

## **PART I**

### **Study**

1. Are you a student or working?
2. What is your major?
3. Why did you choose this major?
4. Is your major popular in China?
5. What is your favourite subject?
6. Why did you choose to study there?
7. What was the first school you attended?
8. How did you feel when you arrive at your school / university at the first day?

### **Hometown**

1. Where is your hometown?
2. What is your hometown famous for?
3. Do you know anything about the history of your hometown?
4. Is there anything in your hometown that needs improvement?
5. What is the most attractive part in your hometown?
6. What places should foreigners visit in your hometown? Why?
7. Which is your favourite part in your hometown?
8. What do you do in your free time in your hometown?
9. Do you like to live in the cities near the sea?

## **House/ Flat/ Apartment/Accommodation**

1. Where do you live, in a house or in a flat? / do you live in a house or a flat?
2. Could you describe it a little?
3. What are the advantages of your flat?
4. What's your favourite room in your home?
5. How do you like to decorate your room?
6. What have you done to your room to make it look nice?
7. What do you usually do in your room to make it look nice?
8. Which room does your family spend most of the time in?
9. What do you usually do in your house/flat/room?
10. Are the transport facilities to your home very good?
11. Do you plan to move?
12. Are you prepared to move?
13. Would you like to move to another place to place? (Why? Where)
14. How is the environment there?
15. What kind of environment do you like?
16. How is the air condition there?

## **Daily routine**

1. What is your daily routine?
2. What are you usually doing at this time?
3. Do you do the same things every day?
4. Tell me something about your daily routine?
5. In a typical day, what do you do in the classroom?
6. For you, what is the best time of day for studying?

## **Housework**

1. Do you like doing housework?
2. How do you think housework could be made more interesting?
3. Did your parents ask you to do any housework when you were a child?
4. Do you think children should do some housework?
5. Which do you think is better for doing housework, a machine or a person?
6. In the future, do you think machines will replace humans for doing housework?

## **Natural places**

1. Do you like to visit natural places?
2. What are some well-known natural attractions in your country?
3. Do you like a natural environment?
4. How do city kids in your country have contact with nature?
5. Do you have any memories of nature from your childhood?
6. What are the benefits of learning about nature?
7. What can people get from going to natural places?
8. Do the local residences protect the nature environment?
9. What sort of problems does nature have nowadays?
10. Do you think it's necessary for individuals to protect nature?

## **Camping**

1. Do you like camping?
2. Have you ever gone camping?
3. How was your last camping?
4. Is camping popular in your country?
5. What kind of things do you think need to be considered before camping?

## **Public holidays**

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

## **Traveling**

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

## **Train travel**

1. Do you often travel by train?
2. Do you like traveling by train?
3. What do you usually do when you are traveling by train?
4. What do you think are the benefits of traveling by train?
5. Do you ever take subway to travel to somewhere?

## **Museums**

1. Are there many / any museums in your hometown?
2. Do you think museums are useful for visitors to your hometown / country?
3. Do you often visit a museum?
4. Did you go to any museums when you were a child?
5. When was the last time you visited a museum?
6. Do you think museums are important?
7. Do you think it's suitable for museums to sell things to visitors?
8. Would you recommend that schools take their students to visit museums?
9. What do you think is the role or the purpose of museums and art galleries?

## **Art**

1. Do you like art? Why or why not?
2. What kind of art are you best at?
3. Have you ever been to an art gallery?
4. How often do you visit art galleries?

## **Weather**

1. What's the weather like today?
2. What kind of weather do you like (best)?
3. What's your favourite weather?
4. What do you usually do during your favourite weather or season?
5. What's the weather (usually) like in your hometown?
6. Do you like that weather or that kind of climate? Why or why not?
7. How often is the good weather in your hometown?
8. What did you do the last time the weather was good?

9. Are there any bad points about the weather in your city?
10. What is the typical weather in China like?
11. Have there been any changes in the weather over the past few years?
12. Does the weather ever affect what you do?
13. How does the weather affect people?
14. How do you feel when the weather is cloudy?
15. Do you always pay attention to the weather forecast?
16. Can you give any examples of unusual weather?
17. Do you like snow? Why?
18. Would you prefer to live in a place that has just one, warm season that lasts the whole year or a place with different seasons?
19. Do people (in China) play the same sports in different seasons of the year?

### **Teachers**

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

### **Writing**

1. Do you often write things?
2. Do you write every day?
3. What do you usually write?
4. Do you like writing to people?
5. How often do you send e-mails?
6. What are your main reasons for using e-mail?

7. Do you like to send e-mails?
8. Do you usually write by hand or write using a computer?
9. Nowadays, how do most people write things?
10. Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?
11. When do children begin to write in your country?
12. How did you learn to write?
13. Do you think handwriting is very important nowadays?
14. How can children today improve their handwriting?
15. What impression does a person's handwriting have on other people?

## **Advertising**

1. Are there many advertisements in your country?
2. Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?
3. What are the places where we see advertisements?
4. How do you feel about advertisements?
5. What kinds of advertisement do you like the most?
6. Do advertisements influence your choice about what to buy?
7. Do you like advertisements on TV?
8. Do you prefer advertising on TV or those in magazines?
9. Do you think advertising plays an important role in today's world?
10. What sorts of advertisements leave the deepest impression on people?
11. What do you think about the developments in advertising in China today?
12. Why do you think companies advertise themselves?

## **Food**

1. What is your favourite food?
2. When do you usually eat that food?
3. What was your favourite food when you were a child?
4. Did that change when you became an adult?
5. Is food important to you?
6. What food do you usually eat?
7. What kind of food do you particularly like?
8. How often do you eat that?
9. When was the last time you ate that?
10. If you had children, what food would you recommend they eat?
11. Do you usually eat the same food every day?
12. Is there any food you don't like?

## **Shoes**

1. Do you like shopping for shoes? Why and why not?
2. How often do you buy shoes?
3. How long is it since you bought some shoes?
4. What kinds of shoes do you usually buy?
5. Do you prefer comfortable shoes or good-looking shoes?
6. Do you like buying shoes online?

## **Colours**

1. What is your favourite colour?
2. In what colour do you want your house to be painted?
3. How would you like to have your room painted?

4. What is the traditional colour in China? What does it mean?
5. Which colour of sweater do you like best?
6. Are colours important to you when you are buying clothes?
7. Do you prefer light or dark colours?

## **History**

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

## **Friends**

1. Do you have any close friends?
2. What qualities make them good friends?
3. Do you live with your family?
4. Do your family and friends still live in your hometown?
5. Do you think family members should live together? Why and why not?
6. When do you spend time with your family?
7. What do you do together?
8. Do you often go out with your friends?
9. Is your family very important to you?
10. Do you prefer to spend time with your family or your friends?

11. What do you do in your free time with your friends?
12. Are there any times when you prefer to be alone?

### **Cars**

1. Do you like cars?
2. Do you have a driver's license?
3. Have you ever driven a car?
4. Do you or does your family have a car?
5. Do you often drive it?(If you don't have a car) do you plan to buy a car in the future?
6. If you wanted to buy a car, what kind of car would you choose?
7. What kinds of cars are most popular in your country?
8. Do you like traveling by car?
9. Who do you prefer to travel with?
10. Do you like to take long trips by car?
11. Is there anything you don't like about cars?

### **Maps**

1. Do you ever use a map?
2. When do you use a map?
3. Who taught you how to use a map?
4. How did you learn to use or read a map?
5. Do you prefer to use electronic maps or those made of paper? and why?

### **Concentrating**

1. When do you think is easy to concentrate, in the morning or in the evening?
2. What times in your life do you need to concentrate on doing something?

3. Does your job require concentration and attention to detail?
4. Is it difficult / easy to concentrate? Why?
5. What affects your ability to concentrate?
6. What type of environment do you need to work peacefully?
7. Do you ever do anything to help you concentrate?
8. Do you think people can do two things at the same time?

### **Noise**

1. Are you ever bothered by noise?
2. Where can you hear loud noise?
3. Do you think there is more noise in people's lives today than in the past?
4. Do you think that cities will become noisier in the future?
5. What sounds do you like?
6. What sounds do you dislike?
7. What sounds remind you of your childhood?

### **Cooking**

1. Do you like cooking? Why / why not?
2. Do you know how to make / prepare a meal?
3. How well do you cook?
4. Have you ever thought about learning how to cook?
5. What do you like to cook?
6. How did you learn to cook?
7. Who taught you how to cook?
8. When did you learn how to cook?
9. Do you usually eat at home or do you usually eat away from home?

10. Who usually does the cooking in your home / in your family?
11. Did you do any cooking at home? Why / why not?
12. Have you ever thought about learning how to cook?
13. Do you think everyone should learn how to cook?
14. Do you think it would be useful to teach cooking at school?
15. Do you think university students should know how to cook?
16. When was the last time you did some cooking?
17. Can you see yourself cooking more in the near future? Why?

### **Street Markets**

1. Do you have supermarket near your home?
2. Do you think supermarket is popular in your country?
3. What kind of things do you often buy when you go shopping?
4. What do you think are the differences between street market and supermarket?
5. Which one do you prefer, street market or supermarket? And why?

### **Animals**

1. Did you ever visit a zoo when you were a child?
2. Have you ever been to a zoo?
3. Do you think it's important for children to visit a zoo?
4. What's your favourite zoo animal?
5. Why do you think some people have a pet?
6. Do you think animals should be put into cage?

## **Parks**

1. Does your hometown have many parks?
2. Do you often visit public parks?
3. What do you usually do there?
4. Do you like parks?
5. What kinds of parks do you like?
6. What do you like most about a park?
7. Did you go to parks when you were a child?
8. What did you do there?
9. Do you think it's good to have parks and public gardens in cities? (Why?)
10. Do you think there should be more of them?
11. Do you think you will go to parks more often in the future?

## **Gifts**

1. Do you like to receive gifts? Why or why not?
2. What kind of gifts do you like to receive? Why?
3. What gifts did you receive in your childhood?
4. Do you like giving gifts to people? Why or why not?
5. What gifts did you give to others in your childhood?

## **Neighbours**

1. Are there many people living near you?
2. Do you know all your neighbours?
3. How often do you see or talk to your neighbours?
4. When do you meet or see your neighbours?
5. How often do you talk to your neighbours?

6. Do you think it's important to know your neighbours?
7. How well do you know your neighbours?
8. Do you think it's important for a person to have a good relationship with their neighbours?
9. What do you think of your neighbours?
10. What kind of people are your neighbours?
11. How do you get along with your neighbours?
12. What are the benefits of having good relationships with one's neighbours?
13. What sorts of problems can people have with their neighbours?
14. In what ways can neighbours help each other?
15. Have you ever asked a neighbour for help?
16. Would you prefer to have young people as your neighbours, or old people?

## **Toys**

1. Do you like toys?
2. Are toys very important to you?
3. What sorts of people like toys?
4. What sorts of toys did you like when you were a kid?
5. Did your parents give it to you?
6. Do you still have any of your old toys?
7. Can you suggest why some people like to keep a childhood toy?
8. What kind of toys do children like today?
9. If you had a child, what toy would you buy him or her?
10. Do you think toys should be passed on to other kids when these toys are no longer wanted?

## **Photographs**

1. Do you like taking photos?
2. How do you take photographs?
3. What do you like to take photo?
4. Do you like cameras?
5. How do you organise your photos?
6. How do you think will you keep your photos in the future?
7. Are there any photos on your wall at home?
8. Would you say photographs are a good way to preserve memories?
9. Do you think it's important to preserve memories?

## **Meeting people**

1. do you like to meet with other people?
2. where do young people in your country meet?
3. what do they do there?
4. are thee places where young people today the same as where young people used to meet in the past (e.g. 20 or 30 years ago)?
5. where do you meet with your friends?
6. where did you first meet your friends?
7. are there any differences between the places where older people meet and where young people meet?
8. (in your country), where can you meet people from other countries?

## **The Ocean**

1. have you ever been to the seaside?
2. how many times have you been to the seaside?
3. did you like the ocean?

4. what benefits did you get from going there?
5. what do people in China do when they go to the beach?

### **Dancing**

1. do you like dancing?
2. when was the last time you danced?
3. where can we see people dancing?
4. do you like to watch dance performances?

### **Science**

1. do you like science?
2. are you very interested in science?
3. what science have you studied?
4. is your work related to science?
5. what science subject do you like the most?
6. what's the most interesting science to you?

### **Collecting**

1. did you collect anything when you were a child?
2. do you still collect them now?
3. do you collect anything as a hobby now?
4. why do you like collecting things?
5. do people in your country like to collect things?
6. why do you think people like collecting things?

## **PART II and III**

### **Events**

**Describe a good habit from your friend that you want to develop**  
**You should say:**

- **What the habit is**
- **Who have it**
- **How she or he develops**
- **And explain why you want to develop**

Having a good habit is very important?

How will you help your friend to correct / abandon if he or she has a bad habit?

When is the best time for people to cultivate a good habit?

How can parents encourage children to have a good habit?

What benefits people can get if people surround them have a good habit?

**Describe an important job in your country**  
**You should say:**

- **What the job is**
- **What people have this job**
- **What the job requires**
- **And explain why the job is important in your country**

Do you think some jobs are more important than others?

Would you agree that all jobs have some value?

Do you think people who are doing an unpleasant or dangerous job should be paid more than people doing other jobs?

How do young people choose their career in your country?

Do they usually make their choice based on money or is their choice usually based on what they are interested in doing?

What sorts of work are most popular with young people in your country?

Where do young people get advice about choosing a career?

Why do some people like their job while others don't like their job?

Why do people sometimes lose interest in their job?

Why do people sometimes become bored with their job?

What do you think employers can do to help motivate their employees to perform better at work, besides giving them a pay raise?

If someone is bored in their job, is it easy for them to change to a different job?

Do you think it's good to change jobs frequently?

**Describe an interesting conversation you had with other people  
You should say:**

- **Who the person was**
- **Where and when you talked with the person**
- **What you talked about with the person**
- **And explain why it was interesting**

Do you think women like to chat more than men?

When men chat with other men, do they usually talk about the same things that women do when they chat with other women?

What is the different between chatting and gossiping?

Who do you prefer chatting with, your parents or your friends?

Do most people have just a small number of friends, or many friends?

How do most people make new friends in your country?

Do you think people's abilities or intelligence is a factor when people become friends?

What qualities do you think a good friend should have?

Do you think it's possible to determine how sincere a person is the first time you meet them?

How important are first impressions when making friends?

Do you think first impressions are usually correct or does it take time to get to know a person?

How can a person get to know another person's true nature?

**Describe a project that you were once involved in  
You should say:**

- **When and where you did this project**
- **What research or preparation you did**
- **How much time you spent on this project or assignment**
- **And explain what you learned from this experience**

Are there many different subjects available your school?

Do you think students at high school should learn many different things?

How do you think school lessons could be made more interesting for students?

Do you think classes in China are too big?

Tell me about the typical homework you had to do in high school.

Do you think student in China have too much homework? Why do you say that?

Do you think homework is necessary?

How do you think modern science and technology has influenced education today in China?

Do you think using examinations is a good way to educate people?

Is there much cheating in examinations in China?

What is the status of school teachers in China?

Do you think it's important for children to go to school to be educated or is it possible for a child to be educated at home, without attending a school?

Why do some parents prefer home schooling for their children?

**Describe something you did with a group of people**

**You should say:**

- **What the thing was**
- **When and where you did it**
- **Whom you did it with**
- **And explain why you did it with a group of people of what you learned from doing things with a group of people**

Besides sports, what are some other group activities that people in your country engage in?

Do you think some people behave differently when they are in a group, compared to when they are alone? Why?

In general, what are the differences between doing something in a group and doing things alone?

What kinds of teams, clubs, organisations or groups do some people in your country join?

Are there any clubs at your school or university?

Why do some parents want their children to become members of a group?

Do you think it's beneficial for children to take part in group activities?

What are some differences between old people's group activities and those of young people?

What benefits do old people get from doing these activities in a group?

What are some examples of people working as a group?

What are the pros and cons of working in a team?

Can you think of any examples of group activities on an international scale?

**Describe an occasion that you borrowed something from others**

**You should say:**

- **What thing was**
- **When you borrowed it**
- **Whom you borrowed it from**
- **And explain why you borrowed the thing**

Do people feel embarrassed when they request the things back from friends?

What do people usually borrow from others?

**Describe a meal you invited others to your home or restaurant**

**You should say:**

- **Who you invited**
- **Where and when you ate this meal**
- **What you ate**
- **And explain why you invited the person to have a meal**

Do you like cooking? Why and why not?

What kinds of food do Chinese people like to eat?

Would you say that eating a healthy diet is important? Why?

Describe what you think is a healthy diet.

Are there many vegetarians in China?

Why do you think some people choose to be vegetarians?

Is the food that people eat today in China different to the food that people used to eat in the past?

How do you think the way we eat will change in the future?

Is American-style 'fast food' popular in China?

What do you think of this popularity- is it a good thing?

More and more people are becoming overweight nowadays. What do you think might be the causes of this?

On the other hand, millions of people in the world don't have enough to eat. Why do you think that is?

**Describe something you did which was a waste of time**  
**You should say:**

- **What the thing was**
- **When you did it**
- **How you did it**
- **And explain why it was a waste of time**

Describe some occasions that people waste their time

What ways do you think can let people save time?

Do you think people will follow their schedules?

**Describe a time when you had to wait in a traffic jam**  
**You should say:**

- **When and where it happened**
- **How long you were in the traffic jam**
- **What you did while waiting**
- **And explain how you felt when you were in that traffic jam or what happened as a result of that traffic jam**

Do you prefer to travel by car or by bus?

Which vehicles are more likely to be in a traffic jam, cars or buses?

If you were in a traffic jam, would you prefer to be in a car or a bus?

How does having many cars in a city affect the environment?

Why do so many people want to own their own car?

What are the traffic conditions like in your hometown?

Are traffic jams very common in your hometown ( or, around where you live)?

Do you feel that traffic congestion in your hometown is better, or worse than it used to be?

What are the causes of traffic jams?

When do the most severe traffic jams usually happen? Why?

Do you think only the government has the power to manage the problem of traffic jams?

What is the government doing to help solve the problem of traffic jams?

What would you suggest as possible solutions to the problem of congested traffic?

Do you think the problem of traffic congestion will be eased in the future or will it become worse?

Do you think having more public transportation is the answer to traffic congestion?

Do you think building more roads will solve the problem?

Overseas, some governments have increased the sales tax on cars as a way to discourage people from buying cars. Do you think that's a good idea?

**Describe an occasion that you waited for someone  
You should say:**

- **Who the person you waited for**
- **When you waited for the person**
- **Where you waited for the person**
- **And explain why you waited for the person**

What occasions do you think worth wait?

**Describe a success your friend has had that you are proud of  
You should say:**

- **What it was**
- **Why your friend chose this area of activity**
- **How easy or difficult it was to achieve**
- **And explain why you thought this was a success**

You've just described one success that your friend has had, what are some other examples of success that other people have?

How would you define the word, success?

In your society, how is a person's social status evaluated?

Do you think 'success' is the same as making a lot of money?

How successful would you say you have been in your studies?

Do you and your parents have the same ideas about success?

In recent years, have people's ideas about success changed in China?

How do you think a person can become 'successful' in life?

There are some people who do not achieve success despite having the qualities or doing what you've just said. Why do you think that is?

Why do many people have plans and goals for themselves?

How can a person become successful at his or her job?

Some people work at a job that they don't really like very much, why do you think they do that?

**Describe an occasion that you received a good service from a company or shop  
You should say:**

- **What the service was**
- **When and where you received the service**
- **Whom you were together with**
- **And explain why you think it was a good service**

What jobs require staff to get in touch with many people?

What qualities do the staffs need? Why?

How does a company train the staff?

**Describe something you do to help you stay healthy**

**You should say:**

**1. What you do**

**2. When you started doing this**

**3. How much time you spend doing this**

**4. And explain what benefits you get from this activity or explain how this activity helps you stay healthy**

Is staying healthy an important question in your country?

Is it really so important to stay healthy?

What activities do people in your country do in order to maintain their health?

Do you think elderly people, pay more attention to staying healthy than younger people?

What do elderly people do in order to stay healthy?

Would you say modern life creates stress on people?

Do you think that exercise is the best way to stay healthy, or is paying attention to one's diet the best way?

Do men and women generally do the same things to stay healthy?

Is there much difference between the exercise that men do and the exercise that women do?

Would you say food safety is an important health issue?

What is the government doing about food safety?

Do you think the best way would be to promote health awareness in schools?

Did you learn anything in school about healthy living?

Do you think that employers should encourage their employees to stay healthy?

How do you suggest this could be done?

**Describe a subject you didn't enjoy in high or secondary school**

**You should say:**

- **What the subject was**
- **How the teacher taught this subject**
- **How long you studied this subject**
- **And explain why you didn't like it**

Which subject should not be taught in class?

Which subject should be taught in class?

How do teachers are most popular in high school in your country? Why?

How has education in your country changed in the past few years?

What are some differences between university education and high school education?

What factors do people consider when they are choosing which university to attend?

What do you think of teaching, as a profession?

What are the qualities of a good teacher?

In what ways does a good teacher have an effect on the students?

In what ways does a bad teacher have an effect on the students?

How do people choose what to study in university? What factors?

Which do you think is better, studying alone or in a group? Why?

Do people of different ages all learn the same things?

Do you think young people learn better than old people?

**Describe another language [in addition to English and you won language (Chinese)] that you would like to learn**

**You should say:**

- **The name of this language (where it is spoken)**
- **How you would learn it**
- **What difficulties you think you might have when learning this language**
- **And explain why you would like to learn this language**

Do many people in China study a second foreign language? Why or why not?

Why do you think some people are better than others at learning a foreign language?

How would you assess your own language ability?

Who do you think is better at learning a language, boys or girls?

If you were an English teacher, how would you try to make your lessons (more) interesting?

How does studying a foreign language help people to understand the culture of the people who speak that language?

Do you think it's important to have one main world language?

What would be the advantages and disadvantages of having a global language?

**Describe a TV or radio program that you sometimes talk about with your family or friends**

**You should say:**

- **What the program is about / what the program is**
- **How often you watch or listen to this program**
- **What type of people enjoy this program**
- **And explain what you like or dislike about this program or why you talk with your friends or family about this TV or radio program**

Do people in China prefer to listen to the radio or to watch TV?

Please compare TV and radio programs (Differences and similarities / advantages & disadvantages)

Does radio have any advantages over TV?

What types of TV programs are most popular in China? Why?

How are television programs in China today different to those of the past?

Do you have 24-hour television in China?

In the future, what changes do you think we will see concerning television?

In general, how do TV and radio programs affect people?

Do you think there is anything bad about TV programs?

Do you think violent cartoons can have an adverse effect on young children?

Do you think television has more a negative effect or more a positive effect on children?

Do you think there should be government controls on what is broadcast on TV (and the radio and the internet)?

In terms of news, do TV and radio cover the same news, and in the same way?

Do you think television can be used as educational media?

**Describe a foreign film you enjoyed**  
**You should say:**

- **What the film was about**
- **Who the actors were**
- **Where and when you saw it**
- **And explain how this advice was useful to you**

Do you think people like watching films in your country? and why?

Are foreign films popular in your country? and why?

What kinds of films do you think are most popular for people nowadays?

Do you think nowadays the films are different from those in the past? and why?

Do you think there is some difference in films between foreign films and your country's films?

What are the difference and similarities between foreign films and your country's films?

Do you think film is a good way to show a country's culture? And why?

**Describe a game (not about sport) you enjoyed when you were a child**  
**You should say:**

- **What the game was**
- **When, where and with whom you usually played it**
- **How you played it**
- **And explain why you enjoyed this game what was special about this game**

In general, how is outside play for children different to playing inside?

Do you think the indoor activities and outdoor activities develop children's abilities the same way?

What's the most popular game in China?

How have games changed in the past few decades?

How have children's games changed in the past few decades?

How are children's games different to adults' games?

Why do many adults today not play games?

Do you think modern lifestyles encourage, or discourage, adults from playing games?

What benefits do people get from playing games?

What benefits can children get from playing games?

Do you think group activities (including team sports) can help give a child a sense of responsibility?

**Describe a school you have attended in your childhood**  
**You should say:**

- **Where it was**
- **What the classrooms were like**
- **What the teachers were like**
- **And explain how you felt about this school**

What kinds of people become school teachers?

Who do you think is easier to teach, primary school students or high school students?

Which do you think is better, students studying in big classes or studying in small classes?

What do you think are the benefits of studying in a large school?

For children these days, do you think it's easier to make friends in a small school or a large school?

Do you think it's easier for kids to make friends when they are in primary school or in high school?

In addition to teaching academic subjects, what role do you think schools should play?

Do you think schools have a responsibility to teach social skills to children?

What are the qualities of a good teacher?

How do you think the education system in China could be improved?

In China, are there any differences between schools in the cities and schools in rural areas?

Besides schools, what other places can people learn something from?

Do you think there's too much pressure on school students nowadays to do well at school? Why or why not?

**Describe a positive experience when you were a teenager  
You should say:**

- **Where and when you experienced it**
- **What you did**
- **Who you experienced it with**
- **And explain why this experience was positive for you**

Do you think these historic buildings should be preserved?

**Describe a situation when you received some useful advice  
You should say:**

- **What the situation was**
- **Who gave you the advice**
- **What the advice was**
- **And explain how this advice was useful to you**

In what situations do young people or children need advice?

Do you think advice from friends or parents is important?

What is the value of advice from older people?

Do young people always take the advice of their parents?

Which advice do you think is more important, advice from parents or advice from friends?

Do you think it's a part of teachers' job to give advice to his or her students?

Do people ever get advice from strangers?

Why do some people give advice from strangers?

What people in society give professional advice?

**Describe a family celebration (such as wedding) that you attended  
You should say:**

- **When & where this celebration was held**
- **What you did in the celebration**
- **Who was there**
- **And explain why this celebration was held**

Are weddings considered very important in your country?

Where are weddings held? Where are wedding ceremonies held?

Who officiates weddings in your country?

Do you think it's important to marry someone who has the same level of education as you do?

Can you suggest why more and more people are getting married today at a later age than they used to?

**Describe something that you have shared with others ( or another person)**  
**You should say:**

- **What you shared**
- **When you shared it**
- **Who you shared it with**
- **And explain why you shared it or how you felt when you shared it**

Do people in your country or you prefer to share public transport or do they prefer to use private transport?

Do many people in your country share their home with other or do they mostly live alone?

Do you think there are any advantages to share your home with other (non-family) people?

Would you ever share your food with someone else?

**Describe a neighbour you ever helped**  
**You should say:**

- **Who this person is**
- **When you helped this person**
- **How you helped this person**
- **And explain why you helped this person**

Do you think neighbours are important?

Do you think it's important to have a good relationship with one's neighbours?

Do you think people's relationships with their neighbours today is the same as it was in the past?

Would you say these are changes for the better or changes for the worse?

Do you think people's relationships with their neighbours are the same in the cities as they are in rural areas?

Why are these virtual communities becoming more popular nowadays?

What are the benefits of belonging to a community?

Around where you live, are there any activities that groups of people can participate in?

Do you think these local events are very beneficial for people?

### **Describe a piece of good law in your country**

**You should say:**

- **What the law is**
- **How you first learned about this law**
- **Who benefits from this law**
- **And explain why you think this is a good law**

What role does law play in society?

Can you give any examples of what is illegal in China?

Do you think all laws are fair?

Do you think most people in China abide by the law? Why or why not?

Would you say the number of crimes committed in China has increased or, instead, has decreased in the last few years (e.g 20 years)?

What are some ways that people can be encouraged to obey the law?

Can you give any examples of what is illegal in China?

Do you think there are ever any circumstances when it's alright to break the law or ignore the law?

Are many people in China interested in becoming a police officer?

What personal qualities or skills does a person need to be a police officer?

Which job would most people prefer to be a policeman or a lawyer?

How do you think the police and lawyers play different roles in connection to law?

What area would / should international laws cover?

Do you think international law is useful / effective / necessary?

Do you think it is suitable to have the same laws for every country?

Do you think globalisation is a good thing?

Do you think it's easier to learn about foreign cultures today than it was before?

## **Objects**

**Describe something you want to learn but can't now**

**You should say:**

- **What it is**
- **How you will learn it**
- **Why you want to learn it**
- **And explain why you can't learn it now**

What kinds of skills do you think are the most useful in everyday life?

Should women learn these skills?

Compare the skills women learn with those that men learn.

Do you think high school students should learn skills that will be useful in the workplace?

Which do you think are more important, the skills that children learn at home or those they learn at school?

How important do you think it is for people to learn to use new technologies?

**Describe a prize you would like to win**  
**You should say:**

- **What it is**
- **What you need to do to get it**
- **Where you know it**
- **And explain why you would like to win the prize**

Do you think competition is good?

Why some adults like competition?

What are some examples of prize that schools give to some students?

What do you think are the benefits of giving these prizes?

How do companies reward employees for special achievement?

What do you think employees would prefer to receive as a reward, money or something else?

**Describe an interesting wild animal from your country (you like best)**  
**You should say:**

- **Where you learned about this animal**
- **What it looks like**
- **Where it lives**
- **And explain why you like this interesting animal**

Do you like zoos?

Some people don't like zoo, can you guess why they feel this way?

Do you think zoos are good or bad?

Why do you think so many cities have zoos?

In your opinion, what features should a good zoon have?

Compare a nature reserve and a zoo, as places for wild animals to live.

Do you think zoos might disappear in their future?

What future developments do you think we will see concerning zoos?

Why do you think wild animals should be protected?

In what ways does human activity result in the extinction of some animal species?

At present, many animals are already facing extinction. How do you think average citizens could help protect wild animals?

Why are many people interested in wild animals?

Why do you think films or books for children so often have animals as the leading characters in the film or book?

### **Describe a book / magazine that you enjoyed reading**

**You should say:**

- **What the book was**
- **What was in this book**
- **Why you read it**
- **And explain what effect the book had on you**

How often do you read?

Do you have many books at home?

Do Chinese people do enough reading?

Do Chinese people like to read?

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

Do people with different reading levels all buy the same kinds of reading materials?

What do Chinese people like to read?

What kind of materials does think people should read?

What benefits do people get from reading?

Compare newspapers and novels. What different kinds of information can we get from these two?

Compare people's reading habits (or tastes) today to those of the past.

How do you think people's reading habits will change in the future?

Compare reading and watching TV.

Do you think the internet has changed people's reading habits?

Compare internet reading materials (such as news and opinion) to traditional media (TV ,radio ,newspapers) content.

Have you ever read books on the internet?

Do you think e-books (electronic books) will ever replace traditional books?

**Describe a handmade gift you gave to your friends or relatives  
You should say:**

● **What the gift was**

● **When you gave it**

● **How you made it by hand**

● **And explain why you gave a handmade gift to your friends or relatives**

Is your hometown famous for any handmade products?

Compare handmade and machine-made products, which do people prefer to buy / use?

What are some examples of things that are best made by hand in the future?

What are some of the effects on China of the globalization of manufacturing?

What are the benefits of children learning how to make something by hand?

What is the value of encouraging the development of creativity in children?

In China, when do people give gifts to others?

What are some of the possible different reasons why give gifts to other people?

Why do some people not like giving gifts?

Do you think something that you made yourself is suitable as a gift?

What do you think makes people happier, to receive a gift to give a gift?

Do you think that expensive gifts are a sign of true friendship?

What sorts of presents do adults usually give to children?

How are gifts for children different to gifts for adults?

Do children usually give more gifts to adults than adults give to children?

In general, what do you think is the significance of giving gifts?

Do you think it's a waste of money for government to give gifts to the governments of other countries?

What gifts do people give each other in a business environment?

**Describe something special you brought home from a holiday  
You should say:**

- **What it was**
- **When and where you went on this holiday**
- **What you did with it after you brought it home**
- **And explain why you thought it was special**

Why do people buy souvenirs?

What types of things do people buy as souvenirs?

Do you think it would be a good investment for a local person living in a tourist area to open a shop to sell souvenirs?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking a camera on a trip?

Why do you think people like to show the photos of their trip to their friends and relatives?

What are the differences between writing a diary about a trip and taking photos of your trip?

**Describe a useful APP on phones, computers or tables you know**  
**You should say:**

- **What the app is**
- **How long you have used it**
- **What it is used for**
- **And explain why you think it is useful**

Is it convenient to use an APP?

What are the drawbacks about using an APP?

Is using an APP more acceptable for the young people than the old?

**Describe your first mobile phone**  
**You should say:**

- **When you got it**
- **How you got it**
- **What you used it for**
- **And explain how you felt when you got it**

Are mobile phones very common in your country?

Do all types of people use mobile phones or is it mostly a case of certain types of people using them?

Do many old people use mobile phones?

Do you think old people find it easy to use a cell phone?

At what age do people in your country usually get their first cell-phone?

Do you think there are any downsides to use a cell phone?

What can someone do if they lose their cell phone?

What problems can result if a person loses their cell phone?

Do people use their cell phones more for speaking or more for sending text message?

**Describe something you bought but don't often use**  
**You should say:**

- **What it is**
- **When and where you bought it**
- **What it is used for**
- **And explain why you don't often use it**

Do people in your country like to go shopping?

Do many people buy things in street markets?

What do you think are the pros and cons of shopping in a large department store?

What are the differences and similarities between buying something in a shopping mall and buying something online?

For you or for most people, which is more important when you buy something, the price or the quality?

Do you often use recyclable products?

In your country, is recycling considered to be important?

Have people's attitudes towards recycling changed in recent years?

**Describe a problem with equipment that you can't solve**  
**You should say:**

- **What the equipment is**
- **What the problem is**
- **What you do**
- **And explain how you feel when you can't solve the problem**

What things are necessary for life besides a computer?

Do people buy a new one or mend it when something is broken?

Why do people buy new things?

What are the reasons that something gets broken?

**Describe something special that you saved money to buy**

**You should say:**

- **What it was**
- **How long it took you to save enough money to buy it**
- **Why you wanted to buy this thing**
- **And explain how you felt when you bought it**

How important is money in your life?

Do you save money? Why? Why not?

Did you save when you were a child?

Some people are crazy shoppers and never save money, why do you think they do this?

How has the way people use their money changed in China in recent years?

What do you think about parents controlling how their children spend money?

Should parents buy their children everything their children want?

How can children be taught to manage money?

Do you think advertising influences young people's spending habits? How?

Do you think the government should control what advertisements young children see on television?

Why do many (young) people (women) like to go shopping?

Are there any differences between shopping in rural areas and shopping in urban areas?

Do advertisements on TV & the radio influence what people buy?

Do advertisements persuade people to buy things? How?

**Describe an antique or some other old thing that your family has kept for a long time**

**You should say:**

- **What it is**
- **How (or when) your family first got this thing**
- **How long your family has kept it**
- **And explain why this is important to your family**

Which do you think are better old thing or new things?

As well as family photographs, what are some other things that people keep in their family for a long time ?

In your culture, what sorts of things do people often pass down from generation to generation? (Why?)

Why do you think people keep these things?

What are benefits (=what is the value/what is the importance) of keeping some old things in the family?

Do you think it's good to recall the past?

Do many people today visit museums?

Do you think governments should spend more money on museums?

What is the value (or, the importance) of collecting old things?

Why do people visit museums when they can see pictures of the same things in books?

Which do you think is better, to see something in a museum or to see it in a picture or a book?

Who are the people in your family?

What are they like?

What do you and the other members of your family do together?

Do you think it is important to maintain traditions? (Why ?/Why not?)

**Describe a good photo someone took for you**  
**You should say:**

- **When the photo was took**
- **Where the photo was took**
- **Who took the photo**
- **And explain why you like this photo**

Would you say photographs are important?

Are your personal photos important to you?

What effects can news photos have on people?

How important are news photographs?

What do you think is the role of photographs in newspapers?

Why do you think photos are often used in newspaper, magazine and television advertising?

How photos are playing a role in recording history?

Do you think that's important?

How are photos used in advertising?

Of course, many people take photos of places they visited. Other prefers to buy postcards showing the same scenes. Which do you prefer?

Of course, many people take photos of the places they visited .Other prefer to buy postcards showing the same scenes .Why do you think they do that?

**Describe an important letter or email you wrote**  
**You should say:**

- **Who you wrote to**
- **When you wrote it**
- **What you wrote**
- **And explain why you wrote that letter**

What are the different types of letters that people write?

Besides letters, what are some other ways to communicate with someone?

Do you think people will continue to use (hand written) letter in the future?

When do you think a phone call is more suitable and when is a letter more suitable?

How have mobile phones and the internet improved the way people communicate today?

Do you think it would be a good idea to have an international language so people all over the world could communicate with each other?

Do you think this will happen in the future?

In general, what are the factors that are most important for having good communication between people?

Why do you think some people are good at interpersonal communication while others are not so good?

Do you think writing letters to newspapers is important?

What sorts of people write emails?

Why don't many old people write emails?

Do you think some people are born to be good communicators or people can be trained?

Why do you think some people think handwriting is important than spoken word?

Do you think written word is powerful than spoken word?

## **People**

**Describe an old person you know who you respect**  
**You should say:**

- **Who the person is**
- **How you know the person**
- **How long you have known this person**
- **And explain why you respect this person**

What do you think is the difference between the young and the elderly?

Do you think we should respect old people? What is the difference between chatting and gossiping?

Do you think young people should always do what the older people say they should do?

Who do you think should take care of those old people who need care?

Should the family look after their elderly members, or the government?

How do you feel about sending an old person to live in an old people's home?

What do you think is the role of old people in families?

Do you think there are any advantages from having an old person living with the family?

Do you think old people can teach young people anything?

Do you think old people can learn anything from young people?

**Describe a family member who you spend the most time with  
You should say:**

- **Who the person is**
- **When you usually are together**
- **What you usually do together**
- **And explain why you spend more time with this person than with other members of your family**

In China today, what is the structure of the typical family?

What do you think are some of the advantages and disadvantages of big families as opposed to small families?

What are some of the pros and cons of three generations living together?

Whose responsibility do you think it should be to look after old people- the government's responsibility or the family's ?

How much do you think people should be responsible for their own parents?

Do you think family relationships are important?

Which do you think is the more important, family or friends?

How do you think support from friends and support from parents are different?

What responsibilities do young people (or children) have towards their family?

In typical Chinese families, who is the dominant person, the mother or the father?

In the typical family (in China), what is the role of the man and what is the role of the woman?

Ideally, what roles do you think men and women should play in a family?

What's the difference between help from family members and help from friends?

### **Describe a popular band or singer in your country**

**You should say:**

- **When it first became popular**
- **What style of music it perform**
- **Who (what kinds of people) like this band or singer**
- **And explain why you think they are popular**

Have you ever downloaded any of his/her/their music from the internet?

What are the various ways that people use to listen to music?

What's the most popular way for young people to listen to music today?

What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of going to see music performed live, at a concert?

What do you think are the differences between listening to music at a concert and listening to it on a recording, such as a CD or on your Ipod?

Compared to several decades ago, has technology changed the way people listen to music today?

Is technology today used to produce music in ways that were not used before?

Do you think the music that people listen to today is different to music in the past?

Do you like classical music?

Do young people like classical music?

Do you think it's important for songwriters and performers to receive money for their work?

Do school students have music classes in your country?

What do you think are the benefits of this education?

**Describe a person you know who is beautiful or handsome  
You should say:**

- **Who the person is**
- **When you met the person at the first time**
- **What the person's character**
- **And explain how you feel about the person**

Is it important for a person to have good looks?

Is it good for a person to put on makeup usually?

Does it have good influence on young person that there are always thin and tall models appearing on the top of fashion magazines?

**Describe a famous person (still living), not from your country, who you would like to meet  
You should say:**

- **Where this person comes from**
- **How you first knew about him or her**
- **Why this person is famous**
- **And explain why you would like to meet this person**

If you met that person you just spoke about, what would you say to him/her?

In what ways do people become famous?

Why do some people stay famous for just a short time while other people stay famous for a long time?

Why do some people want to be famous?

Do you want to be famous?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being famous?

What do you think is the biggest downside to being famous?

What influence do famous people have on ordinary people?

Are there any possible negative influences that famous people can have on society?

Why do you think many companies like to use famous people to endorse their products in advertisements?

In what ways can have famous people benefit a country?

How can famous people use their fame to benefit other people?

Can celebrities make a difference towards social problems such as the environment?

When a young person, thinks of a famous person as an idol or hero, what effect does this have on this young person or child?

Do you think a country needs internationally famous people to represent that country?

**Describe a sports person who played well in the match**

**You should say:**

- **Who the person was**
- **What the match was**
- **When and where the person played**
- **And explain why you think the person played well in the match**

Do you like sports?

What are the differences between male's favourite's sports and female's favourite sports?  
Why are there differences?

Do people like sports or matches?

Why do some people like matches more than simple sports?

Do children have enough time for sports in China?

Are sports important for children? Why?

**Describe a person who you wanted to be similar to in teenage years  
You should say:**

- **Who this person was**
- **How you knew this person**
- **What impressed you about this person**
- **And explain why you wanted to be similar to this person**

Do you think you are similar to him / her now?

Do other people also want to be similar to this person?

What kinds of people do children in China want to be similar to when they grow up?

How do popular stars such as sports stars or pop singers become role models for young people?

Do you think it is good for children and young people to use entertainment stars as role models?

Why do some companies advertise products by using famous people?

Do you think this has a good effect on children (young people)?

Do you think famous people who appear in advertisements have any special responsibilities towards society?

Do you think it's important for children to learn to think independently?

How is the way children are brought up today in China different to when your parents were young?

In your opinion, at what age do young people become independent of their parents?

## **Describe someone you know who has an interesting job**

**You should say:**

- **Who this person is**
- **How you know this person**
- **What job they do**
- **And explain why you think this person's job is interesting**

In what ways do you think big and small companies are different (and similar)?

What types of companies prefer to hire university graduates?

What do you think of the working conditions in your country at the moment?

Do you think most people's working conditions in your country today are better than in the past?

Do you think long working hours can have an effect on the family lives of employees?

What effects does working overtime have on the lives of employees, especially women?

Do you think it's reasonable that people have different salary levels?

What improvements do you think schools should / could make in order to identify the talents of students?

Is it very difficult for recent university graduates in your country to find a job?

How do people find a job in our country?

What are the main qualities that employers want their employees to have?

## **Describe a friend who you had at school**

**You should say:**

- **Where you first met**
- **How you became friends**
- **What you do / did together**
- **And explain why you remember him / her so well**

Do you think friends are important? Having friends is important?

What are the qualities of a good friend?

Do you prefer to have one or two close friends or a wide circle of friends?

Which do you think is better, to have a large group of friends or just a few close friends?

How can one distinguish between a close friend and an acquaintance?

In modern society, which do you think is more important, old friends or new friends?

Is there any difference to the way you make friends now, compared to when you were a child?

Do children and adults make friends in the same way?

How is the way people make friends today different to the way people made friends years ago?

Do you think it's easier to make friends today than it used to be?

Do you think it's hard to make new friends in today's society?

Why do some people choose to make friends on the internet?

## **Place**

**Describe a long journey that you enjoyed**

**You should say:**

- **Where and when you went**
- **How you got there**
- **How long it took you**
- **And explain what you liked about this trip**

Compare long-distance travel with traveling short distances.

Why are more and more young people going on long trips nowadays?

Do you like going on long trips? (Why? Why not?)

When traveling on a long journey, what do you think you need to pay attention to?

For long trips, what form of transport do you think is the most comfortable?

What are some ways that people can use to pass the time on long distance trips (for example, on a train, in a bus or on a plane)?

Do you prefer to travel alone or with others?

What are the benefits of traveling with a friend?

Do you think traveling can contribute to a person's education?

What can people learn from overseas travel?

What factors determine how people decide which country to go to?

What overseas country would you most like to visit? (why?)

What are some of the things people have to do before they can travel overseas?

Is it easy to get a visa to most countries?

How do you think individual travel and traveling in a tour group are different?

What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of traveling in a tour group.

**Describe a place (not in your country) that you would like to visit**  
**You should say:**

- **How and when you would go there**
- **How you know about this place**
- **What the scenery is like in this place**
- **And explain why you want to visit it**

When people go traveling (as tourists), what do they spend money on?

When people move to another country (migrate to another country), what changes do you think take place in their lives, compared to their lives before they left home?

What do you think about children growing up abroad?

Do you think children (with Chinese parents) are affected by growing up abroad?

Do you think children (with Chinese parents) are affected by growing up abroad? How?

What are the benefits of traveling to new places?

What are some of the best (or most popular) travel destinations in China?

Which places (countries) are Chinese people most interested in visiting?

Why do many people (i.e. city people) prefer to travel to places of natural beauty rather than travel to another city?

What is the landscape like in china?

Why do people (humans) like to explore new places?

If somebody got lost while exploring or traveling in a remote part of the world, or if they needed some other type of help, who should pay for this help?

How can people benefit from visiting new places?

When many people visit a particular place, what effects can that have on this place?

What difficulties might a foreigner have while traveling as a tourist in China?

**Describe a city that you have visited (that left an impression on you)  
You should say:**

- **Where the city is**
- **When you went there**
- **What you liked or disliked about the city**
- **And explain why you visited this city or why this city left an impression on you**

Why do so many people want to travel to the city you just mentioned?

What materials did you use to get information about this city?

Which do you think is the better place to live, a city or a village in the countryside?

Are the educational facilities in the countryside as good as those in the cities?

What kinds of people like city life?

Compare people who live in cities with people who live in rural areas.

What are the advantages of living in a city for families with children? Are there any disadvantages?

What are some of the serious problems associated with living in big cities?

**Describe a beautiful place where you want to have a home**  
**Describe a home that you would like to live in**

**You should say:**

- **Where this place is**
- **How you know about this place**
- **What type of home it would be**
- **And explain why you would choose to live there**

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

How do you think this will change in the future?

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

How are modern homes different to older homes?

What do you imagine people's houses will be like in the future?

Why do people sometimes move to live in a different home?

Why do some people want to continue living in the same home for a long time?

Do you think moving to a new home can ever create problems for people?

What are the differences between living in a city and living in the countryside?

Do people in your country prefer to live in cities or in rural environments?

What are the differences between livings in the countryside, compared to living in a city?

What problems do you think such large cities would bring?

Can you suggest any ways to restrict the growth of cities?

**Describe a time when you stayed far away from your home**  
**You should say:**

- **Where it was**
- **How long you stayed there**
- **What you did there**
- **And explain how you felt about this place**

Do people in your country often stay in hotels?

In your country, when people travel to see friends or relatives, do they usually stay with the people they are visiting or do they usually stay in a hotel?

What do you think are the pros and cons of visitors staying in a hotel rather than in the home of the people they are visiting?

What factors do people consider when they are choosing a hotel to stay at?

Is it preferable to stay with relatives, or with friends?

What's the difference between staying with relatives or friends and living in your own home?

Are there any differences today about traveling abroad, compared to a few decades ago?

Are there any differences between old people and young people when it comes to traveling?

Do you think the tourist industry is a good industry to work in for young people in your country?

Should there be any regulations controlling the hospitality industry?

Some people say that we don't need to visit places nowadays because we can learn all about such places from the internet, videos or from books. Do you agree with that?

What are the differences between viewing images of a place on the internet and actually visiting that place?

If someone stays in another person's home as a guest, do you think they should help with the housework?

**Describe a historical building that you visited**  
**OR: Describe a modern building that you think is interesting**

**You should say:**

- **Where it was**
- **What people do there**
- **Why you went there**
- **And explain how you felt about this building**

Do many people in your country visit historical buildings?

Why do they visit these buildings?

What do you think are the differences between actually visiting a historic place and reading about it in a book?