, so I like the restaurants that offer delicious yet not very expensive meals. And I think that service is very important, customers have to be treated with great respect.

7. Who do you often have meals with?

Until so far, I often have meals alone. Although I share a room with others, we don't have the same schedules. And eating on my own is quite comfortable.

8. When do you have meals?

I have my meals just at normal times, breakfast at 7:00 am, lunch at 12:00, and dinner at about 7:30 pm.

9. Do you often eat out?

No, I don't like eating out. One is that it is too expensive, I can't afford to eat out every day. The other is that I like cooking, I think that I do it quite well. So, I can make delicious meals on my own, then there is no reason for me to eat out.

10. Do you like to eat at home or outside?

At home. I can buy whatever I want to eat and cook it on my own. I think that cooking is also a way of rewarding oneself, you know. Pick the fish, meat and the vegetable I like and cook them with great attention, then I can enjoy it in a peaceful environment, in my own house, that sounds good. Right?

18. High School

1. How old were you when you started school?

My school is in the vicinity of my house. I went there when I was 6 years old because it is not allowed to start school before 6.

2. How did you get to school each day?

My school was just located near my home, so every day I walked to school with myself, or sometimes with my neighbours

3. Tell me something about the school?

My school is called the Sana Elementary School, which was established 50 years ago in my hometown. The school was quite spacious as it was large but there were no many students. Besides, the teachers there were always kind-hearted and responsible for their teaching.

4. What subjects did you study in secondary school (=high school)?

There were many subjects we had to learn at secondary schools, such as maths, English, physics, chemistry, history, geography, and so on. So you can see we had a heavy burden at that time.

5. Have you ever returned to see your old school again?

Yes, every time I go back to my hometown, I'd like to visit my old school and I'll be very delighted to see how my school developed. I was really proud of it.

6. Can you describe yourself as a good student?

Well, overall I think I am a good student. ... I am not an eager beaver, nor the teacher's pet... but I'm good at scientific subjects and, most importantly, I like studying.

7. Do you study English now?

Yes, of course. I've taken an intensive course this year, where I've attended classes three times a week... And I plan on pursuing my studies in the future, too...

8. Did you enjoy/Do you enjoy studying at school?

I've never really liked school... I'm not a bookworm and a lot of humanities subjects seemed too boring to me. However, the workload was not too big... The other good thing about school is being able to see your friends. And fortunately, I had wonderful classmates.

9. What kind of school did you go to as a child?

I have always gone to Alborz schools, right from primary to intermediate and it has helped me to be more comfortable while interacting with the opposite sex.

10. Which subject did you like most? and dislike?

I liked to learn geography most, because I'm interested in learning about different countries and cultures. But I hated chemistry, which required both a lot of terms and calculations.

11. Do you still in contact with your friends in high school?

Yes. I had some really good friends from high school whom I still stay in touch with. Distance can't separate true friends.

12. What was your high school like?

It's bittersweet. I was really busy with schoolwork, so I had to study really late in the evening. But I often chatted with friends during breaks and went running before going to bed. It was full of memories.

13. What happened on your first day of high school?

Everybody in the class took turns to introduce themselves briefly. Then we were assigned to the seats according to our heights. I met a few classmates that day who I am still friends with now.

19. Holidays

1. Are there a lot of holidays in Iran?

Let me see...quite a lot. I mean, there're holidays almost every month, and sometimes these holidays are to celebrate the most ridiculous things. But I'm fine with that, you know, I have more days off from work!

2. What do Iranian people like to do during holidays?

I think most Iranian people want to stay at home and relax to recover after hard days at work and school. I also notice that families in the city often go on a picnic during these days.

20. Animals

1. What kinds of animals do you like?

I like the **tame and docile ones**. They listen to me and do not destroy the home stuff, like dogs. I like them very much. Also, I think that to some extent they can understand what people mean.

2. Do you like to see animals in the zoo?

No, I don't fancy that. I feel sorry for them instead. The animals are **locked up in a specific area, with no freedom, no happiness**. What's worse, they will gradually lose their nature, like running or hunting very quickly. **They are deprived of the opportunity to explore the world**. So, I don't like to see animals in the zoo.

3. What is the most popular animal in Iran?

Cheetahs, without a doubt. They are national treasures to us. One reason I think is that cheetahs are on the **verge of extinction**, so we think highly of them. Another reason is that they are cute, the way they move and eat makes us like them more.

4. Why do some people keep pets at home?

For various reasons, I think. Some people just like the animals, the little fluffy cats, for example, so they keep the cats at home. Some people think that keeping pets is **a way to show off**, so they will choose **the rare and expensive kinds** as their pets, even though they do not fond of them.

5. Have you ever had a pet before?

Yes, I once had a puppy, but I didn't buy it, it was picked up by my mom on the roadside. And at that time, it was very weak, my mom **took care of it by feeding milk** and building a kennel. The puppy became alive day by day. But I don't know why it left us one day.

21. Apps

1. What's the most popular app in your country?

It's definitely **Instagram**. Nearly everybody has **downloaded it on their mobile phones**. People can share photos and videos with the ones they love for free as long as they have internet.

2. What kinds of apps do you often use?

I often use social apps like Telegram or entertaining apps like Tik Talk. **I use them either for socializing or for entertaining**, you know, searching for fun and relaxing.

3. Do old people in your country like to use apps?

Yes. Most old women like to accept new things. And they find apps very useful to socialize with friends and family. So they try using apps.

4. What kinds of apps would you like to have in the future?

I'm not quite **addicted to technology**, honestly speaking. I think there are all kinds of apps right now, apps for learning, studying, exercising and financing, etc. It's more than enough for me. But I do think that the apps should be much simpler, so the older generations can use them too.

5. What was the first app you used?

The first app I used was around high school when I had my first mobile phone, I guess it was Viber, a social app. It was popular at that time, and I had different kinds of groups. However, it seems that Viber was replaced by Telegram because of **its limited functions**. But I won't forget the happy hours it brought to me.

6. How often do you use social networking applications?

(Answer) On a daily basis.

(Give a reason for your answer) Browsing social networking applications is part of my routine. However, I'm trying to resist the **temptation** to use these applications too frequently, because it takes up quite a large amount of my time.

7. Why do you use social networking applications?

(Answer) For several reasons.

(Give a reason for your answer) I find Facebook **particularly** useful because it provides a community space to make announcements and share with others. I also dip in and out of Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram – usually **in response to** notification alerts. Generally, social networking applications help people **establish** better relationships with their family and friends.

8. What are the disadvantages of social networking applications?

(Answer) Obviously, sharing too much information on social platforms can sometimes put you in trouble and there are privacy concerns also. Social media can also lead to **cyberbullying** and lead to serious stress, anxiety, and depression in heavy users, especially youngsters. **Excessive** reliance on the Virtual world could **diminish** a person's ability to have a face-to-face conversation.

9. Do you think it is good to make friends online?

(Answer) Well, it depends.

(Give a reason for your answer) While most people feel the need to cement their friendships based on real social interactions, I'm comfortable with talking to people I've met online as long as there's a **mutual** exchange of ideas. However, I would caution those who seek friends online only because they are socially insecure or lonely. Using online platforms as an **avenue** for friendship does not solve your problems and it might just make them worse.

22. Jewelry

1. What's your attitude toward jewellery?

Wearing jewellery is not part of my everyday life. For me, pieces of jewellery are luxury items and a fashion statement.

2. What kind of jewellery you like to buy?

I have no experience buying any type of jewellery. I have wristwatches that I occasionally wear, but they were presents from my parents and my aunt for my previous birthdays.

3. Why so many people choose to buy expensive pieces of jewellery?

One is because a pricey piece of jewellery says something about their economic status and serves as a fashion statement. For some people, it is a good investment that can be a source of instant cash when rough times come.

4. How often do you wear jewellery?

Rarely do I wear any piece of jewellery. I only wear a piece of jewellery during special occasions when I need to pair one up with clothes. Other than those, I do not see any need to wear jewellery.

23. Morning routine

1. What do you do in the morning?

So normally I like to wake up around 7 am, have a light breakfast, and do some household chores, like washing the dishes or sweep the floor or something like that. Then I usually do some exercise for an hour or two and have a second breakfast at about 9.30. After that, I have some spare time to do other things, like my hobbies, or some other things that I need to get done.

2. Have you ever changed your routine?

Of course. I mean, my routine depends on my work. These days I work as an English teacher which requires me to work in the afternoon and evening, so I have plenty of free time in the morning. But in the past, I used to have a nine-to-five job, so my routine was completely different then.

3. Do you often have breakfast?

Yeah, every day. My brain can't function properly without a good breakfast. In fact, as I mentioned before, I usually have two breakfasts, a light breakfast when I wake up, and then a bigger breakfast around 9 or 10 am. I don't know how people live without breakfasts.

24. Music

1. Have you ever been to a concert before?

No. I haven't been to a concert before, even though I'd like to listen to live music. Because in Iran, buying a ticket for a concert will cost me an arm and a leg. Right now, I cannot afford it.

2. When do you listen to music?

Whenever I feel tired or bored. I think music has a certain kind of power, it can make people temporarily forget daily pressure and trouble in life, and get a moment of relaxation.

3. What's your favourite kind of music?

Light music is my first choice. I feel light-hearted after listening to music. The lyrics are quite simple and the rhymes are good.

4. What kinds of music do you like to listen to?

I like various music, such as light music, piano music and the hip-pop.

5. How much time do you spend listening to music every day?

It depends. when I feel tired and want some moments to refresh my mind, I will listen to music. So, it's about one hour a day.

25. Names

1. How did your parents choose your name?

To be truthful, I'm not sure how they chose it; I've never asked them. I suppose it was just a name that they both liked, and maybe they thought it suited me.

2. Does your name have any special meaning?

I think it might do, but I don't know what that meaning is; I've never looked it up. Maybe I'll google it later today; you've made me curious to find out!

3. Is your name common or unusual in your country?

Yes, it's quite a common name. I remember that there were two other people with the same name as me in my class at school.

4. If you could change your name, would you?

Not at all, I definitely wouldn't. My name is part of my identity now, and it would feel strange to suddenly change it. I don't think my friends and family would like that either.

5. Have you ever changed your name?

I have never changed my name and I will not, even in the future. I am fond of this name and it is really meaningful to me since my parents must have considered a lot to give me that name.

6. Why do so many people change their name?

I am not sure about other countries but in Iran, I think most people change their names because these names are not really appropriate nowadays.

7. Do you like your name?

Yeah, I love it. I think my parents were creative to have come up with this name. It's one of their best gifts to me.

8. What kinds of names are popular in Iran?

Names that have positive meanings and at the same time sound pleasing to the ear often become popular.

26. Neighbors

1. Tell me about the place you are living in.

Well, currently I live in an apartment in downtown Hanoi. It's quite a bustling area with a lot of shops, offices and quite a big park just around the corner from my house. You can also find people from all walks of life around the area.

2. Do you know a lot of people there?

No, not really. I know just a couple of people who live in my building, but otherwise, I don't really know anyone.

3. Do you like your neighbours?

Sure. I mean we don't meet each other very often or anything but they all seem to be nice, friendly people.

27. News/newspaper

1. Do you read the news?

Of course, I do. I often buy a daily newspaper on my way to work and then read it while having morning coffee to find out what is new.

2. How often do you read the news?

Well, quite often, actually. It's important for me to get updated information in order to be wellinformed about what is going on in the area and in the world.

3. Do you usually read local news or international news?

Personally, I give my preference to reading local news because it lets me know what the situation is like in the area, which in turn helps me make the right personal and business decisions.

4. Do you read news from the newspaper or the internet?

Well, I generally read news online because it is really easy to view the news just with a few clicks of a mouse and it doesn't cost me anything.

5. Do you talk about the news with your friends?

Oh yeah, we do. The news is vital for us because it lets us not be disconnected from life. It is much more than just facts or information, which have an impact on our everyday actions and decisions.

6. How important is it to you to get the news every day? I think it is as important as having daily meals. People eat to live, but they live for what they believe. What's more, it is quite normal to receive fresh news every day.

7. Why do you want to know the latest news?

I don't want to feel alienated from society. I need to know what happened recently, at least the major or important things. So that I can have a discussion with my friends. Besides, learning the latest news might contribute to my study, like accumulating the materials for writing.

8. Do you often read newspapers?

No, I don't often read newspapers today. Since I had my own phone, I don't have to buy newspapers personally and search for something funny on them. Normally, I just glance at the daily news on the phone. Cheap and convenient.

9. How old were you when you first started to read newspapers?

Probably when I was in the third grade at primary school. I remember when I was little, my dad was very enthusiastic about teaching me how to read. And he would buy something nice for me if I learned well. So, I learned a bit faster and started to read newspapers early.

10. Are you very interested in the news?

There are different kinds of news around the world, but I mainly pay attention to those two, news about entertainment circle and news about politics, and I prefer the former type, the news for movies and the news for popular stars.

11. What sort of news are you most interested in?

It is definitely the news about English movies or dramas. I was really obsessed with the British culture. And even though, I have a job now and don't have so much time as before, I still stick to the routine that is watching movies and reading the related news.

12. What kinds of (types of) newspapers (or magazines) do you usually read?

I am not so keen on finance and economics, but I am fond of food and movies, so, in my spare time, I usually read something related to those two kinds.

13. Do you think it's important to read newspapers? (Why? /Why not?)

As far as I am concerned, the news is important, but I do not necessarily read newspapers. There are plenty of accesses to get new information, like videos or articles on the Internet. So, I don't think it's important to read newspapers.

14. Why do (you think) people read newspapers?

One reason is for fun, you know, newspapers are not always about serious matters, people can also have fun by reading a piece of joke or doing puzzles. Another reason is keeping up with the current affairs, to learn what has happened in the world.

15. What different types of the newspaper are there in Iran?

Mainly two kinds. One is about current affairs, the other is tabloids. But you can always get what you want through the Internet.

16. Do you care about the news?

It is the movies and dramas that consume and obsess me most of the time, so I can say that I just care about the news I am interested in.

28. Newspapers or Magazines

1. Which do you prefer, reading newspapers or magazines?

I would say I prefer newspapers. Newspapers in just ten or eight pages give you a glimpse of the entire world, including all the sections. From fashion to the general news to comics to sports to almost everything. In just one newspaper, you have access to the entire world.

sample(2): Magazines. I like pictures, and I am a visual reader. Magazines are much more vivid and have many colourful pictures while newspapers are dry and dull, full of texts.

2. What type of stories do you like to read about?

I love reading autobiographies and non-fiction. Autobiographies because give a glimpse of the lifestyle of a very successful person. You get to know them when they were the mango people and what they did to become what they became.

3. Have you ever read a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language? [When/Why?]

Yes, all the time. I lived in another country for several years, so reading in a foreign language was a normal activity for me, not just newspapers and magazines, but all kinds of documents and literature. I still do it to maintain my reading skills.

4. Do you think reading a newspaper and magazine can help you learn a language?

Yes, but it depends on your language level. If you are just beginning to learn a language then it can be very difficult and frustrating – certainly not the best way to try and learn a foreign language.

5. Why do you think some people prefer magazines to newspapers?

I think the reason might be that magazines are more specific. So, for example, if I am interested in reading about like sports, then a magazine will offer me better articles and more specific, to be concise. It also clutters all the things that one does not wants to read.

6. Which magazines and newspapers do you read (why)?

Sample(1) I prefer reading magazines on travel. Being a travel host, it is very important for me to know about more places and understand them theoretically, before taking on my camera and team alongside. Travel magazine also helps me to understand the perspective of the other person for the same place that I have also visited. Apart from it, I like fashion magazines as well. Not for the reasons of fashion, I find them, good entertainer, when one wants to just spend time idly.

Sample(2) I only read magazines and newspapers if I'm waiting someplace and they are there, and there is no other alternative. Most of the time, I prefer doing something on my phone. But, either way, I like to read sports magazine. Cars and their engines excite me for the most part. I mean, there are fantastic cars out there and in magazines, a perfect description is given. Newspapers, I rarely read. I prefer getting the news on either phone or television.

7. Do younger people or older people prefer to read magazines?

I think it depends on what kind of magazine. Young people like to read sports or fashion magazines, while older people may prefer business magazines.

8. Did you read magazines when you were young?

Not really. When I was young, I prefer comic books. The only magazine I read was for English learning. If I remember correctly, It was called English Square.

9. What kinds of magazines are popular in your country?

Well, as far as I know, literature, fashion and photography magazines are relatively popular. I often see people reading them on the trains or in bookstores.

29. Outdoor activities

1. How often do you do that?

Once or twice a week, usually on Friday. And sometimes I climb the mountain with my friends, chatting and laughing during the journey, which makes it less tiring.

2. Do you like outdoor activities?

Yes, I'm quite enthusiastic about outdoor activities, like running, climbing. Because going outside and having an exercise is a good way to keep fit after sitting down all day in the office.

3. How often do you do outdoor activities?

Normally, it is about once a week. I have to work from Saturday to Wednesday, and I need to indulge myself a little bit on Thursday, by having a good rest and watching videos that I like. So, it's only on Sunday I can do outdoor activities.

4. What outdoor sports do you like? (Why?)

I would say running and climbing, because I can just go outside whenever it suits me, and I don't have to prepare beforehand. But yes, the weather is also something I need to consider.

5. What outdoor activities do you (most) like to do?

I'm not quite sure, because I haven't experienced all the outdoor activities. For now, I like climbing most. Because on the one hand, I am exercising my body, on the other hand, I am testing my will, you know, only those who have determination can reach the top. I quite enjoy challenging myself.

6. What do you do in your spare time?

It depends. When I am in an easy mood, I will watch movies or listen to music at home. But when I am restless, I will go outside and have a run.

7. How much time do you spend outdoors every week?

As a matter of fact, I haven't thought about that before. But I can tell you that I walk home on the weekday, and that is about one hour, five hours a week altogether. And on weekends, I usually hang out with my friends for about two hours and another one hour for climbing, so in all, it's about eight hours every week.

30. Parks

1. Do you think there are enough public gardens in your hometown?

In my hometown, yes, I think there are plenty of public gardens. Because it is not a very developed city and it relies on its specific landscape for developing the tourist industry and attracting visitors from all over the world.

2. Are public gardens very important in Iran?

Yes. Public gardens just like heaven for those living in a metropolis, surrounded by many highrise buildings. The cars, the crowds, the endless work, that is our hustle-bustle life, right? But with public gardens scattering us, we can go jogging after work to let off steam, so I think public gardens are very important in Iran.

3. Are there any public gardens in Iran?

I don't think there are many public gardens in Iran. Because now, we are developing in a full speed, high buildings rise like mushrooms, for instance, supermarkets, factories, office buildings. Development is our priority, so we don't have too much way for public gardens.

4. What do you think are the benefits of having gardens in the city?

Firstly, various kinds of plants in the garden provide citizens fresh air, which will fresh our minds and lift our spirits. Secondly, the garden is not a bad choice when spending quality time with someone I like. I can talk about the events of the day and sharing joys and defeats while having a walk together. So, these are the advantages of having gardens in the city.

5. Why do people who live in cities like public gardens?

We live in a modern busy life today, dealing with work and personal affairs, we would feel the stress from time to time. However, we can walk, talk, exercise and let off our steam in the public gardens. So that's why the citizens like public gardens.

31. Patience

1. Are you a patient person?

Yes, I am. But I used to be a super hot-tempered kid who always got annoyed if someone kept me waiting even for 10 minutes.

2. Have you ever lost your patience?

I sometimes lose my patience when I'm stuck in the traffic for hours after a hard day's work or I'm constantly interrupted by my family members while working in my room.

3. When do you need patience the most?

Occasionally, not being able to keep your patience can cause undesirable results, for example, for studying English, you need to build up your knowledge day by day, sometimes you have to take some rest. So, I think I need to be patient when I learn a new language.

32. Pets

1. Do you have a pet?

Well, back in the day when I was in high school, I did raise a dog named Andy in my house and he was my best companion ever. But then he died in an accident, which left a deep scar on my heart, so I haven't got any new pet since then.

2. What kinds of pets are common in Iran? Why?

I guess dogs and cats are the most common pets in Iran. This is simply because they are often considered to be cute, smart and loyal friends. On top of that, dogs and cats are affordable and easy to find everywhere in my country.

3. If you have children in the future, will you allow them to raise a pet?

Of course, I used to read an article somewhere on the Internet about the benefits of children playing with pets in which the author says that pets can be good companions for children especially those with special needs or special medical conditions such as autism. Well, raising a pet can be troublesome sometimes but I believe they are really good partners in our lives.

33. Rainy days

1. Do you prefer rainy days or sunny days?

Well, I really like sunny days because they are warm and bright, which pushes me to spend time outdoors doing all sorts of activities, and soaking up the sun really gives me a lot of energy and optimism

2. What do you do on rainy days?

Well, as rainy days make me feel sluggish and lazy, all I do is stay in bed all day long or indulge in a massage. I can also get immersed in a good book or watch some romantic movies.

3. What do you usually do when it rains and you are outside?

Oh, I really hate getting soaked to the skin. That's why if I am outside when it starts raining and don't have an umbrella with me, I either take a taxi and go straight to the destination or run as fast as I can to the nearest shelter.

4. Do you think rain is good?

I wouldn't say it always is, as too much rain can cause flash floods, destroy crops and make rivers overflow so that homes get flooded or swept away completely.

5. How does rain affect life in your country?

I think the right amount of rain brings much-needed relief to farmers because it leads to an increase in crop yields and as a result, boosts the income of all the people engaged in agriculture.

6. Is there any part of your country where it doesn't rain much?

Definitely, there is. I guess that the place that receives the least amount of rainfall in Iran is the desert areas of Kavir and Loot.

sample(2) Yes. It doesn't rain much in the central part of Iran where there are deserts around. It barely rains throughout the year.

7. Does it rain much in Iran? (Where? When?)

It depends. The north of Iran generally gets a lot of rainfall all year around. But it doesn't rain much in the south.

8. When (in what month/season) does it rain most in your hometown?

It rains most in fall, especially in November and December. There is news about floods in my hometown almost every fall.

9. In which season does it rain most in other parts of Iran?

In Iran, fall is the season when it rains the most, although the exact months may differ in different places.

10. Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your hometown?

Yeah, I remember when I was about 10 years old, once it rained continuously for a whole month. The streets were flooded, so everyone had to stay home.

34. Shoes

1. Do you often wear shoes?

Of course, I always wear shoes. They go well with all styles, you know. I personally enjoy wearing shoes because they are very comfortable.

2. Do you like to wear casual or fashionable shoes?

Well, I like casual shoes a lot since they are comfortable. Fashionable shoes are my last resort, as I only wear them on special occasions like weddings or conferences.

3. How often do you buy shoes?

To be honest, I don't have an eye for fashion so I just avoid shopping as much as I can. I guess I shop for new shoes only when my previous ones are torn, and every time I go shopping I have to take my best friend with me. She is a shopaholic and an expert in fashion.

4. Have you ever purchased shoes online?

I did, and it was a mistake. I bought my running shoes from an online shop last year and the sole of the shoes came off just after a few months. It was just money down the drain.

35. Sleep

1. How many hours do you sleep every day?

For me, I usually sleep seven hours on the weekday. Because I have to be full of beans in order to do my work well, so I stick to that routine as much as possible. But it is different on weekends. I can get up whenever I want.

2. What time do you usually go to bed?

Around 11:00 pm. I just got my first job. In order to do it well, I have to go to bed before midnight.

3. Do old people sleep a lot? Why?

As far as I know, yes. I think probably it's because of the age. They are older, they don't have the energy that young people have, so they easily get tired and sleep to recharge themselves. Another reason I think is they don't have so many things to do in a day, so why not having asleep?

4. Is it necessary to take a nap every day?

Yes. We are living in a busy modern life. Keeping a good relationship with clients, in the meantime doing our jobs well. All these need techniques and vigour. So, taking a nap at noon is really a luxury and a good way to relax and rethink what we are going to do for the rest of the day.

36. Street market

1. Are Street markets common in Iran?

Yes. Street markets and supermarkets coexist in Iran because people prefer to have more than one option for grocery shopping. Street markets offer a variety of products from food to clothing. Most of the goods here are dirt-cheap.

2. What is usually sold there?

As I mentioned before, mostly groceries. However, there is another kind of street market, the night market, which is a must-visit place for tourists. These open-air markets are a haven for shopaholics with lots of accessory shops.

3. Do you think people like street markets? Why?

Answer: I think people enjoy street markets since they are ideal places to let off steam and bargain with sellers to get a discount.

37. Advertisements

1. Are there many advertisements in your country?

Yep, advertisements in my country are prevalent. Specifically, in a crowded place such as the bus or on the business streets, you can always contact advertisements.

sample(2) Yes, there are. Advertising is a very powerful tool and it's getting more and more these days in my country. So we are surrounded by ads, which occupy a lot of space in our life.

sample(3) Yes, nearly everywhere. On TV, roadside pillars, and even when a bus passes by, there is an advertisement on either side of it.

2. Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?

Whether you do like them or not, whenever and wherever it's possible that you can meet them. For biz sellers, ads could be very helpful to promote their products. For the audience, ads might show some latest information. To buy or not to buy, to be fond of or not, all depend on your decisions.

sample(2) There are many reasons. Mostly, the various ways of advertising available make it possible for companies to publicize their product or service. By investing in the advertisement, they are better known to the public, so as to achieve high sales.

sample(3) All for selling more, I guess. The advertisers want to build a good image for their products, attract potential consumers and develop domestic or foreign markets, and in the end, make profits.

3. What are the various places where we see advertisements?

Today, media is so **blatantly filled** with advertising: TV, radio, magazine, newspaper, billboards. Even more pathetic when I recently watched a 16-second clip with a two-minute commercial without the option to skip. I think many advertisements are brainwashing us.

sample(2) We can see advertisements everywhere. They are printed in newspapers and magazines, on the buses running around the city, broadcast on TVs and radios. Also, they are sent to us through our cell phones.

sample(3) If you watch TV, you'll see ads from time to time. If you are on the bus, you may see ads on the back of the chairs or on the handles. While walking on a busy street, you can always see some people handing out flyers.

4. How do you feel about advertisements?

I would say I enjoy some of them because they are creative and stimulating. But it's true that when we watch TV, most of them always disturb the fun of enjoying the programs. Besides the information, they bring is always misleading.

sample(2) To be honest, I don't like advertisements. Ads do offer us useful information, but most of them are to promote stuff for people to purchase something they don't need. I hope for more space, no matter that on newspapers or walls on the buildings.

sample(3) As a matter of fact, I think in some way these advertisements are annoying. For instance, when watching a wonderful TV series, and suddenly a two-minute-long advertisement breaks in, it really drives me crazy. It has already ruined the mood I had two minutes ago. So, I don't like advertisements.

5. Have you ever bought anything because of the advertisement?

Yes, some advertisements have attracted me to buy the products. When the products they introduce are really attractive and I do need these goods, I usually choose to buy them.

6. Do you like advertisements?

I would say I enjoy some of them because they are creative and stimulating. But it's true that when we watch TV, most of them always disturb the fun of enjoying the programs.

38. Teenagers

1. What activities do teenagers in your country like to do?

Well, they do anything that lets them enjoy their time, I guess, for example, doing shopping and hanging out with friends, watching online videos and meeting new people.

2. Do you often spend time with teenagers?

Oh yes. I am an adolescent myself, so the majority of my friends are teenagers and we spend quite a bit of time together.

3. What is the best part of being a teenager in your country?

Oh, I think it is having many possibilities, unlimited potential, no time boundaries, and feeling mighty, as a result.

4. Do you like to spend time with teenagers?

Yes. Teenagers are full of vitality and new ideas. When I go back to my hometown on holidays, my teenage cousins always make good company.

5. What are the best things about being a teenager?

I think the best thing is that they don't need to take too much responsibility besides studying, they don't have to worry about things. Their parents give them pocket money for social activities like hanging out with friends after school.

6. How do teenagers entertain themselves?

There are so many things for them to do, like going to movies, listening to music, hanging out with friends. They never run out of choices.

7. Do you know anything about the kind of fashion that teenagers like?

Teenagers like to follow the trend set by their idols. Nowadays, Iranian teenagers like Iranian pop culture, so they wear Iranian-style clothes and Iran-made make-up.

39. The Internet

1. Do you use the Internet very much?

Yes. I use the Internet every day, either on my computer or my smartphone.

2. When was the first time you used the Internet?

I was in primary school when our computer teacher taught us how to visit websites. I was so surprised that so much information could be brought onto a computer screen!

3. Is the Internet very important (or, useful) in your daily life?

Yes. It's an important part of my daily life. Many things will be difficult without it, like, staying in touch with my friends and family.

4. Do think you can (or, could) live without the Internet?

No. It would be like going back to the Stone Age. Just imagine, I would have to go to the library and browse all the index in order to find information for a paper.

40. Transportation

1. What transport are there in your city?

People in my city go to work or travel by bus, taxi or city train. The most popular one is motorcycles. People cannot ride bikes as my city is hilly and the roads are bumpy.

2. Why do so many people in Iran ride bikes?

People in Iran like to ride bikes because bikes are cheap to buy, easy to ride and convenient to use. People always ride bikes to some places which are not far away, and they think it is the best way to reduce traffic congestion. Most people, even the young and the old can freely ride bikes to go where they want.

3. How do you think the traffic condition could be improved?

I think most people are trying to find the answer as the traffic conditions are getting worse and worse in many cities. In my opinion, developing public transportation, encourage bike riding and improve road construction are very important to relieve traffic congestion.

4. Do you think transportation costs(gasoline, subway, bus and taxi fares, etc.) are expensive in your hometown?

I think the transportation costs in my hometown are very cheap the bus fare. To relieve traffic congestion, the local government has perfected the public transportation system, and has made the prices acceptable to all. At about one thousand tomans every time, you can travel around most of the city. So many people get around by bus.

5. Describe the advantages and disadvantage of saloon cars.

Saloon cars provide people with an easy and convenient way to travel at a low cost. With the development of the public transport system, it is possible to get to most places in the city by saloon cars. However, during rush hours saloon cars can be very crowded-and sometimes, because of the traffic congestion

6. What kind of people do you think like walking

I find walking a very easy and effective exercise to keep the body healthy. According to a report, the proper amount of walking exercise can be beneficial to our heart and lungs. About what kind of people like walking, I guess they're the people like me who find doing sports too hard.

7. What do you think about public transportation?

Public transportation is the main part of city transportation. It is beneficial for the environment and can even offer a quicker and cheaper option. People can get to the destination by spending

only very little money and without worrying about the scarce parking space which is required when they drive their own cars.

8. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?

The most popular means of transportation in my hometown is the subway. You know, the traffic in my hometown is crazy sometimes, so people tend to take the subway when they go out, it's convenient, fast and money-saving.

9. Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?

Compared with other means of transportation, travelling by air is faster, safer, and more comfortable. We can go to nearly every city around the world by plane. As for travelling by train, it's cheaper than taking a plane, and you can enjoy the views all along with the ways, most importantly, the trains usually leave and arrive on time.

10. How often do you take buses?

Well, three or four times a week. For a university student like me, I go to school by bus because it's cheap and convenient. It's the main means of transportation for me.

11. Is driving to work popular in your country?

Yes, many people in Iran have bought their own private cars for their families. More and more people choose to drive to work because it saves the trouble of waiting for the bus and people don't need to worry about the weather any more.

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

I guess I will. Now I ride once or twice per week. Riding brings benefits to our health. It's a nice way to get some exercise. Some people use it to lose weight or keep fit. Most importantly, I don't have to worry about the traffic congestion when I ride to work.

13. Do you prefer public transportation or private transportation?

That depends. I prefer private transportation when I'm with my family because it would be a lot more flexible to go anywhere we want. However, when I go out with a bunch of friends, the subway will be our first option because it's much more convenient.

14. Do you think people will drive more in the future?

Yes, I do. But I don't hope so because in some big cities like Tehran and Mashhad, driving to work takes more time than taking subways and traffic problem has become one of the most serious problems.

15. What will become the most popular means of transportation in Iran?

I guess it will be the subway. Firstly, I think, it's fast, money-saving and it can contain plenty of people. Second, it's punctual and unaffected by the weather.

41. sky

1. Do you often watch the sky?

I don't actually. Much as I love stars and astronomy, I barely have time for such activities since I am usually up to my ears in study and work. I would love to spare some time for star-gazing in the future, though.

2. Do you like to watch the sky in the morning or at night?

I can't really choose as I love watching the sky in general. Watching the sky during the daytime can be captivating. But I particularly enjoy the sky during nighttime, as I think the beauty of shining stars up high is truly breathtaking.

3. Where is a good place to watch the sky in your hometown?

I live in a city where there are many skyscrapers, and also air pollution is quite a serious problem so it is very difficult to watch the sky. A place to get the best view of the sky, in my opinion, is on the rooftop of a high building, Lotte Tower for example.

4. Do you like to watch stars?

(Answer) I find star-watching extremely interesting.

(Give a reason for your answer) I believe that every star in **the cosmos** has its function and holds a unique mystery to be discovered. This **is a great inspiration to me.**

5. Have you ever taken a course about stars?

(Answer) I haven't ever enrolled in such courses, but I would love to in the future. **(Give a reason for your answer)** I have always wanted to know how constellations retain their shape in **zero gravity** without **floating through space.**

6. What's your favorite star?

(Answer) The Sun is my favorite star, I would say.

(Give a reason for your answer) This is because of its power and importance to life. If we could find a star similar to the Sun out there in space, we would be able to discover **alien life forms** and complete our **quest for a new homeland.**

42. Water

1. How often do you drink water?

I drink a lot of water every day. Probably I drink between 2-3 liters a day, depending on how hot it is, or how much exercise I have.

2. Do you often drink bottled water or tap water?

Well, unfortunately, tap water is full of chemicals that are harmful to your health, so I never drink it. I only drink filtered water that comes in big plastic containers.

3. Do you think water is a vital resource?

Yes, of course. Water is an elixir of life. Since ancient times, civilizations were created near sources of water. It plays a vital role in sustaining life on earth.

43. Plants

1. Do you know anything about growing plants?

Well, people call me green-fingered. My granny maintained a big garden in her backyard, and I had a whale of time there during my holidays. I learnt the art of gardening from her. From planting seedlings, watering, and nurturing them with organic manure to pruning them, I learnt a great deal from her, and I'm on my own now. I have a big garden, and sometimes I help my friends to make one too.

2. Do you keep plants at home?

Yes, I've got some indoors and outdoors. One interesting plant I grow indoors is the Desert cacti. Though many abhor it, I decided to try my hands on. It required some research and little effort. I grew it in a pot and watered it whenever the soil began to dry. It did pay me off by blooming after three years. It was such a pleasure!

3. Did you grow any plants when you were young?

Yes. I helped my mum raise a bougainvillea. I enjoyed watering it, and we celebrated when it was in full bloom.

VOCABULARY:

Green fingered (adj) – Having a seemingly natural gardening ability **Eg:**

Your Ixora is doing good. You must be green fingered.

Whale of time (noun phrase) – A very enjoyable experience **Eg:**

We had a whale of time in Mauritius.

Pruning (verb) – trim (a tree, shrub, or bush) by cutting away dead or overgrown branches or stems, especially to encourage growth.

Eg: It is time to prune the roses.

Abhor (verb) – regard with disgust and hatred

Eg: He abhorred killing of animals.

44. The countryside

1. What do you usually do in the countryside?

I often go to Shimoga, which is a 6-hour drive from Bangalore, where I live. Well, I have got plenty of things to do there. I go to the Jog falls, which is such stunning scenery. I take long walks, breathe in the fresh air, and enjoy the tranquility.

2. Have you ever lived in the countryside?

I have not lived in one, but I did spend a good deal of time in Tanjore, where my aunt lived. We used to visit her during summer vacations. She owned some acres of growing rice fields, and we enjoyed getting drenched in the water pump on the farm. I miss those days!

3. Would you enjoy living in the countryside?

I work for an IT company, and many companies have plans to move to the countryside to escape the traffic. That way, I might get a chance to live in the countryside. I would thoroughly enjoy it.

4. Will you live in the countryside in the future?

I would, when I retire. I think it is the right time. So, I might end up spending my old age in the countryside. I would be able to enjoy the lovely, friendly, and beautiful countryside to the fullest.

VOCABULARY

Tranquility (noun) – the quality or state of being tranquil; calm.

Eg: I enjoy the tranquility of rural areas.

Drenched (verb) – wet thoroughly; soak

Eg: Since it rained in the park, I got drenched.

Acres (noun) – a unit of land area equal to 4,840 square yards (0.405 hectares).

Eg: He owns some acres of land, in the northern part of the village

Retirement (noun) – the action or fact of leaving one’s job and ceasing to work.

Eg: The retirement age in India is 58.

45. Photos

1. Do you like to take photos?

Yes, I love it. I started by taking photos with my mobile camera at weddings and parties. Slowly, I became interested in nature. I started taking snaps of birds and flowers. Then I bought a digital cam. Photography is my hobby now!

2. In which situation do you take photos?

I carry my camera with me wherever I go. You never know when a special moment will occur. It could just rain on the hillside, your kid’s laughter, a monkey jumping with its newborn, a roaring lion in the wild. It could be any small moment of awe you want to treasure for the future.

3. How do you store your photos?

I store them in the cloud, and it could be anything from dropbox, google photos, or google drive. I don’t save them on the phone because I run out of space. When I find something interesting, I don’t hesitate to make an album out of them.

4. Do you like posing for pictures?

I love selfies! But I also like to pose for photos. But I don’t restrict myself to weddings and parties. It could be anything from a picnic with friends, trekking in the wild, or simply loving moments with my family. **VOCABULARY**

snap (noun) – An informal photograph that is not very skillful or artistic **Eg:**

I took some snaps of a monkey in the zoo.

Camera (noun) – a device for recording visual images in the form of photographs, film, or video signals

Eg: The little girl did not like to face the camera.

Awe (noun) – a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder.

Eg: She gazed in awe at the golden bangles.

Selfies (noun) – a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and shared via social media.

46. Public transport

1. Do you travel by public transport?

Yes, I do. Every morning I take a bus to my office. There are air-conditioned and non-airconditioned buses plying in the city. I prefer to take the air-conditioned bus, though it is costlier.

2. When was the last time you traveled by public transport?

It was last Friday when I had to go to the office. Like I said before, I took the air-conditioned bus, and the ride was comfortable.

3. What don't you like about public transport?

The AC buses are less frequent. If you miss one, you have to wait nearly 10 minutes for the next one to arrive. In the evenings, when you are worn out and want to go home soon, it tests your temper.

4. Would you prefer to use public transport in the future?

No. I want to use my vehicle. Considering the traffic in the city, I would prefer a two-wheeler rather than a four-wheeler.

VOCABULARY

Ply (verb) – travel regularly over a route, typically for commercial purposes.

Eg: These buses ply across the bridge.

Ride (noun) – a journey made on a horse, bicycle, motorcycle, or in a vehicle.

Eg: Her uncle took her for a ride on the bike.

Worn out (adj) – extremely tired; exhausted.

Eg: She looked worn out.

temper (noun) – tendency to become angry very quickly.

Eg: She has a real temper.

47. Stay up late

1. Do you sometimes go to bed late?

Well, it depends on whether I have met my deadlines at work. If not, I stay late to finish it and go to bed around 1:00 AM or 2:00 AM.

2. What do you do when you stay up late?

I would do many things. I would finish pending office work, read a book that I find irresistible, or talk to a friend over the phone.

3. How do you feel when you have stayed up late the night before?

It doesn't feel nice to sleep late and wake up early. I get a headache, the next morning and it spoils my whole day.

VOCABULARY

Meet a deadline (noun phrase) – to finish work on time, by the agreed date.

Eg: We are hoping to meet the July deadline

Irresistible(adj) – too attractive and tempting to be resisted.

Eg: The chocolates were irresistible.

Over the phone (noun phrase) – that something is done using the phone as a way to do it. **Eg:**

She conveyed the news over the phone

Spoil (verb) – diminish or destroy the value or quality of.

Eg: Don't spoil the fun.

48. Celebrities and stars

1. Have you ever met a celebrity in real life?

Yes. I have seen Amitabh Bachan at the airport. But I didn't make any effort to get an autograph from him. Sometimes I happen to sit next to film stars when I travel by air when they take the economy class. But I have not volunteered to talk to them.

2. Who is your favorite movie star?

Well, I'm a fan of Hedieh Tehrani. She is a versatile actress, and I admired her from the very first movie. She is worth the Miss Universe title. My admiration increased after I watched her performance in the movie 'Red'.

3. Are international superstars popular in your country?

Yes, they are. The youth of our country adore them. International superstars like Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evan, Robert Downey Jr, and Gal Gadot are extremely popular in our country. From the music world the superstars Taylor Swift, Alan Walker, Selena Gomes, Ed Sheeran, Justin Bieber, and many more have their tracks trending.

VOCABULARY

Autograph (noun) – a signature, especially that of a celebrity written as a memento for an admirer.

Eg: The actor was surrounded by fans asking for an autograph

Versatile (adj) – able to adapt or be adapted to many different functions or activities.

Eg: Sarah was a versatile poet of her times.

Adore (verb) – love and respect (someone) deeply.

Eg: Children adore their mothers.

Superstar (noun) – an extremely famous and successful performer or sports player.

Eg: She became a superstar without much effort.

49. Cooking and baking

1. Do you like to cook?

I love cooking. I like to prepare interesting delicacies and share it with friends and relatives. My day begins with the aroma of the spices. I feel heavenly when chopping the sweet-smelling coriander and on hearing the mustard seeds splutter. After a hard day's work, cooking rejuvenates my mind.

2. Have you ever baked a cake?

Yes. I have tried it on a stove, though. All you have to do is preheat a vessel. In the meanwhile, you can prepare the batter. You can either use powdered chocolate biscuits or cocoa. Grease a tray with butter, pour the batter onto it and place it in the preheated vessel for about 45 minutes to 1 hour and your cake will be ready.

3. Would you like to learn how to bake?

Yes. Though I know how to make a cake and have watched a lot of YouTube videos, I would be interested in learning it in person from a Chef.

4. What kinds of things are baked in your country?

Well, a lot of things are baked in our country from cakes to cookies and bread to pies. Plum cakes are my favourite. They are made of either dried fruits like grapes, currants, raisins or prunes, orange peels or with fresh fruits.

VOCABULARY

Delicacies (noun) – something delightful or pleasing, especially a choice food considered with regard to its rarity, costliness, or the like

Eg: Chocolate lava cake is a true delicacy

Batter (noun) – mixture of flour and liquid with other ingredients

Eg: She got the dosa batter from store

Chef (noun) – a professional cook, typically the chief cook in a restaurant or hotel. **Eg:**

She worked as a Chef in a five-star hotel

Prunes (noun) – a plum preserved by drying and having a black, wrinkled appearance.

50. Tidiness

1. Are you a tidy person?

Yes, I'm. I like to keep myself and my surroundings very clean. I love tidying my house, and you can even call it my hobby.

2. Do you think people should be tidy all the time?

Yes. I'm very hygiene conscious. I think everyone should follow simple things like washing hands after they use the restroom, and covering their face with a handkerchief when they sneeze, or cough.

3. Are you tidier at work or at home?

I would say both. At work, I don't mess up my office cabin with dolls and other unwanted stuff. At home, I'm more organized. Everything has its place in my home.

VOCABULARY

Surroundings (noun) – the things and conditions around a person or thing.

Eg: She hated her surroundings.

Tidy (verb) – bring order to; arrange neatly.

Eg: The maid tidied the house

Hobby (noun) – an activity done regularly in one's leisure time for pleasure. **Eg:**

Reading was her hobby

Hygiene (noun) – conditions or practices conducive to maintaining health and preventing disease, especially through cleanliness.

Eg: Personal hygiene is very important

51. Movies

1. What's your favorite movie?

I love the movie Interstellar. It is a science fiction film. It describes a group of astronauts who are in search of a new home for humanity.

2. Do your friends like this movie?

Yes. They like it too. It was one of my friends who recommended this movie to me. Some of them were so amused that they began telling me that we better get prepared to live on planets like Mars.

3. What kind of movies do young people like?

In my opinion, young people are fond of superhuman characters like spiderman. Also, they like fantasies like Harry Potter.

4. Would you like to be a movie star?

No, not at all. I hate to sacrifice my privacy. I hate to be surrounded by paparazzi all the time.

VOCABULARY

Fiction (noun) – literature in the form of prose, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people.

Eg: Things that were once created in fiction are becoming a reality

Astronaut (noun) – a person who is trained to travel in a spacecraft.

Eg: A group of astronauts traveled to Mercury, last week.

Amused (adj) – finding something funny or entertaining.

Eg: Children were so amused by the magician.

Paparazzi (noun) – a freelance photographer who pursues celebrities to get photographs of them.

Eg: She drove the car fast, to escape from the paparazzi.

52. Plans

1. What is the hardest part of making plans?

It's about prioritizing. It isn't easy to decide the order in which you have to take up the tasks. I often keep wondering whether I should do yoga first or prepare breakfast.

2. What is the most recent plan you made?

I made a travel plan to Bylaguppe, which is on the way to Madikeri. We were a group of four. We planned to travel in my car, and I made the hotel arrangements too. Since it is a Tibetan settlement, we were on the lookout for authentic Indian food. I was successful in booking lodging near an Indian restaurant. It was a walkable distance to the restaurant, and my friends appreciated for it.

3. Do you make plans every day?

Well, it's not that I make a plan, but things seem to work out in order. I would say I got used to the routine. I rarely do anything out of the ordinary, so you can call me well-planned too.

4. Are you good at managing your time?

I don't make any effort towards it. I follow my routine, and if anything is a priority, be it at work or home, I do that first. Time gets managed automatically.

VOCABULARY

Priority (noun) – the fact or condition of being regarded or treated as more important than others.

Eg: She was given work to be done on priority.

Well-planned (adj) – carefully arranged or designed.

Eg: The wedding was well planned.

Automatic (adj) – (with reference to a device or process) by itself with little or no direct human control.

Eg: The vehicle had an automatic gear.

Routine (noun) – a sequence of actions regularly followed.

53. Running

1. Do you like running?

Not much. I have vague memories of participating in running races when I was in school. Nowadays, I run only when my friends call me. It was just last week when we chose to run around a hill. We completed a full circle. We also took in some medicinal air because the hill was full of herbs.

2. Have you ever run a long distance?

Well, my Company organizes marathons once in a while. My friends forced me to participate in it. So, I have run some marathons. It feels nice when you run across places of scenic beauty with friends around. We also do barefoot running occasionally.

3. Would you prefer to watch a running competition live or on TV?

I prefer to watch it on television. It is interesting to find out who the fastest runner is. I do tune in to watch the Olympics and find out where my country stands.

4. Do you think running is a good way to stay healthy?

Undoubtedly, yes. Most importantly, it helps in improving cardiovascular fitness. But, unfortunately, most people have restricted themselves to treadmills now. **VOCABULARY**

race(noun) – a competition between runners, horses, vehicles, etc. to see which is the fastest in covering a set course.

Eg: He won the bike race.

Marathon (noun) – a long-distance running race, strictly one of 26 miles 385 yards (42.195 km)

Eg: She won a gold medal in the marathon for girls.

Barefoot running (adj phrase) – the act of running without footwear.

Eg: Barefoot running helps in strengthening the muscles.

54. Walking

1. Do you often walk?

I don't do it religiously as an exercise. But I do get chances to walk for some time in the day.

2. Where do you walk?

I walk inside my office. After parking the vehicle, I have to walk some distance to reach my building in the office. In the evenings, I walk back to the car parking area. This is my walking schedule every day.

3. Do you think you walk enough?

To be honest, I work out on the treadmill, for half an hour every day and believe that it helps. Other than that, I walk in the nearby parks on weekends.

4. Do you think people will walk more in the future?

With the advent of devices like treadmills, walking has ceased among the urbane community. The rural community is also progressing rapidly. People are keen to modernize their lives. So, it is quite doubtful that people will want to walk in the future.

5. Where do you usually take a walk?

(Answer) Well, I don't walk in any **particular** place. I like to walk with my friends to the park so that we can talk and feel less **exhausted** on the way.

6. Do you think people will walk more or not in the future?

(Answer) No, I don't think so. *(Give a reason for your answer)* Under the pressure of such a fast-paced life, people seem to be increasingly reluctant to have a walk regularly. Modern citizens think that driving is a more **preferable** way of traveling which just **eliminates** the **hurdle** that you may otherwise face if there is no public transportation available or pedestrian roads.

7. Do you walk more often in the past?

(Answer) Surprisingly, I walk more often these days than I used to in the past. *(Give a reason for your answer)* For a very long period of time, I suffered great **concentration issues** and was not able to focus on one thing for a long period of time. So I took up walking 6 months ago and thanks to this activity, my focus **capacity** became sharper.

8. Do you walk a lot?

(Answer) As often as necessary – which mostly means longer distances, but the walking experience is worth it.

(Give a reason for your answer) Otherwise, I try to use my bicycle, even in winter, to remain **in good shape**. I just happen to like biking, as a sport. Also, it proves to be **economical** and **environmentally friendly**.

VOCABULARY

Exercise (noun) – an activity requiring physical effort, carried out to sustain or improve health and fitness.

Eg: Exercise improves blood circulation.

Schedule (noun) – a plan for carrying out a process or procedure, giving lists of intended events and times.

Eg: He has a hectic morning schedule

Ceased (verb) – come or bring to an end.

Eg: The pandemic ceased and lockdowns were lifted.

Modernize (verb) – adapt (something) to modern needs or habits, typically by installing modern equipment or adopting modern ideas or methods.

Eg: They modernized the school.

55. Languages

1. Which languages do you speak?

Apart from English and my native language, I know French. In high school, I had the option to choose any foreign language as a major. I chose French and also enrolled in Alliance Francaise. We enacted the 'Tenali Raman' drama in French, which I fondly recall every time I talk in French.

2. What are the common languages in your country?

I take pride in saying we speak around 22 official languages in our country. There are 29 states in India, and each state has its own language. But you need not know all of them. You can survive with Hindi and English which you can also call common languages.

3. Would you like to learn a new language?

Yes, of course. I work for a Japanese company. So, I'm very much interested to learn Japanese, so that I can impress my clients. Also, Japanese and Spanish translators are paid well in corporate companies.

4. Is it important to speak a foreign language?

It will give you an edge over others in terms of your career. Your connectivity improves. You not only learn the language but the culture of that particular nation. The fact that you will be able to gel well with a new community will be extremely beneficial in your career.

5. Will you learn other languages in the future?

(Answer) Well, my foremost choice would be French.

(Give a reason for your answer) On the one hand, I **am really into** traveling to France because this nation boasts a diverse range of cultures like literature, architecture, fashion, and cooking. Good command of French will **equip** me with the necessary languages to interact with its native speakers. Besides, I know a lot of **engaging** French movies so that's quite a **compelling** reason to learn their language.

6. Do you think it is difficult to learn a new language?

(Answer) Yes, of course, it is. Well, there are different challenges for different people and for different languages.

(Give a reason for your answer) For the language itself, grammar may **baffle** many learners, while others can't pick up pronunciation and struggle to memorize vocabulary. Alphabets can be challenging, especially **complicated** ones like Kanji or Tibetan. Besides, other **obstacles** like the lack of time and resources generally present themselves during the learning process.

7. What language can you speak?

(Answer) I can speak Iranian and English and just a bit of Korean.

(Give a reason for your answer) I try to **expose** myself to the language according to my hobbies and interests. Watching movies with subtitles, reading books on my favorite topics, or listening to music is of great help to my linguistic command.

8. Why do you learn English?

(Answer) There are many reasons to learn English nowadays.

(Give a reason for your answer) I learn English out of academic, **diplomatic**, commercial, or other practical considerations because it is the preferred language when communicating with most foreigners. Practically, learning a foreign language helps to **broaden** my opportunities for becoming a global citizen.

VOCABULARY

Native language (adj phrase) – the language of the country that someone is born in or native to

Eg: French was his native language.

Official language (adj phrase) – a language given a special status in a particular country, state, or other jurisdiction

Eg: Tamil is an official language in India.

Translators (noun) – a person who translates from one language into another, especially as a profession.

Eg: Japanese translators are paid well.

Foreign language (adj phrase) – a language originally from another country than the speaker.

Eg: Indians speak good English, though it is a foreign language to them.

57. Age

1. Do you like your current age?

Yeah, definitely. I'm happy to be at the age I'm at right now, because it has made me wise. It feels great to be alive and to have experienced so much about the world.

2. What do you like about it?

As you get older, you are settling in your life. Your accomplishments bring you a sense of joy. It is surprising that you get rid of petty qualities like jealousy and contempt, with age. You tend to become more loving and magnanimous.

3. At what age do you think people are the happiest?

I think people are happiest in their fifties. It is neither young nor too old. Most of them would have been settled by then. It is my opinion that people would be wise and content at this age.

4. What was the most important decision you have made?

The most important decision I made is to settle in the UK. I moved to the UK for work reasons but later the opportunity extended and I felt fairly at home in the UK. I thought I could manage myself well here. So, I got my parents to stay with me.

VOCABULARY

Alive (adj) – (of a person, animal, or plant) living, not dead.

Eg: They captured the tiger alive.

Experienced (adj) – having gained knowledge or skill in a particular field over time.

Eg: Sita was an experienced gynecologist.

Settling in life (adj phrase) – what someone does when they have a job/career that makes them happy and provides for their needs, and they have a husband/wife (and possibly children) and have a home.

Eg: Ram is in his late forties and has settled down in his life.

Decision (noun) – a conclusion or resolution reached after consideration.

58. Travel

1. Do you like traveling?

I would like to go on a world tour. The fact that I've started earning in the UK gives me confidence that I can make my dream come true. I want to travel both by air and by sea. I read "Adventures of Rusty" when I was very young and that inspired me to sea travel.

2. Which cities have you traveled to?

I have been to many places in India. I have seen the India gate and Taj Mahal, Ajanta and Ellora caves, Dakshineswar Kali, and the snow in Kashmir.

3. What kind of cities do you like to travel to?

I love History. I want to explore historic places that I have read about in books. So, I prefer to visit cities with a rich cultural heritage and there are plenty of them in India.

4. Which city left the deepest impression on you?

Undoubtedly Calcutta. It was the original British Capital. I loved it so much. I have a photograph of me, standing on the Howrah Bridge. I experienced the spiritual vibes of Ramakrishna Paramahansa in the Dakshineswar temple. I also visited the “Missionaries of charity” and got an autograph from the current superior General. I treasure it.

VOCABULARY

Tour (noun) – a journey for pleasure in which several different places are visited.

Eg: Swetha went on a tour of Europe.

Explore (verb) – travel through (an unfamiliar area) in order to learn about it **Eg:**

They explored the forest.

Cultural Heritage (adj) – an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values

Eg: We are determined to preserve our unique cultural heritage for future generations.

Bridge (noun) – a structure carrying a road, path, railway, etc. across a river, road, or other obstacles.

59. Break

1. Do you prefer a long break or several short breaks?

I prefer to take several short breaks because it revives my energy and I can be back at work fully charged. Long breaks tend to make you lazy and ultimately lose motivation to work.

2. How often do you take a break?

I reach the office at 8 in the morning and leave at 7 in the evening. So, I take a number of short breaks spanning 5 mins, every 1 hour.

3. What do you usually do during a break?

I usually go for a coffee or grab a biscuit. If I'm very hungry I go to the cafeteria and have something substantial.

4. Why do you need to take a break?

Science reveals that human beings can be productive only for 6 hours in a day. When we work continuously, we develop fatigue, and our capacity decreases. So, it is essential that we take some breaks.

VOCABULARY

Revive (verb) – give new strength or energy.

Eg: The cool air revived us.

Spanning (verb) – extend across (a period of time or a range of subjects).

Eg: His interest spanned all branches of History.

Productive (adj) – producing or able to produce large amounts of goods, crops, or other commodities

Eg: His employees were very productive.

Fatigue (noun) – extreme tiredness resulting from mental or physical exertion or illness.

Eg: Soon after the morning workout, he was dying out of fatigue.

60. Pens or pencils

1. Do you prefer to use a pen or a pencil for writing?

I prefer an ink pen over pencils or ballpoint pens because my teachers had always insisted on using one. Using an ink pen is said to improve handwriting. But now that I work in an IT company, everything is digitized and we hardly use pens or pencils.

2. When was the last time you bought a pen or a pencil?

Like I said before, we store everything on computers. So, it's been a long while since I went to a stationery shop to buy a pen or pencil. But I did place a request for a marker in my office stationery app.

3. How would you feel if someone gave you a pen or a pencil as a gift?

I would be overjoyed. I still have the parker pen gifted by my dad on my table. It cost a fortune to get that pen those days.

VOCABULARY

Ballpoint pen (noun) – a pen with a tiny ball as its writing point, especially one using stiffer ink than a rollerball.

Eg: He seldom used ballpoint pens.

Handwriting (noun) – a person's particular style of writing.

Eg: His handwriting was neat.

Stationery (noun) – writing and other office materials.

Eg: He bought some stationery items from the shop.

Costs a fortune (noun phrase) – to cost a lot of money

Eg: It cost a fortune to get the house painted.

61. Spending time by yourself

1. Do you like spending time by yourself?

Well, I need some time for myself and will not compromise on it. But that doesn't mean I'm a loner. It is only a little while after which I connect myself to people.

2. How do you usually spend your time by yourself?

Well, I read a book, listen to some soothing music, lie down on the bed and have a nap, talk to my friend over the phone or tidy up things at home.

3. What did you do last time when you were by yourself?

I was working. I had to finish a deadline and I was hooked on my work. Because I was working alone on a Saturday, I was able to work without any distractions.

VOCABULARY

Loner (noun) – a person that prefers not to associate with others.

Eg: Shyam was a loner.

Soothing (adj) – having a gently calming effect.

Eg: She was listening to soothing music.

Nap (verb) – sleep lightly or briefly, especially during the day.

Eg: She usually takes a nap during the afternoons.

Distraction (noun) – a thing that prevents someone from concentrating on something else.

Eg: Sita did not do well in exams, because she had many distractions.

62. Laughter

1. When was the last time you laughed?

It was at my college farewell party. There was a comedy show organized to entertain us. The show was too good and I laughed out loud, too loud, I guess. I came back to my senses when I noticed people staring at me.

2. Do you like watching funny programs on TV?

Who doesn't enjoy watching them? I love to watch such programs as they make you forget your worries.

3. Do you like to make people laugh?

Yes, I love to. People usually say that I'm gifted with a good sense of humor. It dilutes the intensity of a tough situation and makes you think out of the box.

4. Do you think it is important for friends to laugh together?

Laughter is medicine. You definitely need those light-hearted moments with your friends. It feels wonderful to let go of the tension in the mind and enjoy yourself with friends.

VOCABULARY

Comedy (noun) – professional entertainment consisting of jokes and sketches, intended to make an audience laugh.

Eg: She spent a lot on Comedy shows.

Worries (noun) – the state of being anxious and troubled over actual or potential problems.

Eg: She was always in a constant state of worry.

Humour (noun) – the quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech.

Eg: Dick had a good sense of humor.

Light-hearted (adj) – amusing and entertaining.

Eg: He met his old friends and had a light-hearted chat

63. cakes and desserts

1. Do you like eating cakes?

Well, I have a sweet tooth. I relish chocolate cakes. Chocolate truffles are my favorite.

2. Have you ever made a cake?

Yes. I have made cake on a stove. I put all my creativity into it. I sprinkled dried fruits, almond kernels, and pistachios into the batter and the chocolate cake tasted just great!

3. Do you like having desserts?

Be it a cake or ice cream or some traditional recipe, I would like to try them all. I would call it the best part of the meal.

4. What desserts are popular in your country?

Cookies, pastries, candies, cakes, and what not! People in my country don't hesitate to try out anything sugary.

VOCABULARY

Sweet tooth (noun) – a great liking for sweet-tasting foods.

Eg: His grandfather had a sweet tooth.

Relish (verb) – enjoy greatly.

Eg: She relished the sweet spaghetti sauce.

Pastries (noun) – a dough of flour, fat, and water, used as a base and covering in baked dishes such as pies.

Eg: Please spread the gratings over the pastry.

Candies (noun) – sweets; confectionery.

Eg: She put candy into her mouth.

64. Concentration

1. What helps you concentrate?

When I'm doing some important work, I switch off my mobile phone. This helps me to focus more on what I'm doing. Of late, I have been doing Yoga, which helps me greatly.

2. What stops you from concentrating?

Lack of good sleep and multitasking. If I sleep less, I won't be able to concentrate the next morning. If too many things are spinning at a time, it is difficult to focus.

3. What do you do when you can't concentrate?

I try to put off my mobile phones, close the email tab in my browser and wear headphones so that other noises don't distract me. I also make a mini priority list on my own. This helps me to complete things in order. The more I complete, the more confident I become.

VOCABULARY

Focus (verb) – pay particular attention to.

Eg: The Biology teacher focused more on cockroaches.

Yoga (noun) – a Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline, a part of which, including breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures, is widely practiced for health and relaxation.

Eg: She attended the yoga classes without fail.

Multitasking (verb) – (of a person) deals with more than one task at the same time.

Eg: Harry was not good at multitasking.

Headphones (noun) – a pair of earphones joined by a band placed over the head, for listening to audio signals such as music or speech.

Eg: I was listening to Beethoven through my headphones.

65. Beautiful scenery

1. In your country, are there many places to see beautiful scenery?

We have enough scenic places in India. We have the Western Ghats, the Eastern Ghats, and the Himalayas to name a few. There are an unmyriad number of falls and rivers and many other exotic places being discovered every day.

2. Do you like to visit places with beautiful views when you are traveling?

Yes, I do. Whenever I come across any breathtaking scenery I stop by. Otherwise, I just witness the sun and the moon, enjoying their different variants of light from morning to night.

3. Do you like to take pictures of beautiful scenery?

Yes, of course. I want to capture every single moment I enjoy. Because you never know if you will get to see it once again. For instance, you see pink clouds this moment and the next moment they turn orange. Nature is very playful. You ought to carefully record it, or else you will miss it forever.

VOCABULARY

Ghats (noun) – (in South Asia) a mountain pass.

Eg: He did not drive well in the ghat section.

Waterfalls (noun) – a cascade of water falling from a height, formed when a river or stream flows over a precipice or steep incline.

Eg: There is a waterfall next to the village.

Breathtaking (adj) – astonishing or awe-inspiring in quality, so as to take one's breath away **Eg:**

The Himalayas are a breathtaking beauty.

Clouds (noun) – a visible mass of condensed water vapor floating in the atmosphere, typically high above the general level of the ground.

Eg: The moon was hidden by dark clouds.

66. History

1. Do you like history?

I love History. Learning about the past fascinates me, to this day. I not only read it in books but make sure I visit those places in person. For instance, I toured Hassan near Karnataka in my 7th grade after having read about it in my sixth grade. I have a long list of such places to go.

2. Did you enjoy learning history when you were a child?

I did. It was inspirational to learn about warriors, patriotic when learning about freedom fighters, and intriguing when learning about Mughals and the British. I was once given a task to find out why Indians could easily accept Mughals as rulers and not the British. I loved such interesting assignments.

3. When was the last time you read about history?

Well, it was a year ago when someone gave me the book “White Mughals” as a gift. I was impressed by the way the culture got mingled among the leading characters in the book, one of whom is English and the other a Muslim.

4. Do you think history is important?

Yes, it is important. I go by the opinion of Machiavelli that whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past. We also get a chance to learn from the mistakes of our ancestors.

VOCABULARY

Warriors (noun) – (especially in former times) a brave or experienced soldier or fighter.

Eg: Chhatrapati Shivaji was a true warrior.

Patriotic (adj) – having or expressing devotion to and vigorous support for one’s country.

Eg: The cricket match will be watched by a patriotic crowd.

Culture (noun) – the ideas, customs, and social behavior of a particular people or society.

Eg: Westerners have great respect for Indian culture.

Ancestors (noun) – a person, typically one more remote than a grandparent, from whom one is descended.

67. Coffee or tea

1. Do you like coffee or tea?

Day breaks in most south Indian homes with a hot cup of filter coffee. I love to wake up to the strong aroma of coffee. I believe it gives the whole energy needed for the day.

2. Do you remember when you drank coffee/tea for the first time?

India is a tropical country. So, we have coffee farms in abundance. Coffee is like water for us. So, we start drinking coffee, right from our childhood. And I'm no exception. I don't remember much about when I first had it.

3. Do you offer coffee and tea to visitors when they come to your home?

Well, if they are complete strangers, I check out what they prefer. Otherwise, I always offer them a hot cup of coffee.

4. What are the benefits of drinking coffee or tea?

Well, Coffee contains caffeine and tea contains theobromine. Both are good if taken in moderation. Addiction to either of them will yield adverse results.

VOCABULARY

Aroma (noun) – a distinctive, typically pleasant smell.

Eg: It was an inviting aroma of roses.

Caffeine (noun) – is an alkaloid compound that is found especially in tea and coffee plants and is a stimulant of the central nervous system.

Eg: Some are of the opinion that caffeine fights cancer.

Theobromine (noun) – a bitter, volatile compound obtained from cacao seeds. It is an alkaloid resembling caffeine in its physiological effects.

Eg: Some fear that high levels of theobromine are toxic.

Addiction (noun) – the fact or condition of being addicted to a particular substance or activity.

68. Rubbish

1. Why do some people throw garbage on the street?

Personally, I think the primary reason why people drop litter on the street is because of their ignorance in keeping the street clean. There are even some trash bins but people still throw garbage somewhere else.

2. What do you do with garbage when you are on the street?

Well, I would just pick it up and throw it into a trash bin. It doesn't cost me anything to do that and I can even make influence other people do the same.

3. How do you feel when you see people throw garbage on the street?

To be honest, it really pisses me off to see a person litter the street. If I were that person, I would feel ashamed because of what I did.

4. Do you think your city is clean or not?

Not really. There are some places that are heavily contaminated with chemical waste because of the existence of industrial zones, however; our local authorities are really working on this issue to help make the city clean by raising awareness among citizens and imposing stricter laws.

69. Perfume

1. Do you use perfume?

(Answer) Yes, I do, but not very often.

(Give a reason for your answer) I try not to wear perfume around people who might have a **sensitivity** to it. I know a few people who get a headache when they're around people wearing fragrances, so if I'm not sure I just don't. But there is no doubt that perfumes can be a woman's best friend at certain times. It is an effective method to **capture** attention or form a good impression.

2. What kind of perfume do you like?

(Answer) I am not a perfume enthusiast, so I don't possess many kinds of perfume. I received a bottle from Zara as a gift and I use it **sparingly**, whenever on special occasions. It just makes me feel bold yet airy and comfortable. I can **detect** hints of vanilla and cinnamon and a top note of orange gives this a nice citrusy twist but it is **by no means** a fruity scent.

3. What does perfume mean to you?

(Answer) Fragrance or perfume is **evocative** of an innumerable amount of things; memories, places, people, the list goes on. There's always one particular scent that reminds you of a perfect holiday you took last summer or of your lovely ex-boyfriend. And the same goes for the

perfume that makes you feel sexy; your 'going out' perfume and even your 'everyday' perfume will **conjure up** some memories of people and places, and good times.

4. Do you give perfume as a gift?

(Answer) Well, not really.

(Give a reason for your answer) I only know some **mainstream** fragrances and I could hardly guess one's tastes, so it's a risky kind of gift most of the time. Perfume could be an option as a gift for our **spouse**, parents or children and eventually siblings or very close friends. It is an **inappropriate** present for a colleague, someone we barely know, or someone we have work relationships with.

Vocabulary:

sensitivity [n]: the quality of being easily upset by the things people say or do, or causing people to be upset, embarrassed, or angry: sự nhạy cảm với

Eg: I should have warned you about her sensitivity to criticism.

capture [v]: if something captures your imagination or attention, you feel very interested and excited by it.

70. Reading

1. Do you like reading?

Definitely. It is one of my hobbies to relieve stress and broaden my knowledge when I have free time.

2. What kind of books do you read?

Well, I'm very into science fiction books, which entertain me a lot, besides giving interesting information.

3. Do you read electronic books?

Not really. I am a big fan of printed books since it provides a less harmful effect on my eyes.

4. Do you read books related to your profession?

Yes, I do. I usually do research about my profession so reading books can help me gain insight into my field.

VOCABULARY

Relieve stress (verb): chill out.

Example: Going swimming is a good way to relieve stress

Broaden one's knowledge (verb): To increase the range of one's knowledge, understanding, or experience

Example: I think reading books can help me broaden my knowledge.

Science fiction book: fiction based on imagined future scientific or technological advances and major social or environmental changes, frequently portraying space or time travel and life on other planets.

Example: I am really into science fiction books, which entertain me a lot.

A big fan of something (expression): someone who likes watching or listening to something such as a sport, films, or music very much, or who admires a famous or important person very much

Example: I am a big fan of Adele; I listen to every song of hers.

71. Visit relatives

1. Do you often visit your relatives? (Answer) Yes, I

(Give a reason for your answer) I like many of my relatives who are very **compassionate**, lovely, and friendly to me, and among them, I would pick my younger uncle as the best relative in terms of our mutual understanding, **closeness** and communication.

2. What do you do when visiting relatives? (Answer) There are a lot of

(Give a reason for your answer) We often discuss our family issues, our thoughts on **politics**, religion, books writers, movies, music, and on many other issues. In our big family, we share our books and recommend books to each other. Generally, adults also share **heartfelt** words with youngsters and advise them on how to behave **decently**.

3. When was the last time you visited a relative?

(Answer) Well, it was just last week when I visited my uncle's family and my grandparents, who **reside** with him in the countryside. We went for a short walk near the field after breakfast to relax in nature and **soak up** some much-needed Vitamin D, which is **necessary** for elderly people.

4. Why do people visit relatives? (Answer) For many reasons, I

(Give a reason for your answer) Simply hanging out with family that you don't see all the time is great. You get a chance to catch up with everyone and figure out what they're doing with their lives. You also get to laugh and just be weird because they don't judge you for your **weirdness**. Above all, the memories are the best when you're with your family sitting around and **reminiscing about** things that you've done together.

Vocabulary:

compassionate [adj]: showing compassion.

Eg: The public's response to the crisis appeal was generous and compassionate.

closeness [n]: the quality of knowing someone very well, like them a lot, and wanting to spend a lot of time together.

Eg: A special closeness is supposed to exist between twins.

politics [n]: the activities of the government, members of law-making organizations, or people who try to influence the way a country is governed.

72. Weather

1. What kind of weather is typical in your hometown?

Since my country is located near the Equator, Ho Chi Minh City, where I live, usually has hot weather, which is not my cup of tea.

2. What's your favorite season?

If I had to choose, I would choose winter because the weather gets much warmer, and I can wear fashionable clothes that are only suitable for this season.

3. What kind of weather do you like most? Do you prefer dry or wet weather?

I like sunny weather, but not when it's too hot because it gets a bit humid after a while. I'll go for dry weather since I don't want to get caught up in a rainstorm and soaked to the bone.

VOCABULARY:

Boiling weather (expression): extremely hot (having a high temperature: of an object, the weather, a living creature)

Ex: Don't go to the North in summer! It's boiling weather.

Humid (adjective): marked by a relatively high level of water vapor in the atmosphere.

Ex: The weather is really humid; you should drink a lot of water.

Get caught up in a rain (Idiom): To "get caught" in the rain means that you are outside and it starts raining suddenly before you can get inside or get an umbrella.

Ex: It suddenly rained and I got caught up in the rain.

73. Sharing

1. Have you had anything to share with others recently?

Yes. I was quite nervous about my upcoming finals. Therefore, I went to see my sister and tell her my concerns. She gave me a pep talk.

2. Did your parents teach you to share when you were a child?

They did encourage my siblings and me to speak our minds if we needed to. My parents told me that sharing could lift people's spirits and get rid of negative energy.

3. What kind of things do you like to share with others?

I usually talk with my friends about how I spend my day. Sometimes I even share food with my colleagues because I often buy snacks at the workplace.

4. What kind of things are not suitable for sharing?

I think people should keep personal information to themselves because anyone can take advantage of that information and put them into trouble.

VOCABULARY:

Pep talk (noun): a talk intended to make someone feel more courageous or enthusiastic.

Example: The coach came and gave a pep talk to his team.

Speak one's mind: Say what one really thinks, talk freely and fearlessly **Example:**

Everyone feels free to speak their mind in this section.

Lift one's spirit: To make one feel happier or more carefree **Example:**

My advice really lifted his spirits.

Get rid of: take action so as to be free of (a troublesome or unwanted person or thing) **Example:**

You should get rid of these clothes since they are old-fashioned.

Keep something to oneself: refuse to disclose or share something.

74. Handwriting

1. Do you often write things?

(Answer) Absolutely yes.

(Explain) Writing is one of the things that I love doing in my leisure time. I practice writing every day to **sharpen my language and writing skills**, as well as relieve stress after a hard-working day.

2. Do you prefer to write by hand or write using a computer?

(Answer) It depends.

(explain) When writing about everyday things or practicing for the IELTS test, I'd rather write by hand. I use a computer to write academic reports.

3. Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?

(Answer) I don't think so.

(Explain) The computer has indeed been doing a good job in helping people to write. However, I don't think that it will replace the traditional way of writing as there will be no computers to **rely on** in urgent cases.

4. When do children begin to write in your country?

(Answer) Iranian kids start learning to write at the age of around 5 to 6, **(explain)** which is considered quite early by some European experts. But Iranian kids know how to do it well.

Vocabulary:

To sharpen a skill: perfect a skill.

Eg: To sharpen my communication skills, I participate in a lot of extra-curricular activities.

To rely on: to need (someone or something) for support, help, etc.: to depend on (someone or something)

Eg: I don't think we should always rely on theories in books because there are many unexpected situations that cannot be solved by them in real life.

75. Number

1. Are you good at remembering numbers?

(Answer) Yes. I'm quite good **when it comes to** numbers. But it depends on how the numbers are administered to me.

(Give a reason for your answer) When I look at a sequence for only 1 or 2 seconds or hear 2-3 numbers in 1 second, I can easily remember them. My immediate information **intake** is enormous and very fast compared to the average. I can easily remember **sequences** of 15-20 digits in a moment. But I haven't tried beyond that.

2. Do you often use numbers?

(Answer) Well, I must say I **seldom** use numbers.

(Give a reason for your answer) Honestly, my work doesn't involve the use of numbers. Still, numbers play an important role in our lives. I **assume** that whether we like it or not, our life revolves around numbers and they are connected directly or indirectly to our lives.

3. Is there any special number you like? **(Answer)** Yes,

(Give a reason for your answer) My favorite number is nine because it has unique **attributes**. **Multiply** nine by any number and then keep adding the digits of the number produced until there is only one left. It will always be 9. Interesting, isn't it?

Vocabulary: when it comes to [expression]: as for something; speaking

about something **Eg:** When it comes to fishing, John is an expert.

intake [n]: an amount of food, air, or another substance taken into the body.

Eg: It all adds up and excessive food and alcohol intake takes its toll on the body.

sequence [n]: a particular order in which related events, movements, or things follow each other.

Eg: A logical, progressive sequence is followed, in accordance with how I was trained in the Vaganova school.

seldom [adv]: almost never.

76. Sweets

1. Do you like to eat sweets?

(Answer) Yes, I count myself as **having a sweet tooth**.

(Give a reason for your answer) I usually have Tiramisu or a croissant for dessert. Bakery shops on the road never fail to **capture** my attention. It **makes my mouth water** to think about all the sweets displayed there.

2. Is your liking for sweets the same as when you were a child?

(Answer) When I was a child, I used to eat candies and biscuits **sparingly**. However, the more I grew, the more I was into sweets. Sweets were the one thing that kept me going when things got tough.

The handmade ones were, to put it simply, edible happiness, cheaper **antidepressants**, and a quick way to see the bright side of life if eaten in moderation and provided you have enough self-control.

3. Have you ever tried to make sweets? (Answer) Honestly, I have

(Give a reason for your answer) I have read the recipes for my favorite cakes, but they are **by no means** simple. However, I would love to try baking cookies or making a mousse in the future.

4. Why do people like sweets?

(Answer) Our bodies are naturally wired to **crave sugar** for various reasons. When we crave sugar, we are craving the nutrients that are found in fruit or desserts. The mental craving comes from serotonin – a neurotransmitter that gives us a sense of **well-being**, and helps **moderate** our moods, sleep cycles, and appetite – which is released after we consume sweets.

Vocabulary from Food: have a sweet tooth

Meaning: enjoy sugary food

Example: My brother has a sweet tooth and I'm afraid that he will become obese.

make your mouth water

Meaning: make you feel very hungry for something

Example: It makes my mouth water just to think about eating beef noodles.

77. Museums

Do you go on field trips to museums to learn history?

(Answer) Yes, I sometimes

(Give a reason for your answer) As I see it, this kind of educational trip is a beneficial way for a student to acquire knowledge and experience. History teachers in my school often organize trips to museums **to familiarize** students with historical events or figures in a **fascinating** way. I remember that the students were always in eager **anticipation** before trips to museums.

2. Do you learn much history at school?

(Answer) Well, history was my favorite subject in school

(Give a reason for your answer) I'm quite **enthusiastic about** delving into the past and learning from the mistakes our forefathers made. Besides, my History teacher in high school always delivered engaging lessons. Unlike other teachers who compelled students to learn to get good grades, she showed the beauty of learning and encouraged us to **pursue** our interests.

3. When was the last time you read a history publication?

(Answer) I'm genuinely interested in history books, so I read them frequently.

(Give a reason for your answer) The recent one I read has an **unpredictable** plot, and it has received widespread **acclaim** from book critics around the world.

Vocabulary from Education: higher

education:

Meaning: education, usually in a college or university that is followed after high school or secondary school

Example: Higher education is only suitable for those committed enough to learning.

Other vocabularies:

with a view to [expression]: with an intention to do something:

Eg: The politician reveals the truth with a view to gaining more faith from the public.

fascinating [adj]: extremely interesting and attractive.

Eg: Your trip to Alaska sounds absolutely fascinating.

78. Art

1. Do you like art?

(Answer) I'm an **avid** fan of art.

(Give a reason for your answer) Art is a part of my life. I love art, in any form it presents itself. My heart swells once I've made something pretty. Different **genres** of art, such as music, architecture, literature, and culture are appealing to me.

2. Have you ever visited an art gallery?

(Answer) Yes, I have.

(Give a reason for your answer) After I graduated, I began to enjoy taking trips to various art exhibitions. Since then, I have **established** relationships with a few friends that are artists, and now they invite me to their galleries quite often. Visiting art galleries is also a way to **keep**

myself updated with new trends in the contemporary world of art. Believe it or not, this kind of experience **relieves** much of my work-related stress.

3. Is there any artwork on the wall in your room?

(Answer) Yes, I have.

(Give a reason for your answer) Wall art draws the eye, pulls together space, and makes my home inviting. I usually hang artworks of rural areas that depict **brehtaking** scenery, space, and other amazing places such as forests, lakes, or mountains. These pictures always **capture the attention** of guests.

Vocabulary: avid [n]: extremely eager or

interested: say **mê** **Eg:** He took an avid interest

in the project.

genre [n]: a style, especially in the arts, that involves a particular set of characteristics **Eg:**

What genre does the book fall into – comedy or tragedy?

cater for [v]: to provide the things that a particular person or situation needs or wants **Eg:**

The class caters to all ability ranges.

79. Science

1. Have you ever taken science courses?

I have never taken any science courses before. I am a major in International Relations. My syllabus does not include subjects in science.

2. Is science important?

Although I am not a science student, I believe that it is **of great significance to** today's world, which is driven by science and technology. Without science, people would be still in the stone age.

3. Should we learn science?

Of course, everyone should know science, to some degree. Science explains the phenomenon that happens around us and helps build a strong human society and brings prosperity.

4. Did you have any science classes in elementary or high school?

Science was a compulsory subject in elementary school while in high school science is divided into different subjects namely physics, biology, and chemistry, which are also obligatory. Thus, I did study science in elementary and high school.

5. What kind of science do people usually study?

Normally, people focus on physics because it is more applicable in real life than biology and chemistry.

Vocabulary:

To be comprised of something (phrase): to be made up of

Example: The class is **comprised** mainly **of** Italian and French students.

To be of significance for/to something: having the quality of being “significant

Example: The discovery of the new drug is **of great significance/to** people suffering from heart problems.

80. Alone

1. When was the last time you were alone?

Answer: Maybe it was about one month ago when I made a solo trip to Thailand. I stayed there for five days and explored Bangkok on my own.

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

Answer: I enjoy being alone on the weekend morning, reading some books, and playing computer games.

3. Do you wish to have more time alone?

Answer: Well, I'd rather hang out with my friends than be alone since friends entertain me a lot,

and you need to be sociable in society.

4. Is it essential to have some time alone?

Answer: Absolutely. There are moments when you get stressed out, and being alone can be an ideal way to let your hair down.